



PATHS OF MARIST LIFE IN AFRICA YEARLY ASSEMBLY OF THE CSAC

The yearly Conference of Superiors of the African Continent, known as the CSAC, took place in the Marist International Centre of Nairobi, Kenya, from Feb. 8 – 11.

Its members are Brothers Francis Lukong (Superior of the West Africa District and current CSAC president), Joachim Ezetulugo (Provincial of Nigeria), Joe Walton (Provincial of Southern Africa), Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa (Provincial of Madagascar), Théoneste Kalisa (Provincial of East Central Africa) and Lorenzo Ndawala (Superior of the MIC).

Vicar general Brother Joe McKee, who is a reference of MIC and MIUC (the university) in the general government, was present like every year, as well as one of the links of the general council with Africa, Brother Antonio Ramalho.



The Superiors of the African Continent, the Commission of Mission of Africa and members of the general administration in Nairobi, Kenya.

Econome general Brother Libardo Garzón also took part in this encounter. CSAC is the regional organisation of animation and decision making for

Marist Africa. During its annual meeting, it evaluates the path it has taken in the different areas of Marist life, it reflects on and makes decisions on guidelines, it

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- After a week of different activities, the GC resumed the work of the plenary session, and devoted this week to the process of new models, the action plan of the Secretariat of Mission, the preparation of the extended General Councils and the proposals of FMSI. Two days were dedicated to an integrated work with the Secretariats and other sectors of the general administration in preparation for the next General Chapter. On the afternoon of the 17th, the GC attended a conference at the General House given by the monk Lluç Torcal, Procurator General of the Cistercians, on the experience of "ecological conversion" in the maintenance of the Monastery of Poblet, Catalonia.
- Br Libardo Garzón, Econome General, participated in Nairobi, at the meeting of the finance committee of the MIC and MIUC. He also attended the first day of the seminar on the economic sustainability of the life and mission of the provinces of Africa and Asia.
- From Feb. 15 - 22, the co-directors of the Secretariat of the Laity are meeting at the General House.
- On Feb. 17, the Council of the Fratelli Project met at the general house. It includes Brothers Joe McKee, vicar general, and Chris Wills, director of Cmi, and two De La Salle Brothers. The meeting took place after Br Chris travelled to Lebanon, from Feb. 9 – 13, to accompany the project's coordinating team.

approves plans and budgets and it appoints people holding posts at the regional level.

In this year's meeting, as usual, it spent a lot of time on the MIC and the MIUC since they are important for the initial formation of young brothers and for the big amount of brothers in its community. (It currently has 78 Brothers from five administrative units.)

It dedicated a full day to the encounter with the team of the New Models project and with the Commission of the Mission in Africa (to analyse and value its strategic plan, which covers the capacity of directors, youth ministry, solidarity, children's rights...). The encounter included several members of the general administration.

It covered other topics such as: the economy of the provinces and a sustainability plan; vocations, formation and perseverance; lay presence in the Marist life and mission

and a better understanding of the lay vocation on behalf of the Brothers...

The provincial brothers and District superiors participated in a workshop animated by former superior general Brother Seán Sammon on Feb. 12 – 13, alongside other guest Brothers.

He spoke of community life, particularly on some concrete difficulties that can come up in the relationship between Brothers.

Once again, the group had a lot of support from the MIC community and enjoyed the beauty of the place, always well taken care of.

They also participated in daily Mass with the whole community, and they began Lent together on Feb. 10, Ash Wednesday.

ARGENTINA: ENCOUNTER OF EDUCATORS IN CRUZ DEL SUR TO PROMOTE AN INNOVATIVE MARIST EDUCATIONAL STYLE

An encounter for Marist educators, which has been taking place for the past 20 years, was held from Feb. 4 – 9 in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Teachers, who have recently joined Marist schools and works of the Cruz del Sur Province, gathered together to, according to the Province, "create a setting that reflects the charism of Champagnat" and that "provokes them to get new knowledge and skills to challenge and promote a different and innovative Marist educational style."



"Our specific objectives are to provoke a reflection for Marist spirituality and pedagogy for assimilation and witness, and to create networks that facilitate and allow the shared mission of the Cruz del Sur community," said a statement released by the Province.

"Other goals include enhancing leadership multipliers and facilitators of the Marist school to evangelise by educating and promoting a tender look on behalf of the Marist teacher that values respect and care for the rights of our children," it continued. "Participants reflected on the educational mission and the role of teachers as Champagnat Marists, with all that this implies."

The topics discussed were the life of St Marcellin, service leadership, the Marist educational mission, spirituality, new proposals for the Marist laity, the work of the Institute in the world and its governance structures, locally and globally. Other issues included public policy, the right of children and youth and other issues addressed from the bibliographic and professional support of Marist life.

"Obviously, the climate of respect and deep reflection was complemented by the joy and the willingness of all these days to bear fruit and provide us with tools to keep walking in this very exciting endeavor."

Other goals include promoting a tender look on behalf of the Marist teacher that values respect and care for the rights of our children.

NEWS IN BRIEF

DIRECTORS' COURSE

The Province of Compostela organised a course for directors in Salamanca, Spain, from Feb. 11 – 13. The event, titled "Evaluation and accompaniment of the professional career," included 80 participants.

ST JOSEPH ACADEMY, USA

Four-hundred guests attended the St. Joseph Academy's 150th anniversary Mass on Feb. 9. Bishop Daniel Flores celebrated the Mass and Br Patrick McNamara, Provincial of the United States, spoke about the Marist Brothers in his closing remarks. St Joseph Academy is a Catholic high school in the Diocese of St Augustine. The Marist Brothers became in charge of the school in 1906.

BROTHERS OF PERU

The Brothers of Peru, of the Province of Santa María de los Andes, did a retreta during which they celebrated the jubilees of the Brothers Alonso Beraún, José Ticó and Barsén García. During the event, eight laity began the 'Phase of Deepening' in the lay path of the Cana Community.

AUSTRALIA - MARIST ASSOCIATION

On Monday, Feb. 8, the incoming Council of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat in Australia was formally commissioned during a Mass. On Tuesday, Feb. 9, it held its first meeting for 2016 at the Marist Centre in Melbourne.

COMPOSTELA RECEIVES NEW PROVINCIAL BROTHER TOMÁS BRIONGOS RICA

After consultation with all the Brothers of the Province of Compostela, Brother Tomás Briongos Rica will take up the post as the new provincial on March 20 for a three-year term.

Br António Leal had been appointed as the new provincial in October, but for health reasons he was not able to take up his post and submitted his resignation.

"Both Br António and myself have reached the conclusion that he needs more time and a relatively calm rhythm of life to facilitate his full recover," said superior general Brother Emili Turú in his letter to the province dated Feb. 12.

Br Emili went on to thank the current provincial, Brother Oscar Martín Vicario, for prolonging his term in what he called "a not so easy situation of transition."

Br Tomás was born the smallest of five siblings on 23 Dec. 1967 in Peñalba de Castro, in Spain's province of Burgos.

He entered the juniorate in Miraflores in Sept. 1981 and after three years of studying, he began his novitiate in Sept. 1984.

He made his first religious profession in Salamanca on 13 July 1986 and his final profession in Salamanca on 19 Sept. 1993.

Br Tomás studied magisterium in Salamanca and Segovia and completed his degree in chemistry in Valladolid in 1998.

He then worked in the Cultural Centre of Valladolid, Colegio Castilla in Palencia, where he animated youth groups like Grupo Scout Pisuerga of Valladolid and Grupos MarCha of Palencia.



He worked on animation within schools and the SED NGO within the provincial teams from 2001 to 2004.

That year, he was assigned to the Marist community of Ponferrada to work for Caritas on a programme for children called Urogallo.

In 2009 he became director of the school 'Colegio Mayor Gelmírez' of Santiago de Compostela and in 2013 was sent to the School of the Immaculate in Valladolid where he has served as director until now.

He was elected as provincial councillor in 2010 and served as vice provincial since 2013.

MARIST WORLD



Uruguay: Sending missionaries to the "La Vida" Community of Tacuarembó



Ecuador: Encounter of National Teams of Marist Ministry



Brazil: São Marcelino Champagnat Community - Iguatu



Philippines: Pre-novitiate community in General Santos



Cameroon: Notre Dame des Nations Yassa



Mexico: Marist community of the Morelos Institute in Uruapan

THE MEMORARE IN THE SNOW: FEBRUARY 1823

In February 1823, Marcellin learned that Brother Jean-Baptiste in Bourg-Argental had come down with a serious illness.

Concerned about his condition, the young priest set out on the twenty-kilometre journey across rough countryside to visit him. Brother Stanislaus was at his side.

On their return trip, walking through heavily timbered territory, the two men were caught in the full fury of one of the region's snowstorms.

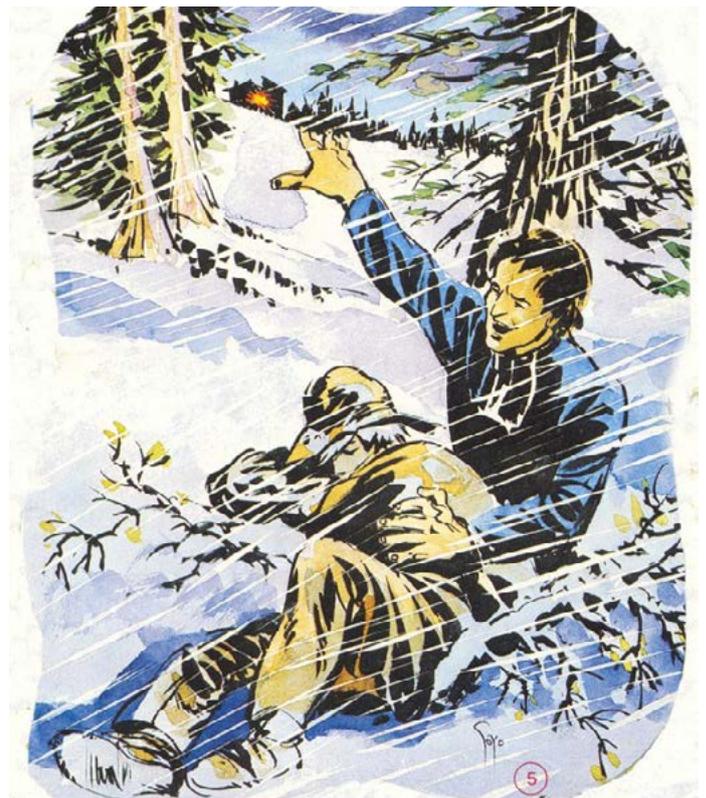
Both were young and energetic, but hours of wandering lost on the slopes of Mount Pilat led eventually to exhaustion.

Stanislaus had reached the limits of his stamina. Night set in; the possibility of death in the snow increased with each passing hour.

Both men turned to Mary for help and prayed the Memorare.

Within a short while, they spied lamplight, not too far away in the distance.

A local farmer, Mr. Donnet, had left his house to enter a nearby stable.



This particular evening, though, he had taken an unusual route, especially with the storm underway.

By habit, he entered the stable through a convenient door in the wall of the house.

For reasons that can be explained only by faith, this particular night he braved wind and snow and chose a route that took him outdoors with his lantern.

For the rest of his days, Marcellin saw his deliverance and that of Brother Stanislaus - henceforth referred to as the Memorare in the Snow - as an act of Providence.

The Memorare

Prayer of Saint Bernard

Remember,
O most gracious
Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled
to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought
thy intercession
was left unaided.

Inspired
with this confidence,

I fly to thee,
O Virgin of virgins,
my Mother;
to thee do I come;
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother
of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy
hear and answer me.
Amen.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTIONS MEET AGAIN IN ROME

COMMISSION HOPES TO FINISH FIRST DRAFT OF REVISION BY END OF FEBRUARY



From left to right: Brothers Eduardo Navarro de la Torre, Josep Maria Soterias, Albert Nzabonaliba, Tony Clark, and Antonio Peralta.

The commission for the revision of the Constitutions met at the general house from Feb. 8 – 13 to continue working on a first draft, which it hopes to finish by the end of February.

“The spirit of the commission is excellent and the work is being very delicate towards the contributions it

received,” said the coordinator, general councillor Brother Josep Maria Soterias.

The draft is based on proposals made by the administrative units in 2015 with the help of the book ‘Stories of the Journey, told around the Fire’ that the first commission had made.



The **spirit** of the commission is excellent..

Br Josep Maria Soterias



“It will collect the contributions that the Brothers have mostly insisted on, as essential ideas, although it will not yet be the final outline,” he told the general house press office on Feb. 10.

After the text is finished at the end of February, the commission hopes to have it translated and sent to the

administrative units by the end of April. Br Josep Maria explained that an inquiry form will probably be sent along with the draft concerning the General Chapter to avoid the units having to fill out extra forms.

The current commission includes Brothers Josep María Soteras (General Councillor and coordinator of the commission), Tony Clark (Australia), Eduardo Navarro de la Torre (México Occidental), Albert Nzabonaliba (East Cen-

tral Africa), and Antonio Peralta (Santa María de los Andes).

The group last met from Nov. 2 – 14, also at the general house, during which the commission looked at the proposals and began working on the first draft.

The Commission will send the draft to the Provinces end of April and the Brothers of each administrative unit will have until September to study it.

OFFICIAL ENTRANCE TO THE INTERPROVINCIAL NOVITIATE “LA VALLA”

COLOMBIA: MEDELLÍN GROUP “MOTHER OF THE BARE FEET”

Nine novices officially entered the community of the “La Valla” Interprovincial Novitiate of Medellín, Colombia, on Feb. 2.

During the Eucharistic celebration, provincial brothers of Latin America gave the new members a cross while the forming team gave them the Constitutions.

The new novices are Antonio Macías, Osvaldo Pérez, Francisco Bado and José Eduardo Maciel of México Central; Alexnys Flores of Norandina, Javier Castillo and Roberto Constanza of América Central; Gustavo Rodríguez and Juan Alcalá of México Occidental.

They were received by the three brothers of the forming team: Br José Miguel Caballero (Master of Novices in Norandina), Br José Contreras of México Occidental and Br Juan Carlos Bolaños of América Central.

Two novices of the second year, David Castillo and Víctor Carrasco, also received them.

They have chosen to entrust their generation to Mary, “Mother of the bare



New blood is running through the heart of the Institute, let us thank God for the gift we’ve received.



feet”, knowing, as she did, to be on the path and ready to encounter others, always sensitive to the signs of the times.

The Provincial Brothers that took part were Brothers Miguel Ángel Santos (México Occidental), José Sánchez (México Central), Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (América Central), César Rojas (Norandina) and Alberto Aparicio (Cruz del Sur). There were also other Brothers from different communities.

“Marist life continues being an option of life in today’s world, the times ask us to have a heart without boundaries,” said Gustavo Salvador Rodríguez Ocaña, novice of the first year. “New blood is running through the heart of the Institute, let us thank God for the gift we’ve received.”

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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