



# MARIST NEWS

413

Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

## GENERAL HOUSE: COMMUNICATION FROM MARIST INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTIONS



After some days of works, from 8 to 14 February 2016, the Marist International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions sends to all Brothers of the Institute this communication below.

13th February 2016

To Brothers Provincial, District Superiors and all Brothers of the Institute

From Members of the Marist International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions

Dear Brothers,

We are writing to report on the second meeting of our Commission which was held from 8th to 13th February at the General House in Rome.

The agenda of this second meeting focussed on:

Reviewing the written revision work completed since our first meeting last November on those sections of the Constitutions and Statutes that relate to the 'normative' elements.

Preparing an initial draft for the 'inspirational elements' section that re-

lates to our identity, spirituality, life and mission as Marist Brothers.

Agreeing on the basic structure and writing style of the new Constitutions document deciding on what content and process will be presented for the consultation on the first early draft being sent to Administrative Units in May of this year.

Allocation of the writing tasks of those sections yet to be written in preparation for the second complete draft that will be presented in early 2017.

Our experience of working through the agenda of this meeting helped us to see even more clearly the challenges, complexity and the large amount of work involved in revising our Constitutions.

Our point of reference continues to be vast feedback provided by the

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

During this week's plenary session, the General Council dedicated a morning to the Secretariat of the Laity and later to the preparatory commission for the General Chapter. The statutory annual meeting of FMSI was also held. Other topics were the conference on the protection of children, financial issues and of the general house, the calendar of the GC, major approvals and several decisions.

Feb. 22 – 26: the preparatory commission for the XXII General Chapter is meeting for the third time, coordinated by vicar general Brother Joe McKee.

February 18: the session for animators of English speaking communities began in Manziana and of Spanish and Portuguese speaking communities in El Escorial, Spain. Brothers Tony Leon and Hipólito Pérez, of the Brothers Today secretariat, will accompany the groups in both locations.

Feb. 22 – 23: Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Miguel Ángel Espinosa, of the Secretariat of mission took part in a meeting of the Catholic International Education Office (OIEC) at the general house.

Feb. 23 – 26: Br Javier Espinosa visited the community of Our Lady of Hermitage to follow up on the programme of community accompaniment.



Brothers in the first consultation process of 2015, and more recent Church and Institute documents.

Since our last meeting more than two thousand contributions gathered from the feedback material have been entered into a database to provide ease of reference.

Our meeting with the General Council to report on our progress to date both affirmed and encouraged us to continue with the general direction this project is taking.

Similarly, we are encouraged by the prayers and interest being shown by Brothers and lay Marist friends throughout the Institute.

Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit continues to inspire and guide this important work.

Provincials and District Leaders can expect to receive the consultation materials on the first early draft in May 2016.

It is expected that all Brothers will be invited to be involved in this consultation.

It is up to Provincials and District leaders to decide how the consultation will be conducted; for example in individual communities, community clusters or a Province assembly.

Brothers will have until September 2016 to return the feedback to the General Administration.

The Commission plans to meet again in November 2016 to review the feedback received from the consultation and to work towards preparing the second complete draft.

Yours in Jesus, Mary and Champagnat,

Members of the Commission:

Brothers Josep Maria Soterias (chair); Albert Nzabonaliba; Antonio Peralta; Eduardo Navarro; Tony Clark.

## EIGHT BROTHERS DISCUSS FORMATION PROGRAMMES

### PROVINCE OF EAST ASIA HOLDS ANNUAL FORMATORS' FORUM



From left to right: Brothers Albert Muñoz, Anselmo Kim, Robert Teoh, Lindley Sionosa, Rustico Lumbo, Teódulo Fernández, Rómulo Porras and Nicholas Fernando.

East Asia held its Annual Formators' Forum from Jan. 31 – Feb. 1 at the Marist School in Marikina, the Philippines, with the aim of updating each other on the current situation in the province.

"The aims of the Forum were to bridge gaps, to reflect and discuss

issues that surfaced in the updates, identify future formators who can be prepared for the work and to discuss ongoing formation of formators to help them in their work," said Br Anselmo Kim, one of the participants.

He told the general house press office on Feb. 18, that another aim

was "to widen the tent" regarding formation within the region of Asia.

Participants included Brothers Albert Muñoz of the vocations ministry, Anselmo of the vocation ministry and the Formation and Vocations Commission, and East Asia Provincial Robert Teoh.

Brothers Lindley Sionosa (a novitiate master), Rustico Lumbo (dean of MAPAC), Teodulo Fernandez of Young Brothers, Romulo Porras of the vocation ministry, Nicholas Fernando (a novitiate master and a representative from the South Asia Province) also attended.

They discussed updates from each level of formation of the Philippines, Korea, Japan and the Province of South Asia – Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India.

The Brothers also discussed proposed vocation and formation programmes of the Philippines, the identification and preparation of formators, Asia's formation commission and concerns on formation in the Marist region of Asia.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NORANDINA POSTULANCY

In the Province of Norandina, the postulancy Montagne de Loja, Ecuador, received six new candidates for consecrated Marist life.

### MARIST VOCATIONAL MISSION

The XII Vocational Marist Mission is being prepared in Guadalajara, Mexico, aimed at high school and university students. The encounter will take place from March 18 – 27.

### NOVITIATE OF MATOLA

Fifteen novices began their first year of novitiate in Mozambique, in the Province of Southern Africa. They joined the 11 novices that are currently in their second year of novitiate.

### UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Marist Notre Dame University of Marbel ranked 35 out of the 130 best universities and schools in the country. The result confirms the commitment of Marist educators in the Philippines.

## BROTHERS CONFIRM SAFETY AFTER FIJI CYCLONE



Despite a strong category five cyclone slamming into Fiji on Feb. 20, the Marist Brothers have confirmed they are safe.

The government called for a state of emergency that will be in effect for 30 days, after the winds of 'Cyclone Winston' reached 320km/h, torrential rain and waves of up to 12m.

Twenty people have been declared dead so far, but the death toll is expected to rise.

Several cities have been destroyed and most of the country is still without electricity.

District superior of the Pacific, Brother David McDonald, told the General House that the Marists have not been affected because the cyclone did not reach the city of Suva. Thousands are living in 750

evacuation centres, opened by the government, while the Brothers are offering the Champagnat Institute and Saint Marcellin Primary School as shelters.

The Marist Brothers have been in Fiji since 1888.

There are 5 Marist schools in Suva: Marist Brothers High School, Champagnat Institute, Marist Brothers primary school, St Marcellin primary school and Marcellin's Angels kindergarten. Five Brothers work in Fiji.

Suva is also the location of pre-novitiate formation for the District. Two young men from Kiribati are currently in the programme. The novitiate at Lomeri is one hour's drive from Suva on the western coast. There are 3 Brothers in the community and two novices. One novice is from Samoa and the other is from Kiribati.

## ONLINE BULLETINS

- 25/02/2016 Marist Brothers - Irmãos Maristas Province of Southern Africa - Província da África Austral
- 24/02/2016 - Info Conseil - Province of Canada
- 18/02/2016: Colombia, Pan de casa - Norandina
- 17/02/2016: Australia, Marist Association News Volume 29
- 16/02/2016: Spain, Mediterránea Province: Hoja Informativa <http://goo.gl/037o67>

## KENYA: THE AFRICAN MISSION COMMISSION

### MEETS WITH CSAC FOR FIRST TIME

The African Mission Commission met with the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC) for the first time in Nairobi on Feb. 10 with the hope of greater collaboration between the administrative units to improve the mission in Africa.

"The encounter was excellent," said Br João Carlos do Prado, director of the Secretariat of Mission. "The meeting with the provincials was very positive and it allowed the har-

monizing of the future vision on the Marist mission in Africa and the processes required to get there."

The encounter with the superior provincials was in the context of the African Mission Commission meeting from Feb. 8 – 11.

Three members of the Institute's Secretariat of Mission participated – Brother João Carlos do Prado, the new project coordinator, Patrizia

## MARISTA WORLD



Cameroon: St. Pius X Catholic College, Tatum



Brazil: Marist Social Centre Brother Justino, São Paulo



Mozambique: Novices of Matola



Thailand: Marist Centre for Migrants, Samut Sakhon



Spain: Maristas Champagnat Guadalajara, formation 'Educating for interiority'



Sri Lanka: Marist Stella College

Coppola, and the advisor of the New Models Project, Luca Olivari.

The African Mission Commission met in Nairobi to discuss the strategic plan of 2017 – 2022 with the aim of encouraging greater collaboration between the administrative units.

The aims of the Commission are formation of leaders, children's rights and protection, sustainability and vitality, and Marist youth ministry.

"The challenge is that the projects are growing in complexity which requires more structuring and also the project's financial sustainability," Br João told the general house press office on Feb. 15. "The challenges of Africa are not only of Africa but of the whole Institute because we are a global body."

The meeting with the provincials took place at the Marist International Centre, or the MIC, and included two sessions, one on the strategic plan and another one on the forma-



tion programme of educators titled 'New Horizons.'

Angela Petenzi participated on behalf of FMSI from the general administration to monitor the progress of the first phase of the New Horizons programme and to identify possi-

ble funding agencies for its second phase.

The goal of the New Horizons programme is "to develop school leaders who will contribute to the realisation of authentic, transformative leadership in a new Africa."

## GREECE: 350 LAY MARISTS REFLECT WITH THE BROTHERS ON THE CURRENT EVANGELISING MISSION



A session on Marist formation took place on Jan. 23 at Lycée Léonin in Nea Smyrni on the topic "Christian mission of the Marist establishment" for the educational and technical staff of the two secondary schools in Nea Smyrni Léonins and Patissia, as well as the Social Center 'heart without borders.'

Members of the group 'Marist youth in action' also took part.

It was an environment of collaboration and co-responsibility in the joint mission of Christian education of children and youth.

Around 350 Brothers and lay Marists met to study "Framework of the Ministry of Marist works in Greece" and to renew our commitment to the legacy of the first Marists: the promise of a better world and trust in God's calling; a call to map out our own path, to give continuity to the story begun.

Brother Matthieu Lévantinos, president of the Marist Council of Mission in Greece, initiated the session highlighting that "the Christian centre is called to create a community animated by the evangelical spirit of freedom and love and to help children

and youth mature and appreciate their Christian vocation."

Brother Gabriel Villa-Real, provincial councillor and link of the provincial council with Marist works in Greece, spoke during his intervention "of the New Models of Animation, Government and Management based in the history of our foundation and our tradition."

The presentation of the main theme of the session was based in the authentic sense of the "pastoral mission" in a Christian institution and in the Greek environment of the XXI century.

The members of the Commission of Marist formation presented the "Framework of the Ministry of Marist works in Greece," fruit of the work of those responsible for the pastoral care of the two institutions that have worked for two years to develop a comprehensive document of our pastoral planning.

It is an important stone in the building of Marist works in Greece and, in fact, it is the cornerstone, because the ministry is in the heart of the Marist Mission; it is the essence, the purpose and the reason for our existence.

## BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA



### Perpetual profession in Tabatinga

Br João Paulo Aranhaga Vargas, of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province, made his final consecration to the Institute on Feb. 14 in Tabatinga, Amazonas, in the Saint Marcellin Champagnat Community.

The celebration was presided by the Bishop of the Diocese Alto Solimões, Don Adolfo Zon Pereira (Xaverian Missionary).

The superior provincial, Br. Inácio Nestor Etges, received the vows on behalf of the superior general.

Through the celebration, Br. João gave a Marial yes that inspires him to permanently live consecrated religious life within the Institute of the Marist Brothers.

Br João will continue his work in catechesis and youth ministry, as he has done until now, in Porto Velho.



## GUATEMALA: PROVINCIAL ENCOUNTER OF COMMUNITY ANIMATORS 2016

### 'IT'S AN OASIS TO CONTINUE SERVING JOYFULLY'



Twenty-four Brothers, who are community animators of the América Central province, met from Feb. 5 – 7 for their annual meeting in Guatemala to discuss several topics and share their experiences.

Brothers from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Honduras and a Marist Sister met at the Marist Formation Centre.

"It is an oasis to continue serving joyfully," said Brother Rodrigo Cuesta on Feb. 11.

"It is an encounter that helps us all strengthen our service, exchange ideas and tune into various aspects of the Province and the Institute, from our delicate task as animators."

The gathering included the testimony of Brother Álvaro Rodríguez fsc,

former superior general of the De La Salle Brothers, who spoke about the topic 'Being a brother among brothers.'

Especially directed towards the community's brother animators, he divided the topic into four areas: consecrated as Brothers for an evangelical mission; the ministry of the evangelical authority; my experience as Brother and servants of our brothers.

"His great experience and simplicity as a Brother captivated all brothers, who in rich moments of sharing their experiences, completed their experiences with rich content," said Br Rodrigo.

"We believe that the objectives for the meeting were accomplished." The goals were to enable a place of

encounter, reflection and growth of community animators, as well as to delve into the identity of the community animator to provide better service to accompany the life and mission of the brothers and communities.

Other aims were to explore and reflect on the sense of vocation of the Brother within the Church to offer some advice for the service of animation within the community and to animate the community of Brothers with leadership and service in the style of Jesus.

And finally, to dive deeper into the Year of Mercy, the Fourvière year and the documents of the XIV provincial chapter, as well as to discover the challenges as community animators.



**His great experience and simplicity as a Brother captivated all brothers**

- Brother Rodrigo Cuesta



#### Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto:comunica@fms.it)

Our site: <http://www.champagnat.org>

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