



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING

LA VALLA 200>

The project International Communities for a New Beginning or La Valla 200>, as the organizing team has decided to call it, is already underway. In accordance with the timetable drawn up, during the month of December a first selection of candidates for the Project was undertaken. This was duly communicated to the persons concerned as well as to their Provincials.

The first formation session will take place near the famous monastery of Camaldoli (Toscana, Italy). The monastery has several houses in which the participants will live during the session, grouped in small international fraternities, in such a way that they will be able to begin to experience international community life.

The participants consist of a group of 13 Brothers: John Lavngé Nyuydine (West Africa); Isaac Alonso Arribas, Íñigo García Blanco and Miguel Ángel Sancha Montes (Ibérica); Ricardo Gómez Rincón (Norandina); Luis Vega Saguier (Paraguay); Álvaro Sepúlveda Romero (Santa María de los Andes); Onorino Rota (Mediterranea); Réal Sauvageau



(Canada); Michael Callinan, Justin Golding and Lawrence McCane (Australia); Lawrence Lavalley (USA), and 8 lay men and women: Verónica Rubí (Cruz del Sur); Argelia Hernández Mendoza and Rodrigo Gris Castro (Mexico Occidental); Peggy Vivas Rodríguez (Norandina); Laura Miño Pérez and Mario Araya Olguín (Santa María de los Andes); Gabriel Bernardo da Silva and Bruno Socher (Brasil Centro Sul). Brothers Jeff Crowe and Ángel Medina will accompany them throughout the programme.

In addition, following proposals by several regions, the General Council has approved the location of the first communities: Tabatinga (Amazônia, Brazil – America Sur); Agrigento (Sicily, Italy – Europe); Sydney (Australia – Oceania); New York (USA – Arco Norte).

The Council has also approved, in principle, other communities: among the Mapuche Indians (Chile/Argentina – America Sur) and Kiribati (Oceania). At a later date, other decisions will be taken. These will include the communities for Africa, and the second community for Europe and Arco Norte.

These proposed communities unite with the already existing international communities in the District of Asia (MDA).

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The Chapter of the province of West Central Europe is taking place in Germany from March 28 - April 1. Brothers Emili Turú, Superior General, Ernesto Sanchez, general councillor, and João Carlos do Prado, director of the Secretariat of Mission are taking part.

The American encounter of Marist directors began in Peru on March 30. Brother Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera, Director of the Secretariat of Mission, is participating in the event.

From April 1 - 3, the European Commission of the Laity is meeting in Germany with the participation of Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity.

APRIL – MAY 2016: CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS OF SECRETARIATS



March 14 – April 3: Visit to Ecuador: Br Eugéne Kabanguka

March 28 – April 1: Provincial Chapter of West Central Europe in Freising, Germany: Brothers Emili Turú, Ernesto Sánchez and João Carlos do Prado

March 30 – April 4: Encounter of the directors of the Americas in Lima, Peru: Br Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera.

March 31 – April 3: Encounter of the European Commission of laity in Germany: Br Javier Espinosa

April 4 – 8: Course for formation of Marist leaders in Europe at the general house: some of the Secretariats and some members of the General Council

April 5: Regular council at the general house: Brothers Emili Turú, Josep Maria Soteras, Víctor Preciado, Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sánchez and Eugéne Kabanguka

April 5 – 8: Visit to socio educative projects of the "Fratelli Project" in Beirut and Rmeileh, Lebanon: Brother Joe McKee

April 11 – 12: Facilitating at the combined gathering of the Spanish, Portuguese, English speaking groups of Community Animators at L'Hermitage in Lyon, France: Brothers Tony

Leon and Hipólito Pérez

April 11 – 16: Gathering of new Provincials in Rome. They will stay until April 20 to take part in the conference on child protection

April 14: Encounter of 'Tutti Fratelli' at the general house of the Congregation of the Sacred Family in Rome: Brothers Tony Leon and Hipólito Pérez

April 14 – 15: Visit with the Sisters of Nazareth and the Jesuits of Barcelona for educational experiences: Brothers Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera, João Carlos do Prado and Josep Maria Soteras

April 18 – 22: Conference on child protection with representatives of all administrative units: the General Council, Brothers Mario Meuti and Manel Mendoza

April 18 – 22: Bedford Fund Board and Control Committee meeting at the General House: Luca Olivari and Brothers Libardo Garzón and Víctor Preciado

April 19 – 20: Encounter of Europe's Youth Vocation Ministry in Barcelona: Br Tony Leon

April 19 – 21: Board meeting of Solidarity with South Sudan in Rome: Br Chris Wills

April 19 – 26: New Horizons Formation Programme of Leadership in

Johannesburg, South Africa (second encounter): Br João Carlos do Prado

April 24 – May 15: visit to Brasil Centro Norte: Br Eugéne Kabanguka

April 25 – May 15: Visit to Hermitage Province: Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez

April 25 – 29: Meeting of the Marist District of Asia Council in Bangkok, Thailand: Brother Joe McKee

April 26 – 6 May: Visit to Canada: Br Javier Espinosa

April 27 – 29: Meeting of Provincial Bursars of Spain in Valladolid – Libardo Garzón

April 29 – May 1: New Models Meeting with Asia Region: Br João Carlos do Prado and Luca Olivari

April 30 – May 1: Marist Asia Conference in Bangkok, Thailand: Brother Michael De Waas

May 1 – June 30: formation programme of Lavalla200> international communities in Camaldoli, Italy: Brothers Jeff Crowe, Ángel Medina, Chris Wills

May 2 – 4: Visit of the Mission Secretariat to the Asia District: Br João Carlos do Prado

May 3 – 4: European Mission Team Meeting, Issenheim, France: Br Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera

May 5 – 16: Visit of the Mission Secretariat to Pacific District: Br João Carlos do Prado

May 3 – 6: Presenting at the Marist gathering of West Central Europe in Guardamar, Spain: Br Tony Leon

May 7: Regular council at the general house: Brothers Emili Turú, Joe McKee, Josep Maria Soteras, Víctor Preciado, Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez

May 7 – 10: New Models Meeting with America Sur region in Santiago, Chile: Luca Olivari

May 12 – 13: New Models Meeting with Cruz del Sur Province, in Buenos Aires, Argentina: Luca Olivari

May 16 – 19: International Council of Economic Affairs meeting in Rome: Br Libardo Garzón

May 16 – 20: Encounter with the CIAP's permanent council, the In-

NEWS IN BRIEF

AMÉRICA CENTRAL

From March 18 – 20 there was an encounter of directors of the province in Guatemala. The main theme of the formation days was to strengthen the curriculum in schools. The theme was carried out by the Provincial Brother, Luis Carlos Gutierrez

BREAKING THE SILENCE

The magazine "Marist Siglo XXI" of the Spanish Marist Conference published a dossier on the central pages of its latest issue an explanation of the Child Protection team of the Province of the Hermitage on the posture and institutional policy on the issue of sexual abuse in schools. The material is available at: <http://goo.gl/qKbZR4>.

ter-American Commission of Mission (CIM), the Inter-American Commission of Spirituality, Brothers and Laity (CIEHL) in Guadalajara, Mexico: Brothers Javier Espinosa, Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera, Hipólito Pérez and Manel Mendoza, director of FMSI Geneva office

May 17 – 24: Asian Mission Commission Meeting, Koronadal City, Philippines: Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Chris Wills

May 18 – 21: Meeting of the Preparatory Commission of the 22nd General Chapter in Rome: Brothers Joseph McKee, Eugène Kabanguka and Carlos Huidobro

May 19 – July 13: "Horizons" programme of Brothers Today for brothers aged 35 – 45 in El Escorial and Manziana (and in L'Hermitage June 16 – 25): Brothers Hipólito Pérez and Tony Leon

May 22 – 26: European Marist Conference meeting in Lisbon, Portugal: Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Er-

nesto Sánchez

May 23 – 25: Facilitating at the combined gathering of the Spanish, Portuguese, English speaking groups of "Horizons" at L'Hermitage, France.

May 25 – 27: Presenting at the English speaking Horizons course in Manziana, Italy: Br Tony Leon

May 23 – 28: Visit to the community of the general administration?: Brothers Víctor Preciado, Eugène Kabanguka, Emili Turú, Michael De Waas

May 29 – June 12: Visit to PACE province (Rwanda, Congo, Tanzania and Kenya): Br Javier Espinosa

May 30 – June 3: Assembly of the Marist International Network of Publishing Houses in Hermitage, France: Brothers Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera and João Carlos do Prado

May 31 – July 9: Plenary of the General Council

THE PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA CELEBRATES ITS FIFTH CHAPTER

The new provincial of Compostela took up office at the fifth provincial chapter held from March 20 – 22 in Valladolid, Spain, during which a new council was also elected.

The vicar general, Br Joe McKee, took part in the encounter, representing the Institute's general government.

Aside from the capitulants, many lay people were invited to attend the first two days of the meeting.

The members of the new council – Brothers Eduardo Montenegro, Lisardo García, Máximo Blanco, Salvador Hidalgo, Teodorino Aller and António Leal – were elected as Brother Tomás Briongos took up his post as provincial.

Br Tomás is substituting Brother Oscar Martín Vicario, who has served as provincial since January 2010.

Brother António Leal was initially chosen as provincial back in October, but he resigned due to health reasons. Under the theme 'Being Marist,' the encounter began with a Eucharistic celebration in which over 100 brothers from the province's different communities took part.

The chapter's participants discussed the aims for the province during the next three years.



According to the Constitutions and Statutes, the provincial chapter "has a consultative role when it examines general matters concerning the Province."

"Taking into account the Province's situation, the calls of the local Church and the directives of the General Chapter, the Provincial

Chapter suggests the main orientations to be followed" (Constitutions and Statutes 151,2). You can find more information about the Chapter at: www.maristascompostela.org.

MARIST WORLD



Malawi: Meeting of the Provincial Council of Southern Africa in Lilongwe



Germany: Provincial Chapter of West Central Europe in Freising



Puerto Rico: National Education Commission



Spain: Retreat in Fuentehierdos, Huelva



Brazil: Marist College of Maceió



Thailand: Preparatory commission for the Chapter of the District of Asia

SAMOA: MARIST BROTHER RECEIVES PAPAL AWARD

Eight long serving Church members received a Papal award in recognition of their service to the Church in Samoa on March 28.

Br Bernard O'Malley was recognised for service to Catholic Education in Samoa.

The photo shows Br Bernard, Br Humphrey and the Hon. Tui-laepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa.



OVIEDO AND VALENCIA:

'COFFEE TALKS' ON MARIST LIFE HELD IN SCHOOLS

The Institute of Marist Studies, or IEM, held a series of 'coffee talks' in Oviedo and Valencia, Spain, for four days to describe the different Marist lifestyles to students.

The Auseva School of Oviedo held the colloquiums from Feb. 17 – 18 and the Sagrado Corazón School in



This Marist life that was communicated through the perspective of the brothers and laity of different ages, has been very positive.



Valencia from Feb. 22 – 23.

During the event, a third age brother, a lay Marist, a novice and a young brother described their evangelising work in the style of Champagnat.

The Institute, which forms part of the University of Salamanca, held the talks under the title '7th cycle of coffee talks of the IEM'.

The colloquiums subject this year was 'Marist bicentenary: towards a new beginning' ahead of the Institute's bicentenary on Jan. 2.

"This Marist life that was communicated through the perspective of the brothers and laity of different ages, has been very positive," stat-



ed Fernando González Alonso, of the IEM. The members of the IEM are Fernando, Jacinto Escudero Vidal and Brother Fernando Sánchez.

COMMUNITY ANIMATORS PARTICIPATE IN 2 MONTH FORMATION PROGRAMME

17 SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE SPEAKING BROTHERS IN EL ESCORIAL

Seventeen brothers are taking part in a programme for community animators from Feb. 18 – April 21 in El Escorial, Spain.

Brothers Ángel Medina, Joares Pinheiro and Antonio Peralta are accompanying the participants, who are from Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and Spain.

Br. Angel Diego García Otaola labelled it a moment of "grace, privilege, luxury, a gift of God that comes to life in our day to day shared life."

"Our provincial brothers, following our constitutions, offer us 'periods of adequate time' for our permanent formation," he told the general house press office on March 10.

"This time is also a challenge for each one of our participants, in that we can feel the call to a new way of being brother, in our job and in our community lives."

"This time is organized in spending a lot of time living together and



time of formation offered by different people, who help us to deepen our personal and community life," he added.

Formation includes all aspects of the person, including his relationship

with himself, with the other brothers, with the world and with God.

"This is a richness that is enhanced by the internationality and multiculturalism of those who participate, and that helps us to open ourselves to what is new."

70 PEOPLE TO GATHER FOR CONFERENCE ON CHILD PROTECTION IN APRIL



Around 70 people will gather for a conference that aims at encouraging all of the Institute's administrative units to adopt concrete child protection policies and put them into practice.

Forty-eight delegates and provincials, the general council, guest speakers and staff of Marist International Solidarity Foundation Onlus, or FMSI, will gather from April 18 – 22 at the general house in Rome for a second time after meeting in 2012.

In the previous meeting, the administrative units received guidelines and were asked to prepare concrete policies and action plans locally.

"This meeting is to offer assistance and follow up on each administrative unit's own policy and action plan," said general councillor Brother Michael De Waas. "During the conference, we hope to meet with Provincials and delegates who really require our assistance."

"I think it is an important topic right now given the urgent call to keep children safe all over the world due to various circumstances," he told the general house press office on March 13. "We feel responsible to do our part."

The event is being organised by FMSI with the guidance of the general coun-

cil. Guest speakers will include Father Hans Zollner SJ, member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and president of the Centre for child protection at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University.

Agnes Wich, from Germany, will present her testimony, and district superior of West Africa Brother Francis Lukong will speak about bullying.

Another guest will be Laura Pérez, who will reflect on her experience in advocating for children in Ghana, particularly against corporal punishment.

The gathering's preparatory commission includes Brothers Manel Mendoza of the FMSI office in Geneva, Brendan Geary, provincial of West Central Europe, Lluís Serra from L'Hermitage and Michael De Waas.

They met from Jan. 4 – 6 in Barcelona and will meet again on April 4 – 5 in Rome to prepare the conference.

"After the conference, we hope to be more proactive in this field offering all necessary help that our administrative units require from us," stated Br Michael.

"We feel it's our responsibility and vocation to provide a safe environment to children and young people when they have been entrusted to our care – we need to look after them," he added.

"This is also our positive response to the call of Pope Francis."

The director of FMSI's Rome office, Brother Mario Meuti, underscored that the goals of the meeting are to assess the situation in the provinces about

the measures to protect children from all forms of abuse including sexual, corporal punishment and physical and verbal violence.

Other aims include sharing experiences, listening to meaningful testimonies and encouraging new initiatives to implement the measures already in place.

Perpetual Profession In Melanesia



Brother Elie Sangul, of the District of Melanesia, made his perpetual profession on Pentecost Island in Vanuatu on Dec. 18.

Brother Jean Marie Batik, the district superior, received his vows, participating in the celebration along with the island's Marist community.

The District of Melanesia includes the countries of Papua New Guinea (its headquarters), New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Currently, among the candidates for Marist consecrated life, the District has two postulants at the formation house in Laumanasa (Solomon Islands) and two novices, who are in the interprovincial novitiate of Tudela in Sri Lanka.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

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

YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Follow us:

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat