



NEW REGION OF 'AMÉRICA SUR' OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED

ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHES NEW REGION'S GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE MODEL



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

General councillor Brother Eugène Kabanguka, concluded his visit to Ecuador on April 3.

Vicar general Brother Joe McKee, visited the Fratelli Project in Lebanon this week, together with the vicar general of the Lasallian Brothers.

Several councillors and secretariat directors took part in the conference on formation for leaders of Europe at the general house this week.

The Marist Institute inaugurated the new region of 'América Sur' during an encounter held in Florianópolis, Brazil, which established its governance and finance model.

The encounter, held from March 6 – 7 following five days of a meeting of the Extended General Council, also aimed at materializing the New Models Project and consolidating the region's identity.

The América Sur region was established after the two former regions, Brasil and Cono Sur, united.

The new region is now formed by the provinces of Brasil Centro-Sul,

Brasil Centro-Norte, Brasil Sul-Amazônia, Santa Maria de los Andes, Cruz del Sur and the district of Paraguay.

The superiors and their councils of these six administrative units took part in the assembly, as well as Luca Olivari of the general administration and Brother João Carlos do Prado, the director of the secretariat of mission.

Assembly presents the region's strategic initiatives

The assembly presented the region's strategic initiatives, which

had been elaborated by an ad hoc group formed by two representatives of each Province: a brother and a lay person.

The ad hoc group, now called the 'implementation team of the América Sur region,' which includes new members selected by each province, is leading the region.

Two provincials, a provincial titular and a substitute provincial, are also part of the team.

The assembly appointed provincial of Cruz del Sur, Brother Alberto Aparicio, as provincial titular.

AUSTRALIA: MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

IMPROVING THE MISSION IN THE INSTITUTE

The International Mission Commission met in Sydney, Australia from 17-19 March at the Mary MacKillop Centre.

The Commission comprises Brothers and Lay members from the Regions representing the diversity of our Marist mission around the world.

Prior to their meeting members were hosted by the Province of Australia and visited several Marist schools and social works in either Brisbane, Melbourne or Sydney.

This provided an opportunity to see many examples of innovative Marist pedagogy.

Members of the Commission were impressed by the evident passion and commitment of staff for the mission.

The visits allowed members of the Commission to engage with students and staff and to hear their experience of being in a Marist school or social agency.

The Commission met with representatives of the Provincial Administration: Br. Peter Carroll (Provincial), Br. Michael Green (Director Marist Schools Australia), Mr. Tony Clarke (Director

Mission and Life Formation), Mrs. Cate Sydes (CEO Marist Youth Care), Mr. Bernard Kenna (Director of Business Services), Mr. Nehme Khattar (former Coordinator Marist Youth Ministry) and Br. Jeff Barrington (Marist Association Pastoral Team). This was followed by a meal at the Provincial house at Drummoyne.

On the evening of 17 March Professor Anne Cummins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University (ACU) hosted a reception for the Commission.

There was an opportunity to discuss the various programmes, projects and networks which are promoted by ACU. The Commission spent three days in session. The discussion included a reflection on the visits to the various Marist ministries.

Issues related to four projects - Formation, Communication, Networking and Child Rights were further refined.

A proposal emerging from the New Models of Animation, Guidance and Management was also presented.

Some time was also spent on the MISSIO software application as part of the new systems for the Institute which is currently being developed.

On the last day the Commission met with the Oceania Council to discuss mission initiatives related to building capacity and support for local needs.

Key challenges include communication infrastructure and reliability, youth ministry and youth care, and school leadership development. The complexity and diversity of the Region is illustrated in the two maps. The first showing the approximate outlines of the three Administrative Units that comprise the Oceania Region.

The second shows the comparable size of Europe and Australia. Map 1: Oceania Administrative Units: Province of Australia (green), District of Melanesia (red line) and the District of the Pacific (blue line).

Members include: Luís Gutiérrez (Internacional Mission Commission - IMC), Br. João Carlos Do Prado (Secretariat of Mission), Luca Olivari (New Models Project), Br. Tony d'Arbon (Oceania Council - OC), Br. Kevin Wanden (ICM & OC), Melissa Clohesy (OC), Br. Chris Wills (ICM), Cate Sydes (ICM), Br. Paul Kane (OC), Br. Peter Carroll (OC), Br. José Luís Grande (translator), Br. José María Soteras (General Council), Dan Dungey (OC), Br. Jean-Marie Batick (OC), Sylvia Pérez (ICM), Br. Teófilo Minga (translator), Br. Miguel Ángel Espinosa-Barrera (Secretariat of Mission), Br. Valdicer Facchi (ICM), Br. David McDonald (OC), Br. Siasio Ioane (OC), Br. Terence Costello (OC), Br. John Kusi-Mensah (ICM), Br. Willy Lubrico (ICM), Br. Gabriel Villareal (ICM) and Br. Fortune Chakasara (ICM).



NEWS IN BRIEF

CANADA

The province of Canada launched its new website this week. (<http://freresmaristes.qc.ca/>). With some nice graphics, the goal is to reach the largest possible number of people, especially young people.

COMPOSTELA

The group that is doing this year its formation as new directors, is working and reflecting these days in Xaudaró, Spain. One of the important issues is conflict resolution in schools, with the key word being prevention.

BRASIL SUL-AMAZONIA

Reflecting on the relationship with young people, the region Brasil Sul-Amazonia released a document on its position and the principles of the Marist activities with young people. Educators and employees across the province are developing the principles in formation meetings.

MEETING OF THE OCEANIA COUNCIL AND COLLEGE OF LEADERS

SUPPORTING VITALITY AND GROWTH OF MARIST LIFE



The Oceania Council and College of Leaders met in Sydney on 21-22 March 2016. The meeting was preceded by a one-day combined meeting of the International Commission for Mission and the Oceania Council.

The thrust of these meetings was to continue to:

- Respond to the calls of the last General Chapter
- Prepare for the 2017 General Chapter
- Implement initiatives to support the vitality and growth of Marist Life in Oceania.

La Valla 200> Project

At the request of the General Council the Oceania Council proposed two international communities for the Region: Mt Druitt and Kiribati. The General Administration has approved these as part of the La Valla 200> Project.

Members of the Mt Druitt community attended the meeting to outline the initial planning, strategy and pros-

pects. The Oceania Council endorsed the project in principle. The Oceania Council has now established a Steering Committee to provide oversight for the staged implementation of the project and matters related to governance, finance and other establishment issues.

The proposal regarding the La Valla 200> project in Kiribati will be considered by the Oceania Council at their meeting in August.

Network of Marist Education in Oceania

In recent times there have been a number of ad hoc cooperative arrangements to further Marist education.

This process has now been formalised with the establishment of the Network of Marist Education in Oceania. The purpose of the Network is to provide a mechanism to share expertise, to support current leaders and to form future leaders, to build teacher capacity and to assist in strengthening organisational structures and financial management strategies.

MARIST CALENDAR

April 9: Br. Nestor, 3rd Superior General of the Institute, died in Saint-Genis Laval (1883); creation of the Province of Southern Africa which consists of South Africa, Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe (1999)

April 15: The Brothers of Viviers, France joined the Marist Institute (1844); creation of the Province of Europe Centre-Ouest / West Central Europe, formed by Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands (2000)

MARIST WORLD



Lebanon: Visit of the General Vicars Jorge Gallardo FSC and Joe McKee FMS



Germany: New Provincial Council of West Central Europe



Samoa: Marist Brothers Primary School in Mulivai



Spain: New Provincial Council of Compostela:



Peru: III American Meeting of Marist Education in Lima



Malawi: Painting of our Founder at the community residence

New Models

At the combined meeting the Director of the Mission Secretariat, (Br João Carlos do Prado) and the consultant (Mr Luca Olivari), who have been facilitating the New Models project at the international level, presented the global picture that is emerging of regional collaboration and cooperation. Their visit provided an opportunity for the Oceania Council to address those issues that have an influence on the future collaboration in the Oceania Region.

A small committee has been established by the Oceania Council to make suggestions about possible areas for further collaboration in the Oceania Region.

Lay Partnership

Throughout the Institute lay people are being formed to animate groups of Lay Marists to deepen the Charism of St Marcellin Champagnat in their lives and mission. The Oceania Council actively supported a 'Train-the-Trainers' workshop in Brisbane in November 2015. As a result of the workshop a number of initiatives are being developed and implemented in the three Administrative Units.

The Oceania Council is formed by the Province of Australia, District of the Pacific and the District of Melanesia.

FIRST OF A KIND ENCOUNTER FOR LEADERS COMES TO AN END

20 BROTHERS AND LAY GATHER FOR FINAL WEEK OF FORMATION



Marist Leaders of Europe are meeting at the general house in Rome from April 4 – 8 for the last of five gatherings in different locations, organised by the mission

team of the European Marist Conference. The provinces of Europe chose 20 lay Marists and brothers to take part in a series of gatherings that lasted for five weeks throughout the previous months to help them improve their leadership within the Institute.

"This is the first time a gathering of this kind takes place," Brother Gabriel Villa-Real, one of the coordinators, told the general house press office on April 4.

"After each week, we received very positive evaluations."

Guest speakers included superior general Brother Emili Turú and the director of the secretariat of the laity, Brother Javier Espinosa, who spoke about the international reality of the Marist institute today as well as ecclesial and institutional relations.

On April 5, Brother Tony León spoke about Marist leadership, followed by the directors of 'Marist International Solidarity Foundation' and 'Collaboration for Mission, International,' Brothers Mario Meuti and Chris Wills, who spoke about the visions of the two secretariats.

The following day, Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and An-

tonio Ramalho discussed teamwork, delegation and decision-making.

In the evening participants visited a congregation with Brother Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera of the secretariat of mission.

Participants will then hear talks on change management, entrepreneurship by Brothers João Carlos do Prado, Josep Maria Soterias and Libardo, as well as a talk on communications by the general house press office on April 7.

On the final day, Patrizia Coppola of the secretariat of mission, will speak about strategic planning and the participants evaluated the end of the encounter.

Participants include brothers Gabriel Villa-Real, Lisardo García Miranda, Máximo Blanco, Iñaki Ruiz del Portal, Mateos Levantinos, Pau Tristany, Samuel Gomez Níguez and Josep Roura Bahí.

And the following lay people: Belén Salas García, Roberto González, Alfredo Veiga Fernández, Eurico Santos, María Gismero, Alberto Burguete, Jorge Isidro, Llorenç Claramunt, Christophe Schietse, Bartolomé Gil Garre, Gianluca Mauriello, Edouard Jabre.

UNITED STATES

MEETING OF FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MARIST SCHOOLS

Earlier in March several faculty and staff members from around the Marist Schools of the Province of the USA gathered in the Marist Provincial Center in Forest Hills, New York for three days to participate in the Sharing Our Call 2 Program. The program was designed to help faculty and staff members not only grow in their understanding of Marist spirituality and pedagogy but also strengthen their identity as a Marist Educator.

The program consisted of morning and evening prayers, private reflection and moments to share experiences and network.

Topics that were presented included Call and Charism; Champagnat and Religious Experience; the Marist way of Compassion, The Marist Marks for students and how they challenge us as Educators, Our Call as Evangelizers and Living Our Marist Stories. Participants not only enjoyed living and



praying with the Brothers in the Provincial Residence but enjoyed the food and atmosphere created by the Provincial community and the SOC Team members, which consisted of Laity and Brothers.

In the picture: Br Al Rivera, FMS (Director of the Office of Marist Life & Mission), Pamela Quantz, Robert Linfors, Christopher Clesca, Dorothy Denoto, Br. Peter Guadalupe, Brian Klimas, Dr. Stella Filizola, Jerri Hernández, Térésa Chomat and Lindsay Irwin (presenter).

VENEZUELA

FOURVIÈRE EXPERIENCE: JOINT FORMATION WITH A MISSIONARY COLOUR

After a long journey by air, land and river during Holy Week, a group of Champagnat Marists of Venezuela came to Santa Catalina to celebrate the "II Experience of Joint Fourvière Formation."

Since the first experience in 2014, the dream of making a new joint training with a missionary colour was developed.

In this way, we accepted Brother Emili's invitation to go out of our comfort



We felt God was present in our Warao friends and that we were evangelised by them. We received more than we gave.



zones, and so despite the difficulties that our country is facing, we set out to make our dream a reality.

Fourteen lay people as well as eight brothers of Zulia, Falcón, Aragua, Miranda, Caracas and Delta Amacuro were invited to live this experience.

Our days were guided by the experience of Holy Week and each day was accompanied by Mary of the Promise, Mary of the Vocation, Mary of Service, Mary of the Journeying and Mary of Fidelity.

We did our experience of mission in a Warao indigenous settlement called El Remanse, which is around one hour down the river from Santa Catalina.

When we arrived, we visited the community and invited them to join us to share in playing games and other things...

We felt God was present in our Warao friends and that we were

evangelised by them.

We received more than we gave and they have a sense of community.

They were all there: children, youths, adults, enjoying and sharing experiences.

We appreciated the gift of their hands and their beautiful handi-crafts.

It was an invitation that challenges us to view the world, our country, from the bottom up: "to view the world with the eyes of children and the poor."

As Marists of Champagnat, we felt inspired by the consecration of the founders of the Marist Family.

We felt called to re-found and renovate our commitment as Christians in our localities, in our country, to continue moving to the margins of cities, to the peripheries, where the Lord calls us and needs us.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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