



## NEW PROVINCIALS MEET WITH GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### PARTICIPANTS GATHER WITH MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL



(Mediterránea), José Sánchez (México Central), Miguel Ángel Santos (México Occidental), Mervyn Perera (South Asia), Norbert Mwila (Southern Africa), Patrick McNamara (United States).

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Members of the Secretariats of the General House held meetings over the weekend to share the road traveled and the objectives for the immediate future.

On April 11 and 12, brothers Tony Leon and Hipolito Perez, of the Brothers Today Secretariat, accompanied groups of Manziana and El Escorial who are following the course of community animators. This group met at L'Hermitage, with several lay people for two weeks.

On April 14 and 15, brother Josep Maria Soterias, general councillor, and brothers João Carlos do Prado and Miguel Angel Espinosa Barrera, of the Secretariat of Mission, are visiting conferences on education in Barcelona, Spain.

New provincials are gathering at the general house from April 11 – 16 to meet with the general administration and to take part in a conference on child protection next week.

The brothers travelled from the United States, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Rwanda and Australia.

Newly appointed provincials generally come together at the general house as part of an introduction into their new role.

The last encounter took place from Oct. 13 – 18, 2014.

The group heard talks from superior general Brother Emili Turú and vicar general brother Joe McKee.

They will also hear talks from general councillors including Brothers Eugène Kabanguka, Antonio Ramalho, José Maria Soterias, Ernesto Sánchez, Víctor Preciado and Michael De Waas.

General secretary Brother Carlos Huidobro and the economo general Brother Libardo Garzón will also speak, as well as guest speaker Brother Juan Miguel Anaya, who will cover canonical issues.

The participants are brothers: Peter Carroll (Australia), Théoneste Kalisa (Afrique Centre-Est), Ataide José de Lima (Brasil Centro-Norte), Inácio Etges (Brasil Sul-Amazônia), Tomás Briongos (Compostela), Alberto Aparicio (Cruz del Sur), Moisés Alonso (Ibérica), Pere Ferré (L'Hermitage), Juan Carlos Fuertes

## SUPERIOR GENERAL EXPRESSES GRATITUDE IN A SPANISH MAGAZINE

### 'VIDA RELIGIOSA' PUBLISHES BR EMILI'S THANK YOU LIST



*The monthly Spanish review, Vida Religiosa, published an article, in its April edition, written by Superior General Brother Emili Turú. In a section entitled 'A look through a magnifying glass', Brother Emili dedicates a page to showing gratitude and appreciation for the circumstances and persons that he has recently encountered.*

#### **Why are you expressing thanks during this time?**

I give thanks for the numerous signs of life that I perceive around me and which I accept as wonderful gifts... Thanks for the letter that I have just received from the mother of a Marist Brother who is in Thailand, serving the migrants of Myanmar in that country.

She is a retired teacher, she has just spent six weeks with her son, rendering service as a volunteer. She writes that experience, "has disrupted my view in the world .... a new world has presented itself before me, in such a way that it has penetrated into my heart and it will remain there forever".

Thanks for the three Nigerian Brothers, whom I met a short time ago, who are working in the inter-congregational project in South Sudan. I was impressed by their simplicity, their courage, their profound sense of service, their evangelical quality, their openness to innovation.

Thanks for the Brazilian young man whom I met yesterday, who told me

that he had made "a pact" with his fiancée, that he would be far away from his country for two years as member of a Marist inter-cultural community, sent on mission by the Superior General. He is one of the over 90 Brothers and lay men and women who have responded up until now to my invitation to participate in new mixed international communities (Brothers and Laity), distributed across the five continents in frontier zones.

Thanks for the community of Brothers whom I met two days ago in Florianópolis, who live inserted in the "Morro do Montserrat", one of the most violent areas of the city.

There, together with a diocesan priest, they are prophetic signs of mercy and acceptance, and have succeeded in calming down and pacifying the area in some way. Now, they tell me, they are asking themselves if they should go to another neighborhood which is still more violent.

Thanks for the Brothers whom I have recently asked to assume the service of Provincials. Their gener-

osity and availability disarm me and make me feel proud.

Thanks for the Brother who drove me to the airport yesterday and who told me that he is making an effort to have greater silence and more prayer in his life.

Thanks for the mother of two Colombian Marist Brothers who assures me that she prays for me every day.

Thanks for the Marist educators – men and women – in Quito whom I met this morning and who clearly live their profession as a vocation, with love and dedication.

I could fill up many pages with my thanksgiving. I feel privileged and blessed for so many green shoots of life that I perceive everywhere. Yes, beauty and love will save the world.

A few days ago I read an interview with Margaret J. Wheatley. I was impressed that this woman, who has worked as organizational consultant for more than 40 years with leaders from the whole world belonging to all types of organizations and communities, affirmed that now, due to her experience, she has changed her way of thinking: "Now", she says, "I do not believe that great systems can be easily changed, because I see that this is not happening; is not taking place. Now I center myself completely on individual persons and on how we can prepare ourselves to be combatants for the human spirit".

I do not know if what Margaret J. Wheatley thinks is true. In any case, I also feel that great transformations become possible because of persons who take a step forward and commit themselves, each one according to his or her reality and possibilities. In the words of Primo Mazzolari: "The river begins with the first drop of water; love with the first look; night with the first star; spring with the first flower".

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### CUBA

Daniel Borges, Cuba, began his postulancy last February. He met the Marists in 2013 and spent some time in the community of Cienfuegos, as a candidate. He is currently accompanied by the brothers of the community of Havana.

### MEXICO

The province of México Occidental organised the twelfth vocational meeting in March, in which 70 young people interested in Marist life took part.

### SAMOA

The coordination team of the Marists of Champagnat of Samoa, organised a workshop day for new Marist teachers in the education system, focusing on the Catholic and Marist character of our schools.

### PORTUGAL

Through the Cascais Children House, Lisbon Champagnat Foundation is participating in April in the national campaign against abuse in Portugal. This is the month of prevention of abuse in childhood and youth in the country.

## MARISTS OF CATALONIA FORM A TEAM OF CARE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE



The Marist Brothers have been working in promoting and defending children's rights and dignity for some time, so we are strongly committed to the fight against sexual abuse of minors.

The Marist Institute has been addressing the issue and setting up international teams and own protocols and prevention action against abuses since 2011, in all countries where it is present.

Marist educational centres were the first institutions that developed protocols in Catalonia that enabled to promote a culture of preventing, detecting and eradicating child sexual abuse and other risky situations.

Thanks to these protocols, and other existing standards, we have been proactive in denouncing situations that have been detected in recent years. We have always been close to the families and their needs, always respecting their decisions.

Any time we have heard of an abuse case at any of our centres, we have acted asking for forgiveness and offering support to the family, condemning and denouncing the facts. The Marist Brothers of Catalonia formed a team in April that offers care for victims of sexual abuse cases prescribed by the court.

## JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

The 14 new provincials who are meeting with the General Council in Rome celebrated the Jubilee Year of Mercy, passing through the Holy Door of the Vatican.

Don Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong, former Marist student and who currently works as Secretary for Seminaries of the Congregation for the Clergy, concluded the pilgrimage with a Mass. He also accompanied them to visit the statue of Saint Marcellin, located in front of the Casa Santa Marta, residence of Pope Francis.



## MARIST WORLD



France: Lay and brothers at the Community Animators' programme at L'Hermitage



Italy: The Secretariats from General Admin meeting to share our lives/projects



Hong Kong: 90th birthday of Brother Maurice Chang



Bangladesh: Marist Brothers working in the country



Mexico: Marist University Mexico City



General House: Australian pilgrims on their way to l'Hermitage

It is an offer directed to all people who have experienced situations of sexual abuse at one of our centers. With the launch of this team's activity, we want to reiterate our determination to stand by the victims, especially when justice can no longer take place due to the prescription of crimes. The aim of the intervention is to know the current situation of each victim and make proposals to the Marist Institute to facilitate healing by repairing the damage.

The initial intervention includes welcoming, listening and responding to the needs of each victim, derived both from the experience and the frustration that results from the legal prescription. For this reason, the basic care team includes a lawyer and a psychologist. The professionals of the core team are: Xavier Puigdollers (coordinator), a lawyer and president of the Section of Child and Adolescent of Barcelona's College of Lawyers (...).

Maria Dolors Petitbò, clinical psychologist and a founding member of the Functional Unit of Attention to child sexual abuse (UFAM) of the Hospital Sant Joan de Deu in Barcelona (...). This core team is complemented by interventions from other competent professionals in various fields, according to the needs of those admitted. The care team has established a contact network for all victims who are known to have legal prescription.

**Fundació Champagnat – Maristes Catalunya  
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## SRI LANKA: MARIST BROTHERS MAKE THEIR FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS



On Saturday 9th April five young men made their first profession as Marist Brothers at the Marist International Novitiate, Tudella, Ja Ela: Dulaj C. Fernando (Sri Lanka), Anthony Qummar (Pakistan), Rohail Niamat (Pakistan), Peter Nguyen Viet Bao (Vietnam) and Anthony Pham Thuan (Vietnam). Brother Juan Castro, superior of the District of Asia, received their vows in the presence of His Excellency, Archbishop Pierre Nguyen Van Tot, Apostolic Nuncio to Sri Lanka, family and friends.

These young men began their Novitiate in May 2014 at the Marist Novitiate in Tudella, which is an international novitiate serving the Marist Provinces of South Asia, Australia and the Marist Districts of Asia and Melanesia.

The Novitiate Team comprises Brothers Nicholas Fernando, novice master (Sri Lanka), Canisio Willrich (Brazil), Peter A Walsh (Australia) and Sales Fernando (Sri Lanka).

Having completed their novitiate, these young Brothers will join communities in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Later they will begin the next step of initial formation, in Philippines, at MAPAC.

## WORKSHOP PREPARES YOUNG BROTHERS FOR FINAL VOWS



Our Marist province of Africa Central-East (PACE), in its plan to prepare young brothers for final vows, organized a workshop of the young Brothers held in Save from 20 to 24 March 2016. This workshop animated by Br. Antoine Kazindu, had as theme: "Give God your head and your hands, but bring your heart along with them".

The participants were 10 young brothers from apostolic communities of Kisangani, Bobandana, Kindu, Mururu, Mwanza, Rwabuye and Byimana.

They were: Samuel Dunia, Serge Ntumba, Adolphe Paluku, Patient Kakule, Augustin Kyanga, Dieudonné Byenda, Edouard Mulaila, Jean Mfurayase, Felix Donald Banam and Bosco Uwizeyimana.

During the three days, we shared our personal experiences in the apostolic works, the joy of being a Marist Brother, the strengths and limitations of our province. We also received inputs on consistency in life, commitment and prayer.

On this journey, we embrace life with its joys and pains,

consolation and renunciations inherent to our state of life, aware that fidelity is not possible without a deep transformation; thus, a willingness to live according to our Constitutions.

With the sharing on the second day of our workshop, we came to realize once again that the encounter with God transforms.

Each one of us was invited to a self-assessment in order to identify some signs of a genuine longing for transformation. The input of the day was about commitment. We concluded stressing that final commitment means to make our future what we want it to be.

Wednesday afternoon, the provincial, Brother Kalisa, invited us to persevere without fear. He called us to know and accept our history as a province and the institute and finally own up its ups and downs. Brother Kalisa made it clear that the implication in making final vows is to accept to be the custodian of Marist tradition and passing it to others.

Each one took time to personally identify the strength and limitations of the province and to suggest his contribution for more vitality in the province. After sharing on challenges and limitations of our province, we express our desire to live out generously our commitment in the province. Yes, we want to "be the change we would like to happen."

Before leaving Save, we received some suggestions on how to live the period between the end of the workshop and the next one.

We departed happily and reenergized to creatively continue our apostolate.

*Br Jean Bosco Uwizeyimana / PACE*

## ECUMENICAL LIFE IN ATHENS: AFFILIATION OF NICOLAS DESSYPRIS

On Saturday, March 19, 2016, the Community of Marist Brothers in Greece truly lived an exceptional moment. In fact, that day, the Marist Brothers opened a new road. During a very simple celebration that took place in the Community of Agia Kyriaki, M. Nicolas Dessypris, who is an Orthodox Christian, was affiliated to the Institute of Marist Brothers.

Brother Pere Ferré, our next Provincial Brother, the mother and the brother of M. Dessypris, the members of the Council of Direction of the High School Léonin de Néa Smyrni and all the Brothers of the two communities of Athens were present at this ceremony.

At the beginning Brother Matthieu Le-

vantinos presented the reasons why the Marist Brothers of Greece, but above all the Provincial Council of l'Hermitage and the General Council in Rome have joyfully accepted the affiliation of M. Nicolas Dessypris to the Institute of Marist Brothers.

We all have recognized officially that M. Nicolas Dessypris truly lives the

Marist charism. During all these years that he has been among us, we have understood that he lives his Christian life with all the Marist characteristics: availability, simplicity, modesty, love for work, and above all, humility, in other words, he lives the vocation of the Lay Marists. During the ceremony Brother Pere Ferré spoke to thank M. Nicolas Dessypris for his presence during 35 years in a Marist Establishment and to offer him the Diploma of Affiliation to the Institute of Marist Brothers. Then, M. Dessypris expressed with emotion his gratitude and his joy, because he had had the chance to live with persons whom he has esteemed and loved.



## GERMANY: MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN LAY COMMISSION

The meeting took place at The Kardinal Döpfner Centre, at the invitation of Wolfgang Hacker, who was our gracious host, representing the province of West Central Europe. The Centre, which was the former seminary of the diocese of Munich – Freising, has a lot of history and tradition. Joseph Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI, lived at the centre when he was a seminarian. Wolfgang shared with us the beautiful experience of the Provincial Chapter, which had been held right there, with its lines of action for the coming three years: new structures for mission, development of Marist spirituality, formation for Marist leadership, supporting projects for young adults. During our time together we spoke about the diversity of the five provinces, but we also sensed the need to join efforts and share our vision, as well as the need to walk together.

The African proverb that was shared at the IInd Mission Assembly in Nairobi, reminded us that “together we go further.” We felt motivated when listening to the richness of the lay processes and realities, like the Marist groups that unite laity and brothers in the strengthening of communion for mission, or the experiences introduced by communities that are committed to a shared life. We listened to different ways of sharing processes of formation, spiritual retreats, and reference communities. Several provinces are promoting proposals in the area of spirituality and some of them have online programmes. Some provinces have already elaborated a Pathway for deepening the Charism as a vocational key; another province is involved in designing the programme. The most significant point of the agenda was the dialogue on the first responses to the Reflection Document proposed by the Secretariat for the international meeting that will be held in October, 2016, in the Hermitage. This involved delving into the idea of a project with a formational path with a vocational perspective, and the possibilities of making a commitment

together and lay affiliation, as well as in establishing common formation spaces for brothers and lay people in their response to God. In doing this we are joining with all the regional commissions of the Institute who have been involved in the same reflection, with the intention of bringing forth proposals at the next General Chapter.

Throughout our dialogue we are seeking ways of contributing to the “new beginning” of our Marist family. Ana Sarrate, a lay Marist from Spain, spoke about the updating process of the Champagnat Movement in a video conference. Joseba, a member of the Commission, shared information about the process of establishing a commitment in the Ibérica province. As it happens, another group of lay people in Logroño were also reflecting on this subject at the same time. Around 50 people have already made their commitment. Joseba stressed that this is not a final gesture, but rather marks the beginning.

They commit themselves to continue to growing in their lives of faith and in their commitment to the Marist charism. The encounter concluded with the reassurance that participants are living a time of possibility and of grace. This time calls for walking without prejudice, without fear of starting new projects. The current time is moving us to invest in people that can accompany both personal processes as well as in groups. Participants also felt that although there is no urgency for a lay association, they must begin to reflect on it.

The idea prevailed that an association must be born of the desire to live Marist spirituality and mission; it is the charism that gives meaning to itself. They underscored the current process of renewing the Constitutions as an opportunity to articulate the identity of the brother as a member of the Marist Institute while holding at the same time the perspective of communion between brothers and laity.

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