



# MARIST NEWS

421

Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

## FR HANS ZOLLNER EXPRESSES ADMIRATION, ENCOURAGEMENT IN CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE

## NEARLY 70 PARTICIPANTS GATHER AT MARIST ENCOUNTER



### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

During this week, the general council, other members of the general administration and two representatives from each administrative unit of the Institute, attended a conference on child protection.

From 18 to 22 April, economy general Brother Libardo Garzón met with the Bedford Fund and its control committee at the general house.

From 19 and 20 April, the meeting of the European team of pastoral vocations took place in Barcelona with the participation of Brother Tony Leon, of the Brothers Today secretariat.

From 19 to 21 April, Brother Chris Wills, of the 'Collaboration for Mission, International' secretariat participated in the meeting of the project team of Solidarity with South Sudan in Rome.

During a gathering on child protection at the Institute of the Marist Brothers' General House in Rome, a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors expressed his admiration for the Brothers and encouraged them in their work of safeguarding children.

"I really admire your thorough work in education," stated Father Hans Zollner, who is also president of the Centre for Child Protection, told participants on April 18.

"I hope we can continue to strengthen our bonds in the field of safeguarding," he added, referring to possible collaboration in this area with the Centre.

Nearly 70 provincials, district superiors, representatives of administrative units and guest speakers, which includes Fr Zollner and an abuse survivor, are gathering this week at the General House for a conference on Child Protection.

The Conference, entitled 'Keeping

Children Safe: Raising Awareness, Creating a Safe Environment,' will run from April 18 – 22 as the continuation of a previous gathering of its kind held in March 2012.

Fr Zollner, who is also the academic vice-rector of the Gregorian University in Rome and head of the Gregorian's Institute of Psychology, stressed that children are exploited in many ways around the world and noted, "we need to take into account all areas in which the rights of children and adolescents are threatened."

Fr Zollner highlighted that it is "not just a European or Western problem" and stated that he has seen great improvements where guidelines for safeguarding children have been introduced and put into practice.

At the start of the conference, the Superior General, Brother Emili Turú, emphasized that globally "as an Institute, we have already taken huge steps in the task of the protection of children since our last gathering four



years ago." "Victims are our absolute priority; the reputation of our Institute is secondary," said Brother Emili at the start of the conference on April 18.

"With this gathering, we wish to increase both our awareness and our commitment," he told participants.

He affirmed that protecting children "is not parallel to our mission, it's at the very heart of our mission."

"The purest way to love children is through respect," noted Br Emili. "Children are not incomplete beings, they're humans who deserve respect from the moment of their conception."

## EARTHQUAKE HITS NORTH COAST OF ECUADOR

### OVER 570 DEATHS AND 4,000 INJURED



An earthquake of 7.8 degrees on the Richter scale hit Ecuador on April 16.

"None of the brothers, people linked to our mission nor our works have been affected," stated Brother Laurentino Albalá Medina, provincial ecomone of Norandina.

Reports so far say the earthquake has left over 570 deaths and 4000 injured, as well as countless houses and public structures destroyed.

"In Quevedo, they were without electricity and without possibilities of communicating for a long period after the quake," Br Laurentino affirmed. "I

was able to speak with Br Galo on Sunday and they (the Marists) are all well."

"Santo Domingo has also been affected in some areas, but our school has not had any major damage," he added.

"But yes, there was some damage to the computer lab."

The earthquake was also felt strongly in the capital, Quito, but with less serious consequences.

"We are trying to collect data so we can analyze the best way to help the victims, according to our possibilities," said Brother Laurentino.

Ecuador belongs to the province of Norandina, alongside Colombia and Venezuela.

Marists have several educational works in the country.

## PHILIPPINES: MEETING OF THE LAITY COMMISSION

### VITALITY OF MARIST LIFE IN ASIA REGION

On March 31 to April 2, 2016, the Asia Laity Commission met at Marist School, Marikina City to discern together important concerns affecting the Marist life particularly of the laity in the Region.

The meeting was intended to, among others, thoughtfully provide feedback on the Global Framework on the Itinerary of the Vocation of the Marist Laity, Initial formation for laity and brothers, and the theme on the bonding and belonging through lay association.

The Commission was in agreement that in looking at the formation content and process of the laity formation programs, it is important to contextualize it on the realities of Asia Region.

For this reason, the first day was devoted to looking at the Mega-trends of Asia that has implications to laity-brothers formation and with this, The Call to New Evangelization: The Church of Asia in the Next 50 Years, a paper of Most Rev. Orlando Cardinal Quevedo, OMI was presented and

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### EAST TIMOR

Four candidates have begun the initial formation course in Baucau, East Timor. After a week of formation, during the Eucharistic celebration of April 15, the new postulants of the Province of Australia had their official entrance into the Institute.

### SPAIN

The Spanish Marist Conference organised this week a session of formation for pastoral workers and receptionists of the Marist works of Spain. Personal and Marist identity was among the topics as well as development of the necessary competencies to improve work performance.

### AUSTRALIA

The annual pilgrimage of Australian Marists is taking place this week. Last week, the group, which includes both brothers and lay people, stayed at the general house, after a week in the Holy Land. These days they are visiting the Marist places in France.

## MARIST CALENDAR

21 April: 1951: Br. Joche Albert was shot to death in Si-Chiang, China

25 April: The first Marist Brothers set out for Guatemala (1932)

26 April: The first Marist Brothers arrived in Ireland (1862)

28 April: Peter Chanel, a Marist priest, was martyred on the Island of Futuna (1841)

studied. Reflections on how do we in Asia come up with an Asian sensitive and relevant formation framework of the laity, making them become more effective catalyst in the Asian Church and responsive to the challenges of the mega-trends of Asia were drawn out.

Fr. Jojo M. Fung, S.J. staff of the East Asia Pastoral Institute (EAPI), provi-

ded his expertise in accompanying this reflection process.

Output of the workshop was helpful in the plan of formulating key themes in the laity formation programs that is reflective and responsive to Asian context.

The meeting concluded with proposals to present to the Conference of Asia Leaders.

## GREECE: POPE'S VISIT IS AN ECUMENICAL MESSAGE OF UNITY, SAYS GREEK MARIST



A Greek brother believed Francis' visit to the island of Lesbos on April 16 will be significant to Marist brothers and lay people, as well as to refugees.

"The Marists of Greece, brothers and the laity, are experiencing immense joy at the announcement of the visit because the two heads of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in union with the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Greece (former teacher of our Marist Nea Smyrni school) will gather at a place of martyrdom at a very significant time, since it is the end of Lent for Greeks," affirmed Brother Mateos Levantinos.

"Their act is in itself an ecumenical message of unity, able to forget the doctrinal differences," he told the ge-

neral house press office on April 13.

He reflected on the impact of the Pope's visit for refugees, since Lesbos is a primary destination for those fleeing war-torn countries, such as Syria.

"For refugees, the presence of the Pope and the Patriarch is a sign of solidarity to express their support and proximity," affirmed Br Mateos.

"For the inhabitants of this island, who have been receiving and welcoming thousands of survivors for more than six months, their presence will be a sign of thanks, as well as of encouragement," he added.

Lesbos, which has a population of

## MARIST WORLD



Guatemala: Second meeting of Marist Educators



Spain: Encounter of Europe's Youth Vocation Ministry (Barcelona)



Mexico: Primary Marist school in Aguascalientes



Italy: Meeting of Brothers from the Province Mediterránea



Nigeria: Workshop on Lay Marist Formation in Orlu



Italy: End of the Programme for community animators

90,000, saw nearly half a million refugees pass through the island into Europe in 2015.

There are currently 12 brothers in Greece, who run two schools with 3500 students and community centers.

They also collaborate with Caritas to help refugees.

Three Marist Brothers from Constantinople, now Istanbul, settled in Lesbos in 1901 and started a small French school, but left for Athens a few years later.

## SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAS GATHER FOR THIRD ENCOUNTER

### EVANGELISING THROUGH EDUCATION



**In the classroom, it is important that teachers talk with students about the meaning of life and to share with them their own paths of faith**

Directors of schools in the Americas held a gathering on education at the Champagnat University of Lima, Peru, from March 30 – April 4.

“In the classroom, it is important that teachers talk with students about the meaning of life and to share with them their own paths of faith,” said Brother Sean Sammon, former superior general, during the encounter.

The gathering, titled “Third Interamerican Marist Encounter of Education”, was organised by the Education Subcommittee of America of the Inter-American Conference of Provincials, known as the CIAP.

The previous encounter for school directors took place



in Guadalajara, Mexico, from April 12 – 15, 2013.

Participants reflected on two documents titled 'Future and Hope: Affirmations for an evangelising education in America' and "Management model for Marist schools in America."

During the gathering, discussions also covered the world's growing individualism and the need to teach children that service to others brings happiness.

Provincial of Central America Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez affirmed on April 1 that the document participants elaborated titled 'Model of evangelizing through education' is "not intended as a manual, but rather leaves exemplary lines for all to work with: parents, teachers, administrators."

"It's a clear message to know where



we are going to by means of evangelization," he added.

The theme of this year's gathering was 'Marist Education for the 21st

century: challenges and perspectives for the Bicentenary.'

Superior general brother Emili Turú released a video for the encounter.

## STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FOURVIÈRE TRAVELLING FROM ECUADOR TO COLOMBIA NORANDINA CELEBRATES THE FOURVIÈRE YEAR

A statue of Our Lady of Fourvière is currently passing through all communities and Marist works of Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.

The Norandina Province ordered the statue to be made in Quito, Ecuador, for the celebration of the Fourvière Year.

The route began in the city of Macara, at the border between Ecuador and Peru, and will finish at the Orinoco Delta, at the border between Venezuela and Guyana.

Our Lady has already passed through all the Marist works in Ecuador.

The pictures below were taken when she was passing the border between Ecuador and Colombia.

The statue was entering the city of Ipiales, which is the entrance to Co-



lombia where the Marists run the Champagnat School, under the total care of lay Marists.

From there, it will continue to Pasto,

Popayán, Cali, Armenia, Manizales, Ibagué, Villavicencio, Bogotá and Medellín before finally making its way to Venezuela.

## GERMANY: CAPÍTULO DA PROVÍNCIA EUROPA CENTO OESTE

### A TANDEM JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE



The 6th Provincial Chapter took place in Freising, Germany from March 28th – 1st April.

It was attended by Marist Brothers and lay people from across the Province.

Other guests included Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, Brother João Carlos do Prado, Director of Mission Secretariat, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, General Councillor in Rome, and Brother Gabriel Villa-Real Tapias from the L'Hermitage Province.

In all they were a vibrant, energetic and representative group of Marist.

The facilitation process of the Chapter was a technique called “future search”.

The Chapter took us on a journey through our past, present and future. Our journey was a reflection on both our Marist and personal life; for most the two were intertwined.

Appropriately the mass and a morning prayer focused on the Emmaus story and this allowed us to gather our re-

lections from throughout the process and focus on where we are now on our Marist Journey and what our personal Marist mission is for the future.

Some of the most common areas for the future highlighted were: lay leadership, spirituality, international connections, care of the Brothers and mission on new frontiers.

The process encouraged us to be creative in our focus for the future. From this came lots of fun, laughter and a wealth of imagination, the most memorable one being the tandem journey. We depicted the image of all Marists (Brothers and Lay) cycling alongside each other on a journey carrying a backpack which contains all the wonderful elements of our mission, which are energizing and fulfilling our work as Marists.

Our creativity sparked ideas, allowed for ease of relationships, created a family spirit, was memorable and most of all fun! A must for all Marist activities for all ages!

The wide variety of Marists in attendance allowed for a broad knowledge base,

which created a well-informed picture for tasks going into the future.

The key recommendations for the Provincial Council that naturally flowed from our journey into the future were unanimous.

The Provincial Chapter recommended the Provincial Council looks into the following five key areas:

1. Collaboration with CEM (Marist European Conference) to develop proposals for networking of schools and projects in Europe.
2. Planning formative programmes and events to promote Marist Leadership.
3. Developing new structures to facilitate all Marists in the Province to discern, to decide and to act together for Mission.
4. Finding ways to support and develop projects for young adults.
5. Deepening and promoting our Marist Spirituality and our way of being Marist in the world.

Brother Emili asked us to focus on the areas of community, care, courage and commitment.

Asking us to have the courage to be committed and inviting us to take risks and to go beyond our fears.

Now looking to the five chosen recommendations, I ask that we are committed in our mission and creative in how we carry it out, doing so in tandem with each other, in a new way together as Marists.

The new Provincial Council is formed by Brothers Gerard De Haan, Michael Schmalzl, Nicholas Smith, Ronnie McEwan and Brendan Geary (Provincial).

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

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat)