



## LAVALLA200> FORMATION PROGRAMME BEGINS IN ROME

### FORMATION BEGINS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES



Superior General Brother Emili Turú welcomed the 23 candidates for the Lavalla200> Formation Programme on May 1, the beginning of the Marian month.

The community will spend five days

of orientation in Rome before continuing in the hamlet of San Marino a Monte situated within the estate of the monastery of Camaldoli, Italy. The communities will live in five small self-supporting fraternities

for two months and the formation programme will finish on June 30 at L'Hermitage in France.

Para el album de fotos, visita nuestra pagina de facebook FMS Champagnat.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Throughout the week, candidates of the Lavalla200> Programme gathered at the General House with Brothers Jeff Crowe, Ángel Medina, and Chris Wills.

Today, May 6 they are travelling to Camaldoli, Italy, for two months of formation.

From May 5 to 16, Brother João Carlos do Prado, of the Secretariat of Mission, is visiting the district

of the Pacific.

From May 7 to 10, Luca Olivari, advisor of the general administration, will be at the meeting of the New Models Project in the América Sur region in Santiago, Chile.

And from May 12 to 13, he will participate in the New Models project with the Province Cruz del Sur in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE: PASTORAL COORDINATORS REFLECT ON PRIORITIES FOR THE TRIENNIUM AND ON THE FOURVIÈRE YEAR



Around 40 coordinators of the pastoral work of the Brasil Centro-Norte province, gathered from April 4 – 8 to discuss the horizons defined by the Brothers during the last Assembly and

Provincial Chapters, last December. They also reflected on the Fourvière Year, underscoring the promise made on 23 July 1816. Therefore, the theme of the meeting was "Come with Mary,

towards a new beginning, with a tent as the heart."

The three priorities of the Province are:

To strengthen consecrated life and the Marist laity, intensifying joint formation, culture and vocational accompaniment, with an emphasis on the mystical, fraternal life, prophetic mission and new present among the Montagne of today;

To ensure evangelisation as the center of the Marist educational mission; with an ecclesial perspective, with children, adolescents and youth, prioritising the PJM (Marist Youth Ministry);

Consolidate the improvement of a corporate governance, with agility and lightness, in communion with the Institute's projects, ensuring economic, financial and environmental sustainability.

## LAY WOMAN OF THE PHILIPPINES LEADS WORKSHOP FOR BROTHERS AND LAITY IN AFRICA

### BROTHERS AND LAITY 'IN SEARCH OF GREATER VITALITY' FOR THE MISSION IN NIGERIA



The newly elected committee members pose with Provincial Superior Brother Joachim Ezetulugo and lay Marists Agnes Reyes and Iwu Elias.

During a workshop held for lay Marists and brothers in Orlu, Nigeria, the provincial elected a committee of nine members that will support brothers and laity in their work.

Provincial Superior Brother Joachim Ezetulugo also thanked Agnes Reyes, who travelled from the Philippines to lead the workshop from April 4 – 9.

"He told us that having accepted the vocation as Lay Marists, we have to live out the Marist spirituality in our homes," Iwu Elias told the general house press office.

The workshop was held at the Marist Formation Centre under the theme

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PACIFIC

The La Valla community of Kiribati has a new deep freezer thanks to the monetary donation of Sacred Heart College at Glen Innes. A lot of the food consumed there is imported from Australia and Malaysia by boat, which runs out between the shipping consignments. The new deep freezer will allow them to have some provisions available on hand for the community and those it reaches out to.

### AMÉRICA CENTRAL

During the last meeting of Guatemala's Mission Team, on May 28, Brother Luis Manuel Gómez joined the team as the new national delegate of catechetical and solidarity ministry. Alejandro Cáceres, the new co-managing director in Guatemala, also participated. He shared visions and generated synergies, seeking to benefit of the Marist mission in the country, and particularly children.

### COMPOSTELA

From April 28 to 30, there was a meeting of the younger brothers of Compostela in Carcavelos, Portugal. The reflection of those days revolved around youth and religious life. The meeting concluded on Saturday taking part in the Marist Family Pilgrimage in Fatima, Portugal.

## MARIST CALENDAR

**6 mayo:** Gabriel Rivat (Brother François) entered the Novitiate in La Valla (1818); the first Marist brothers arrived in Hong Kong (1949)

'Brothers and Lay Marists searching for a greater vitality of the Marist mission in Nigeria.'

"Lay people told to be relegated to the background, which is not proper," affirmed Iwu in a written statement. "We have to change the notion and understand that lay people have the co-responsibility with the Brothers to move the Church forward."

"It is with great joy and gratitude to God that we thank the Institute of the Marist Brothers in Rome for accepting to send a facilitator, Agnes, and sponsoring her for this workshop in Nigeria," he added.

"This workshop has enabled us to interact with our colleagues and Marist brothers in order to enrich our knowledge with which we could emulate from the lives of Marcellin Champagnat."

Agnes told participants that "the challenges we encounter should not prevent us from moving forward" and urged the lay Marists of Nigeria to "stand firm and grow because God, our mother Mary and the universal Church are always with us."

During the event, participants also took part in the burial of Brother Tobias Okwara on April 6.



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## NEW HORIZONS: 65 BROTHERS AND LAITY GATHER TO DISCUSS LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA



Sixty-five delegates representing the province of Southern Africa met to reflect on leadership in a workshop titled 'New Horizons' at Meerhof, Hartbeespoort Dam, in South Africa.

Marist Brothers and laity from Angola, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa gathered from April 19 – 26 to discuss aspects of authentic leadership for the future of Africa.

"This being the first of such workshops conducted in the Province of Southern

## MARIST WORLD



Chile: II Meeting of Coordinators of Commissions and Secretariat Mission



Lebanon: Fratelli Project in Rmeileh



General House: Bedford Fund Board and Control Committee meeting



Madagascar: 30th Anniversary of St Peter Chanel High School



Thailand: Marist Asia Conference in Bangkok



Australia: Students gather with Marist Vocations Ministry

Africa, created opportunities for the participating countries to engage with one another and to share best practices and to focus on their roles as leaders in a new African context," affirmed Gary Norton, a lay Marist of South Africa.

Brother David Hall from Australia helped organize the workshop, which included several speakers from around Africa.

Joseph Kwabena Onyinah, from Ghana, presented 'Leadership in Africa: Then and now.'

Brother Michael Burke and Dr Nonthando Hadebe, both from South Africa, discussed 'Role Models and Witnesses,' and 'Distributive Leadership' and 'Rights of Women and Children,' respectively.

Br David discussed several topics including 'Prophetic Leadership,' 'Decision making in uncertain times' and 'Servant Leadership.' Frank Malloy from Australia presented 'Ethical Leadership' and several sessions on strategic planning.'

Each country group did a presentation on the history of education in their countries, as well as issues, highlights and challenges.

"These presentations were very informative and enjoyed by all," stated Gary. "Brothers Erick Silali, Michel Mami and João Carlos do Prado also helped motivated the participants of the

workshop."

"The venue at Good Shepherd Retreat Centre provided a calm, peaceful backdrop for the participants to prepare, reflect and assimilate the discussions and presentations in a meaningful way," he added. "The participants and organizers were extremely grateful to the donors for providing the funding for this exceptionally valuable workshop."

During this workshop, the New Horizons project team met to plan a second phase of the programme that will take place in 2017.



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## SECOND CELEBRATION OF LAY LINKING TO THE MARIST CHARISM



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## 8 MAY: 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BROTHER HENRI VERGÈS, MARTYR IN ALGIERS

On the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the death of Brother Henri Vergès, in Algiers, on May 8, 1994, we present a few lines which will help the reader to continue to remember this Brother who 25 years ago dedicated his life to the service of the Algerian young people.

They are words taken from a report of 12 pages written by Father François-Marie Lethel, Discalced Carmelite, Theologian, asked by Brother Giovanni Bigotto, who at that time was our Brother Postulator of the Cause of Beatification of the 19 martyrs of Algeria. The complete text may be read in the annex.

It is worthwhile to point out that more than 7 pages, of the 12 of the report, refer to our Brother Henri, and contain many extracts of his correspondence with Brother Basilio Rueda, the Superior General.

"The writings of Brother Henri Vergès are mainly letters, retreat notes and notebooks of notes on readings and personal reflections of what he saw... All these texts allow us to enter into the depth of his soul and in this way continue his interior journey. In this, an exceptional man is discovered, notable because of his intelligence, his culture, his prudence and balance, but above all, for the depth of his interior life totally

animated by faith, hope and charity, lived with a supreme intensity, in that level of "high tension" of the mystical life (Cf. St. John of the Cross), (p.4).

In reading the whole of the writings of Brother Henri, one is impressed by the persistency of his walking toward sanctity, always lived with a profound sense of Church and of the Communion of the Saints. The first texts go back to the Pontificate of Venerable Pius XII (Notebook A). Then we see how he saw the great event of Vatican Council II, with the Pontificates of Blessed John XXIII and the Servant of God Paul VI, and afterwards, at the end of his life, the Pontificate of Blessed John Paul II. From this point of view, Brother Henri is an important witness of the best "hermeneutics of continuity" that is evident in all the saints, and especially those who have lived before and after the Council.

It could be said that his spirituality, like that of Blessed John Paul II, is essentially Christo-centric and Marian. The Eucharist is the heart of his daily life; the Eucharist which is inseparably celebration, communion and adoration. Not being a priest, he will not always have the possibility to participate daily in the celebration, but he will always receive communion. Little Brother of Mary, son of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, personally and profoundly he lives the Marian dimension of his vocation of Brother of the Schools. Thus, he copies a text of his Founder in the Notebook: "an authentic Brother of Mary is not satisfied with loving and serving this august Virgin; but besides he tries to make her loved and served by all his pupils, and uses all the means that his zeal and piety suggest in order to instill in them a profound respect, trust without limit and filial love toward that Divine Mother. Devotion to Mary needs to be diffused, and it is a proof of a lack of that devotion not to try to communicate it, and that there is very little zeal to extend it and propagate the cult to the Blessed Virgin". In his writings and especially in his Notebooks, we discover a profound spiritual life that is never separated from intellectual life. And this because this brother, who is an educator is an intellectual at University level, a Bachelor of Arts. In his very important and confidential Letter to the Superior General of 1978, which is like a brief autobiography (in response to the circular letter "Fidelity"), he wrote: "I have been able to finish my studies in Philosophy and have my Bachelor of Arts degree, guided by an incomparable teacher, Aimé Forest, the philosopher of the "consent". This word has an echo in me: "fidelity" no matter what happens, and whatever the cost may be".

Aimé Forest is a good example of the Christian Philosopher. His more characteristic book is precisely of the consent to being. His influence on Brother Henri was surely very profound

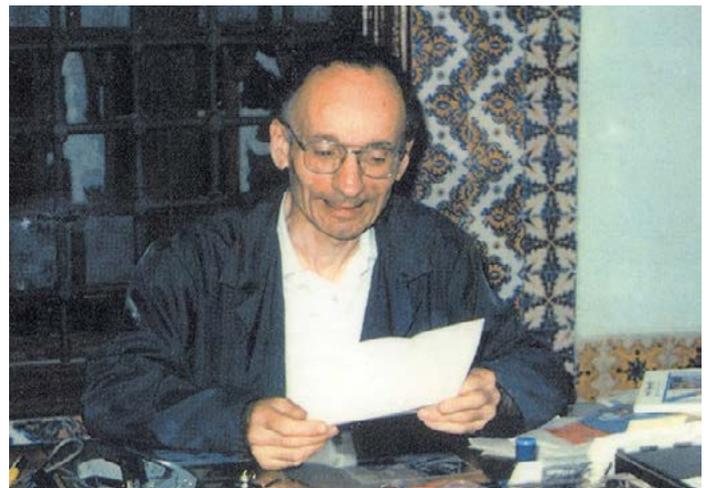
because this authentic philosophical content is continually present in his Notebooks. In the Black Notebook, he quotes Forest (n. 247), Bergson (n. 257) and especially Jean Guitton (n. 250) and Jacques Maritain (n. 190 ff) who were very close to Paul VI. The more frequent and numerous quotes and the more characteristic ones are texts of Paul VI. This is very important, because it is a sign of the great love for the Church which animates the life of Brother Henri, the depth of his faith and of his intelligence and the honesty of his thought. One is surprised by the interior communion between this holy Marist Saint and this great Holy Father who, after having led the Council to its end had to fulfill his mission of governing the Church during the most difficult years of the Post-conciliar crisis (1968-1978).

Brother Henri quotes in a particular way the words of Paul VI to the religious through which he indicates the path of the authentic renewal desired by the Council, asking them to be attentive, warning them against the ideologies of contestation and rupture.

He also keeps the teaching of Paul VI on Christian joy: "Joy is the characteristic and essential note of Christian life, the state of grace, as you well know. A Christian may lose everything, but if he is united to God in faith and charity, he cannot lose joy, (Paul VI, 19, V. 65: n. 141). His profound Marian spirituality is connected with that of the Pope: "If we are Christians, we have to be Marian, that is to say, that we have to recognize the essential, vital, providential relationship that unites Mary with Jesus and who opens for us the path that leads to Him, Paul VI, (n. 376)".

I hope that these quotations arouse in the reader, the desire to discover other pages presented in the annex and which reveal the rich personality of Brother Henri, as religious educator.

Brother Alain Delorme, Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux



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