

## THE FIRST TWO FORMATION WEEKS OF LA VALLA 200> INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING



### First week of formation in Camaldoli

After the reception in Rome at the General House, the participants of the program Lavalla200> traveled on Friday 6 May to the small village of San Martino a Monte situated in

Tuscany, near the Benedictine Monastery of Camaldoli.

In San Martino a Monte, the group was divided into five fraternities.

Each fraternity is a mix of brothers and lay Marists, sharing all aspects

of life including prayer, meals and house chores.

In addition to life in the fraternities, the formation program includes a series of workshops focused on personal development and relationships - essential tools for the development of new communities.

The first workshop was conducted by Luis Serra (L'Hermitage) on the Enneagram.

This was followed and complimented by a workshop on non-violent communication in a cross-cultural environment by Louise Evans (<http://www.global-business-leaders.com/solutions/5-chairs-frame-work/>).

Apart from the program, the community is also taking time to celebrate the various cultural groups gathered. On Sunday, the South America region - Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay - presented the cultural aspects of each country and also the organization of each Province in this region of the Institute.

We are all grateful for the translation of Brother Teófilo Minga, from Portugal during these day.

### Second week: New keys

In this second week (16-22 May) in Monte San Martino, we experienced two workshops.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From May 24 to 28, Superior General Brother Emili Turú, is participating in the first annual meeting of the Union of Major Superiors, held at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome.

From May 23 to 25, Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez participated in the Assembly of the Marist European Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal.

From 25 to 27 May, Brother Tony Leon, offered lectures to participants of the Horizons programme held in English in Manziana.

From 23 to 28 May, Brother Emili and brothers Eugène Kabanguka and Víctor Preciado are making the canonical visit to the Community of the General Administration.



brings us into the territory (which is Fullness) and a paradoxically beautiful way is our true identity.

"If you could stand still and stop running from one place to another in search of God, you would find it and you would see that it is in yourself."

In this way we realise that we are in God.

Our life story can be lived as salvation history.

God will always say something new and personal: these moments are "flashes" of God's presence among us.

In this story, at some point, we come to embrace a style of living the love of God, which is the style of Mary that we inherited from Champagnat.

It is part of the story of our life that has been woven from experience, encounter and people.

Something is happening, something is moving in our Marist history.

It is an invitation to rediscover and unite synergies and steps to recognise and experience diversity, to put colour in life, to allow ourselves to feel the music, to dance to a new beat: this is the moment of a new relationship that we call communion.

We are taking the opportunity to further the implications of our own vocations, to recover the wealth of experience of those who speak of interpersonal relationships, connecting with life and family experience, to hear the female perspective, to enjoy life in fraternity, to be generous in our service, discipleship and a life in and out of interiority.

We must continue to take care of these days of dialogue, listening, contemplation; We stress the need to live in authenticity and vocation depth (life project); We want to get rid of attitudes, gestures and



To access our **true identity** (...), we need to quiet our minds and **train in Silence** to be able to taste it.

The first half of the week was led by Enrique Martinez Lozano in transpersonal theory and the dual model of cognition for a re-reading of spirituality.

In the second half, we were joined by Pep Buetas (co-director of the Secretariat of the Laity) and Ana Sarate (former co-director of the Secretariat of the Laity and Coordinator of the Commission of Marist Laity of the Iberian Province), inviting us to gather around the same table.

Spirituality allows us to correctly answer the crucial question: "Who am I?"

If the whole is non-separate, but the way of wisdom, as we read in the temple of Delphi: "Man, know thyself yourself and know the universe and the gods."

To access our true identity - the dimension that is the source of the human being and what we call "spirituality" - we need to quiet our minds and train ourselves in Silence to be able to taste it.

This requires meditation, to learn to distance ourselves from the mind, and silence to become aware of what we are.

Spirituality is the knowledge that



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### FORUM OF AUSTRALIA

The Marist Brothers of southeastern Australia met in Brunswick on May 20 to celebrate one of the two forums planned for 2016. Brother Neville Solomon introduced the subject of theology of Mercy and the Provincial, Brother Peter Carroll, offered participants a vision of the Marist Association.

### MARISTS IN CHILE

In these last two months, a phase of the formation programme of Marist teachers of Chile was completed, under the theme "from a teacher to a Marist educator." It is a two-year programme, with emphasis on human-vocational, pedagogy and the Christian and Marist charismatic path.

### YOUTH OF NORTH AMERICA

This weekend, the Youth Ministry of the United States promotes the Marist Youth Encounter. Young people from different schools around the country as well as from Canada and Mexico are taking part. The theme is "Let Me Dream", an invitation to dream as the first Marists did.

### MARIST SPANISH CONFERENCE

The Interprovincial Team of the administrative units with presence in Spain held a meeting on May 17 and 18 in Xaudaró, Madrid. During the meeting, the theme and activities promoted by the Conference for the next academic year 2016-2017 was chosen.

thoughts that do not help build community; we learn to contemplate and celebrate life; leadership should be shared and lived in a horizontal manner; we are invited to be present in contexts where we are and move, with a style of Mary. Together, men and women are

called and recognise ourselves in communion, with our beautiful and sacred stories intertwined.

Around Champagnat who celebrated his birthday, we feel blessed to share the Marist charism today without borders, with one Spirit.

## FIRST PROFESSIONS IN TAMONTAKA

### I HAVE LOVED YOU AND YOU ARE MINE



Four young men chose the theme "I have loved you and you are mine (Jeremiah 31:3)" for their first profession of vows on May 20.

The celebration took place at the Immaculate Conception Novitiate, Tamontaka, in the city of Maguindanao, in the Philippines.

After two years of novitiate formation under the guidance of their Novice Master, Brother Lindley Sionosa, they made the decision to commit themselves to live the

Marist Brothers' way of life. Brother Robert Teoh, Provincial of East Asia, accepted their vows in a Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Father Antonio Pueyo, DCC and with Father Danilo Sergio, OMI as homilist.

The newly professed brothers are: Zypper S. Española (General Santos City, Diocese of Marbel), Engel Freed S. Java (Midyasap, Archdiocese of Cotabato), Karl Angelo J. Labio (Midsayap, Archdiocese of Cotabato), Radny M. Tio (Zamboanga Sibugay, Diocese of Ipil).

## MARIST WORLD



Brazil: Marist School in Palmas



Philippines: Marist Mission in the East Asia Province — Koronadal



Portugal: Meeting of the European Marist Conference in Lisbon



Mexico: Celebration with children from the Mission of Guadalupe



Spain: "Horizons" programme in El Escorial



Italy: "Horizons" programme in Manziana

## COLOMBIA: PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BROTHER JUAN PABLO GAVIRIA CHINDOY

### RADICALLY FOLLOWING MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Brother Juan Pablo Gaviria Chindoy made his perpetual profession within the Institute on May 14 in the Ibagué community in Tolima, Colombia.

Fathers Arturo Patiño and Diego Rubiano, chaplains of the Champagnat School, presided the celebration

Several brothers of the Norandina Province as well as friends and family of Br Juan Pablo took part in the event.

Br Juan Pablo was born in 1983, and he became an aspirant in Pasto before completing his postulancy in Manizales.

He entered the La Valla novitiate in Medellin, Colombia, in 2007 and the



following year made his first profession. He is currently carrying out his

apostolate in the Santo Domingo community in Medellin, Colombia.

## MARIST STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME IS LAUNCHED

### PROVINCE OF WEST CENTRAL EUROPE



The Marist Student Leadership Programme has recently been launched in Irish Marist Schools by Marist Education West Central Europe.

This exciting new programme encourages young people to develop their leadership skills in order to support fellow students and to benefit the wider community.

Opportunities to develop these qualities are provided through a range of learning experiences, both in everyday school life and in targeted leadership initiatives encouraging students to build their own sense of themselves as leaders keeping Marist values central.

Marist Student Leadership looks to Marcellin Champagnant as a model who embraced these values in his life.

The three Irish Marist schools involved are Moyle Park College, Marian College Dublin and Marist College Athlone. Each school has a Marist Core Team to support the programme and

two Marist Coordinators from staff to facilitate the student leaders in their leadership activities.

After high demand from senior students in each school, student leaders were chosen through an application system. The students have completed an initial training in May and will meet as a complete group to begin their leadership duties in September.

The Marist Student leadership Programme is led by Aisling Demaison of Marist Education and all leadership trainings are supported by the Kinharvie Institute.

The programme seeks to empower these young people to lead with Marist values. Click here to see some pictures from the initial training day

If you would like to know more about this programme or would like your school to become involved contact [a.demaison@maristeu.org](mailto:a.demaison@maristeu.org) or visit [www.maristeu.com](http://www.maristeu.com).

## MÉXICO CENTRAL: PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF YOUNG MARISTS



The Province of México Central held its third provincial assembly of young Marists on May 14 and 15.

The gathering represented the harvest of the conclusions that each educational community identified in the Dare to Dream process experienced locally during the past four months.

During the assembly, participants had the opportunity to analyze the reality and the life in Mexico and in Latin

America, identifying those situations that lack life and hope.

We had the opportunity to join hands with the Centro de Apoyo Marista al Migrante (Centre for Marist Migrant Support), or the CAMMI, helping in the breakfast served to migrant brothers and sisters and people in general who are homeless.

Each educational community shared the voices that were heard in the process and what had been learned

– discoveries and innovations that young people can bring to the Marist Mission today.

Shortly before the assembly's conclusion, the youths articulated these beliefs to create a message that will be shared with the Province of México Central.

The gathering concluded with a celebration and the sending of the delegates of the Province who will take part in the encounters in Lyon, France and Krakow, Poland.

## BARCELONA: 3,000 GATHER FOR MARIST PILGRIMAGE

### ON THE TOP OF MONTSERRAT MOUNTAIN

Around 3,000 people gathered for the yearly Marist pilgrimage from May 7 – 8 on Montserrat, a mountain located near the city of Barcelona, Spain.

"The environment was extraordinary and there was a clear desire to express Marist values," remarked some of the pilgrims. In a press release, the province of Hermitage affirmed "this year, the number of participants has been the highest in recent times and has exceeded all expectations."

Pilgrims representing the Maristes Sants - Les Corts School had double the participants it did last year. Participants included students, teachers, families, scouts and instructors of youth movements belonging to all Marist schools of the Spanish region of Catalonia. The pilgrims began their journey to the mountain on the evening of May 7 departing from different villages including Vecarisses, Terrassa, Rubí, Badalona, Barcelona, Monistrol, Collbató and Igualada.

Younger students rested for a few hours in the Monistrol sports center and in the hostel Abad Garriga, located on Montserrat. While participants received hot chocolate at the top of the mountain upon their arrival during the night, others arrived by car to take part in the morning Sunday Mass.

According to the Hermitage province, "it is an event that enables people linked to all Marist realities of Catalonia to unite in one direction and in the same space."

"This year, it has a special sense, since it is a step on the way to the Marist bicentenary, which will take place on 2 January 2017," it added.



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