



MARIST EUROPE GROWS AS A REGION

ENCOUNTER OF THE MARIST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE



The Marist European Conference (CEM) met in Lisbon, from the 23 to 25 of May 2016 in the Retreat House of the Dehonian Fathers, in Portugal.

One of the themes that had already been discussed in the previous meeting (in Athens, October 2015) was the reflection on the possibility of a Network of European Marist Schools.

The reflection of the Mission Team broadened the project to a European Marist Network of Mission that besides the schools, it will also include social works, youth pastoral ministry... In order to help deepen this Project, Don Juan Muñoz, lay Jesuit from the School São João de Brito of Lisbon, presented the theme: "Challenges of Education in

Europe and experiences of Networking". The Conference took again this reflection considering the future of the Marist mission in Europe.

From where do we come? Where do we want to arrive? Today we have good Provincial structures; we should go beyond the structures and create a Marist spirit in all of them; and create it taking into account a common strategy".

"The networks are persons, not only structures".

It is necessary to generate synergies and sense of belonging, with relationships, involvement..."

All the European Teams of CEM presented their reports and plans.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

During the first week of the plenary session, the general council discussed various issues related to the general house and to the general administration. It also reflected on the Lavalla200 Project and prepared the next extended general councils.

The seminar in Sri Lanka on financing ends today, which includes the participation of Br Libardo Garzón, Econome General.

From June 8 – 12, Br Chris Willis, the director of the Secretariat Collaboration for Mission, International is participating in a planning and budgeting meeting for the Fratelli Project in Lebanon.

The meeting of the International Commission Brothers Today began on June 9 and will end on June 15 at the General House.

The directors of the Brothers Today secretariat, Brothers Tony Leon and Hipólito Pérez, took part along with General Councillor Br. Ernesto Sánchez.

Luca Olivari, consultant for the general administration, is visiting the Marist University of Congo in Kisangani and the Marist International University College in Nairobi, Kenya, from June 4 – 14.

Another theme that received special attention was that of the New International Communities (NCI).

Brother Ernesto Sánchez recalled some essential characteristics of those new communities, presented by the Superior General in his letter on this Project. At present, the Italian Island of Sicily is the only territory defined in Europe for an International Community, with a project to take care of minor migrants who are not accompanied.

This community like all NCI, demands much discernment, in order to assure that it is put into practice well, and requires accompaniment.

CEM also discussed practical questions, especially about the persons who have to be responsible for the following of the next stages.

In conclusion of the work, the Conference continued with a series of nominations and elected its new President in the person of Br. Tomás Briongos, Provincial of Compostela. During the three days in Lisbon, there was time for a program

of integration and culture, with the visit to the communities and the Marist works of Carcavelos and Benfica, and to some monuments characteristic of Portugal.

CEM is constituted by the five Provincials of the region and a member of each Provincial Government: Brothers Tomás Briongos and António Leal (Compostela), Brendan Geary and Gerard de Haan (Central-Western Europe), Moisés Alonso and Alejandro Mena (Iberian), Maurice Berquet and Pere Ferré (L'Hermitage), Juan Carlos Fuertes and Damiano Forlani (Mediterranean).

Besides this group, others participated in all the meeting, Br. Teófilo Minga, Secretary of CEM, and the two General Councilors Ernesto Sánchez y Antonio Ramalho.

For the presentation of their Teams, Brothers Gabriel Villa-Real (Mission), and Ernesto Tendero (Brothers Today) and Teodorino Aller (Communion Laity-Brothers) were also present during part of the meeting. Br. Juan Carlos, Provincial of Mediterranean, presented the Team Brothers Today. Br. Jesús A. Rodríguez helped with the service of translations.

HORIZONS PROGRAMME: BROTHERS AGED 35 TO 45

SEVEN-WEEK PROGRAMME FOCUSES ON MARIST VOCATION AT MIDLIFE



English speaking Brothers visit Assisi on June 4.

Spanish and Portuguese speaking Brothers aged 35 – 45 are taking part in a formation programme, which is now being offered to English speaking Brothers for the first time.

“The multicultural nature of the group reflects the movement into inter-culturality and internationality,” affirmed Brother Tony Leon, director of the Secretariat Brothers Today.

“This is an ongoing formation programme designed to address the issues for male religious at this stage of life to address the need for a healthy balance,” he added on May 24.

The programme, titled ‘Horizons,’ runs from May 19 – July 13 in Manziana, Italy, for English speakers and in El Escorial, Spain, for the Spanish and Portuguese speakers.

It includes talks from Superior General Brother Emili Turú, workshops on prayer and ecology, and for those in Spain, a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela from June 1 – 6.

There are 11 Brothers in Manziana from Bangladesh, Korea, Philippines, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Nigeria, Zambia, Fiji, Kiribati and Spain.

The 19 Brothers gathered in El Escorial come from Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil and Spain.

The **multicultural nature** of the group **reflects** the movement into **inter-culturality** and **internationality**.

NEWS IN BRIEF

AUBENAS, FRANCE

In view of the preparation for the Institute's bicentenary, the Community of St. Louis Aubenas, France, organised meetings with young people to present the life and work of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. During the event, many participants also came accompanied by their parents.

FEAST OF SAINT MARCELLIN

On June 6, the feast of Saint Marcellin was celebrated worldwide with numerous initiatives. In the general house, the Eucharistic celebration was presided by Marist Father Alejandro Muñoz. Members of the whole Marist Family took part, underlining the common charism that united the young priests who made their promise 200 years ago at the foot of the Virgin of Fourvière and which is realised today in the mission of the four branches of the same family.

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

An educational platform developed by the Province Brasil Centro-Sul helps young students to develop their life projects. The programme proposes reflections on 16 themes, called inspirations, including affection, friendship, career, consumption, family, future, leadership, solidarity and dreams.

100 YEARS OF PRESENCE

The Marist Province of Compostela celebrated the centenary of the presence in A Coruña, Spain, with a festive Eucharist at school, celebrated by the Archbishop of Santiago, Archbishop Julián Barrio.



Spanish and Portuguese speaking Brothers, currently in El Escorial.

According to Br Tony, "at this stage of life, professional development, moving into management and leadership positions as well as having very busy active roles in their active ministries, can all lead to activism in their apostolate and even some distance and disenchantment in their spiritual

formation." "The aim is to animate the brothers at this age to look more deeply into their vocation as they enter midlife," he remarked.

The two Horizon groups will gather at L'Hermitage, France, to explore Marist internationality from June 16 – 25.

LA VALLA 200 > LIFE TOGETHER

CHRONICLE OF THE THIRD AND FOURTH WEEKS



Third week: from May 22 - 29

We are already in the third week of our presence in S. Martino Monte. Time passes quickly.

To the degree that we move into this project and deepen our knowledge of each other, we begin to further experience the joys and challenges

that can represent community life, composed of brothers and lay people together. One thing becomes increasingly clear to us.

There can be no "New Beginning" for Marist life without a fraternal life of quality without "exaggerated broth-

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST MARCELLIN: JUNE 6



Fiji: Sacred Heart Cathedral, in Suva



General House: Members of the Marist Family and guests



Syria: Brothers and Laity in Aleppo



France: Raoul Follereau les Maristes School, in Chazelles-sur-Lyon



Pakistan: Sargodha Catholic School staff along with Brothers



Mexico: Primary School 'Instituto México,' in Mexico City

erhood" to use a phrase recently cited in the document on the identity and mission of the religious brother.

In this regard, Sean Sammon helped us a lot in recent days to revisit several aspects and dimensions of our community life. It was very rich source of deep division between us.

I only noted some ideas and impressions reported during a sharing in fraternity:

Communication

It is important to maintain clear and fluid communication. For this, we need to have the courage to clearly address the various issues that concern us, have the courage to speak, the courage of truth, and, of course, all done in the interests of growth and love of the other.

Perfection vs imperfection

"Nothing is perfect," said the fox to the Little Prince. It is good to allow for error in this experiment of a new beginning: I'm not perfect, the other is not perfect. This involves being able to apologize humbly, with humor sometimes, to forgive, and to begin again undeterred.

Intercultural

It's a challenge: understanding the other, his/her language, culture, way of thinking, the meaning he/she gives

to words, his/her eating habits. We discover little by little how we are conditioned by our own culture, its own way of communicating, of living intimacy, to develop friendship.

Knowledge perspective is a sign of wisdom.

My culture is not necessarily the most perfect.

The practice of the "little virtues" specific to our Marist tradition can help a lot in creating harmony.

Intergenerational

A wealth of our community comes from the fact that it is generational.

Knowing the needs and challenges of each stage of life fosters greater understanding and mutual acceptance.

Other topics

Many other topics were discussed during the week ranging from stress management, loneliness through practical tips to lead a community meeting etc.

Everything was animated with great wisdom and humanity from Sean, making us enjoy with great humility and humanity his many experiences in the various responsibilities that have marked his life as a Marist.

The mission experienced by some witnesses

On Friday we welcomed a sharing of experiences by some of our confreres and lay people who participated in the mission ad gentes and other experiences, addressing both volunteering and enculturation.

Laura Miño, spoke about Ghana, F.Paul Fornells Sucumbios (Ecuador), FF. Marti Enrich and Virgilio Bnalya about Bangladesh.

It was a very rich encounter that could have even gone longer.

I note a few important elements: the need for a good dose of patience, ability to handle loneliness, atten-

tion to the minorities in the community, working with people, the importance of collective and individual testimony, passing "through crucis", kenosis but also an extraordinary enrichment.

Oceania Marist

The week ended with a trip to Oceania where the brothers of this region presented, with great enthusiasm, the vitality existing in the region, including the Province of Australia and the districts of Melanesia and the Pacific.

In particular, they highlighted the birth of the new Association St. Marcellin Champagnat and Mount Druitt project which is part of LaValla 200.

Fourth week: from May 30 - June 5

We spent the week of May 30 to June 5 being accompanied by two Divine Word Fathers, Tim Norton and Fernando Diaz. With great sensitivity, a great sense of brotherhood and a deep analysis, they helped us to reflect on different themes: who am I? The identity, who is the other? Otherness, what do I want to live with the other? The relationship and the expression of multiculturalism as the encounter with "the different other."

The Gospel of Luke, through several passages, allowed us to reflect on Jesus, who, moved by the Spirit, transgressed the culture of his time to a greater fidelity; the Kingdom of God.

Jesus transgressions are always in favor "of the other", the most vulnerable; and they always go in the direction of rupture and continuity.

The "other" helps us to discover who we really are. The key is to approach, in a symmetrical relationship, engagement with life by maintaining the differences.

The proposed International Community has a lot to do with it because we recognize ourselves as moved by the Holy Spirit.

We know that we are called to open ourselves to the "other", especially the most vulnerable, to dialogue and, from the meeting, to share life and faith.

The context of "Inter" within this proposal (intercultural, inter-gender, generational) opens a loophole by which life can grow and allow us to discern together what needs to change, what we must do and what is to be given "continuity" in order to be faithful to the Spirit.

The presence of the Fathers allowed the celebration of two Masses which were profound moments of communion for each of us. The week ended with the presentation of the Marist region of Europe-Africa. Participants in this region shared the historical and geographical reality as well as the type of presence and mission. Everything was accompanied by beautiful images, music, dancing and great food.

A LETTER OF SUPERIOR GENERAL BROTHER EMILI TURÚ DEDICATED TO THE FOURVIÈRE YEAR WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE INSTITUTE'S WEBSITE IN DIGITAL FORMAT ON MONDAY.

Fourvière:
The
revolution
of
Tenderness



Letter of the
Superior
General

6
June
2016

AMÉRICA SUR REGION: PROJECT FOR A NEW INTERPROVINCIAL NOVITIATE



An encounter aimed at programming and preparing a path towards a new beginning for the América Sur region took place from May 19 – 21 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which included discussions on a new novitiate. Participants included Brothers Rubens Falqueto (Brasil Centro-Norte), Sebastião Ferrarini (Brasil Sul-Amazônia), Otalívio Sarturi (Brasil Centro-Sul), Isi-

dro Azpeleta (Santa María de los Andes), Raúl Schönfeld (Cruz del Sur) and Marcos Denevi (a lay from Cruz del Sur).

They reflected and were in dialogue for three days, laying the groundwork for the experience of the novitiate and elaborating the criteria that will lead to the formation plan. They were enlightened by the Constitutions, the Formation Guide, the International Marist Colloquium on Initial Formation (L'Hermitage 2015), the Final Document on Initial Formation of the Inter-American Sub-commission of Brothers (CIAP), and by their own formation and experience.

The new novitiate will begin in 2017, with the participation of the five provinces of the new region, América Sur, as part of an interprovincial, intercultural and international proposal (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile and Peru). Further decisions on the formation plan, the place for the novitiate and the formation community will take place during the following months.

RENEWING THE PROMISE OF FOURVIÈRE AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF APARECIDA



Around 800 Marists of Champagnat of the Brasil Centro-Sul Province went on pilgrimage on May 21 to the Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida, the country's patroness, to renew the promise made 200 years ago by Marcellin and his companions at the Sanctuary of Fourvière. After welcoming the pilgrims, they proceeded to the presentation in the audi-

torium of the banner with the image of Our Lady of Fourvière, who had already gone through several Marist centers. The banner, led by Marists and collaborators was also accompanied by plates representing all areas of activity.

Moments of animation then followed, coordinated by brothers Benê Olivei-

ra and Afonso Murad and a Eucharistic celebration was held at noon. Invited by Brother Alfonso Levis, all of the pilgrims gathered at 15 at the Basilica's centre to proceed with the renewal of the Promise of Fourvière.

Provincial superior of Brasil Centro-Sul, Brother Joaquim Sperandio, recalled Saint Marcellin's mission and legacy, which was consistently opting for the children and young people, with preference for the poorest, that today all lay people and brothers must follow.

The pilgrims, filled with faith, renewed their consecration. It was evident that we are all called to a creative commitment with "A new beginning."

During the preparation of the pilgrimage, resources that helped the manifestation of this experience of faith were made available.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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