

## LAVALLA200>

### COMMISSIONING AND PLEDGE



On 29 June evening we gathered for Mass in the main Chapel in front of

the tomb of St Marcellin, along with Br Emili and the community of l'Her-

mitage. It was a special moment for us as we gave thanks for the presence of the Spirit and Mary in our lives over these past two months.

During the previous 48 hours he had spoken with each member of the 2016 Lavalla200> group about his or her future appointment.

So, our thoughts were not just looking backwards. The step we were taking and our future were very much in our hearts.

At the end of the Mass Br Emili addressed us briefly in words of encouragement and thanks for our availability and then commissioned each of us with a small wooden missionary Marist cross. For each of us it was very moving.

In the coming days he will be in touch with the relevant Provincials to get

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

During the last week's plenary, the General Council looked again at the topic on the staff appointments for the general administration, it completed the preparation for the next Extended General Councils, it updated its calendar for 2016 – 2017 and dedicated time for topics of the Economy General and the next General Chapter in 2017. The session ended with a series of agreements and decisions.

On June 30, the directors of the Secretariats Brothers Today, Br Tony Leon and Br Hipólito Pérez, participated in the meeting of the group "Brothers Today," formed by the representatives of the congregations of Brothers, at the General House.

Br Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity, took part in the "companions" course in Guatemala aimed at laity of the Arco Norte region.

From July 6 – 11, the assembly of the international Marist network of superior education is taking place in New York. The director of the Secretariat of Mission, Brother João Carlos Prado, is taking part.

Brother Mario Meuti, director of the FMSI bureau in Rome, visited Haiti last week to accompany solidarity projects that the Foundation is supporting in the country.

their confirmation before these appointments are finalised and made public.

We will begin the new communities in September this year. In imitation of the group of Marists who made their way to Fourvière 200 years ago, on the day after their ordination, today we made the journey to the same Chapel.

There we read aloud our commitment and signed the document in front of the statue of Our Lady, conscious of the early Marists and numerous other groups and individuals who had begun their missionary and apostolic lives on the same spot. Our prayers were heartfelt and hopeful.

This new beginning for Marists has begun. Our thanks to all who have supported us and made this possible.



### LAVALLA200> COMMUNITIES: OUR CALL

We live in a moment of change of epoch in history, a time of paradigm shift in our world, our Church, our way of being human, and, above all, our way of being Marist.

Like Mary at the annunciation we are invited to see such change as the work of the Spirit.

As Marists following Champagnat, encouraged by new experiences of Marist life and mission by so many, we are responding to new realities, new needs: what is the *Missio Dei* in our world today?

We are moving beyond dreaming together for a new beginning, as we have done throughout the Institute in recent years in chapters and assemblies.

It has been a “long” dawn but now there is daylight: a time for decisions!

We feel led by the Spirit, as perceived in the yearnings of individuals and the Institute.

More than a strategic plan for a new future developed by ourselves, the Lavalla200> initiative is a prophetic response to the unexpected, dynamic action of the Spirit which brings hope, reconciliation and wholeness.

We believe that the Spirit is calling us to embrace a new way of sharing life in community: internationally, interculturally, with lay and brothers, with men and women, single and married, inter-generationally.

Our relationships are core to our mission and central to a new beginning for Marists.

We are beginning a new form of Christian life in the Church, living in communion with no sharp distinction between Religious and Lay but respectful of different vocations, mutually enriching, all co-responsible for the life of the community and called to a shared mission that expresses our common charism in fresh ways.

We experience the Spirit of God within ourselves, within one another, within all of life and creation.

We contemplate.

We cultivate silence.

We meditate on God’s Word.

Our spirituality encompasses every moment of our lives: our love, our passions, our hopes and fears, our successes and failures, our choice to follow the lead of Jesus in his

ministry to those excluded by society or religion.

Our apostolic engagement with and for vulnerable children and young people in their local context shapes our community and personal lifestyles.

Respectful of the presence of the Spirit in all people, cultures and religions, we adopt a posture of dialogue – listening, empathising, understanding, collaborating, networking with all people of good will, praying together, sharing our faith stories.

We consciously seek to be the Marist face of the Church.

We know we are imperfect as individuals and as communities, in our educational, pastoral and social work.

Humbly, then, but with personal conviction, we commit ourselves to one another and to the vision of Lavalla200>.

It is worth the gift of our lives.

It is an annunciation moment for us and for all Marists:

“Do not be afraid.

Nothing is impossible with God”.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ARCO NORTE

From June 29 – July 2 meetings were held in Colombia with the representatives of the six Administrative Units of Arco Norte to progress in the process of the regionalization of this geographical area.

### AUSTRALIE

This year, in the Province of Australia, 24 Brothers celebrated some sort of Jubilee. The celebrations took place in Sidney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

### NEW ZEALAND

The current deputy prime minister of the country and alumnus of the Catholic school, Bill English, visited the St. John's College, of Hamilton, where he gave a lecture to students. He spoke about education in the Catholic school and said that, in his opinion, Marists give young people a balanced view of life and the principles that allow them to build a solid and secure life.

## NEW VIDEOS

The Institute's YouTube channel is offering a series of videos that can be used in different moments. Among these are the witness of Marist experiences throughout the world and the messages of Superior General Brother Emili Turú to various Marist groups. The latest uploaded on the website, <https://www.youtube.com/c/maristchampnat>, are:

- Vida Marista em uma Comunidade Internacional
- H. Emili Turú a los Maristas Azules
- H. Emili a los participantes del encuentro de la Red Internacional marista de educación superior
- Marist Life in Kiribati
- Marist Life in Mozambique

## WORKSHOPS HELD IN ASIA

### AS PART OF THE 'MISSION SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT'



Two self-sustainability workshops took place in Sri Lanka and in India earlier this month as a follow up to workshops held in Nairobi and Madagascar back in February.

June Alisson Westarb Cruz, collaborator of the Province Brasil Centro-Sul, led the workshops, accompanied by Brother Jorge Gao, Provincial Econome of the same province.

"The purpose is to respond to the call of the XXI General Chapter that we have on sustainability of the Marist Mission in Africa and Asia, which is something that isn't just economic," affirmed Brother Libardo Garzón, the Institute's Econome General and member of the project's team, who was among the participants.

"Through tools, we wish to help them realize what their opportunities and realities are," he told the general house press office on June 21. "After knowing the reality, they can know what needs to be strengthened, reduced or created."

The workshop in Sri Lanka was held from June 6 – 10 in Negombo, with 23 participants including two brothers of Pakistan, Brothers Samuel Bhatti and Francis Rahmat, as well as brothers and laity of East Asia and South Asia Provinces as well as the Marist District of Asia. The workshop in India was then held from June 13 – 18 in Trichy with

brothers and laity of the India sector, province of South Asia, with 15 participants.

Br Libardo explained that the provincial councillor of each Province should now organise another two nuances to analyse each work or presence and then send it to the working team.

Another meeting of the project's 'Global Team' is expected to take place next January at the general house in Rome to organize a second phase and the path that each province should follow.

"The two weeks were quite productive, due to the commitment and dedication of the two groups, who worked all the time transparently and effectively," remarked Brother Víctor Preciado, the project coordinator.

"Brothers Teofilo Minga and José Grande worked as translators with tireless dedication throughout the workshops," affirmed Br Víctor.

June and Brothers Jorge and Libardo visited two schools, the provincial house and the production farm of chickens in Sri Lanka, as well as four schools in India, the Marcellin Trust project and respective communities in the country.

This project is being developed in three pilot provinces, one in Africa and one in Asia, with at least two representatives of each province.

## MARIST WORLD



France: Flashmob - end of year at Lycée St Joseph Les Maristes



Spain: Meeting of the European Commission of Brothers Today in Barcelona



Canada: Youth marist volunteers of Quebec - Camp Mariste de Rawdon



Ghana: Marist volunteers from Spain - SED



Argentina: Commission of the Marist Laity of the Province Cruz del Sur



Italy: Meeting of the General Council about the Constitutions (Ariccia)

## INSTITUTE'S NEW POSTULATOR GENERAL

### BROTHER ANTONIO MARTÍNEZ ESTAÚN



The General Council appointed Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún, a member of the Marist Spiritual Patrimony, as new Postulator General for the Institute for three years. He will be taking over the work of Brother Jorge Flores Aceves, of

the México Occidental Province, who served as postulator for nearly five years.

"We thank Br Antonio for his willingness to serve the Institute at the general administration once again, as well as the Province of L'Hermitage, to which he belongs, the Brasil Centro-Sul Province, where he is currently working," affirmed Superior General Brother Emili Turú.

This will be the second time he works for the general administration in Rome, where he previously served as director of communications from 2005 to 2011. Br Antonio then went on to coordinate a course specialized in Marist charism at the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, Brazil, in 2012 before going on to work for a community in charge of 'Marist Memorial,' also in Brazil.

The postulator's tasks include promoting the causes in their Roman phase for the title Venerable, Blessed and Saint, and maintaining ties with the vice-postulators who are following the diocesan phases. It also includes maintaining ties with the Congregation for the Saints, the ecclesiastical authorities and postulations from other Congregations, as well as animating the Institute spiritually, making Marist models in holi-

ness known by creating and circulating books, pictures, magazines or other documents and in animating sessions in the Provinces.

Br Antonio was born in Villayuda (Burgos) Spain, in 1940 and received his Marist formation in Santa María de Bellpuig de les Avellanes. He studied in the Instituto Jesús Magister in Rome

and was Master of Novices in the Province of Catalonia. He started the Easter celebrations for young people at les Avellanes, was responsible for Youth Ministry in the Province of Catalonia, has written various texts on Religion and has been a teacher of Religion and Philosophy in various schools. In 1993, he moved to Loja (Ecuador) to teach in

the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja where he was, for five years, Ministry Co-ordinator in the University and after this he was responsible for Province ministry in the Province of Ecuador before restructuring. In 2003, he moved to the Universidad Marista de México where he co-ordinated the formation of teachers.

## WAR INVADES US..... LETTER FROM ALEPPO No. 26

War invades us...

War has installed itself at our table, in our hearts and our minds... It seeps our daily life and transforms it...

War is there

It comes to announce suffering and death...  
It comes to tell us that it is necessary to hate... that it is necessary to destroy bridges and relationships...

War is there

Its machines are functioning to full force... its drums beat strongly, loudly... It comes to transform our nights into a lightning and the heat of our days into a furnace...

War is there...

It gets our hands dirty... It obliges so many innocent people to take up the arms..., to bombard..., to kill and above all, to eliminate the other, all others...

War is there...

It has installed itself in infernal machines... It travels toward destinies of death... It does not stop... It vomits death and continues on its way shouting.

War is there...

It gathers the children and puts them into trucks like boxes of sardines..., piled up... burnt by the only desire to kill... Neither the tears of the mothers, nor the screams of the other children have an echo... They want to play as heroes... Some will celebrate it in the ambulances... Others will do it, lying down on the ruins of no-life...

War is there...

It tells us: "I do not leave you... I love you so much... I want you..., I desire you..., I caress you... I invite you to my banquet..., do not miss this appointment ..."

This is its address... Alep, Shame Street, building of misery, floor of suffering... War is our daily life. We refuse to partici-



pate in its banquet... We opt for life... We choose the other..., in his misery and in his will to live and to survive. For them, for every child, for every man and every woman, for all those who suffer because of this war, we have opted to extend out our hand... to construct a bridge, to throw down a wall of shame and of exclusion... We choose to give, to give ourselves... We choose to be instruments of the gift of God... we choose the path that leads to life... Mohamad is a boy of the Project "I want to learn". Since the end of the school year, he is working. Like every day, he has just called me to ask for us.

On Wednesday, June 1, 2016 (World day of Prayer for the children of Syria), I wrote to him the following message:

*"You have just refreshed us in the source of peace!"*

*"Hello, good morning, I want to speak with Brother George!"*

*I will never forget your voice... You called me to have news from us. You wanted to know if we are well. And however, I am the one who should have done it: call you and know how you are,*



*how did you spend the night. Have you been in the basement? Has a mortar fallen near you? How are Omar and Doha? Have they slept? And you, dear friend, my little one 10 years old, how are you? Have you been able to have breakfast? Did you go to get some water to wash yourself and to clean the house? How many buckets did you get? And the bread, who went to get it? What have you done to get a supply of gas? Have you installed the ammeter? I know that you are at work! I am not surprised. I know that if you and your brother work you support your mother. You work hard, more than 10 hours a day. After the education project ended, you are working... I do not dare to say anything... In order to take care of the minimum needs of your family you need to work. I am aware of this. Where are your rights? How do you live this injustice? Your smile does not leave me. You have just illumined our life. You have just told us all the happiness in the world. You have just refreshed for us the source of peace.*

*"Hello, good morning Mohamad, I want to tell you some good news:*

*Today you are present in the prayer of many Friends... No, not only you, but all the children of Syria... I think of George, the newly born baby, who was just baptized, of Elias who was killed by a mortar, in Hussain who has gone far away from the hell of Alep. I think of Israa who became sick because he left the nursery school of the Marists. I think of the children who come every day to get a hot meal, I think of Maufid whose mother told me he had a terrible phobia that paralyzes him, I think of one or other of the epileptic children and of so many other children whose parents come to ask for diapers. Mohamad, you and many others are the center of the world. Many persons all over the world pray for you at this moment.*

*And we, Marists that together with you we dream with a world of peace and justice, we want to tell you: For you we will continue on the way of solidarity, we will build for you a world without*

*war, we will do everything possible so that your life may be a hymn to peace!"*

For him, for his parents and for many families, these commitments are reflected in our different projects.

The "baskets of food" are distributed regularly. Each family also receives a health basket and 4000 Syrian pounds that represent the monthly payment for the electric generator. At the beginning of summer, every member of our families received a new pair of shoes.

The project "civilians wounded by war" this month has been able to save some persons hurt by the bomb-shells of the mortars that fell abundantly. In spite of the difficulty of providing a supply of milk, especially that for the children of less than one year of age, we have been able to assure it regularly to all the children who benefit of the Program "Drop of Milk". Many families come to us asking that we help them to rent a house.

Some families are obliged to abandon their neighborhood which suddenly has become a place of great danger and risk. The city has suffered numerous times for the lack of water. Our four vans go through all the neighborhoods to distribute 500 liters for each apartment. After some time of pause during the month of Ramadan, the Project "MIT" launched a new program of formation for the months of July and August.

The children of "I want to learn" have spent a week in a summer camp with the theme "Tinker bell». The older children among them have spent two nights. It was the first time that they lived this experience. The young adolescents have resumed their activities in the Project of the "Skill School". They want "to dream and be creative". On June 6 we opened our new "Summer-Place", where every afternoon, approximately 100 families come to our house to spend some leisure time... the children enjoy the playground that we have recently arranged and the parents meet to breathe some fresh air, take a cup of coffee and above all, find themselves in a safe place.

I end with the words of Brother Emili, Superior General, when he addressed himself to the young people of the "Skill School" on the occasion of the launching of its theme of the summer activities:

*"You, young people, are called to listen to your hearts to discover which is your dream... You need moments of silence... Do not allow the Masters of war to rob your dreams..."*

Aleppo, June 27, Br. Georges Sabe for the Blue Marists

### **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>

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