



# MARIST NEWS

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

23 JULY - 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOURVIÈRE PROMISE

1,000 GATHER FOR CELEBRATION IN LYON



Nearly one thousand people gathered on July 23 to participate in the Eucharistic celebration in Lyon that commemorated 200 years since the first Marists promised to start the Society of Mary.

The Mass, held at the Basilica of Four-

vière, was presided by the superior general of the Marist priests, Father John Hannan, and included the participation of Bishop Patrick Le Gal, Auxiliary Bishop of the local diocese.

Members of the four Marist branches – over 70 Marist Brothers, around 50

Fathers, several Sisters and Missionary Sisters – took part, as well as over 400 youth who had just finished the six-day long International Encounter of Marist Youth.

Participants wore a blue scarf with the words "200 years, still a promise" that

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The new board of directors of FMSI are meeting from July 25 - 29, with the participation of general councillor Brother Michael de Waas and economer general Brother Libardo Garzón on behalf of the general administration.

From July 26 - 28, the East Central Africa provincial chapter is holding its second session in Rwanda with the participation of general councillor Brother Antonio Ramalho.

Vicar general Brother Joe McKee, Brothers Today Secretariat director Br Tony Leon and Cmi director Br Chris Wills are participating in the Asian district chapter, held from July 26 - 29 in Cambodia.

had been handed to them at the entrance of the church. The packed Basilica meant some of the congregation had to attend Mass at the crypt of the Basilica.

Marist Brother Toni Torrelles sang the bicentenary theme song titled 'Renouvellement de la promesse' before the superior generals of the four branches welcomed the congregation in Spanish, English, Portuguese and French.

"We all feel united in the faith and solidarity in carrying out the mission and we feel this way thanks to the Lord," affirmed Fr John in his homily. "This promise has given a very important impulse to the beginning of our Society of Mary and we pray that it also gives us courage today."

"Those who made the Fourvière promise always posed themselves the question 'why not?' because they had a very deep faith and with that faith they could move mountains," he continued.

Fr John underscored that "we are called today to translate that same faith into action and we, too, are called to dream."

He then made reference to the gospel reading, the wedding at Cana, as the first public sign of Jesus adding that "that miracle had a profound meaning in the life of Jesus and much more than we are aware of."

"It means for people to have life and to have it abundantly," remarked Fr John. He noted that it is necessary to allow ourselves to be shaped by Mary and that it is important to "put the Fourvière promise into practice" adding that Mary's words in Cana were "do what he says."



The congregation was then asked to renew the promise to Mary by reading the 'Marist consecration for 2016.'

It included promising "to bring the best of ourselves; to choose to continue the work of Mary; to be bearers of mercy, life and hope; to want to make the Church friendly, open and faithful to the Gospel; to accept in advance the hardships and trials; to put all trust in God and in Mary."

Before the offertory gifts, several volunteers carried a big sun and the letter 'M' shaped ornaments, symbols of the International Marist Youth Encounter, and placed it next to the altar.

At the end of the Mass, a message was read on behalf of the cardinal of Lyon, Philippe Barbarin, who had already arrived to Krakow for the World Youth Day. He offered a greeting and paid homage to "those who follow the dream today" and entrusting participants to Mary, he stated that united with all Marists, he "thanked God for the Fourvière promise."



Novo Hamburgo, Brazil



Sydney, Australia



Tudella, Sri Lanka



México Central

## APPOINTMENTS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The General Council has appointed Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas (Norandina) as the Director of the Secretariat for Mission and Br. Mark Omede (Nigeria) as the Assistant Director of the same Secretariat. Both will take up their new responsibilities as from January 1st 2017.

Br. Tony Leon (Australia) has been appointed for a second three-year term as Director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, as from January 1st 2017. Likewise, Br. Colin Chalmers (West Central Europe), as Director of the Archive for a second three-year term as from 1st January 2017.

As regards the Secretariat of Laity, the mandate of Br. Javier Espinosa (America Central) as Director has been extended until December 2017. Mr. Pep Buetas (L'Hermitage) has been appointed Co-Director for a further three-year term, and Ms. Kate Fogarty (Australia) as Co-Director for a first three-year term. In the extended Secretariat for Laity, Br.

Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa (Madagascar) has been given a one-year extension until April 30th 2017.

Br. Álvaro Sepúlveda (Santa Maria de los Andes), who participated in the first Lavalla 200 formation group, has been appointed as part of the FMSI team in the General Administration, as from September 1st 2016.

Br. Afonso Levis (Brasil Centro Sul) has been appointed as Assistant Director of the Spanish and Portuguese language Third Age formation programmes, starting from the programme beginning in 2017.

The General Council has set up a Communications Committee, comprising the three current members of the Communications Office (Luiz da Rosa, Estefanía Aguirre and Br. Antonio Ramalho), José María Martín (Spanish Marist Conference) and Br. Paulo Martins (Brasil Centro Norte).

## NEW MODELS OF ANIMATION, GOVERNMENT AND MANAGEMENT

### TEAM MEETING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARCO NORTE REGION

The implementation team of the projects and initiatives for the strengthening of the Arco Norte region within the framework of the New Models of Animation, Government and Management project gathered from June 29 – July 2 in Bogota, Colombia.

Participants included Brothers Miguel Ángel Santos Villarreal (México Occidental provincial and coordinator of the region's provincials), Félix Roldán (Canada), Al Rivera (United States), Raúl Lara (México Occidental), Justino Gómez (México Central), Gregorio Linacero (América Central) and Carlos Alberto Rojas (Norandina). Luca Olivari served as facilitator.

This encounter's objectives were:

- To strengthen integration among team participants
- To reflect and define projects and



initiatives submitted to the region's provincial councils which gathered in Quito in March 2016

- To define a work plan to be presented in the next encounter of provincials of Arco Norte in New York from Sept. 2 – 5.

The proposals for regional strengthening that will be presented for

consideration by the provincial involve around the following themes:

- Realization of strategic planning of the region (people, mission and economy).
- Developing guidelines on formation, consecrated and lay life and preparing formators
- Cooperative development of a

programme of vocational culture as well as forming a dynamic team for the region.

- Taking advantage of good practices of the mission and finance to obtain short-term results (quick wins).
- Alignment of the provincial systems of management with the general administration's New

Model of Management.

- Manage changes through communication and raising awareness
- To develop initiatives with a competent team and define the way of financing.

The encounter also included formation on the topic of managing

changes.

After the meeting, each participant promised to inform their respective provincial and provincial council on the meeting's scopes and fruits in order to prepare for New York's meeting of provincials next September.

## BR EUGÈNE KABANGUKA: PROCESS OF REHABILITATION



As informed before, Br. Eugène Kabanguka, general counselor, had suffered a stroke on June 15th, and was taken immediately to San Camillo Hospital in Rome. On June 23rd he was transferred to a private clinic, Villa Sandra, to begin the process of rehabilitation.

Barely a week later, Br. Eugène experienced severe abdominal pain. Following a series of tests, the doctors diagnosed cholecystitis, that is, inflammation of the gall bladder, due to

the presence of gall stones. On consideration, it was deemed necessary to remove the gall bladder, and consequently he was transferred back to San Camillo, where they carried out the surgical operation on June 29th.

Since July 8th, Br. Eugène is back in Villa Sandra clinic and will almost surely remain there for just over a month.

Now he is doing physical and speech therapy. Br. Eugène is not yet able to move one side of his body, but he is slowly recovering speech.

We thank God that Br. Eugene is living through this very difficult moment with his accustomed serenity and peace, and with a great deal of patience. Let us continue to commend our brother Eugene to the tender care of our Good Mother.

The Brothers of the General House, as an important sign of fraternity, are always present during the visiting time.

Since last week, at the request of the General Council, Br. Spiridion Ndanga, from Rwanda, is in Rome to closely monitor the recovery of Br. Eugène.

## MOULOVIBAZAR PROJECT, BANGLADESH

### MARIST PUBLISHERS OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEA GARDEN CHILDREN

Three Marist publishers have promised to make annual donations for five years as scholarships to help students who cannot afford an education in Bangladesh.

During the International Assembly of Marist Publishers held from May 30 – June 3, FTD Educação, Grupo Edelvives and Gram Editora agreed to make the donations for a new two-story secondary school for impoverished children in Moulvibazar, Sylhet.

From 2016 – 2020, the publishers will make the transfers to Marist International Solidarity Foundation Onlus, or FMSI, who



MARIST WORLD



Belgium  
Community of Genval



General House  
FMSI Board of Directors



Spain, Valladolid  
Centro Cultural Vallisoletano



Bolivia, Santa Cruz  
Provincials of the Marist Region 'America'



Philippines - Mapac  
Community year 2016-17



Papua New Guinea  
Brothers' Assembly, Port Moresby



United States  
Marist Family celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Fourvière pledge



France, Lyon - International  
Gathering of Marist Youth

will in turn collect the sum and pass it to Marists working in in the country.

The construction work has been a co-funded by at least eight NGOs, Marist provinces, church organizations, private donations, and Marist schools of the United States, Spain and Germany.

The construction is part of the 'Mouloubazar Project,' which aims to create a boys and girls high school and a hostel for girls – children working and living in tea gardens.

A hall in the school's first floor will serve as a dormitory for the boys for a couple of years until a proper hostel is set up for them.

Three wells were dug back in October to provide the school

and hostel with the necessary water and toilet facilities, funded by FMSI, L'Hermitage Province and a Spanish bank.

Ninety out of the 163 tea plantations in Bangladesh are located in the Mouloubazar District, with the world's three biggest tea plantations located in the area.

There are currently 37 primary schools in different communities within the tea plantations, coordinated by priests of the Sreemongol parish, 9km away from the new school.

Tea workers are one of the most disadvantaged social groups in Bangladesh and receive an average of 89 Euro cents a day.

The overwhelming majority cannot read or write and belong to minority ethnic groups in the brink of extinction, with their own language.



## ARCO NORTE

### COURSE FOR ACCOMPANIATORS OF VOCATIONAL PROCESSES

Twenty-eight lay people of Arco Norte and of the Cruz del Sur province began a course animated by a team of the Central-American Institute of Spirituality of the Company of Jesus, in order to provide modules of theoretical and practical formation, with historical-psycho-spiritual accompaniment tools.

This first initiative at a regional level comes from a proposal of the General Council for the design of a global framework for a Marist vocational process and has been promoted by the Commission of the Laity of the América Central

province. The course includes two classroom modules of 13 days (2016 and 2017) and 9 months of experiencing spiritual exercises in ordinary life. The classroom modules offer a workshop on personal growth, elements of human and spiritual discernment, tools of psychological accompaniment and tools of spiritual and vocational accompaniment.

Participants belong to 12 countries and five Marist provinces. In some of the provinces, over 70 lay people are accompanied and follow a vocational itinerary.

## Dare to Dream

Next Friday we will send a special number of Marist News dedicated to the International Gathering of Marist Youth (Lyon, 17-23 July 2016).

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