



4TH MEETING OF THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER PREPARATORY COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETS TO COMPLETE MATERIAL TO HELP BROTHERS AND LAITY PREPARE FOR CHAPTER



During its meeting at the General House from September 5- 9, the Preparatory Commission for the 22nd General Chapter met to finish off the material for the Chapter.

It will be sent to the Provinces and Districts for distribution to all Marist communities to help them enter a process to prepare for the forthcoming Chapter.

"We have just finished creating the material so that brothers and laity, in the local communities, can prepare and contribute to the General Chapter.

"The aim is to engage the whole Institute to face, in new ways, the

world that is emerging to detect where the energy and the potential of our Marist charism lie, and what we might need to let go of to allow this charism to develop", stated Brother Pau Fornells, secretary of the Preparatory Commission to the General House Press Office, on September 13.

The Commission has prepared material to help local Marist communities prepare for the Chapter in three different phases, using fraternal contemplative dialogue.

- The focus of the first phase, which communities will work on from October to February in three gatherings, is entitled

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From September 21 to 24, General Councillor Brother Víctor Preciado is participating in a meeting of the council of the Santa María de los Andes Province in Peru.

On September 23, General Councillor Brother Ernesto Sánchez will take part in a meeting of the Ibérica Province's youth in Lardero.

From September 23 to 26, Economy General Brother Libardo Garzón and Luca Olivari are visiting the Department of Economics of the Canada Province to present the New Models Project.

From September 10 to 24, Brothers João Carlos Prado and Miguel Ángel Espinosa, of the Secretariat of Mission, are taking part in the meeting on the future of the Marist life and mission in the country.

On September 24, Brothers Tony León and Hipólito Pérez, of the Brothers Today Secretariat, are participating in the a meeting to organise the encounter of 'Tutti Fratelli' that will take place in Rome in November.

"Creating New Conversations".

- The second phase, which they will work on from February to May next year, is focused around "Immersion Encounters" and will involve moving out of our comfort zone and entering new territory, opening our minds and hearts to some of the realities that are shaping our world and that we may not be aware of.
- The third phase, from May to August of next year, will involve communities coming together, at Provincial or local level, with the capitulants and those invited to the Chapter in their Province to harvest the sharing of the conversations and the immersion encounters so that this can be taken to the General Chapter.

As well as receiving contributions from the Laity and the Brothers, the capitulants will also hear from the youth

group REMAR from Colombia at some point during the General Chapter to listen to the dreams and hopes of young people today for the future of Marist life

The commission will meet again from December 5-9, at the General House, while a subsequent meeting is planned for April 18-22 in Colombia.

The members of the Preparatory Commission for the 22nd General Chapter are Brothers Joseph McKee, Eugène Kabanguka (presently on sick leave), Carlos Huidobro, Ben Consigli, João Gutemberg, Álvaro Sepúlveda, Vincent Kouassi, Juan Carlos Fuertes, Rajakumar Soosai Manickam, Darren Burge and Pau Fornells.

The commission is helped by a facilitator, Mr. Matthieu Daum, from France.

REVOLT AND COMPASSION: LETTER FROM ALEPPO No 27

Recently, the situation became very complicated. Now, there is an internationalization of the conflict on the ground. On one hand, Turkey, who for years supported the terrorists by letting them pass through its borders and arming them, became a main actor on the ground.

In fact, its army went into Syria (without the permission of Syria, which is a sovereign country and a founding member of the United Nations) to supposedly fight Daesh but mainly to fight the Kurdish militias, which control many cities and villages on the Syrian border side south of Turkey.

But those militias are supported, advised and armed by the Americans who are, in theory, Turkey's allies, what a mess.

On the other hand, the Americans admitted to have a base in Syria with members of Special Forces close to Hassake, in east Syria. Finally, no one is talking about resuming the negotiations and the stalemate continues.

Aleppo, our city still suffers. The western media made of it the front page of the conflict. The Aleppins would have preferred not to have that reputation.

They have been suffering for more than four years and can't wait for this nightmare to be over.

They are revolted when the media only covers the suffering of the civilians of the few neighborhoods of east Aleppo controlled by the rebels and terrorists, which has 250,000 inhabitants. The sufferings of the million and a half of the Aleppins of west Aleppo are happening in silence.

They are revolted by the dozens of mortars, missiles and gas canisters that fall everyday on Aleppo's civilians' neighborhoods without anyone protesting. They are revolted by the complete power outage since a long time,



as the power stations are on the rebels' side. They are revolted by the complete shut off of the water during the summer heat waves (40c/ 104F in the shade), obliged to use water from the 300 wells drilled in the city in the past two years.

They are revolted by the blockade they endure every now and then, and the shortages that follow. They are revolted to see that every time the Syrian army move a little bit forward or win a battle to loosen the siege that the terrorists have imposed on Aleppo, the western governments and media call it a crime against humanity and ask for a truce to stop the progress of the Syrian army.

The tragedies, that we live or witness, are so many that we are always revolted. Here are few examples:

Mahmoud, a 6 years old boy, whose father died, was born without arms. He used to live with his mother, his sister

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNITED STATES

The Marist High School in Chicago kicked off its celebration of the Institute's Bicentenary Anniversary during Mass that opened the school year. A La Valla table was used for the Mass, which had been built by Deacon Andy Neu, the campus minister at Marist High School, for the occasion.

UMBRASIL

From 22 to 25 September, the Marist Union of Brazil (Brasil Centro-Norte and Centro-Sul, Sul-Amazons) is promoting a meeting of middle-aged brothers in Rio de Janeiro.

MARCELLIN'S BIOGRAPHY

Brother Manuel Mesonero will soon publish a biography of our founder, in Spanish. The aim of the work is to make the life, spirituality and charism of Marcellin better known, and it is intended for brothers and people who are interested in his life. The text covers the entire life of Champagnat and focuses on his person and his spirituality. If you are interested in the book, you can contact Manuel at the following address: manuelmesonero@maristasiberica.es.



and his uncle in a small town of the province of Aleppo under the control of Daesh.

This group would not allow the inhabitants of the cities they control to leave. They use them as human shields. The family, as many others, decided to leave at night to go to Aleppo.

Mahmoud was carried by his uncle when a land mine exploded killing the uncle and injuring Mahmoud's legs and feet. They had to amputate his legs. And here is Mahmoud without arms and legs; Revolt and Compassion.

The real estate project of 1070 is made of dozens of unfinished buildings because of the war, with no walls, no plumbing; only a floor and a roof.

They were occupied by hundreds of displaced families. Those families left their apartments in July 2012, when the rebels invaded their neighborhoods, and took shelter in Aleppo under the control of the Syrian government.

They first lived in public schools, then they were transferred to "1070" where they settled using tarps as walls, gallons for the water and buckets as restrooms.

A month ago, 1070 was the target, over many consecutive days, of mortars and missiles launched by the terrorists of Al Nosra before they invaded the area.

Those displaced, for the third time, abandoned their dead and wounded and the little they had collected in 4 years of misery to live under tents in the median strip of the beltway; Revolt and Compassion.

The exodus of the inhabitants of Aleppo, especially the Christians, continues. After Europe then Canada, it is now Australia's turn to issue visas to the Syrian refugees. The Christians of Aleppo are only a quarter of what they used to be before the war.

Between revolt and compassion, we, the Blue Marists, continue our programs in support of the displaced families and the families in need.

The program "The Blue Marists for the Displaced" continues to distribute monthly food and hygiene baskets to 850 families; we also help them pay the price for subscription to "1 Ampere" for the private generators to be able to light up few lamps in the evening. We give them meat or chicken once a month. We rent for them small apartments to live in.

Again, this year, for the start of the school year, we gave school supplies to all of the children who go to school in addition to helping them pay the tuition.

The project "War Wounded Civilians" continues to treat, for free, the civilians from all religions, wounded by bullets or shrapnel in St Louis Hospital, the best private hospital of the city.

MARIST CALENDAR

- 20 Sept: (1936): Brother Eusebio was murdered in Barcelona. We also remember 58 other brothers who were killed in different places and at different times. John Paul II blessed the statue of Saint Marcellin placed on the exterior wall of the Vatican Basilica (2000)
- 22 Sept: The Marist Brothers began their mission in Mozambique (1948); First foundation in Monrovia, capital of Liberia (1991)
- 23 Sept: The first Marist Brothers left for Paraguay (1968)

MARIST WORLD



Brazil: Marist School in Patamares - Bahia



USA: Encounter of the Provincials of the Arco Norte Region in Forest Hills



Fiji: Brothers Beia Tibiriano, Afaese Afaese, Tabunga Etuati, and Anitelea Fidow



Honduras: Comayagua



Mexico: Marist primary school in Aguascalientes



Paraguay: Horqueta

"The Blue Marist Medical Program" finances every month more than 100 medical procedures to help the patients who can't afford the price of surgery, hospital stay, CT scan, or sometimes a doctor visit or some lab tests.

The project "I Am Thirsty" continues to distribute water, for free, to the families we are taking care of. Our 4 vans, equipped with water tanks, go back and forth between the wells and the apartments.

The project "Drop of Milk" provide milk monthly to almost 3000 children between the age of few days to 10 years.



In the beginning of the summer, we transformed a part of our yard into a garden with swings, slides, etc.; that is how we opened our summer recreational space, where families come to spend 5 afternoons a week in a place safer than their neighborhoods.

The kids play under the watch of monitors and the adults spend some recreational time, playing cards, backgammon or simply relax sipping coffee, tea or soda and nibbling on seeds.

Our two buses commute between our place and their neighborhoods.

This initiative made everyone happy and is an anti-stress therapy for everybody.

Our visiting team grew with many volunteers, former Marists from the Champagnat Family.

That team visits the families regularly to create bonds of solidarity, to inquire about their needs and try to satisfy them.

Our educational projects are going well. The educators of the 2 projects "Learn to Grow" and "I Want to Learn" meet every morning, since the beginning of September, for training sessions awaiting the start of the school year, which will be challenging given the record numbers of

applicants and accepted applications despite the limited space.

All the children of "I Want to Learn" who were not going to school for various reasons, passed the tests of the ministry of education and will join the school curriculum without restarting from the beginning. It is a matter of pride for the children, their parents and for us.

"Skill School" continues to gather teenagers; their number has reached 75, which is the maximum limit of our ability.

Our adult training center, the "M.I.T." in addition to the 3 days' sessions organized for the past 3 years several times a month, will start in few days a new method.

A 100 hours' session spread over 8 weeks, 3 afternoons a week, to allow working people to participate. The theme is: how to start his/her own project?

We hired the best experts from Aleppo to help the young adults to undertake and complete a project and make a living.

We will teach, in a practical manner, the participants how to find a project idea, how to realize it, how to evaluate the cost of the product, how to make a budget, how to establish an action plan, how to finance it, how to market it and sell it.

At the end of the session, the participants will present their projects to the jury of experts and we will help fund the best feasible projects.

Our project "Eradication of Illiteracy" ended its first session of 40 participants.

All the participants took the Ministry of Culture's exam and received a certificate stating that they are at a 4th grade of elementary level. You should have seen the joy of those adults receiving their certificates, all

of them proud to know how to read and write.

We continue to support the families, to listen to them, to provide psychological support, to understand their needs, to restore their dignity that is often flouted, to give them a little bit of hope and make them feel that we are in solidarity with them.

Revolted by all that we experience, see, hear and feel, yes, we, the Blue Marists are revolted.

We cannot accept the unacceptable.

Compassion is one of our values. We share the suffering of our brothers and sisters, their distress, their despair and their tragedies.

Solidarity is our way of living charity and love with them and for them.

Aleppo, September 17
Nabil Antaki

MUSICAL "WITH YOU MARCELLIN": CONVERTING BOYS AND GIRLS IN PROTAGONISTS OF THEIR PERSONAL AND SOCIAL STORY

The musical "With you Marcellin" is a work centred on the topic of children rights, written by Brother Toni Torrelles, of the Hermitage Province to celebrate the bicentenary of the Marist Institute.

Currently the following resources are available: texts, music (MP3) and the score.

The songs in Spanish and Catalan, were performed by volunteers from Spain and France.

French, Portuguese and English versions are currently being prepared and will be available soon.

Marist centres can download and use all of the material:

- Book with indications for staging
- French Score



- MP3 Music in Spanish
- MP3 songs in Catalan
- Instrumental with accompanying guide

- Instrumental simple
- To download the material, visit this page: <http://www.champagnat.org/000.php?p=427>

EDUCATION STRUCTURE IN CATALONIA COULD CHANGE BY 2018

SPAIN: 800 MARIST TEACHERS ATTEND EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN GERONA

Eight hundred teachers from nine Marist schools attended a presentation of the Marist Network Innovation project on Sept. 7 in Gerona.

It aims at introducing a new education structure by 2018 after consulting with teachers, families, students and others.

"We started the project with the aim of responding to the learning needs of students of the 21st century", affirmed the director of the Foundation Champagnat-Marists Catalunya, Llorenç Claramunt, just before the start of the meeting at the Gerona Auditorium.

According to El Punt Avui, the project, which began in 2014, aims to create a new education model resulting from the networking between teachers from all schools as well as feedback from families and students.

"We want to be able to rethink the educational stages and see what works best," stated Josep Buetas, the project coordinator.

"The project aims to transform schools and create a network for innovation focusing more on the process of learning than of teaching, in the case of students."

The project also hopes to help teachers develop their professional talent to the maximum, and it aims to increase the trust of families.

"We have an organized structure for educational phases, as required by law, but we want to allow ourselves to reconsider it to see what the best structure is," he remarked.

Once the new model is defined, decisions will be made on what phases to implement first, by 2018, followed by the formation of teachers.

There are 2,000 employees in Marist schools in the Spanish region of Catalonia, of which half are teachers, for 10,000 students.



We want to be able to rethink the educational stages and see what works best

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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