



MARIST NEWS

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTIONS: PROVINCES & DISTRICTS

ASKED TO ANSWER THE CONSULTATION'S 1ST PART IF LACKING TIME

The Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions is asking provinces and districts to email an opinion of the first part of the consultation form of the first draft to const@fms.it by Sept. 30 if they have not had time to complete it.

"If it is not possible for someone to participate in the whole consultation, we ask them to at least send us the answer of the first part, regarding general aspects, the structure, the format, etc.," stated the Commission in a message sent to provincials and district superiors on Sept. 26. "This alone would help us a lot."

"We are interested in having the maximum participation and answers, especially on the first part of the consultation, even if no contributions are made on the articles of



this first draft," affirmed Brother Josep M. Soteras, coordinator of the Commission.

YOUNG PEOPLE EXPLAIN THE MARIST CHARISM IN NEW VIDEO

A new video on what young people believe the Marist charism is has been released by the general house press office.

The interviews were filmed during the international Marist youth gathering in Lyon, France, in July.

"For me, the Marist charism means to live with Marcellin's spirit," states Raffaele Gaudieri, who coordinates and animates two groups of the Giugliano Marist pastoral community in Italy.

"What distinguished Marcellin from others was what he said," he adds. "He was convinced of the fact that he could not pass beside a young person without letting him know how much God loves him."

He goes on to explain that "in order to educate children, one must love them, this is written everywhere in our community and it's what we do through our animation."

According to Michel Abdallah, from the Collège des Frères Maristes Jbeil-Amchit Byblos in Lebanon, the Marist



charism means treating all people the same, regardless of religion or wealth.

Masengo Adeline, of the Teacher Training College Save in Rwanda, believes the Marist charism means "to love Jesus and to talk in the way of Mary" and highlighted the importance of Mary's presence in one's daily life.

Click here, to watch the full video: <https://goo.gl/j66NC1>.



Moving towards the General Chapter

After the consultation form of the first draft of the constitutions is sent back by September, the General Chapter Commission will sent out a chapter consultation to be worked on between October 2016 and January 2017.

The consultation of the second draft of the constitutions will then be sent for provinces and districts to work on between February and June 2017.

The Constitutions' Commission will then prepare a third draft from July to August 2017, which will be presented at the 22nd General Chapter.

The Commission's members are Brothers Tony Clark, Eduardo Navarro, Albert Nzabonaliba, Antonio Peralta, Josep M. Soteras and Sebastião Ferrarini.

For more information on the Revision of Constitutions and Statutes, click here: <https://goo.gl/rSJ5eR>.

ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN DAY IN LYON: COMMEMORATION OF THE MARTYRDOM OF BROTHER HENRI VERGÈS

An encounter of Muslims and Christians took place in Lyon from Sept. 16 – 17 to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the death of the death of the monks of Tibhirine, and to recall other religious that were killed in Algeria between 1994 and 1996, as well as many other Muslims and Christians that suffered violence in Algeria.

The testimony of Muslims of the martyrdom of Christians

The event began with a conference offered by the Archbishop Emeritus of Algiers, Archbishop Henri Teissier, titled 'The testimony of Muslims of the martyrdom of Christians in Algeria (1994-1996).' The context of the conference could not be more significant. The encounter took place in L'Antiquaille, a cultural place very near the Basilica of Fourvière, which recalls the history of the first martyrs of Lyon. L'Antiquaille

is a Lyonnais "high place" of "memory and history" where one can discover the main stages of Christian history in Lyon and its development throughout the centuries.

In the undergrounds, one can find the place where Saint Pothinus was jailed. He was the bishop of the first Christian community known as Galia, based in Lyon. Pothinus was arrested in 177 under the mandate of Marcus Aurelius at the same time as Blandine and 48 Christians, who testified to their faith. They are Lyon's first martyrs.

In this place, one listened to the echoes of the voices of Muslim witnesses, who emphasized the faith and the personality of the martyrs of Algeria. Archbishop Henri began by quoting the words of a former student of Brother Henri Vergès, of the school of Sour el Ghoziane, where Br Henri taught mathematics.

"All humanity is proud of the existence of such people and saddened by their loss," he stated.

"We would like to express our friendship; our fraternity amidst this drama that affects us all," he stressed, regarding another message of Algiers that also referred to the life of Br Henri. "Never forget that you are our brothers. Whatever the differences of our dogmas, we think we have the same God. You are in our home and we love you."

Then the speaker continued highlighting various testimonies of the 19 religious killed in Algeria between 1994 and 1996. Of particular significance was that of a law student that met four White Fathers of Tizi Ouzou.

"The horror of this act revolts me," said the student. "How is it possible that in the name of religion and of God, the children of God are killed! How is it possible to understand a God who orders a part of his children to eliminate the rest!"

Most of these testimonies are collected in a book written by Teissier and published under the title *Chrétiens en Algérie*, (Desclée de Brouwer, 2002). The ceremony ended with the unveiling of a plaque in memory of Brother Luc, a monk of Tibhirine, placed in the reception of L'Antiquaille.

Encounter with Father Thomas Georgeon, postulator of the cause

On Saturday, Sept. 17, a private encounter was held between the families of the



BRIEF NEWS

SAMOA

From September 19 to 22, six Brothers, two young men, a German volunteer and ten teachers in the local Champagnat Group from Marist Primary and Saint Joseph's College, Apia in Samoa made their annual retreat. It was facilitated by Brother Kieran Fenn.

BRAZIL

The new international community in the Amazon is composed by four members, each one of a different nationality, two women and two men: Peggy of Venezuela, Verónica of Argentina, Brother Iñigo of Spain and Brother Justin of Australia. Three of them are already living in Tabatinga. They are waiting for the fourth member, who is awaiting his visa in order to be able to reside in Brazil. Brothers Inácio y Deivis of Brasil Sul Amazonia and Brother Alberto Aparicio of the Cruz del Sur Province, visited the community to show support of the America Sur region.

SPAIN

In the province of Compostela, from September 17 to 18, the teams of the MarCha Phase gathered to evaluate summer activities. They also met to schedule the formation that will take place in November, to begin to envision the activities of 2017, and to form themselves in the managing of groups and conflict resolution.

martyrs of Argelia and Father Thomas Georgeon, postulator of the beatification cause of Bishop Pierre Claverie and his companions. The cause that includes the process of 19 religious that died in Argelia between 1994 and 1996, which includes our Brother Henri Vergès, is known with this name.

Bishop Pierre Claverie, of the religious order of the Dominicans and Algerian by birth, but with French nationality, was the bishop of the diocese of Oran from 25 May 1981 until his assassination. The notorious murder of the monks of Tibhirine occurred on 26 May 1996. Pierre Claverie knew his life was also in danger and yet he continued in Argelia. On 1 August 1996, a bomb exploded at the bishopric's entrance taking the lives of Pierre and his young driver and Muslim friend, Mohamed, shortly before midnight.

The encounter of the postulator with the families was set in the crypt of the church of Saint Irenaeus, next to the seminar that holds the same name.

The words of the mother of the young Mohamed, who was killed alongside Bishop Pierre, were particularly significant and meaningful. The archbishopric provided a meal to the families of the martyrs present at the event at 12:30 p.m. As representatives of the family of Brother Henri Vergès, there was a group of 15 people, led by Superior General Brother Emili Turú, the Provincial Superior of L'Hermitage, Brother Pere Ferré, and Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún, procurator general.

Encounter with Muslims and Christians

In the afternoon, from 2:30 pm onwards, the group went to the Great Mosque of Lyon, surrounded by special security measures and led by its rector, Kamel Kabtane, where Christians and Muslims prayed for unity among all men and all peoples, and in memory of the victims of the violence of terrorism.

A heartfelt prayer proclaimed with emphasis by one of the imams made the following request to the Lord on behalf of all those present: "Grant your love, your mercy and clemency to all who



have been victims of hatred or blind violence of terrorism, those men and women who have paid with their lives, their love and their commitment to their Muslim or Christian faith." He concluded with his prayer with this petition: "Oh Lord, bless France and the French and make our country a safe haven. Pour out upon them your peace. Grants its inhabitants your mercy, your favour and your clemency, You who are the Master of the world, the Almighty, the Merciful."

At the feet of our Lady of Fourvière

At the 5:30 p.m., a Mass in Fourvière was celebrated due to the visit of the bishops of the Algerian diocese to Lyon to honour the martyrs of Algeria and promote the cause of beatification. Four Marist brothers led the procession with which the liturgy began. They held candlesticks lighting 19 luminaries to recall the living faith of the 19 martyrs of Algiers that make up the cause of beatification, which includes Brother Vergès. These candles were placed at the altar where they remained throughout the entire Mass as a sign of the living presence of those who gave their lives for the faith. And also as living testimony to the Spirit that had animated the meeting.

During the homily, given by Bishop Paul Jacques Marie Desfarges, S.J. – Bishop of Constantine (-Hippone) and Apostolic Administrator of Alger – the figure of Brother Henry Vergès was emphasised as well as his testimony of faith among the residents of Algiers. Several Marist

MARIST WORLD



Mexico: Los Mochis - 96th Birthday of Br. Amancio Rodríguez



Brazil: Regional meeting of the MChFM in Uberlandia



Spain: Asociación Espiral in Madrid



General House: 'Amanecer' formation programme with the Superior General



Thailand: Members of the Lavalla200> Project in the Asia District



Samoa: Retreat in Apia

Brothers from different communities near Lyon accompanied Superior General Brother Emili Turú and the new Postulator General, Brother Antonio M. Estaún, during these events.

An Islamo-Christian friendly meal

Already nightfall in Lyon, the meeting ended outdoors, in the area of the seminar, while the waters of the Saone and the

Rhone were multiplied with the gentle rain. Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, Archbishop of Lyon, had extended an invitation to participate in an Islamo-Christian friendly meal with this name: "Le lien de la Paix, Ribaâr essalam".

Br Antonio M. Estaún

PACIFIC DISTRICT: SUPERIOR WILL SERVE A SECOND TERM

After a consultation in the Pacific district, the General Council has appointed Brother David G. McDonald as district superior for a second three-year term.

"I would like to thank Br David McDonald for his openness and willingness to serve the Institute in this mission as Superior," wrote Superior General Brother Emili Turú in a letter to the Brothers of the district on Sept. 2. "The results of the consultation show clearly that he enjoys vast support from the brothers of the district."

Br David, who was first appointed superior in 2013, will begin his second

term on Dec. 18 at the beginning of the District Chapter. Before 2013, he had served for three years as superior of the Province of New Zealand, which ceased to exist after the creation of the Pacific district in 2013.

Br David was principal of Hato Petera College in Auckland, New Zealand, from 1997 – 2010. He is the first Maori, the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand, to have held the position of provincial superior and, since 2013, of district superior.

The Pacific district includes New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa and Kiribati.



II EUROPEAN ENCOUNTER OF ANIMATION TEAMS OF THE CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT: "SHALL WE DREAM...?"

The second European encounter of animation teams of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, also known as MChFM, took place at the Marist house of El Escorial, Spain, from Aug. 24 – 27.

We met for four days, under the theme "shall we dream?", representing the five provinces of Europe and some guests, from different structures of lay animation of the Europe region and of the Secretariat for Laity.

Twenty-six people in total shared their experiences of their fraternities and communities.

The goals that the European council of the MChFM proposed were:

- to take care of the provincial teams of animation,
- to make the process of revitalization of the Champagnat Movement known,
- to share the paths and the experiences of the provinces
- to reflect on the collaboration/integration with the structure of animation of laity in Europe.



The presentations of different realities, personal work and sharing in groups helped us create an environment where communication and the family spirit grew during those days.

Our reflections and prayer centred on a video message of superior general Brother Emili Turú and the idea of "A new beginning."

After this encounter we are very aware of the steps that we still need to take, but we have also found that we share so much and the richness of

the path that we have already more and more in communion and relationship between the different provinces.

The assessment made by the participants was very positive, especially, because of the awareness that it is an international movement and that we, the laity, that form it are responsible for its development and vitality.

Andrés Gil,
Coordinator of the European team

8TH MARIST PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY, AMÉRICA CENTRAL:

NEW COMMUNITIES FOR NEW TIMES

The América Central Province has seen a special time of grace, of encounter, of exchanging, of looking together towards the future.

The 8th Provincial Assembly gathered 70 % of the province's brothers (68 brothers took part) and a representation of laity (12 laity) to simply reflect, share, commit and raise awareness of all that can be done together to build "NEW COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING."

The chosen methodology for the preparatory commission was inspired by the U theory.

It is a process of five steps of which four were worked on:

- Co-Initiate, that is to create a common intention based on listening to others and listening to what community life is asking us to do.
- Co-Sense/Perceive, look, observe with the mind and heart wide open.
- Co-inspire: connect to the source, the inspiration and the will. Become aware and act from this new consciousness. Conversion of heart and let emerge what



tion, personal reflection and sharing in simplicity and sincerity turned this assembly into something special, new and profound.

Participants left the Assembly with wanting to make the theme "New communities for new times" a reality.

They left convinced that the Spirit guided them since their "hearts were burning" to the extent that more brothers among brothers and among the laity felt.

The exercises presented: listening to others, encountering our time and our stories, encounter with the "other-Other", with Jesus and with the world, for a transformation starting from the heart, keeping the communities in mind.

They helped convince participants that another way of living in community and in fraternity is possible.

the converted heart asks me to do

- Co-Create: create together what we have begun to understand and see better. Looking for clues

for concrete action that can be tested even without certainty of success.

The itinerary that was presented and the rich experiences of prayer, celebra-

SOUTH AFRICA: ENCOUNTER OF 13 MARIST LAY LEADERS IN JOHANNESBURG

Pam Paton-Mills and Mike Greeff welcomed lay leaders from South Africa who met from Aug. 27 - 30 in Johannesburg for a formation programme in which 13 laity took part. They gathered for intensive work, prayer and to share their life and spiritual growth.

The main objective of the programme was to provide formation to the group to enable them to return to their respective schools better equipped to lead the Marist Lay groups in each school. The format of the experience was a deep exploration of the three themes of spirituality, community and mission in a Marist context coupled with personal experiences of each. Each morning began with centering prayer as a lead into contemplative prayer.

Superior General Brother Emili Turu also took part and offered the participants a description of the Marist identity.

We finished the four days with a commissioning ceremony of prayer, song and dance that gave each person their own Water from the Rock, water brought from significant sources at each school and mingled with water from the River Gier.

Each person also took home their own parcel of seeds, seeds with a sprinkling of the seeds brought back from Rome by Pam and Mike. To read the full story, click here: <https://goo.gl/6g985T>.



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