

BRAZIL: I INTERAMERICAN ENCOUNTER OF MARIST FORMATORS

“LOOK NOW AT THE SKIES AND COUNT THE STARS”



The I Interamerican Encounter of Marist Formators took place from Oct. 31 – Nov. 4 in Curitiba, Brazil.

The event's theme was the provocation of God to Abraham "look now at the skies and count the stars" (Gen. 15:5).

Over 40 participants – Brothers, formators, provincials, lay men and women from 10 provinces of the continent – all took part.

The goal consisted in speaking about the formative processes and to discover the numerous new paths and possibilities of the Marist vocation.

A video of superior general Brother Emili Turú motivated the encounter, and the reflection of the lay Juan Luis

BR EUGÈNE RETURNS TO THE GENERAL HOUSE

General councillor Brother Eugène Kabanguka returned to the general house on Nov. 4 after being months in hospital recovering from a stroke.

The right side of his body was initially paralysed and he was unable to communicate verbally, but with the help of doctors, he is now able to walk with aid and speak.

When he suffered the accident on June 15, he was taken to San Camillo hospital before being transferred to a private clinic on June 23, Villa Sandra, to begin a rehabilitation process.

He was then moved to the Rome American Hospital on Aug. 30 where he stayed until he returned to the general house.

Brother Spiridion Ndanga, from his native Rwanda, came to Rome in July to monitor closely Br Eugène's recovery and continues to assist him.



He will also continue to receive physiotherapy and logotherapy with visits of specialists.

"Almost everyone who visited me showed me that I live in a big and good family," Br Eugène told the press office on Nov. 9. "Everyone has done something to make me feel good, either by visiting me or by praying for me."

In the picture, the staff of the general house offers him a warm welcome during the morning coffee break on Monday, Nov. 7.

Gonçalves on “the trip of Abraham” helped the group to start its path, available for the new and with the courage of daring. In a determined moment, the participants gathered with youth of different environments, which led to a fruitful exchange of perceptions and ways of seeing young people.

There were also moments of personal and group reflection, to try to identify the voices and intuitions that are born from the Institute’s calls and formation – like internationality, rights of children and youth, the relationship between brothers and laity, among others. The challenge of the programme of the encounter was

to discover new paths and hope in America for the Marist formation of brothers and laity. Dialogues were filled with joy and fraternal coexistence.

The conclusion of the encounter was the following: if God promised Abraham great offspring, why not trust that this same God also ensures us the fecundity of the promise and the continuity of the mission, as the new Marists of Champagnat?

Brothers Hipólito Pérez, of the Brothers Today Secretariat and Javier Espinosa, of the Secretariat of the Laity participated on behalf of the general administration.

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Some of the topics that are crucial for Marist Europe were analysed... Marist Europe is strongly committed with serenity to the “new beginning” proposed for the whole Institute.

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MEETING OF THE MARIST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE SPAIN: “BELONGING TO A GLOBAL BODY”



The Conference of the Provincials of Europe (CEM) gathered in Guardamar, Spain, on November 4 and 5.

The event happened after Europe’s extended general council – the general council and CEM’s provincial councils – met from October 31 to November 3.

General councillors who are council links for Europe, Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Antonio Ramalho, were among the participants at the CEM’s meeting.

The encounter’s two important moments were firstly, the Assembly of the Provincial Councils of the Marist European Conference and secondly,

the Conference’s meeting (the provincials and one more councillor per province).

Some of the topics that are crucial for Marist Europe were analysed.

Below are three of them.

1. New operating models of animation, governance and administration

Luca Olivari and Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas presented the topic on behalf of the general administration.

In their presentation, they showed the macro vision of the Institute, revealing particularly what has been done throughout the Institute’s dif-

ferent regions.

There is a document on this important aspect in the Institute's life which clarifies the roles of those involved in this process.

It is a project which stresses the perception of the Marist Institute as a global body.

2. European Network of the Marist Mission

Another topic that was covered with the whole group of the Assembly of the Provincial Councils of the CEM was the European Network of Marist Mission, within the very current and well known perspective: "2017 – A new beginning."

It is a topic that has already been covered in other encounters of the CEM (Athens, October 2015; Lisbon, May 2016) and that wants to ensure vitality of the Marist life in Europe from a common vision.

There are two main goals:

1) to strengthen the Marist identity and the feeling of belonging in the European context and as integral part of the Institute as a global body;

2) creating a European structure of leadership to coordinate and animate the Marist Mission in Europe.

This is applied to the fields of the different aspects of the Marist mission: pastoral / animation, formation, solidarity, education, human resources, economy, communication...

3. More specific topics of the CEM

Information was given to the whole Assembly of the Councils regarding a European encounter on the protection of minors, which took place from October 3 to October 6 also in Guardamar.

Specific topics of information were also presented only to the members of the Conference.

They were mainly three:

Information on the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF SIR-ACUSA.

Brother Juan Carlos, provincial of Mediterránea and provincial of reference for this community spoke about:

- a) the community's establishment process;
- b) the facilities given by the archbishopric;
- c) visa difficulties;
- d) the community's members.

Information on the NETWORK OF COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE. In summary, everyone shares the belief that "it is an initiative that is worth it, but it needs to receive clearer content."

Information on the CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENNARY IN THE EUROPEAN PROVINCES. There are many and varied activities that are scheduled in the different provinces. Marist Europe is strongly committed with serenity to the "new beginning" proposed for the whole Institute.

CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN WILL HELP TIMOR LESTE

AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY

The annual Australian Marist Solidarity Christmas campaign has been launched, focusing this year on Timor Leste.

The campaign aims to raise funds in order to develop or support locally sustained education opportunities for the young people in a certain country each year.

AMS currently funds 41 projects in Timor-Leste, with most of these being small local community education initiatives.

In the near future, it will be working with the Province of Australia to establish the first Marist school in the



MARIST WORLD



Pakistan: 50th Anniversary of Marist presence



General House: Meeting of the Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions



Kenya: African Mission Commission Meeting



Colombia: Marist Novitiate



Spain: Guardamar – Meeting of the European Marist Conference



General House: Marist Vocation Animators for a New Beginning

country. The Marist Brothers currently run an institution of higher education, the 'Baucau College – Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores,' which they founded in 2001.

AMS is the international agency for the aid and development work of the Marist Province of Australia throughout Asia and the Pacific Islands. It supports communities

in 17 countries through both long-term and short-term development projects.

Peter Sheehan is the board's chairman and Michael Coleman is the projects coordinator for Timor-Leste.

There are currently five Brothers in the country, based in Baucau. To help AMS or for more information, visit <http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/>.

FMSI LAUNCHES AN INITIATIVE ON THE RIGHTS OF INFANCY

UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY - NOVEMBER 20

In view of the Universal Children's Day, celebrated on November 20, [FMSI](http://www.fmsi.org) launches an initiative to call attention on the rights of infancy and to stimulate the debate on this theme.

In the preceding months, it was proposed to our students of the Marist world to reflect on the conditions of infancy and on the implementation of the rights of minors in their own country, lending special attention to the recommendations made by the organisms of the UN proposed to the guardianship or protection of human rights. The texts written by children and boys of six countries, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Lebanon, Paraguay, Zimbabwe, will be pro-



posed in the form of an e-mail, starting November 8 up to November 20, to friends, companions, supporters of the Foundation ... a way to give voice to the younger and to invite to reflection on the condition of so many children regarding the present problems today.

Furthermore, excerpts from the document "[La niñez marista de América opina sobre la violencia](#)" (The opinion of children in relation to the violence) will be proposed in the e-mails, as well.

The Universal Children's Day takes place on November 20. The United Nations General Assembly in 1954 recommended its celebration.

It aimed at encouraging all countries to establish an official day to: promote mutual exchange and understanding among children; launch an initiative to support and promote the well-being of children around the world; celebrate the Children's Day annually.

November 20 is also the anniversary of the day in which the UN's General Assembly adopted the [Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959](#).

The [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) was also approved that same day in 1989.

Contribute to the debate on the rights of infancy in your country and in the world on the [Facebook page of FMSI](#).

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES ARE INVITED TO VALUE THE EXPERIENCES OF THE LAITY

ITALY: CHARISMATIC FAMILIES ON THEIR WAY

An encounter on the "charismatic families on their way" gathered on Nov. 4 and 5 at the general house of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Rome where around 200 lay people and religious of different charisms gathered.

Six people represented the Marist Institute: Gianluca and Rosa, de Giuliano; Brother Pietro Bettin, of Genova; Luiz da Rosa and Brothers Ángel Media and Spiridion Ndanga of the General house.

The Union of Superiors General promotes the encounter, celebrated each year.

Its objective is to make the different charismatic families known; raise awareness in communion, formation and collaboration and act with greater incidence in evangelization according to their own charisms.

The encounter was animated through different dynamics: conferences, group dialogue, presentations of experiences, prayer...

One of the most important moments was the talk of Fa-



ther Rino Cozza, of the Josefinos de Murialdo family. He stressed the need for the religious congregations, in relation to the laity, pass from attunement to reciprocity and affirm that the charism needs to be enlightened by the experience lived by the laity.

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL LAUNCHES VIDEOS TO ANIMATE DAILY ACTIVITIES

ONE PRAYER AT EVERY IMPULSE!

The third year of preparation for the Institute's bicentenary, themed 'La Valla Year,' prioritises our interior space where the mystery, space of interiority and the mystical dimension of our life dwells.

We know that one of the preferred practices of Marcellin Champagnat

and of the first Brothers was "the exercise of God's presence:" a constant attention to remind one of his presence during the course of the day.

One of the means was "the prayer of the hour" which consisted of the

fact that whenever the hours were announced, the brothers would stop their activities to recite a short prayer.

The Brasil Centro-Sul province, with the help of the Office of Institutional Communication and the Pastoral

Sector, wants to actualize the founder’s proposal and has started the “Prayer of the Hour” project.

It is a series of videos that deal with topics related to the Marist mission.

The videos can be reproduced as animation of the activities that are carried out.

The topics are:

- Prayer of the hour: video teaser
- The Marist Institute
- Brothers and lay Marists, co-responsibility and vocation
- Marian and apostolic spirituality
- Catechesis and liturgy
- Ecclesiality / A Church which goes forth
- Interreligious dialogue
- Childhood and youth



DISTRICT OF ASIA RECEIVES FIVE NEW MISSIONARIES

DESTINATION COUNTRIES INCLUDE PHILIPPINES, SRI LANKA AND CAMBODIA

The district of Asia is receiving five new missionaries – four brothers and a laywoman – from Cameroon, Venezuela, Bolivia, Canada and the United States.

The five Marists had been part of the first group of nineteen brothers and lay people that received formation in May and June to prepare themselves as new members of the

LaValla200> International Communities for a New Beginning Project.

Their destination countries are the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and another country.

The LaValla200> missionaries have started to arrive to their new communities, which superior general Brother Emili Turú assigned them to on June 28.

The other 15 will be going to Amazonia (Brazil), East Harlem (United States), Sicily (Italy), Rome (Italy) and Mount Druitt in Sydney (Australia).

The missionaries moving to Asia belong to the provinces of Santa Maria de los Andes, United States, Canada and Norandina, as well as to the West Africa District.



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