



MARIST NEWS

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

2 JANUARY, BICENTENARY CELEBRATION BEGINS

On 2nd January, the Marists of Champagnat celebrated the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Institute. There were many events as can be seen on social media. Despite it being the holiday period, Marist communities gathered to remember our history, to thank God for the gift of the charism of Marcellin Champagnat and to dream about a New Beginning.

The General Council made a conscious decision to be physically present in different parts of the Marist world on this date: Argentina (Br Víctor Preciado), Bangladesh (Br Emili Turú), Kenya (Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez), Rome (Brothers Josep Maria Soteras and Eugène Kabanguka), La Valla (Br Joe McKee) and Sri Lanka (Br Michael De Waas).

Our #MillionMarists campaign had hoped to connect 1 Million Marists around the world yesterday through social media. The campaign successfully reached over 2.5 Million Marists around the world with over 5.5 million views of shared social media posts! We invite everyone throughout the year to continue using this sign of unity among the Marist family via social media networks.

Our website will continue to cover the events taking place in Administrative Units over the coming months.

A reminder that the General Council foresees two other important dates Council to celebrate the Bicentenary: June 6, the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, and September 8, the opening of the General Chapter in Colombia.



MARIST STUDENTS RETURN TO CLASSROOMS IN HAITI

Marist Works in Haiti are slowly resuming their activities, after hurricane Matthew damaged many buildings on Oct. 4 and killed over 800 people.

The Marist schools of Dame Marie and Latibolière resumed lessons, as well as in the Nativité School, where students returned to the classrooms on Nov. 7. The classrooms had not been repaired yet, but the director provisionally enabled the students to have a place in some of the rooms and in a few hallways.

In Fatima, the Brothers worked intensely to be able to begin classes on Nov. 14. Five rooms, of the eight existing ones, were available for the students.

The rooms of the school of Latibolière were already available to use on Nov. 7.

Unfortunately, a strong rainstorm did not allow students back to school until Nov. 14, too.

The Marist Brothers and the students continue to work to sort out the great damage caused by the hurricane and to improve the conditions in order to facilitate access to the classrooms.



The Brothers express their sincere gratitude to all the benefactors. Their help allowed students to return quicker to school.

There are still other reparations to be done and the Marist solidarity structures (FMSI, SED, Mexico Occidental Province) continue to offer funding to help the country's Marist community.

INTERNATIONAL MARIST SOLIDARITY IN HAITI

RÉGINALD SAUVAGEAU - LAY CANADIAN MARIST

Réginald Sauvageau is a lay Canadian Marist who has been committed for a long time to the Institute. After a few years teaching as a religious Marist, his work as a lay educator continued to be linked with the Marists. When he retired, he offered his services to the community so that they could count on him for any need they may have. He worked as a teacher in Vanuatu and later in Haiti as a builder, on several occasions. Haitian workers would call him "engineer" due to his talent and manual ability.

Last October, he was in Jérémie continuing the construction work of a community centre attached to the novitiate. There, he was surprised by hurricane Matthew. He immediately showed his solidarity with the brothers and with the population: he decided to stay in the place and to contribute to rebuilding the Marist institutions and support the humanitarian aid.

His collaboration would not be possible if it were not for the consent of his wife Monique, who encourages him to continue with his service and commitment. Thank you Réginald! Thank you, Monique!

Below is his testimony on his experience of collaborating in Haiti.

The destructive force of a storm like Hurricane Matthew that shook Haiti in early October, has been surprising.

The spontaneous outburst of the generosity of the Marist international community in the face of this misfortune that hit Haiti has been admirable.

These are the first feelings of a Marist

volunteer who has been working for several years in the mission of Haiti.

Without giving in to discouragement, which on the other hand was understandable, the Marist communities and the Haitians of the area began to work to clean the house, to build temporary shelters and to repair the roofs with the materials they had and with the

strength they had left.

But religious and Marist laity had a greater concern: to repair schools damaged by winds of over 250 km / hour.

The quick and effective response of the Mexican Marist authorities was a powerful stimulus for all of us. Our most sincere thanks to the com-

LATEST DECEASED BROTHERS

- 28/12/2016:** Julio Cagigas Vidal
Prov. Compostela - Spain, León
- 28/12/2016:** Roger Marragou
Prov. L'Hermitage - France
- 26/12/2016:** Paul Sung Pao Shu
Prov. East Asia - Malaysia
- 23/12/2016:** Patrick Lally - Prov.
United States of America
- 22/12/2016:** Ramon Alipio Val-
buena García - Prov. Norandina -
Colombia
- 15/12/2016:** Benoît Bénigaud
Província L'Hermitage - France,
Saint Paul-Trois-Châteaux
- 09/12/2016:** Gérard Lamontagne
Província Canada
- 05/12/2016:** Teófilo Martínez Bu-
jedo - Prov. Compostela - Spain
- 01/12/2016:** Santiago Rosa Ur-
quiza - Prov. Santa María de los
Andes - Chile
- 25/11/2016:** Esteban Aparicio
Mansilla - Prov. Mediterránea -
Spain
- 16/11/2016:** Antônio Cecchin
Prov. Brazil Sul-Amazônia
- 15/11/2016:** Marino Costana
Miguel - Prov. Compostela - Spain,
- 02/11/2016:** Julio Faltracco
Prov. Cruz del Sur - Argentina
- 31/10/2016:** Jean-André Vincent
Prov. L'Hermitage - France
- 31/10/2016:** Kevin Blyth - Prov.
Australia
- 26/10/2016:** Jean-Yves Ferland
Prov. Canada
- 25/10/2016:** William James McA-
voy - Prov. Australia
- 22/10/2016:** Aloysio José Müller
Prov. Brazil Sul-Amazônia
- 21/10/2016:** Narciso Julio García
Díez - Prov. Compostela - Spain
- 16/10/2016:** Ludwig Spitzer
Prov. Europe Centre-Ouest / West
Central Europe - Germany
- 16/10/2016:** Pedro Marcon
Prov. Brazil Sul-Amazônia
- 11/10/2016:** Denis Itumah
Prov. Nigeria
- 06/10/2016:** Syllas Gomes
Prov. Brazil Centro-Norte
- 06/10/2016:** Laurent Beauregard
Prov. Canada
- 10/09/2016:** John Hyland
Provincia Europe Centre-Ouest /
West Central Europe - Ireland

munities around the world who have contributed generously.

Also worth mentioning is the work of Brother Sergio Cáceres for his coordinating the purchase of materials and the distribution of available resources.

Personally, I have been involved in the planning and execution of the repair work on the roofs of the schools La Natividad and Fatima de Dame-Marie, two schools run by the Marist Brothers.

The Haitian workers involved were effective in helping to repair enough number of spaces so that the classes could be opened two weeks after the hurricane, with consequent joy on the part of students and teachers.

The principals of both schools have

shown good wit when relocating groups or distributing students in safe hallways. Once again, the difficulties that arise awaken qualities hidden in the shadows. For some weeks, students and workers lived together every day, encouraging each other and showing mutual gratitude.

As a lay volunteer in the Marist world for over twenty years, I would like to suggest to the laity who believe in the Marist mission, that they should not hesitate to participate, according to their possibilities and their capacities.

We have the next General Chapter to lay the foundations of a solid international organisation of lay people eager to work with religious in the development of international solidarity, following the example of Marcellin Champagnat.

URUGUAI: MARIST EXPERIENCE OF ATTENTION TO THE MIGRANT POPULATION



In October of 2014, the first refugee Syrian families arrived to the Marist house Saint Joseph in Montevideo from Lebanon. The initiative of the President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay was made concrete with the arrival of five families, all with reference adults and mostly children and young people; 42 people in total.

The aim was to create a space safety and comfort, and several teams of professionals - including Marist educators and people of other organisations - implemented projects so that the newcomers could help learn the language and the Uruguayan culture and start walking towards greater autonomy in order to integrate themselves the best way possible in society.

MARIST WORLD - BICENTENARY



Luján, Argentina



Salamanca, Spain



Giasnogor, Bangladesh



Australia



Nairobi, Kenya



La Valla, France

The first group was housed for about three months in the San José house, until a first evaluation of the process. From the start, the Uruguayan government provided for the integration of all migrants into the local education system, at the corresponding levels, and provided for permanent accommodation for each family, as well as work solutions for adults.

The Marists were in charge of developing two projects in the social and

educational area. During the first months, before going to their definite families, the following projects were implemented:

Cultural insertion for adapting to Uruguayan environment, for getting to know the areas, the customs, the way of living, the country's characteristics and the aspects of daily life that they must know to make their own decisions.

Recreational accompaniment to allow the deployment of skills and the acquisition of tools in a climate of respect and reciprocity.

The specific objectives of this proposal included:

fostering a climate of encounter, respect, work and reciprocity between migrants and recreators; promoting the development of the expressive dimension of migrants, through the exercise of different tools and resources; encouraging exploration and encounter with Uruguay's natural and cultural environment, promoting reciprocity, exchange, respect and care for the environment; favouring the discovery of the body as an instrument of enjoyment and deployment of skills; promoting teamwork, cooperation and forms of collective action, as a privileged means for the resolution of situations; accompanying the acquisition of playful tools that favour the social insertion of the migrants in the Uruguayan culture.

APP "MARISTS": NEW MOBILE APP ENABLES FAST ACCESS TO MARIST WORLD NEWS

Download the APP:

- Android (Google Play): <https://goo.gl/55LV0F>
- Apple (App Store): <https://goo.gl/0J0d4Z>



BROTHERS JEFF CROWE AND ÁNGEL MEDINA VISIT THE COMMUNITY IN TABATINGA



The international community of Tabatinga (Project LaValla200>), within the Marist Region of America-Sur, is situated on the border between Colombia, Peru and Brazil. The community has been building up to its full complement since September 2016: Peggy Vivas from Venezuela, Veronica Rubí from Argentina, Br Justin Golding from Australia and Br. Iñigo García Blanco from Spain.

Brothers Jeff Crowe and Ángel Medina, appointed by the General Council as the formation team for participants in the Lavalla200> Initiative, visited the community in Tabatinga from 2nd to 9th December.

Br Justin has written an account of the visit:

"It was with joy that we welcomed Angel and Jeff to Tabatinga. The week together was filled with various activities to help them, and us, deepen our knowledge about the reality of life in this part of Amazonia - life that transcends the borders of Brasil to Peru and Colombia. One of the highlights was the opportunity to visit Atalia do Norte, a small town west of Tabatinga on the banks of the Amazon.

Here we encountered Diana, a lay missionary of the organisation CIMI (Missionary Commission for Indigenous Peoples), which is a work of the National Conference of Bishops in Brazil. Diana has many years experience of working with communities of indigenous people deep in

the Amazon in the areas of education and health.

She generously shared stories of her experience with us, which has enriched our knowledge about possibilities for Marist works in the future.

Apart from the opportunity to share stories, the journey to Atalaia gave Angel and Jeff the chance to experience the magnitude and power of the Amazon river, and to even take a quick swim! Other places that were visited to highlight the vastness of the mission in Tabatinga and beyond were Islandia and Santa Rosa, two communities in nearby Peru, along with different barrios in Tabatinga itself. Here the Brothers were exposed to the various communities

that make up the Parish of the Holy Angels in Tabatinga - a parish that relies heavily on the work, generosity and faith of the local people.

Further to the various excursions here and there, the week together provided moments of formal and informal fraternal dialogue. The opportunity to continue the personal accompaniment that began in San Martino a Monte, Italy was appreciated, as well as some formal times together to further develop the process of building an apostolate which focuses on the needs of vulnerable children, and is in sync with the vision of LaValla 200>. Thanks to Jeff and Angel for their time, wisdom, patience and fraternal care of each of us."

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2017

CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS OF SECRETARIATS

Jan. 2: Celebration of the Bicentenary of the Institute: superior general Brother Emili Turú in Bangladesh for the opening of the new school; vicar general Brother Joe McKee at La Valla, France; Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez, general councillors, at the Marist International Centre in Nairobi; General councillor Brother Víctor Preciado in Lujan, Argentina; general councillor Brother Michael de Waas in Sri Lanka; Brothers Eugène Kabanguka and Josep Maria Soteras, general councillors, at the general house.

Jan. 3 – 6: Conference of Marist Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC) in Nairobi, Kenya: Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Antonio Ramalho, general councillors.

Jan. 9- 10: CSAC initial formation workshop in Nairobi: general councillor Brother Ernesto Sánchez and director of Brothers Today Secretariat, Brother Tony Leon.

Jan. 9 – 13: Sustainability Commission meeting in Rome: general councillor Brother Víctor Preciado and Libardo Garzón, economo general.

Jan. 16 – March 31: Plenary session of the general council.

Jan. 18 – 29: Rights of Children Committee gathering for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva: Brothers Manel Mendoza and Evaristus Kasambwe, FMSI coordinators of children's rights.

Jan. 23 – 24: Assembly of Councils of Mission of Europe in Guardamar, Spain: Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede, the new director and the assistant director of the

Secretariat of Mission.

Jan. 26 – 28: Plenary of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life: superior general Brother Emili Turú.

Feb. 8 – 14: Meeting of the Brothers Today International Commission in Rome: Brothers Tony Leon and Hipólito Gómez, director and assistant director of the secretariat Brothers Today.

Feb. 20 – 25: General Mission Committee gathers in Rome: Brothers Josep Maria Soteras and Víctor Preciado, general councillors, and Brother Libardo Garzón, economo general. Also, Brothers Joao Carlos do Prado (former director of the Secretariat of Mission), Carlos Alberto Rojas (new director) and Mark Omede (assistant director).

Feb. 23 – 24: Meeting of the FMSI board: general councillor Brother Michael de Waas and economo general Br Libardo Garzón.

Feb. 21 – 26: Encounter of co-directors of the Secretariat of the Laity in Rome: Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity

Feb. 26 – 28: West Central Europe Provincial Council meeting in Rome

Feb. 27 – March 24: Meeting at the Human Rights Council in Geneva: Br Evaristus Kasambwe, FMSI.

LAVALLA200> REGION EUROPE

AN INTERCULTURAL AND INTERNATIONAL IN SIRACUSA, ITALY

The new international communities which are now in various stages of being established are in the following places: Tabatinga (Amazonia, Brazil), East Harlem (New York, United States), Mount Druitt (Sydney, Australia) and Siracusa (Sicily, Italy). The latter is the new community for the European Region.

It has been a topic for much reflection and discussion among the five Marist Provinces in Europe, e.g. during the recent meeting of the CEM



(European Marist Conference). The chairman of the CEM writes: "bearing in mind that this is a new community that is linked to all the Provinces of Europe, we encourage the Provinces, the Communities and the Brothers to show their closeness to them through communication and support." To comply with this, we gladly publish the following short report from Brother Michael Callinan.



The members of the Community of Siracusa: Gabriel da Silva, Br Onorino Rota, Mario Araya and Br Michael Callinan

Following a lengthy period of investigation the first Lavalla200> community in the European Region has begun to take shape. Things began in earnest a little under two months ago in Europe's newest Marist community in Siracusa, a small yet famous city on Sicily's south-eastern coast. The people of Europe are well aware of the demands being placed on various countries because of the arrival of people seeking asylum, and perhaps this is most pressingly felt in Italy, especially in the south.

The Italian island of Lampedusa, quite close to Libya, is the point for which many overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels head, with mixed success. To date, more than 150,000 people have arrived on the shores of Italy during 2016 alone. A significant number of these people are unaccompanied minors, the majority male. The educational and formational needs of these boys and young men is the intended focus of the Lavalla200> community in Siracusa.

This new community, intercultural and international, has been chosen from among those who participated in the Lavalla200> formation program in 2016. The members of the community are Mario Araya Olguín, 31, a lay Marist from Chile (Province of Santa Maria de los Andes), Michael Callinan, 49, a Brother from Australia (Province of Australia), Gabriel Bernardo Da Silva, 27, a lay Marist from Brazil (Province of Brasil Centro Sul) and Onorino Rota, 69, a Brother from Italy (Province of Mediterránea).

Br Onorino has been working on the establishment phase (along with others in the Province of Mediterránea) for

many months, and arrived first among the group in Siracusa. Once he had finalised arrangements with the Diocese of Siracusa regarding accommodation and other practical matters, Michael, Mario and Gabriel arrived a couple of weeks after each other as visas were granted.

The three non-Europeans are immersed in daily Italian language study, and the whole community has begun volunteering at a "first welcome" residential centre for unaccompanied minors about fifteen minutes north of Siracusa. The majority of the boys / young men in this centre are West African. This ministry is one of the investigation steps members of the community are undertaking; other lines of enquiry are also underway with the diocesan arm of Caritas Italia, the Italian Red Cross and several other local not-for-profit organisations.

There is clearly a need for education, formation and accompaniment of the young people seeking asylum, especially in this part of Europe. They have risked their lives to escape situations including violence, poverty, persecution and armed conflict. The members of the Lavalla200> Community are looking forward: their growing ability in Italian language serving them as bearers of hope and practical support to these young people reaching out for assistance. Already the initial involvement of the community members is being welcomed by the local church and the various not-for-profit agencies and associations, although it is very early in the community life and mission journey of the Lavalla200> Community.

Brother Michael Callinan

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