



## ENLARGED GENERAL COUNCIL IN AFRICA GATHERS IN KENYA

### TO DEEPEN, SHARE AND CELEBRATE



The General Council met on December 26 to 30, 2016 in the house of the Little Sisters of Saint Joseph in Nairobi, with the Provincials and Provincial Councils from all the Administrative Units of the African continent (Southern Africa, Eastern Central Africa, Nigeria, Western District Africa and Madagascar).

This encounter just as the other encounters of the Enlarged General Council held during the year, had three fundamental objectives: 1) to deepen on the sense of the new beginning for our vocation of Brothers called to be prophets and mystics in communion; 2) to share on the processes that the General Council

promotes for the whole Institute in preparation for the XXII General Chapter; 3) with a grateful heart celebrate together the Bicentenary of the Institute and the beginning of the third centenary. In order to obtain these objectives we worked on the document regarding the "Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church" as the conducting thread of the encounter.

**On the first day** we reflected considering fraternity, a gift which we give (the mission). For this we worked on the theme of the mission, becoming aware of our history and of our dreams. The theme of the New Models of Animation, governance and

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From January 3 – 6, Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez, general councillors, participated in a meeting of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC) in Nairobi, Kenya.

From January 9 – 10, Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, general councillor, and Tony Leon, the director of the Brothers Today secretariat, took part in a workshop on formation promoted by the CSAC.

On Tuesday afternoon, superior general Brother Emili Turú advised the Council of the Holy Cross Congregation on the subject of restructuring.

The meeting of the global team of the Sustainability of the Mission for Africa and Asia began on January 9, at the general house. Participants included the commission's members as well as Brothers Víctor Preciado, general councillor, Mario Meuti of FMSI, and Libardo Garzón, economo general.

On January 2, Marzia Ventimiglia began her work in the general house as director of FMSI.

Brother Marcelo De Brito, of the Cruz del Sur province, will be staying at the general house for the month to work on the Kosmos Application.

management of the Marist Mission was also presented, as well as the theme of the international communities in the Institute.

**On the second day** the theme of fraternity, a gift which we share (communion) was deepened. For this we worked on a dynamic on the different gifts which we have and place at the service of our communities, as well as in the service of leadership that we exercise in our Provinces and in the Institute. The theme of the Laity was also deepened concerning giving new energy to the life and Marist mission, especially what was done in the last encounter of the Regional Commissions held during the month of October in l'Hermitage. Finally, the process of the revision of the Constitutions was presented.

**For the third day** the chapter on Fraternity, a gift which we receive (Mystery) served as the basis. Here we worked on the theme of the interiority of our life, as well as the colloquy on initial formation which was held in l'Hermitage during the month of October 2015. In the afternoon, we had the celebration of the 200 years of the Institute in the Aula Magna of the MIUC (Marist International University College). There Brother Emili presented his video – the message on the occasion of the celebration of the new beginning of the Marist life. Then the Brothers of the Marist International Center (MIC) entertained the celebration with some African dances and we ended with a festive supper.

**On the fourth day** the theme proposed was how to be Brothers today in our Region. During some time in the morning, there was time to listen to Brothers Cyprian Gandebo (Rector of the University) and Théoneste Kalisa (Provincial of Eastern Central Africa) regarding the present situation of the Marist University Center (MIUC). At the end, after a time of exchange of ideas and concerns concerning the Institute and the reality of Africa, Brother Emili concluded the meeting inviting to continue to deepen on the content of three words: sustainability, care and facing the risk.

The encounter allowed having a greater contact and closeness between the General Council and the Provinces, as well as among the Administrative Units. It also allowed us to confirm the great Marist vitality that exists in the African continent, statistically expressed in the number of young in formation for the Marist life: Scholastics (61) in Nairobi (MIC); three novitiates (56 novices) and 65 postulants.

On Dec. 30 in the afternoon and the morning of the 31st, the Provincial Councils continued meeting in order to work on the theme of the New Models for the Region of Africa, coordinated by Brother Mark Omede and Luca Olivari, with the support and the important previous work of the African Commission of the Mission.

Then there was the expression of gratitude and thanking to all the Brothers in Nairobi for their welcome and availability in helping with the logistics of the encounter.

## BANGLADESH: BR EMILI INAUGURATES THE MARIST SCHOOL IN GIASNOGOR

### “THE PERIPHERY IS TODAY THE CENTER OF THE MARIST WORLD”

Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, celebrated the Bicentenary of the Foundation of the Institute accompanied by the Marists of Bangladesh.

He participated in the inauguration of the School Saint Marcellin, built for the children of the workers of the tea plantations. The importance of his presence remains embodied in his words: “The periphery is today the center of the Marist world”.

Brother Eugenio Sanz Uwavutse writes the following on the inauguration of the Marist work:

“We have just opened the High School in Giasnogor. It has been the summit of a long journey of the conception, preparation, fund raising, and construction, recruitment of professors and pupils, formation of professors, etc. Now begins a new stage, the con-



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### REGIONAL NOVITIATE

The new novitiate of the America Sur region began on January 2 in Cochabamba, Bolivia, with the arrival of the formators: brothers Isidro Azpeleta Sebastián, Claudio Apelido, Rubens Falqueto e Sebastião Ferrarini. Its six novices will arrive from Brazil, Argentina and Peru on January 20.

### VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Several high school students met on January 6 and 7 with the community of the Marist School of Carcavelos, Portugal, for a vocational experience. The young people asked themselves who they are and what they want to do in their lives that would follow the ideal of Marcellin Champagnat.

### EXPERIENCE OF INTERIORITY

The Province of Mexico Occidental is promoting a meeting for teachers this week in La Chona, whose aim is to promote an experience of interiority, inviting them to recognize the inner path as a path of wisdom.

## MARIST CALENDAR

Jan. 10: the first Marist missionaries arrived in New Zealand (1838)

Jan.12: the first Marist Brothers arrived in Koumra, Chad (1993)

Jan.15: The first Marist Brothers left for Venezuela (1925); World Day of Migrants and Refugees

crete realization of the educational project with the boys and girls of the tea plantations.”

But these days we have counted on the presence of Brother Emili Turú. Before leaving Bangladesh, Br Emili left us some words full of sense for us. He said he liked our project because it is a CLEAR PROPOSAL which opts for the intercultural (in our school there are Bengali, Mandi, Urao, Karia, Tripura, Kashia professors and pupils), the interreligious (Muslims, Hindus, Christians) and the inter-congregational ecclesial work (collaboration Marist Brothers, Marist Missionary Sisters, the Religious of the Holy Cross).

As he wrote in one of his posts in Facebook commenting on a photo of the group of the first professors of our school: “First Marist Professors in Bangladesh: Christians, Muslims, and Hindus, for a better world.”



**Christians,  
Muslims, and  
Hindus, for a  
better world**

Br Emili Turú



## CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENARY

### AT LA VALLA AND AT NOTRE DAME DE L'HERMITAGE



The celebration of the Bicentenary at La Valla and at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage with the presence of Br. Joe McKee, the Vicar General, took place during two days. Approximately 500 persons participated in everything or in part, in these celebrations in the places of origin. On Monday, January 2, at 15.30, in the Church at La Valla in Gier, it was by

a Mass, at the same time, simple and beautiful that we began the celebrations of the Bicentenary. An Assembly of approximately 300 persons, formed by Brothers and Laity, by the faithful of the Parish Saint Ennemond in Gier, friends of the Brothers, fervently participated in the Mass of thanksgiving, presided over by Mgr. Sylvain Bataille,

## MARIST WORLD



Vietnam: The 3 communities and friends celebrate the Bicentenary in Saigon



Brazil: 75 years of religious life of Br Eugênio Franco, in Uberaba



Kenya: Annual Assembly of Provincials of Africa - Nairobi



Brazil: Celebrating the Bicentenary in Curitiba



India: St. Marcellin Higher secondary School Mangamanuthu



Philippines: Young Brothers' Gathering

the new Bishop of St. Etienne. Several symbolical objects as well as a very beautiful floral decoration gave a festive and very evocative character of the Marist reality in that Mass.

After that in the great hall of the first floor of the Champagnat House, Brothers Joe McKee and Pere Ferré (Superior of the Province of L'Hermitage) unveiled the commemorative plaque which marked this Bicentenary.

It is a work of art carried out by M. Jean François Telley the symbolism of which was presented by Brother Michel Morel. The third part was carried out in the hall of the Feasts graciously made available by the Municipality to the Brothers.



Jean Claude Flachet, the Mayor of La Valla, Mr. François Rochebloine, deputy of the circonscription; Mgr. Sylvain Bataille, Brother Pere Ferré, each one in his own way, evoked what this Bicentenary represented being celebrated in this place of origin. Brother Joe McKee presented, the video message addressed by Brother Emili Turú, to all the Marists of the whole world for this anniversary day of the foundation.

On Tuesday, January 3, different activities allowed the participants to discover and to live other aspects of Marist life of yesterday and of today.

A conference by Brother André Lanfrey, entitled: « To found the work of Mary as God wants it », has no doubt helped to understand better the complexity of the process of the foundation of our Institute, forcing somewhat the classic approach which has been made in our "official" books of the origin. Then followed the propositions of different working groups: one on Marist Spirituality animated by Br. Maurice Goutagny; another one, by Br. André Déculty, on the Marist vocation, starting with an exposition, both of which were greatly appreciated and were followed by a good number of persons. At the end of the morning, Br. Joe McKee presented, in the form of a slideshow, the great orientations of the Institute for the coming years, particularly through the concrete projects already being carried out: Lavalla 200 communities, the Project « Brothers » in Lebanon; projects

marked by the inter-cultural dimension, of communion Brothers-Laity and of the presence in the geographic and existential peripheries of our societies.

In the afternoon, at 14.30, other persons from around joined the groups to see the theater presentation « The 5th Gospel », evoking the message of the life of Br. Henri Vergés, prepared by Francesco Agnello and interpreted by Jean-Baptiste Germain. This was, without any doubt, the act most charged with emotion of these celebrations. Two-hundred persons thus discovered the life completely surrendered of this disciple of Champagnat », Brother and educator of the young Algerians, murdered on May 8, 1994.

And at the end a celebration in the Chapel, animated by Br. Jean-Pierre Destombes, starting from the symbol of the table, closed these two days of celebration, each one was invited to take his place at the table of renewal. These few words written in the Golden Book opened for this anniversary summarize quite well, it seems, what the participants to these encounters have lived: « And anew, again two wonderful, warm, welcoming, fraternal days, on the occasion of the Bicentenary. A wholehearted thank you for having allowed us to live such hours of evangelical fraternity... and a discovery of admiration of the "Marist Brothers"! »

- Brother Michel Morel

## THE BICENTENARY CELEBRATION IN MARIST AFRICA

A celebration of the Bicentenary at the general house included the participation of the members of the general administration and the presence of two general councillors, Brothers Josep Maria Soteras and Eugène Kabanguka,

Several laity, particularly from Napoli and of the San Leone Magno School of Rome, as well as brothers of Marist communities of Italy also attended.

Brother Antonio Sancamillo, superior of the house, welcomed participants before the manger.

Then Brother Josep Maria showed the video of Brother Emili Turú.

Afterwards, they all participated in the mass celebrated by the parish priest of the general house.

The event ended with fraternal lunch.

## THE BICENTENARY CELEBRATION IN MARIST AFRICA

### MARIST INTERNATIONAL CENTER (MIC), NAIROBI

In the afternoon of Jan. 1, Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Antonio Ramalho, general councillors, coordinated a time of reflection on the Institute and on the Marist vocation as an introduction to the day of the bicentenary.

It culminated with a prayer vigil in the MIC's big chapel, where they all offered their commitment to the new beginning, and lit a candle around a large luminous 200, also made of candles, and at the feet of a statue of the Good Mother .

On the morning of Jan. 2, a solemn Eucharistic concelebration, presided over by Nairobi's auxiliary bishop, David Kamau, brought together the 72 Brothers of the MIC, the two general councillors, the five provincials and the superior of the district of Africa, other Brothers of several African countries and a large group of religious and friends of the house. The chapel had several Marist motifs, some of them especially related to



the bicentenary, and the three attitudes proposed by Brother Emili were also recalled: gratitude, forgiveness and commitment.

Marist and African music, accompanied at times by dances and palms, gave a lot of life to the liturgy and also accompanied the fraternal lunch.

## CELEBRATING THE INSTITUTE'S BICENTENARY IN LUJAN, ARGENTINA

### BR VÍCTOR PRECIADO PARTICIPATES IN THE CELEBRATION AT THE CRUZ DEL SUR PROVINCE

Brother Víctor Preciado, general councillor, participated in the bicentenary celebration of the Institute's foundation with Marists of the Cruz del Sur province in Lujan, Argentina.

On the morning of January 2, they gathered for the inauguration of the new chapel, dedicated to deceased Marists, located at the Villa Marista.

The chapel where they prayed is a renovated place full of life, memory and history.

They then took part in a Eucharistic celebration in the Basilica of Lujan, along with the bishop, the Apostolic Nuncio and several priests that have been accompanying the Little Brothers of Mary for several years.

The participants of the Mass included brothers, directors, employees,



The new chapel, located in the Villa Marista

families and children who live out the dream of Marcellin Champagnat throughout the three countries of the Province: Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina.

Finally, the group gathered for lunch with a large group where the first Little Brothers of the Villa in Lujan had lived in, located in the area of the Villa Marista.



During Mass at the Basilica of Lujan



Having lunch at the place where the first Little Brothers of the Villa in Lujan had lived in, located in the area of the Villa Marista.

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