



MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

A VIDEO ON THE HISTORY OF THE MARIST CHARISM



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

During the third week of the plenary session, the general council spent time to studying the proposal of creating the General Center of the Marist Mission, to studying the topic of our protection of minors policy and the provisional text of our Constitutions and issues of the Administration. During the morning of Feb. 3, several members of the General Council will participate in a seminar on human trafficking at the Gregorian University titled "They are just children! Not slaves." Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas Car-

vajal, from the Norandina Province, joined the community of the General Administration on Jan. 29 to take up his post as director of the Secretariat of Mission. Br Mark Omede of Nigeria, assistant director of this Secretariat, already arrived in early January. Brothers Ángel Medina and Jeff Crowe, commissioned by the General Council for the formation and guiding of participants in the Lavalla200> Project, visited the new community last week that is working with unaccompanied migrant minors in Syracuse, in southern Italy.

The general house communication office has launched a video to convey the message of Saint Marcellin in Marist centres worldwide.

This 10 minute video, prepared in collaboration with the Tabor Producciones company (Audiovisuales Clar-et) in Barcelona, tells the story of the Marists of Champagnat, beginning with the vocation of Marcellin. Although it is a cartoon, the video can be offered to different audiences. You can find it on our YouTube (<https://goo.gl/mPOZTK>), channel in five languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian. You can download it to your computer using the tools that are available on the network, such as www.savefrom.net.

MAPAC GETS NEW RECTOR: BROTHER JOHN HAZELMAN

‘JOHN BRINGS INTERNATIONAL MARIST INVOLVEMENT AND PERSPECTIVE’

Brother John Hazelman has been appointed as the new rector of the Marist Asian Pacific Center for a term of three years, replacing Brother Peter Rodney.

Superior general Brother Emili Turú made the appointment on the recommendation of the MAPAC Board of Superiors.

Br Peter called on the MAPAC community to thank and to welcome him and underscored that “in addition to first-hand experience of the dynamics of our intercultural formation community, John also brings international Marist involvement and perspective, and proven capability in leadership and administration.”

The former rector also thanked John for his “generosity in putting aside his ministries in the Pacific to return to MAPAC.”

Br John, who will take up office in April 1, was also elected by the Pacific District to be their representative in the upcoming XXII General Chapter.

Brother John was born on Oct. 6, 1968 in Western Samoa and made his first profession on Nov. 21, 1992.



He graduated from MAPAC in 1998 and made his perpetual profession on Jan. 20, 2001.

He holds a Master’s degree in pastoral counselling from La Salle University in Manila.

He also studied at the Institute of Religious Formation in Chicago and

at the Formation Training Institute in Manila.

He was a staff member of MAPAC from 2005 – 2011, during which time he was vice rector and acting rector (for six months).

He is currently the principal at the Marist Primary School Mulivai in Samoa.

MARISTS OF LISBON WELCOME REFUGEES

HEARTS THAT ARE OPEN TO HELPING AND WELCOMING



During the summer of 2015, in the face of the growing wave of refugees seeking refuge in Europe, Pope Francis launched the challenge to parishes and religious houses to open their homes and welcome them. There were also appeals, with the same goal, made from the government and civil society.

The Compostela Marist Province offered several places for that aim. In Portugal, the Marists of Carcavelos, Lisbon and the Champagnat Foundation committed themselves to welcome two families. Their commitment included support in finding shelter, in learning the language, in putting the children in schools, sorting out their health care and helping them find them work. The expectations they first had were lessened due to the slow bureaucratic processes of the European Un-

ion. Some people and institutions eventually gave up receiving refugees.

In November of 2016, more than a year later, we received concrete news about a family that was going to arrive. It was necessary to reactivate the efforts and the procedures of receiving, the best way possible, those who knocked at our doors. On Dec. 20, some of us went to the airport to receive with open arms a father, a mother that is expecting, and three children aged three, seven and nine. Another family was also arriving, related to the previous one, which was to be received by another institution in a different area of Lisbon. Sharing the needs, openness and dialogue between the families and institutions involved has allowed for the two families to stay close to each other.

Thanks to everyone's collaboration, the Marist family, students, parents, brothers and Marist educators, the process has gone smoothly, despite the difficulties of belonging to

different cultures, but desirous of beginning a new stage in life. The children immediately joined the Marist School of Carcavelos at the beginning of the second trimester. Parents have also begun to learn the language and take the first steps of gradual integration into society.

The civil authorities have also requested that the Marist House of Ermesinde open its doors to receiving unaccompanied minors. A small group of these children is about to find a place to live, grow, love and be loved.

During Christmas and the celebration of the Marist Bicentenary, some people could not enjoy time for themselves, for their own families and projects, but they knew how to open their hearts to this type of welcome and help. They made a Christmas happen and are continuing to make it happen each day and are making the Institute take its shape of a "new beginning."

Br António Leal

DAME-MARIE, THREE MONTHS AFTER THE HURRICANE MATTHEW

A NEW BEGINNING

|| Thank you, whole heartedly, to all those who support the Marist communities and works in Haiti. We feel this fraternal communion... ||



We share the witness of Br. Frantzley Exama, from Haiti, who describes how the School Our Lady of Fatima, in Dame-Marie, has succeeded in being creative and in finding the strength to overcome the tragedy provoked by the hurricane Matthew and how it has headed towards *a new beginning*.

The Marist world has shown itself very generous and in great solidarity towards us after the passage of the hurricane Matthew. Thank you, whole heartedly, to all those who support the Marist communities and works in Haiti. We feel this fraternal communion which makes of us brothers and friends.

Here, in Dame-Marie, three months after the hurricane Matthew, the basic

services are resuming little by little. Our two Schools Nativity and Fatima which are still under re-construction have re-opened their door causing the greatest joy to the pupils and their parents. Those were days of hard work in order to make the sun of hope shine again. During all this time there have been also some very beautiful local initiatives of cooperation which we have lived. For example, with the support of the Marist com-

munity of Dame-Marie, the professors of Fatima decided to create a school garden. We have cleaned, moved the earth with the spade, and prepared the earth to sow the seeds. Then, we have created a context of learning for our pupils outside the walls of the classroom and through example and practice. We share our experiences and our knowledge in a community "kombit" (corvee – a working party) in an atmosphere of simplicity and joy.

MARIST WORLD



Lebanon: Fratelli Project giving English lessons for refugees in Rmeileh



Spain: Assembly of European Mission Councils, Valladolid



Italy: Br Marcelo Bonhemberger (Brasil Sul-Amazônia) - Ph.D. in philosophy



Samoa: Core Team Champagnat Marist planning activities for the year 2017



Cuba: Community of Cienfuegos



Vatican: Plenary of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life

We take care of our pupils, of our garden, of our dear Haiti. Our educators feel proud to share with you their own experience.

After the cyclone Matthew passed by which devastated four geographic departments of the country particularly ours, the department of the Grand'Anse, unthinkable that we would let our feet drag, but we decided to set up certain activities and the priority was given to the creation of a school garden.

Why a school garden?

Taking into account the losses that have been registered on the agricultural level and considering the problems of economic order, the school could not function. Then conscious of the situation, the teaching team of the Congregation National School Our Lady of Fatima met and took the initiative to begin the garden on October 20, 2016. They prepared and made available a piece of land, 25 m. long and 5 m. wide; this garden bears the name of « garden of hope ». There we plant products such as: tomatoes, cabbage, carrots, chili, peppers, and eggplant. Our greatest concern and care was not to be lazy and let go, for it is necessary to begin to work, to plant, to reconstruct. In doing this, we give our pupils the example of courage, of knowing how to do and of knowing how to be. We teach them to adopt an attitude of knowing how to face a situation after a catastrophe. It is necessary to continue to live to work in order to be able to take care of our needs.

The harvest that we will get will serve to improve the nourishment for the children in the school cafeteria. The profit which we will get will be destined to cover certain cultural and social recreational expenses for the children. Placing apart the question of nourishment, we then consider some educational notions such as: participation in decision making, the capacity to assume responsibilities, collaboration, and the improvement of the urban environment. In this way, lessons are given: the observation of natural sciences (germination and reproduction), mathematics, the sciences of environment. The Garden of Hope is an experience and a tool of practical learning in which the children can reproduce at home the school garden. In this way they can produce some food for themselves and for others and prosper in their corner of the country.

It is always good to be useful to oneself and to others. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to be a artisan determined to overcome the difficulties that present themselves. We must finish with the attitude of always waiting or expecting that others give us everything; it is necessary to make a personal effort before asking for the help of others. The pupils and the educators certainly drew great profit from this experience.

Your support and your advice will be most useful and we will give hope of a very fruitful harvest. "Let us dig and plant joyfully"... let us produce together!

Frantzley Exama, fms

PHILIPPINES: PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BROTHER JONNEL M. SISNEROS

Brother Jonnel M. Sisneros made his final vows on Jan. 21 in General Santos City, the Philippines. Provincial superior of East Asia, Brother Robert Teoh, received his vows on behalf of

superior general Brother Emili Turú. Over 200 people including brothers, lay mission partners, family members and relatives took part in the Eucharistic celebration. Br Jonnel M. Sisneros

was born the third of four children on 24 June 1990 in Monkayo, the Philippines. He first met the Marist Brothers in 2006 while working for a degree in accountancy in Mindanao. Br Jonnel then joined the brothers and finished the pre-novitiate formation in 2008, the novitiate in 2010 and the post-novitiate in 2013.



Br Jonnel M. Sisneros receives the Marist cross from Brother Robert Teoh

After the post-novitiate, he taught religious education and mathematics at Marist School Marikina from 2013 to 2015. Br Jonnel then taught religious education from 2015 to 2016 at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University Integrated Basic Education Department. Before making his perpetual profession, he took part in a two-month preparation course in Lomeri, Fiji. He is currently at the Marist School Marikina community on the outskirts of Manila.

Below is a text written by Br Radney M. Tio on Br Jonnel's profession.

CHAD: MARISTS OF KOUMRA COMMUNITY CELEBRATE THE BICENTENRY CELEBRATING MARIST MISSION IN THE DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA

On Saturday 7th of January 2017, the four Marist Brothers of Koumra Community, Tchad, working in Lycée Collège Marie Ketal came together with the teachers, aspirants, co-workers, priests, religious men and women, and former Marist Brothers to celebrate the two hundred anniversary of the Institute. The event started with the Eucharistic celebration lead by our Parish Priest Abbe Jacques Tamaya.

In his sermon, Abbe Tamaya reminded us that any jubilee is always a moment to give thanks to God for the wonderful things he has done in our lives. He described us a very young community that resembles the ones set up by Champagnat in the early days of the foundation of the institute. He continued that youthfulness always go along with so many challenges. He encouraged



the four Brothers to work very hard so that the 'Marist seed' planted in Tchad some 23 years ago may grow from strength to strength. He prayed that God should grant us more reasons to celebrate life in the

future and for more vocations in the Church especially to the Marists in Tchad.

After the mass, there was the celebration proper. The Country Rep-

representative of the District Superior, Br Succès Nandoumangar solemnly read out the address of the Superior General to all the Marists during this occasion titled MERCI, PARDON et ENGAGEMENT to the amazement and enrichment of everyone present.

Another discourse also came from Br Frederic Nadjji about the life of our founder and the early years of

the institute. He also enlightened the audience about our way of life, our charism and the works of the Marist Brothers in Tchad in particular and in the District of West Africa in general.

The Brothers shared the little food and drink they have prepared with their guest.

Br. Stanislaus-Mary NSOTAKA, fms

GENERAL HOUSE: SUSTAINABILITY OF THE MISSION IN AFRICA IN ASIA

GLOBAL TEAM WORK ON SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES TO THE MARIST MISSION

The Global Team for the Sustainability of the Mission in Africa in Asia gathered in Rome from January 9-13, 2017.

During these days, the team discuss about three themes:

We write to inform you of what we did during our meeting.

1. Evaluation of the Workshop I that took place in the Provinces of PACE, Madagascar and the two in South Asia.
2. The members of the Global Team from the AUs in which this project is being implemented presented to the Team what has been achieved so far

since the Workshop I. They presented successes and challenges experienced during the implementation process.

A progress report on the Sustainability Project was presented to the Superior General in the presence of some members of the General Council and members of the International Marist Mission Commission.

3. It was validated the methodological proposal for the Workshop II after some adjustments were made.

The global team now look forward to the Workshop II that will be coming up in the months ahead as follows: West Africa District (20-24 February 2017),

Madagascar (20-24 February 2017), PACE (5-12 March 2017), South Asia (June 2017)

The members of the Global Team are: Br Francisco Baeza (PACE), Br John Bwanali (Southern Africa – MIC), Br Michel Maminiana Razafimandimby (Madagascar), Br Celestin Okoye (Nigeria), Br Birkem Pascal Funsa (District West Africa), Br Mervyn Parera (South Asia), Br Geoff Kelly (District Asia), Br Jorge Gaio (Brasil Centro Sur - Asesor), June Alisson Westarb Cruz (Brasil Centro Sur - Asesor), Br Mario Meuti (FMSI), Libardo Garzón (General Administration), Br Víctor Preciado (General Council).



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