



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The General Council, which is continuing its plenary session until the end of March, is dedicating this week to working with the International Committee of the Marist Mission. On Feb. 24, it will meet with the Secretariat of the Laity.

The International Committee of the Marist Mission is meeting for the first time this week from Feb. 20 – 25, under the coordination of Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede, of the Secretariat of Mission. Other members include Brothers Josep Maria Soteras and Víctor Preciado, general councillors and Brother Libardo Garzón, economo general.

General councillor Brother Michael De Waas and economo general Brother Libardo Garzón will take part in a meeting with the Council of FMSI that will be held in the general house on Feb. 23 and 24.

From Feb. 12 – 26, the director and the codirectors of the Secretariat of the Laity will be meeting in the general house.

The director and assistant director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Tony Leon and Hipólito Pérez, are working this week with the Australian photographer Conor Ashleigh to prepare a book of photos of Marist Brothers worldwide.

GENERAL HOUSE STARTS PLANNING

BICENTENARY CELEBRATION HELD ON JUNE 6



The General House has started preparing for the Bicentenary celebration, which the General Council designated to be held on June 6, coinciding with the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

General Superior Brother Emili Turú and the Council convoked both brothers and laity of the general administration on Feb. 16 to share suggestions on how to organise the event.

The celebration will include a Mass, which will be presided by Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Vat-

ican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and to which many guests will be invited.

During the event, the authors of the three volumes of the History of the Institute will present their publications.

Another highlight of the celebration will be a photographic exhibition that describes the life of the brothers in different places of mission. The photos have been taken by Australian photographer Conor Ashleigh.



MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF BROTHERS TODAY

8 - 14 FEBRUARY

The coloured buds in the trees and the warmer days are just some of signs of the coming Roman Spring which welcomed the members of the International Commission of Brothers Today to the General House.

The eleven brothers representing each of the regions of the institute share various responsibilities in the various expressions in the animation of the Brothers life.

The members of the Commission are:

- Br Vincent Abadom – Formator at the Kumasi Novitiate – Nigeria
- Br Márcio Henrique da Costa – Vocation Ministry – Brasil Centro-Norte
- Br Cyprian Gandeebo – Formator at MIC (Marist International College) – West Africa
- Br Hipólito Pérez – Secretariat of Brothers Today
- Br Luis Felipe González – Province Leadership and Formation – México Central
- Br Tony Leon – Secretariat of Brothers Today
- Br Óscar Martín – Formator at Matola Novitiate – Compostela
- Br Peter Rodney – Formation at MAPAC (Marist Asia Pacific Centre) – Australia
- Br Ernesto Sánchez – General Councillor
- Br Lindley Sianosa – Province Leadership and Formation – East Asia
- Br Sefo Une – District Leadership – Pacific

During this week, this inter-cultural group shared the regional realities of Initial Formation, explored ways of raising awareness in Child Protection during initial formation as well as learning about the recent Vocation Animators program at the end of 2016.

The commission had the opportunity to meet the new brothers of the Mission Secretariat, Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas and Brother Mark Omede as they updated our understanding of the New Models. With awareness of the many developments of the Institute, a core group of brothers were invited to begin the preparation of a new initiative: A Gathering of African Marist Formators in Nairobi in July this year.

The practical experiences of the three brothers working in Africa along with the collective wisdom of the whole commission germinated many ideas to encourage best practices for the abundant vocations in this region. We were also blessed with the presence of the directors of Ongoing Formation from El Escorial, Brother Antonio Peralta and from Manziana, Brother Dennis Cooper.

With deep fraternal conversation, we listened, questioned and proposed ways of providing relevant and creative ways of nurturing the continuing formation of brothers for a fruitful New Beginning.

*Br Tony Leon
Secretariat of Brothers Today*

NEWS IN BRIEF

SAMOA

The Marist family of Samoa held a meeting and a Mass at the Cathedral of Mulivai to commemorate the week dedicated to sport. The forum of student leaders will be held from Feb. 22 – 26 and the country’s Marists will celebrate the Institute’s bicentenary on Feb. 25.

UMBRASIL

UMBRASIL held its thirteenth ordinary general assembly on Feb. 8 and 9 in Brasilia. The Council’s new president is Brother Inácio Etges, provincial superior of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia province. During the encounter, Brother Devis Fischer (Brasil Sul-Amazônia) acted as president, Brother Vanderlei Siqueira (Brasil Centro-Sul) as secretary and Brother Renato Augusto Silva (Brasil Centro-Norte) as treasurer. Twenty-five brothers of the three Marist provinces of Brazil took part.

VATICAN

Pope Francis received Father Vilson Groh, who is affiliated to the Institute and carries out his ministry in the peripheries of Florianopolis, Brazil, on Feb. 16 at the Vatican. The children that Fr Vilson looks after gave him a message to the Pope in which they said, “the Lord is the hope for those of us who live in the peripheries.” The pontiff responded with an affectionate video message, which you can watch with this link: <https://goo.gl/ungYEU>.



SPAIN: FORMATION PROCESS FOR 29 EDUCATORS OF COMPOSTELA

Educators of Marist centres of the Compostela province meet for the fifteenth time during a four week formation experience, separated throughout the school year and with a fifth week in Hermitage during summer.

The beginning of November marked the fifteenth advancement of “Hermitage, Escuela de Educadores (Hermitage, School of Educators – HEE),” made up of 29 educators.

The first week of this experience was held in Roxos, Santiago de Compostela, and on Saturday, Feb. 4, the second week of formation ended in Miraflores, Burgos.

The HEE is a unique opportunity to discover one’s self, to encounter the meaning of life, work, and one’s own vocation in the heart of the Marist family.

Based on self-knowledge and on coming near to Jesus, the group reflected on its mission as Marist educators and became aware that the school that evangelizes is the school that is Good News itself, due to the atmosphere that one breathes, the relationships that are generated, due to what is said, what is valued and the way the most important thing is cared for: the dignity of each person.



It is a very good experience (...) You stop to think about yourself and things you like. For me it was a break I needed at the right time.



In the words of one of the participants of the HEE, it is “a very good experience, you arrive tired for different reasons that form a part of your day to day live and there you leave it aside to take care of yourself, meet new people, and for experiences that enrich you as a person and as a teacher.

“You stop to think about yourself and things you like. “For me it was a break I needed at the right time.”

MARIST WORLD



United States: Marist High School Chicago participates in Kairos retreat



General House: Brothers Today prepares book with photos of Brothers



Nigeria: children's rights workshop for staff of Sacred Heart Marist College, Ejule



Bolivia: Novitiate América-Sul in Cochabamba



Mexico: Formarme 9 - Querétaro México Central



Samoa: Marist Family meets at Mulivai

PROVINCE OF CANADA PREPARES VOLUNTEERS FOR MARIST MISSION COLLABORATION FOR MISSION, INTERNATIONAL (CMI)

Since October 2016, a small and diverse group of volunteers have been formed in Canada under the guidance of the Secretariat for Collaboration for Mission, International.

Each one has a unique journey, they meet once a month to prepare for a transformative experience: volunteering abroad.

Some will go for a few weeks and others for a year!

In this PDF file, you can find out who the Canadian candidates are for Marist volunteer work: <http://freres-maristes.qc.ca>.

The Secretariat Cmi (Collaboration for mission, international) has the role of coordinating the establishment of international and interprovincial communities, which will be open to



lay and brother Marists serving in the vanguard of new areas of mission; strengthening the further develop-

ment of Mission Ad Gentes in Asia, and establishing a Marist volunteer service in support of our mission.



OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE INTERPROVINCIAL NOVITIATE LA VALLA, MEDELLIN

Six Colombians and two Brothers of the México Central Province officially entered the LaValla interprovincial novitiate in Medellin on Feb. 2.

The celebration included a Mass with the Provincial superiors of México Central and Norandina, Brothers José Sánchez and Cesar Rojas.

Other participants included provincial councillor of México Central Brother Justino Gómez; Brothers Laurentino Albalá

and Orlando Escobar, provincial administrator and provincial councillor of Norandina; Brother Carlos Saúl Corzo, of the Barrio Santo Domingo community of Norandina.

During the ceremony, Brother César expressed a few words of encouragement labelling this as an "important stage of falling in love with Jesus Christ." The Provincial Brothers placed the Marist cross on the new novices and the Brothers in charge of their formation gave them the book of the Constitutions.

GENERAL HOUSE: PROPOSED WORKSHOP BY THE SECRETARIAT OF LAITY FOR 2017

The Secretariat of Laity, echoing the process of the Institute for this year 2017, has scheduled a workshop that it will animate in different provinces.

It is aimed at laity and Brothers in charge of lay animation.

Its aim is to promote corresponsibility and the consensus in the proposals arising from the international meeting held last year at the Hermitage.

Such proposals were promoted by the same General Council that requested the Secretariat of Laity to present to the General Chapter "a framework regarding the identity of a lay Marist who feels the call to live out the Marist charism in the midst of the world. "It will involve the recognition of such identity within some form of Associa-



Eleven brothers and laity of Italy gathered at the general house in Rome on Feb. 11 to take part in a seminar promoted by the by Secretariat of the Laity.

tion, in communion with the brothers. The document will have an international character."

The Secretariat feels that it is a great opportunity to become aware of the need to "abandoning land that we have

known to enter new territory" (Br Emili). This encounter aims at contributing to building a new La Valla, as the motto of our Chapter says.

Underscoring that we build together, where us Marist brothers and laypeople feel we are co-creators of this new common home. The proposals that will be discussed and enriched in the workshop, would form part of a simple and honest contribution for a road map on a path of communion, within the

beginning of the Third Marist Centennial. The workshop also wants to provide the opportunity to live an experience of dialogue and conversations that transform.

As Brother Emili puts it, the process of transformation becomes, in some way, a goal; the dialogue becomes a seed of later transformations. This is also our wish with the proposal.

*Br Javier Espinosa, fms
Secretariat of Laity*

BOLIVIA: FORMATIVE ITINERARY OF PREPARATION FOR PERPETUAL PROFESSION

Fourteen young brothers and three other brothers took part on Feb. 5 in the fourth formative itinerary for brothers who are preparing themselves for perpetual profession.

The animation team affirms it hopes to transform their hearts in "new hearts" for the Institute's new beginning.

This year's itinerary includes four brothers of Brasil Centro-Norte, three of Brasil Centro-Sul, two of Brasil Sul-Amazonia, two of México Central, one of América Central, one of Norandina and one of Compostela (Spain).

There are three brothers in the team: Otalivio (Brasil Centro-Sul), Esteban (México Occidental) and Rodrigo Cuesta (América Central).

In these four months, they hope to "provide the young brothers with significant formation time in this second stage of the post-novitiate, as an opportunity to refine their response according to the "new way of being brothers" (21st General Chapter) and to reflect more on the option of the Perpetual Profession.

This goal is achieved through four major aspects: integration, anthropology, consecration and unification. These subjects are accompanied by various workshops, experience of apostolate and mission, living in community, inculturation and the Ignatian exercises.

Itinerary History

The formative itinerary is an initiative that began in Mar de la Plata in September 2008 during an extended general council meeting with the provincial councils of Brazil and Cono Sur. In 2011, the provincial superiors of Brazil and Cono Sur, in an encounter in Cochabamba, began organizing the itinerary giving enough time so that certain processes could begin and carried out.

The first itinerary began on March 7, 2011 in the Casa de la Juventud (Cochabamba, Bolivia). The itinerary has been repeated every two years (2013, 2015 and 2017), always in the same place.

Although the initiative was born for the brothers of Brazil and Arco Sur, it was

soon after opened to all of the brothers of America and other countries.

We can already see many of the fruits of this initiative in the lives of many of our young brothers.

Up to now, 58 young brothers have already gone through this process together with around 10 brothers who have formed the animating team.

May we continue to support and pray for these groups of young brothers so that their passion for the Kingdom and for the love of the charism fills their hearts and that, together with them, we fill our needy world with joy.

*Br Rodrigo Cuesta
Team coordinator 2017*



Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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