

## PONTIFF ACKNOWLEDGES 200 YEARS OF MARIST MISSION AND LIFE BROTHER EMILI TURÚ RECEIVED BY POPE FRANCIS

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

On April 10, a workshop began in Ecuador with the participation of Br Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity. It will finish on April 17.

Brother Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, is taking place in the Pastoral Youth Ministry Easter celebration in Les Avellanes, Spain, from April 12 – 17.

Another youth Easter celebration will take place in Ibagué, Colombia, on Thursday, April 13 until Sunday for the 40th anniversary of the Remar movement, with General councillor Brother Josep Maria Soteras.

General superior Brother Emili Turú will take part in a programme for preparation to perpetual profession in Cochabamba, Bolivia, from April 16 – 22.



Pope Francis received general superior Brother Emili Turú at the library of the Apostolic Palace on April 10, in the context of the Institute's celebration of the Bicentenary.

During the encounter, which began at 10am, Br Emili gave the pontiff a book of photographs of the Fratelli Project in Rmeileh, Lebanon, taken by Marco

Amato in 2016.

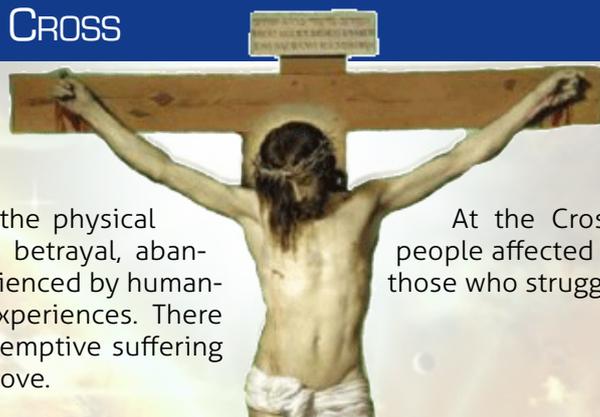
In turn, the holy father thanked him and made a dedication in a volume for the collaborators of the Project. He also sent a special blessing to the Blue Marists of Syria.

Pope Francis delivered a message to the Marists of Champagnat, which will be published in a few days.

### AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

We are in awe of a God who loves us without reserve.

We find a God who shares the physical and psychological suffering, betrayal, abandonment and violence experienced by humanity, and transforms these experiences. There we enter the mystery of redemptive suffering and learn humble fidelity in love.



The crucified Christ is the sign and deepest expression of a God who is love. (...)

At the Cross, we associate ourselves with people affected by failure and suffering, and with those who struggle for bread, justice and peace.

*Water from the Rock,  
No. 22 and 24*

## MADAGASCAR: TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION AND ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AFRICAN MISSION COMMISSION MEETING

The African Mission Commission (AMC) held its first annual meeting in Antsirabe, Madagascar from March 8 – 12.

All the members of the commission were present.

Luca Olivari took part in the meeting and facilitated the work on the initiatives on New Models. Brothers Carlos Alberto and Mark Omede from the Secretariat of Mission also were present.

The meeting discussed at length, the initiatives of the New Models project as Mandated by the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent after their meeting in January.

The team drafted a time-framed work plan on each of the initiatives.

The Commission will share with the Conference the progress report on the initiatives and seek the way



forward in the next meeting of the conference in July.

Other discussions centered on the two workshops that were proposed for this year, namely New Horizons Phase II and Marist Youth Ministry (MYM). The need to have a link Provincial who will work closely with

the African Mission Commission to facilitate communication and enhance efficiency was emphasized.

The Commission visited some Marist Mission in the Area and interacted with the young people in the mission.

## SPAIN: 300 YOUTHS CELEBRATE BICENTENARY

Salamanca was the city chosen by the Youth and Vocation Ministry Team of the Compostela province to celebrate the

bicentenary of the founding of the Marist Institute with the youth. The encounter, under the theme '200 and more,' gath-



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SPAIN

The Interprovincial communications team of the Spanish Marist Conference continues to work on elaborating a communication policy framework. The work is to be completed in June. The Interprovincial Communication Framework will include a vision and a global approach with the aim of guiding the internal and external communication policies to be followed by the four Marist provinces of Ibérica, Compostela, L'Hermitage, y Mediterránea.

### SRI LANKA

Six young men from China, Vietnam, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu made their first professions at the Marist International Tudella Novitiate in Sri Lanka on April 8.

### SWITZERLAND

In FMSI's endeavor to improve children's rights, it has submitted the Universal Periodic Review of Argentina, Peru, Zambia, Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. It is a review by the UN Human Rights Council of all countries done every four and a half years. The review date will be held in November during the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council working group. FMSI has submitted reports from these countries, together with other NGOs.

### COLOMBIA

An encounter of coordinators of groups of Marist laity and fraternities of Colombia took place from March 28 – 29. They gathered with a few Brothers to reflect on their path and organize this year's activities.

ered 300 youth from Castilla and Leon, Galicia, Asutrias and Portugal who belong to the province's youth movement MarCha, on April 1 and 2.

During these days, they reflected on the work done these past three years in preparation for the bicentenary celebration, based on the circulars of the superior general on the occasion of Montagne, Fourviere and La Valla year, and the invitation to live a universal fraternity based on each one's interior experience which enables us to form part of the Marist mission.

Participants included general councillor Brother Ernesto Sánchez, who took part in the panel of testimonies of Marist life together with Brothers Today Secretariat director Brother Tony Leon, who also animated an art workshop, and three laity with different life paths in the Marist world: Jorge Isidro, coordinator of the Youth and Vocation Ministry Team of the Iberica Province, Andreia Silva, educator of the Lar Marista de Ermesinde and María Bobillo, coordinator of the local animation team of the Ourense school and candidate of the formation programme of Lavalla200> International Communities for a New Beginning. They all shared with the rest of the participants their experience and vision of the Marist world, based on who they are and what moves them in this moment of their lives in the mission or in the service they are currently carrying out.

The event, of a celebrative character, helped the youths reflect on the future of the Marist mission in the area of youth and vocation ministry, opened to the call of universal fraternity in the Institute. It has also been a formative opportunity to discuss different areas linked to the education of children and youth in their free time, such as the care of their interiority, creative writing, art, dance, photography or theatre. One of the moments in which the youths were most energetic was on Saturday night during the concert of the BandAlegre group, which interpreted the Institute's history and the youth movement MarCha itself, through original songs and versions adapted for the occasion. BandAlegre is a group of young Marists who emerge from a dream and a project of two young brothers, Rui and Fabio, to whom he joins the passion to live and transmit God through music.

On Sunday morning, participants imagined and reinvented the L'Hermitage house, adapting it to the world's new realities for another 200 years. After the break, there was a Mass, in which participants, in the light of the Gospel, were invited to be salt and light, to be the relay of so many generations of brothers and lay people who since 1817 continue to realize the dream of Champagnat, to be the relief of so many generations of brothers and lay people who since 1817 continue to realise the dream of Champagnat. Finally, a few



## MARIST WORLD



Philippines: MAPAC - Farewell Brothers Peter Rodney and Rustico Lumbo



Brazil: Centro Social Marista Santa Isabel, Porto Alegre



Ghana: Kumasi



Syria: Aleppo, Palm Sunday



United States: Marist Young Adult and Adult Team



Greece: Winners of a mathematics competition - Lycée Léonin Néa Smyrni

words from Brother Tomás Briongos, Provincial, who began by asking young people 'What would Champagnat tell us today if he were here?' He encouraged young people to be salt and light for other young people, and gave thanks for what we are

and for the experience of Brother Lisardo García, Coordinator of the Youth and Vocation Ministry Team, and a festive meal among the participants to end the event and celebration of a life shared throughout the 200 years of the Marist Institute.

## PHILIPPINES: CHAMPAGNAT MARISTS WALKING TOGETHER

In order to foster further vitality of the charism of Champagnat Marists among the laity, the Philippine Sector of the

East Asia Province designated a core team of Lay Leaders to form the Philippine Sector Laity Committee.

The team's task is to ensure the promotion of the vocation of the Champagnat Lay Marists, the deepening of the new relationship of brothers and lay people, and the animation of missions of making Jesus known and loved in the way of Mary. The Laity Committee had its meeting last March 14-15, 2017 to organize for the Philippine Sector a Brothers-Lay Joint Formation scheduled on May 18-21, 2017.



Elma Rafil, Ivy Yecyec, Evangeline Cadeliña, Shiela Sabulao and Agnes Reyes prepared the module contents and the processes for the Joint Formation gathering. Br. Allan de Castro, and Br. Ador Santiago, the link councilor for the laity, were present to accompany the team in the preparation.

## MOZAMBIQUE: 24 NOVICES IN MATOLA

### 11 NEW NOVICES IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

On April 1, a celebration was held for 11 new first year novices who entered the novitiate of the Marist province of Southern Africa, located in Matola, Mozambique.

There are a total of 24 novices with this group of 11 (which includes four from Angola, one from Zambia, four from Malawi and two from Mozambique) and 13 second year novices. All these first year novices spent their last year of postulancy in Malawi, in the "Champagnat" postulancy.

Four brothers who are their formators are accompanying them in Matola. They include Brother Emmanuel Mwanlirenji, of Zimbabwe; Br Patrick Bwalya, of Zambia; Br António Pisco, of Portugal; and Br Óscar Martín Vicario, of Spain. The celebration of the entry into the novitiate was a simple and family act, but which also had the necessary solemnity. The presence of the provincial superior,



Brother Norbert Mwila, in the novitiate enhanced the celebration. The nine novices lived with intensity the mo-

ment of their "taking the habit" and the gesture of receiving the Constitutions, a key reference for their new stage.

## SPAIN: MARIST BICENTENARY IN LEON

### JOINT CELEBRATION OF MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS



On the day of the Annunciation, March 25, the Marists of Leon, Spain, celebrated together the Bicentenary of the Marist Brothers.

The three communities of Leon and the Marist Fathers that reside in Leon, 29 Brothers and four Marist Fathers, gathered in Champagnat to celebrate 200 years of the Marist Institute. Marist Father Ramón Fernández presid-

ed the Eucharistic celebration, during which he made many references to the Marist Bicentenary, to the feast of the Annunciation and to the Pro Life day that was celebrated in Spain. A meal, which marked the conclusion of the event, served to dialogue about what was previously lived and for participants to comment on Marist issues.



## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

### INSTITUTE ATTENDS UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

FMSI, an NGO of the Marist Institute, attended the Human rights council from Feb. 27 – March 24 in Geneva, Switzerland, to hear about issues on children's rights among other issues.

The discussion on the rights of the child on March 6 reports on the sales of children, violence against children and children in armed conflicts.

The 47 Member states and observers reflected on improving children rights as part of the '2030 Agenda,' stressing the need to treat all children equally.

Participants also discussed women's rights and the Universal Periodic Review outcomes of 11 countries, including Venezuela, Syria and Zimbabwe.

Other topics focused on racial profiling, the rights of persons with disabilities and panel discussions on access to medicine, maternal mortality, climate change,

human rights in Syria and the death penalty.

During the topic of racial profiling and incitement to hatred on March 17, reports were analysed on police and immigration officials targeting people based on ethnicity, religion or race.

The Human rights council declared that police identity checks motivated by physical or ethnic characteristics are contrary to the international human rights on equality and non-discrimination.

On March 16 and 17, the final Universal Periodic Review reports of the countries reviewed at the last session were adopted: Togo, Syria, Venezuela, Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Uganda, Timor-Leste, Republic of Moldova, Haiti, South Sudan.

For more Information about the topics and documents on the outcome of the sessions, visit the United Nations website: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)

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