



MARIST NEWS

473

Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS: POPE INVITES TO FIND NEW PLACES AND WAYS OF EDUCATING, AND TO BE CLOSE TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

To Brother Emili Turú Rofes,
Superior General of the Marist Brothers

Dear Brother,

It is a pleasure for me to greet you and, through you, the entire Marist family on the occasion of the Bicentenary of the foundation of your Congregation during which you will celebrate your 22nd General Chapter in Colombia.

You are keenly preparing for this event with the motto "A New Beginning".

This sums up a whole programme of renewal and implies a look at the past with gratitude, a discernment of the present, and an openness to the future with hope. Gratitude is the primary emotion flowing from the heart.

This attitude of thanksgiving is necessary in order to appreciate the great things that God has done through you.

At the same time, giving thanks does us good; it helps us see ourselves as little ones in the eyes of the Lord and as indebted to a tradition freely given to us.

You belong to a large family rich in witnesses who knew how to give their lives out of love for God and neighbour with that spirit of fraternity so characteristic of the Congregation which sees in the other "a dear brother, especially dear to me" (Philemon 16). These two centuries of existence have been transformed in their turn into a great



story of devotedness to the children and young people you have welcomed from over the five continents and

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brother Emili Turú is meeting Brothers who follow the course of preparation for perpetual profession in Cochabamba, Bolivia, from April 16 - 22.

From April 18 - 21, the meeting of the Preparatory Commission of the General Chapter is taking place in Rionegro in Colombia. Brothers Joe Mc Kee, Josep Maria Soteras, Carlos Huidobro and Pau Fornells are participating from the General House.

From April 18 - 25, Br Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity, is animating a seminar in Colombia.

Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission, will be in Beirut, Lebanon, from April 22 - 30, where he will participate in the meeting of the Council of the Catholic International Education Office (OIEC).





have formed into good citizens and, in particular, into good Christians.

These works of charity are expressions of the goodness and mercy of God, who, in spite of our limitations and blunders, never forgets his children.

However, it is not enough simply to reflect on the past; it is also necessary to discern the present. It is right for you to examine yourselves and it is good to do this in the light of the Spirit.

Discernment is objectively and charitably acknowledging your present state and facing up to it in the spirit



Today's society needs people who are solid in their convictions, who can give witness to what they believe in, and, in this way, build a better world for all.



of your founding. For his time, Saint Marcellin Champagnat was an innovator in the fields of education and formation.

He experienced for himself the need for love to highlight the potential that each child has hidden within. Your holy Founder used to say, "Education is

for the child what cultivation is for the field.

However fertile the field may be, if it is not worked, it will produce only brambles and weeds".

An educator's work is one of constant devotedness demanding sacrifice; but, education is a work of the heart and that is what makes it both different and sublime. Being called to cultivate demands, before all else, self-cultivation.

The Religious educator must take care of his own interior field, his human and spiritual reserves, in order to be

able to go out to sow and cultivate the ground entrusted to him. You need to be aware that the ground you are working and shaping is "holy", seeing on it the love and footprint of God.

By your devotedness and effort, faithful to the mission you received, you will contribute to the work of God,

who is calling you to be simple instruments in his hands.

Finally, I encourage you to be open to the future with hope, journeying with a renewed

spirit. This is not a different road you are taking, but one brought alive in the Spirit. Society today needs people who are solid in their convictions, who can give witness to what they believe in, and, in this way, build a better world for all.

On this journey, you will be guided by the motto

of your Religious Institute, "All to Jesus through Mary; all to Mary for Jesus". Have confidence in Mary and allow yourselves to be guided by her in her humility and service, her readiness and silent commitment. These are the attitudes that a good Religious and educator must transmit through his example.

The young people will recognise something extraordinary in your way of being and acting and they will understand that it is worthwhile, not only to learn these values, but more importantly to make them their own. Mary will accompany them in this project and, at her side, they will be confirmed in their vocation, contributing to the creation of a constantly evolving humanity, in which the weak and the marginalised are valued and loved. This future that they

desire so much and dream of, is not an illusion: it is being built today, saying "yes" to the will of God, with the certainty that, as a good Father, he will not deceive our hope.

I thank the Lord and Mary, our Good Mother, as Saint Marcellin liked to call her, for the presence in the Church of your vocation and service, and I ask for you the gift of the Holy Spirit so that, led by God's Spirit, you will bring to children and young people, as well as to all those in need, the nearness and tenderness of God.

*Vatican City, 10th April 2017
Francis*

GENERAL HOUSE: BR EMILI TURÚ SPEAKS ABOUT HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE POPE

On 10th April Pope Francis received superior general Brother Emili Turú in a private audience. In this interview, Brother Emili speaks about his encounter with the pontiff, who gave him a message for the Marists of Champagnat.

Why did this audience take place?

We are celebrating the bicentenary of the Institute's foundation and, on another hand, the 22nd General Chapter will take place in September of this same year in Colombia.

Therefore, we thought it was important to ask the Pope for a message for all Marists of Champagnat on the occasion of these celebrations.

Where was the audience celebrated and what was the tone of this meeting?

As is usual for a private audience, this took place in the private library of the Apostolic Palace.

The place is very impressive: before reaching the library, you have to go through long corridors and various Renaissance halls, all of them extraordinarily decorated ... and, of course, various checkpoints.

In any case, the personal warmth of the Pope makes you forget right away that you are in a "palace."

I would say that the tone was very brotherly, as expected.

The mere fact of sitting, not face to face with a table in between, but on one side of the table, with the chairs nearby, already indicates the tone of closeness that the Pope wants to give to such encounters.

Can you share any of the issues addressed with the Pope?

Almost from the beginning, the Pope was interested if we felt that the vocation of 'Brother' was sufficiently understood in the Church.

I believe that the vocation of Brother is "one of the best kept secrets of the Catholic Church," as the Vaticanista John Allen once said.

It is not known or valued enough, especially in the context of male religious life, which is mostly clerical, and that is how I expressed it to him.

For example, I showed him the invitation I received for this audience, where I was called "Father"... and, in fact, that is how it was published by Vatican news.

The Pope, as he has said many times, underscored that that is due to the strong clericalism that persists in the Church, which often ignores or even annuls the laity.

In this sense, he encouraged us to appreciate our own vocation as brothers and to continue promoting the lay vocation.

Any other topic you would like to mention?

The Pope was very explicit in his assessment of the extraordinary importance of the education of children and young people, and insisted that the school continues to be a privileged place for that education.

That is why, he said, look for new places and ways to educate and be close to children and young people, but do not abandon the school.

Did you speak about new projects?

I took the Pope a book, as a gift, that is a photo-report on the 'Fratelli Project,' promoted jointly with the De La Salle Brothers in Lebanon, serving displaced children and youth, especially from Iraq and Syria.

He was very interested in the project, so much so that he kept one of the books, but in another one he wrote, in his own handwriting, a beautiful dedication to the brothers who collaborate in this project, thanking them for their service and encouraging them to continue to plant because, in his own words, "it will bear much fruit."

We also spoke about the "Blue Marists" of Aleppo, for whom he had words of admiration and sympathy, and to whom he sent a special blessing.

I also had the opportunity to speak to him about the new international foundations, from the "ad gentes" project (2005) and now with the Lavalla200 project.

The Pope, in the written message he gave him, refers to the 200 years of existence of the institute, as "a great history of delivery in favour of children and young people"...

That is so, and he repeated several times his gratitude not only for what we have done in the past, but, in particular, for what we are and do in the Church today.

And, of course, he asked us to pray for him!

I assured him that he can count on our prayers and support, and I thanked him in particular for the impulse he has given to the Church, inviting us all to be in a "permanent state of mission" and "going forth."

MARIST WORLD



Spain:
Ourense



Madagascar: Marist youth,
St Vincent de Paul Betroka school



Brazil: Curitiba,
Brasil Centro-Sul



Colombia: Ibagué,
Pascua Remar



Sri Lanka:
Tudella



Mexico: X'cohuó,
Marist missions

NEW INTER-CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITY

MARISTS AND LASALLIANS STRETCH HANDS AGAIN



A new inter-congregational community of six Marists and Lasallians will be launched in September in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Spain.

The brothers hope that this new project, which will include three brothers of each congregation, will attend to the local educational facilities of both congregations

and help minister to local children. Brothers of both congregations gathered on April 5 at the La Salle de Paterna school, provincial home of the Lasallians for the Valencia-Palma sector, for further planning. Provincial superior of Mediterranea, Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes, and vice provincial Brother Aureliano García took part on behalf of the Marist Brothers. In turn, the Lasallian representatives included the cur-

rent local provincial, Brother Jesús Miguel Zamora, Brother José Román Pérez who will take his position on May 6, the assistant of the Andalusia sector, Brother Juan González and the assistant for the Valencia-Palma de La Salle sector, José María Valero. Marists and Lasallians launched a previous inter-congregational community in 2015 – the Fratelli Project – which looks after refugee children in Lebanon.

MEETING OF THE OCEANIA COUNCIL: REGION OF OCEANIA



In 2017 it was decided to have two meetings of the combined councils of the three administrative units of Australia, Melanesia and the Pacific. This followed on from the meeting of the extended general council held in October 2016.

The councils met at the Mary MacKillop Centre in Sydney, Australia, on April 1 and 2. Brother Michael de Waas joined the meeting as a representative of the general administration.

A second meeting will take place in Auckland in August.

In the picture, the participants:

Left to right: Greg McDonald (Australia), Jean-Marie Batick (Leader - Melanesia), Ken McDonald (Australia), Stanley Bakere (Melanesia), Mark Kenatsi (Melanesia), David McDonald (Leader - Pacific), Darren Burge (Australia), Paul Kane (Australia), Jeff Barrington (Australia), Michael de Waas, Sefo Une (Pacific), Martin Pattison (Pacific), Peter McNamara (Facilitator), Clement Pekubei (Melanesia), Tony d'Arbon (Support), Chris Maney (Pacific), Kevin Wanden (Pacific), Peter Carroll (Leader - Australia).



MELANESIA: DISTRICT SUPERIOR APPOINTED FOR SECOND TERM

The General Council has appointed Brother Jean Marie Batick, as Superior of the Marist District of Melanesia for a second three-year term.

Br Jean Marie will begin his new mandate in July, at the beginning of the District Chapter.

Superior general Brother Emili Turú made the announcement in a letter dated March 25, coinciding with

the feast of the Annunciation.

"I would like to thank Br Jean Marie for his openness and willingness to serve the Institute in this mission as Superior," he stated in the letter. "The results of the consultation show clearly that he enjoys vast support from the Brothers of the District."

Alluding to the bicentenary Br Emili affirmed that "Mary

continues to walk with us and with our Marist Laity" and "her presence encourages us to advance toward "a new beginning", in order to assume together what the Spirit expects from the District of Melanesia in this historical moment."

"She reminds us that everything is possible for those who believe in God."

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF NIGERIA

COMMITMENT TO RELIGIOUS LIFE: RENEWED HEART FOR A NEW BEGINNING



Sixty-four Marists gathered for the provincial assembly of Nigeria from April 3 – 8, in Orlu, Nigeria, including the provincial superior Brother Joachim Ezetulugo and his council.

The event, which marked the ninth assembly of the Nigeria province, began with a Eucharistic celebration on April 4, presided by the Bishop of Orlu, Bishop Augustine Tochukwu Ukwuoma.

Under the theme 'Commitment to Religious Life: Re-

newed Heart for a New Beginning,' the participants discussed papers on commitment to religious life, communities independent of schools, animation of the Brothers, policies and administrative structures and the improvement of schools.

During the closure of the assembly, they made resolutions, recommendations and reflected on issues to be discussed in the next provincial chapter, which will be held from Jan. 8 – 12, next year.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

Our website: <http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Follow us:

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat