



A NEW LA VALLA

GUESTS OF THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER



Rionegro, the place where the next general chapter will be held in Colombia

The general council, within the pre-chapter context, following the indications of the Statutes of the 21st General Chapter regarding the additional members, defined the list of the 15 guests who will participate in the General Chapter that will take place in Colombia and will start on Sept. 8. Seven Brothers and eight lay-people were invited.

The laity, who will participate until September 30, are: Tony Clarke (Australia - Oceania), Michael Greef (Southern Africa - Africa), Elma Rafil (East Asia - Asia), Joseba Louzao (Iberica - Europe), Nohemy Pinto (América Central - Arco Norte), Gabrielle Giard (Canada - Arco Norte), Jimena Djauara Grignani (Brasil Centro-Sul - America Sur) e Pep Buetas (L'Hermitage - Secretariado dos leigos).

The guest Brothers, who will participate throughout the whole Chapter,

are: Brendan Sinei (Melanesia District-Oceania), Fábio Amadeu Queirós de Oliveira (Compostela - Europe), José Augusto Júnior (Brasil Centro-Norte - America Sul), Nelson Luna Beltran (East Asia - Asia), Eric Kramo (West Africa District - Africa), Omar A. Peña Jacobo (America Central - Arco Norte) and Libardo Garzón Duque (Econome Geral).

In the indication of the names, the geographical criterion was taken into account, considering the six regions of the institute. Among the religious were young brothers, up to 35 years old, who represent the future of the Institute.

The chapter begins on September 8 and the expected date for completion, although only indicative, is October 20. It will be held at the Casa de Encuentros de La Salle, in Rionegro, near Medellín, Colombia.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

This week, Brother Hipólito Pérez, assistant director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, is accompanying the Brothers who are preparing themselves to their perpetual profession in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

From April 25 – 27, Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez, general councillors, are participating in the meeting of the European Marist Conference in Alcalá de Henares.

From April 26 – 28, Brothers Víctor Preciado, general councillor, and Libardo Garzón, econome general, are participating in the meeting of the board of directors of the Bedford Fund in New York.

The first meeting of Marist NGOs begins on Wednesday, organised by FMSI, at the general house.

Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity is animating a seminary for lay people in Brasilia until May 5.

On April 28, a celebration will be held for the feast of Saint Peter Chanel at the general house of the Marist Fathers. Superior general Brother Emili Turú will take part in the event, alongside other brothers of the general administration.



CUBA: THE CHARISM OF CHAMPAGNAT INSPIRES EDUCATORS

WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS IN CIENFUEGOS

Thirty-two educators of the Diocese of Cienfuegos gathered in the shrine of Paraíso from March 31 – April 2 for the sixth diocesan workshop.

Our reflection was enriched with the difference in ages (predominantly youth and young adults), in levels of education (from primary to university) and in geographical distribution, (almost all the municipalities of the Province were present).

The workshop's main topic was: "educational skills for the 21st century."

With the help of the spark, the experience and the competence of Brother Nicéforo Garrán, we analyse the indispensable innovations that the cultural change that we are

living is demanding we incorporate, and the good practices of the traditional education that should be preserved.

We review and share new methodologies in the line of critical thinking, creativity and collaborative work.

The backdrop that inspired our workshop was the figure and charisma of Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers, which is turning 200 years.

Hopefully, this workshop, as well as bringing new concerns, convictions and strengths to our vocation and work as educators, will translate into concrete applications in our classroom and in our schools. And that we may give out many compasses and nautical charts!

H. Carlos Martínez Lavín

LA VALLA, THE PATHS OF A DREAM

PROVINCIAL ENCOUNTER OF MEDITERRANEA IN HERMITAGE

|| **May this experience help us to speak the language of fraternity and that they can say of us and of our educational works, as the first brothers said: 'Look at how they love each other.' So that people learn, with the heart, to live for real.** ||

'La Valla, the paths of a dream' was held from March 23 – 26 in Hermitage on the occasion of the Marist bicentenary.

Ninety-four members of schools, social works and teams of the Mediterranea province with presence in Spain, Italy and Lebanon participated.

The participants described the encounter as "days lived with great intensity" and "a unique experience that has helped participants to further dive into our origins and into our evangelising and educational mission."

The event, organised by the Brothers Today Secretariat, included a pilgrimage to the most significant places in the life of Marcellin and the testimony of Brother Alain

NEWS IN BRIEF

NETWORKING MARISTS

The project of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia province, which plans to carry out 200 initiatives to celebrate 200 years of Marist mission, has already started more than 70 of them. The province hopes to start them all by the end of 2017.

75 YEARS IN QUERETARO

In March, 75 years of Marist presence were celebrated in the Mexican city of the province of Mexico Central. Today there are several Marist educational institutions present in the city, including the Marist university of Queretaro, which turns 15 years this year.

PERPETUAL PROFESSION

On Saturday, April 22, Brother Keun-ho (Paul) made his perpetual profession in the Institute. The celebration took place in the Marist education centre of Seoul. Brother Cantú Solís made his perpetual profession on April 23 in San Miguel el Progreso, at the municipality of Malinaltepec, Mexico.

L'HERMITAGE PROVINCE

The extended Secretariat of Mission of the Province is gathering from April 24 - 28 in Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, France. It has 15 participants from Catalonia, 10 from France, six from Greece and four from Hungary.

FMSI

The Marist foundation presented a request to the European Union for funding a primary school, for protection and for the recovery of children living in post-conflict areas and in conditions of exploitation. The request was presented together with other Non-Governmental Organizations: Amici dei Popoli, De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale, Fondazione Buon Pastore, VIDES.



Delorme. The superior provincial of Mediterranea, Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes, was also present.

"Marcellin has summoned us here to stop the rush we have every day and gives us an opportunity to meet and enjoy each other," said the provincial during the closure of the encounter.

"An opportunity to live with a smile, with fraternity and with being welcoming. An opportunity to learn from the heart."

"It seems that Marcellin himself has summoned us here, as he did with the

first brothers, and also sends us to be Hermitage with those who come in contact with us," he continued.

"To be Hermitage so that the people can rest, so that we listen to them, so that we welcome them and we give them what they needs".

"May this experience help us to speak the language of fraternity and that they can say of us and of our educational works, as the first brothers said: 'Look at how they love each other.'

"So that people learn, with the heart, to live for real."

"CONVERSATIONS THAT TRANSFORM"

DIALOGUE OF THE SECRETARIAT WITH TEAMS AND LAY COMMISSIONS

The Secretariat of the Laity, responded to the proposal made by the General Council in 2014, has been reflecting on some possible actions that the next Chapter could introduce in the road map of the lay walk and the process of communion of the following years.

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These actions were born from the meeting in the Hermitage of the Continental Commissions (Oct. 2016) and after a process of discernment of almost a year. With a draft of proposals to the Chapter, a dialogue has begun

with various groups and teams from the provinces, from the conviction that they are brothers and lay people, co-creators of a common future. The proposals reaffirm the desire to enter together into the territory of the new, as Br Emili tells us.

The dialogue that is promoted in the workshops touches on the great contents that have been promoted in recent years: the need to develop in the provinces formative itineraries with a vocational character with the guidelines offered by the document Being a Lay Marist; implement the Champagnat Movement with the new accents that have emerged after the four years of process; to increase the experiences of communion so that we

MARIST WORLD



Bolivia: Programme for the preparation to perpetual profession in Cochabamba



Argentina: Meeting between young and old Brothers



Colombia: Meeting of the Preparatory Commission General Chapter in Rionegro



Brazil: Formators of the Province Brasil Centro-Norte



Bangladesh: Br Alexander Amal in Giasnogor



Spain: International Easter in Alcalá de Henares

strengthen our vocational identities; to continue reflecting on a possible international associative structure that will lead to lay leadership, solid and well-formed, co-responsible with the brothers of the vitality of the charisma; to look for shared spaces of formation to support us in our respective vocations; to continue exploring new ways of expressing the charisma for our time, so that our presence among children and young people is more powerful and passionate.

At the moment, these dialogues have been promoted in Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Argentina (with the presence of Uruguay),

Paraguay, Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil. In some of these countries Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity, has been accompanied by the lay Marists Raúl Amaya, Nohemy Pinto and Mauricio Fuentes.

With different formats, such meetings will also be held in the other regions of the Institute. The contributions and suggestions of the groups are enriching the possible proposals to the Chapter, which in May, in Nairobi, the extended secretariat of the laity will resume and fine-tune. The dialogues are already promoting hopeful smiles, gestures of satisfaction, search concerns, future looks ... The process is already being transformative, as Br Emili Turú tells us.



Meeting with the laity in Paraguay

MORE THAN 42% OF BRAZILIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH LIVE IN POVERTY

MARIST PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF CHILD-YOUTH POPULATION



CADE Brasil reveals, in 2014, a world of 42.43% of children and adolescents living in poverty and extreme poverty, which affects almost 15 million children under the age of 14.



On April 11, the fifth edition of the report CADE Brasil – Niños y Adolescentes en Datos y Estadísticas, a report on children statistics, was published in Brasilia.

In the last six years, the data book, prepared by the Marist Province of Brazil Centro-Norte and partners, has been consolidated and updated to support the debate and the defence of the rights of children and adolescents in the country.

In 2016, CADE Brazil is aligned with the new United Nations Global Agenda for Development and Sustainable Development Objectives (ODS), presenting 52 of the 60 indicators of the Agenda, which will serve as a subsidy to

monitor 11 of the 17 ODS, with a focus on the child population.

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For six years, the Marist Brothers and their associates have produced five editions of CADE Brazil.

The information systematized in the document is collected from official sources. All the data of the 2016 report can be read at www.marista.edu.br/cade.

'LA VALLA WEEKEND' RETREAT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO SERVICE

STUDENTS HEAR TESTIMONIES OF REFUGEES, HAVE A SIMULATION EXPERIENCE

Students gathered for the annual 'La Valla Weekend' retreat at Esopus, New York, from March 24 – 26 during which they heard the testimonies of Syrian refugees and had a simulation experience of what it could be like to be a refugee.

The students – from 11 Marist schools – took part in a simulation programme designed to create awareness, experience emotions and encourage them to be com-

fortable taking action on behalf of refugees.

On March 24, they heard the testimonies of a Syrian family of four from Aleppo who was part of the Blue Marist community for several years before moving to New Jersey last October.

They also heard the experience of Tomas O'Riordan, a Marist volunteer who spent the month of January working with refugees in the city of McAllen, Texas, on the



MEXICO: YOUTH FOR SERVICE

During Holy Week, 40 youth and six teachers of different works of the two provinces of Mexico gathered in the provincial house of Mexico Central to prepare themselves for a year of volunteering (Youth for Service programme) during the next school year 2017 – 2018.

They will hold a meeting towards the end of July, during which they will choose the project where they will carry out this experience.



border of Mexico.

On March 25, former general superior Brother Sean Sammon, reflected on the exploitation of children and how the Institute is helping fight these abuses in the United Nations Office of Children's Rights.

The retreat ended with preparing the students for the Marist National Day of Service, held on March 29.

Each school was also given a handmade Marist cross to pray with on that day.

7 VIDEOS: THE VOICE OF THE YOUNG

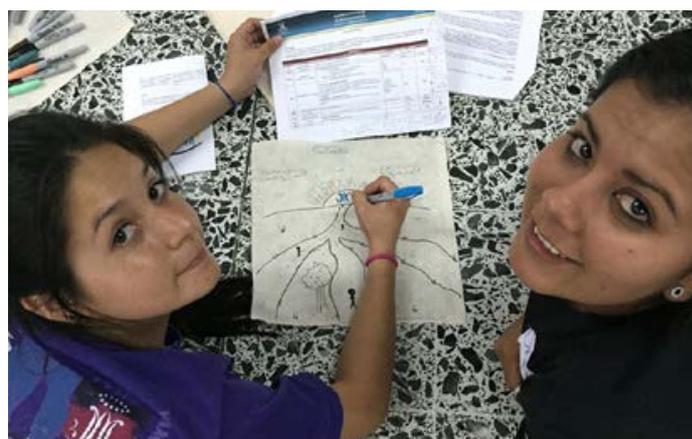
In a series of seven videos, youth from around the world share their testimonies of what they believe is world's biggest challenge and what they think the Marist Brothers could do about it.

These videos are aimed at helping prepare the youth who will have the chance to meet with the Brothers during the 22nd General Chapter in Colombia in September 2017.

Brothers and lay people from the 81 countries where the Institute is present will have a say in this Chapter and be able to listen to the voice of the children and youth.

The videos contain testimonies of Africa, America (South and North), Asia, Europe and Oceania and are available in both Spanish and English.

Click here to watch the videos: <https://goo.gl/eUdKzI>.



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