



## BROTHER JOÃO CARLOS DO PRADO

### NEW PROVINCIAL OF BRASIL CENTRO-SUL



The general council has appointed Brother João Carlos do Prado as provincial of Brasil Centro-Sul for the triennium 2018-2020.

Following the provincial programme, Brother João Carlos will take up office during the provincial chapter, which will take place in Curitiba from Dec. 5 – 8, 2017.

"I thank Brother João Carlos for his openness and willingness to serve the Institute as provincial," affirmed superior general Brother Emili Turú.

My gratitude also to Brother Joaquim Sperandio, who for the last six years has given the best of himself to the animation and govern-

ment of the province."

João Carlos do Prado, fms Born January 15, 1971 in the city of Jaborá, State of Santa Catarina (SC), in Brazil, he belongs to the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul.

He is a graduate in Religious Sciences and has a licentiate in Letters.

Post-graduated in Education at the Catholic Pontifical University of Paraná, in the city of Curitiba, on the theme: "The pedagogy imbued with love of Paulo Freire in the practice of teaching".

In 1995 and 1996 he taught religious education classes and was coordinator of the religious orienta-

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brother Tony Leon, visited Sri Lanka last week to gather with the novitiates of Tudella, as well as with the Brothers and laity of the South Asia Province.

The International Council for Economic Affairs is gathering **from May 22 – 26** in Curitiba, with the participation of economo general Brother Libardo Garzón.

Brother Michael De Waas, GC, took part in the meeting of the Council of the South Asia Province in Sri Lanka **from May 22 – 23**. He will attend a retreat with the team of the Stella Maris University of Negombo **on May 26**.

Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal and Mark Omede, of the Secretariat of Mission, will visit "youth observatories" in Porto Alegre and Curitiba **from May 22 – 24**.

Superior general Brother Emili Turú is participating in the Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG) at the general house of the Salesians, **from May 24 – 26**.

The permanent council, the committees and the subcommittees of the Interamerican Conference of Provincials will gather in Curitiba **from May 25 – 29**. Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas, Mark Omede, Hipólito Pérez, Chris Wills and Manel Mendoza will participate on behalf of the general administration.

Superior general Brother Emili Turú will participate in a youth encounter in the United States **from May 26 – 29**.

Brother Josep Maria Soterias, GC, will follow up on the systems that will be used during the General Chapter and the applications that the Institute uses in Curitiba, **from May 26 – 31**.

tion service at the Marist school Frei Rogério, in Joaçaba, SC. From 1997 to 2002 he was coordinator of the Frei Rogério Marist Center of Formation, a center for vocation and youth ministry in the same city.

In 2003 he took over the coordination of the Ministry Sector of the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, a position he holds today.

In addition, from July 2002 he's been a member of the Provincial Council.

In May of 2006 he took charge of the coordination of Mission Area of the Marist Union of Brazil –UMBRASIL– which is responsible for the direction of the interprovincial processes and projects of basic and higher education, of solidarity and evangelization on a national level.

He was member of the Preparatory Commission of the XXI General Chapter and Director of the Secretariat of Mission (Rome 2010-2017).

## “SENDEROS” SPIRITUAL FORMATION COURSE

### FMSI COURSE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN EL ESCORIAL

The coordinator of the [FMSI's](#) children's rights, Álvaro Sepúlveda, will hold a course titled “Our Marist mission as advocates of the rights of the child,” promoted by the Foundation, in the Marist Spirituality Center of San Lorenzo del Escorial, near Madrid, on May 22 and 23.

The aim of the course is to raise awareness of the rights of children as a fundamental part of the Marist mission.

The course, which will include a moment of sharing personal experiences on the subject, focuses on the [human rights of the child](#) in the historical perspective of its development, in the context of Marist history and mission, in the current global context, with special reference to the objectives of sustainable development.

The course pays particular attention to the recommendations that the [United Nations Human Rights Council](#) has given to States so that they fulfil their international obligations on the rights of the child.



The participants are the 10 Marist Brothers who are attending the “Senderos” spiritual formation course, within the framework of the permanent formation programme of the Marist Institute for its members.

The participants are of different nationalities, but they all speak Spanish and Portuguese.

They are currently on mission in Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Mexico, Paraguay and Romania.

Their task will be to supervise the work of these states and to contribute, as a Marist Institute, so that the rights of children are increasingly respected, in a logic of coordination between the mission areas of the Institute and FMSI.

## TESTIMONIES OF THE SYRIAN TRAGEDY

### MARISTS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SYRIANS IN LEBANON

The Marists in Lebanon continue helping Syrian refugees, particularly through the Fratelli Project in Rmeileh.

A group of Syrian youths went to the Lebanese town of Rmeileh to spend Easter alongside a group of Lebanese university students and the Brothers who run the



NEWS IN BRIEF

**THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TAKE TO THE STREETS**

Over 11,000 people attended the sports events "200 años en marcha", in several schools of the Mediterranean Province, in Spain, and organised for the celebration of the Bicentenary.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

On May 1, the team at the Rwabuye Vocational Training Center participated in a seminar on Marist spirituality and celebrated labour day.

**PRE-CHAPTER PROCESS**

On May 13, the Marist Brothers of Bogotá celebrated the second stage proposed by the Preparatory Commission, "immersion meetings", visiting people on the periphery of the city who are in difficulty.

**MARIST SOLIDARITY**

At the end of April, the Cruz del Sur Province gathered 65 people from 30 educational centers in Luján, for the Provincial Solidarity meeting.

MARIST CALENDAR

May 24: official transfer of the General House to Rome (1961)

May 25: Brother Leonidas, 7th Superior General, died at Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux in France (1975)

May 29: Pope Pius XII beatified Marcellin Champagnat at Saint Peter's in Rome (1955)

May 30: Founding of the World Union of Marist Alumni (1955)



Fratelli Project. Their testimonies revealed outstanding courage.

"As a professional dancer, I have had job offers in Beirut. But I'm still here in Aleppo, working with the children.

"I believe that God wants me here helping others overcome traumas with dance. Dance is a language that does not need translation," stated Hikmat during his visit.

"I have always been a traditional Christian, going to Mass and praying, but I realised that that is not enough. I had to show people that Jesus is alive. And I keep trying through music and dance," added the 25-year-old.

Another girl, Khatoun, from Rafqa, told how ISIS followed her friend home for not wearing the Muslim veil.

When they were going to take her, her father said he wanted to say goodbye to her, took her to a room and killed her, so that she would not suffer and be killed by the terrorists.

The testimonies of these youths are in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Click here to listen to an [interview with Brother José María Ferre](#), who lives in Beirut and who accompanied the Syrian youths in their visit to Lebanon.

To help the Blue Marists in Aleppo contact [FMSI](#).



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## MARIST WORLD



Spain: Volunteers who will collaborate this summer in Honduras, Mozambique and Zambia



Argentina: Villa Marista de Mar del Plata



Brazil: Marist Youth in Maceió



France: Rosey, place where St. Marcellin Champagnat was born 20/05/1789



Sri Lanka: Tudella Novitiate



Syria: Workshop at the M.I.T. formation centre

## LES TROIS VIOLETTES, MONTRÉAL, DESBIENS AND CHÂTEAU-RICHER PROVINCIAL RETREATS IN 2017



On the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Institute, the Province of Canada invited Brother Hipólito Pérez, assistant director of the Brothers Today secretariat, to lead the annual retreats. Four meetings were scheduled in four different cities to welcome the Marists

of all ages and conditions. The chosen theme was "The La Valla Year," underlining the aspect of interiority.

Brother Hipólito brilliantly explained the theme, addressing the three years of preparation that will lead

us to the "NEW BEGINNING." The "Les Trois Violettes" residence was the first to receive a group of brothers.

The second group, formed by brothers and laity, met at the Jesuit house, Villa St-Martin de Montréal.

The third group, made up of participants from the Lake St-Jean region, met in the Juniorate of Desbiens.

Finally, the fourth group occupied the "Mont Champagnat" residence of Château-Richer.

## MEDITERRÁNEA MARIST PROVINCE

### 3RD ASSEMBLY OF THE FRATERNITIES OF THE CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT



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During the 29 and 30 of April, 2017, 95 persons met in Malaga, 22 of them were children and young people, from the 23 Fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family present in Spain and Italy.

It was not possible to count with the presence of the Fraternities from Lebanon and Syria.

The Assembly began with some proposals presented by the Team of Animation that directed the Assembly.

The motivation of these proposals was taken from words of Pope Francis and of Brother Emili: The need that the Assembly would help to get out of oneself in order to be more alive as communities of the Church. There was the invitation, together with all the Marists of Champagnat for a new beginning. It is necessary to face the challenge with

hope; trust and hope, like those with which Mary lived, to whom, from the beginning, we have asked to guide the Assembly.

The Marist Fraternities of the Iberian and the Scholapian Laity shared their experience. Both witnesses were significant for the Assembly.

A draft of the "Project of Life in Fraternity" of the MCFM was presented as a first introduction to this document on which an international commission has worked during 5 years and which has gathered the result of various consultations to the Fraternities of the whole world and also to the Marist Provinces where MCFM is not present.

On the second day of the Assembly Br. Juan Carlos Fuertes (Provincial) once again asked regarding the willingness for a new beginning, for the "new epoch for the Marist Charism". Then followed Br. Ventura, presenting the Secretariat of the Laity in the Province and how the Fraternities of MCFM are inserted, as lay adult communities, within this Provincial structure.

From the Assembly emerged a new structure of animation of the Champagnat Movement, formed by 4 persons, representing each one of the zones of the Province.

The Assembly ended with the celebration of the Eucharist in the beautiful chapel of the Seminary of Malaga. In it the children shared their work of these days of Assembly materialized in a stage representation. On the altar was placed everything lived during these days: the family environment, the utopia, the witnesses, the hope, the new team and the new structure of animation.



## A GREAT SPIRIT WITHOUT CULTURAL BARRIERS

### GROUPS OF PERMANENT FORMATION VISIT MARIST PLACES

From May 2 to 12, the two permanent formation groups of Manziana (Midlife) and El Escorial (Senderos) made a pilgrimage to Marist places in France.

The two programmes began in March and will end on May 26.

English-speaking brothers are having their programme in Manziana, while Portuguese and Spanish speaking brothers in El Escorial.

Fourteen brothers are taking part in the programme in Manziana, as well as Brothers Dennis Cooper and Teófilo Minga, in charge of the formation.



The 10 Brothers in El Escorial, accompanied by Brothers António Leal and Antonio Peralta, travelled from Bra-

zil, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, Paraguay and Puerto Rico.

Below are some testimonies from the

participants, in their own languages, about what they experienced during those 10 days in France.

## MARIST COMMUNITY LIVING EXPERIENCE

### VOCATIONAL MEETING IN GENERAL SANTOS CITY

The Vocation Team from Philippines organized a gathering of young men called the "Marist Community Living Experience" held in General Santos City on April 28 to May 1, 2017. The purpose of this meeting was to give to the participants a chance to become more aware of the Marist vocation and

the Marist Brothers' way of life. There were 20 participants coming from Cotabato City, General Santos City, Notre Dame of Kidapawan College, and Notre Dame of Marbel University. Of these, 8 were young professionals and 10 college students.

The participants had an experience of community prayers, working together in cleaning the house and its surroundings, indoor and outdoor recreation, visits to Marcellin Homes, Fourviere and Dadiangas communities and a mini-tour of NDDU main campus. The culmination of the activities was an overnight outing at Marian Beach Resort in Glan, Sarangani Province.

Among the inputs given were Religious and Community life, Marist Life, Marist in the World, and St. Marcellin and his Charism. The Vocation Team is composed of Brothers Albert Munoz, Romy Porras, John Emil Alada, Cian Marco Tabuada and Ms. Ivy Yecyec.



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