



## WEST CENTRAL EUROPE GETS NEW MISSION COUNCIL

### MEMBERS INCLUDE THREE BROTHERS AND THREE LAITY



The province of West Central Europe has inaugurated its new Mission Council this month, which includes three Brothers and three lay people, to strengthen the Marist mission in the Province.

The aim of the Council is to promote Marist values and new initiatives in schools of Belgium, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Great Britain, as well as to promote communication and mission works within Europe and with other congregations.

Its current members are Brother Patrick J. McGowan (chairman), Aisling Demaison (director of Marist Mission), Brother Micheal Schmalzl (representing Germany), Conny Stuart (representing the Netherlands), Brother Robert Thunus (representing Belgium) and Paul Cummings (representing Scotland).

"I am delighted to announce the launch of the Mission Council in West Central

Europe," stated Brother Brendan Geary, provincial superior, in a press release. "For many years, we have challenged ourselves to be bold, to take unprecedented decisions, and to involve lay people in our structures and processes of decision-making."

"The creation of the Mission Council in our Province fulfils one of the priorities of our last Provincial Chapter and brings us a significant step closer to the dream of partnership and the promotion of Marist characteristic spirit, now and in the future," he continued.

Br Brendan explained that the Council also "seeks to inspire the Marist community in the Province through facilitating the exchange of ideas, experiences and resources for mission in the way of Mary." The Provincial Council of West Central Europe will be delegating its authority to the Mission Council regarding leadership and animation of mission within the province.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The General Council reached the end of its last plenary session, today, June 27. In this final period, the General Council had in mind: subjects of the Commissary, updating of several projects in progress, pre-chapter documents, communications advice, some appointments and voting on agreements and decisions. The GC set aside time for preparation for the General Chapter "Gathering Fruits" and had fraternal farewell moments with some General Councils and people from our general administration. This week, from the 27th to the 29th, the council community will be at a beach house, for socializing and evaluation.

On June 24, began the formation programme for Brothers of the third age "Dawn". The course, for Spanish and Portuguese speaking Brothers, is held in Manziana and ends on August 24.

Between June 29 and July 3, Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of Laity, holds seminars in Guatemala and El Salvador.

Br. Evaristus Kasambwe, who has worked in FMSI for the Promotion of the Rights of the Child in recent years, has returned to his Province, Southern Africa. His new mission will be at MIC in Nairobi.

Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal, Director of the Mission Secretariat, is visiting the Province of Canada.



## PROVINCE OF CANADA

### EXTENDED PROVINCIAL COUNCIL DISCUSSES CHALLENGES

Canada's extended provincial council met in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu from June 7 – 11, to discuss issues such as the future management of Marist houses in the province.

General vicar Brother Joe McKee, who participated on behalf of the general administration, will discuss the ballots with the general council in Rome.

The meeting included 31 members of the province's main governing bodies: the Provincial Council, the board of directors of the Marist Lay Association, the Council of Mission and the Provincial Animation Committee. Brother and lay capitulants as well as members of the

Preparatory Commission of the Provincial Chapter also attended. During the meeting, participants discussed the changes they would like the province to undergo, despite the number of Brothers.

There are currently 105 Brothers in the province of Canada with an average age of 81. The province estimates it will have 24 fewer Brothers in the next three years, with an average age of 83.

The extended provincial council stressed the need for involving lay Marists in managing properties to ensure an active presence and reflected on the roles and responsibilities of the province's main governing bodies.

## RWANDA: THREE BROTHERS MAKE FINAL VOWS DURING BICENTENARY FEAST

After the East Central Africa province decided to join the bicentenary celebrations of each country to professions and religious life anniversaries, Rwanda held its celebration on June 10 with three final vows and two jubilees in Save.

Brothers Jean Mfurayase, Dieudonné Byenda and Jean Bosco Uwizyimana made their final profession and Brothers Elie Twagirayezu and Stanislas Ngombwa celebrated their 25th and 50th anniversaries of religious life.

Brothers and their families, lay Marists, as well as students from Marist works of Kigali, Bukomero, Byimana, Rwabuye, Mururu and Save took part.

Mass was presided by Bishop Célestin Hakizimana from the diocese of

Gikongoro, alongside priests from other dioceses who concelebrated.

After the Eucharistic celebration, students of various Marist schools performed Rwandan folklore dances and sung traditional hymns.

Provincial superior Brother Théoneste Kalisa, who was among the participants, made the closing speech.



## PILGRIMAGE TO MARIST PLACES

### BROTHERS AND LAITY OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION VISIT L'HERMITAGE

Helping Brothers and laity better know the Marist charism, growing in mutual knowledge and helping them strengthen their relationship. This was the purpose of a pilgrimage offered to Brothers and laity of the General Administration to France from June 7 – 11.

Fifteen Brothers and laity travelled, some for the first time, to Marist places in France, to walk on the land travelled by the founder of the Institute, Saint Marcellin Champagnat. Visits were made to Rosey, the birth place of St Marcellin; La Valla, the first house he founded for the

Brothers; the area where St Marcellin encountered the young Montagne; Maisonnettes, the birth place of superior general Brother François Rivat; L'Hermitage, the second and larger house founded by St Marcellin. Brother Giorgio Diamanti explained the importance of the Marist places in great detail, allowing participants to picture and fully grasp Marcellin's determination, faith and affection towards the first Brothers and the passion for the mission that God had entrusted him.

A 32km walk with breathtaking views from Rosey to L'Hermitage

with the energetic guidance of local Brothers Benito Arbués and Xavier Barceló, enabled a personal reflection on one's own life and that of the Institute: the common goal of an ongoing journey towards Jesus Christ.

The pilgrimage allowed the General House staff to better understand the Marist charism and the meaning of fraternity by sharing meals, prayers and several jokes, realising that it is a simple, yet authentic lifestyle, with a common goal: evangelising and bringing love to children worldwide.



## MARIST WORLD



Italy: Camaldoli: Formation of the candidates according to the Program Lavalla200>



Brazil: Bicentenary celebrations in Terra Vermelha



Spain: Council of the Province Mediterránea



Syria: Blue Marists: adult training center - MIT



France: First profession of Br Than Hua - Hermitage



Sri Lanka: Marist International Tudella Novitiate

## PERPETUAL PROFESSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA PROVINCE



On June 11, Brother Lourenço Sapalo, of the Southern Africa province, made his perpetual profession in Luanda, Angola. Superior provincial Brother Norbert Mwila received his vows on behalf of the superior general.

The celebration took place at the Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus of the Saint Francis Xavier parish. The Mass was presided by the archbishop of Luanda, Archbishop Dom Filomeno do Nascimento Vieira Dias.

## MARIST INSTITUTE'S 'FRATELLI PROJECT' TAKES PART IN PHOTO CONTEST WINNER WILL RECEIVE €460 (\$515 USD)

A picture of a Marist project that educates Syrian refugee children in Lebanon is taking part in [a photo contest](#) launched by the online Catholic news website Al-eteia.org.

If the Institute's picture wins, €460 Euros (\$515 USD) will be awarded to the [Fratelli Project](#), led jointly with the De La Salle Brothers in Rmeileh.

One of the competition's requirements was for the photo to show a gesture of solidarity.

The picture by Italian photojournalist Marco Amato portrays Brother Miquel Cubeles welcoming a little Syrian girl just before the start of class.

He took the picture when he volunteered there in 2016.

Please vote for the picture till 30 June, by clicking here: <https://a.cstmapp.com/voteme/19784/620116687>

This is a initiative promoted by FMSI.



## MARIST UNION OF BRAZIL MEETING ON BEING A LAY MARIST

Around 40 Brothers and laity participated in the 'National Encounter Being Lay Marist: Processes and Itinerary' from June 7 – 10, in Brazlândia, Brazil. Three people took part from other provinces of the America

Sur region. The encounter, which was organised by the Committee of Brothers and Laity of the Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL), aimed at discussing the lay vocational itineraries based on reflection, dialogue and experiences.

The first day began with time dedicated to affective integration, to the awareness of the presence and knowledge of one's own body and of others, led by Monica Filizola.

The first reflection covered the lay vision of the Institute, presented by Éder d'Artagnan, Coordinator of the animation of the laity of the province of Brazil Centro-Norte: experiences of communities, groups and



associations, taking into account lay vocation and the new relationship with the Brothers.

Each province then presented a significant experience of the laity: joint formation (Brasil Centro-Norte); The Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (Brasil Sul-Amazônia); And the youth laity (Brasil Centro-Sul). The Cruz del Sur province also presented its formation project for the laity.

More time was dedicated to two central themes: the vocational itinerary of lay people and accompaniment. Raúl Amaya, of the Santa Maria de los Andes province, led the discussion of those topics, based on the already consolidated experience of his Province. From these experiences, the group tried to identify the

fundamental elements for the elaboration of the itineraries in the Provinces.

The Coordinator of the Consecrated Life and Laity of UMBRASIL, Brother Luiz Adriano Ribeiro affirmed that not losing the horizon of the internationality of the Institute and the new beginning, while valuing the experiences and paths travelled by the different provinces, is what leads to the recognition that there are different actors acting on the charism.

“We want to rediscover the value that the laity has in the Church, in society and within our institutional walls. We must see ourselves as companions who are recognised in the Marist project of making Jesus known and loved. We must be an example of service in the Church, in the way that Mary did,” concluded Brother Luiz Adriano.

## MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA

### CHAMPAGNAT DAY IN PAILIN

Our Pailin Marist Community in Cambodia uses to celebrate Saint Marcellin, on 6th June, every year. It is the Feast in our Marist Educational Center, for now 7 years.

To have a religious celebration with people who are Buddhist at almost 100% is a real challenge. Easter, Christmas or Pentecost don't have any meaning for our young people,

except the joy and the solemnity that is apparent on these days in our parish community.

Only the Christians are initiated to these mysteries of our faith.

This year 2017 is the commemoration of the bicentenary of our Marist Foundation in La Valla in 1817.

We wanted to be in communion with other Marist District of Asia communities and in all the Marist World.

As usually it was a family celebration where everybody involved himself for the best of the celebration: young students, (singers, dancers, cooks...) teachers, parents, brothers.

This year to make it a bit more solemn, we put a small drama in the program: Father Champagnat in Pailin. Ly, a student was Marcellin and Makara the representative of the students.



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