

**BROTHERS FROM AFRICA AND ASIA RECEIVE CHILD PROTECTION DIPLOMA****THE MARIST INSTITUTE AND THE GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY'S CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION****GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

Brother Michael De Waas, General Councillor, participated in the Assembly and Chapter of the Melanesia district last week in Papua New Guinea.

The Commission for the revision of the Constitutions is meeting until the end of the month, preparing the third draft to be presented at the General Chapter. Br Josep Maria Soterias, General Councillor, is coordinating the work.

On 22 July, the African Marist Gathering on Initial Formation begins in Nairobi. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, General Councillor, and Tony Leon and Hipólito Pérez, of the Brothers Today Secretariat will be among the participants.

Brother Shanthi Liyanage of Sri Lanka and Brother John Katumbi of Malawi were awarded a diploma on June 14 from the Centre for Child Protection in Rome, Italy.

They are the second and third Brothers to receive the diploma after Brother Fortune Chakasara of the Child Rights and Protection Commission in Zimbabwe – the first Brother to receive it in 2016.

The Centre, which belongs to the Gregorian Pontifical University, offers the four-month diploma course as well as an E-Learning programme. It will also soon be launching a new two-year Master in Safeguarding, that will be offered at the University.

Brothers Shanthi and John were among the 25 students from 19 countries to receive the diploma this year.

Br Shanthi, from the South Asia Province, affirmed in his final paper that "the Marist educators in South Asia must

make a serious commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of children who come under their care.”

In the guidelines presented in his paper, titled 'Guidelines for the protection of children from sexual abuse in Marist Institutions in South Asia,' he encourages “some basic level of performance required for Marist Institutions to establish a safe environment for children and minimize the risk of being victimized by child sexual abuse and exploitation.”

In Br John's paper titled 'Marist Schools creating a Culture that Protects St Charles Lwanga Secondary School Bala-ka-Malawi,' he stresses the need for wider participation in safeguarding children.

“The whole community is involved in raising the child

high above abuse risks creating a protective environment where a child is safe and secure,” affirms Br John.

Members of the general administration met with the Centre for Child Protection in January to discuss introducing its E-Learning programme within the Institute to offer Marists the possibility of receiving formation on child protection at university.

From the next academic year onwards, the E-Learning programme will be available in two Marist universities – Universidad Marcelino Champagnat in Peru and Centro Universitario Cardenal Cisneros - Universidad de Alcalá in Spain.

The Institute is hoping it will also soon be available at the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR) in Brazil as well as at the Universidad Marista de Mérida in Mexico.

## USA PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

### DISCUSSIONS INCLUDE FUTURE OF PROVINCE AND ROLE OF LAITY



Nearly 100 Brothers and laity gathered for the United States of America Provincial Assembly, held from June 20 – 24.

On June 21, Brother Samuel Amos renewed his vows after participants discussed the upcoming General Chapter as well as the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) – the national representative body of the leadership of male religious institutes, monastic communities, and societies of apostolic life in the United States.

The next day, they discussed the Province's challenges and opportuni-

ties, and took part in two workshops. The first was led by Brother Daniel O'Riordan on training for child safety.

The second was led by the Province's director of communications, Erin Gilbert, and the head of archives, Brother John Nash, on a new section of the province's website.

A panel discussion was then held on how to move together into the third century of the Institute with Matt Fallon, Br Daniel, Maureen Hagan, Brother Al Rivera and Brother Michael Green, from Australia.

On June 23, Provincial superior Broth-

er Patrick McNamara led the rosary in the morning before the group heard two presentations by Anne Munley on different depictions of Mary and led discussions on how Mary would view today's world troubles.

Br Michael, author of the History of the Institute Volume 3, then gave a presentation on Marist Patrimony, before participants discussed the role of lay Marists within the Province.

The event ended on June 24 with Brother David Hall, from Australia, who explained the lay Marist model in Australia and the roles of its members.



## FMSI TO RECEIVE NEW STAFF: BR RICK CAREY, OF THE US PROVINCE

Brother Rick Carey of the United States province will join the FMSI staff based in Rome in September, replacing Brother Mario Meuti who finished his second three-year term in June.

Br Rick, who will arrive on Aug. 20, will serve as FMSI's new child rights and advocacy officer.

He has been serving as chair for planning for the United States province since last year.

He previously served as principal (1992 – 1999) and president (2013 – 2016) at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Br Rick also taught on the second-

ary level, worked in the areas of religious education and campus ministry, served in two provincial administrations as a provincial councillor in the former Poughkeepsie province, and as a member of various province committees.

He has also worked as a member of the Finance Committee and chairs the Province's Investment Committee.

After working briefly in Rome as the president of FMSI in 2009, he had to return to the United States due to a sports accident.

Br Mario, who has worked for FMSI since 2011, joined the second group of Lavalla200> International Communities for a New Beginning and will be going to Romania. Brother Evaristus Kasambwe finished his term in office in FMSI end

### PROVINCIAL SUPERIORS APPOINTED FOR SECOND TERM



**Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco**  
América Central Province (Guatemala)



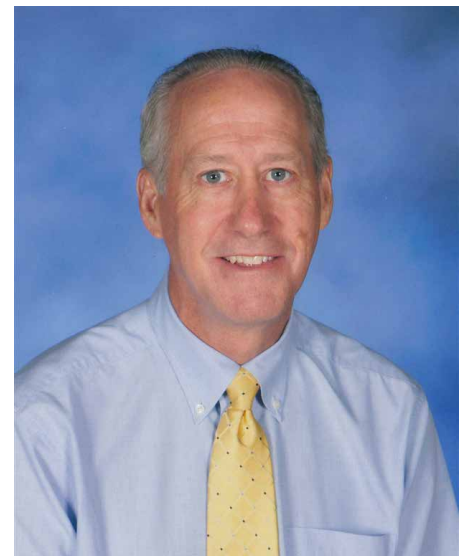
**Br Gérard Bachand**  
Canada Province



**Br Saturnino Alonso Ortega**  
Santa Maria de los Andes Province (Bolivia)



**Br César Augusto Rojas Carvajal**  
Norandina Province (Colombia)



of June and will be starting as a formator at the Marist International Center (MIC) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Brother Manel Mendoza is finishing his term in September, but his new destination has not yet been decided.

FMSI's new international fundraiser and projects coordinator, Federica Debenedittis, will begin on July 17.



## MARIST WORLD



Mexico: Zapopan, Jalisco



Lebanon: Fratelli Project



Philippines: MAPAC Coaching module



General House: Accompaniment Course for Marists of Europe



Papua New Guinea: District Council of Melanesia



General House: International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions

## PHILIPPINES: COMING TOGETHER 200 YEARS FOR A NEW BEGINNING

### EAST ASIA PROVINCE LAUNCHING OF MARIST BICENTENARY

“Coming Together 200 years for a New Beginning,” the theme of the East Asia Province Launching of Marist Bicentenary held at Notre Dame of Kidapawan College in Kidapawan City, Philippines last June 23-24, 2017.

This was well participated by the delegates from school and non-school ministries of East Asia Province spearheaded by the NDKC President, Br. Manuel V. de Leon, FMS in coordination with the Marist Provincial Council and the Marist Bicentenary Committee. In fact, the East Asia Marists of Champagnat, Brothers, Affiliates, Sisters, Lay Mission Partners, Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, youths and alumni gathered meaningfully with the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fr. Hipolito Paracha, DCK and co-celebrated by Fr. Arnel Cabrera, DCK, NDKC chaplain and a Marist Father in the morning of the Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Br Emili Sent a video message to the participants: <https://goo.gl/pt4mUh>. Thereafter a break and a motorcade supervised; the lunch fiesta celebration was entertained by the Marist Band.

Moreover, relevant exhibits signifying Marist Presence in making Jesus and Mary known and loved were displayed by the Marist Brothers and the different school ministries 200 years such like

Marist School Marikina, Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, Notre Dame of Marbel University, Notre Dame of Cotabato and Notre Dame of Kidapawan College as well as the non-school ministry of Malutok, Palawan community.

The afternoon program proper started at the NDKC Br. Norman Roy gymnasium with an invocation of Alleluia and introductory songs led by the cited band. The host school president gracefully welcomed and inspired the delegates in his opening remarks after a Manobo cultural welcome presentation. Furthermore, Kidapawan City Mayor Joseph A. Evangelista, a Marist NDKC alumnus, proudly recognized the important contributions of Marist Brothers during his formation years and gratefully expressed his hospitality of the presence of Marists in the community. The Marist East Asia Provincial, Br. Robert Teoh, FMS, gave also his wonderful message about the theme of the celebration, rejoicing and celebrating together for the Lord has been good to us for the last 200 years, Champagnat asking forgiveness, being Champagnat of today as witness of Gospel joy, building a Church with Marian face, being on fire for a mission, education as the work of the heart, and looking forward with hope for all to Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus.

After in between interludes by NDKC Sinagtala and Marist Band's Power of Dream performance, the participants, viewed and listened to the recent message of Br. Emili Turu, the Marist Superior General, who as well highlighted asking forgiveness, gratitude, and renewed commitment. After which, colorful cultural creative presentations were marvelously showcased by the performers of ND Cotabato, ND Marbel University,

ND Dadiangas University, NDKC and the Marist Brothers of Fourviere, Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Immaculate Conception Communities. Then, an audiovisual presentation about Marist Presence and Missions in East Asia was showed, which was preceded with a message of thanks by the East Asia Chair Maryon Mission Commission, Br. Dominador A. Santiago, FMS, and the singing of Marist Hymn and Marist Bicentenary Song. After a community dinner, the present Marists of Champagnat solemnly gathered and prayed in the bonfire ceremony with meaningful songs of peace, interfaith prayers, readings and messages of peace shared by school and non-school ministries' representatives, Ms. Cheryl Biare (NDC Faculty), Gerald Pusgo (Malutok, Palawan Youth), and Zyryll Fellores (NDMU Marist Youth). And then, a substantive taize prayer completed the night's event.

On the next day of the said solemnization, the delegates attended the mass at the Our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace Cathedral with Fr. Desiderio Balatero Jr., DCK as the priest presider on the Feast of St. John the Baptist. It was indeed a blessed rainy morning when they had their breakfast. A ritualized treeplanting activity concluded and actively participated by the Marist Provincial from Malaysia, Br. Domingo Lee of Korea, Br. John Choon, and the delegation heads and representatives of various ministries of Philippine Sector.

Such a significant communion of Marists of Champagnat today breakthrough a new La Valla!

Ivy Bulawan Yecyec - CMMF Lead Animator  
[http://eastiamarist.org/content.php?post\\_id=78](http://eastiamarist.org/content.php?post_id=78)

## SYRIA: LET'S CHOOSE TO BUILD PEACE!

### LETTER FROM ALEPPO No 30 (9 JULY 2017)

On this Saturday, July 9th 2017, it is very hot in Aleppo. In the street that runs alongside our place, cars are passing as regularly as before.

That is the word "AS BEFORE". I remember very well, during a 4 month stay in Bouake (Ivory Coast), the people always referred to the time of "the crisis". Today the Alepins often use the word "before". But, before what? Before the start of the war in Aleppo in 2012 or before the end of the combats in Aleppo, in December 2016? There is always a before, a comparison, a return back to read the reality of our life, the reality of the events that we go through, the reality of the city's demography, the reality of the industry, the reality of the essential services such as water and electricity, the reality of the security. Compare, evaluate and predict...These





are the three terms that make up the fabric of the long discussions that we are having.

At the same time, there are now terms that come up often: the reconstruction, the rehabilitation of the houses and shops, the return of the displaced people to their former neighborhoods and so many other signs that indicate that we want to live.

These days are also days of important decisions at the city's municipality regarding the improvement of the structures of the city and the return to normality: To open the streets that were closed or blocked, to install traffic signs, to remove the shacks that had grown like weeds on the sidewalks and the roadways during the war; the municipality has set up a special place where they can be installed. Taking advantage of the solar energy to illuminate the city's roundabouts.

It seems like if we want to catch up the time lost by a war that destroyed the city and made it a martyr city.

Many parents were waiting until the end of the school year (in mid-May, in Syria), or the end of the finals for the middle school (Brevet), or High school (Baccalaureat) (In mid-June) or the end of the college finals (in mid-July), to return to their homes in the eastern part of the city. They prefer to return to their neighborhood, to their home, to what they have been forced to leave despite their wills. And there are those who have spent these years of war in Syria but not in Aleppo. Those who moved to Tartous, Latakia or to other cities. They came, they saw and many of them made the decision to come back before September, the beginning of the school year.

Can we talk about the return of the displaced?

Can we imagine that those who left years ago, will take the path to return? It is a wish. For that wish to be a reality, there is still a long way to go.

Aleppo, is also the story of achievements and success. I will share few of them with you: Two of our young people passed the official middle school certificate (Brevet) with a perfect score. They were received by the first lady. Despite the war, despite the displacements, despite all the obstacles against their possible success, here is an example of young people determined to surpass themselves, to go forward, to succeed in their life and their studies.

Tuesday, July 11th, in the famous Maronite cathedral without a roof, demolished during the war, and where Christmas mass of 2016 was celebrated again, only few days after the liberation of Aleppo, in this same cathedral a concert of the Great



**Is the war over? Not at all.**  
**One must be realistic. If the city of Aleppo is not bombed, that does not mean that the war is over in Syria or in Aleppo.**



Mass in C Minor of Mozart will take place. The orchestra is from Damascus and the Chorus is from Aleppo. Over 70 musicians will give back to the city of Aleppo its musical pulse. As you can imagine, our city is well known for its traditional musical culture. Several ladies, among those who participated in the advanced session of "Cut and Sew" began to dream of their future as seamstress in workshops or even opening their own workshop.

This summer is marked by the publication of "Le journal de Myriam" by the famous French publishing house "Fayard". A book that describes the life of Myriam, daughter of one of our families of Jabal el Saydeh during the war in Aleppo. She describes in the book her school, the displacement of her family, her fears and her friendship with Joudy her classmate, her dream and her future. This book received the prize of the "Essai de l'Express".

Another good news for this summer 2017, is the summer camps outside the city of Aleppo. For a lot of young people, it will be the first occasion to get to know other regions of Syria. All this beautiful picture of the reality of the life in Aleppo has its reverse side: Another picture unfortunately more sad and, for us, more worrying, is the psychological and humanitarian situation of the people. Currently, I spend a lot of time listening to the complaints of parents about the deterioration of their children's situation, especially the teenagers among them. A big vacuum exists in the lives of these young people. A quest for a lost sense of purpose that is very difficultly to find again. A need to escape, to go elsewhere. A violence is amplified by the characteristics of their age. An inquiry about life: why live? Why fight for its future? Why to act, to invest, when everything seems destruction and despair.

To read the full article, visit <https://goo.gl/VS73B3>.

*Br Georges Sabe  
For the Blue Marists*

### Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto:comunica@fms.it)

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