



NEW APPOINTMENTS FOR 2018: APPOINTMENTS FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LAITY, CMI AND ECONOMIC ISSUES



The General Council made several new appointments, most of them three-year terms, during its last regular session held on Aug. 14.

Brother Valdicer Facchi, of the Brasil Sul-Amazonia province, will arrive to the general house in February as a new member of 'Collaboration for Mission, International' (Cmi). He will then replace Brother Chris Wills as its director on July 1.

Raúl Amaya, from the Santa María de los Andes province, will be the first lay person appointed as director of the Secretariat of the Laity, replacing Brother Javier Espinosa on Jan. 1. The Secretariat will have two assistant directors: Pep Buetas, of the Hermitage province, nominated last year for a second mandate, and Agnes Reyes, of the East Asia province, who will begin on Jan. 1. The Council has appointed João Luis Fedel Gonçalves (second

term), of Brasil Centro-Sul, Brother Elias Odinaka Iwu, of Nigeria, Kate Fogarty, of Australia, and Ana Saborío, of América Central, as new members of the Extended Secretariat.

Several appointments have also taken place in the Institute's economic sector. Brother Roque Brugnara, of the Brasil Centro-Sul province, has been reappointed for another year starting Feb. 1 as head of the treasure services of the general administration. Members appointed for the International Council for Economic Affairs (CIAE) that will begin a three-year term on Jan. 1 include Brother Libardo Garzón (bursar general, coordinator), Brother Francesc Xavier Giné Arnella (l'Hermitage), Bernard Kenna (Australia), Adrienne Egbers (Southern Africa), Brother Jorge Gaio (Brasil Centro-Sul), Brother Alfonso Fernandez (Ibérica) and Ivo Cadaval (Brasil Sul-Amazônia).

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Superior general Brother Emili Turú is spending a few days in Guatemala and a few days in the Novitiate of Medellin, Colombia, before travelling to Rionegro for the General Chapter.

From Aug. 20 – 31, General councillor Brother Víctor Preciado is visiting the province of México Central.

Brother Libardo Garzón, bursar general, took part in a meeting of the International Council of Economic Affairs in El Escorial, Spain, from Aug. 21 – 24.

Last week, Brother Manel Mendoza returned to the Hermitage province and Brother Rick Carey arrived from the United States to Rome to work in FMSI.

The Provisional Committee of the 22nd General Chapter in Rionegro (Medellín), Colombia, will meet from Aug. 31 – Sept. 6. Participants include vicar general Brother Joe McKee and Brother Ernesto Sánchez, General Councillor.

Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity, was in Ghana last week and is in Cameroon this week for workshops for the laity.

TOWARDS A NEW BEGINNING: CHAPTER MEMBERS ARE CARRIERS OF THE FRUITS OF PRE-CAPITULAR PROCESS

Since the creation of the Preparatory Commission for the General Chapter in 2015, much work has been done to prepare the Chapter Assembly, which begins on Sept. 8.

In fact, the General Chapter is the culminating moment of a process that has produced much reflection and also documents that are an expression of the vitality of the Marist charism, which is moving towards a new beginning.

Pre-Chapter Process

Brother Emili Turú published a [Circular of Convocation](#) in September 2016, inviting all Marist Brothers of Champagnat to participate in the [Pre-Chapter Process](#) proposed by the Preparatory Commission. The three phases of this process were designed to enable the capitulants to be representatives of the Marist charism, to understand what happened in their own administrative units, and to transmit that wealth of experience to the Chapter assembly.

Each chapter member, in the assembly, will be a messenger and will transmit to the participants the lived experience and the suggestions presented by the administrative unit itself.



Report of the general council

An important instrument for the chapter members and for the Marists of Champagnat is the [Report of the Superior General and his Council to the 22nd General Chapter](#), which was published at the beginning of the year as number 47 in the magazine FMS Message. The ideas presented in this document result from the reflection and

dialogue that the General Council undertook together with the members of the Secretariats and other teams that acted during its mandate.

The participants of the Chapter also received two annexes to the document: "Chapter Mandates Related to Finances" e "Report of the Services of the General Administration (2009-2017)."

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE PROVINCE: A BRIDGE INTO THE FUTURE BICENTENARY GATHERING IN THE HERMITAGE

Sixty brothers and lay people of the West Central Europe province met in the Hermitage from Aug. 11 – 14 for their provincial bicentenary gathering.

The Province Bicentenary Gathering, entitled, "A Bridge into the Future," focused on spirituality and mission.

Brother Tony Leon led the opening liturgy, where he used the image of the river Gier. He named the various foundations that were part of the history of the Province, starting with the foundation in

London in 1853 – the first foundation outside of France. Brother Don Bisson, from the United States, made presentations on Aug. 12 on spirituality, based on Jungian psychology, which provided an insightful and inspiring approach to Marist spirituality which struck a chord with many of the participants.

Among other things he noted that "We cannot have a Marial charism which marginalizes women." He referred to the number of women who are now involved in leadership positions in the Marist Institute at

NEWS IN BRIEF

BRASIL SUL-AMAZONIA

Fifty students from two Marist schools of Brazil, the Colégio Marista São Luís (Santa Cruz do Sul) and Colégio Marista Pio XII (Novo Hamburgo) are in Chile from June 26 – Sept. 3 as part of a cultural exchange. They are staying at the homes of the students of the Instituto Marista O’Higgins in Rancagua. The Chilean students visited Brazil in May.

NORANDINA

The fraternity “Hermano Ángel”, founded by seven lay Marists, celebrated its 25th anniversary on Aug. 15 at Popayan, Colombia. Sixty people participated in the Mass, during which the members of the fraternity renewed their Marist lay commitment. In previous days, members prayed a novena to St Marcellin and the rosary to prepare for the event.

IBÉRICA

The second week long retreat for brothers celebrated in Lardero, Spain, concluded on Aug. 27. It was animated by Br José María Ferre and centred on the concepts of fraternity and being a Marist brother.



the present time. The group visited La Valla on Aug. 13, during which Brother Ben Consigli, also from the United States, invited the participants to reflect on the community dimension of the Marist charism.

In the afternoon Brother Steve Schlitte, principal of St. Michael’s Academy in New York, shared his own experience of meeting God in Marist mission.

Father John Lumley, who had been a scholastic with the Marist Fathers, presided at mass in Le Rosey.

In his sermon he said that Mary and Marist values are at the core of the

identity of all Marists. The gathering provided opportunities for people from the different countries of the Province to meet each other and build on friendships that had been established at previous meetings.

The event was also the culmination of a series of meetings that have taken place in recent years, which have helped to build a bridge for a Marist future in the Province with increased involvement of lay men and women.

Br Brendan Geary
Provincial of West Central Europe

PROVINCE OF SOUTH ASIA: SRI LANKA

A RETREAT WITH A DIFFERENT NOTE

The Marist Brothers of South Asian Province had their annual retreat done from 13th to 19th of August at Monte Fano Retreat Centre at Ampitiya Kandy, 96km from Colombo the capital of Sri Lanka. There were 28 Brothers from Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Due to some unavoidable circumstances the Indian Brothers were unable to participate.

In fact the Brothers were very fortunate to have Brother Teófilo who came all the way from Rome to lead the retreat. The theme of the retreat was “THE IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH”. In fact the theme was taken from the book published by the

Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. And as the retreat was going by, day by day we have gone through the great themes presented in the roman document.

The visual presentations, the anecdotes, the sense of humour of the facilitator, his personal living experiences, and the booklet he prepared with selected passages of the document mingled with beautiful songs help the Brothers to grasp the deep meaning of the themes of the document. Although we got copies of this valuable document, published in 2015, explaining the very identity of the Reli-

MARIST WORLD



Australia: Renewal of vows of Br James in Alice Springs



General House: A new Greek Marist icon depicting Montagne, Lavalla & Fourvière



New Zealand: teachers participate in a conference for lay Marists, Auckland



Chile: National meeting of Marcha



Brazil: Meeting of the South America region communication team



Nigeria: annual retreat at the Marist Formation Centre, Orlu

gious Brother, we would not been able to understand it so clearly due to its deep theological background.

The methodology followed by the facilitator, showing first of all the Biblical background of the different themes, going through the recent Marist documents referring also to the themes to reach finally the document itself was of great help for all of us. We have finished the retreat knowing quite deeply the document. We could even interiorize

the salient points even through prayer and with the help of a song or a reading text related to the theme we were reflecting upon.

The themes discussed were as follows:

- Day One: Brothers in communion with the people of God;
- Day Two: A mystery of communion for the mission;
- Day Three: The mystery: Brotherhood - The gift we receive;



Day Four: Communion: Brotherhood - The gift we share;
Day Five: The mission: Brotherhood - The gift we give away;
Day Six: Who is my Brother?

The morning prayers and the Marian prayers of each day helped the group to be alive in the Spirit of the Lord. The Brothers appreciated the retreat and we hope it will yield

some fruits in the near future, for both the communities and the brothers individually, related to community life, to prayer life and to mission. We all owe to God for the beautiful weather provided here at the Sylvester Benedictine monastery, in Kandy.

Brother Joseph Peiris

PHILIPPINES: GATHERING OF YOUNG BROTHERS TEMPORARY PROFESSED BROTHERS IN ACTIVE MINISTRY

Fifteen young brothers of the Philippines gathered for a meeting for temporary professed brothers at the Province Center in General Santos City.

It was the first of three gatherings, held from July 28 – 30, for the 'Temporary Professed Brothers in Active Ministry (TPBIAM)' held from 2017 – 2018.

During the gathering, Brother Albert Muñoz spoke about his experience as a vocation animator.

He also reminded the young brothers that they have the responsibility of nurturing a culture of vocation in their respective communities and ministries.

Brother Ted Fernandez, the TPBIAM accompaniator, led a group discussion between the six young brothers



in their first-year apostolate. Five young brothers then shared their experiences about their preparation for their perpetual profession and the renewal courses they took part in for two months in Fiji.

Brother Robert Teoh, the provincial superior of East Asia, talked about the bicentenary celebration of the Marist Institute, the call of religious brothers in today's world, and his work as provincial.

BRAZIL CENTRO-SUR PROVINCE: ASSEMBLY OF BROTHERS AND LAITY IN PREPARATION FOR THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER

Brothers and lay Marists, who participated in the preparatory stages of the General Chapter, gathered from Aug. 11 – 12 at the Marist Memorial in Curitiba to gather, confirm, share and celebrate the whole journey in preparation for the Chapter to be held in September in Rionegro (Colombia).

The participants of the Assembly, coming from different units and communities of the Province, were divided into roundtable groups to discuss the proposal and the creation of consensus on priority themes, which are urgent for the life and mission of the Marist Institute. The event contributed greatly to generate a reflection on

the provocations of the preparatory process and to indicate the main propositions and priorities of the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sur for the next eight years of the general government of the Marist Institute, as agreed in the following themes: 1) Spirituality and Mysticism; 2) Fraternal Relations and Communion; 3) Marist identity; 4) Mission in the peripheries; 5) Attention to the signs of a pluralistic world; 6) Education as a means of social transformation and 7) Effective structures at the service of people and the evangelizing mission. Reflections on different issues led Brothers and Lay people to reaffirm Marist identity, commitment to the charism and the permanence of the mission.

"The Assembly also rekindled our commitment to deepening who we are, what we want, where we are going and what we live to serve others," said Brother João Carlos do Prado, Provincial Superior elected for the 2018-2020 mandate.

According to him, the diversity, specificities and contributions made in the Assembly will be very important for the General Chapter. "We've had a lot of looks and insights on every issue we've debated. All the notes are relevant to the Marist Institute", he says.

The end of the Assembly was marked by the celebration of sending the representatives of the Province that will be in Rionegro: Brother Joaquim Sperandio, Brother Juan Carlos do Prado and Jimena Grignani, a lay guest, as well as Priscila Staniski and Laércio de la Cruz Loureiro, who will provide IT support during the General Chapter.



ASSEMBLY OF HAITI'S MARIST SECTOR FORMING TO TRANSFORM REALITY

The Brothers of Haiti's Marist sector held an assembly from July 31 – Aug. 3 with the goal of unifying the different visions on clear guidelines for the country's educational and evangelizing work.

During the assembly, we received the valuable support of the Provincial Council of México Occidental, represented by Brother Alfredo Alba and the Marist Service Center of the Province. They sent the assembly Adela Delgadillo and Stephen Birtwistle – both teachers – as facilitators of a planning workshop.

It was intensive working days and a beautiful experience during which participants shared their dreams in a fraternal way regarding their mission in the Pearl of the Caribbean, the new Haiti that they want to help build and what they're willing to work on to make their dreams come true.

For this, we start with an analysis of reality and a definition of our identity, mission and vision, as presented:

We are brothers and educators, who offer training and evangelization to children, youth and teachers in schools and communities in Haiti to transform their reality.



**We are brothers
and educators, who
offer training and
evangelization to
children, youth and
teachers in schools
and communities in
Haiti to **transform**
their reality.**



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