



## GENERAL CHAPTER: HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD

### INTERVIEW WITH THE SUPERIOR GENERAL, BROTHER EMILI TURÚ

Brother Emili Turú ends his service as superior general of the Marist Brothers during the General Chapter that will begin on September 8 in Rionegro (near Medellin). A few days before the beginning of the Chapter, Brother Emili answers our questions.

**A General Chapter is always an important moment for the life of a religious Institute. Does the fact that it is taking place in Colombia have a meaning?**

This year 2017 we are celebrating the bicentenary of our foundation. The slogan for both this year's cele-

bration and the previous two years of preparation has been: "A new beginning". When speaking of a new beginning ... we wanted to visualize it also geographically, with the novelty of a Chapter outside the headquarters of the General Administration, which is where the previous 21 Chapters have been celebrated.

We wanted to take the Chapter to one of the world's "peripheries" and Colombia is one of them, since it is living the consequences of an armed conflict since 1960; one of these consequences is, for example, the large number of internally displaced persons (more than 6 million).

On the other hand, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the convocation of the Second General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate, which took place in Medellin. We know that the conclusions of this Conference profoundly marked not only the Church of the continent but the universal Church.

Also, in Colombia we have an important Marist presence, which has helped and will help in the thousand logistical aspects that need to be addressed for a good



## HOW TO RECEIVE DAILY NEWS FROM THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER

The communications office of the general house is inviting all Marists to receiving daily news from the 22nd General Chapter, which begins on Friday, by signing up to the newsletter here: <https://goo.gl/t2C63E>.

The official website of the General Chapter is <http://www.champagnat.org/lavalla2017.php>.

Marists are also invited to use the hashtag **#LaValla2017** on all Marist social networks from now until Oct. 20, when the Chapter will finish. This will make it easier for people to find, follow, and contribute to the General Chapter.

development of the Chapter. These are the main reasons that have led us to choose Colombia as the site of our Chapter!

### **What, concretely, do you expect from this General Chapter?**

May we, the participants, in the Chapter be able to hear the voice of the Spirit of God, who speaks to us through the "signs of the times" and urges us to give creative answers to the urgent needs of today's children and youth.

The Pope reminds us in *Evangelii Gaudium* that we must overcome this kind of "ecclesial introversion" that seeks above all self-preservation. In fact, one must remain in a permanent state of mission. This is what gives us life and opens us to the future.

I think we have to ask ourselves honestly, as Champagnat did 200 years ago: where does the Church need us the most at the beginning of the 21st century? ... and act accordingly!

### **What do you mean by "signs of the times?"**

The participants in the Chapter will decide what "signs" speak to us today with particular force, but to me it seems that there are some situations that are authentic outcries and that will certainly be part of our discernment.

For example, I think of the 65.6 million people around the world forced to move from their places of origin; we cannot be indifferent to the fact that half of those people are under the age of 18. I think of the urgent and essential "global ecological conversion," because the future of the planet is at stake.

Another important "sign of the times" is the emergence of a mature and committed laity, which must have its own leading role...

**The participants in the Chapter will decide what "signs" speak to us today with particular force, but to me it seems that there are some situations that are authentic outcries and that will certainly be part of our discernment.**

Brother Emili Turú, superior general

### **Finally, some facts about the Chapter?**

The capitulars will be 79, representing the entire Marist Institute. In addition, as a guest, a group of 8 lay people (for 3 weeks), as well as a group of 6 young Brothers will participate.

The Chapter opens on September 8, and will last six weeks. As the Pope will be in Medellín on the 9th to meet with religious, we will also participate in that meeting: it has been a happy coincidence! A day has also been planned to meet with young people from Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, to listen to them and share experiences.

### **May the Chapter truly be a moment of grace for all Marists!**

Thank you very much, we count on the prayers of all the readers!

## **22ND GENERAL CHAPTER: PREPARATIONS BEGIN IN RIONEGRO, COLOMBIA**



Some participants and members of the support team are already working in Rionegro to prepare for the opening of the General Chapter on Sept. 8.

Two lay people, Priscila Staniski and Laercio da Cruz Loureiro (Brasil Centro-Sul Province) of the technology team, are already in Colombia since Aug. 21. Agapito Gómez and Brother Orlando Escobar, of the Norandina Province, arrived on that same day. Other members of the support team, who are in charge of preparing the "Casa de Encuentros de La Salle" will soon arrive to welcome the participants.

### **The Provisional Committee of the General Chapter**

The Provisional Committee of the General Chapter begins its work on Aug. 31.

As indicated in the Statutes of the General Chapter, this team will be in charge of establishing and coordinating the programme of the Chapter's first days. The Committee was appointed by the General Council

last February and is made up of Brothers Joe McKee (coordinator), Ben Consigli, Raja Kumar Soosai, Juan Carlos Fuertes, Darren Burge, Michel Razafimandimby, Deivis Fisher and Ernesto Sánchez. The work of

the Provisional Committee will last until the capitulants choose the members of the Facilitating Commission of the Chapter, which will be responsible for the organisation and development of the Chapter.

## VATICAN POST OFFICE COMMEMORATES BICENTENARY

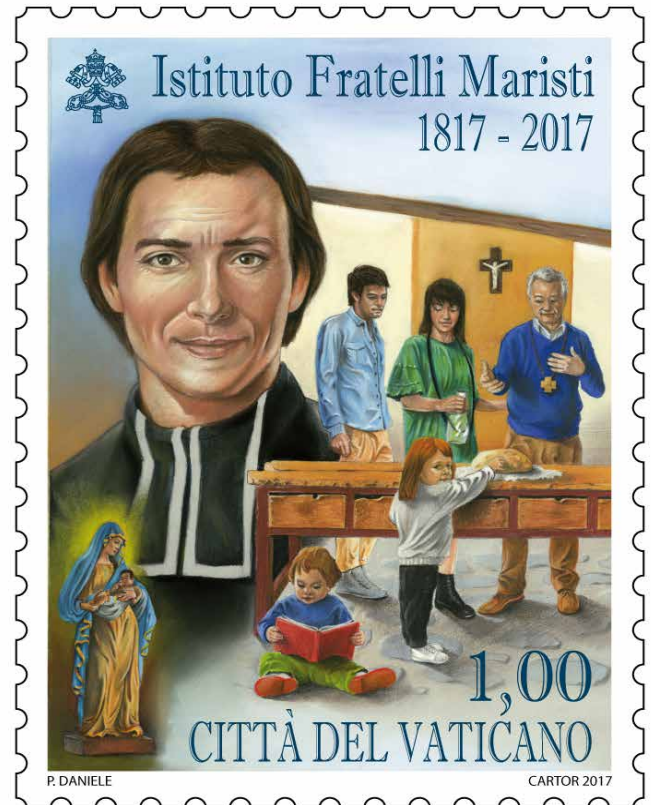
### VATICAN WILL SELL MARIST POSTAGE STAMPS FROM SEPT. 7

The Vatican post office, the Ufficio Filatelico e Numismatico, has designed a postage stamp for the Marist bicentenary, which it will sell from September 7 onwards.

The stamp will cost €1 Euro and its release will coincide with the start of the Institute's 22nd General Chapter the following day in Rionegro, Colombia.

The design, by Patrizio Daniele, depicts Marist elements such as the Good Mother, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the Cross, the table of the first community of brothers in La Valla, France, surrounded by Brothers and laity caring for children.

The general house communications office carried out the initiative alongside the Vatican, although the idea originated from the alumni of the Marist School San Leone Magno in Rome.



## 'WHOEVER DOES NOT LIVE TO SERVE, DOES NOT SERVE TO LIVE'

### CUBA: FORMING 50 YOUTH PASTORAL ANIMATORS



About 50 young people gathered in Matanzas (Cuba) from Aug. 8 to 13 to acquire tools for their mission as animators of youth ministry in their communities.

The 'School of Leaders I' meeting, which had as its motto 'Who does not live to serve, does not serve to live', also included experience of community life and service, as well as workshops of prayer and Mass.

According to the organisers, the goal was to form them and enable them "to reread their personal history in the light of faith and an en-

## MARIST WORLD



Guatemala: Community of the Provincial Residence of América Central



Ghana: Workshops with Marist laity



Philippines: MAPAC (Marist Asia-Pacific Center)



France: Marist young people from Canada in La Vallá



Sri Lanka: retreat for Brothers of Sri Lanka and Pakistan, Ampitiya (Kandy)



Spain: Meeting of educators, Province of Compostela

counter with Jesus.”

Summoned by the National Commission for Youth Ministry and animated by the Marist Brothers, the youths came from Ciego de Avila, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, Matanzas, Havana and Pinar del Río.

“This experience has been a gift from God for my life,” said Liz Camila López, one of the participants. “It has been like an engine that drives me to continue as a transparent and firm Christian leader in the faith that

I profess in the different environments where I am at.” Another participant, Rafael Cruz, said he found “a great disposition of young people and (the encounter) helped me to strengthen the foundations of my vocation, because among so many obscurities in my beloved Cuba, I have discovered a sigh of hope.”

“I am satisfied and grateful, I am happy to serve the Church by accompanying the young people because my life is Christ,” he continued.

## DEVELOPING MARIST SPIRITUALITY AMONG BROTHERS AND LAITY

### SRI LANKA: FIFTH MEETING OF THE ASIA LAITY COMMISSION

The Asia Laity Commission held its fifth meeting from Aug. 10 – 12 at the Tulana Jesuit Research Center in Colombo, Sri Lanka, for further developing Marist spirituality among brothers and lay in Asia.

Its six members are Agnes Reyes (Convenor), Brother Dominador Santiago (East Asia), Elma Rafil (East Asia), Jude Preman (South Asia), Brother

Roshan Silva (South Asia) and Brother Ismael Valls (MDA).

They joined the Asian Spirituality Team composed of Brothers Domingo Lee (Korea), Max Meier (MDA) and Sunanda Alwis (South Asia).

Specific enabling objectives were identified and proposals were delineated to achieve the goal of forming

brothers and lay imbued with Asian spirituality and zealous promoters of the “Marian face of the Church” in their respective ministries.

Brother Sunanda Alwis, coordinator of the laity of South Asia, invited the members of the Asia Laity Commission to offer support to the brothers and lay of South Asia who were receiving joint formation on leadership.

Brother Ismael Valls told participants from Pakistan, Sri-Lanka and India his experience in mission and laity collaboration in China.

Agnes spoke about the vocation of the laity and Elma gave a testimony on being a member of the Champagnat Movement.

A Jesuit priest, Father Aloysius Pieris, provided valuable input that guided the reflections in the meeting. During the said meeting, Brother Réal Sauvageau, from the International Novitiate, Tudela, and Thushari Surweera, a lay collaborator from Sri-Lanka, joined the event as observers.

One of the participants underscored that they dream for "a joyful, bolder, stronger Marist Brothers and Lay in service, together."



## TO MAKE MARCELLIN'S DREAMS COME TRUE

### BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE ELECTS PROVINCIAL YOUTH COMMISSION

Gathered in Belo Horizonte, 25 young people from the schools and colleges of Brasil Centro-Norte elected the members of the Provincial Youth Commission and their substitutes. The Commission

is formed of eight youths who will represent young people of the province's social and educational works for a period of three years. They will collaborate with each other as the voice of all youths of Brasil



Be clear that being part of the commission is not to stand out among the others, but to **serve the youth** of the province, because **leadership is service**

Brother Ataide José de Lima  
provincial, Brasil Centro-Norte



Centro-Norte.

The provincial, Brother Ataide José de Lima, noted that “this commission is to make your dreams come true, as dreams are the strength of continuing to strive for a better society.”

“Be clear that being part of the commission is not to stand out among the others, but to serve the youth

of the province, because leadership is service,” he affirmed.

“Help us to dream the new beginning for the Marist Mission. Do good, do not let yourself be carried away by what is easiest and keep Marist values and principles in your heart. You are called to be protagonists of this new time of our institution. Keep dreaming and believing.”

## 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.**



**Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House**  
Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat)