



22ND GENERAL CHAPTER: RIONEGRO, COLOMBIA



Day 5 - September 12 - Feast of the Holy Name of Mary

What is new in today's world? How will it be in a few years? How is the world transforming? What is happening socially? These questions summarize the focus of today's reflection and sharing among Chapter participants. Another important item of the day's agenda was the election of the Facilitation Commission, that will now guide the development of the Chapter.

The feast of the Holy Name of Mary was celebrated in both the morning prayer and the Eucharist that ended today's work. This feast is the patronal feast of the whole Marist Family, in particular the Society of Mary. To read the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/gHTPzu>.

Day 6 - September 13 - Towards a new land

On Wednesday, September 13th, the General Chapter participants journeyed to Medellín to visit social centers and projects administered by various organizations on the peripheries of the city. The goal of the immersion visit was to meet people engaged in that Centre, and to observe and listen to their realities, needs and opportunities. The visit was also an opportunity for Chapter participants to try and put themselves in the lives of the people in these places and to listen to what the Spirit was saying to them in the experience. To read the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/pibiw7>.



Day 7 - September 14 - Meeting with young people

Within the dynamic of understanding today's contemporary world, the General Chapter opened the door to the world of young people.

Twenty-five young people, leaders of youth ministry and other pastoral works of the Province of Norandina filled the Chapter Hall with life and energy.

To read the full story, the message from the young people to the capitulants and to watch videos related to the event, visit: <https://goo.gl/zhNPGN>.

Day 8 - Sept. 15 - Sensing, making presence, realising

On Friday, the General Chapter participants dedicated themselves especially to the exploration of today's reality, an essential step required before attempting to find any solutions.

As happens every day, both the beginning of the morning and the afternoon work, there is always a prayer that is creatively prepared by the Liturgy and Animation support team: Alicia Alexandra Morales Culqui and Brothers Tony Leon, Anselmo Kim and Fabrício Alves da Cruz. The prayer time is usually 15 minutes. These moments of prayer help the group to pray and to contemplate the mystery of God in their own lives, laying the groundwork so that the reflection is a contemplation of the will of God in relation to Marcellin's charism. To read the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/gFJ6g3>.



Day 9 - Sept. 16 - Celebrating the Institute's Bicentenary

Saturday, 16th September, everyone associated with the General Chapter celebrated with Marists of the Norandina Province, the Bicentenary of the Institute, which the General Council wanted to celebrate in three moments: January 2, June 6 and during the Chapter.

The Bicentenary Mass was celebrated in the Chapter Hall at 12.30 pm.

The Apostolic Nuncio of Colombia, Ettore Balestrero, a former Marist student in Genoa, Italy, presided.

In his homily, he left three tasks for the Brothers: to help sanctify the people with whom they are dealing; to keep strong their service of the Church; to witness to the power of Christ's love. To read the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/bVMDD1>.

Day 10 - Sept. 18 - Looking within the Institute

In recent days, the Chapter participants have analyzed the reality of the world around us, trying to envisage how it will be in ten years from now.

Today, Monday, 18th September, the reflection focused on our institute, trying to develop a knowledge of ourselves as a global body. Over the next few days the capitulants and guests will reflect not only on what we are experiencing in today's Institute, but also what the reality is likely to be 10 years from now.

To look at fotos in Facebook of the day, [click here](#). For the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/bJswKA>.



NEWS IN BRIEF

COMPOSTELA

Volunteers who spent a month and a half in Honduras, Mozambique and Zambia during the summer shared their experience and proposals for improvement on September 16 and 17 in Salamanca, Spain. The objective of the meeting was to close the path that began 10 months ago with the inscription, selection and the first formations. If you also want to move in solidarity and travel this way, you can find the information about the Campos de Trabajo-Misión (work-mission camps) 2018 in: <https://goo.gl/DYA3S4>.

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

On September 16, youth and adults were in Rio Grande, to celebrate this year's march of the Marist Youth Ministry. The theme of the EJM was 'A new wave' and the motto was 'Where is your faith?' The idea of the theme was to celebrate the 200 years of foundation of the Marist Institute, projecting the tricentennial. There were around 1,500 participants. The programme was designed by the Provincial Team of the PJM, directorate, advisors, animators and participants of the PJM groups of the San Francisco Marist College.

COLOMBIA

The 22nd General Chapter (<http://www.champagnat.org/lavalla2017.php>) began on Friday, Sept. 8, in Rionegro, Colombia. The Chapter's news are available at www.champagnat.org. For daily news, please sign up to the following link: <https://goo.gl/t2C63E>. To follow the Chapter on social media, use the hashtag #LaValla2017.

MARISTS ASK FOR SOLIDARITY AFTER EARTHQUAKE
MARIST MEXICO UNITES TO HELP VICTIMS



Marists in Mexico are appealing for help after the strongest earthquake the country has seen in a century left 90 people dead on Sept. 7.

"In these circumstances, all kind of help is good," affirmed Brother Javier Francisco Salcedo Camarena.

"We are planning a meeting with Brother Daniel Herrera (who travelled to Asunción Ixtaltepec, among the worst towns affected), to begin designing a solidarity campaign at provincial and international level with the information he brings to us and what he talks about, since the situation demands it," he continued in a letter to the country's Marists on Sept. 10.

The 8.1 magnitude earthquake, which struck off the southern coast, has also destroyed several homes and buildings in the Marist province of México Central.

The Marists of the province have survived the tremor.

There is no news yet of possible damages to the San José and San Felipe schools in the region of Istmo de Tehuantepec, or of the schools at the

coast of the Oaxaca state. Hundreds of families have reportedly been camping in the streets, afraid of the dangers of aftershocks.

The country's east coast was then hit by hurricane Katia on Sept. 8, leaving two people dead in mudslides after heavy rain fall.

In Ixtaltepec, Oaxaca, the house of the community was destroyed; the school and boarding school suffered structural damage.

In the picture, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto visits the Istmo de Tehuantepec region.



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MARIST WORLD



Spain: Meeting of teams of coordination of Groups Marcha, Ibérica Prov



United States: East Harlem community, New York



Mexico: New community in Chinatú, México Occidental



Lebanon: Community of Jbeil



Canada: Mass at Camp Mariste in Rawdon, Quebec



Sri Lanka: St Joseph's Boys' College, in Nugegoda

HAITI: REOPENING OF THE NOVITIATE IN JÉRÉMIE 10 MONTHS AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW

Ten months after hurricane Matthew destroyed 80 per cent of the village, the Brothers in Haiti have reopened the novitiate in Jérémie.

The ceremony was presided by Bishop Gontrand Décoste, with the participation of Brother Luis Enrique Rodríguez as head of the Marist sector of Haiti and delegate of the superior general.

During the Mass, which was held on on August 15, Brother Luis Enrique received the six novices who have initiated their Marist formation in the year of the Marist bicentenary.

According to the novices, the reason why they want to consecrate their lives to God as Marist Brothers is "to continue to deepen their own knowledge and growth as peo-



ple who can make them open their hearts to God's love because they want to be with Him and because they want to be apostles for the benefit of His people." Brother Gustavo Martín Cerda Hernández, of the México Occi-

dental province, underscored that the Brothers "are happy with the testimony and generosity of these young people, which makes us see that God continues to call and captivate young people in following Him."

BROTHERS CONTINUE TO TRAIN IN SAFEGUARDING OF MINORS DIPLOMA FROM THE CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN ROME

Brother Jeff Rhey Reston Antiquisa, of the East Asia province, and Brother Okechukwu Venatius Anochie, of the Nigeria province, will be the third set of Brothers to obtain the diploma from the Centre for Child Protection in Rome, Italy.

Brother Shanthy Liyanage of Sri Lanka and Brother John Katumbi of Malawi were awarded the diploma on June 14, and Brother Fortune Chakasara of Zimbabwe was the first to receive it, in 2016.

Brothers Jeff and Venantius will take the course starting this October to February next year.

Br Jeff, currently based in Kobe, Japan, has a bachelor degree in education with a major in religious education from the Notre Dame of Marbel University in Koronadal, Philippines.



He had his first profession on May 20, 2004, and his final vows on Sept. 10, 2011. Br Okechukwu was

born on Sept. 19, 1961. He made his first profession on Aug. 3, 1990 and his final profession on Aug. 11,

1996. He has a Masters in guidance and counselling and is currently doing a PhD in the same field.

SOUTH AFRICA: THREE2SIX GETS LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS FROM ABROAD

A Marist programme of the Southern Africa province, which offers education in South Africa to around 275 children

from neighbouring countries who have been turned away from schools due to their illegal status, received volunteers

over the summer that will stay from five to 12 months.



The volunteers for Three2Six project now include Rebecca Bromhead, (development coordinator), Dhruvi Shethia, Ben Bugeja, Michael Stavrakakis and Vincent Salinos (Australia); Lena Krottenthaler, Sophia Falter, Marius Hartman, Daniela Alofs (Germany) and Ellene Baettker (Brazil). They will volunteer a total of five months to a year, except for Rebecca who is staying for two and a half years and arrived over a year ago and Ben who will be staying for nearly two years and also arrived over a year ago.

All except for Rebecca and Dhruvi are living with a South African young Marist in the new Marcellin House

Young Adult Community in Johannesburg. Ellene, Lena, Michael, Vincent, Sophia and Marius are volunteers from the 'Collaboration for Mission, International' secretariat of the Institute's general administration. The programme 'Three2Six,' which was set up by the Sacred Heart College in Johannesburg in 2008, teaches numeracy and literacy to children aged five to 13.

The teachers, refugees themselves, offer the children three-hour daily lessons in existing host school facilities, with the hope of eventually reintegrating the children in schools. The Sacred Heart College recently completed a winter holiday programme where the children wrote and produced an animation film about the experience of being refugee children in South Africa.

DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA: WORKSHOPS IN GHANA & CAMEROON

The Secretariat of the Laity and Brother John Kusi, organised two three-day workshops in Ghana and Cameroon, with the participation of about 50 laity, men and women, and 10 Brothers at the end of August.

During the workshop in Ghana, district superior Brother Francis Lukong expressed his support for the efforts of improving communion between Brothers and laity at the district.

In Cameroon, Brother Ivo Njongai, the national coordinator of the Marist laity in the country, accompanied the experience.

The animating team was formed by Agnes Reyes of East Asia, Ana Sarrate of Ibérica, Brother Spiridion Ndanga of PACE and Brother Javier Espinosa of the Secretariat of the Laity. The main leaders were the two lay women, Agnes and Ana.

The major themes that were covered in depth included: the vocation of the laity in the Church, the Marist lay vocation, formation processes, communion between Brothers and laity, responses to the African reality. One of the days aimed at presenting the Champagnat Movement as a possible proposal for a Marist path for the laity in Africa. The reflection was accompanied by the study of the documents 'Being Lay Marist' and the 'Life Project of the Champagnat Movement.' Another space was dedicated to tune into the different realities and lay experiences in the Institute. The document was shared alongside the Secretariat's



proposals to the General Chapter. The interest and the motivation that was shown throughout the workshop was expressed in many questions posed by the participants throughout the event.

The meetings revived the desire to strengthen both the group of laity in Ghana, as well as the four groups in Cameroon (Bafut / Bamenda, Tatum, Douala, Mbengwi).

In Cameroon, a coordinating Committee was appointed and some future activities for the year were outlined.

It is necessary to emphasize the spontaneous, vibrant and harmonious songs that arose several moments

during the day. They can be watched in the video below. They are, undoubtedly, an expression of Marist hearts that manifested the strength and vitality of the charism.

Contemplating the group's singing and dancing, you were encouraged by their smiles, their movements, their joy, their hope and their brotherhood. All this took place within the commitment to build a new La Valla.

Then the group of Cameroon passed in front of the altar so that the priest would bless the small memory of the event that had been given to them, a mason's trowel. They wanted it to be a symbol of their desire to promote the future.

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