



## 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER: RIONEGRO, COLOMBIA



### Day 33 - Oct. 10 - New General Council

On Oct. 10, members of the XXII General Chapter elected a new General Council for the Institute. This Council will accompany the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, and the Vicar General, Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, in the leadership and animation of the Institute over the next 8 years. The six Brothers elected as General Councilors are: Ben Consigli (United States), João Carlos do Prado (Brasil Centro-Sul), Josep Maria Soterias (L'Hermitage), Kenneth Charles McDonald (Australia), Óscar Martín Vicario (Compostela) and Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa (Madagascar). To read the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/PeFGTz>.

### Day 34 - Oct. 11 - Presentation of the revised Constitutions and Statutes

The focus of the work of the Chapter for the days remaining until the 20th October, will be on the texts of the revised Constitutions and Statutes, and the 'Rule of Life'. These proposed texts are the result of the work done by the International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions over the past 2 years.

The capitulants all met in the Chapter Hall, after the morning Eucharistic. The whole morning was dedicated to the presentation of the five Chapters of the revised format of the Constitutions and Statutes. For the full story, visit <https://goo.gl/5Ont3A>.



### Day 35 - Oct. 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Aparecida and Our Lady of Pilar

This year, on Oct. 12, Brazil celebrates 300 years of devotion to Our Lady Aparecida.

Today is also the feast day of Our Lady of Pilar, the patroness of Spain.

The General Chapter prayed to our Good Mother that she accompanies today's work on the Constitutions and Statutes. The morning's Marian prayer, as well as today's afternoon prayer and Eucharist focused on the theme of the different names, images and devotions we use to honour Mary in our personal, communal and spiritual lives. For the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/UY6RzS>.

### Day 36 - Oct. 13 - Constitutions, Statutes and Rule of Life

On Oct. 13, the capitulants continued to work on the revision of the text of the Constitutions and Statutes, particularly on Chapter 5. From this revision, certain proposals are being formulated that will be voted on later next week. The Rule of Life was also presented.

Brother Juan Carlos, from the Facilitation Commission, was the moderator for today's sessions. He introduced the work of today by highlighting the importance of keeping in mind the 32 calls that have been identified at this General Chapter when reviewing the text of the Constitutions and Statutes. To read the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/xiau3e>.



### Day 37 - Oct. 14 - Work on the Constitutions and Statutes and statement on the Rights of Children

Saturday, as in the previous three days, the capitulants continued the work of reviewing the revised text of the Constitutions and Statutes. A short time was also given to discuss a draft chapter statement on Child Protection.

The morning session began with Brother Emili, on behalf of the Synthesis Committee, presenting to capitulants a summary of the proposed wording changes or additions to various articles and statutes found in chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the revised Constitutions. To read the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/76VrJx>.

### Vicar General Message: Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez

A greeting to all the Marists of Champagnat from all five continents! Like Brother Ernesto who began his mandate as Superior General on Oct. 3, I would like to thank all the Marists that has given us the opportunity to serve the Institute during the next 8 years. The General Chapter has invited us to build bridges. This General Chapter has invited us to be bridges of humanity in a world that is fractured, in societies that are often divided. As brothers and sisters who identify with the heart of Champagnat, our true vocation is to be bridges of humanity in all the continents where we live. For the full story visit <https://goo.gl/gyUcyW>.



### Day 38 - Oct. 16 - Constitutions and 'Rule of Life'

Today, the capitulants began to finalize their proposed changes to the revised text of the Constitutions and Statutes. These will be voted on tomorrow. Work began on reviewing the proposed text for the provisionally titled, 'Rule of Life'. In the early evening, capitulants met in their fraternities for a Liturgy of the Word. The fraternities then came together for the Liturgy of the Eucharist in the chapel. After dinner, an extraordinary evening session was held to consider the documents prepared prior to the General Chapter by the Secretariat of the Laity. To read the full story, visit: <https://goo.gl/BxOynM>.

## MARISTS FROM CUBA CELEBRATE THE INSTITUTE'S BICENTENARY IN MIAMI

The Marist community in Miami, which recalls the historic Marist presence in Cuba, celebrated the bicentenary of the Institute on Oct. 7 with a Mass presided by Bishop Emilio Aranguren Echevarría of Holguín, Cuba.

The celebration coincided with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the society of Marist alumni (Sociedad de Antiguos Alumnos Maristas) in 1967.

"Let us give thanks to God for the presence of the Marist charism in the Church and its significance in the past and the present among the Cubans, especially those of us who were students and who, with healthy rejoicing, identify as former students," said the bishop during his homily on the day of Our Lady of the Rosary.

"Let us imitate Mary and Elizabeth in embracing the Marist alumni, integrating the generations - both those who remain in Cuba and those who have emigrated, as well as those who have grown up under the same charism," he added.

About 300 people participated in the Mass and celebration of the bicentenary including six Marist Brothers and 100 former students of Marist schools in Cuba.

In Florida, the Brothers of the Province of the United States have several communities and run the Christopher Columbus High School in Miami with 1700 students.

Marists have been present in Miami since the emigration of Cubans to the United States in 1961. To read the



complete text in Spanish of the homily of Bishop Emilio Aranguren Echevarría, visit: <https://goo.gl/Hkosra>.

## URUGUAY VOLUNTEERS TELL OF EXPERIENCE IN COLOMBIA

### LIVING THE MARIST CHARISM WITH THE MARGINALISED



Andrea Runga Ruggiero and Rodrigo Rivas Masullo, from Montevideo (Uruguay), are two lay Marists currently volunteering for four months in a community in Colombia.

The couple, who is staying in the community 'Hermano Alfonso Segovia' until Dec. 22, took part in the inauguration of the 22nd General Chapter.

They also led capitular brothers in an activity to help them discover various Marists works with vulnerable children and young people in Medellín.

Below is an account dated Oct. 1 of what Andrea and Rodrigo have experienced so far in Colombia.

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"It's been over a month since we arrived here, in Colombia, in a neighbourhood called Santo Domingo in Medellín. We

## MARIST WORLD



Spain: Marist Novitiate of Seville visits Málaga



Lebanon: 'Dare to DR24M' presentation by Marwan Zgheib, former Champville student



Thailand: Exams at Marist Centre for Migrants, Samut Sakhon



Mexico: Demolition of the Marist house of Asunción Ixtaltepec, Oaxaca



Portugal: Assembly of groups and fraternities, Vouzela



Sri Lanka: Painting a classroom of the Marist International Novitiate, Tudella

came to share this time with the community 'Hermano Alfonso Segovia,' made up of two young brothers, Carlos Saúl and Juan Pablo, and by Cristian, an enthusiastic aspirant aged only 19.

Since the house where the brothers live is small, it was agreed that we should be received by Natalia, an energetic Marist educator, always smiling and with a big heart, who lives a couple of uphill away from the brothers. Yes, everything is measured here in uphill. And downhill. We are half way up a great mountain, so to move around you always must go up and down slopes and scales (this is the world they use for stairs here). While Naty's house is even smaller than the brothers', there is enough room for the three of us so we are more than comfortable.

Daily community meetings with the Brothers begin by sharing the morning prayer and breakfast. In the afternoon, we share prayer and dinner. We also participated together in the pastoral activities on Saturday afternoons and we have had some out of the ordinary moments, especially on weekends.

With respect to our usual tasks, we participate in 'La Fundación Huellas' (a foundation that the brothers accompany with their presence in various activities and programmes) in both of their spaces: 'La Torre' Community Centre (a few steps away from where we live) and the 'Popular Library' (Biblioteca Popular) in the Manantiales neighbourhood, an intense

half hour uphill walk from the centre. After having known the different projects and programmes of the foundation we have been increasing the work with children and mothers. We have accompanied some outings of the children and we were in the organisation and execution of a sleepover and of a dinner of a 10th anniversary celebration of the foundation. In the same way, we are still searching for spaces in which we can continue to contribute from the formation we've received as Marists.

As Marists, we have been blessed to participate in some unthought of instances, such as the inauguration of the 22nd General Chapter, a Mass with Pope Francis and another with the Bishop of Medellin. We also participated in the celebration for the 200 years and accompanied an activity of insertion of the capitular brothers where they met various works of Medellin where Marists work with vulnerable children and young people. An incredible learning experience. In Colombia, we have found a human warmth that has made us feel at home, starting with the brothers, as well as Naty and many passionate people who give their lives each day for the neighbourhood's children making the strong commitment to live among them. We are aware that we have just began our experience and that we still have much to walk and discover. God called us to these lands and Marcellin's heart brought us to this community specifically. Trusting in Mary, it will be our task to discover what it is that we should learn from being together here and now."

*Andrea and Rodrigo*

## 2,000 STUDENTS TAKING PART IN CURITIBA'S MARIST OLYMPIAD

### A FOOTBALLER, SURVIVOR OF AIRPLANE CRASH WILL LIGHT THE PYRE

Around 2,000 students will participate in a Marist Olympiad from Oct. 11 – 15 in Curitiba, Brazil, commemorating the bicentenary, in four locations - Colégio Marista Santa Maria, Colégio Marista Paranaense, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR) and the Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR).

Participants include Hélio Hermito Zampier Neto, a survivor of last year's airplane crash in Colombia transporting the Brazilian Chapecoense football squad who will light the olympic pyre of Olimar – Olimpíada Marista under the theme 'A new beginning.'

"Playing sports gives fundamental values for an integral formation of a citizen and is part of a Marist way to educate," affirmed Anderson Retechuki, the organizer of Olimar, held every two years.

This year will also include Olimar's first dance festival with 145 participants



from ten Marist schools performing 24 choreographed dances, and rhythmic gymnastics with 79 students from seven schools. Games include basketball, handball, futsal, swimming, volleyball

and chess divided into two categories: A (15 to 17 years) and B (11 to 14 years). Eighteen Marist schools from throughout Brazil are taking part, as well as schools from Uruguay and Chile.

## COLOMBIA: I DREAM OF AN INSTITUTE ...

### MARIST NOVICES IN MEDELLÍN

The La Valla international novitiate, in Medellín, has been very present during this General Chapter.

It is not a constant physical presence, but still a very significant presence. The formation community is composed of three Brothers, 12 novices, and one novice from the United States during the period of the Chapter.

The first-year novices want to express their passion for the Marist charism by sharing the text below, highlighting the Marist life they dream of as young Brothers for a new beginning.

**I DREAM OF AN INSTITUTE where Brothers are open and available for mission.** With welcoming communities, artisans of peace, living joyfully in unity and fraternity as Brothers among Brothers. With large and wide doors where we include all those who cry to be rescued from the inconsistencies of this world. I dream of building a family that is fraternally united and placed in the hands of Mary, our Good Mother. In the future, I dream of being and sharing a great home; making a difference in every step that is taken, leaving a mark on each

heart and inspiring the journey of our Brother to be a light of life, a place of welcome and understanding, education and transparency from the smallest to the greatest. I dream of a community that bears hope. I dream that I will not walk alone. My life is shared with the Brothers of my community. Along this path, I am delighted that others will come, even though they are not walking not quickly.

**I DREAM OF AN INSTITUTE with "rodachines", that is, that gradually spreads out to those new lands where we are needed;** going without fear to the peripheries and leaving our comfort zones. An Institute that is seeks open-hearted encounters with today's children and youth. I dream of an Institute that gives priority to transforming the lives of children and young people by the quality of time we share with them. An Institute with "eyes open", attentive to every detail that the reality of children and young people raises, responding immediately to the needs of today's children and youth. An Institute attentive to the signs of the times, without losing our origins, is constantly and currently renewing itself. I dream of a community that gives itself generously to the most impoverished of the world and that put itself at their service.



**I DREAM OF AN OPEN INSTITUTE**, with broad and fraternal relationships with our lay men and women, working toward the same ideal, where together we can share the mission and where we all feel involved in serving the most vulnerable in our societies. An Institute that enters into greater communion and shares mission with the Church and with other congregations, even in mixed communities, enriching each other in favour of ideals that favour children and youth. That being in communion with the whole world in the Marist way is a testimony to others. I dream of communion with others, starting with myself. This is where we often have to learn to forgive and be forgiven.

**I DREAM OF AN INSTITUTE where each of us keeps alive the dynamism of our vocation** and renews each day the charism of Marcellin Champagnat so that in each one of us is given a new beginning. I dream of a lifestyle that facilitates the personal fulfillment of each one of its members at an intellectual, spiritual, apostolic level. I dream of the quality of our responses to the project of our Founder.

**I DREAM OF AN INSTITUTE in which the Marist charism is shared and spreads to all countries and any culture.** I dream of a Marist life, embodied in the reality of every environment, not only in our places of surety (colleges, universities, foundations). I dream of an Institute of Brothers convinced of their vocation and the greatness of it, not of comfortable people ... just existing.

**I DREAM OF A PROPHETIC INSTITUTE who lives what it says.** We can do this with discernment and prayer. An Institute that gives voice to the most needy of our society. An institute not frightened by structures of power, but brave in the face of adversity. Specifically, I think we can enter into conversations, in our towns and cities, to include voices that are not heard. An Institute that speaks clearly, loudly, the call of the Spirit in our times, an Institute that can be an example for the Church, not with shouts or noise, but with simplicity and modesty.

**I DREAM OF AN APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE**, which values the need to contemplate, as Mary taught us, "pondering everything in her heart". Champagnat has given us an example in this, always faithful in his relationship with the Father. We are already realizing this dream in the Institute, especially in formation programs. I dream of what has been formed during these 200 years in the Institute: the Marist family. Regardless of our origin, we are all called to serve children and young people in a special way; to share our Marist apostolic spirituality and to live in creative fidelity to the charism.

**I DREAM OF AN INSTITUTE that faithfully lives following of Jesus Christ.** I dream of continuing to follow Jesus as Mary did and our Founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat. I dream of the gift of life that God gives us. He has made us people so we can be happy and we can make others happy. I dream of an Institute that embodies the Gospel and a community that breaks plans, available to be of service anywhere in the world.

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