



## 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER: RIONEGRO, COLOMBIA

### Day 39 - Oct. 17 - Voting on Constitutions and Statutes

The program began with voting on the first two chapters of the revised Constitutions and Statutes. The Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers shared some thoughts with the Chapter Assembly, and capitulants discussed proposals on the Statutes of the next General Chapter and the text of the 'Rule of Life'. Just prior to lunch, Brother Robert Schieler FSC, Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers, addressed the Chapter Assembly with shared some thoughts on the Marist General Chapter, the call to collaboration between Congregations and the future.

The afternoon focused on praying for the Lavalla>200 International Communities Project and continuing the work of reviewing the Rule of Life text. For the complete story visit <https://goo.gl/wkOAd7>.



### Day 40 - Oct. 18 - Voting on the Constitutions

The day began with Eucharistic. Capitulants continued the electronic voting process on articles and statutes in chapter 3 of the revised Constitutions and Statutes. While the voting progress is slow and somewhat tedious, because each article or statute requires a vote, the passing of the revised text is the fruitful completion of a much longer process of consultation and dialogue.

Apart from voting on the Constitutions, the other significant moment of the day was the time given to ongoing discussions among the capitulants about a possible Chapter statement on sexual abuse and child protection. To read the full news story visit: <https://goo.gl/27q7vr>.

### Day 41 - Oct. 19 - Second to last day of the General Chapter

The work day began with morning prayer that put displaced children as the focus of the prayer.

Two videos on refugee children from Syria and Bangladesh provided capitulants with moving personal accounts of the experiences of these children.

Br Juan Carlos, Provincial of Mediterraenea, recounted the work of the Brothers in Syria and Lebanon, saying that: "even if in some places we welcome, in many people close the doors and build walls". For the full story, visit <https://goo.gl/3FxpT5>.





#### Day 4 - Oct. 20 - Closure of the XXII General Chapter

This morning's first session was devoted to voting on the few remaining articles and statutes in Chapter 5 of the revised Constitutions. Brother Josep Maria Soteras also presented the results of yesterday's voting on chapter 4 and 5 of the revised Constitutions.

The Chapter website and applications used by capitulants during the Chapter will continue to be available to participants to facilitate access to documents and ongoing dialogue. At the beginning of the final afternoon session of the XXII General Chapter, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, gave his closing address, and then declared the XXII General Chapter closed. To read the complete news story, visit: <https://goo.gl/r1yuXC>.

#### Day 4 - Oct. 20 - Remarks by Brother Ernesto Sánchez at the closing of the XXII General Chapter

In the final session of the XXII General Chapter, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, made some closing remarks that were addressed to the whole Chapter assembly, to the entire Institute of the Marist Brothers, and to all those associated with Marist life and mission.

His message focused on three images that were a constant presence during this General Chapter: Our Lady of Fourvière, the table of La Valla and the Last Supper mural by Maximino Cerezo Barredo. To read the news story and the full text of Br Ernesto's speech, visit: <https://goo.gl/rcrXLz>.



## SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

### 450 YOUTH FROM ALL BRAZIL DISCUSS SOCIAL ISSUES & ROLE OF PJM



Around 450 youth from Brazil's three provinces gathered at the the Second National Congress of Marist Youth Ministry in Porto Alegre from Oct. 12 – 15.

"It is the youth that will build our next 100 years, so it is essential that we take action to show that we are already at this new beginning," affirmed the executive secretary of the Marist Union of Brazil, Brother Natalino Guilherme de Souza, at the start of the event.

The event, held at the Colégio Marista Champagnat, included young Marists from Brasil Centro-Sul, Brasil Centro-Norte and Brasil Sul-Amazônia. Youth and lecturers engaged in de-



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PHILIPPINES

Second year postulants attended a workshop on the vocation and ministry of lay Marists, from Oct. 9 – 11 at Davao City. The workshop was led by Agnes Reyes, co-director of the Secretariat of Laity. The objective of several talks, prayer services and activities was for postulants to have a clear understanding of the role of lay Marists and their shared charism with the Marist Brothers.

### COLOMBIA

Teachers, staff, students and their families from the Colegio Institución Educativa Bicentenario of Popayán met to pray for the participants of the 22nd General Chapter that took place in the country. The school also held its first Bicentennial Chapter, with the participation of 36 educators, students, parents and collaborators to make decisions in favor of each child and youth of the school.

### ARGENTINA

Several days dedicated to the prevention of addictions took place at the Colegio Macnab Bernal in Buenos Aires for high school students. The purpose was to raise awareness on the meaning of consumption and the importance of its prevention, differentiating the use, abuse and addiction; identify the different levels that come into play in the problem of addictions, to understand their complexity; develop a critical attitude towards influence and risk factors; celebrate the importance of taking care of life, especially one's body and that of others.

bates regarding social issues, public policies, building a culture of solidarity, PJM's role in the Church and within the Marist Institute.

One of their activities was an "immersion outing" – visits to institutions that promote social work in health, education and social assistance – such as the Unidade Pão dos Pobres, which looks after 1,700 vulnerable

children and youth in Porto Alegre. Since the encounter coincided with the General Chapter, the youth sent the capitularies a video message affirming that "the New La Valla has already begun."

The PJM encourages formation of leadership through socialization, the construction of critical awareness and solidarity.

## COMPOSTELA PROVINCE: FORMING SPECIALISTS IN MARIST LEADERSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY



The first week of the 'Specialist in Leadership and Marist Spirituality' course (Especialista en Liderazgo y Espiritualidad Marista - ELEM) was held in October at the Marist House of Roxos, Spain, with the participation of 24 members of management teams as well as local and pastoral animation of the educational works of the Compostela province.

The experience was a new inward journey to answer the question "who am I?" and to advance in a process of personal and, above all, professional development.

Josean Manzanos, director of the workshops of interiority in the last years, began the week by deepening in our qualities, dreams, values, restlessness ...

The next stop of the trip was with Enrique Martínez Lozano who introduced the figure of Jesus of Nazareth and the Beatitudes through his spirituality, his life experience and his TRUTH.

It seems incredible, to see how it stirs you inside and gives a name and form to what you considered unnamable.

The part of leadership was given by María de Grupo P&A, in charge of following up on our competencies as leaders, and for our Province Compostela, Roberto and Román were a face to each team.

At the same time, we were able to visualize the designed and continued process of spirituality formation in our province in recent years.

## MARIST WORLD



Colombia: Presenting Marist vocation at two schools, Bogotá



Chile: Colegio Champagnat - Colegio Marista, Villa Alemana



Papua New Guinea: St Joseph's College, Mabiri - Bougainville Island



United States: Marists from Cuba celebrate the bicentenary, Miami



Thailand: Marist Centre for Migrants, Samut Sakhon



Australia: Marist Laity Reflection Day, Sydney

In the words of the participants:

"...the most important thing of this week are the people who have shared moments, illusions, fears ... Especially, the four extraordinary people who have prepared everything with so much affection, making us feel part of our Marist family"

"The days in Roxos were an excellent experience for me of reflection and of interiority. The wealth of the group and

the moments of experiencing the silence have created a perfect space for personal growth and for living from "being"."

"Experience. The ELEM course provided moments of encounter with others, favouring the spirit of family and fellowship among teachers from different colleges of the province, but it mainly provided moments of encounter with myself, through different experiences."

## SPAIN: EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

### SCHOOL RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION, SOCIAL COMMITMENT

A Marist school in Zaragoza, Spain, received a certificate on Oct. 18 from a non-profit foundation in Brussels, established to increase the competitiveness of the European economy.

The European Foundation for Quality Management granted the Colegio El Pilar Maristas, of the Iberica province, the award of European Excellence EFQM for scoring over 300 points regarding its quality of education and its projects involving volunteering and a strong commitment to society.

The school obtained the certificate after passing an evaluation process carried out by Bureau Veritas and the Club Excelencia en Gestión.

The head of the Zaragoza office of Bureau Veritas, Luis Ángel Carbó, handed the prize to the school's director, José Luis Escudero Bolea, that Wednesday.

The school obtained a previous certificate in 2016 for its social responsibility within Spain's province of Aragon, the Sello de Responsabilidad Social de Aragón (RSA).





The school has also been recently selected as a finalist of the Business Excellence Award in Aragon 2017, which will be delivered in a ceremony at the Palace of Congresses of Zaragoza within the next few weeks.

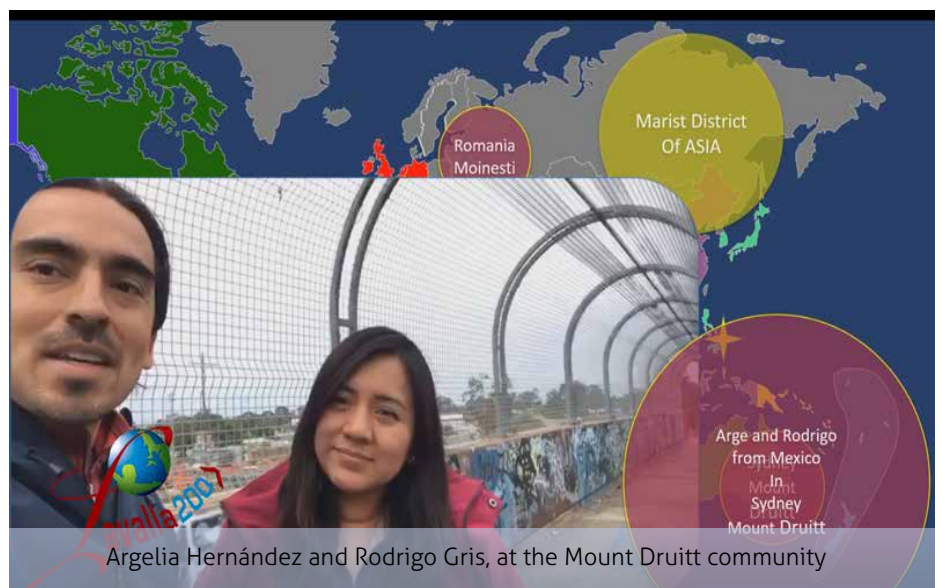
## PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR LAVALLA200> 2018 THE SUPERIOR GENERAL WANTS YOU!

There is still time for lay and brother Marists to join the 2018 Preparation Program for Lavalla200>.

This video comments on the dream for International Communities for a New Beginning and includes some stories from lay and brother community members already appointed by the Superior General.

Already, 34 lay and brother Marists have been appointed to six Lavalla200> communities in six countries and four communities in the Marist District of Asia.

The 2018 Preparation Program will take place in Italy in May and June and will be an opportunity for candidates to discern their call to continue with the program. Talk to the provincial of your Marist province or you can email the Superior General



Argelia Hernández and Rodrigo Gris, at the Mount Druitt community

directly. To watch a video for more information on the programme, visit <https://goo.gl/95KNcb>.

The Lavalla200> is an initiative the *Collaboration for Mission, International Secretariat*.



## LEBANON: PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY VALLEY (OUADI QADISHA)

### MARIST SCHOOL JBEIL-AMCHIT



Brother José María Ferre with the students of the Marist School of Jbeil-Amchit

The pastoral team of the Marist School of Jbeil-Amchit, Lebanon, organized a spiritual journey on Oct. 12 for the 70 students who are finishing school (17-18 years).

The goal was to get in touch with the roots of the faith of our Maronite Church. For this, what better than crossing a part of the Holy Valley (Ouadi Qadisha), which has been declared a World Heritage Site.

We arrived in vans up to the top edge of the immense and steep valley. Then, on foot, we walked the 1400 steps carved in stone, which descend to the depths of the valley. On the slopes, there are caves where hermits lived as early as the fourth century; remains of convents and monasteries half embedded in

the rocks of the hillside; the former seat of the Maronite patriarchate, chapels, oratories ... Something incredible, unexpected.

In the Holy Valley, the faith of the Lebanese people grew and consolidated. The Christians took refuge there in the different waves of persecution; they lived there for four centuries (1515-1915) during the Ottoman persecution.

It was an experience that impacted the students: impressive landscapes, abrupt places, difficult to reach, silence and peace ...

And above all, we were able to relive the sources of the Catholic Maronite faith with moments of dialogue, prayer and celebration.

- Brother José María Ferre



**We were able to relive the sources of the Catholic Maronite faith with moments of dialogue, prayer and celebration.**



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