



MARIST NEWS

503

Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

TO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

A STATEMENT FROM THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER



We, the participants of the Marist Brothers' [22nd General Chapter](#), the highest extraordinary authority in the Institute, join Pope Francis and International organizations that promote and defend the rights of children, in condemning any form of

abuse of children and young people; emotional, physical or sexual.

We acknowledge the pain and suffering caused to victims by some members of Marist Institutions. We apologize to you for the hurt that

these acts have caused. We know that your lives have been damaged, and that this suffering has been shared with family and loved ones.

Abuse is the very antithesis of our Marist values, and undermines the very purpose of our Institute. Any abuse of children is a betrayal of the noble ideals of our founder, St Marcellin Champagnat.

At the end of his mandate, our Superior General, Br Emili Turú, [in his address](#) to the 22nd General Chapter, had these words to say:

"Institutions like ours, that should have protected minors from any form of abuse, failed them undeniably. Maybe we can find explanations to help understand how such situations of sexual abuse came about in our institutions but none of these explanations can be used as an excuse, for they should never have occurred in the first place.

The very existence of victims is a permanent reminder that we failed them as an institution. And if this was the case in the past, we cannot fail them again, not under any circumstances".

We support the work that has been done in the Marist Institute in recent years to protect children in Marist schools, institutions and ministries, to require all parts of the Marist world to implement Child Protection Policies, and to provide training and awareness to prevent child abuse from happening again in our institutions.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

A retreat in Guatemala for Brothers and Laity of América Central is taking place from Dec. 2 – 8 with the participation of Brother Hipólito Pérez, of the Brothers Today secretariat.

From last Saturday until Dec. 5, the provincial chapter of Norandina in Los Teques, Venezuela, is taking place with Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior general, and Br João Carlos do Prado, general councillor.

From Dec. 6 – 11, Brasil Centro-Sul will hold its provincial chapter in Curitiba. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, João Carlos do Prado and Óscar Martín, general councillors, will participate.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, América Central will hold its provincial chapter in the City of Guatemala until Thursday, Dec. 14, with Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez.

We commit ourselves to be pro-active in ensuring that the Marist Institute at all levels conforms to the **highest standards of child protection, so that all our works are child safe and child friendly.**

As our General Chapter comes to an end, we commit ourselves to be pro-active in ensuring that The Marist Institute at all levels conforms to the highest standards of child protection, so that all our works are child safe and child friendly.

To read the full message, visit <https://goo.gl/68RnMF>.

The participants of the 22nd General Chapter
Friday, 20th October, 2017

ENCOUNTER OF THE MARIST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

SUPERIORS OF EUROPE DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION AND WELCOMING



The European Marist Conference (CEM), made up of 10 members (two per province), held its twenty-second meeting in Syracuse, Italy, from Nov. 21 – 23. Syracuse was chosen for this meeting for a very simple reason: CEM members wanted to find locally the “New International Community” Syracuse, Project LaValla200>, established there since last year. From the dialogue that took place between the Community of Syracuse and the CEM, some interesting points stand out:

- The Community is well established and working in several refugee reception centres that arrive in Italy, mainly from Africa, but also from Asia.
- Lately, its work is carried out above all and in a more systematic way, in a Shelter Center called “CASA FREEDOM”. It is a center of “1st reception,” that means that the people that are welcomed are minors, under the age of 18.

- The essential work of the MARISTAS (as they are known) is to help them, with all the staff of the Center, to integrate themselves into Italian society. Therefore, as a daily job, they teach them Italian.
- In addition to teaching Italian, members of the Community have other activities. Mario works at the Red Cross and Onorino in one of the jails of the city. In this work, they say, the most important thing is to “bring a little bit of humanity” into the relationships between those who welcome and those who are welcomed.

The CEM's study and reflection theme in this meeting was precisely: “Sicily: Migration and resources of welcoming.”

The CEM took the opportunity to learn about the establishment of the second “International Community” of the LaValla200> Project in European territory: the community of Moinesti, Romania. It is in its beginnings, which means:

NEWS IN BRIEF

SYRIA'S BLUE MARISTS

On Sunday, Dec. 3, the Blue Marists of Aleppo, Syria, received the visit of Monsignor Pascal Gollnisch, director of the Œuvre d'Orient, a French Catholic association dedicated to helping Christians in the Middle East. The purpose of the meeting was to review the various projects of the Blue Marists and to thank l'Œuvre d'Orient and Mgr Gollnisch for the continuous support of the Eastern Christians by l'Œuvre for 160 years, as well as for the help it has been giving to the Blue Marists for several years.

AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY

Australian Marist Solidarity is a Marist NGO that mainly works at Asia – Pacific region "to move vulnerable young people back to the centre from the margins of life through education".

Their last newsletter speaks about the Christmas campaign to facilitate education for the children of the Bangladesh tea gardens, to help the Payatas Housing project in the Philippines, to help the Catholic education at Timor-Leste, among other interesting news.

IBÉRICA'S FIVE VOLUNTEER DAYS

The Ibérica province is starting the "Ibérica's Five Volunteer Days" on December 5, to celebrate the International Day of Volunteering. Its purpose is to be grateful for the commitment that people make each day to dedicate part of their time to be present with those who need it the most. Being a volunteer involves giving yourself to others, recognising yourself in the other and help others recognise themselves as worthy and valuable people. The days allow to further reflect on volunteering as a way of expressing the Marist charism and to celebrate and recognize the work that volunteers carry out.

they have to look for a house, establish themselves regularly in the country; difficulties in obtaining permission for some elements of the Community; find the most convenient apostolate for the children of the region. In all this, Brother Antolín Santos of the Community of Bucharest is being a great guide and help for the members of this "Lavalla 200" Community.

In addition to this important topic in the CMS Agenda, other significant topics for the meeting were studied.

They include:

- Composition and lines of action for the five European CEM teams, that is: mission; youth and vocational ministry; communion of Brothers / Lay people; Brothers Today; child protection. There was talk of the possibility of creating a new European team in the field of economics.
- Creation of a technical secretariat for the European mission team.
- Chapter calls: How can they reach the entire European Marist world?

THE AWAKENING OF THE LAITY IN THE CHURCH AND THE INTERNATIONAL MARIST COMMUNITIES



An interview with Brother Ángel Medina, one of the formators of the programme '[LaValla200> international communities for a new beginning.](#)' by the news outlet [Catalunya Religió](#) indicates that the majority of the programme's participants are young and lay.

"To the call of the superior general inviting lay people and religious to be part of La Valla 200, around 90 people responded," affirmed Br Ángel.

"A third part was religious, but two thirds were lay people, and not exactly lay people aged 50 or 70, but lay people between 20 and 30 years old."

Brother Ángel also pointed out that [LaValla200](#) shows a change in Marist projects, without losing the original intuition of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

"We have lived through a great period focused on the environment of formal education because it was what society needed," he stated.

"At that time it was young people without education and today there are many other young people living on the margins of society."

The programme, which began in 2016, already has six communities in the peripheries of Cape Town (South Africa), Syracuse (Italy),

MARIST WORLD



Belgium: Brothers and lay people prepare Advent together, Genval



Philippines: Immersion experience of Sacred Heart College Adelaide Australia, Manila



Madagascar: Youth receive information about the XXII General Chapter, Betroka



Argentina: Risks on the web talk at Macnab Bernal School, Buenos Aires



Australia: Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School at Santa Teresa



Lebanon: FMSI visits Fratelli Project in Rmeileh



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Moinesti (Romania), Sydney (Australia), Tabatinga (Brazil) and New York (USA).

Each community has four members, both laity and Brothers.

In Cape Town, the community is in an area that was prosperous at the time but as the factories disappeared, many families became impoverished.

In Syracuse, a Sicilian city, members work with mainly African refugee youth, helping them to get a job and to be integrated in society.

In Moinesti, they help children of parents who are working in other European countries.

In Sydney, they collaborate with aborigines and immigrants from various Asian countries in the neighborhood of Mount Druitt.

They also help children who are not part of the education system.

In Tabatinga, a community in the Amazon between the three borders of Peru, Colombia and Brazil, members help river and indigenous communities, whose children live situations of marginalisation in the populations where they have to go to study after primary school.

In New York, the community works with Hispanic-American immigrants without documentation.

They attend families with parents of Latin origin at risk of being deported and with their children who run the same risk.

Apart from these six communities, there are six Marist brothers and lay people who are working in Asia: in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

MEETINGS OF OCEANIA COUNCIL AND COLLEGE OF LEADERS

EXPLORING NEW AREAS OF MARIST LIFE AND MISSION ACROSS OCEANIA



The meetings of the Oceania Council and the College of Leaders of Oceania took place in November in Brisbane, Australia.



The major areas of focus over the next three years are to provide opportunities to widen and deepen Marist spirituality and mission, develop appropriate programmes, provide training for local facilitators and leaders and provide opportunities to experience the wider Marist family.



The Administrative Unit leaders took the opportunity to update the Council about the significant input and directions for Marist life and mission which had emerged from the Chapter.

Among the topics they reported were the global nature and future of the Institute, the quality of community life and prayer, and the areas of mission.

Following the deliberations about the organisation of the Institute emerging from the General Chapter the College of Leaders will hold an extended meeting in March 2018 to focus on the impact of these issues and developments on Oceania as a whole.

The network of the Financial Administrators from each of the AUs was set up as a result of a direction from the meeting of the Extended General Council in May 2017. The Network works closely with the Regional Trust Fund Board and both oversee and work with the budget for the Oceania Region.

The Network will meet twice in 2018 with a view to these two bodies supporting each other and sharing best practice within the complex financial

environment in which the AUs in Oceania operate. The network will also look at ways to engage with the Asia region.

The participants spoke also about the program "Edges", that explores new areas of Marist life and mission across the region in response to the call of the Institute and Pope Francis.

This initiative emerged from recommendations made to the Oceania Council following the gathering of younger brothers in January 2016.

A survey of Brothers under 50 will be conducted in 2018 and a planning group will be formed to organise a gathering in January 2019.

The Oceania Partnership Commission presented its strategic plan for 2018-2020.

The major areas of focus OPC over the next three years are to: provide opportunities to widen and deepen Marist spirituality and mission, develop appropriate programmes, provide training for local facilitators and leaders and provide opportunities to experience the wider Marist family.

EL SALVADOR: WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE

XI ENCOUNTER OF MARIST FRATERNITIES OF AMÉRICA CENTRAL

The Marist Province of América Central has just had its XI Provincial Encounter of Marist Fraternities from Nov. 10 – 12.

Around 200 fraternal people from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Honduras met to live intensely, with great energy and enthusiasm, the end of the La Valla Year and the Bicentenary.

El Salvador, known as “the little Tom Thumb of the Americas,” stretched out its arms to welcome us as a family.

Under the slogan “we are excited about the future,” we take seriously, the calls of the General Chapter, which was presented to us by Brother Omar Peña and Nohemy Pinto, who participated in it. Under the theme “La Valla ... a call to interiority” we spent a whole day learning a little more about this key dimension of the person, not only the-



oretically, but above all, experiential: interiority exercises, contemplative dance, workshops ... We ended the day by standing before the Lord in prayer, tired but happy. If we must highlight something of these wonderful days, it is undoubtedly joy and fraternity.

Marcellin smiles at us, yes, but he also urges us to respond, as Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, to the challenges we face today and not to be afraid of the future, filling us with courage and courage to be builders of it.
Br Daniel Martín

AGIOS-MAR 3: NEW RAPPORTEUR OF THE SACRED CONGREGATION FOR THE CAUSES OF SAINTS

Pope Francis has appointed Father José Jaime Brosel Gavilá, a priest of Valencia, Spain, as the new rapporteur of the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Father José Jaime, who was until now official of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, had also collaborated as a theological consultant ‘ad casum’ in the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and has been a postulator of several causes. It was he who studied and made the report as a consultant on the cause of Brother

Crisanto. With his appointment as rapporteur in October, he will be in charge of the orientation of the writing of the ‘Positio’ or reports on the martyrdom of Brother Eusebio and 58 companions.

Fr José Jaime, 50, was born in Valencia, where he also received the priestly ordination in 1992. He has been assigned to the service of the Holy See in Rome since 2008 and was previously a diocesan delegate of catechesis in the archdiocese of Valencia.

Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún
Postulator general



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