



VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH BR GEORGES SABE

PRIORITY OF BLUE MARISTS NOW IS TO OFFER A SOLID FORMATION

In a video interview with Brother Georges Sabe on Nov. 23, he underscored that now that the situation is improving in the country the priority of the Blue Marists in Aleppo, Syria, is to offer a solid formation.

"We help (families) with the rent, we offer them milk and food, but we are increasingly focusing more on their personal development and formation," he said during his visit to the general house in Rome.

The Blue Marists in Aleppo include two Brothers and around 80 lay volunteers. Since July 2012, they have helped over 1,000 Muslim and Christian families.

"The most important part of our mission today is to help people develop, to educate those who have lost everything and offer them work opportunities," affirmed Brother Georges.

"We also provide a close presence to young adolescents; we provide listening and a relationship with each family member." For the full interview in Spanish, visit: <https://goo.gl/c4EoZs>.



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

On Thursday and Friday, December 14 and 15, general councillor Brother Óscar Martín is participating in the provincial chapter of Brasil Sul-Amazonia.

From December 14 – 17, the director of the Secretariat of Mission, Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, is participating

in a meeting of strategic planning for Asia in Manila, the Philippines.

From Dec. 15 - 17, superior general Br Ernesto Sánchez and general councillor Br Josep Maria Soterias are attending the provincial chapter of Canada in Montreal.



COMMITTEE OF MISSION: TOWARDS NEW MODELS IN THE MARIST MISSION

The Committee of Mission held its second meeting from Nov. 20 – 24 at the Institute's general house. The objectives of this meeting were:

- To develop a good understanding of the calls and documents of the XXII General Chapter.
- Reflect and suggest ideas on how the Mission Committee can help develop, in a general way, the calls and suggestions of the General Chapter, as it concerns Mission.
- Discuss aspects of the New Models Project as it concerns Mission and prepare proposals for the new General Council: - Operational Model for Marist Mission; - Articulation of the Models with the General Administration, the Regions and inter-regional dynamics; - Legal and financial structure for Mission: sustainability and vitality, etc.
- Plan the activities of the Committee in the short and medium term and assign some responsibilities.

- Join actively in the celebration of FMSI's tenth anniversary and in the celebration of International Children's Day.

The Committee of Mission, nominated by the former general council in January, replaced the International Mission Commission.

Its task is to advise the general council in all that concerns Marist mission.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Ernesto Sánchez (superior general), Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (vicar general), Óscar Martín Vicario and Víctor Manuel Preciado (general councillors), Libardo Garzón (bursar general), Gregorio Linacero (America Central), Marciano Guzmán (Mediterranea), Ador Santiago (East Asia), Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal and Mark Omede (Secretariat of Mission directors); and the following lay people: Frank Malloy (Australia), Mike Greeff (Southern Africa), Paulo Sirino (Brasil Centro- Sul), Marzia Ventimiglia (FMSI director), Luca Olivari (New Models Project).

RESILIENCE AND MIGRANT CHILDHOOD

A CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE

With the support of the International Catholic Office for Children (BICE), the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan offered the workshop on "Resilience Tutors" from Nov. 24 – 26 at the Marist School of Granada, Spain.

The professionals and volunteers of Tierra de Todos participated in the workshop, an association that since 2012 provides an educational service in a neighbor-

hood of the city to children and adolescents, most of whom are children of Moroccan families.

Representatives of the organisations New Horizons (Huelva), Don Bosco, Institución Teresiana and La Inmaculada School also attended the formation.

Resilience is a theoretical and practical proposal that invites a change of perspective to enhance the individ-

NEWS IN BRIEF

GUATEMALA

The Chapter province of América Central began on Saturday and will finish on Thursday, December 14, in the city of Guatemala. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, general councillor, are taking part on behalf of the general administration. Brothers and laity of the province are also attending.

BOLIVIA

The provincial chapter of Santa María de los Andes was held in Santa Cruz from December 1 – 5. Sixteen lay people and 40 Brothers took part. Brother Saturnino Alonso was chosen as the next provincial for 2017 – 2020. Vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and general councillor Brother Ben Consigli participated on behalf of the general administration.



ual's capacity, or that of a group, in order to grow and develop fully in the face of very large difficulties, such as migration.

Tierra de Todos as well as 13 other Marist initiatives from different

continents have been categorized by **FMSI** in its recent publication, "Rights without Borders."

FMSI is working on the education of migrant women and aboriginals in international forums.

TEAM MANAGEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: WORKSHOP ON LEADERSHIP

A one day workshop on Leadership was organised for Heads for Projects

for all Marist Schools and establishments in the Marist Province of Nige-

ONLINE BULLETINS

- A 214ª edição do Proíncia Informa - Brasil Centro-Norte
- Friday Notes - USA Province
- Bulletin of the Secretariat of Laity 16 - General House
- Bulletin: ChristLife - Marist Association - Australia Province
- Marist Brothers Champagnat Trust Newsletter – December 2017 - New Zealand, District Pacific

<http://goo.gl/037o67>



MARIST WORLD



Spain: Presentation of Guatemala volunteering to Grupos Marcha, Madrid



Sri Lanka: Marist International Novitiate, Tudella



Philippines: Advent retreat for the postulants, Davao



General House: Christmas decorations with the images of the 22nd General Chapter



Mass during the chapter of the province América Central, Guatemala City



Venezuela: New Council Province Norandina

ria. Participants were the Provincial, Br. Joachim Ezetulugo, the Provincial-Elect, Br. Vincent Abadom, Principals and Directors of Marist Schools and establishments. The session, which took place on Nov. 17, was moderated by Br. Moses Fegher.

Themes discussed include: team management, governance and administration, schools supervision, staff, students and parents' relationship with management, strategic planning, Child's Right Protection Act, and construction issues.

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BROTHER ISAAC RODRÍGUEZ: "I DISCOVER MYSELF EVERY DAY TO BE A SEEKER OF THE AUTHENTIC ENCOUNTER"



Brother Isaac Rodríguez, of the Compostela province, celebrated his perpetual profession at the Liceo Castilla of Burgos school where he is currently the coordinator of the MarCha groups.

Family, friends, students and educators embraced Brother Isaac on this important day to praise, as he himself emphasized, "the Marist life that unites us".

Isaac Rodríguez himself explains that his life so far could be summarized as one that is in caring relationships to reach the experience of God.

He describes the lived relationships as a spiritual path because he believes "deeply in the goodness of the human being".

That is why he considers that “it is a gift” every day to meet with children and young people, educators and brothers and to give the best of one’s self for them.

Brother Isaac Rodríguez is thankful for all the experience lived in recent years in the Liceo Castilla School, which

welcomed his perpetual profession and in MarCha especially.

“Thanks to all of them, I discover myself every day to be a seeker and animator of the authentic Encounter that generates life”, he affirms.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARIST PREPARATORY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL: THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR APPEALS FOR GOVERNMENT AID

During the twentieth anniversary of the Marist Preparatory and Junior High School of Santasi, Ghana, the school’s principal made an appeal to the country’s government for assistance.

“I, on behalf of all private basic schools, plead with the government to motivate private basic schools by providing them with basic resource centres such as computer and library resource centres,” affirmed Brother John Kusi-Mensah, the school’s principal.

“We have less than 30 computers for more than 1000 students, our classrooms are overcrowded,” he said in his speech during the celebration held on Oct. 4 at the school.

The event coincided with the celebration of the Institute’s bicentenary in the country.

The school received an award in 2008 for being the fifth best school in academic excellence in Ghana and, according to Br John, it is currently one of the leading schools in the district of Atwima Kwanwoma. Also, the West African Examinations Council, which conducts university entry examinations in West African countries, has chosen the school as one of its examination centres.

“Our education aims at helping children and young people to become good Christians and good citizens who value the common good,” he stated.

The Marist Preparatory and Junior High School recently built a new Kin-



dergarten thanks to the sponsor of the Irish-based charity Misean Cara and the coordination of FMSI.

The school is currently planning on establishing a science laboratory, nine new classrooms, and a multipurpose hall that it will turn into a boarding school.

The celebration included a Mass, the blessing of two new projects – the grotto of Our Good Mother and the Kindergarten – and traditional dancing performances.

Guests included the archbishop of Kumasi, Gabriel Yaw Anokye, archbishop emeritus Peter Kwasi Sarpong, the bishop of the Obuasi diocese, John Yaw Afoakwa, the chief of Sabin Akrofrom in the Atwima Kwanwoma District, Nana Osei Kofi, as well as several priests and religious. In his homily, archbishop emeritus Peter Kwasi Sarpong, called on

the government to connect with the Marist Brothers for advice of how to improve education in Ghana.

According to him, the Marist Brothers have the key to quality and holistic education.

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CANONIZE SOMEONE?

The need to correct or avoid abuse in the practice of worshiping the deceased that have a reputation of sanctity led the ecclesiastical authorities to regulate this practice through laws.

Canonisation is a legal act that consists of solemn legal recognition by which a public servant is authorized to pay tribute to a servant of God.

The official worship is formally expressed with the inscription in the catalogue of the saints, the dedication of a date in the universal calendar (feast day), the celebration of the Mass and the liturgy of the hours with readings and prayer (Mass and own office) or dedicating spaces for worship (chapels, churches).

One commonly speaks of “making someone a saint.” The Church does not “make saints.” Holiness is a gift from God.

God makes us holy with his grace and the correspondence of our freedom.

When someone dies having a reputation that he lived an exemplary life according to the Gospel of Jesus, practiced the virtues to a heroic degree or died a martyr by faith, a legal process can be initiated that validates the recognition of that life as a holy life.

The process concludes with the decree of beatification or canonization signed by the Pope.

The canonized people are saints from the day they die, not when their sanctity is canonically recognised.

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