



SUPERIOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE FOR CHRISTMAS AND JANUARY 2 CHRISTMAS: ON THE MOVE AND HOME



In his video message for Christmas and for January 2, the 201st anniversary of the Institute, superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez is asking Marists to leave their comfort zone.

"What comfort zone do I need to leave behind and move on from? Which children on the margins can I

meet up with, give an experience of 'home' to, and 'make Christmas real' for?," he asked.

In his message, Br Ernesto reflected on FMSI's recent child rights conference and praised Marist initiatives under way on behalf of migrants and refugees in countries like Rwanda,

South Africa, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, United States, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, Thailand and Australia.

To watch the full video, visit: <https://goo.gl/1XAO4T>.

The full message:

Greetings from the Superior General for Christmas 2017 and the 2nd January 2018

Christmas is with us, a time that fills our hearts with joy. For most of us, it will be an occasion to express our friendship, tighten close ties, and share happy times in community, our families and with all the people we hold dear. The joy of the presence of Jesus, in the midst of his people and of human history, fills our hearts and inspires us to share this joy with those near and far. It is a sign of a time that is ever new, when God comes close to our lives and we feel God's presence.

For many, however, the celebration of Christmas will be something that passes by unnoticed. I am thinking

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From Dec. 20 – 21, Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission, is participating in the seminar "Communication in times of crisis" with the European Mission Team in Barcelona, Spain.

On Friday, Dec. 22, members of the general administration, staff and Brothers of the general house com-

munity will exchange Christmas greetings at the general house with superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez.

From Dec. 27 – Jan. 4, Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, vicar general, and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, general councillor, will attend Madagascar's provincial chapter in Antsirabe.

especially of so many children living on the margins of our societies.

On the 20th November this year, on the occasion of World Children's Day, we held a conference in Rome, organised by FMSI (our Marist organisation for promoting the Rights of Children) to mark the 10 years of its existence. It was entitled "Children on the move: Rights beyond Borders". I took great pleasure in receiving information on Marist initiatives under way on behalf of migrants and refugees in countries like Rwanda, South Africa, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, United States, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, Thailand and Australia.

At the same time, my heart was touched to hear many stories of minors who had arrived as refugees in Italy, many of them without hope or dreams, after their experience of being victims of human trafficking and torture; among them a young girl, displaced by war, whose desire was to go home to collect the doll she had left behind, without realising that in doing so she would not only find her home empty but totally destroyed by the atrocities of war.

As I was listening to these stories, what hit me forcefully was the image of Jesus who was born as a displaced person, in a crib, surrounded by animals and lying on straw. He could, of course, count on the shelter provided by the human warmth and protection of his parents, Mary and Joseph. Surely, they were suffering at not being able to provide a place that was worthy of receiving their new-

born child, something they tried to make up for by their tenderness. I am in full agreement with Pope Francis when he said: "Let us allow the Child in the manger to challenge us, but let us also be challenged by all those children in today's world who are lying not in a crib, caressed with affection by their mothers and fathers, but in squalid "mangers that devour dignity". Children who hide underground to escape bombardment, on the pavements of large cities, in the hold of a boat overladen with immigrants..." (Homily of 24 December 2016)

This Christmas of 2017 is the first of the third Marist Century. The coming 2nd January will be 201 years since our foundation. In the spirit of these two events it is good to ask ourselves: Where can I be 'on the move' to and in what aspects of my life? What comfort zone do I need to leave behind and move on from? Which children on the margins can I meet up with, give an experience of 'home' to, and 'make Christmas real' for? Who can I team up with in some action of solidarity?

Let us live this Christmas conscious of the mystery of our God, 'on the move' and 'migrating', incarnate and vulnerable, welcomed and embraced by the arms and hearts of Joseph and Mary, the same as happens for you, me, and thousands of Marists and men and women of good will around the world.

The XXII General Chapter spoke to us of movement and of family, of letting things go to enable the new to be born, of being beacons of hope and creators of homes that radiate light, of walking alongside children and youth on the margins of life, and of making ourselves bridges towards a better world. This vision harmonises perfectly with:

- An understanding of Christmas that speaks of being on the move and of incarnation;
- An understanding of Christmas that speaks of the loving and welcoming shelter to be found in the home of Joseph and Mary;
- An understanding of Christmas that today inspires the network of homes where love finds ready expression and that we want to unite as a global family;
- An understanding of Christmas that includes moving on and openness, homes that welcome life, care for it, and generate new life;
- An understanding of Christmas that moves us to take up one of the recommendations of the Chapter, that is particularly meaningful over these days: "to embrace a simple lifestyle and experience our vulnerability as a source of fruitfulness and freedom";
- An understanding of Christmas that includes listening to those who are voiceless, of widening our brotherhood and sisterhood, our family in true Marist style, as was the dream of Champagnat.

Let us live this Christmas conscious of the mystery of our God, 'on the move' and 'migrating', incarnate and vulnerable, welcomed and embraced by the arms and hearts of Joseph and Mary, the same as happens for you, me, and thousands of Marists and men and women of good will around the world.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MÉXICO CENTRAL AND OCCIDENTAL

On December 16, the first profession of Brothers Osvaldo Pérez Argüello and José Eduardo Germán Maciel Mota – both of the México Central province – took place in Mexico City.

Brother Parnel César, of México Occidental, made his perpetual vows on Dec. 8 in Haiti.

UNITED STATES

The East Harlem community (Lavalla 200>) hosted a morning prayer on Dec. 12, to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Martha Eugenia Martinez, other East Harlem community members, Brother Jim McKnight, Bruno Soccer, as well as mothers from the programme took part.

BRASIL CENTRO – SUL

On Dec. 14, Waldemiro Gremski, was reappointed as dean of the PUCPR university from 2017 to 2021. During the ceremony, he stressed the changes in teaching methodology that the university has implemented in recent years and the need for the Institution to adapt to the current world and the challenges posed by the future.

May “children on the move” in turn move our hearts and make us more welcoming of all we meet.

May we join in the dance of our God who became small, impoverished, a child.

In living out these calls, may we be able to say that we are making Christ-

mas real and thus wish one another wholeheartedly: Happy Christmas!

This is my wish for all Marists of Champagnat across the world and for all children, especially those who are voiceless.

With great affection,
Br. Ernesto Sánchez B.

AMÉRICA CENTRAL'S 15TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER THE NEW PROVINCIAL TAKES UP OFFICE



Brother Hipólito Pérez Gómez, former assistant director of the Brothers Today secretariat, took office as the new provincial during the 15th Chapter of América Central, which

took place from Dec. 9 – 14 in Guatemala City.

During the working sessions of the chapter, participants heard the re-

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



The General House press office would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, a happy New Year and a happy 201st anniversary of the Institute on January 2!

Thank you for your support.

The next issue of Marist News will be published in January.

MARIST WORLD



United States: East Harlem Community (Lavalla 200>), New York



Lebanon: Scholarship agreement between Champville school and USEK, Dik El Mehdi



Italy: International Communities for a New Beginning Lavalla200>, Syracuse



Philippines: Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC), Marikina City



First profession of Br Osvaldo Pérez Argüello and Br José E. Maciel Mota, México Central



Brazil: Provincial Youth Commission, Brasil Centro-Norte - Brasilia

port of the preparatory commission and the chapter's regulations. The facilitating commission that coordinated the Chapter was also elected, formed by Brothers Hipólito Pérez (president), Carlos Vélez (coordinator), Jorge Sánchez (executive secretary), Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (adviser), Juan Antonio Sandoval and Nicéforo Garrán (moderators).

Brother Hipólito will replace Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco, who was elected as vicar general of the Institute during the 22nd General Chapter in Rionegro, Colombia.

Brother Luis Carlos presented the report of the four years as a provincial, reflecting especially on the path that has been accomplished so far, in search of answering the five calls of the previous Provincial Chapter.

The calls were: living a new style of community life, integrating spirituality like Mary, building a Marist community with a clear vocational development, increasing service to the poorest and developing a vocational culture.

The Provincial Chapter followed the itinerary based on the U model that was also used in the 22nd General Chapter and appointed Brothers Gregorio Linacero, Daniel Martín, Jesús Allende and Mynor González as members of the commission for the revision of norms of the province.

During the third day of the Chapter, two Brothers aged over 70 and four university students from the REMAR communities of Guatemala formed a panel to show the capitulars the Marist world through the eyes of two generations and to reflect on calls and challenges of the future, based on their views.

Then, lay people worked on the five calls of the 22nd General Chapter and Br Gregorio presented the economic situation of the province.

Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, vicar general, participated on behalf of the general administration, as well as superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez, who attended the last two days of the Chapter, namely Dec. 13 and 14.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING TERM



During the provincial chapter of Brasil Centro-Sul, the new provincial superior, Brother Antônio Benedito de Oliveira, took up office, the new provincial council was elected and the priorities for the upcoming term were established.

Over 100 Brothers, laity and collaborators took part at the chapter, which was held at the Centro Marista Marcelino Champagnat (CMMC) in Curitiba from Dec. 6 – 11.

Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Óscar Martín, general councillors, and superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez participated on behalf of the general administration and thanked the former provincial superior, Brother Joaquim Sperandio, for his work during the last six years.

Brothers of the Province recalled that during his term, Br Joaquim would regularly ask them to “remain joyful in hope, patient in difficulties, persevering in prayer and creative in mission.”

Br Joaquim expressed gratitude for the spiritual growth that he experienced working alongside both laity and Brothers, underscoring that he “was able to personally meet many people who worked tirelessly for the Mission and that made me learn a lot.”

Br Ernesto affirmed that he “was impressed by the number of Brothers and lay participants; this means that we are dreaming our future and our new La Valla together.”

During the Chapter, participants defined the priorities for the new provincial council to focus on during the coming term (2018 – 2020):

- Marists of Champagnat: recognized by the experience of our communion, spirituality and mission in co-responsibility, and by our specific vocations, offering spaces and experiences that encourage the experience of Marist identity and lead to a global charismatic family.
- Evangelization and defence of the rights of children, adolescents and young people: prioritization of evangelising education in formal and informal spaces, permeated by listening and dialogue, which seeks to build bridges to promote human dignity, committing ourselves to the promotion, protection and defence of childhood, adolescence and youth and empowering the interlocutors as agents of transformation.
- Culture and vocation animation: recognized for their commitment to the dimension of vocational culture on the mission fronts, revitalizing and redefining it from the current contexts and challenges, with the participation, testimony and experience of the Marist spirituality, fraternity and mission of brothers and lay people.
- Management at the service of the mission: recognized for carrying out management processes inspired by the Marian and Christological way, with

professional and ethical competence, at the service of the mission.

A Mass was held on Dec. 8 for the jubilees of consecrated life of Brothers José Cegalla (75 years), Estevão Müller (70 years), Orlando Zattar (70 years), Paulo Antônio Forster Ramos (70 years), Clemente Ivo Juliatto (60 years), Dario Bortolini (60 years), Rafael Mentos dos Santos (60 years), Tercílio Sevegnani (50 years), Antônio

Martins Teles (25 years), João Carlos do Prado (25 years) and Rogério Mateucci (25 years). During the Eucharistic celebration, young Brothers renewed their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The new provincial council includes: Brothers Cezar Cavanus, Tiago Fedel, Délcio Afonso Balestrin, Rogério Renato Mateucci, Tercílio Sevegnani and Vanderlei Siqueira.

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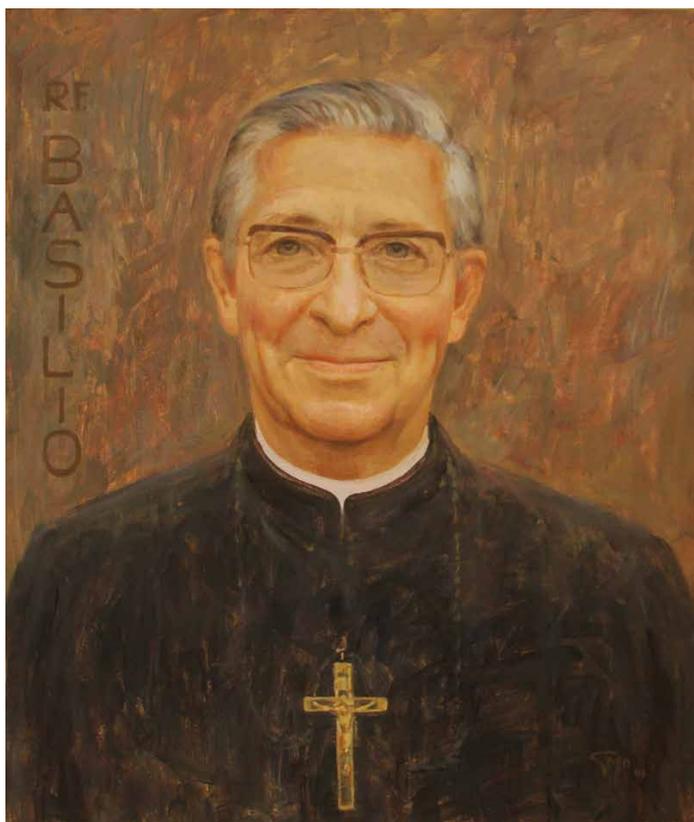
BROTHER BASILIO'S CAUSE RESUMES

The mail I received on December 5 gave me the good news that "the New Court for the Cause of Basilio will be established in Guadalajara, Mexico, this coming December 18 at 11am. The first witness is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20."

Congratulations to all who have made this possible. And also may a great chorus of thanksgiving be given to the Lord who opens paths in history so that Basilio's reputation for holiness will be consolidated, known and spread.

The diocesan survey had already been delivered in Rome, in the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, on 20 April 2016, but the Congregation for the Causes of Saints considered it was appropriate to give more guarantees of objectivity, to expand the number of witnesses called to testify with the testimony of people who do not belong to the Marist Institute.

Br Antonio Martínez Estaún
Postulator general



May a great chorus of thanksgiving be given to the Lord who opens paths in history so that Basilio's **reputation for holiness** will be **consolidated, known and spread.**



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