



MARTYRS OF ALGERIA

THE DECREE OF BEATIFICATION OF BROTHER HENRI VERGÈS HAS BEEN APPROVED

The Pope has authorised the promulgation of eight decrees including the one referring to the martyrdom of Brother Henri Vergès.

On the afternoon of Jan. 26, Pope Francis received Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in audience and authorised the Congregation the promulgation of the Vatican decree of the martyrdom of the Servants of God Pedro Claverie, of the Order of Friars Preachers, Bishop of Oran, and 18 religious comrades, killed in hatred of the faith, in Algeria, between 1994 and 1996 during the Algerian civil war. This cause is known as "the martyrs of Algeria", which includes Henri Vergès.

Other information about the beatification will be given in the coming weeks.

The publication of the decree of the martyrdom of the Servant of God Veronica Antal, a lay of the Secular Franciscan Order, has also been authorised. She was born on 7 December 1935 in Nisiporeşti, Romania, and was murdered in hatred of the faith on 24 August 1958, in Hălăuceşti, Romania. Four more Decrees refer:

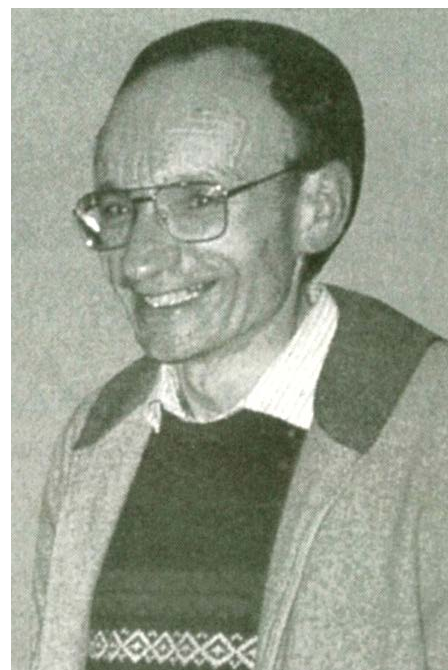
- to the miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Nazaria Ignacia de March Mesa, foundress of the Congregation of the Cross Missionaries of the Church, who was born in Madrid, Spain, on 10 January 1889 and died in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 6 July 1943.

- to the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Servant of God Alfonsa María Eppinger, during Isabel's century, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Holy Savior, born on 9 September 1814 in Niederbronn, France, where she died on 31 July 1867.

- to the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Servant of God Clelia Merloni, Founder of the Institute of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, born on 10 March 1861, in Forlì, Italy, and died on 21 November 1930 in Rome.

- the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Servant of God the Crucified Mary of Divine Love, in the century María Gargani, founderess of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart, who was born on 23 December 1892 in Morra Irpino, today Morra De Sanctis, Italy, and died in Naples on 23 May 1973.

Two other decrees refer to heroic virtues:
- of the Servant of God Ambrosio Grit-



tani, diocesan priest and founder of the Oblates of Benedicto José Labre; born in Ceglie del Campo, Italy, on 11 October 1907 and died on 30 April 1964 in Molfetta, Italy.

- of the Servant of God Ana Maria Magdalena Delbrêl, a lay who was born in Mussidan, France, on 24 October 1904 and died in Ivry-sur-Seine, France, on 13 October 1964.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From Sunday, January 28, until Saturday, February 3, the community of the general council is gathering in Nemi, Italy, to build community life.

On Jan. 26, Br. Valdícser Facchi, from the Brasil Sul-Amazônia province, arrived at the general house. As of June he will be the director of Cmi, replacing Brother Chris Wills.

From Saturday until Tuesday, February 8, the Mission

Commission for Africa is meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, with the participation of Brothers Beto Rojas and Mark Omede, directors of the Secretariat of Mission, as well Br Chris Wills of Cmi.

On February 5, Brother Álvaro Sepúlveda of FMSI will be meeting with other religious of the four Marist Branches (Marist Fathers, Marist Sisters, Marist Missionary Sisters and Marist Brothers) in charge of solidarity.

MESSAGE OF BROTHER ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ

THE SUPERIOR GENERAL'S INVITATION TO REALIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW LA VALLA

A video of the superior general with a message for Marists from around the world, which was produced at the beginning of the year, is available on our YouTube channel.

Speaking of the Institute's challenge for the beginning of its third centenary, during which it hopes to build a new La Valla, Brother Ernesto Sánchez invites Marists to reflect on what happened during the first year of this new period (2017).

The video is the first of a series designed to motivate Marist life in all parts of the Institute. Recorded in Spanish, it has subtitles in the Institute's three other languages (use the "subtitles" option on YouTube).

The video also launches a new opening sequence, which the communication office of the general house will use from now on in the videos it will continue to produce.

Both the video of Brother Ernesto and the opening se-



quence are the result of the work and collaboration of the communication team of the Brasil Centro-Sur province.

Watch in this link the message:
<https://youtu.be/OtldALGR6t0>

PROJECT LAVALLA200> - COMMUNITY OF EAST HARLEM

LEARNING TO CONJUGATE THESE FOUR VERBS: WELCOME, PROTECT, PROMOTE AND INTEGRATE

The Lavalla200> East Harlem Community is currently composed of Martha Eugenia Martínez of Mexico and Brothers Luis Fernando Vega of Paraguay and James McKnight of the United States.

Its beginning is linked to the Juan Diego community, which from 2016 became a community within the Project of International Communities for a New Beginning, project born from the General Conference of 2013.

East Harlem is a neighborhood in the Manhattan District of New York. Also known as Spanish Harlem, it is an area steeped in history, characterized by a wide cultural diversity.



In East Harlem, NYC, we share life with undocumented Hispanic American immigrants. The house has become a place of family. At present we accompany specially women with Latin origin in risk of being deported or waiting to get their residence permit. We offer them spiritual and emotional support, sharing life through fraternal and simple dialogue and prayer. We promote some training and educational activities such as English lessons and handicrafts. We share with these families some meaningful moments like the Day of the Dead and Christmas Day. We collaborate with different institutions and parishes to learn and get to know the reality through their experience. We try to integrate families of different Latin countries in order to find the richness of diversity.

I think that our way of doing mission has very precise challenges: show the face of an "all-loving" God, the face of fraternity, to be creative and simple in the mission, in other words, to show the martial face of the Church.

Read in <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=4616> the complete testimony of Martha Eugenia Martínez, member of the community since October 2017.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

At the end of the provincial retreat in Ribeirão das Neves, which counted with the participation of 85 brothers and laity, the novices Carlos Alexandre Maraes and José Valter Mendes made their first profession and 12 young Brothers, who follow the initial formation course, renewed their vows.

ITALY

The animation team is building a house in Giugliano (Naples) to accommodate minors who have been involved in criminal activity, as an alternative to prison. Money is being raised through a solidarity campaign promoted in Italian schools. The aim of the new community is to help educate those youths, help them recreate a good relationship with their families, and help reintegrate them in society.

COMPOSTELA

Volunteers that will participate in the *Campo de Trabajo-Misión Internacional* (International work-mission camp) this summer in Honduras, Mozambique and Zambia gathered on Jan. 27 and 28. The young people come from Coruña, Orense, San Pedro do Sul, Pinheiro de Bemposta, Paços de Ferreira, León, Valladolid and Salamanca (Portugal and Spain). During the meeting, volunteers received information on health and solidarity, among other issues. Their next meeting will take place in March.

SRI LANKA

The 17 novitiates that are currently in the Marist International Novitiate in Tudella took part in a retreat Jan. 4 and 5. The novitiates come from from China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, East Timor, Melanesia and Sri Lanka.

TOWARDS NEW ACTION PLANS IN EUROPE

SECOND ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCILS OF MISSION OF MARIST EUROPE

The second assembly of the councils of mission of the provinces of Europe was held in Guardamar, Spain, from Jan. 14 to 16.

The mission council of the European Marist Conference proposed a work plan that allowed all members of the mission councils to get acquainted with the strategic initiatives, priorities and lines of action of the five European provinces.

Subsequently, working in groups gave us the opportunity to find common ground, confluences and synergies that will give rise to new action plans at European level in the areas of solidarity, the institutional image, Marist youth ministry, identity and leadership, priority areas in the work carried out at the first meeting of the councils of mission in 2017.

Each participant individually expressed their opinion on the proposals made, before the councils of mission of each province later prioritized the proposals of this second assembly of the councils of mission

and in plenary session, discussed in a friendly, fraternal and respectful climate diversity and identity of each.

Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal, director of the secretariat of mission in Rome, accompanied us by presenting his insights on the XXII General Chapter and a brief overview of the new models of animation, governance and management.

The dynamics of this assembly showed that “the new beginning” in the words of the superior general mentioned by the provincial of the Mediterránea province, who accompanied us throughout the assembly during his closing speech of the assembly:

“We must be able to give answers to the various realities of Europe, break the boundaries, build bridges, find what unites us because together we are stronger, seek synergies, be able to move forward, grow together, be bold and aware, think and be Marist in Europe.”



MARIST WORLD



Brazil: Meeting of Africa and Asia's technical team of sustainability, Curitiba



Australia: Australian Marist Youth Ministry leaders celebrating Australia Day in Melbourne



Philippines: MAPAC, Marikina City



Spain: Ibérica prov discusses the life of young people in today's world, Lardero



Bangladesh: Children with Br Eugenio Sanz of the Shreemangal Community, Dhaka



Syria: Workshop on life skills with the Blue Marists, Aleppo

MEETING OF YOUNG BROTHERS OF THE AMÉRICA SUR REGION

STRENGTHENING RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

Young brothers from the region América Sur had a meeting in Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay, from Jan. 16 to 22 to strengthen the experience of the religious vocation.

The meeting, which took place in the Casa de Encuentro Marista, aimed to strengthen the experience of the religious vocation, through a formative and celebrative itinerary in the perspective of the construction of the new.

The event was organized by the Area of Consecrated Life and Laity of the Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL) and by the young Brothers working group of the América Sur Region.

It was divided into four blocks: 1) Workshops on Being Brothers Today composed of themes: new relationship between Brothers and lay people; spirituality; professional forma-



tion; generational conflict; 2) Panel on Human Rights, with focus on sexual abuse; 3) Conversation wheel about ecclesiality; and 4) SWOT analysis on the new region, with an emphasis on internationality.

This meeting, which had as its theme "Young Brothers: accomplices of the

Spirit in the territory of the new," represented a great opportunity for dreams, formation, sharing experiences, creation and strengthening of ties, with the horizon of revitalization and promotion of common purposes of the process and the path of following Jesus Christ in the Marist consecrated life.

NORANDINA: CELEBRATION OF LAY BONDING WITH THE MARIST CHARISM

THIRTY LAY PEOPLE PUBLICLY CONFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT AS MARISTS

Thirty lay people from Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela celebrated their lay connection to the Marist charism in Los Teques, Venezuela, during the last provincial chapter of Norandina.

The ceremony took place in the Champagnat school in Caracas, accompanied by relatives and the brothers of the community of Los Chorros and the school. Brother Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, and Brother João Carlos do Prado, general councillor, also took part.



It was a Mass in which the laity shared their life experiences and said their commitment with the following words:

“We are Christians who have heard the call of God to give our lives to be signs of joy, hope, fraternity and mercy, in the following of Jesus and his Gospel at the service of the neediest. We, lay Marists of Champagnat, are a family of men and women of faith inspired by Saint Marcellin Champagnat and by the hand of Mary, Our Good Mother, we live in the Marist Norandina province. We are aware that we have been given the gift of the lay Marist vocation. For this, we commit ourselves to:
Be disciples of Jesus at the service of his gospel.
Make of our homes, family and community, a Nazareth.

Cultivate our interiority and personal relationship with God.
Live the experience of the evangelical fraternity among ourselves and for others, being in solidarity with the poorest children and young people and responding with boldness and creativity to emerging needs.
Promote new forms of expression of our family spirit as Marists of Champagnat, based on communion as a fundamental element of our charismatic expression.
Revitalize and make known the Marist charism, as a way of expressing the Marian face of the Church.
Promote and nurture Marist vocations, working together, where the centre is the person in following Jesus.
Being aware of this experience, we thank God:
For the lay vocation that fills us with

fullness of faith and personal fulfillment at the service of the Church.
For allowing us to make the Marist charism our life choice.
For the Marist communities, especially the Marist Brothers of the Norandina Province for their openness, testimony and welcome.
For the life of our companions, who have witnessed our vocational processes.
For our families, the seedbed of Marist vocation, for their unconditional support in this long walk, giving us time and for being a push of life.
We thank Jesus for being our guide, to Mary for being our ordinary resource, to Champagnat for the spiritual inheritance that moves us to give life and to give it in abundance.
Finally, we are grateful to feel called to be part of the global family of the Marists of Champagnat.”

JOURNEYING TOGETHER AS A GLOBAL FAMILY!

*Transform us Jesus, and send us
as a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope in this turbulent world,
to be the face and hands of your tender mercy.
Inspire our creativity to be bridge-builders,
to journey with children and young people on the margins of life,
and to respond boldly to emerging needs*



**MESSAGE OF THE
XXII GENERAL CHAPTER**

FRATELLI PROJECT COUNCIL MEETS FOR FURTHER PLANNING, EVALUATION

COUNCIL TO RECEIVE A NEW MEMBER

The Fratelli Project Council, which will soon receive a new member, met in Lebanon from Jan. 7 – 12 for further planning and evaluation.

The governing Council, which currently includes two De La Salle Brothers – Brothers Jorge Gallardo (vicar general) and Rafael Matas – and one Marist Brother, Brother Chris Wills (director of Cmi), will have another Marist Brother in the team within the next few weeks. It is expected that the new member will be decided upon during the General Council's meeting in February.



During its recent meeting in Lebanon, the Brothers discussed the Project's operating budget and a plan for a financial audit. They also evaluated last year's summer programme for volunteers and began organising future application forms for the volunteers of this summer.

There are currently seven members in the communities of the Fratelli Project, in Beirut and Rmeileh: Marist Brothers Michel Cubeles and Isaac Alonso (Spain); De La Salle Brothers Andrés Porrás (Mexico) and Gilbert Ouilabégué (Chad); lay Marists Laura Gonzalvo Calle (Spain)

and Bruno Socher (Brazil); lay Lasallian Sara Amarillas (Mexico).

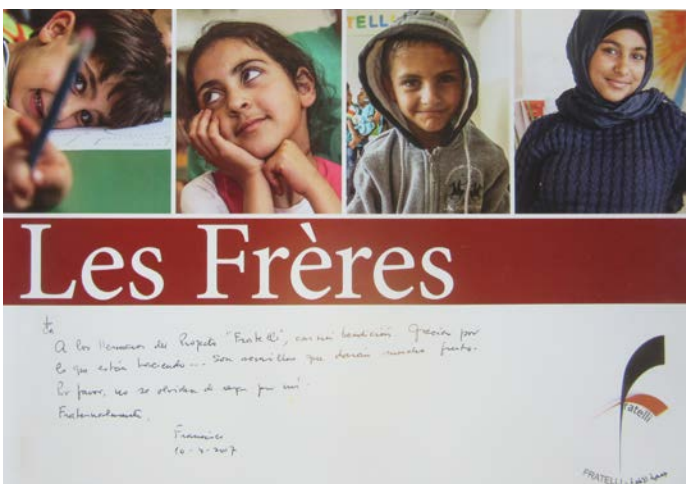
The Fratelli Project Council will hold its next meeting on March 1 at the general house, with its new member.

Book on the Fratelli Project

The Fratelli Project [published a book](#) in August on the Fratelli Project, with pictures taken by Italian photographer Marco Amato and text by Sara Panciroli. This publication follows an earlier limited edition hardcover publication which was presented to Pope Francis who inscribed by hand a message of support in the book and it was sent to the Fratelli Community in Lebanon where it is on display.

The new book is entitled "Fratelli Project. The educational project of the Brothers of the Christian Schools - La Salle (FSC) and the Marist Brothers of the Schools (FMS) for refugee children and young people in Lebanon" (Progetto Fratelli. Il progetto educativo dei Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane - La Salle (FSC) e dei Fratelli Maristi delle Scuole (FMS) per i bambini e ragazzi profughi in Libano).

The book is the second publication and it focuses on the results, the number of people it assists, the types of activities and courses for young people and adults it carries out, as well as its impact on the local Lebanese community.



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