



“BEING ABLE TO CHANGE THE WHEELS WITHOUT STOPPING THE TRAIN”

THE GENERAL COUNCIL HOLDS A WEEK OF TALKS WITH THE SECRETARIATS

From Feb. 19 – 23, the general council invited the heads of the five secretariats of the Institute and other members of the general administration to discuss what the action plan will be of the new general government, elected to implement the calls of the XXII General Chapter.

Brother Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, stressed that the intention of the new government is to implement an organic animation, with a view that goes from the periphery to the center. “The Institute needs a leadership that sustains and encourages local structures, thus favoring local and provincial leaderships,” he affirmed.

He summarized the spirit of the new government, in this moment of change, underscoring that “we should be able to change the wheels without stopping the train.” He was referring to a conversation with Brother Antonio Giménez, the then director of the Edelvives editorial.

The week began with a meeting with all the staff of the general house on Feb. 19.

During the first two days, the secretariats presented a synthesis of their action plans and the challenges they experience. The other two days were



dedicated to reflecting on the so-called orientations of the XXII General Chapter, facing the realization of the strategic planning for the animation and governance of the Institute. During the last day, the elements that emerged from the reflections were identified and will be used to prepare the planning and organization of the coordination structures.

The next steps will be meetings that will define the planning and the organization process of the general government. The first will be held from June 18 – 22 and the second from Sept. 10 – 14. The process will

include conversations with the administrative units.

Br Ernesto invited the directors of the secretariats and the heads of the other departments to walk with courage in this time of transition.

He asked the vicar general and the general councillors to closely accompany the secretariats and areas, elaborating a provisional calendar until the planning is completed during the next few months.

In the final evaluation, several participants expressed the joy of walking together, trying to make the global family already a reality among us.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

On March 1, Brothers Jeff Crow and Br Ángel Medina, formators of the Lavalla200> members, will have completed their visit to Tabatinga, Brazil, where they have been since Feb. 22.

From Feb. 28 to March 2, FMSI is holding its board meeting at the general house. Econome general Brother Libardo Garzón and FMSI director Marzia Ventimiglia will be among the participants.

From Feb. 28 to March 4, vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez will be meeting with the six provincials of Arco Norte in Mexico City.

On March 5, FMSI will meet with all the staff of the general house to get them involved in the initiative “Abbiamo riso per una cosa seria,” a campaign run by FOCSIV which will raise money for the Fratelli Project in Lebanon.

THE REALITY OF ABORIGINAL GROUPS IS 'SAD AND REGRETTABLE'

MOUNT DRUITT LAVALLA200> STRENGTHENS TIES WITH THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

Two members of an organisation that assists indigenous Australians in Mount Druitt, a suburb of Sydney, met with the Lavalla200> community to seek new ways of collaborating together.

Mia Jackson, an aborigine herself, and Sister Naomi Smith, a non-indigenous from Australia and director of the Baabayn Aboriginal corporation, gathered with the Lavalla200> community – Argelia Hernández Mendoza, Rodrigo Gris Castro, Br Jonnel Sisneros and Br Lawrie McCane – on Feb. 1.

The Lavalla200> community meets with aborigine children and youth every Tuesday to help them with their school work. The community also offers aborigines transportation to their workplace, as well as help in house chores such as cleaning, painting and gardening.

"The reason for the visit was to strengthen our friendship, unite our talents and share our ideas and projects to help the youth of Mount Druitt," said Rodrigo Gris Castro, one of the four members of the Mount Druitt Lavalla200> community.

"The reality of aboriginal groups in Australia is sad and regrettable," he told the general house communications office on Feb. 14.

BR TABUNGA ETUATI

FIRST PROFESSION IN LOMERI

Brother Tabunga Etuati, from the Pacific district, made his first profession at the Institute on Feb. 10, at the Lomeri novitiate in Fiji. In addition to the participation of the parishioners, the celebration was attended by the district superior, Brother David McDonald, and the district council. Br Tabunga will continue his initial formation at MAPAC, in the Philippines, starting next May.

Three other novices will continue their formation in the Lomeri novitiate. Two of them are from Samoa and the third is from Fiji.

The formators of the novitiate are Brothers Jone Seduadua, master of novices, and Luke Fong, assistant master.

Rodrigo underscored that "it is important and necessary for us that our Lavalla200> community in Mount Druitt has a spirit of family and community with the Baabayn Aboriginal group."

"We want to continue with our great friendship and respect towards them and it is fundamental to listen to their stories, their problems and their needs," he continued. The word "aborigine" means "the first" or "the first known" and, according to Rodrigo, Australia could easily be the home of the first inhabitants of the Earth. The aborigines were in Australia about 60,000 years ago when the English first landed in 1770.

From 300,000 to 750,000 aborigines inhabited the continent, but in 1911 (123 years after the first English settlements), there were only 31,000 aborigines left. The British declared that Australia was

terra nullius, that is, without human inhabitants, and thus justified the dispossession of indigenous lands and the looting of the continent. They snatched the fertile land and threw the aborigines into the interior arid areas.

According to Rodrigo, today "unfortunately, many of the old problems are still real. Indigenous Australian communities have serious health and economic deficiencies and social indicators place them in lower positions in terms of health, education, employment, poverty and crime."



NEWS IN BRIEF

NIGERIA

Eleven secondary schools, of which eight were Marist, took part in a sports and arts festival at the Marist Comprehensive Academy in Uturu, Nigeria, from Feb. 10 - 17. Participants included the vice provincial, Brother Christopher Onwuasoanya, as well as Brothers Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede of the secretariat of Mission.

BOLIVIA

Seventy-five Marist catechists from Cochabamba held a formation meeting with three themes: protection of children, formation for prayer and catechist methodology. It was also the occasion to define the concrete services that each one will carry out during the year 2018.

CANADA

The provincial council and the Marist Laity Association met to structure the vision for the Marist governance in the country. Participants agreed that there is a need to update the composition of the Council of Mission, so that it gives priority to three areas of action: the life of the Brothers, the mission and the services. There is also a need to create a network of Marist works of the Province.

ARCO NORTE

Brother José Sánchez, provincial of México Central and regional coordinator, called a meeting of the six provincials of the region (March 1-3) to continue the strategic planning process of this Marist area and to deal with other issues. The implementation team will gather before this meeting, on Feb. 27 and 28. The meetings will be held in Mexico City. Vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez will be among the participants.

THE SOLIDARITY OF MARISTS IN FURTH

RAISING MONEY FOR CAMBODIA AND REFUGEES IN SOUTH AFRICA



The Maristen-Gymnasium Furth school and the Maristen Solidarität International association in Furth have been involved in solidarity work for the Marist mission in Cambodia and South Africa.

Students from the Maristen-Gymnasium Furth school raised €950 euros for a teaching institute in Sen Monorom, Cambodia, that the Institute is planning on building. The school did the fundraising during the weeks leading up to Christmas, under the guidance of Johannes Räßle, who led the campaign. Also, the Maristen Solidarität International association has agreed to

donate a large amount to throughout 2018 to help the "Three2six" project (www.three2six.co.za), run by the Sacred Heart College in Johannesburg, South Africa. The project helps child refugees from neighbouring African countries facing xenophobia in Johannesburg, receive education, shelter and regular meals.

As the name of the project implies, the children attend lessons in the afternoons from 3 – 6 p.m.

Colin Northmore, the principal of the Sacred Heart College, visited members of the association on Jan. 20 to show his gratitude for the support granted.

MARIST WORLD



Kiribati
Final vows of Br Amberoti Nantei



Italy: Secretariat of the laity and Secretariat Brothers Today with general counselors



France
Beaucamps



Brazil: Nanci Alexandra Prochnow and Francisco Decezaro towards Romania (LaValla200>)



Syria
The management team of the Blue Marists



General House: Birthday of Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General

A LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES THE PAIN

RECALLING THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN ALGERIA IN THE 1990s

Father Thomas Georgeon, postulator general of the cause of the martyrs of the Church of Algeria, speaking of the 19 Christians killed in the nineties in Algeria affirms that “they have lived together with love with the little ones in the name of Christ, with respect for the faith of the other.”

Therefore, “paying homage to the 19 Christian martyrs means paying homage to the memory of all those who gave their lives in Algeria in the 1990s.”

The majority of the almost 200,000 people killed in the dark years of Islamist terrorism were mostly ordinary people, but journalists, human rights activists, intellectuals and imams also died.

Today, instead of propitiating a policy of reconciliation marked by the silence of so many names, which instead of propitiating the healing of

memory, offers us the risk of leaving them confined to oblivion, the beatification of 19 Christian martyrs who bring a great light even to illuminate the many sufferings experienced by the Algerian people.

“It is an opportunity to rediscover the true meaning of the term “martyr”, who is a witness,” insists Father Thomas. “They did not give their lives for an idea, for a cause, but for Him. They did it with a deep love for the land where the Lord had sent them, Algeria. With



evangelical attention and delicacy towards the people, especially towards the smallest and humblest, as well as towards the young people. They did it with respect for the faith of the other and with the desire to understand Islam.”

BISHOP SYLVAIN BATAILLE

VISIT OF THE BISHOP OF SAINT-ÉTIENNE TO THE L'HERMITAGE COMMUNITY

On Feb. 15, the Marist community of N.D. de L'Hermitage had the joy of receiving the Bishop Sylvain Bataille, the bishop of Saint-Étienne.

He is the one who proposed to hold this meeting. After the guided tour of the historic building, the bishop met with Brother Maurice Berquet, the director of the house, and with the whole community, in addition to Caroline Martin, in charge of



the accommodation, and Father Gaby Perret, chaplain of the house.

At the time of sharing thoughts

The meeting ended with a Eucharistic celebration, presided over by the bishop, and lunch shared with the entire community.

with each other, they discussed the collaboration between diocesan services and the L'Hermitage Reception Center, as well as the participation of the community in the diocesan jubilee. In the year 2020, the diocese of Saint-Étienne will celebrate 50 years of its foundation.

A DAY'S RETREAT PREPARES MARISTS FOR LENT

'RECOGNISING THE TRACES OF GOD IN THE OTHER'

The Brothers of Belgium, laity and members of local parishes visited the Marie-Médiatrice community on Feb. 10 in Genval, Belgium.

Under the theme "Advance your pawn" (« Avance ton pion »), the aim was for participants to become aware of the steps they need to take in their human and spiritual life to experience Lent as a real time of preparation for Easter.

During the morning, Brother Roberto Di Troia, who animated the day, helped them reflect on fasting and abstinence as a means of becoming more aware of all that prevents them from moving forward in the path of life. In the afternoon, they were invited to reflect on charity work.



"To recognize the traces of God in the other, especially the people who are closest to me, gives us a beautiful and very concrete programme to live during Lent," affirmed Br Roberto.

"To dare to tell the other the importance of having them with oneself because it gives us the opportunity to live oneness with that person as well as with God."

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