



# MARIST NEWS

514

Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

## PARTICIPANTS OF THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER SUBMIT FEEDBACK

### CHAPTER EVALUATION SURVEY IS NOW AVAILABLE

A survey with feedback on the XXII General Chapter that was held in Rionegro, Colombia, from Sept. 8 – Oct. 20 is now available.

Eighty-eight of the 116 Brothers and laity that took part in the Chapter (79 capitulants, 16 guests and 21 of the support team) completed the survey, which ran last November and December.

The topics that the survey covered were the Chapter process, the fact that it was held outside Rome, the venue (Casa de encuentros De La Salle), the Chapter's resources, and a general evaluation of the Chapter. Participants rated the general evaluation of the Chapter a 4.5 out of 5, one being the lowest score and five, the best.

The place of the meeting and the fact that it was held outside of Rome was much appreciated by the participants. Results also showed there was insufficient time to work on the Constitu-



Photo of participants mid-way through the Chapter in Rionegro, Colombia

tions and the Rule of Life. The general government is pleased by the great satisfaction expressed by the participants and by the success of the XXII General Chapter, held in Colombia. It is certain, that it was the movement of the Spirit that helped the Marists of Champagnat to enter into this new

beginning of the Marist charism. To download the complete survey, visit: <https://goo.gl/g5pAgi>.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From March 4 – 6, a meeting of Marist laity is taking place in Vietnam with Agnes Reyes, co-director of the Secretariat for the Laity.

From Wednesday, March 7, to March 14, Brother Jeff Crowe and Brother Ángel Medina, formators of the Lavalla200> members, will visit to Lavalla200> community in Moinesti, Romania.

Also on March 7, – 10, Marzia Ventimiglia, FMSI director will visit the Villa San José in Argentina and participate in FMSI Cono Sur's annual meeting. She will then visit Curitiba, Brazil, from March 11 – 14 to discuss FMSI's communication strategy.

On March 11, Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, vicar general will be in Paris, France, to study French until May 5.

It is certain, that it was the **movement of the Spirit** that helped the **Marists of Champagnat** to enter into this new beginning of the Marist charism.

## CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS OF SECRETARIATS

### MARCH – APRIL 2018

**Feb. 22 – March 1:** Visit to Tabatinga, Brazil: Br Jeff Crowe and Br Ángel Medina, formators of the Lavalla200> members.

**Feb. 28 – March 4:** Meeting in Arco Norte with the six provincials of the region, in Mexico City: vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez.

**Feb. 28 – March 2:** FMSI board meeting in Rome: Marzia Ventimiglia, FMSI director, and members of the general council.

**March 1:** Meeting of the Council of the Fratelli Project at the general house: Br Óscar Martín Vicario, general councillor, Cmi director Br Chris Wills, Br Valdicer Fachi (director of Cmi from July onwards), Br Jorge Gallardo de Alba FSC, vicar general, and Br Rafael Matas FSC, general councillor.

**March 1 – April 30:** Spanish language course in Santiago de Compostela, Spain: Br Ken McDonald, general councillor.

**March 3:** Meeting of Manziana and El Escorial's ongoing formation teams at El Escorial, Spain: Br Óscar Martín Vicario, general councillor, and Br Tony León, director of the Brothers Today secretariat.

**March 4 – 6:** Meeting of Laity in Vietnam: Agnes Reyes, co-director of the Secretariat for the Laity.

**March 7 – 14:** Visit to Lavalla200> community in Moinesti, Romania: Br Jeff Crowe and Br Ángel Medina, formators of the Lavalla200> members.

**March 7 – 10:** Visit of FMSI to Villa San José in Argentina and FMSI CONO SUR's annual meeting: Marzia Ventimiglia, FMSI director.

**March 11 – 14:** Visit to Curitiba, Brazil, regarding FMSI's communications strategy: Marzia Ventimiglia, FMSI director.

**March 11 – May 5:** French language course in Paris, France: Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez.

**March 12 – 14:** Workshop at the Thresholds formation programme at El Escorial, Spain: Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general.

**March 12 – 25:** Visit to Geneva, Swit-



zerland, for a meeting on the adoption of Universal Periodic Review recommendations by Argentina and Peru; preparation for the UN's general debate day and Mexico's UPR; meeting with the board of the International Catholic Center of Geneva: Br Álvaro Sepúlveda, FMSI.

**March 12 – May 12:** Spanish language course in Salamanca, Spain: Brother Ben Consigli, general councillor.

**March 19 – 23:** Meeting in Rome for the preparation of the 2019 youth synod: Br Beto Rojas, director of the secretariat of Mission.

**March 20 – 23:** Meeting of the América Sur Committee in Curitiba, Brazil: Br Beto Rojas.

**March 20 – 27:** Visit to Lavalla200> members in the Marist District of Asia in Phnom Penh, Cambodia: Br Jeff Crowe and Br Ángel Medina, Lavalla200> formators, as well as Cmi director Br Chris Wills and Br Valdicer Fachi, director of Cmi from July onwards.

**March 22 – 25:** Participation in the provincial Chapter of the United States of America province in Poughkeepsie, New York: Br Ernesto Sánchez and Br João Carlos do Prado,

general councillor.

**March 26 – 29:** Visit to the district of Asia headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand: Br Valdicer Fachi, Cmi.

**April 2 – May 30:** English language course in Dublin, Ireland: Br Valdicer Fachi, Cmi.

**April 6 – 9:** presence in the first professions of the Novices of Tudella, Sri Lanka: Br Óscar Martín Vicario, general councillor, and Br Tony León, director of the Brothers Today secretariat.

**April 9 – 13:** Meeting of the Asia Lay Commission in Singapore: Agnes Reyes, co-director of the Secretariat for the Laity.

**April 9 – 17:** Assembly of superiors and encounter with the Council of the Marist Asia District in Thailand: Br Josep Maria Soteras, general councillor.

**April 10 – 12:** Meeting of the European Mission Commission in Lyon, France: Br Beto Rojas, director of the secretariat of Mission.

**April 10 – 18:** Visit to Atlantis Lavalla200> community in Capetown, South Africa: Br Jeff Crowe and Br Ángel Medina, Lavalla200> formators.

**April 11 – 17:** Meeting of the Inter-

NEWS IN BRIEF

**SOUL COMPANIONS**

The Province of Compostela organized a course of "soul companions," oriented to personal development and learning the art of personal accompaniment. The course consists of 20 online modules and five face-to-face meetings and a personal follow-up session every 15 days. From Feb. 22 – 25, the first face-to-face meeting of the second edition of the course took place in Roxos.

**POSTULANCY OF LAUMANASA**

At the end of February, eight candidates for the Marist religious life began the formation course in the Solomon Islands. Seven candidates are from the country and another is from Bougainville.

**MARIST STUDENT CONSUL**

Úrsula Eyherabide, a former Marist student at the Luján College in Argentina, was appointed Consul in Atlanta, United States. Highlighting the admiration for the formation she received, he said: "I believe that the vocation is learned at home and at school".

**AMÉRICA SUR**

The América Sul education team met Feb. 26 – 28 in Brasilia to align processes and decide on specific actions within the region, as well as reviewing the strategic plan for 2018 and scheduling forthcoming meetings and work dynamics. The region is made up of the provinces of Brasil Centro-Norte, Brazil Centro-Sul, Brasil Sul-Amazônia, Cruz del Sur and Santa Maria de los Andes.

national Commission of Brothers Today - MAPAC, Manila, The Philippines - Br Óscar Martin and Br Tony Leon.

**April 16 – 19:** International Council of Economic Affairs (CIAE) meeting in Rome, Italy: Br Libardo Garzón, econome general.

**April 17 – 21:** Buenos Aires: Formation workshop with BICE Argentina in Buenos Aires and encounter with Latin America's BICE networks: Br Álvaro Sepúlveda, FMSI.

**April 18 – 22:** International Commission of Brothers Today visiting the

formation houses of the province of East Asia and the Marist District of Asia - Mindanao - The Philippines - Br Óscar Martin and Br Tony Leon

**April 23 – 27:** Encounter of the European Marist Conference (CEM) in Freising, Germany: Br João Carlos do Prado, general councillor.

**April 24 – 27:** Bedford Fund in Rome, Italy: Br Libardo Garzón, econome general.

**April 25 – 27:** Visit to Hermitage community in France: Br Jeff Crowe and Br Ángel Medina.

**FMSI IS DONATING \$ 60,000 FOR STUDENTS IN SOUTH SUDAN**



On Feb. 24, the Marist International Solidarity Foundation Onlus For the benefit of children (FMSI) sent \$ 48,000 US dollars to South Sudan, as part of a larger sum that will be used for a year's education and accommodation of 10 students in South Sudan.

They hope the donation, which so far has come from a partnership with the Marist Brothers in Germany, will reach \$ 60,000 US dollars.

On Feb. 23, the Church celebrated a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, as Pope Francis had requested during his [Sunday Angelus](#)

[on Feb. 4](#) . South Sudan is suffering from a prolonged civil war and humanitarian crisis.

The Marist Brothers participate in the [Solidarity with South Sudan](#) project, which has five communities in the African country, made up of over 30 members of 23 religious congregations.

It is located in Riimenze, Wau, Yambio and Juba. It was initially set up to train teachers, nurses, midwives, local farmers and community leaders, but for the past year has been having to feed and look after [internally displaced people in Riimenze](#).

## MARIST WORLD



Philippines: Discalced Carmelites visit MAPAC, Marikina City



General House: Fratelli Project Council meeting



Spain: Formation team of El Escorial and Manziána



Uruguay: Meeting with directors



Brazil: Marist youth in Dourados



South Africa: Volunteer training for the Three2Six project, Johannesburg

## SOMETHING NEW HAS BEGUN

### MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN TEAM OF BROTHERS TODAY



Once again we, the European Team of Brothers Today, gathered together (Lisbon, 7 and 8 February 2018). But this time it's not like the other times.

Actually, none of them are...

This time we feel enlightened by a new light that frames all our projects and challenges for the coming years.

It is the light of the XXII General Chapter that, since it was held in Colombia, calls us to become the face and hands of God's mercy. From this perspective, we share our dreams and plan our task of animation:

- We organized the third meeting of the Network of Com-

munities in Europe, which will take place in El Escorial from August 8 to 12, 2018. We want to bet on truly networked communities, twinned to enrich community life and Marist spirituality, committed to a mission that responds to new calls and with an organisation and structure of animation that takes advantage of synergies.

- We discussed the preparation of the summer retreats of the provinces and we opened them to the participation of others. This year, they are focused on The Rule of Life and the calls of the Chapter.
- We revised our Roadmap 2018-2021 and framed all the actions of our animation team in light of the calls of the General Chapter.
- We shared the concerns and issues that have been arising from our General Administration. Brother Tony

Leon informed us about the meeting of the “Tutti fratelli” project on being bridge builders, with the presence of 21 general superiors among its participants.

- We shared the materials that came from each province in relation to the process of explaining and reflecting on the XXII General Chapter.

And we finished our meeting with the feeling that something new has begun and with the joy of having been together. New challenges are always waiting for us: to live our Marist mission as a global family and to be bridges, lights in the path, an outstretched hand and friend for children and young people who are on the margins of the world. May the Good Mother and Marcellin always accompany us on each step of this journey.

*Br Aureliano García Manzanal  
Coordinator of the Brothers Today Europe team*

## WITNESSES OF THE CHURCH OF ARGELIA

### FRATERNAL COEXISTENCE AND RESPECT BETWEEN RELIGIONS

Father Jean Marie Lassause, a priest of the mission of France who lived in the Tibhirine monastery for 15 years, giving a testimony of faith and closeness to the local people in the footsteps of the Trappist monks, is convinced that the beatification of the 19 martyrs of the Church of Algeria “is extraordinary, since it recognises absolutely normal people: men and women who, like many other members of the Church, chose to remain in Algeria despite knowing that they risked their lives.”

Marist Brother Henri Vergès and Sister Paul Hélène de Saint Raymond, a Little Sister of the Assumption, were the first to be killed on May 8, 1994 in the library of Casbah.

These proto-martyrs were followed by the consecrated of several other congregations, and finally by the Dominican Bishop Pierre Claverie, bishop of Oran.

“The message of these 19 religious men and women is clear,” adds Father Georgeon.

“We must deepen the meaning of the presence of the Church and demonstrate that fraternal coexist-



ence and respect between religions is possible.” Therefore, the celebration of this

beatification is to be done by fostering a great sense of belonging to the Algerian Church: a small, hum-

ble, servant and loving “guest” Church. And what is said about each of the 19 martyrs has also been deeply experienced by many other members of the Church who still live.

Their lives and deaths are like an icon of the identity of the Church of Algeria.

They have incarnated to the end their vocation to be a sacrament of Christ’s charity for all his people.

Agios.Mar 15

Br Antonio Martínez Estaún, Postulator general

|| The beatification of the 19 martyrs of the Church of Algeria “is extraordinary, since it recognises **absolutely normal people:** men and women who, like many other members of the Church, chose to remain in Algeria despite knowing that they || risked their lives

## THE CRUZ DEL SUR PROVINCE LAUNCHES A MOBILE APPLICATION

### «CRUZ DEL SUR» PROVINCIA MARISTA

The Cruz del Sur province launched a mobile application on Feb. 19 titled «Cruz del Sur» Provincia Marista.

The launch comes after a long process of reflection and analysis, in collaboration with the Agencia Digital Inmediativa and several teams on the province, including the communication and dissemination team.

The application can be downloaded from Google Play and it will soon be available in the App Store (iPhone).

“After several years, we were looking for a way to reach more people, especially the youth, to offer data and public information that everyone can easily access”, affirmed Leonardo Fraga, director of the team of Marist communication and dissemination of the Cruz del Sur province.

“We wanted to reach them with new means and allow them to have ac-



cess to information that is also available to anyone who wants to know more about us and be connected with us, or with what happens in the Marist province of Cruz del Sur,” he added.

The application has information and news of the Province, the location of works, events, as well as infor-

mation from the Editorial Gram and the Fundación Marista, two very important organisms for the life of the province.

It also has a section to download the most important documents of the Cruz del Sur Province.

To download the App on Google Play, visit: <https://goo.gl/uV4yBa>.

#### Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto:comunica@fms.it)

Our website: <http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Follow us:

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

[https://twitter.com/fms\\_champagnat](https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat)