



MARIST NEWS

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome



ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ BARBA, FMS
SUPERIEUR GÉNÉRAL - SUPERIOR GERAL - SUPERIOR GENERAL
CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL - CONSELHO GERAL
GENERAL COUNCIL - CONSEJO GENERAL
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TEAM LEADERSHIP

OFFICIAL PHOTO OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The communications office of the general house has just launched the official photo of the superior general and his council, elected during the XXII General Chapter. It is being sent these days, by mail, to the administrative units.

Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, proposes a collective image with the whole general council as an official photo that Marist communities and institutions may display.

“With this photo, I want to underline the idea of having a leadership team in place. I strongly believe that a new beginning and the building of a global family increasingly requires the exercise of collegial leadership,” affirmed Brother Ernesto in his recent letter sent to the provincials.

The photo can be downloaded, in good quality, on [that link](#).

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, and Juao Carlos do Prado, general councillor, will participate in the Chapter of the Province of the United States, from March 22 – 25.
- The six participants of the Laval-la200> project working in Asia will

meet in Singapore from March 23 to 25. They will meet with Brothers Jeff Crowe and Angel Medina, who accompany the project members; Chris Wills and Valdicer Fachi, of Cmi; and Juan Castro, superior of the district of Asia.

- On March 13, several Brothers and collaborators of the general house participated in the funeral of Roberto Clark, who died suddenly in Rome. He had been a Marist Brother of the América Central province and worked in the general administration as personal secretary of Brother Seán Sammon.



MEETING OF SCHOOL EDUCATION TEAM

AMÉRICA SUR REGION

The school education team of the América Sur region met in Brasilia, Brazil, from Feb. 26 – 28.

Participants included Alessandra Maia and Br. Vanderlei Siqueira (Brasil Centro-Sul); Nevil Leguizamón (Cruz del Sur); Br Lúcio Gomes and Deysiane Puentes (Brasil Centro-Norte); Ernesto Reyes (Santa María de Los Andes); Br Claudiano Tiecher and Luciano Miraber (Brasil Sul-Amazonia); Ricardo Mariz (UM-BRASIL).

The meeting resumed the deliberations of the meeting that took place in Santiago, Chile, in 2017, the review of the strategic plan of the education group and the alignment of the actions according to the calls of the XXII General Chapter.

Next, the scope of the intelligence action was elaborated to animate



the region and the strategies of the action plan for 2018. The team is clear about the potential

and the challenges of building a networked action model in education within the América Sur region.

GUATEMALA: SERVICES FOR THE VULNERABLE POPULATION

AMÉRICA CENTRAL'S PROVINCIAL COMMISSION OF SOLIDARITY



On Feb. 12 and 13, América Central's new provincial commission of solidarity met to jointly design the strategic plan of the solidarity commission, in order to provide services

in favour of the vulnerable population, with greater emphasis on children and adolescents. The following points were addressed: the new structure of the

provincial solidarity and the strategic plan of the triennium 2018 – 2020, taking into account the following axes: the Marist foundation (development projects), solidarity ministry, volunteering at provincial and external level, provincial politics for the care and protection of minors and rights of children, adolescents and youth.

The province of América Central includes Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Cuba. The situation of vulnerability in this region requires giving creative responses to the cries of so many human beings in need.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WITH YOU, MARCELLIN

The musical 'With you, Marcellin' (Contigo, Marcelino), written by Brother Toni Torrelles and directed by the writer, author and theater director Albert López Vivancos, has premiered in Catalan. The music and the musical scores are available on our website at this link: <https://goo.gl/el3oiW>.

BOLIVIA

On March 17, a prayer meeting with the Marist catechists of Cochabamba took place in the inter-provincial novitiate house. A total of 60 catechists participated.

CARE FOR SOUL

The Australia province made the first of eight retreats a few days ago, titled 'Care for soul retreats.' The first one took place in Mittagong, with participants from Marist Bulleen, Trinity Auburn and Marist Canberra.

MARISTS OF MÁLAGA

The Marist School of Malaga, Spain, was awarded for its communication strategies through social networks, especially in the category of best promotional video. These awards were granted on the occasion of the Second National Educational Marketing Awards.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

FMSI is hiring, for its office in the general house, two members of staff: a fundraising officer and an administrative manager. They will begin work in mid-April. The details of the offer can be seen on the FMSI's website: <https://fmsi.ngo>.

SPAIN: "SOLIDARITY IS PART OF THE DNA OF THE MARIST CHARISM"

200 PEOPLE ATTEND THE 6TH SOCIAL FORUM OF THE IBÉRICA PROVINCE



The sixth social forum 'A vueltas con lo social, a vueltas con lo local' was held on Feb. 24 at the school of San José del Parque in Madrid, Spain. For this occasion, participants were invited to try to respond to the keys that emerged from the General Chapter such as the framework of solidarity and of living with hope.

The meeting took place at various times, with the participation of around 200 people. It started with a presentation made by Brother Ismael González, who, through his vital testimony, invited us to reflect on 'A new beginning as the key of hope.'

Later, Brother Álvaro Sepúlveda, from the Marist International Solidarity Foundation Onlus For the benefit of children (FMSI) spoke in depth about the rights of children and showed how "the protection of the rights of children is a commitment of our Institute." Brother Eugenio Sanz then shed some light into the reality of his mission in Bangladesh and delved into

how "solidarity is part of the DNA of the Marist charism".

In the afternoon, representatives of the province's social works in Romania – Todo Avanza, Espiral, SED and Ausartzen – shared what day-to-day life is like and how Marist pedagogical features are present in its work.

The meeting ended with Fran Fernández who, with his hopeful songs, asked the participants to set out and face the challenges and vicissitudes with hope.

Throughout the social forum, children and young people were very present. They were the ones who, with their questions, opinions, reflections and testimonies, reminded us that they are the ones who are driving our mission.

The reflections that arose helped and inspired the promoters of this initiative for the planning of future actions to be promoted in the coming years.



MARIST WORLD



Canada
Maison Mariste de Sherbrooke



South Africa: Volunteers of Three2six project, Johannesburg



Australia: National team of the Marist Youth Ministry



Sri Lanka
Novitiate of Tudella



Philippines: Postulants in Davao with Br Lecio Heckler, Marist Formator in Timor-Leste.



Argentina
Profession of Br. Darío Melgar, Luján

GET GOING! THE NEW BEGINNING IS NOW

MARIST PASTORAL WEEK OF THE BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE PROVINCE

In the context of the current situation, with the XXII General Chapter and with the Church, the Marist pastoral week of 2018, of the Marist province of Brazil Centro-Norte, invited participants to enter into the theme of "moving," celebrating life and uniting with all the Marist schools and colleges that were there from March 5 – 9 to communicate their experiences with what is sacred, through pastoral projects.

The world and its realities expect from the Marists of Champagnat a proactive, available and courageous attitude to provoke some movements of change. Faced with this, the provincial initiative seeks to illuminate prayer, reflection and action through the theme "Get going" and the motto "The new beginning is now." Inviting participants to be



prophets of hope - seeing, hearing and feeling the needs of human life - this new time of evangeliza-

tion has begun, and its inviting the movement for the new beginning to be built now!

“THE WAR IS MY CHILDHOOD DESTROYED UNDER THE RUINS AND STORED IN A BOX”

SIRYA: THE DIARY OF MYRIAM

Myriam Rawick, daughter of a lady who collaborates with the Blue Marists, grew up in Jabal al Saydé, a neighborhood in Aleppo that does not exist now. She wrote an intimate diary, as many girls do, which she began in November 2011 and finished in December 2016, when she met the journalist Philippe Lobjois to whom she entrusted it to.

This is the review of Brother Carlos Huidobro, general secretary of the Marist Institute, of the book “The diary of Myriam,” published by Edelvives.

(In the picture: Myriam with her family and Brother Georges Sabe.)

“The war is my childhood destroyed under the ruins and stored in a box ... In my case, all I have left of my childhood is a battered box.” This statement is the confession of a 13-year-old girl, Myriam Rawick, about her childhood lived between 2011 and 2017. Nothing touches the reader’s heart more than these affirmations said by a girl living in the city of Aleppo during a period that she should never have lived. It is the prospect of a war from the eyes of the little girl who could not understand why this was happening around her.

She has a sort of sensitivity that draws attention. She includes in her diary, perhaps in order to catch the moments that were gone and have already disappeared, the memory of the people who lived in her neighborhood: the baker, the ice cream man, the florist, the cafeteria, people with name and surname, whom she recalls for what they did, for their generosity, sympathy and kindness. The expressed sensitivity reaches the description and recognition of perfumes, smells, colours, flavours of everything local, typical of the normal Aleppo and of the days lived in peace “the eyes were not the only guardians of my memories, and I could also trust my fingers, ears and nose,” her mother told her.

She does not experience war and destruction with her brain, but rath-

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For me there was only fear, sadness and anguish, and memories of a previous life that I will never recover.

er with the sensitivity of a girl who trembles, cries, feels pain in her stomach, takes refuge in her mother’s arms, runs to sleep with her, carrying her little sister Joëlle, suffers headaches, covers her ears.

Although her parents do not tell her everything, Myriam senses and knows everything. There is a desperate attempt to hold onto the

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 memories of her childhood, trying to forget the present. “If I close my eyes,” she writes, “I can still smell milk and orange blossom.” Hence, the memory of a whole childhood is in that little box symbol of all that she wanted and experienced.



El Diario de Myriam Her family are Maronite Christians. She lives her religious feelings in a simple way, in the way in which she sees her family and her catechism groups live theirs: by thanking God, praying for the people she meets, doing religious services, helping others and participating in the centre of the Blue Marists with Brother Georges Sabe and her mother, who collaborated there.

Myriam learned how to distinguish the sounds of the bombs, the shrapnel and rifles, the sound of the planes, how to recognise missiles, how to run to escape the snipers and go through the checkpoints of the army and the rebels, taking refuge from the bombs with her neighbors or in the lower floors of the buildings. She admits that she “knows what war is” and concludes “but for me there was only fear, sadness and anguish, and memories of a previous life that I will never recover.”

The value of the battered box is priceless.



VATICAN: YOUNG SAINTS AND BLESSED, THE VATICAN'S LATEST BOOK

A HOLY CHURCH IS ALWAYS A YOUNG CHURCH

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints has just published a book on young saints and blessed by Judith Borer and Maurizio Tagliaferri (Vatican Publishing House, 86 pages, €10), which includes the list of young people who were beatified and canonized in the Catholic Church.

The book, titled 'Santi e Beati Giovani,' narrates the lives of young people, adolescents and even children fascinated by the Gospel message who have followed the steps of Jesus and many of them have even shed their blood for Him.

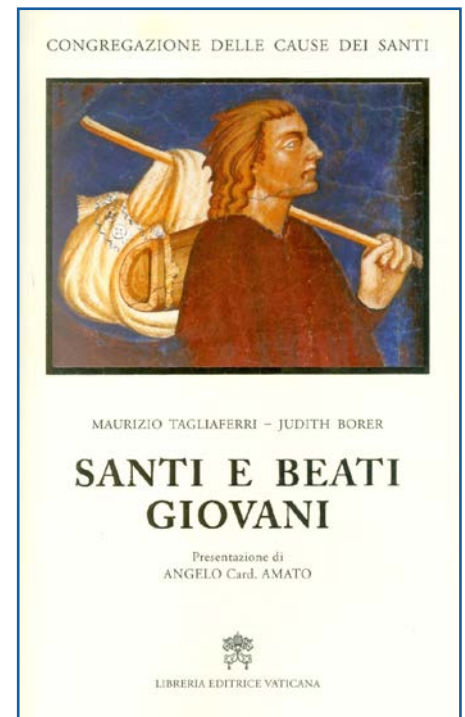
The list of names of young people who have deserved the glory of the altars is full of notable examples: Joan of Arc (19 years) canonized in

1920, Luis Gonzaga (23), Teresa of Lisieux (24), Francesco and Jacinta Marto Fatima, still children, recently canonized by Pope Francis.

Among the Marist Brothers who died martyred in the religious persecution of 1936-1939 in Spain there are several of them who were barely 20 years old.

The pages of this book show how youthful holiness is present at all times, on all continents and speak all the languages of the world.

The book can be a wonderful resource in view of the ordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops that will be held from Oct. 3 – 28 and will address the theme of young people, the faith and vocational discernment.



PERPETUAL VOWS OF BROTHER ALISON FURLAN

MARIST PROVINCE OF BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

The service of vocational animation of the province developed a week of vocational activities in the city and the provincial community made a triduum of prayers.

Presided by Bishop Mario Marques, diocesan bishop, and assisted by the parents Paulo and Rudnei, the celebration took place in the parish community of San Antonio, in Ponte Serrada, the birthplace of Brother Alison.

The request to perpetual vows was strongly motivated by the experience and formation of four months in Cochabamba, Bolivia. For him, consecrated life is a constant walk, a life that includes searching, joys, encounters and experiences of God's love. Being a Marist Brother is worth it!

Brother Bené Oliveira, provincial of Brazil Center-Sul, received the vows of Br Alison on behalf of the superior general. In his speech, he highlighted the gift of fraternity, as



a special characteristic of the vocation of a religious Brother, as well as the happiness of giving himself to the mission, of being an apostle and educator of children and young

people, of being a Marist Brother - brother of Mary : called by God, yes, but chosen by Mary and a beloved disciple of the heart of Saint Marcelin Champagnat!

GENERAL HOUSE: LEADERS FOR A GLOBAL FAMILY

BR BEN CONSIGLI

During the Chapter in Rionegro, the brothers elected the superior general and his council. It is the leaders of the Institute who, during the next eight years, will put into practice the Institute's appeal: "Journeying together as a Global Family."

We invite members of the government to introduce themselves and tell us how the challenge of this new mission has been so far. Today we present the text written by Brother Ben Consigli of the province of United States, elected as general councillor.

I grew up in Queens, a borough of the city of New York, the youngest of three sons born to working class parents. My father, originally a police officer, worked in the city court system for over 35 years as a court clerk. My mother, originally a seamstress, stopped working to raise her children. My oldest brother, originally a bio-tech salesman, is currently a teacher of science and is married with an adult daughter. My other brother, who is not married, is a New York City attorney and law secretary to a judge. My first experience of the Marist Brothers was in secondary school (Archbishop Molloy High School), and they impressed me as extraordinary teachers. They helped ignite the spark of my wanting to be a teacher and work directly with young people. In university, I majored in American History and minored in Philosophy, while helping out with my alma mater's student retreat program. My post-graduate degrees are in Non-Western History and Educational leadership/Administration. Throughout my years as a Brother, I have been fortunate to have ministered in Marist schools in the States of New York, New Jersey, Texas, and Florida, and have worked with a wide variety of students, both inside and outside of the classroom. I also have

worked for the past 30 years with deaf children at our summer camp in Esopus, New York.

How was your experience of your election?

I must admit that I was overwhelmed by my election to the General Council. There were a lot of mixed emotions. I felt enormous support from the Brothers at the Chapter, and their confidence in me helped sustain me over the initial days after the election. While I experienced a sense of excitement and anticipation at the task facing us as a new Council, I also became more acutely aware of my own limitations, my own doubts about my abilities to assist the Institute in setting a path for the future of Marist life and mission over the next eight years. What has been clear is God's urgings and revelations that I am not alone, that God is with me and my Brothers of the General Council as we move forward. This has given me much peace and confidence, even as I try to learn another language!

How are you experiencing your new life in the General House so far?

Like all transitions, my transition from the States to the General House in Rome has had its "ups and



downs." Leaving my community, my ministry, and my students in Florida was hard, but at the same time, I was welcomed warmly by the Brothers and lay men and women here at the General House. Over time, I am becoming more comfortable with the rhythm of life here and learning how to navigate my life in Rome. Having the support and good humor of the General Council community has made the transition more authentic, and in some ways, fun!

Considering the reflection of the General Chapter, what do you think should be the Council's line(s) of action of for the next eight years?

As a Council we have begun reflecting on what the calls of the General Chapter are asking us "to be" and "to do" as a leadership team. While we are just beginning our mandate, I do believe that for the vitality of our Marist life and mission we are called to be an interdependent global family which reflects God's mercy and love. Anything that we can do to foster or nurture that will assist us as we try to make real a "New LaValla" for today.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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