



EUROPEAN MARIST CONFERENCE

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF THE MARIST MISSION IN LYON

During the third meeting this year in Lyon, France, on April 11 and 12, the Mission Council of the European Marist Conference, worked on proposing and planning in the fields of solidarity, the institutional image, the Marist Youth Ministry, identity and leadership.

These are areas that the second assembly of mission councils identified as a priority for the development of the Marist mission in Europe.

For the purpose of the interaction of the European Mission Council with the other teams working at European level, the members of the Council collaborated with the leader of the European team of the Marist Youth Ministry and received information from the technical secretary about its contacts with other European Marist teams.

The work of the first day ended with a dinner shared in joy and fraternity, while on the second day,



they finalized the proposals on the priority axes that the coordinator and the secretary of the Council will present at the European Marist Conference on April 24 and 25 in Munich, Germany.

The programme of the fifth week of

leadership training was approved and it reflected the profile of people from Europe who will participate in the International Solidarity network. The last task was regarding the name proposed by the European Mission Council: MEC.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

• From April 26 to May 2, Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission, is in a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, of the Board of the Catholic International Education Office (OIEC).

• On Monday and Tuesday, April 30 and May 1, Br Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, general councillor, attended an encounter of provincials and district superior of Asia in Singapore.

• From April 30 to May 04, Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, and Br Mark Omede, assistant director of the Secretariat of Mission are in a SEDOS seminar on the theme "Youth and Mission" in Nemi, Italy.

• This Thursday, Marzia Ventimiglia, director of FMSI, and Br Álvaro Sepúlveda, FMSI's children's rights advocate, are meeting with representatives of BICE and with the De La Salle Brothers in their general

house on the project "Tutores de Resiliencia en Haití, Libano y Granada".

• On Saturday, May 5, Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, Br Josep Maria Soteras, Br Óscar Martín and Br Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, general councillors, and members of FMSI will attend a concert to raise funds for Syrian children, with the Italian singer Ambrogio Sparagna at the Marist school San Leone Magno in Rome.

THREE PROVINCIALS ARE APPOINTED FOR A SECOND TERM OF THREE YEARS

AUSTRALIA, MÉXICO CENTRAL AND MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

After studying the surveys carried out in the provinces, the General Council has appointed Brothers Peter Gerard Carroll (Australia), Br José Sánchez Bravo (México Central) and Br Miguel Ángel Santos Villarreal (México Occidental) as provincials for a second term of three years.

Brother Peter will begin his second term on September 23, Brother José will begin on October 18, and Brother Miguel Ángel will begin on July 26, the dates on which they their Provincial Chapters will begin.



Br Peter Carroll

I was born in 1958 and raised in Bundaberg and Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. I was the middle of three children; my older sister died in 1979 and my younger sister lives with her husband and two sons in Brisbane.

During the post-Novitiate period I completed studies at Macquarie University and post-graduate studies at what is today the Australian Catholic University.

From 1984 to 2012 my ministry was exclusively in secondary school education. I specialised in Religious Education and led these departments in three schools. I then moved into school leadership and spent 15 years as Principal of three Colleges: one in Queensland and two in New South Wales.

I was first appointed as provincial of Australia for a period of three years on Jan. 15, 2015.



Br Miguel Ángel

Brother Miguel Ángel will begin this second triennium on July 26, the date on which the provincial chapter will begin, preceded by a provincial assembly.

Brother Miguel Ángel was previously in Asia and studied Mandarin for two years.

He then spent several years working in a university, where he taught and served as spiritual director for students.

He was elected provincial for a first term in 2015.

The province of México Occidental includes Haiti and parts of Mexico.



Br José Sánchez Bravo

Br José Sánchez Bravo was born in Puebla, Mexico, in 1973. He studied at the Marist University of San Luis Potosí. His vocation is closely linked to youth ministry. Brother Basilio Rueda was his novitiate teacher.

After professing, he was in the educational communities of San Luis Potosí, Celaya and Uruapan, where he was a teacher, a youth minister and a school director.

He was appointed for a first term as provincial in 2015.

When he was appointed for the first time in 2015, he said: "I remain without words... I am profoundly aware of my limitations, yet I have a strong impulse to trust in the loving embrace of Mary and Jesus. My 'yes' is added to the 'yes' of many Brothers and laity who day after day in the schools and the missions are bearers and a reflection of the merciful love of God".

NEWS IN BRIEF

WORKSHOP AT LA VALLA NOVITIATE

From April 16 – 20, an Enneagram workshop took place in Medellín (Colombia), animated by Brother Hipólito Pérez Gómez, provincial of América Central. A space that helps participants in the discernment process of the novitiate and, moreover, to know the walk and projects of the province of América Central and the Arco Norte region.

NUNCA MÁS (NEVER AGAIN)

On April 13, the second meeting of this year's table of Nunca Más (Never again) was held in the Marist Patrimonial Archive in Chile. Following the meeting, the state of progress in the conformation of the different commissions was presented: the protection commission, the Nunca Más table, the support team, the commission for the truth. Finally, a series of documents delivered by the groups of Marist guides and Scouts were presented and they will be reviewed.

UNITED STATES

Provincial leaders from México Occidental and the United States gathered on April 9 to discuss plans to open a community and ministry to immigrants along the border. Brothers Eduardo Navarro and Todd Patenaude have been researching and are now planning for a presence in El Paso, USA, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The presence would include connection to the Marist community and schools in Ciudad Juárez, and collaboration with the local diocese, the Jesuits, the Annunciation House and the HOPE Border Institute. Possible ministries would include: coordinating temporary housing and providing basic needs for immigrants; providing housing for students who desire to go to school in the USA; developing advocacy material and presentations for immigrant awareness; connecting to legal advocacy; creating a project for rescuing children who are tapped for trafficking gangs.

SINGAPORE: LIVING WITH GREATER VITALITY THE CHARISM OF ST MARCELLIN

PROMOTING AND NOURISHING LAY MARIST LIFE IN ASIA



Twelve laity, personnel of the Marist Stella High School and Marist Stella Kindergarten gathered on April 13 at Champagnat House in Flower Road, Singapore.

The gathering was meant to share updates of Marist life and to share on the topic about the Marist laity.

For those who came for the first time to join the gathering of brothers and laity, it was for a “come and see” experience, an occasion of being introduced to knowing Marist life and mission.

Elma Rafil, the chair of the Asia Laity Commission, presented the developments of the inclusion of the Marist laity from the General Chapter of 1986 to the most recent General

Chapter of 2017, highlighting the different mandates that pertain to the laity being considered in communion with the brothers and are co-responsible in the Marist missions.

The programmes of the Laity Desk of the East Asia Province in relation to the animation of Marist life among the laity was also presented.

Brother Elmer Jandic, member of the brothers’ community, expressed at the end of the gathering his appreciation and hopes for the laity of Singapore to be given more opportunities in the future to know more, so that they can live well and with greater vitality, the charism of Saint Marcellin.



In our tradition, the phrase “Ordinary Resource”* has come to encapsulate our constant reliance on Mary. The motto attributed to Champagnat by his biographer, All to Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus, captures this close relationship between the Son and the Mother and our Founder’s attitude of confidence in Mary, which we are invited to live.

(Water from the rock, 25)

MARIST WORLD



General House: International Council for Economic Affairs, Rome



Brazil: Provincial assembly of Brasil Centro-Sul in Curitiba



Madagascar: Retreat of youths and lay Marists - Antsirabe



Germany: CEM meeting with European Marist life and mission teams - Freising



India: Summer camp at Marcellin Trust Centre - Tiruchirappalli



Colombia: Enneagram Workshop at the Noviciado Interprovincial La Valla - Medellín

'THE MARIST FAMILY FEELS CALLED TO BE BEACON OF HOPE IN A TURBULENT WORLD'

COFFEE-COLLOQUIUM IN ORENSE

A hundred parents, professors and alumni met at the Colegio Marista Santa María school in Orense, Spain, on April 17 to participate in a "coffee-colloquium" promoted by the Instituto de Estudios Maristas (Institute of Marist Studies) of the Pontifical University of Salamanca.

Brother Ken McDonald, general councillor, presented the main challenges and opportunities of the Marist world in the 21st century.

"The Marist family feels called to be a beacon of hope in a turbulent world, to walk with children and young people, and to respond boldly to emerging needs," said Brother Ken, who is in Santiago de Compostela since March 1 for a Spanish course that will end on April 30.

During the previous colloquium, concerns were shared about how to adapt the global calls of the Marist world to the reality of the presence of the congregation in Orense and,



through education, creatively transform our society.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Fernando González, director of the IEM, contextualized this activity in the 12 years of trajectory of the Institute of Marist Studies, which aims to facilitate opportunities to reflect on

various topics related to the Marist institution.

The school director, Fernando Ampudia, invited the participants to continue making the educational dream of Saint Marcellin Champagnat a reality, forming young people of the 21st century.

THE SITUATION IN SYRIA IS GETTING WORSE

FMSI CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY

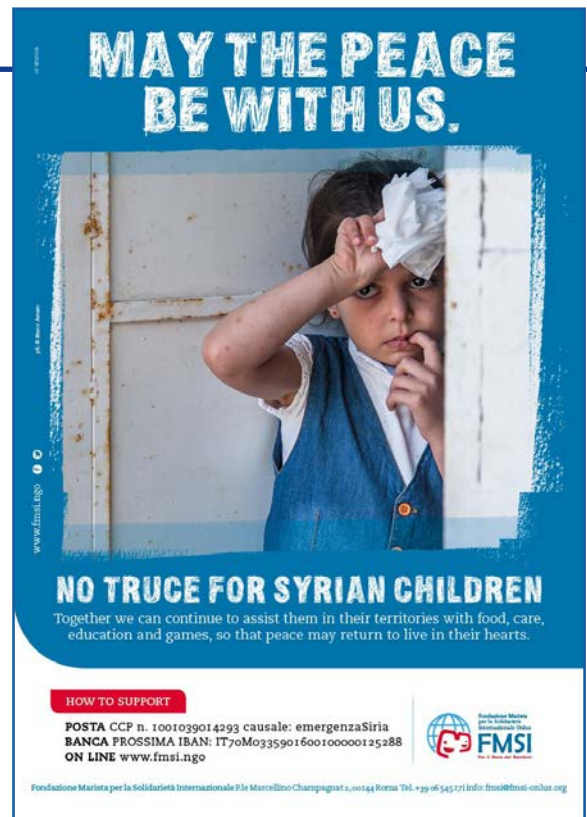
The Marist International Solidarity Foundation Onlus (FMSI) is promoting a support campaign to help the Blue Marists in Syria. If your local area would like to collaborate, please visit its website: <https://fmsi.ngo/> for more details or contact them directly at fmsi@fmsi-onlus.org.

Below is a letter that FMSI sent last week to the Marist world as well as a letter from Br Georges Sabé, a Blue Marist.

Dear brothers and lay Marists,

As you surely know from the press and from the international news, the situation in Syria is getting worse and worse. Last week, Br Georges Sabé of the Blue Marists of Aleppo, rang FMSI, who is already supporting the Marist projects in Syria. He informed us of a dramatic event that is happening outside the city of Afrin, about 40 km from Aleppo, where more than 150,000 people have escaped from extreme violence. Most of them are children and they do not have anything now, not even clean water, and are seeking refuge.

FMSI has already launched a solidarity appeal to support the important activities of the Marists of Aleppo, but unfortunately there are now greater and more urgent needs. In these tough circumstances, we believe it is important that the Marist Solidarity Network make this appeal known in your own realities, if you can, to truly support our brothers in Syria as a global family. During these last few days, Br Georges and his group went to those places on an exploratory mission accompanied by the Syrian Red Crescent. We will give you further details as soon as we have more information on the activities that



the Blue Marists will be able to carry out to support these families.

For any additional information or questions, you can contact us with this email: fmsi@fmsi-onlus.org. We appreciate your kind attention and trust that all of us Marists can unite to support those suffering from such a dramatic situation.

Letter from Br Georges Sabé

"A month after leaving their homes and lands, their city Afrin, occupied by the Turkish army the families are living the drama of displacement and insecurity. A population in disarray ... a desperate population. Children who have not been to school for months and sometimes have not even ever been to school before... sick... pregnant women... old people... people who fled the war wandering in the night and cold... rain and bad weather... Seeking refuge... A school... A tent... A shop or a house to take shelter... A provisional that may be the last ... A situation that may drag on. Us, Blue Marists, have chosen to move towards them ... for a new beginning ... putting all our experience ... all our spirituality, all our strength as witnesses of hope. The urgency of the situation calls us to go out, to leave, to be present, without forgetting the 1,000 families we support in Aleppo. We will experience a new beginning with 800 displaced families or residents of Kafar Naseh."



- FMSI is the foundation created by the Institute to promote and protect the rights of children. FMSI carries on its mission through the activity of advocacy and lobbying and with projects in the countries in which the Marists are present.
- FMSI was constituted in 2007 in Italy as a non-profit organization of social usefulness (ONLUS).
- From 2011 it has the special consultative status before the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.
- FMSI is member of: Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance

(BICE), Centre Catholique International de Genève (CCIG), Child Rights Connect, Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia de Latinoamérica y El Caribe, FOCSIV (Federazione degli Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario), Observatorio Niñez y Adolescencia (ONA), Santiago de Chile.

CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS OF SECRETARIATS

MAY – JUNE 2018

April 26 – May 02: meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, of the Board of the Catholic International Education Office (OIEC) - Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission.

April 27 – May 02: encounter of brothers aged 30 - 45 of the América Sur region in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia - Br Óscar Martín Vicario, general councillor.

April 30– May 01: encounter of provincials and district superior of Asia in Singapore - Br Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, general councillor.

April 30 – May 04: SEDOS seminar in Nemi, Italy, on the theme "Youth and Mission" - Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, and Br Mark Omede, assistant director of the Secretariat of Mission.

May 03: FMSI meeting with representatives of BICE and with the De La Salle Brothers in their general house on the project 'Tutores de Resiliencia en Haití, Líbano y Granada' - Marzia Ventimiglia, director of FMSI, and Br Álvaro Sepúlveda, FMSI's children's rights advocate.

May 05: Concert organized by FMSI in favor of Syrian children, with the Italian singer Ambrogio Sparagna at the Marist school San Leone Magno in Rome - Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general; Br Josep Maria Soteras, Br Óscar Martín and Br Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, general councillors; members of FMSI.

May 07 – July 07: formation programme for Lavalla200> international communities. The first week (from May 7 to 11) will take place at the general house, then in San Martino a Monte (Italy) until June 30 and it will end with a week in ND de L'Hermitage - Br Jeff Crowe and Angel Medina, formators of Lavalla200, will accompany the programme. Br Óscar Martín, on behalf of the general council, and the team of Cmi, Br Valdicer Fachi and Br Chris Wills, will animate some guiding dynamics for the participants.



May 07 – 18: assemblies of Child Rights Connect, World Vision, Catholic International Centre, Global Church Partners Forum and UN activities in Geneva, Switzerland – Br Rick Carey and Br Álvaro Sepúlveda, FMSI.

May 07 – 09: gathering of Marist publishing houses in Curitiba and São Paulo, Brazil - Br Libardo Garzón, economer general and Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission.

May 11: meeting of the superior generals of the four Marist branches, in the general house of the Marist Fathers – Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior general.

May 13 – 27: visit to the Southern Africa province – Brothers Libardo Garzón, Economer General, and Mark Omede, assistant director of the Secretariat of Mission.

May 15: meeting of the Education Commission of the Union of Superiors General – Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission.

May 15 – July 12: programme for current formators, in the general house – Br Óscar Martín, general councillor, Br Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today secretariat and the formation teams of El Escorial and Manziana. Presentations by Brother Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, Br Óscar Martín and Br João Carlos do Prado, general councillors.

May 19 – 20: FOCSIV annual meeting – Marzia Ventimiglia, director of FMSI

May 21 – 25: participation in the De La Salle seminar entitled Rights, Citizenship and School, in Rome – Br Álvaro Sepúlveda.

May 23 – 25: meeting of the Union of Superiors General in Ariccia, Italy – Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general.

May 29 – 31: visit to the community of the general house – Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, and general councillors.

June 04 – July 12: plenary session of the General Council.

June 05: meeting of the Fratelli Project Council, in Rome - Br Óscar Martín, general councillor, Br Chris Wills and Br Valdicer Fachi, of the Collaboration for Mission, International Secretariat.

June 06: feast of the founder, Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

June 07 – 08: meeting of the European Commission of Mission, in Alcalá de Henares - Secretariat of Mission.

June 07 – 09: meeting of the general councils of the four Marist branches, in Nemi.

June 11 – 15: encounter of Brother Ernesto Sánchez and his general council with the previous superior general and general council at the general house.

June 11 – 15: meeting of the International Commission of the Marist Patrimony at the general house – Br Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today secretariat.

June 12 – 16: formation meeting in South Africa for project management and fundraising for South and East Africa – Br Rick Carey, FMSI.

June 18 – 19: session of the board of directors of the International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) in Paris, France – Br Alvaro Sepúlveda, FMSI.

June 18 – 22: meeting of Brother Ernesto Sánchez and the general council with the secretariats for the Institute's strategic planning.

June 27 – 30: gathering of the preparation commission of the International Meeting of Marist Youth, in Guatemala – Br Carlos Alberto Rojas and Br Mark Omede, Secretariat of Mission.



Without Mary we are nothing and with Mary we have everything, because Mary always has her adorable Son within her arms or in her heart.

**(Marcellin Champagnat,
Letter to Bishop Pompallier,
27 May 1838)**

PROVINCE OF BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BR RONALDO LUZZI

In the presence of relatives, brothers and friends, Brother Ronaldo Luzzi, from the Brasil Centro-Sul Province, sealed his consecration to God in a ceremony celebrated on April 14 in Itapejara D'Oeste, Brazil.

During the celebration, Br Ronaldo greeted his formators and relatives and thanked them for everything they did so that he could continue his Marist life.

He was also moved when he spoke about the 50 years of Marist presence in his hometown.

"When I entered the congregation in 2007, I never imagined that in 2018 I would be making my final vows and at the same time commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Marist presence in Itapejara," said Br. Ronaldo.

The vows were received, on behalf of the superior general, by the provincial superior, Brother Benê Oliveira.

Br Ronaldo did his novitiate in Campinas and Passo Fundo. He then continued his initial formation in the scholasticate of Florianópolis. He was transferred to Chapecó, where he currently lives.



Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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