



## MEETING OF BR ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ AND HIS COUNCIL WITH THE FORMER SUPERIOR AND GENERAL COUNCIL

From June 11 – 15, superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez and his council met at the general house with former superior general Brother Emili Turú and the council that animated the Institute from 2009 – 2017. For five days, they shared topics related

to the accompaniment of administrative units and regions, as well as other aspects of the Institute’s animation. “It seemed to us that it was more convenient and productive to hold this meeting a few months after the general chapter, so that the new general

having already spent some months in the service of animation and government,” affirmed Br Ernesto. The purpose of the meeting was to share the experience of accompanying the Institute during the last eight years.

“Our sharing and reflecting together was part of the first stage of the planning that we will continue to carry out during the next fortnight,” concluded the superior general.



### Former superior general and general council

Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Josep Maria Soteras continue to lead the Institute, after having been reelected during the last chapter to form part of the current general government.

Brother Emili Turú, who served as superior general until 2017, was in the United States for a sabbatical period and is currently in the “Casal” Marist community in Barcelona. Former vicar general Brother Joe McKee spent a sabbatical in Oceania during the first half of this year and is now living in Glasgow, Scotland.

Brother Antonio Ramalho, former general councillor, is a member of the formation community of Fortaleza, which looks after postulants from the provinces of Brasil Cen-

tro-Norte and Brasil Sur-Amazonia.

Brother Eugène Kabanguka, former general councillor, is still receiving health treatment and is currently in Curitiba, Brazil.

Brother Michael de Waas, former general councillor, lives in Sri Lanka, in the ‘Marist Sevana’ house of spirituality in Haldanduwana.

Brother Víctor Preciado, former general councillor, currently lives in the provincial house of México Occidental in Guadalajara.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

• On Monday and Tuesday, June 18 and 19, Br Alvaro Sepúlveda of FMSI is participating in a session of the board of directors of the Interna-

tional Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) in Paris, France.

• From June 18 – 22, superior general Brother Ernesto Sán-

chez and the general council are meeting with the secretariats for the Institute’s strategic planning.

PERSISTENT, COURAGEOUS AND HOPEFUL

NEARLY 1,000 MARIST CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAVE THEIR SAY IN A MAJOR UN DEBATE

Over 900 children and youth aged 5 – 17 have so far answered a consultation launched by FMSI in preparation for a major United Nations’ debate that will be held on Sept. 28 in Geneva, Switzerland.

FMSI will attend this year’s annual Day of General Discussion, themed

“Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders,” and is gathering feedback until July 1 from Marist children worldwide on the issue.

Over the last few weeks, several workshops took place around the Marist world and so far, responses have arrived from children of 13 countries including Australia, the Philippines, Spain, Portugal, Canada, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, the United States and Madagascar.

These are some of their answers:

- “I want to change the perception of people that we are only children. I want them to know that we are children capable of expressing our opinion and



**Empower**  
those who have no voice!

Worldwide MARIST participation in the  
**Day of General Discussion 2018**  
**UNITED NATIONS**

fighting for our rights. We are more than just toys, games, gadgets, we are what the future holds.” (The Philippines)

- “As a human rights defender, my role is to raise awareness in promoting child protection, be a witness to love and to take care of all children, especially those who are neglected

strive for equality.” (Portugal)

FMSI also received an interview with Pedro Coelho, a student from Colégio Marista de Carcavelos in Cascais, Portugal.

The Marist Young Adult Advisory Committee of the United States province held a gathering to discuss major issues in the US regarding the rights of children.

Young adults can take part in the consultation with an online survey that is available until July 1 in English, Spanish and French.

Helped by UMBRASIL, FMSI will then create a report of 2,500 words summarizing the information gathered in the consultations, which will be presented in Geneva.



- 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.

NEWS IN BRIEF

**MARISTES 200 i +**

On June 16, the community of Les Avellanes, of the Hermitage province, launched an exhibition titled 'Maristes200 i +'. It will be open until Aug. 23.

**UNITED STATES**

On June 10, the international community LaValla200> in East Harlem, New York, held a prayer service and a presentation of Marist spirituality on St Marcellin's life and charism for parents and their children. Nearly 60 people attended, including the Irish Christian Brothers and the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal.

**CHILE**

The province's representative for the mission, Ernesto Reyes, met on the morning of Monday, June 11, with the National Defender of Children, lawyer Patricia Muñoz. The purpose of the meeting was to give her the policy of protection of minors and the work on the prevention of sexual abuse that Marists in Chile have developed up to now.

**BRAZIL**

The PUCPR and the Court of Justice have inaugurated the first Paraná Special Court within a university. It will serve around 200,000 people living in seven neighborhoods of Curitiba.

**SPAIN**

From July 2 – 4, the Ibérica province will hold the Provincial Mission Assembly in Lardero, under the slogan #ConPasión ("with passion"). The objective is to contemplate and deepen the Marist mission in the province, intuit the new beginning of the mission for Iberica, offer a space to share and live with agents of the provincial mission and suggest the possible lines of action in the area of mission to the next provincial Chapter.

**SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN**

**SEMINAR FOR THE STAFF OF NOTRE DAME OF COTABATO**

Br Jeff Rhey, who obtained a diploma at the Centre for Child Protection at the Gregorian University earlier this year, gave an orientation session on child safeguarding for the staff of Notre Dame of Cotabato in southern Mindanao, the Philippines, in May. The theme was 'The role of the Catholic educational institution in safeguarding of children' and focused on child rights and the problem of online sexual exploitation of children in the country. Ninety-six staff, including religious brothers and Christian and Muslim teachers, took part. They look after 2,500 students from kindergarten to high school.



**CHILD PROTECTION AND CHILD RIGHTS IN THE INSTITUTE**

In recent years, the Institute has become very aware of the serious abuse suffered by children and has laid the groundwork for guaranteeing that Marist works be safe places for them. At present, 100% of Administrative Units have a brother appointed to the role of safeguarding delegate.

Since 2011, the General Government carries out actions to promote institutional policies that include fundamental principles and norms for the protection of children. In addition to the role of FMSI at the United Nations, two seminars were held at the General House for leaders of the entire Institute: 'Safeguarding Children and Young People' (2012) and 'Keeping Children Safe: Raising Awareness, Creating a Safe Environment' (2016).

The debate during the last General Chapter in 2017 was an important step in this process. It issued a statement to abuse victims and survivors, underscoring that "abuse is the very antithesis of our Marist values, and undermines the very purpose of our Institute. Any abuse of children is a betrayal of the noble ideals of our founder, St Marcellin Champagnat." Even considering the achievements

that have already been made, the Institute believes it is necessary to continue to progress to the point where this awareness reaches every corner of the Marist world, where adults have the means needed to prevent and protect children from any kind of abuse and where effective action and procedures are in place regarding the dignity of children.

To further the formation of brothers and lay people involved in the Marist mission, the Institute, through FMSI, is promoting the E-Learning formation offered by the Centre for Child Protection of the Gregorian University. Educators from Europe are already attending the programme, offered through the University of Alcalá de Henares. Starting next October, the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná will offer the same course to Brazilian educators. Soon, other Marist institutions in Peru, Mexico, Chile and Argentina will conclude the agreement with the Pontifical Gregorian University and will also be able to train other people involved with the education of children and young people, becoming promoters of the defence of their rights.

## MARIST WORLD



Bolivia: Works of art made by students of the Colegio Marista - Santa Cruz de la Sierra



Hungary  
Saint Paul Marist School - Karcag



Australia: Churchlands - Br Noel Hickey's 75 years of religious life



General House: Marist Current Formators and Patrimony Commission



Argentina  
Escuela Marcelino Champagnat in Rosario



Brazil  
Saint Marcellin's community in Tabatinga

## APPOINTMENTS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

### BROTHERS JESÚS ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ DELGADO, ROBERT ERROL O'CONNOR AND ANTONIO SANCAMILLO

Brothers Jesús Alberto Rodríguez Delgado, Robert Errol O'Connor and Antonio Sancamillo have been appointed to various positions by the General Council – one will be the new secretary of the superior general and another, the new director of the third age English language programme.



Br. Jesús A. Rodríguez Delgado

Br Jesús Alberto Rodríguez Delgado, from the Compostela province, will start serving as the new personal secretary of the superior general for a first term of three years on Sept. 1.

Br Robert Errol O'Connor, from the province of Australia, will begin on Sept. 1 as assistant

director for the third age English language course, replacing Brother John McDonnell of the United States. The programme's director is Br John Klein, also from the US.



Br. Robert Errol O'Connor

Br Antonio Sancamillo, of the Mediterranean province, will begin his second three-year term as superior of the General Administration's community on Nov. 15.



Br. Antonio Sancamillo

The General Council decided on the appointments – in application of article 137.4.4 of the Constitutions and Statutes – in the beginning of June, after consulting the provinces of the three Brothers.

## MEDITERRANEA'S PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR IS RE-ELECTED FOR A SECOND TERM

### BR JUAN CARLOS FUERTES MARÍ

After consultation with the brothers of the Mediterranea province, the general council has appointed Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes Marí as provincial for a second term of three years.

The announcement was made in a letter from superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba addressing the brothers of the Mediterranea province on June 14. In his letter, Br Ernesto thanked Br Juan Carlos for his "openness and generosity" in continuing to serve the Institute as provincial.

"Your closeness to people, your capacity to form teams and your broadness of mind and accuracy, contribute to

the good development of your mission," wrote Br Ernesto. "My gratitude is also expressed to the Council and to those who collaborate in the different provincial leadership teams."



He also thanked the brothers and the laity for their "generosity and dedication in favour of the life and the mission in the different countries which form part of the Mediterranea province, including the district of West Africa."

Br Juan Carlos will begin this second mandate during the celebration of the next Provincial Chapter, which will be held in Guardamar, Spain, from Jan. 2 – 4, 2019.

## BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

### BR. INACIO ETGES IS APPOINTED AS PROVINCIAL FOR A SECOND TERM

The General Council has appointed Brother Inacio Etges to continue his mission as provincial superior of the Marist province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia during the triennium of 2019 – 2021.

The appointment took place after a consultation was held with the brothers of the province.

Br Inacio will assume his second term during the provincial chapter that will be held from Dec. 2 – 7.

In his letter sent to the province, general superior Brother Ernesto Sánchez expressed appreciation towards Brother Inacio and his leadership in recent years: "thank you for your passion for the consecrated life, for the accompaniment of the brothers and the communities, and for the organisation of the province, everything that was done as a team with your provincial council and other provincial teams."

Before his appointment, Br Inacio invited the brothers of the province to

seek discernment especially for the mission entrusted to the Institute by the last General Chapter.

"We need to abandon the culture of egos and promote the 'ecos' (ecol-



ogy, ecosystem, solidarity economy ...), where life has enough space to develop according to the Creator's plan, that requires a collective construction, for which I urge you! Holding each other's hands and arms, let us welcome, together and with co-responsibility, the surprises of the future that are reserved for us!"

Graduated in theology and mathematics by the PUCRS and with a degree and a Masters in psychology from the Gregorian University, in Rome, Br Inacio has an impressive career as a director and educator.

He was in charge of the former Marist province of Rio Grande do Sul and has been in the Marist province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia since 2016.

He was also a teacher at the Marist schools of Rosário, Champagnat, São José and Graças and he served in several houses of formation for brothers in different periods.

## INSTITUTE'S SECRETARY GENERAL CELEBRATES 50TH JUBILEE AS A MARIST BROTHER

The Institute's secretary general, Brother Carlos A. Huidobro, celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as Marist Brother on June 14 at the general house in Rome, Italy.

The celebration – a Mass at noon, followed by lunch – included the current and former general councils and superior generals, who are meeting together from June 11 – 15.

"I feel very well and very happy in the place where I am and where I have been, with the brothers that I have around me and with those who were with me in my Province (Cruz del Sur)," Br Carlos told the communications office of the general house.

"Especially because it's not every day that you celebrate 50 years (as a Marist Brother)!" he added.



Although the anniversary of Br Carlos was last Dec. 8, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, he arranged

with superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez to hold the celebration with both general councils in June.

## FEAST OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

### GREEK MARISTS HONOUR THE FOUNDER

Marists in Greece organised several celebrations and demonstrations for the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

Firstly, Wednesday morning, June 6, Mass was celebrated in the two Marist schools of Greece, located in Athens and in Nea Smyrni. In the afternoon, another Mass was celebrated in the Catholic Church of the Annunciation in Kallithea, which was animated by Marist Youth in Action with the help of all Marist brothers of Greece, many teachers, former students and volunteers of Marist social works.

On Saturday, June 9, a big show was held in the Marist School of Athens to commemorate the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat and to show the current vitality of the Marist mission. Participants included the communities of the Marist Brothers in Greece, members of the teaching, administrative and technical staff of the two Marist schools as well as volunteers of the social works, alumni, representatives of parents' associations and several students. The director of the Marist School of Athens, Nicolás Noulas, gave the opening speech.

"This evening, we are honouring Saint Marcellin – not to return to the past, which of course forms part of our spiritual heritage, but rather to search for continuity and truth

of his vision." Then, all participants prayed to ask for the blessing of our Good Mother and of Saint Marcellin. A representation of the play "Present among us" was then held, inspired by the person and vision of St Marcellin.

The apostolic nuncio of the Holy See in Greece, Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai, took part in the event. In his brief speech, he underscored the Christian education that Marist brothers and laity currently offer children and youth in Greece and worldwide.

At the end of the evening, participants had a community dinner in a climate of great joy.



## 'MAY THEIR LIVES BECOME A BEAUTIFUL SONG'

### TESTIMONY OF THE LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY IN SYRACUSE, ITALY

The Community Lavalla200> Syracuse in Italy was born in October 2016, to serve mainly unaccompanied children and young people, refugees or immigrants who disembark in Italy.

Its members are Gabriel Bernardo da Silva (Brazil Centro-Sul), Br Onorino Rota (Mediterranea), Mario Araya Olguín (Santa Maria de los Andes) and Br Ricardo Gómez Rincón (Norandina).

Below is a testimony of the community's newsletter, number 24, published on June 10.

On April 15, 218 immigrants disembarked in the port of Augusta. Three ambulances arrived before the start of operations, an obvious sign that aboard the ship there are people, who are ill and that they must be taken urgently to the hospital. Nabilah, a young woman of 20 years who was taken to the Hospital Umberto I of Syracuse, got on the first ambulance. She underwent an emergency surgery, a Cesarean, giving birth to two children of 1600 grams. The news appeared in the media and journalists made the usual queue to get their scoop. Then, as often happens, there was nothing but silence. Ono was called to the hospital to talk to Nabilah, who comes from Ivory Coast and who, in addition to her language, was able to make herself be understood in French. Like all young women her age, she had found her love, but her father demanded that she marry a much older man. There were no alternatives, the only solution was to flee, and she escaped with the consent of her mother. The trip with her boyfriend lasted over a year. From the problems experienced during the trip, we can imagine the difficulties they had encountered. In their passage through Libya, both suffered all kinds of torture and violence, as all immigrants suffer, and which social networks are now beginning to show us images of. Nabilah got pregnant and, as I understand, she did not know if the children were from her boyfriend or from the rape she suffered. At the incubator next to her two little ones, she told me, crying, "They are white!"

The trip from Libya to Italy was not long, but rather complicated. The two boats that picked up the refugees landed in



two different ports and, until now, Nabilah has no news of her boyfriend. She was traveling in a packed boat where she could not move. She spent a long time standing because there was no place to sit, much less to lie down. After a day and a half on the sea, she noticed that her baby (she still did not know there were two) was no longer moving. As soon as she got on the Coast Guard boat, the crew gave her the necessary treatment, but they immediately understood the seriousness of the case and notified the IRC (Italian Resuscitation Council) of the town of Augusta.

Nabilah is now in a centre near Syracuse and sometimes goes to the hospital to see how the two little ones are growing. I have not yet had the courage to talk calmly with her (mostly due to a lack of time), but I have asked myself, "how is she living this moment? How will she find the love for the two creatures that she carried in her womb, but that maybe she did not want and that are the result of violence instead of love? What effect will that sentence have that she said, in tears, "they are white!"?

Maybe I'm asking myself too many questions. I only hope that the smile of God, the smile of Mary and the smile of many other people with a big heart can give these children all the warmth they need to make their lives become a beautiful song.

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