



## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MARIST SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY COMMISSION



The annual session of the Marist Spiritual Patrimony Commission took place at the General House from June 11 – 15, making it the last session of the current commission, whose mandate will finish at the end of the month.

The commission, whose objectives and contents of this session were

marked by this fact, began by sharing the work done by its members during this past year in relation to the spiritual patrimony.

There was also a time devoted to a reflection on Marist Notebooks: a reflection on Notebook 36, recently published, and the preparation of Notebook 37.

Most of the time was dedicated to

preparing the report requested by the General Council: an evaluation of the activities, the work and the functioning of the Commission during the last six years, and a reflection for the future: challenges, questions, main points regarding spiritual patrimony and regarding the Commission.

All this was done to help the General Council in the direction and decisions that it should take in the coming years.

It was also the occasion for the commission to hold several meetings with Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Óscar Martín Vicario, the new general councillors in charge of the spiritual patrimony; and with Brother Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today secretariat, in charge of accompanying the commission.

It also met with the group of formators participating in a formation session in the General House for eight weeks. The formation and the spiritual patrimony of the Institute are closely linked.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- The General Council is continuing with its plenary session, which will last until July 12. After having held the first week of planning with the Secretariats, it is continuing this week to carry out the next stages of planning. In addition, the Council is following up on other issues of animation and government.

- The third group of candidates for the Lavalla200> programme is concluding its formation in San Martino a Monte, in Italy. To receive assistance in the decision of the eventual

destination of each participant, they met with Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and Óscar Martín on June 23. They also received the visit of Brothers Chris Wills and Valdicer Fachi, from the Secretariat of Collaboration for Mission, International (Cmi). Next Saturday, they will travel to France, where they will conclude the three months of formation.

- From June 27 – 30, a gathering will be held for the preparation commission of the International Meeting

of Marist Youth, that will take place next January in Guatemala. Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal and Mark Omede from the Secretariat of Mission will participate.

- Brother Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today secretariat, is in France until June 30, accompanying the formators who are participating in a nine-week course, which began at the general house on May 15. They are at Notre Dame del Hermitage since last Thursday. The 17 formators will finish the course on July 12.

The presence of the members of the new General Council and those of the previous Council, as well as the group of formators, gave this session a character of exceptional universality.

The Spiritual Patrimony is also shared fraternal life. This was symbolized, in a certain way, by a brief final meet-

ing with Brother Ernesto Sánchez, the new Superior General, who especially thanked the members of the commission for all the work done in the service of the Institute.

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sion particularly international. A shared fraternal life is also a spiritual patrimony of the Institute. It was symbolised by a brief final meeting with Brother Ernesto Sánchez, the new Superior General, who gave a special thanks to the members of the Commission for all the work done in the service of the Institute.

## SOUTH AFRICA: IMPACT ORIENTED PARTICIPATORY PROJECT MANAGEMENT CYCLE

### INTER-CONGREGATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FUNDRAISING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

An inter-congregational formation workshop was held in Durban, South Africa, from June 12 – 16 on project management and fundraising for religious of South and East Africa. The second part of this workshop will take place from Sept. 11 – 15. Thirty-five participants attended, including 30 religious sisters and Marist Brothers Rick Carey, of FMSI, and Frank L. Mwambucha, of the Southern Africa province.



Under the title 'Impact oriented participatory project management cycle', the workshop aimed at teaching members of different con-

gregations in Africa skills in writing project proposals, project manage-

ment, planning, reporting and fundraising.

The facilitators reminded the participants of the importance of considering the Catholic social teaching in order to achieve the preferential option for the poor through the projects they will be implementing.

"Participation of the members was so wonderful and learning easily took place. The workshop went well, and it is worth sponsoring others in the future, so they can attend similar workshops," said Br Frank Lackwell Mwambucha.

## CANADA: BR LÉOPOLD CHARLAND

### "QUEBEC VOLUNTEER" AWARD GOES TO A MARIST BROTHER

Brother Leopold Charland, from the province of Canada, received the 'Quebec Volunteer' award after being selected from several candidates nominated by 25 volunteer organisations in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Canada.

Br Léopold received an official document in April to underscore his great dedication and participation in the 'La Porte Ouverte' (The open door) organisation.

It is an organization with three components: offering help for immigrants and French lessons for newcomers and for the general public.

The Centre du Livre, established in 1994, is an integral part of the organ-

isation. Br Léopold is very active and is responsible for the supply and operation of the library.

Last year, he was given another tribute for his work in the same organization.

The provincial deputy for the county of Saint-Jean, Dave Turcotte (see photo), gave him an honorary certificate, as well as 20 other volunteers from the region.

Br Léopold is also very proud of his certificate of honour granted by the non-profit organisation Héma-Québec for his 200 blood donations.



He is a brother who is retired, but he is also a great volunteer at heart and, like Saint Marcellin Champagnat, he is deeply aware of his neighbor and of the poor.



NEWS IN BRIEF

AMÉRICA SUR

The assembly of the America Sur region will take place in Porto Alegre from July 3 – 6. Its objective is to address issues related to the processes of integration and strengthening of Marist administrative units, as well as to define strategies for the next stages of the region’s consolidation.

SPANISH MARIST CONFERENCE

The last issue of the magazine published by the CME, *Maristas Siglo XXI - 18*, has been dedicated to the protection of children. Under the title ‘Protection of children: we are part of the solution’, it addresses the new formation developed by the Centro Universitario Cardenal Cisneros in collaboration with the Centre for Child Protection of the Pontifical Gregorian University, in Rome, Italy.

PHILIPPINES

The Notre Dame of Dadiangas University inaugurated a new campus for engineering and technology on June 19 in the nearby municipality of Polomolok in South Cotabato, the Philippines. The ceremony for the new Glamang College of Engineering and Technology was attended by Brother Paterno Corpus, the university’s president, East Asia provincial Brother Robert Teoh, vice provincial Brother Lindley H. Sionosa, brothers, local government officials and alumni.

MIC

The Marist International University College in collaboration with Marist International Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, celebrated the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat with the theme “Responding boldly to the emerging needs of our world today”. The celebration, which was animated by Brother Christian Gisamonyo, was preceded by Mass.

ITALY: LAVALLA200> | WEEK 6

INTERCULTURALITY WAS THE THEME OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF FORMATION IN CAMALDOLI

During the sixth week in Camaldoli, Italy, participants of the Laval-la200> programme had the opportunity to reflect on interculturality. Father Sebastian Michael, a priest of the Society of the Divine Word (Verbitas) from India, approached this topic in an integral way, with the knowledge accumulated through his academic studies on culture and mission.

The module began with the differentiation between animals and men. Men create a culture and immerse themselves in it, that is, in a complex environment that includes knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, customs and other capabilities of the human being as a member of a society.

The participants also had contact with the different definitions of culture. Fr Sebastian believes that culture is the journey a community undertakes to meet its basic needs, to socialise and to have a meaning. It was clarified that the culture is energized by the social, economic, political and religious relations of a certain community. He affirmed that every culture has a soul with positive aspects and others to be improved. This implies that one culture can and must learn from the others.

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One of the points the course addressed was that each person looks at the world through the lens of their own culture.

In this context of building intercultural communities, some personality profiles may appear: “the destroyers,” those who consider their culture as the predominant one and position themselves in such a way that they



reject the others; “the egalitarians”, who value their culture while respecting others and, finally, “the creators”, those who manage to find values in their culture of origin, but have the gift of knowing how to take advantage of what is best in other cultures, to give creative answers to emerging needs.

The last topic that was addressed was the Christian mission and culture. According to Fr Sebastian, Christian mission involves the encounter with many realities.

For him, those who dedicate their lives to the proclamation of the Gospel carry with them “their mark of origin” and, throughout their formation, they will find different cultural visions with similar religious expressions.

In fact, in their missionary work, they will often encounter other religions. In that context, it is necessary to remain open, never forgetting who Jesus Christ is and the need of building his Kingdom.

The week ended with a day of internalisation, so that the participants could process all the knowledge acquired in the formation. They also wrote a letter to the superior general with the result of their personal discernment they have done up to that moment. These letters can help superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez and the general council in deciding where to send the participants on mission.

The week closed with a visit from Brother Valdicer Fachi, new director of the Collaboration for mission international (Cmi) secretariat, and Luiz da Rosa, director of the Institute’s communications.

## MARIST WORLD



Australia  
Marist Centre Sydney



Ghana: First religious profession at Marist  
Novitiate, Kumasi



General House: Meeting of general  
council and secretariats - Rome



El Salvador: Brothers and laity of the  
Fourvière Group - San Salvador



Syria: Blue Marists helping refugees  
near Tell Rifaat



Belgium: Genval - Community of older  
brothers celebrates feast of Saint Marcellin

## NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNION OF SUPERIORS GENERAL

### BR EMILI TURÚ ROFES



The president of the Union of Superiors General, Friar Mauro Jöhri – superior general of the Capuchin Friars – announced on June 19 the appointment of Brother Emili Turú Rofes as the new secretary

general of the Union of Superiors General.

“We are happy to collaborate as an institute through

Brother Emili in this important inter-congregational organisation that brings together all the male religious congregations of the world,” affirmed Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba, current superior general of the Marist Brothers.

In his letter of appointment, Friar Mauro mentions the active and enriching participation of Brother Emili at the USG during his years as superior general of the Marist Brothers. Brother Emili will begin this service in Rome, Italy, in the office of the USG, in March 2019 and will be part of the Marist community of San Leone Magno.

Brother David Kinnear Glenday, a Comboni Missionary who was superior general of his institute, is currently general secretary of the USG, since 2009.

## FMSI TO OFFERS WORK EXPERIENCE TO STUDENTS

The Regional Education Office of Lazio, an office of the Italian Ministry of Education, has officially accredited FMSI allowing it to offer work experience to students across the region of Lazio.

The accreditation was made official with the publication of the project on the Office’s website on June 15.

Seix high have applied so far, hoping to involve over 150 students in offices of the Marist International Solidarity Foundation. The agreement, signed on March 19, is open to students of both public and private schools.

In Italy, high school students are required to do a 200-hour internship.



## PROGRAMME FOR CURRENT FORMATORS

### HIGHLIGHTS OF JUNE 4 – 16

Seventeen formators from 12 countries and working in 14 countries are participating in a nine-week course at the general house from May 15 – July 12. Brother Gilbert Zenda, a formator in Malawi, revealed the events that stood out during the last two weeks, from June 4 – 16. Our formation course here in Rome has reached the sixth week and the Lord has been so good to us. We continue to experience a wholesome freshness as the programme progresses.

The fifth week started off with an intimate presentation on Affectivity by Brother Sean Sammon, our elder brother and former superior general. He took us through many aspects of affectivity and how intimacy with self and others can enhance our intimacy with God. At every level of our human development we experience affectivity in different ways and this awareness is a great tool in living a healthy consecrated life. As he explained issues that are connected to mid-life, he bridged the intergenerational gap and made the group feel at home. As far as our life is concerned, Jesus is the only logical reason for our consecration and commitment.



During the programme's fifth week, preparations for the feast of Saint Marcellin (June 6) were also underway. Mass was celebrated in the evening by Archbishop Jorge C. Patron Wong, the Vatican's Secretary for Seminaries of the Congregation for the Clergy. A very warm servant of God and a friend of the brothers. Our workers and their families, members of the Marist Family and invited guests joined in the celebration. Brother Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, addressed the congregation stressing the calls of the 22nd General Chapter and how they are going to shape the Congregation's direction. Everybody present was invited to a sumptuous meal that was shared as one family. On June 9, the group had a guided excursion around the Tuscan town of Viterbo (city of popes). It was interesting to discover that the Tuscans were the ones who invented the architectural arches that were later popularized by the Romans. Viterbo is regarded as a city of the popes as they

briefly moved the Holy See to that town from 1257 and 1281. Pope Clement IV is buried in the Cathedral. It was at the Papal palace next to the Cathedral that the term conclave was coined. There was so much to see and as lunch time came we were all ready to share wine and bread. Because the bonds are growing stronger, this was the most enjoyable outing ever.

Sister Mariola Lopez RSCJ worked with the group for three days in the sixth week, emphasizing the importance of The Personal Care of the Formator. Her task was to encourage the formators to take care of their own hearts in order to be able to take care of those placed under their care. She divided the human development stages into the natural seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter pointing out characteristics related to each season. As a biblical scholar she always related her sharing to the scriptures and this was so fascinating. Her classes were actively animated with breathing techniques and dancing as instruments to encounter the inner self. 'Jesus is the reason for our love for each other', was her parting message.

The last two days of the week were dedicated to doctor Jesús Sepúlveda Muñoz who walked us through physical health issues. He gave us pieces of advice and his approach was very friendly and down to earth. We were encouraged to do everything we can to keep ourselves healthy while respecting our age and environment. He made use of statistics to convey the message and we realised that one's zip code is more important to one's health than one's genetic code. Our environment shapes our health and facilities that are available in one's geographic location. I am sure lots of personal decisions were made in relationship to his pieces of advice.

The group expressed its gratitude to all the presenters in different ways. One thing that clearly makes a mark is that the sessions have had a transformative effect on the group. Each week shapes the group in ways that are amazing as people reflect on the ongoing presentations and share in fraternities.

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

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