



## CO-CREATING

### USA LAY MARIST ASSEMBLY 2018

From July 18 – 20, over 75 lay Marists gathered at the San Alfonso Retreat Center in Long Branch, New Jersey, for the first assembly of lay Marists of the United States province.

The different sessions held during the assembly were themed The sorting hat, Discover, Dream, Design and Create and Co-Creating provocative propositions.

On July 18, 'The sorting hat' activity consisted of participants dividing themselves up into one of three "houses" – Mission, Spirituality, and Shared Life.

Participants were called to choose which part of the Marist charism they identify with the most and, in each "house" they discussed why they chose to participate in the assembly and what they hoped to accomplish in the assembly.

On July 19, there was a prayer walk on the beach during the 'Discover' session followed by a presentation given by both Pep Buetas (<https://bit.ly/2JUeo7U>), the codirector of the Secretariat of the Laity, and Patti Rios from Tijuana, Mexico.

During the session 'Dream', participants were divided into seven groups and each reflected on what they hope the new Lay Association will look like over the next five years.

The workshop 'Design and create' focused on drawing up concrete plans, such as a new website for lay Marists of the USA province and new social media accounts to publish their news.

On July 20, they discussed topics related to the province's lay Marists such as communications, leadership, local communities, national communities, formation programmes, and communion.

Several recommendations were made, such as monthly prayer gatherings in regional areas, a lay Marist newsletter, creation of lay Marist social media platforms, the creation of a Lay Marist steering committee, and a possible Director of Lay Marists in the province.



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- From July 30 to Aug. 1, Brother Libardo Garzón, economo general, is taking part in the Bedford Fund Executive Committee in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- On Tuesday, July 31, Brothers Jeff Crowe and Angel Medina will be trav-

elling to Lebanon to visit the Fratelli Project in Rmeileh until Sunday.

- From Wednesday, Aug. 1, to Friday, Aug. 10, Raúl Amaya, director of the Secretariat for the Laity, will be participating in a retreat for Brothers and

Laity and a meeting with the Commission of Brothers and Laity of Compostela in Tuy, Spain.

- From Aug. 2 – Aug. 20, superior general and his Council will visit the Marist District of Asia and East Timor.

## EUROPEAN TEAM OF YOUTH AND VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

### FIRST EDITION OF THE ACCOMPANIMENT FOR DISCERNMENT PROGRAM

The European team of youth and vocational ministry promoted the first edition of the course in accompanying discernment, which held its last stage at the General House in Rome, Italy, from July 16 –22. The course started in July 2017.

“Everyone is a vocation and we all feel called to something by God,” said Brother Xavi Gual de Miguel, one of the coordinators of the course. “The task of a person that accompanies is to walk with others to help contrast and clarify how they can be happy and find meaning in their lives with the eyes of a God who is Father and Mother.”

After the first stage last July, the 23 participants – from the five Marist provinces of Europe – carried out seven months of work on some aspects of formation through an Internet platform from October to May.

It is a course that includes both theoretical and practical work, based on the participant’s own life and his experience of accompanying and being accompanied in the process of discernment; it is about experiencing it oneself to then be able to accompany others better.



In the provinces, accompaniment courses will be carried out, but the Marists responsible for youth and vocational ministry realised that they needed to be able to offer more specific formation at the regional level for certain moments of discernment in the lives of people.

The course is part of the vocation ministry project proposed by the European Marist Conference. The European team of youth and vocational ministry has different activities, courses and

meetings during the year to reflect about accompaniment.

In addition, the team visits different realities of the European region to share with young people, laity and brothers what their expectations and needs are.

After evaluating this first edition of the course, the European team of youth and vocational ministry hopes to offer a second edition in July 2019.

## ASSUMING THE NEW LIFE PROJECT IN A FRATERNITY

### REVITALIZATION OF THE CMMF IN THE PROVINCE OF MÉXICO CENTRAL

After two years of accompaniment, the 23 members of the fraternity ‘Around the same table’, from Mexico City, made their promise on June 11 to share the Marist charism in

their personal and fraternal lives, within the Champagnat Movement of the Marist family in the Province of México Central.



The promise was made in the presence of provincial superior Brother José Sánchez Bravo, during the Mass celebrated in the chapel of the school Instituto México Secundaria, having as witnesses the Marist Brothers of the community, family and friends and taking into account the calls from the 22nd General Chapter to be a global charismatic family.

The fraternity holds meetings every three weeks. Its members have joined the provincial team of youth ministry, to provide their services as auxiliary parents in meetings and in assemblies of the Ciudad Nueva Maristamovement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

**CANADIAN PILGRIMS**

Since July 20, 25 Canadian pilgrims are gathered at Notre Dame de L'Hermitage, France, for a pilgrimage for geared towards people who want to explore ways of supporting the current changes in the province of Canada.

**GUATEMALA**

The Escuela de Líderes 3 (School of Leaders 3) will be held in Guatemala City. Young people and adults of the Marist province of América Central will participate, as well as catechists, REMAR "timoneles", accompanying people of REMAR communities, pastoral coordinators and other guests. All are in the process of formation to improve their work with the apostolates that they accompany.

**SRI LANKA**

From July 23 – 26, a seminar on human sexuality was held at the Marist Novitiate of Tudella, led by Brother Michael De Waas, with the participation of 36 novices from various religious congregations.

**EMPOWER VOICE!**

Over 900 children and youth have answered a consultation launched by FMSI in preparation for a major United Nations' debate that will be held on Sept. 28 in Geneva. See some videos here: <https://goo.gl/7JkMCZ>

**SOLIDARITY WITH NICARAGUA**

FMSI published a statement over the weekend expressing its solidarity with the pain of the Nicaraguan people. For FMSI, it is fundamental and urgent to stop the violence and repression that especially affects children and youth who live in the Republic of Nicaragua. You can read the full statement at <https://goo.gl/qAr1y8>.

50 EDUCATORS FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE GATHER FOR A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS

UNITED STATES: 2018 MARIST LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Over 50 Marist educators from around the United States gathered in Long Branch, New Jersey, for a series of workshops of the 2018 Marist Leadership Institute, from July 15 – 18.

Under the theme Ever Marist, making Jesus known and loved, the first speech was offered by Brother David Hall who underscored that Marist schools should be transformative beacons in society.

Workshops were given on changes in student behavior, cultural barriers to education, social and emotional learning, faculty development, the potential of flipped and blended learning and faculty faith formation.

During the event, provincial superior Brother Patrick McNamara offered reflections on the Calls of the General Chapter.

On July 17, the opening presentation was done by Sister Mary Ann Daly (Sisters of Charity), who offered a collaborative exploration into each school's unique expressions of the Marist mission.

The day's seminars were on organisational change, faculty development, and social and emotional learning. Brother Al Rivera, co-director of vocations for the USA province, introduced the theme for this coming school year: 'The year of the youth.'

Larry Tucker offered reflections on being a senior Marist administrator in the USA province and with over 20 years of experience at Marist High School in Chicago, Illinois.

Br David ended the gathering with a closing speech and the administrative team of Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Florida, led the closing prayer.

## MARIST WORLD



Mexico Occidental  
New provincial council



Spain  
Bonanza



Zambia  
Twayuka



Ghana  
Ashalaja



Brazil  
Marist College Criciúma



Lebanon: Cmi director, Br Valdicer Fachi,  
at the Fratelli Project - Rmeileh

## NEARLY 100 BROTHERS AND LAY PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT RETREAT

### NORANDINA: WAKE UP, IT'S TIME TO WALK!

Ninety-three brothers and lay people from the Norandina province participated in a retreat in Quito, Ecuador, from July 1 – 6 to internalise the calls

of the 22nd General Chapter, so as to guide their personal, community and institutional decisions. Under the theme 'Wake up, it's time to walk!',

the gathering's second objective was to promote a shared experience of life and spirituality between brothers and laity to continue co-creating the Marist charism through the communion of vocations.

Guided by Brother Hipólito Pérez Gómez, provincial of América Central, participants included 82 brothers and 11 lay people from the three countries of the Norandina province – Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.

The themes of the retreat were: Transform us and send us, A new La Valla, A look at the calls of the 22nd General Chapter, The future of the charism as a future of communion, The new beginning, and It has already begun!. To see a video that Norandina posted on its YouTube channel, with images of the retreat, [click here](#).



## ARGENTINA: 'PROGRAMME SYRIA'

### CRUZ DEL SUR MAY COLLABORATE WITH THE ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENT TO HELP HOST REFUGEES

The Cruz del Sur province is working on a possible collaboration with the government of Argentina in a programme that welcomes Syrian immigrants and refugees in the country.

This possible collaboration was addressed during a meeting at the Embassy of Canada in Buenos Aires on July 11, convened by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which was intended to promote the Programa Siria (Programme Syria) in Argentina.

In addition to representatives of the Marist province, the meeting was attended by the Embassy of Canada, the International Organisation for



Migration, Dirección Nacional de Migraciones de la Argentina, Federación Argentina Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales y Trans, and two Canadian organisations that work with refugees and immigrants.

The programme, strongly promoted by the High Commissioner, involves individuals who register to be able to receive refugees, committing to provide them with shelter and food for a year.

In Argentina they do it via the Dirección Nacional de Migraciones and in Canada, via other organisations.

It is hoped that the refugees become self-sufficient within the year and so after that period these organisations evaluate the situation.

The state investigates for up to six months the family's capability to adequately welcome those interested

and supports the family by offering its members courses in Arabic and on Syrian culture.

The government is responsible for the accompaniment of the host family and the immigrant or refugee, offering them support in sorting out their health, education and work.

At the end of the meeting, a draft of a possible agreement between the government of Argentina and the Marist province of Cruz del Sur was given to the team of the Dirección Nacional de Migraciones so that the Marists assume a similar role to the state: to be a link between Marist families that sign up to receive refugees.

For more information on the situation in Syria, visit the United Nations' website on the "Syria Regional Refugee Response", in English: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>.



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