



'WHEREVER YOU GO I WILL GO, WHEREVER YOU LODGE I WILL LODGE'

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE RULE OF LIFE

The Commission for the drafting of the Rule of Life, appointed by the General Council, met at the General House from July 17 – 27. Its members are Brothers Aureliano García Manzanal (Mediterranean), Carlos Saúl Corzo Uribe (Norandina), Josep Maria Soteras (General Council) and Seán Sammon (United States).

The Commission aims to give shape and unity to a document already approved in its structure and content by the General Chapter and that was worked on, before the Chapter, by the Commission for the Review of the Constitutions and Statutes.

In the words of Br Aureliano, the aim of the commission is to offer a text "capable of inspiring, that moves us as Marist Brothers".

One of the texts that oriented and inspired the Commission is Ruth's response to her mother-in-law, Naomi, when she talks about returning to her village. Promising fidelity, Ruth tells her mother-in-law: "wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God (Ruth 1:16).

This passage recalls the fundamental task of Marist life,



which is to follow Jesus, and emphasises the sense of community, which is reflected in the "you" and the "I".

Historical process

The Commission for the Review of the Constitutions presented to the General Chapter the proposal to have two texts that concretely represent the Marist charism for the specific vocation of the Brother.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Brother Libardo Garzón, economo general, is participating in a meeting from Aug. 6 – 8 in General Santos, the Philippines, to prepare the formation of people involved in the Institute's economy in the regions of Africa, Asia and Oceania.
- From Aug. 8 – 12, Brother Tony

Leon, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, will participate in a meeting in El Escorial, Spain, of the Network of Marist Communities of Europe.

- From Aug. 13 – 17, the District Chapter of West Africa will be held in Accra, Ghana, with the participa-

tion of general councillor Brother Ken McDonald.

- Brothers Mark Omede and Carlos Alberto Rojas, from the Mission Secretariat, will participate in a meeting with the African Mission Commission from Aug. 16 – 20 in Abuja, Nigeria.

On Oct. 5, 2017, the Chapter approved the proposal, offering the Institute two texts, Constitutions and Rule of Life, in addition to the Statutes, linked to the Constitutions.

The Rule of Life was approved worldwide on the last day of the Chapter, as a chapter document, leaving the General Council the task of preparing the final draft, aided by the suggestions of the capitulants, and may also be assisted by a commission for its final drafting.

Nature and structure of the Rule of Life

While the Constitutions represent a more static document that defines the state of religious life of the brothers within the Church, the Rule of Life of the Marist Brothers is a

flexible document, capable of adapting to the times, with a less formal or canonical language. The Rule of Life of the Marist Brothers is divided into three chapters: the first speaks of the brother's vocation, the second of the fraternity and the third of the mission.

Next steps

As previously stated, the document was approved by the XXII General Chapter in regards to its structure and content, and the team is now only improving its wording. The commission needs some time to draft a final text, which will be defined during the next meeting. It will then be published together with the new Constitutions.

THE ONGOING FORMATION OF THE 'MARIST ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAMME' MANZIANA AND EL ESCORIAL FORMATORS GATHER IN ROME



The gathering of the current ongoing formation teams – Brothers Antonio Peralta, Joaquim Sperandio, Teofilo Minga – with the secretariat of Brothers Today and the link councillors, held from July 17 – 20, was a clear sign that it is the dawn of a new epoch of Marist Ongoing Formation.

Along with the new link councillors, Brothers Óscar Martín and João do Prado, we were introduced to the new director of Manziana, Brother Joe Walton and the new member of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, Brother Ángel Medina.

The group studied the priorities of

the provincials in a sondage about the future ongoing formation as well as the documents of the XXII General Chapter, such as:

To promote and nourish Marist life in all its diversity, working towards our deeply felt desire to act as 'one global body' (From Call No:1)

Reform our processes of initial and on-going formation and offer new paths at the level of the Institute and Administrative Units to care for our vocation as brothers: accompaniment, attention to each brother's situation and stage in life. (From Principles and Suggestions- 'In Our Vocation as Brothers')

The group played with creative ideas that contained principles that centred us as well as the calls to be creative to respond to the emerging needs of ongoing formation as Marists today.

A three-year programme has been designed and it now waits for consultation with the Secretariat of the Laity as well as the final confirmation from the general council at the plenary in September.

There are three types of programmes:

- Stages of the brother's life (Horizons, Mid Life, Threshold, 3rd Age)
- Mission (Vocation Animators, Formators, Community Animators)
- Themes (Emerging needs such as Spirituality)

Some of the suggestions include forming one global ongoing formation team and community which will organise more intercultural programmes, in both English and Spanish.

With greater sensitivity to the regions, some shorter programmes will be conducted regionally to permit accessibility to more brothers and lay Marists.

After the confirmation in September, the detailed programme will be published to assist each provincial in the planning of the ongoing formation for their local brother and lay Marists.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CRUZ DEL SUR

Twenty-seven educators from Rosario, Luján, Macnab, La Inmaculada, Santa María and Morón participated in the seminar 'Caminos de Interioridad', from July 16 – 18 in Luján, Argentina. The meeting was an opportunity for them to continue their growth towards a meaningful spirituality.

PACIFIC DISTRICT

From June 29 – July 1, Brother Luke Fong and Sheena Penjueli guided a formation programme for Marist of Champagnat educators in Fiji.

MELANESIA

In July, the Champagnat Group visited the sick and the elderly in the community of Saint Michel Village in Vanuatu. The group, formed by students, formators and brothers, will continue its activities throughout 2018.

FMSI AND VENEZUELA

The solidarity campaign promoted by the Marists of Norandina continues helping the citizens of Venezuela survive the country's current difficult situation. It is also possible to help through FMSI, which has launched the 'One dollar for a snack' campaign, seeking to help feed children. Visit this link to learn more: <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=4753>

JUNIORATE OF VALLADOLID

Recently there was the annual meeting of former Marist Brothers and Companions who studied at the Hispano-American Juniorate of the Marist Brothers of Valladolid. In the decade of the 70, finished that formative stage, they were sent to Chile and Peru, where they concluded the magisterium and soon they were dedicated to the Marist schools of both countries. The friendship between them is so great that they meet annually in summer for 39 years.

XIX PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL
MEXICO: ONE HEART, ONE SPIRIT



The Chapter of México Occidental was held on July 27 and 28 in Guadalajara, Mexico, straight after the closure of the Provincial Assembly, which began on July 23.

The Chapter counted on the participation of 69 brothers – including Brothers Ernesto Sánchez (superior general) and João Carlos do Prado, general councillor – two priests and five lay people.

During the two days, the Chapter assumed the resolutions of the Assembly, installed the superior provincial, Brother Miguel Ángel Santos Villareal, for a second triennium and elected his Council.

Brother Miguel Ángel shared his report on the province's last three years of animation and government. The report was structured into the topics of: the areas of vocation and Marist life, Marist educational mission and animation and government.

In their contributions, participants insisted on the importance of offering better accompaniment to the Marist life and mission in Haiti, to be professional when choosing managers, to take care of people's dignity in administrative processes, to take care of the future of the legacy of the Marist

patrimony and the management of the goods of the province.

The participants also insisted on the importance of a defined profile of brothers; the need to have congruent, dialoguing, fraternal brothers, that are aware of the diverse provincial contexts and have a solid connection with God.

During the Chapter, the superior general invited the brothers to build a future with new dreams and illusions, underscoring the importance of involving everyone in this new beginning.

The new Provincial Council that was elected on July 28 is formed by Brothers Jesús Hernández, Luis Enrique Rodríguez, Víctor Preciado, Luis Roberto González, Agustín Acevedo and Melesio Tiscareño.

After the election, the Chapter received and ratified the working document of the Assembly, which contained the working route for the new Council.

Brother José Sánchez Bravo, Provincial of México Central and coordinator of the Arco Norte region, invited the brothers of México Occidental to continue working for peace, justice and the dignity of creation.

MARIST WORLD



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



Mexico: Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ernesto Sánchez visit Guadalajara



Brazil: Staff meeting of Champagnat Cemadipe - Aparecida de Goiânia



Argentina
Mission Assembly of Cruz del Sur



Papua New Guinea
Port Moresby



Peru: Marist community of Sullana and volunteers from SED

REFLECTING ON THE APPEALS OF THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER

BROTHERS AND LAY PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN THEIR 3RD RETREAT OF THE BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL PROVINCE

From July 13 – 19, 26 brothers and 18 lay people gathered for their third annual retreat at the Recanto Champagnat, in Florianópolis, Brazil.

Brother José María Ferre, from the Mediterránea province, led the group to silence and reflection, reflecting on the Calls of the XXII General Chapter in relation to the guidelines of the Provincial Chapter, as well as on the documents Being a Lay Marist and Identity and mission of the religious brother in the Church.

In addition to the time for personal reflection and for celebrations, each day before the sundown, the participants met in small communities to discuss the themes of the day and especially what inspired the fraternity.

They worked on several themes, such as paths of spirituality, the Marist tradition, the foundations of Christian fraternity and shared life.

Another rich moment was when participants heard the thoughts of Diogo Galline and Juliana Maria Fontoura Galline, who are currently part of the Lavalla200 Programme, at the Atlantis community in South Africa.

This was the third time that lay people participated in this retreat, and the atmosphere of serenity, communion and recognition of the different ways of living the Marist voca-



tion clearly showed the road travelled so far. "The atmosphere of the retreat, the moments with Brother Ferre and the "desert" proposals, were designed to provide us with a deep spiritual and human reflection," affirmed Juanalis Meurer, lay Marist.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

MEETING OF THE GENERAL MISSION COMMITTEE

At the beginning of 2017, the Marist Mission Committee came together for the first time, a committee constituted for a two-year period. Since then, the General Mission Committee has worked on several initiatives considering our Marist global mission.

Now, July 23 – 27 2018, the Mission Committee came together again for the third of their formal meetings.

Present at the meeting were Frank Malloy, Paulo Sirino, Br Gregorio Linacero, Br Marciano Guzmán, Br Ador Santiago and Mr Mike Greeff.

From the General Administration, the Committee was joined by Marzia Ventimiglia, Luca Olivari, Br Libardo Garzón (Econome General), Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (Vicar General) and Br Ben Consigli (General Councillor).

The meeting was planned and organised by the Secretariat for Mission, Brothers Carlos Rojas (Director) and Mark Omede (Deputy Director). Br Teófilo Minga was the translator.

The five days of the meeting were intense and considered several broad areas. Firstly, the concept of shared services; what is in place, the further analysis undertaken and what is possible. This included an analysis



of the global education market. Strategy and strategic planning was the next area of focus. Further discussion took place on the Mission Committee contribution to the strategic planning process and then Br Luis Carlos and Br Ben Consigli presented the overall strategic plan of the Institute.

On Wednesday, the Committee considered various forms of legal structures and what might be appropriate in our Marist world at all levels. Finally, the focus shifted to networking and structural matters, all in the light of the previous discussions.

A study was presented about networking within the Institute and a pilot proposal for the launch of a Global Network of Marist Schools.

On Friday, Br Luis Carlos led the discussion on future expectations of this Committee, its work, its form and its support to the General Council. Flowing from the meeting will be input to the next plenary of the General Council.

This will inform the shape of the support that this team can give to the General Council as we continue to follow the Calls of the Chapter.

The business of the Committee as described above was interwoven with the richness of relationships and interactions on a more informal basis.

A closing sentiment of everyone who worked so closely together for the week was that the sense of real momentum and progress is growing as the team gels and develops.

The diversity, experience and commitment of the General Mission Committee team is a strong support and resource to the new leadership of the Institute.



PROVINCE OF MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY



Seventy brothers and forty-four laypeople gathered for the Provincial Assembly of México Occidental from July 23 – 26 in Guadalajara, Mexico, where they discussed the Marist mission in Mexico and Haiti.

This year, the assembly was attended by superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez, general councilor Brother João Carlos do Prado and 44 lay people.

According to the provincial superior, Br Miguel Ángel Santos Villarreal, "the Chapter and the Assembly are specific moments that can reveal us a secret or change an attitude, being present and being a part of the provincial community."

On the second day, the dialogue tables facilitated face-to-face discussions during which participants were able to share their thoughts and ideas with an open heart.

On July 25, the participants agreed that the following issues need to be improved: vocation ministry for religious life, formation and shared life among lay people and brothers, initial and ongoing formation of brothers, renewal of the evangelisation and Marist education, the mission in social works and mission communities, systematization in the educational mission, management and government, and provincial animation.

The day culminated with a Mass during which eight young brothers renewed their temporary vows.

Br Miguel Ángel invited the assistants of the Mass to consecrate themselves in favor of a renewal of mind to distinguish the will of the Father.

On July 26, Brothers João Carlos and Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, presented the calls and the principles of the XXII General Chapter celebrated in September and October 2017 in Rionegro, Colombia, emphasising the exercise of making something new emerge, based on the practice of letting the future emerge. Brother Ernesto emphasised the vocation of brothers, affirming that the calls invite to a greater prophecy that contagious the other areas of vitality of the institute.

In his concluding message, Brother Miguel Ángel made a call to co-responsibility to crystallize the fruits received and he assumed the commitment that the Chapter acquires when receiving the calls of the Provincial Assembly.

The XIX Provincial Chapter then took place on July 27 and 28, during which the work of the Assembly was presented and the new Provincial Council was established, which will accompany the provincial superior for the next three years.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARIST NEWS
WILL BE PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 22

PROVINCE OF BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BR FABRÍCIO ALVES DA CRUZ

Brother Fabrício Alves da Cruz, from the Brasil Centro-Norte Province, made his perpetual profession on July 28 in Carrancas, consecrating himself forever to the charism of Champagnat.

The profession was carried out during a vocational mission, which involved 23 missionaries. Provincial superior Brother Ataíde José de Lima received the vows of Brother Fabrício on behalf of the superior general.

Brother Fabrício is superior of the community of Maraponga, a community of formation, which welcomes postulants from the Brasil Centro-Norte and Brasil Sul-Ama-

zonia provinces.

Brother Fabrício began his formation with the Marists 10 years ago. After three years of juniorate in Belo Horizonte, he went to the community of Surubim and worked in the Marist Sacred Heart School of Fortaleza, coordinating the ministry work.

Brother Fabrício says that the motivation to become a Marist Brother started with the desire to help other people. "I always wanted to help others, but I did not know how to do it, until the day I met the Institution, and I saw that, through it, I could reach people in most need," he said.



GENERAL COUNCIL

CONTACT VISIT TO THE MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA AND OF EAST TIMOR

Aiming to implement a service of animation "looking from the peripheries to the center", Br. Ernesto Sánchez and his Council have taken the initiative to carry out a contact visit to the communities of the District of Asia. They also included East Timor.

All the Brothers of the General Council will be involved in this visit from August 3 to 17, so organized: Br. Josep Maria Soteras and Br. Ken McDonald to Cambodia; Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez and Br. Joao Carlos do Prado to Bangladesh and Talit (India); Br. Oscar Martin and Br. Ben Consigli to Thailand and East Timor; Br. Sylviain Ramandmbiarisoa and Br. Ernesto Sánchez to Vietnam.

There is left one country from the District and this visit will be made later.



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