



## A NEW PENTECOST

### BR. ERNESTO SANCHEZ RECOUNTS HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE SYNOD ON YOUTH

By means of a [video](#), Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, tells us of his experience in taking part, together with the Pope and bishops in the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops whose topic is "Youth, faith and vocational discernment."

Brother Ernesto points out his privilege of sharing with Pope Francis, the bishops from all over the world, the youth and other religious. And he highlights, particularly, the Pope's attitude in proposing a new form of being Church, of coming closer to the youth: "I think he is showing us the way of being with young people, of being present, of being at their side, of knowing how to challenge with the appropriate word."

The Superior General also speaks of the steps that the Synod has taken until now, mainly in the dynamics of seeing the reality of youth.

Brother Ernesto took part in the Synod as one of the representatives of the Union of General Superiors and regards this as an opportunity "to co-create the dream of God, hand in hand with the young people themselves."



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He also points out that this event should remind us of the beginning of the Church: "I want to ask you to join us in prayer so that we really live this Synod as a new Pentecost."

You can see the video below. Follow the words of Brother Ernesto in one of the four languages of the Institute, selecting the required language with the button "Configurations."



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- From 25th to 27th October the General Council will take part in a course on international leadership in Rome.
- From the 25th to 29th October, the director of the Secretariat of the Laity, Raúl Amaya, will participate in the Assembly of lay Marists of Peru in Lima.
- Br Valdicer Fachi, director of the Department of Cmi, joined the Forum of Marists in Brazil on Volunteering held in Port Alegre on the 23rd and 24th October.

## THE BLUE MARISTS

### WHY RESILIENCE IN ALEPPO?

Thanks to the support of BICE, a training session was held from 26 to 29 September for a number of Tutors of Resilience with the Blue Marists of Aleppo (Syria). Verónica Hurtubia, the specialist from the Catholic University of Milan in charge of the lectures, recounts her experience for our benefit.

"What most terrifies me is the silence of this place... the silence that only death can bring..." Leila's words are imprinted in my mind, as we go for a walk through the destruction of the old market of Aleppo. Pain, forgetfulness, destruction, parks that have become cemeteries, children without identity, locked in the houses where they were born and where they have grown up to the sound of the bombs that today can still be heard in the city. These could be the elements of a postcard from the Aleppo of today.

However, under the wreckage a new life begins to be born anew, thanks to the energy and anger of a town wishing to move ahead without bitterness. A town working to cure its wounds by turning the pain into resilience.

In spite of the horror that war brings, the testimonies of 26 tutors who followed the Tutors of Resilience Course in the Blue Marists' Centre, are a treasure that teaches us love, commitment and loyalty towards our fellow human beings.

The formation began from the personal experiences of the tutors involved in the problems of the children. This is necessary to build strategies for the promotion of resilience in the children who attend the Blue Marists' Centre.

These were 4 days of intense formation where we dealt with the concept



of resilience from a new perspective. An active and positive focus that is not limited to forgetting the bad moments but rather highlighting the transformation of the pain and looking to the future. It is not enough to think that the war has ended and that



**As a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope in this turbulent world**

daily life can be the same as before the first bomb.

And so it was in this way that we moved forward in this adventure of

resilience which began one year ago when a group of Tutors of the Blue Marists journeyed to the Lebanon (The Fratelli Project) in order to follow an introductory course dealing with resilience. At the moment, the collaboration between Blue Marists and the Fratelli Project continues with programmes on education and resilience, focused on children of pre-school and primary age.

This methodology made it possible for the tutors to re-discover their own capabilities, to be able to dream again, to share their desire to create a museum of memory, to grow stronger as a group and to recognize the value of community, beyond religion. All of these are fruits left to us by resilience, they are seeds that we must continue cultivating, both the tutors, the children and the youth. Thank you to all the partners who have made this mission possible."

Besides Aleppo and Lebanon, other resilience training sessions are being developed in Andalusia (Spain) and Haiti.

NEWS IN BRIEF

**BELGIUM**

On October 7, the community of Habay (Le Bua) celebrated the jubilees of Marist religious life of Brothers Roberto de Troia and René Paulus (50 years), and Brothers Hermanos Alphonse Peters, Guy Claerhoudt, Jean Koob, Yves Vanderplacke (60 years).

**NEW ZEALAND**

Thirty-nine Brothers and laypeople came together at the Mary MacKillop Centre, Mission Bay, for their annual retreat, led by Fr Neil Darragh. The retreat focussed on Evangelii Gaudium.

**COMPOSTELA**

Some 90 teachers engaged in the last three years in Marist colleges gathered on the 20th October in Ponferrada for a program arranged by the Provincial Formation team.

**CENTRAL MEXICO**

The Provincial Chapter chose five Brothers to be the Provincial Council to accompany the Provincial, José Sanchez, in the leadership of the Province 2018-2021: Rodrigo Espinosa, Juan Carlos Robles, Carlos Martínez L., Luis Felipe González y Justino Gómez.



MARIST SPIRITUALITY GROUPS

SEVENTH ASSEMBLY IN THE PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA



On Oct. 13 and 14, many of us who belong to GEM Groups in our Province of Compostela gathered in the House of Spirituality of Vouzela, Portugal, to celebrate together the Marist life that is born in these Marist Spirituality Groups.

The programme proposed a meeting with assembly format in which all the participants, working in tables, posed together new challenges for the year that is beginning.

Under the title "Being a lay Marist," we dream together new goals to achieve in the development of our Marist vocational path.

Directed by the "Brothers and Laity

Communion Team" and welcomed by the community of the Vouzela house, a community that makes this encounter possible every year, we experienced the joy of finding ourselves again, of celebrating in company the joy of feeling ourselves lay Marists and to walk in the company of some brothers who with their example and encouragement help us to walk.

At the end, with the satisfaction of the moment we lived, we embraced with the certain hope of seeing each other again next year. As the Jews did after celebrating the feast of Passover in Jerusalem, we also said goodbye saying: "Next year, in Vouzela".

## MARIST WORLD



Spain  
100 years of Marist Presence in Segovia



Australia  
Marist Youth Ministry Melbourne



Philippines: Retreat of the Brothers  
in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato



Fiji: Marcellin Centre community with the  
team leaders of the Lavalla College



Italy  
Manziana - Third Age Course



Colombia  
Brother's Assembly in Cali

## MARIST PROVINCE BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

### EXTENSION COURSE IN SPIRITUALITY AND MARIST PATRIMONY CONCLUDES LAST MODULE

From Sept. 25 – 28, the third and final module of the Extension Course in Spirituality and Marist Heritage (PEM) was held, promoted by the Marist Province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia.

The meetings took place at the Casa Marista da Juventude, in Porto Alegre and in the municipality of Bom Princípio, both located in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul.

The first day of the course was devoted to studies of the structure and legislation of the Institute. On the second day, the class learned about the place of the arrival of the first brothers in southern Brazil, in Buen Principio.

The PEM programming concluded with the themes of the Marist laity, the Marian face of the Church and Marist spirituality.

For María Rita Bertollo, vicedirector of the Santa Marta Marist School and student of this edition, the PEM contributed to her education by addressing important elements of the history of the Marist Institute, which helped in a positive way.

"Marcellin's example, his faith and determination, as well as courage in the face of the adversities that arose, inspire and strengthen us to continue to carry out our work in Marist units," she affirmed. According to her, this should be experienced by all collaborators.



Certified by the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), the course offers an in depth study of the sources of the Institute to provide students with an immersion in the origins and inspiration to act in their life and mission.

Divided into three modules, it favors research and academic production, preparing participants to work well in the area.

## TOGETHER, LET US BE BRIDGES AND BEACON OF HOPE

### BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA PREPARES THE SECOND PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

From Dec. 3 – 7, more than 70 Marist Brothers and lay people will gather in Veranópolis for the second Provincial Chapter. The meeting will define the direction of their actions during the Triennium 2019-2021, with moments of sharing, reflection and election of the Provincial Council.

The event will include the inauguration ceremony of Brother Inacio Eteges, appointed to be the main canonical leader of the institution for the next three years.

From the theme Together, let us be bridges and a beacon of hope, the



Chapter will draw its inspiration from the Marist Institute's main appeals to call on all to respond boldly to current emerging needs.

According to Brother Deivis Fischer, Coordinator of the Preparatory Commission for the Chapter, the objective is to translate into local reality what was indicated by the XXII General Chapter.

"Several actions that will be carried out until December aim at the discernment of what God wants from us, as an institution, at this moment."

## FRANCE: «WE SHARE LIFE, WE IMAGINE THE FUTURE»

### MEETING OF THE CONTACT PEOPLE OF LOCAL MARIST TEAMS

On Oct. 10, in the provincial house of L'Hermitage, in Lyon, France, the contact people of the local Marist teams of France gathered to experience the first phase of the provincial forum "We share LIFE, we imagine the FUTURE" and to know the dynamics proposed by the coordination team for the animation of the Marist life groups, which are the local Marist teams present in the school works of France's Marist network.

The meeting took place in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, and participants included Marta Portas,



of the Marist Vocation Secretariat of the L'Hermitage province and

Maryvonne Donart, responsible for the Marist laity in France.



## BLESSED BR. HENRI VERGÈS

On May 8, 1994 on a Sunday afternoon, Brother Henri Vergès confirmed with his blood his vocation, after 25 years of service to young people in Algeria. Along with 18 other martyrs, he will be beatified on December 8 in Oran.

In this link (<https://bit.ly/2EECZOG>) you can learn more about his life and find other resources about the Blessed Marist Brother Henri Vergès.

## ENSURING VITALITY AND VIABILITY OF MARIST LIFE AND MISSION

### ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



Around 186 people attended an assembly of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat in Adelaide, Australia, from Oct. 2 – 4.

“It was significant because it was another meeting among those Marists who wish to ensure the vitality and viability of the Marist life and mission,” affirmed general councillor Brother Ben Consigli on Oct. 10.

During the Assembly, which is held every three years, a new Council was elected and the results will be formally announced in the next few days.

Participants included young adults, families, brothers of the province and brothers of the general administration: Br Ben, vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, general councillor Brother Ken McDonald, Brother Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat and Brother Jeff Crowe, formator of the Lavalla200+ international communities for the new beginning programme.

Joe McCarthy, one of the heads of the Australian Conference of the Association underscored that “when we began plans for this Assembly 18 months ago, we thought that perhaps up to 100 people might travel to Adelaide but, as time progressed, more and more members of the Association registered to attend.”

The venue for the Assembly was Sacred Heart College, a school started in Adelaide by the Brothers in 1897. Although there are no longer any Brothers on the school’s staff, it remains very strong in its Marist identity and it is now governed by the Marist Association.

Br Peter Carroll, the current the leader of the Marist Association and provincial of Australia, noted that the Assembly was “a great sign of hope, a true reflection of co-responsibility for Marist life and mission into the future, and wonderfully joyous occasion that saw old friendships rekindled and new ones made.”

There are now over 850 people across Australia in the Marist Association, including several priests, three bishops with strong Marist identities and over 100 brothers.

One of the tasks of the Assembly was to have a consultative vote for the election of the Association’s Council.

Similar to the province, a new Council is elected every three years, during the Assembly. It holds the ultimate governance responsibilities for the core Marist ministries in Australia, including education, youth ministry, social works and solidarity. The Council is also responsible for guiding the members as a Marist spiritual family.

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