



BLESSED BR. HENRI VERGÈS

BEATIFICATION OF THE MARTYRS OF ALGERIA

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2018, 19 martyrs were beatified in Algeria, who witnessed to faith in God in the 1990s. Among them was Marist Brother Henri Vergès.

The celebration at Notre-Dame de Santa Croce de Oran was presided over by Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, special envoy of the Pope.

Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, participated in the celebration together with Brother Pere Ferré, Provincial of L'Hermitage. Other brothers and relatives of Br. Henri Vergès also took part.

In this [video](#) is possible to watch the celebration of the beatification.



GENEAL ADMINISTRATION

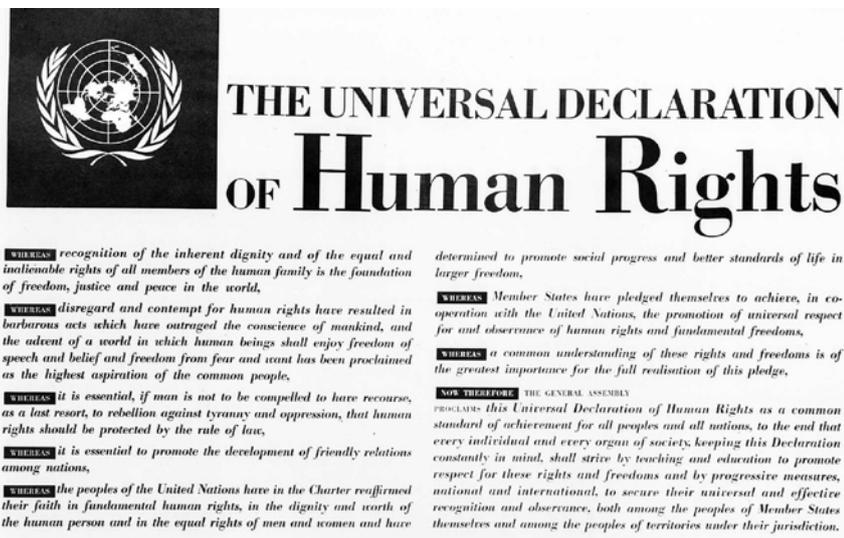
- From the 10th until the 15th December Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and Ken McDonald are taking part in the Provincial Chapter of the Central East Africa Province, in Rwanda.
- From the 11th until the 14th of December the Chapter of the Brazil Centro-Norte Province takes place in Memdes, in the presence of Brothers

- Ernesto Sánchez, Óscar Martin and Sylvan Ramandimbarisoa.
- On the 11th Br. Valdicer Fachi, of Cmi, takes part in the meeting of the Council of the Fratelli Project, in the General House of the De La Salles.
 - Brothers Ben Consigli, Juan Carlos del Prado, Josep María Soterias, General Councillors, and Libardo Garzón,

- Econome General, are taking part in a new session of the Course of International Leadership, in Rome, from the 13th until the 15th of December.
- General Councillors Óscar Martin and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, visit the Province of Brazil Centro-Norte from the 15th until the 19th December.

DECEMBER 10, 2018: SEVENTY YEARS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

MARIST YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS



ten years ago, the Marist Mission Assembly of Mendes (Brazil, 2007) made this appeal. Invitation that repeats the XXII General Chapter (Colombia, 2017) when it affirms that we believe “in the promotion, protection and defense of the rights of children and young people, and in their empowerment as agents of transformation.”

Without a doubt, being leaders, agents of transformation or defenders of human rights is a challenge that begins in the daily life of Marist children and young people. However, your voice should be heard even at the highest levels of international discussion and decision.

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the United Nations main platform to monitor and review the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that mark

On a day like today, exactly 70 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to proclaim that all human beings have the same rights regardless of race, color, religion, gender, language, political opinions, origin or any other particular condition. Since then, December 10 is remembered as the International Day of Human Rights.

To celebrate this important anniversary, we will learn the experience of young Marists who have traveled to New York and Geneva to participate in United Nations events that promote human rights.

Empower those who have no voice

“We will favor opportunities for our partners to share, participate in decision-making and, at the same time, invite children and youth to be leaders in this area.” More than

the global agenda between 2015 and 2030. Sofía Toro (Chile) in 2017 and Mariana Díaz and Nadia Lomeli (Mexico) in 2018 traveled to New York to represent in this forum thousands of young Marists from Latin America who since 2013 have been involved in the discussion about SDGs.

Likewise, Camila Álvarez (Chile), Gabriel dos Santos and Pedro Gouvea (Brazil) represented in Geneva the 1,700 Marist children and youths from 13 countries - from Australia to Canada - who participated in the consultations led by the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the Nations United. On September 28, 2018, Day of General Discussion (DGD) was held to discuss the role of children as human rights defenders.

Let us know how was their experience (download [PDF](#)).

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL



Tomorrow, Wednesday, a message via YouTube will be sent by Brother Ernesto to all Marists of Champagnat. In the message, transmitted in 4 languages, the Superior General speaks of the beatification of Brother Henri, of the activities of the General Council, of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, of the Youth Synod and he invites us all to take part in the initiatives of the Institute promoting the Global Family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NORANDINA

On December 8th, 5 Brothers of the Interprovincial Novitiate of La Valla made their first profession in Medellín. The new Brothers of the Norandina Province are: Andrés Felipe Robles Londoño, Duvan Felipe Correa, Francisco José Ruiz Hernández, Juan Pablo Burgos Gómez and Michael Alexander Anamá.

THE PACIFIC DISTRICT

Brother Kevin Wanden has been appointed Director of the Mission for the District. His role will be to work together with the leaders and groups of the Administrative Unit to promote the mission and the charism of Champagnat in the apostolic works directed by the Marists of Champagnat.

EMILI TURÚ

Besides being secretary of the Union of the General Superiors, starting from January, the Former Superior General will be director of the Centre of Formation Faith and Practice whose headquarters are in Rome.

PROFESSION IN BRAZIL

During the concluding mass of the Chapter held in the Province of Brazil Sul-Amazonia, Brother Antonio Rai Costa de Menezes made his first profession.

EUROPEAN MARISTS

FORMATION OF MARIST LEADERS FOR THE MISSION

Everything began two years ago in Holland. November 2016 saw the beginning of the European course directed towards "Marist Leaders for the mission" which finished in Rome, last week, from 11 to 16 November.

I feel enormous gratitude for the welcome received in every place we stayed; where we received so many examples of affection and close living from all of the communities. But, mainly, I am so thankful to have been able to take part in the path to formation and to share what it means to be a Marist today, contributing to the creation of that global family spoken of by the XXII General Chapter.

In Holland we learned how our Marist work is "a lighthouse of hope" for many young people who are searching for understanding, for silence, needing a home and meaning in their lives. In Alcalá de Henares, in the course of learning about aspects such as social abilities, care of people, administration of our works or innovation, we came to understand our authentic vocation, giving the best of ourselves in the service of children and young people, to help with their growth and development. Finally, in Rome, under the title "Marist of Champagnat, we felt part of a greater mission than our-

selves, illustrated by those people living in the house. They have been the best example of family, simplicity and work, everything according to Mary. Everywhere I have been able to feel the reality of "the face and the hands of the tender mercy of God". A latent reality in the Marist world which is demonstrated in the sharing of the group. Their diversity, their wealth, their welcome ensure that the different provinces of Europe continue giving an "audacious" response to the necessities that continually surface in all the countries in which we live.

In a world and a global reality, the visits to other situations in Marist Europe connect us inevitably with our mission. Sharing these five weeks with the group has allowed us to experience a small "global Marist world" and discover how our heart connects with this way of living the gospel, "Marists of Champagnat for a global family." As Brother Ernesto reminded us at the beginning of our last week in Rome: "Champagnat frequently repeated it: "Mary, this is your work" [final message of the XXII General Chapter], and it is certainly true of the experience gained in the course of these days which gives me a total belief that She will also continue looking after this "New La Valla."



MARIST WORLD



El Salvador
Retreat of Brothers



Australia
Lavalla200> Mount Druitt



Colombia: Provincial Council Norandina with
General Coucilliors Brothers João and Ken



France: Spirituality for the third age
(Manziana) in Lyon



South Africa
Marist Mercy Care



Brazil: New Council of the Province of Brasil
Sul-Amazônia: Brothers Deivis, Manuir,
Odilmar, Sandro Andre and Onorino.

NIGERIA: A COLOURFUL CELEBRATION AND A JOYFUL DAY

CELEBRATION OF FINAL RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AND GOLDEN JUBILEES

It was an exciting moment on 10th November 2018 as people from various parts of the country, Nigeria, gathered at Holy Cross Parish, Uturu, to celebrate and witness the Final Profession of Religious vows of Brothers Jude Mary Ogwuegbu and Daniel Chikwendum Anyaoha, and the Golden Jubilee celebration of Brothers Joachim Okoye-Ezetulugo, Christian Mbam and Thomas Ezeakku.

The Holy Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Dr. Solomon A. Amatu, the Catholic Bishop of Okigwe Diocese. The celebration also witnessed the presence of priests, men and women Religious from different Religious Congregations, family members and the lay faithful. The occasion featured the presence of Marist staffs, Marist students and pupils, past students from various Marist Schools and dignitaries from all walks of life.

In his homily, the Bishop stressed the



importance of keeping the religious vows. He called on all to continue to pray for the newly finally professed Brothers since left alone, they could do nothing.

The Golden Jubilarians with lighted candles re-dedicated themselves to God and asked the grace to keep striving and daring in hope. According

to the Bishop, jubilee is a celebration of freedom, and of achievement in the right direction.

The Eucharistic celebration was followed by reception and entertainment at the Marist Sports Complex, Uturu.

It was indeed a colourful celebration, a joyful day, and a memorable day.

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES AND CHAPTERS



Brasil Centro-Sul (Assembly)
10 November - Curitiba



Canada (Marist Forum)
17 November - St-Gabriel de Valcartier



Mediterránea (Assembly)
5 – 8 December - Guardamar



Brasil Sul-Amazônia (Assembly and Chapter)
3 – 7 December - Veranópolis



Brasil Centro-Norte (Assembly and Chapter)
7 – 14 December - Mendes



East Central Africa (Chapter)
11 – 14 December - Kigali, Rwanda

In the coming weeks we will have the chapters of **Compostela** (Valladolid), **Ibérica** (Lardero) and **Mediterránea** (Guardamar).

THIRD AGE RENEWAL SESSION

MANZIANA - OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2018



The latest Third Age Renewal Session, that ended on December 8, brought together 11 Marist Brothers from different nationalities and 2 Marianist Brothers from the USA, the group ranging in age from 66 to 84 (Mature and well seasoned men, proud to have white hair!). In addition there were 3 members of the team. The atmosphere was relaxed and cordial.

During the first few days of the program we took the time to reflect on our lives and share our personal stories.

Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Ben Consigli, Sean Sammon, Emili Turú, Michael Green, Brendan Geary, Don Bisson and José María Ferre and other speakers tried to provide a common thread in the topics they presented: transitions in life, Marist and Marianist spirituality; mystics and prophets, health and wellness, human development and spirituality (the psychology of aging), sexuality and affectivity, Mary in our life, insights into the New Testament etc.

In general, the daily program was organized around a common prayer in the morning, followed by two sessions with a presenter. Afternoons each of us was free to organize his own program. Eucharist was celebrated before the evening meal.

An important part of the program was the pilgrimage to our foundational places. While the Marists visited the Hermitage and the surrounding areas in France, the Marianists spent time at the wellsprings of their foundation in France and Spain. During this period, due to inclement weather and their advanced age, several Brothers contracted severe colds and the flu.

During our time in Manziana we visited places of artistic and historical importance, made a 3-day pilgrimage to Assisi and had a preached retreat.

Visitors included General Councilors, members of the General House community and Brothers from Australia. A Marist Sister also spent several days with us.

During the session we enjoyed opportunities to learn more about our mission around the world through brief presentations on our various Provinces and Districts and on the ministries in which we are engaged.

Our program finished with a closing Eucharist and dinner on Saturday, December 8th.

In brief: this Third Age Renewal Session was a graced time and a wonderful experience, energizing us to enter into this stage of our life with gratitude for everything that we experienced.

Never feel bad about getting older. It's a privilege denied to many!

Manziana

It is a town located about 40 kilometres (25 miles) northwest of Rome with a population around 6500 inhabitants. It has a continental climate with cool weather during autumn.

In 1950 the Marist Brothers of Italy opened a Juniorate there and due to lack of students it closed around 1989. Subsequently the house was renovated and in 1993 it became an ongoing formation center for the Brothers of the Institute.

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE VALUE OF THE MARIST PATRIMONY

INAUGURATION OF THE RENEWED CEMETERY OF L'HERMITAGE

On Saturday, November 24, 2018, the inauguration of the renewed cemetery of l'Hermitage took place, with a time of speeches and a ceremony of blessing on the place itself, followed by sharing the friendship glass in the courtyard of Saint Joseph.

At 10h in the morning, even if it was cold and humid in the small valley of l'Hermitage, a timid autumn sun was there. Approximately 70 persons had responded to the invitation to join Brother Provincial and the Brothers, from the several neighbor communities to mark this event: heads of enterprises, friends of the community, members of the Champagnat Fraternities and representatives of the families of Brothers buried in this cemetery.



Celebration in the cemetery

Brother Michel Morel welcomed and thanked everyone for their presence. He made a brief summary of the history of the cemetery and presented the project for fixing it; jointly decided and financed by the Province l'Hermitage and the General Administration. The work began on April 16, and was finished on October 26, 2018. Brother Jesús Recalde San Martin, from the Iberian Province, (unfortunately died the past July 19), architect by profession had been asked to propose a plan to arrange and fix it, according to the specifications required. Below are some elements:

Preserve and enhance the value the Marist patrimony

This cemetery being closely linked to the history of the foundation, it was necessary to preserve some typical elements of the Marist tradition: such as the hearts; to enhance the value of the tombs of the first three Brothers, with the construction of a canopy; to construct a canopy or covering as long as the wall to protect the hearts which recall the names of all those who are buried here. To give it a more modern and coherent aspect with the whole by suppressing the grotto (of Our Lady of Montligeon ?); by contrasted colors between the roughcast and the parts in uncut or rough concrete, as well as between the crosses and their supports. To take care to integrate more the cemetery in the whole property of l'Hermitage; permitting to have a better view of the house of the origin (leveling the retaining wall and the suppression of a pillar).

To facilitate the maintenance by reducing the vegetable surfaces and creating alleys in « hard »; as well as the suspension of the cross (to horizontal bars) facilitating in this way the mowing of the turf spaces.

The three enterprises responsible for the work (masonry, green space and alleys, locksmith or ornamental ironwork) knew how to respect the specific character of the place, and thanks to their technical competence, to create something lasting, functional and harmonious. There still re-

mains to be done a small edifice or building, in hexagonal form, for meditation, contemplation, in the place of the grotto, at the end to the left; as well as to write on the concrete stela, at the entrance of the cemetery a thought of Champagnat which would give its full sense to this place: "Love God and make Him loved; this is the vocation of the Brother".

Brief historical recall

The first cemetery of l'Hermitage dates from 1827; it was situated below the present one, very close to the canal. The present one has been enlarged three times: 1834, 1841 and 1877; as well as having several repairs or improvements. Father Champagnat himself rested there from 1840 to 1889; Brother François, from 1881 to 1924. The majority of the Brothers of the first generation were also buried there; particularly Brothers Laurent, Louis and Stanislas, whose tombs have always remained in the same place. The last one buried there was Brother Henri Réocreux, in 2014. The Brothers if they ask could continue to be buried there, even if the majority of those who die are buried in the cemetery of the property of Montet in Saint Genis Laval.

Ceremony of Blessing

After the different speeches of Br. Michel Morel; of Br. Pere Ferré, provincial and of M. William Villareal (who was the master, responsible for the work), Father Gabriel Perret, Diocesan priest and at present chaplain at Our Lady of l'Hermitage, presided over the ceremony of blessing permeated, at the same time, of simplicity, fervor and hope.

The Glass of friendship

Brother Maurice Berquet, Superior of the community of reception of l'Hermitage, invited all the participants to share a glass of friendship allowing them to warm the bodies and the hearts, of evoking souvenirs and of closing even more the bonds of friendship and of fraternity.

A MISSIONARY LAND

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR THE CONSECRATED MARIST LIFE

In 2000, two Brothers of the former Marist Province of Melbourne (Br. Marcos, Australia, and Brother Manoel from Portugal), arrived in East Timor (Baucau), at the request of the Bishop of Baucau, Basilio do Nascimento Sol, to open a community and to found a centre for teacher training. And from this association emerged the Catholic Institute of Teacher Training (ICFP). In 2002, Brother Raimundo Barbosa, of the former Marist Province of Rio de Janeiro, and 5 other teachers arrived in Baucau, to help in the Institute and to qualify the teachers in Portuguese. But, due to the serious problems of the post-war period in East Timor with Indonesia to expel the invading soldiers, as well as the problems with the Tetum language, after six months they all returned to Brazil.

Marist Vocations

In 2012 the Brothers followed the call to begin the work of formation for the young people interested in knowing more about the Marist life. A house was rented and Australian Brothers Tony Clark and John, set up a basic programme of formation in Baucau. In 2013 Brother Lécio José Heckler arrived from the Marist Province of Sul-Amazônia, to work with Brother Tony, in initiating a systematic programme for Pastoral Vocations. In 2016 they officially launched the postulantship in Baucau.

With the constant increase in the number of young people interested in getting to know more about the Marist Life and later to join the Marist Congregation, a new house of Formation was built, with accommodation for 4 Brothers and 15 to 20 young people. The house was taken over in 2018 and will be officially inaugurated in 2019.

To welcome the young people interested in learning about the Marist Congregation, vocational meetings are held annually. These last for two weeks. The last vocational meeting was carried out in Baucau, from the 5th to the 18th of

November, with the aim of helping in the process of discernment of the young people's own vocation.

At the last meeting 23 young people from all parts of East Timor took part. In 2019, a new group will begin the formation process from February to August. Then, the young people will move to the Philippines, where they will continue their formation.

The Building of a school in Lautém

The Province of Australia has another missionary project in the country. This is the foundation of a Marist school in the municipality of Lautém. To contribute to this project an agreement was made with the Marist provinces of Brazil. Two Brazilian Brothers have already been in East Timor (Baucau), since the 29th of July 2018. They are Brothers João Batista Pereira, of the Province of Brazil Center-Sul, and Manoel Soares, from the Province of Brazil Centro-Norte. Their mission will consist in looking after the construction of the school, organising recruitment and future teacher training, running the school and organising the whole pedagogic and pastoral process. This entire work will be assessed and supervised by the Province of Australia.

The project is progressing little by little. We already have the land and it is hoped that, starting from 2019, work can begin on construction while solving other matters relating to documents, authorizations and plans to assist in the supply of water.

So, that is the mission of the Marist Brothers in East Timor. We ask the Lord of the Mission to send workers to our Mission. The challenge is great and the Brothers are few. May God bless our work.



Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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