



We live out our consecration, brotherhood and mission, founded on a life-integrating spirituality

## WHEREVER YOU GO: RULE OF LIFE OF THE MARIST BROTHERS

Today, October 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Institute is receiving this important document: [Wherever you go: Rule of Life of the Marist Brothers](#). It is a text

that allows us to deepen our understanding of our consecration, brotherhood and mission, and that can inspire an integrated approach to our spiritual journey. It belongs to our Proper Law, and is intended to be read, meditated on and prayed over, both personally and in community.

“Live your brotherhood with simplicity. Your primary mission is to be a brother and to promote brotherhood”.<sup>1</sup> I repeat this invitation to all of you today: for this document to be more than a “Rule” or “set of obligations”, but rather a source of inspiration and contemplation as we reflect on our contemporary Marist life and vocation as brother.

Ten years ago, in a reflection of the XXI General Chapter, we spoke of the need for a conversion of heart, in view of the ever-changing world in which we live. An in-depth revision of

our Constitutions and Statutes was proposed, with a broad consultation of Brothers and with the purpose of helping us revitalise our vocation. Therefore, the Chapter recommended that this revision be carried out and a new text to be presented to the XXII General Chapter of 2017.<sup>2</sup>

This process of consultation and revision began in 2013. We took up the reflection and conversations prompted by the guide, “Stories of the Journey, Told Around the Fire”, and then had the chance to send in suggestions and amendments to the Constitutions and Statutes. The level of participation was high, and a large number of reports were received.



### general administration

■ From 03 to 05 October, Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General and Ben Consigli, General Councillor met in Rome with the Community Superiors of the Province of Mediterránea.

■ From 04 to 05 October, the USG/UISG Education Commission and the Coordinators of Education of Religious Communities met in Rome with the participation of Brothers Carlos Rojas and Mark Omede, of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation.

■ From 03 to 09 October, the meeting of the Extend-

ed Laity Secretariat is taking place in the Philippines. Brothers Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa and João Carlos do Prado, General Councillors; Raúl Amaya, Pep Buetas and Agnes Reyes, of the Secretariat of the Laity, are taking part.

■ From October 7 to 10, the meeting of the Brothers Today International Committee is being held at the General House. Brothers Óscar Martín, General Councillor, and Tony Leon and Ángel Medina, directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, are present.

Along the way, the idea came up of producing a new document belonging to our Proper Law<sup>3</sup>, a Rule of Life, which would contain inspiring thoughts and language, complementing our Constitutions and Statutes that are more canonical in character. This proposal was put to the XXII General Chapter and accepted. The Chapter welcomed the draft text and asked the General Council to develop further a final version and approve it.

Over recent days, after studying the final draft prepared by the commission and making some changes, the General Council approved the text in English and Spanish. This is what we are presenting to the Institute today. For the moment, we are distributing a digital version. Over the coming months, we will have the French and Portuguese translations and so we will be able to present officially the final version in the four languages on January 2, 2020. The text will include some more notes and quotations that are not yet included. Now is not the time to print the Rule of Life in book-form: when we receive the approval of the Constitutions and Statutes from the Vatican, a single book with these documents will be published.

I would like to thank the editing teams for their effort and dedication. The text presented for the XXII General Chapter was prepared by Brs. Eduardo Navarro (México Occidental), Tony Clark (Australia), Antonio Peralta (Santa María de los Andes), Albert Nzabonaliba (PACE) y Sebastião Ferrarini (Brasil Sul-Amazônia). The text received from the Chapter was worked on by Brs. Seán Sammon (USA), Aureliano García Manzanal (Mediterránea) and Carlos Saúl Corzo Uribe (Norandina). My thanks to Br. Josep María Soteras, from the General Council, who coordinated the work of both groups and accompanied the process from the beginning: both the revision of the Constitutions and Statutes as well as the writing of the Rule of Life. Thanks also to all who were consulted during the process.

With the assistance of this new document, may we seize the moment to revitalise our vocation and to live according to Mary's heart, as Champagnat wanted in giving us her name. Truly, it is worth the gift of our lives to be a BROTHER today!<sup>4</sup>

Fraternally,  
Br. Ernesto Sánchez B., Superior General



**Note**

- 1: Wherever you go, 69
- 2: "TheXXI General Chapter believes that for a new-world, we need a conversion of heart. A thorough revision of the Constitutions and Statutes, with the full participation of the Brothers, can help to revitalize our vocation. To facilitate this, the XXI General

- Chapter recommends that the General Government appoint a commission to carry out this revision and that the new text be presented at the XXII General Chapter. (Document of the XXI General Chapter, 2009)
- 3: In the Institute, the legislative bodies are the General Chapter and the Provincial Chapter. They

- establish the law, either directly or through a major Superior. The Proper Law is made up of the Constitutions approved by the Holy See, and the statutes, Norms, and Rules of Procedure approved by the authorities of the Institute (Explanatory note I, Constitutions edition 2010, page 161)
- 4: Wherever you go, Introduction

**PARAGUAY**

On September 28 and 29, at the CEM of Coronel Oviedo, 46 lay people, brothers and educators from all of the Marist Centres of Paraguay participated in a beautiful and fruitful Retreat organized by the Paraguayan Zonal Team of the laity and by the Team of Lay Communities of the Province.

**SPAIN**

On 20 and 21 September, the first Board of Superiors took place in Lardero (Province of Ibérica). Guidance was given concerning the development of the Community Life Project: to keep very much in mind the provincial priorities of the triennium. The superiors received some suggestions on how to “build bridges” in the community. The Brother Provincial gave a number of reports on the progress of the province.

**GUATEMALA**

On Friday, October 4, the last Nucleus of Vocation Animation (NAV) of 2019 was held in Liceo Guatemala. An opportunity was given to gather the fruits of the meetings held over the year and also to share the dreams for the next 2020, and feel called to continue working in the various vocational searches and reflections.

**AUSTRALIA**

Recently, Marist Youth Ministry hosted a meeting organised by the Lasallians, for youth ministers from across Sydney to discuss ways we can collaborate and support each other. Much was gained from the fruitful discussion that arose and we all look forward to meeting at The Two Wolves in November to further our discussion.

Agios.Mar

## THE CAUSE OF BROTHER BASILIO ADVANCES STEP BY STEP



**M**rs. Liliana Columba Torres Vázquez, bearer of the Trust and the Public Copy of the Acts of the diocesan tribunal, concluded in Guadalajara (Mexico) on September 11, 2019, travelled to Rome accompanied by Brother José de Jesús Hernández, vice-provincial of Western Mexico, to deliver this documentation to the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints.

Mrs. Liliana Columba Torres Vázquez, who had sworn before the tribunal of Guadalajara to be the faithful bearer to Rome of the statements of the 21 witnesses heard by the judge, fulfilling her oath, delivered on September 30, 2019, to Mn. Giacomo Pappalardo, the Public Copy of the Suppletive Process instructed in the diocese of Guadalajara (Mexico) concerning the virtues and fame of life of Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán. With this gesture, the Cause of Brother Basilio

goes one step further.

At the end of this procedure, Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún, Postulator General, asked the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, to authorize him to open the documentation and to proceed to issue the Decree of validity of everything that was done by the tribunal of Guadalajara.

Present at the ceremony were Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún, Postulator General, Mrs. Liliana Columba Torres Vázquez, bearer, accompanied by Brother José de Jesús Hernández, Vice-Provincial of México Occidental. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General of the Institute; and Brother Omar Peña representing the community of the General House.

H. Antonio Martínez Estaún,  
Postulador general

marist world

*Australia  
Marists of the Bridge Builders programme*



*Uruguay: National Meeting of Marist teenager -  
Casa San José de Montevideo*



*Thailand  
Brothers of the Marist District of Asia*



*Philippines: Meeting of the extended Laity Secre-  
tariat with the Champagnat movement, Manila*



*Italy: Training course on inter-congregationality  
organized by the "Tutti Fratelli" group*



*Spain  
European Team Brothers Today, Valladolid*

Paraguay: Marist Youth, beacons of hope

70 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM MARIST CENTRES ON THE MOVE

Following the motto "We are Beacons of Hope", 70 young people from all the Marist Centres of Paraguay, Province of Cruz del Sur, symbolically stopped their march between September 14 and 15 and camped in the Marist House of Ytú, which offered them a fruitful period of life and space to encounter their vocation and mission.

In an atmosphere of celebration, of authentic joy, the young men and women celebrated three years of World Youth in Paraguay together with their animators and they were given the opportunity to recall everything that they had experienced during their journey, evaluating what had been achieved and what they had learned.

On this occasion the camp had a social perspective. The young men and women were invited to disconnect from everything in order to go to seek the Light that shines in them and, from that "place", throughout the two days they worked on public policies to develop a Solidarity Project that will give Hope to those who need it most.

As a result of prayer, reflection and exchange, a Volunteer Programme

was planned for the month of November in the town of Horqueta. An action that will undoubtedly demonstrate their vitality and allow them to experience in a unique way the value of fraternity.



Colombia: Marist Solidarity

## LAY MARISTS INSPIRED BY BROTHER EDUARDO BOTERO ARANGO

On Saturday, September 7, the group of Lay Marists "Brother Eduardo Botero Arango" of Bogotá—in honor of the former Provincial of the former Marist Province of Colombia, who died last year—organized a preventive health care team for the students of Colegio Soledad Acosta de Samper in Bosa, a school administered by the Marist Brothers since the beginning of this year.

Through this activity we wanted to respond to the calls of the XXII General Chapter and the VI Provincial Chapter, inviting the Marists of Champagnat to respond to emerging needs by prioritizing service to the most vulnerable.

Inspired by the work of Brother Eduardo and his eagerness to serve his neighbor, the lay Marists, some of them health professionals, cared for 123 children between the ages of 4 and 11—119 students from kindergarten, transition, and first, second and third grades from the school and 4 children from the neighborhood. The children's height and weight were taken and their Body Mass Index (BMI) determined, along with their growth charts, in order to be able to diagnose deficiencies in growth and development and/or nutrition needs. In the area of dentistry, they were given the COP index (decayed, filled and lost), oral hygiene education, fluoridation and diagnosis of occlusion and/or respiratory problems, which have an impact on phono-audiological problems,



and other obstacles to good reading and writing skills.

The team began the day with a presentation and a talk to parents, where the importance of preventive health was explained and how events of this type can be instrumental in the development of their children.

While the students waited to be seen, various videos were shown on oral health, bodily hygiene and the life and work of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

We thank Lic. Diana Cristina Lozano, rector of the school, as well as Mr. Brian Baquero, Evangelization Coordinator, for their availability, welcome and collaboration in carrying out this initiative. Our thanks also go to

Heidy Vanegas, Johana González, Marcela Fuerte and Tatiana Ramírez, collaborators of the school in the area of student wellness. Our final and most special thanks to the Lord Jesus for having blessed our activity and to St. Marcellin Champagnat for having bequeathed to us a Marian and apostolic charism that invites us to go out to meet children and young people to tell them how much Jesus loves them.

The late Brother Eduardo Botero Arango was a lover of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, and for many years he accompanied and encouraged them from its very beginning during the mandate of Brother Charles Howard.

Madagascar: Missionaries of Joy

# FIVE BROTHERS FROM THE MADAGASCAR PROVINCE RENEW THEIR TEMPORARY VOWS DURING THE ANNUAL RETREAT

36 brothers from the Madagascar province participated in the annual retreat that took place from September 15 to 21. Father Sata Jean Noel, a priest of the diocese of Ambatondrazaka, led the retreat basing it on Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel" (Evangelii Gaudium).

In their sharing and personal testimonies during the retreat, the Brothers especially emphasized expressions such as "bearers of joy", "witnesses of joy in the spirit of the Gospel", "evangelizing community", "dynamism and creativity in the mission", "Church going out, oriented

towards the peripheries", "missionaries of joy". It should be noted that on Saturday September 21, five brothers in temporary vows renewed their commitment during the Eucharistic celebration.



### Brazil

The Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul has published "Caminhar Marista 5", an edition whose objective is to guide the collaborators of the PMBCS itself, of the Marist Group and of FTD Education so that they are in harmony with the objectives of the Marist Institute and its mission. The publication provides knowledge and reflections for the development of spirituality in a personal and collective way.



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