



## CAMEROON

# FINAL VOWS OF BR. NDI DERIC NGONG

**B**r. Ndi Deric Ngong, from the province of West Africa took his final profession on 22 December 2021 in Cameroon. The Archbishop Andrew Nkea, bishop of the Archdiocese of Bamenda, presided the celebration, that took place at the campus of St Albert's Comprehensive College, in Bafut (Photos).

We thank God for a Br. Ndi's Vocation, keeping in mind that the region is a restive region that has suffered a huge setback since the outbreak of the anglophone crisis in Cameroon, that has been rocking the region for over 5 years now. During the last months, two other Brothers from the West Africa Province took their final profession: Br. Aristide Yaho



Ghislain made his perpetual vows in Cote d'Ivoire, in October, and Br. Lawrence Doe Wonipokueh took his final profession 18 December, in Liberia.

## general administration

■ After various activities during the month of December and the beginning of January, in the provinces of South America and those based in Spain, Brothers Ernesto, Luis Carlos, Ben and Sylvain returned to Rome in the last few days.

■ Brothers Michael Sexton (Australia) and Xavi Barceló (L'Hermitage) have just arrived at the General House to start assignments in the General Administration of the Institute as part of the ongoing formation team. Br Patrick McNamara (USA) as Superior of the Community, and Jorge Gaio (Brasil Centro-Sul) as Econome General.

■ Brothers Joaquim Sperandio, Joe Walton and Teófilo Minga completed their service as members of the Manziana community of the Ongoing Formation Team. Br Joaquim returned to the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul in December; Br Joe is on his way back to Southern Africa for a holiday before starting his new mission; and Br Teofilo will return to the Province of Compostela in February.

■ On Monday, Br Ben, General Councillor, participated in a meeting with the De La Salle Brothers, where he presented Marist life and mission in Europe to the General Council and a group of European leaders of the congregation.

■ The Director of FMSI is meeting this week, via zoom, with Br Crispin from East Asia, and with representatives of De La Salle to consolidate partnerships and projects.

■ On Tuesday, the directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, Brothers Angel Diego and Francis, participated in the meeting of the executive committee of the Marist International Solidarity Network, to organise the 2nd Marist Solidarity Assembly, to be held in February.

■ From Tuesday to Thursday, the Bureau of the Laity is promoting the first block of formation for leaders animating the lay Marist vocation. The first group is made up of representatives from Asia, Africa and Europe. The second group will begin its formation in March, with participants from America and Oceania.

PROVINCE L'HERMITAGE

# BR. GABRIEL VILLA-REAL APPOINTED PROVINCIAL

The Superior General and his Council, after studying the consultation of the Brothers of the Province of the Hermitage, have appointed Br. Gabriel Villa-Real as the new Provincial for a period of three years.

Br Gabriel will begin his mandate during the celebration of the Provincial Chapter, which will take place between 3 and 7 July.

Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, thanked Br. Gabriel for his generosity in accepting this service of leadership in the Marist life and mission of the Province of the Hermitage. He also thanked the current Provincial, Br. Pere Ferré, for the years of service he has given to the Institute, accompanying the different situations of the Province.



### Br. Gabriel Villa-Real

He was born in Barcelona in 1967. After his years of juniorate and novitiate in Llinars del Vallès and Les Avellanes, he made his first profession in 1986. He completed his initial Marist formation with a year of scholasticate in Barcelona and three years in Alcalá de Henares. He made his perpetual profession in Llinars del Vallès in 1993. He obtained a degree in General Basic Education (EGB)

in Science from the Cardenal Cisneros University School in Alcalá de Henares and later a degree in Geology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. He worked for some years as a formator and teacher at the juniorate in Llinars del Vallès, then as a teacher, catechist, animator in youth ministry and scout groups, community superior and school director in Rubí (1998-2004). In recent years, his activity has been

concentrated in the service of the Province of L'Hermitage, first as Director of the Educational Works Service of Catalonia (2005-2010), then as Coordinator of the Secretariat of Mission of the Province of L'Hermitage (2010-2016) and member of the Provincial Council since 2006. He is currently Vicar Provincial, delegate for the protection of children in the Province and coordinator of the European Protection Team.

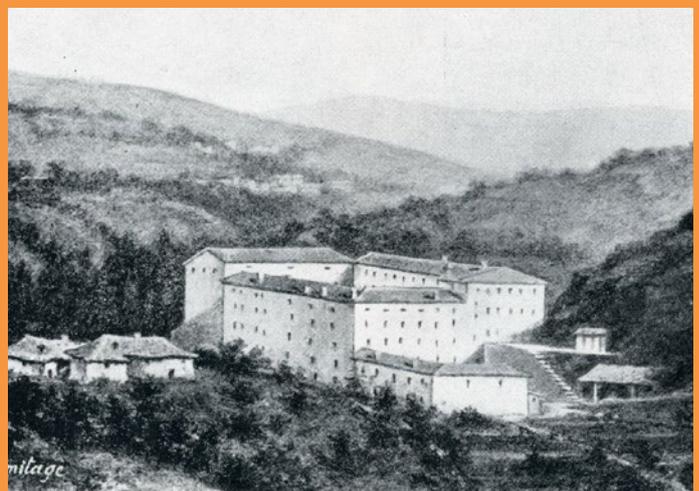
### Br. François first Superior General of the Marist Institute

## 41. APPOINTED SUPERIOR OF THE HERMITAGE

From 1860, after his resignation as Superior General, he resided at the Hermitage as superior of the community. He strove to make the Hermitage a Marist sanctuary, the house that Marcellin had built with his own hands. Brother François was always, and for everyone, a model of prayer and the inner life. For example, when he returned from communion, his smile would light up with the joy of having received the Lord.

He left us few letters and retreat notes from these years, but in one of them he wrote: "There were three things that St. John of the Cross usually asked of God: the first, not to spend a day without suffering; the second, not to die superior; the third, to end his life in humiliation (24 November)".

Other episodes



## PROVINCE MEDITERRÁNEA

# VII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER



The Province of Mediterránea held its VII Provincial Chapter in the Marist House of Guardamar del Segura, in Alicante (Spain), from the 2nd to the 4th of January. During the Chapter celebration, Brother Aureliano García Manzanal began his service as Provincial, replacing Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes. Likewise, Brothers Samuel Gómez, Damiano Forlani, Juan Pablo Hernández, José Luis Elías, Juan Ignacio Poyatos and Javier Gragera were elected Provincial Councillors for this three-year term.

A total of thirty capitulants took part in the meeting which was attended by the General Councillors, Ben Consigli and João Carlos Do Prado, and the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, who participated online.

In his opening address, Brother Aurelio thanked all those who have accompanied him on his Marist journey: "Thank you, brothers and laypeople, teachers, social workers, catechists, animators, volunteers, friends who work with us every day in the field of education and social commitment".

In his first communiqué, the new provincial presented his ideas, expectations and objectives under five headings: 1) For whom do you walk, 2) The road, place of encounters, 3) A pair of



shoes for the road, 4) On the margins of the road and 5) Let's go to the other shore. [You can read the whole document here, in Spanish.](#)

During the second day, the brothers reflected together on the perspectives and experiences developed at the Mission Assembly, which took place from 4-5 December 2022 ([see here](#)). Through contemplation and visualisation, each brother member of the Chapter has chosen strong lines of action for the triennium.

On the last day of the VII Provincial Chapter, the participants continued with the study and approval of other activities and decisions of the Province. Then, the Brother Capitulants conducted the scrutiny for the election of the Provincial Councillors for the triennium 2021-2024.

## PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Province of Compostela held its VII Provincial Chapter in Valladolid from 27 to 30 December 2021. Its motto was “Homes of Light”, recalling the last circular of the Superior General. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and João Carlos do Prado, General Councillor and liaison with Europe, participated on behalf of the General Administration.



Brother Máximo Blanco assumed the office of Provincial on the first day of the meeting, replacing Brother Tomás Briongos, who has led the Province for the past few years. Brother Luis Carlos asked the new Provincial to “continue to animate the Province with shared leadership, vision, a sense of responsibility and commitment to Marist life.



Brother Máximo Blanco expressed his gratitude for the confidence placed in him to lead a “consolidated” Province for which he dreams of a “participative and co-responsible structure”, with leaders who animate the journey and people who walk together. Among his priorities, Brother Máximo pointed out the importance of “showing the joy of being a Brother, joining in this journey with young people” and following the paths of formation and growth. He recalled that “the revolutions that have been most creative are those born of the transformation of the heart,” and it is “fundamental to continue to care for spirituality in people and to offer an experiential path of interiority”.

Marist Spirituality and Life and the Marist Mission were the two axes around which the work of the participants of the Provincial Chapter revolved.

In their interventions, Brothers Luis Carlos and João Carlos invited us to a profound reflection on the place and mission of the Brothers in the present context of the Marist charism, dreaming of the type of Marist Life that we wish in 15 years’ time and committing ourselves to it from now on, and in the processes of accompaniment and human, Christian and Marist formation. We must be creative in the search for new languages in order to be able to spread the Good News in a context that considers it “neither good nor old”.

Brothers Antonio, Eduardo, Lisardo, Raúl, Román and Salvador form the Provincial Council of Compostela which will accompany Brother Provincial, Máximo Blanco, for the next three years.

[Further information, videos and photos can be found at this link.](#)

VENEZUELA

The National Evangelisation Team met from 6-8 January to reflect, pray and discern together, in an atmosphere of fraternity, on evangelisation in this country.

USA

The second cohort of the Marists of Champagnat Formation Program was launched on January 2nd with 132 people taking part in the opening prayer service. There are 72 people signed up for the second cohort, 5 of which are Brothers. The companions group includes 68 people, 30 of whom are Brothers.

COMPOSTELA

Under the title “Inspiring experiences of leadership”, the province will hold an online seminar focused entirely on education and its challenges for the future. The online seminar is scheduled for 19 January at 18:00 Spanish time.

[Registration](#)

ZIMBABWE

The New Horizons project was launched in the country last December with the presence of Br Mark Omede from the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation and Br Francis Jumbe, representative of the Province of Southern Africa. The Province of Southern Africa is a pilot project of the African Marist Mission Commission, which aims to increase equal access to quality education for all children.

WEST AFRICA

THE PROVINCE HOLDS WORKSHOP ON PROPOSAL WRITING



A Virtual Workshop was organized by the Province of West Africa on Proposal Writing for the entire membership of the Administrative Unit. The program which was on 11th December 2021 focused on one of the priorities of the first Provincial Chapter, the sustainability in the Mission.

The workshop, which was facilitated by **Misean Cara**'s West African Development Mentor, Mr. Michael Osei Nkrumah, focused on basic elements of Proposal writing.

Participants were taken through Project Cycle Management, namely Problem Identification, Analysis Design, Implementation, and Evaluation. Possible reasons for the non-approval of proposals were discussed. Stakeholders' involvement, insufficient needs assessment inadequate strategy development, sustainability issues, and inconsistent

budgeting among other reasons were cited.

In his opening address, the Provincial, Br. Cyprian Gandebo, said that the work of evangelisation cannot be carried out by the brothers alone and expressed

the need for networking and collaboration of the province with other groups and agencies who have a similar mission. He thus underlined the reason to get the brothers informed in project

management skills to respond effectively to the needs of the people around us, especially children. He encouraged the Brothers to take the workshop seriously, to get empowered to serve the province.

According to the office of the Project Team, this workshop was the first of two phases planned by the province. The second phase will evolve a few selected brothers who will be trained in projects management skills.



PROVINCE IBÉRICA

# VII CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE

From 26 to 29 December 2021 the Chapter of the Iberian Province was held in Lardero, Spain. The motto that inspired the various working sessions was “With you, wherever you go”.

The Chapter assembly was composed of 26 Brothers and six lay guests. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Ben Consigli, General Councillor and liaison with the Marist region of Europe, participated from the General Administration of the Institute.

The Chapter was opened by Brother Moisés Alonso with words of thanks for the last six years in which he has been Provincial, emphasising “the satisfaction of what he has lived and learned” and in which he gave “thanks to all with whom I have had the opportunity to share our life”. Brother Ernesto, for his part, invited all the brothers and laypeople of the Province of Ibérica to “listen in the depths of their hearts: What does God wish for the Province of Ibérica today?”

On the first day, Br. Abel Muñoz took office as the new Provincial. In his first words, he underlined some ideas about three essential areas of Marist life: spirituality, community or fraternity, and mission. In his mission of animation, Br. Abel will be accompanied by the new Provincial Council, composed of Brothers Alejandro Mena, Alfonso Fernández, Iñaki Ruiz, Íñigo García, Jaime Comabella and Samuel Holguín.

The entire chapter revolved around the community experience, the profound experience of encounter and fraternity and dreams for the future of the province. The reflection led to the



unanimous proposal of six main lines to be proposed to the new Provincial Council for the design of the new strategic plan for the three-year period:

1. To promote and accompany the Marist vocation, cultivating identity and belonging to the Marist charism.
2. To grow together as a charismatic family, cultivating and making visible the new relationships between Brothers and Laity.
3. To seek and put into practice new ways of energising communities, based on hospitality, plurality, fraternity and the experience of faith.
4. To move towards a spirituality that is more embodied in the new situations in which we live, where interiority occupies a place of priority.
5. To promote our Marist mission, in communion with others, responding boldly to new situations and emerging needs.
6. To propose alternative models for evangelisation, with a new language, where the love of God is made visible through encounters with the needy, accompaniment, specific formation and interiority.

Various other resources, such as videos, photos and chronicles, are available at this link in Spanish.



**Institute of the Marist Brothers General House**

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto:comunica@fms.it)

**Website**

<http://www.champagnat.org>

**YouTube**

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

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