



## OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE CHAPTER'S MESSAGE

### SUPERIOR GENERAL: 'I PRESENT YOU ALL THE CHAPTER DOCUMENT'



The new general government officially launched the Message of the XXII General Chapter on Nov. 24 at the general house.

"I present you all the Chapter document," affirmed superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez during a Mass held at the main chapel. "We wanted this to be the moment that we launch this document. These are the calls, the main lines of action we want to take."

During the Eucharistic celebration, vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and general councillors Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Óscar Vicario handed members of the general administration, staff and friends of the Institute a copy of the

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

On Nov. 25 the members of "Tutti Fratelli" gathered at the general house of the De La Salle Brothers with the participation of about 10 Brothers of the general administration, including Brothers Ernesto Sánchez (superior general) and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (vicar general).

On Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 27 - 28, Br Javier Espinosa and Pep Buetas, directors of the Secretariat of the Laity, gathered in Rome. On Wednesday, Br Javier will visit the community of Lagny, France, and he will then participate in a meeting on a project of interiority in Valladolid, Spain, until Dec. 8.

Brother Tony Leon is in L'Hermitage this week for the Assembly of Leaders of Youth Ministry that began on Monday and ends on Friday, December 1. Three members of FMSI - Marzia Ventimiglia, Federica de Benedettis and Brother Álvaro Sepúlveda

- traveled to Lebanon on Tuesday to visit the Fratelli Project in Rmeileh until Friday.

This week, Brothers Joe McKee (Europe Centre-Ouest), Víctor Preciado (Mexico Occidental) and Antonio Ramalho (Brazil Centro-Norte), members of the last general government, returned to their provinces.

From Dec. 1 - 2, Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede (directors of the Secretariat of Mission) will attend the 'VI Education Seminar - Commission of Education' with USG and UISG in the general house of the De La Salle Brothers in Rome.

From Dec. 1 - 5, Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, vicar general, and Ben Consigli, general councillor, will participate in the provincial chapter of Santa María de los Andes in Santa Cruz (Bolivia).

message, printed in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

The event also aimed at celebrating the Chapter with those who had not been able to travel to Colombia.

At the start of the Mass, Brothers João Carlos, Óscar, Ernesto and Luis Carlos lit a candle on behalf of the eight general councillors. The four other general councillors – Brothers Benjamin Consigli, Josep Maria Soteras, Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and Kenneth Charles McDonald – were not able to attend as they have not yet arrived in Rome.

As they lit the candles, the superior of the general house community, Brother Antonio Sancamillo, announced the names of the eight recently elected general council-

lors and told the congregation that “these Brothers will carry the light to the Brothers and the Marist works of the whole world.”

“These candles represent the Paschal candle that is the source of our faith,” he added.

During the offertory, members of staff and Brothers carried five paintings of Brother Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today secretariat, that represent the five calls of the Chapter.

Participants, which included also members of the San Leone Magno School and friends of the Institute, then took part in an aperitif at the Champagnat Hall, followed by dinner at the dining room of the hotel next to the general house.



**These Brothers will carry the light to the Brothers and the Marist works of the whole world.**

Br Antonio Sancamillo



For more information and to read the full Message of the XXII General Chapter, visit: <https://goo.gl/JCBYyT>. To watch a video on the event, visit: <https://goo.gl/9jHPO9>.

## MESSAGE OF THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER

### JOURNEYING TOGETHER AS A GLOBAL FAMILY!

On Friday, Nov. 24, the Message of the 22nd General Chapter of the Marist Brothers, which was held in Rionegro, Colombia, from Sept. 8 – Oct. 20, was announced to all the

Marists of Champagnat.

The core of the message is the slogan: Journeying Together as a Global Family, developed in five calls, which can also be expressed as a prayer:

*Transform us Jesus, and send us  
as a global charismatic family,  
a beacon of hope in this turbulent world,  
to be the face and hands of your tender mercy.  
Inspire our creativity to be bridge-builders,  
to journey with children and young people  
on the margins of life,  
and to respond boldly to emerging needs.*

The message is the result of an exercise of discernment of the capitulars, who sought to answer two fundamental questions:

Who is God asking us to be in this emerging world?  
What is God asking us to do in this emerging world?

The five calls, which are answers to these questions, are applied in five areas of Marist life and mission: our vocation as Brothers; our mission; Brother-Lay relationship, as Marists of Champagnat; government and how we use our resources.

The page to promote the message was created, with the support and cooperation of the Brasil Centro-Sul province: <http://lavalla200.champagnat.org/>. In this digital space, in



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SPAIN

During the weekend, 26 animators from the Ibérica Province met in Alcalá de Henares for a prayer workshop prepared by the Youth Ministry Team. Under the theme 'Move towards the world', the animators lived a day becoming sensitive to injustices and situations of the most disadvantaged, looking for ways to act before them. The participants will pass on the formation they received to the rest of the animators of their school in their respective cities, to promote the reflection of social inequalities.

### BRAZIL

The "mystical and communion" retreat, organized by the Sector of Consecrated Life and Laity and animated by the Provincial Coordinator of the MChFM, Dércio Berti, took place at the Marist Social Center in Itapejara do Oeste (province of Brasil Centro-Sul) from Nov. 11 - 12. The objective of the retreat was to celebrate the La Valla Year in the dimension of Mysticism and Communion, to discern the itinerary of Marist life as lay people and Brothers, and to live with people who live the Marist charism of different people. Participants included representatives of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, lay groups, lay youth and four Brothers.

### EAST TIMOR

Brothers Lecio Heckler and Pedrito Tambosi are promoting the Marist vocation in the country. They are currently in contact with around 40 young people who are discerning about an eventual call to be Marist Brothers. At the same time, they are also accompanying the four novices and four postulants of the country, as well as their families.

In addition to the message, it is possible to download other Chapter documents. In addition, inherent resources will be added to the five calls, which will be protagonists in the life and mission of the Marists of Champagnat during the next eight years. We invite the Administrative Units to share re-

sources that will eventually create for the local implementation of the calls and that we will disclose through that page. During the next few weeks, the Provinces will receive printed copies of the Message by mail. You can also print the message from the files available at: <https://goo.gl/JCByyT>.

## SPAIN: AGREEMENT WITH THE GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN CARDENAL CISNEROS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



The Centre for Child Protection (CCP) of the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome is one of the most important Catholic references in the prevention of sexual abuse and, in general, in the protection of children in the world.

At the beginning of 2017, FMSI signed a cooperation agreement with the CCP to impart the programme "Protection: our commitment" in the Marist universities and provinces of the different continents.

The goals of this programme are: to promote the protection of children by promoting prevention against sexual abuse and other kinds of abuse, and to increase awareness of the importance of creating healthy and safe environments.

For this reason, the Cardenal Cisneros University College in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, began a course on Oct. 1 for 97 Marist teachers, counselors and directors from Spain, Portugal, Romania, Greece, France, Hungary and Lebanon.

The course is developed in a semi-face-to-face mode. They follow a series of readings and evaluations through a virtual platform and hold face-to-face sessions to discuss and reflect on the topics with specialists in the field.

The contents of the course include: good treatment, culture and childhood, risk factors and protection from abuse, signs and indicators in sexually abused people, domestic abuse and its consequences, among other topics.

It is very likely that the Cardenal Cisneros University College will be followed by other Marist organisations and universities such as the PUC in Paraná (Brazil), the Marcelino Champagnat University in Lima (Peru) and the Marist University of Mérida (Mexico).

This is a very concrete way of putting into practice the call that, once again, the XXII General Chapter made: "Commit ourselves firmly to promoting and defending the rights of children."



## MARIST WORLD



Madagascar: Inauguration of the new house of the Anatihazo community



Italy: Marist European Conference in Syracuse



General House: Meeting of the International Committee of the Marist Mission



Philippines: Marists from Marikina participate in an orientation workshop, MAPAC



Australia: Marist Youth Ministry Adelaide



Syria: Students finish course on problem solving and decision making, Aleppo

## AGIOS-MAR 2

### BROTHER ANTONIO MARTÍNEZ ESTAÚN, POSTULATOR GENERAL

“Agios-Mar” is an initiative of the general postulation of the Institute of the Marist Brothers to spread the news about the causes of Marist saints.

The general postulation is a service of the general administration to collaborate with the superior general and his council.

To attend the general postulation, superior general and his council appoint a brother as general postulator as “the official in charge of the Institute’s causes of beatification and canonisation. He prepares the documents dealing with these causes, and works to make known whatever could bring them to a successful conclusion” (Constitutions 137.7). Brother Antonio Martínez



Estaún began his service as general postulator on 1 September 2016

and has been appointed to this post for a period of three years.

## GERMAN MARIST COORDINATORS GATHER FOR THE FIRST TIME SCOTLAND: KEEPING THE MARIST CHARISM ALIVE



Marist coordinators of four German schools in Cham, Furth, Recklinghausen and Mindelheim met for the first time in Glasgow, Scotland, from Oct. 28 – 30 to discuss their roles and plan next year's tasks and goals.

The five coordinators looked at their work in their schools – Maristenkolleg Mindelheim, Maristen Gymnasium Furth, Maristen Realschule Cham and Maristen Realschule Recklinghausen – for the coming year, ways of connecting with the schools' communities, types of Marist activities, and ways for the coordinators to stay connected.

In recent years, the ownership of the four Marist schools in Germany went from the Brothers to the diocese, which agreed to keep the Marist charism.

The school principals attend the province's conferences and teachers take part in the province's annual pilgrimage to L'Hermitage, France.

The schools have also kept Marist activities running throughout the year, such as the "Marist Student Leadership programme" and the "Marist Curriculum," which each school follows in its religion classes.

The coordinators, some of which are new, include Hans Staudner (Cham), Eva Alfranseder (Furth), Ulrike Weber (Recklinghausen), as well as Wolfgang Hacker and Christian Diepold (Mindelheim).

Each coordinator presented an already existing project from their school to the other coordinators of other schools for possible inspiration.

Participants also better understood their role as coordinators and the role of supporting Marist teams currently present in each school.

They agreed on a large meeting of the four schools around Pentecost, regular gatherings of the coordinators within Germany and better communication.

After the three-day meeting, they paid a short visit to the centre of Glasgow and its necropolis, as well as to Edinburgh.

The next meeting of the coordinators is scheduled to take place in November.

## SPAIN: COMPOSTELA GATHERS 100 NEW EDUCATORS

### "YOU FEEL PART OF SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER, THAT GOES BEYOND SCHOOL"

The goal of the meeting in Ponferrada, Spain, of nearly 100 new teachers was to share their experiences as educators of grades one, two and three in a Marist centre of the Compostela province and to increase their knowledge of the institution and of Marist education. The Centro social Urogallo, managed by the Marist Brothers and Caritas, was the chosen place for this

meeting that started began at dawn with an awareness of the new day that lied before them.

From there, the participants reflected in depth on their being educators, both Christian and Marist, and learned a little more about the organisation of the Compostela Province.



There was also time for informal sharing and enjoying a sunny day in the 'Temple' neighbourhood of Ponferrada.

Perhaps the best summary of the day is the words of one of the participants: "I am pleased to return yet another year to Ponferrada."

"It is a day of great excitement and enthusiasm," she added. "You renew your energy and you feel part of something much bigger, that goes beyond school. I am proud and fortunate to be part of the Marist family. Thanks for yet another year. The fact of getting up on a Saturday at 6.30 in the morning, after a week of work, early and with a smile... is because the trip and the experience is worth it. Thank you."



## DEFYING OUR USUAL INERTIAS

### TOWARDS A NEW PROFILE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LAITY

The Chapter message points out the challenge lived in the last Chapter: "Challenged to abandon our usual inertia, as well as our comforts and securities, to be able to respond genuinely to new needs."

It is in this spirit that we must read the appointment, by the general council, of a lay person as the new director of the Secretariat of the Laity, as well as the notes for a new format in the organization of such Secretariat.

Since 2002, year in which a commission of laity was appointed at international level, it has been a brother who has guided and animated the lay processes in the Institute.

After 15 years, as of January 2018, Raúl Amaya, a Chilean lay, married and with two children, will assume this post.

Pep Buetas and Agnes Reyes will be his assistants. The group will also include João Luis Fedel, Kate Fogarty,

Ana Saborío and Brother Elias Iwu. A general councillor will also be part of the Secretariat.

The step taken means there is an age of majority in the laity's journey within the Institute.

This lay leadership has been worked on during these years and is assuming that we feel brothers and laity around the same table of the Gospel and of the charism, and that together we "be a prophetic reminder of the common dignity and fundamental equality of the entire People of God." (XXII CG, Call 3).

It is the fruit of a process that continues to seek communion, but with a greater role of the laity.

This new profile of the members of the Secretariat implies a greater commitment in the lay processes of their provinces, some type of personal participation in community experiences and a wider disposition for various animations in the region.

The extended Secretariat wants to be an organism of animation rather than consultation or reflection.

The presence of a lay director and the focus of the animation of the members of the Secretariat, are also



related to the global lay identity, or as the last Chapter has repeatedly expressed, with the sense of a charismatic Family.

This concept, already widespread in the Church, is assuming a global body as Marists of Champagnat, that is, of all those who have chosen to follow Jesus in the style of Mary, through the identity of a religious brother or of a lay person.

Globality is not confusion, nor assimilation, nor superposition, nor uniformity, nor homogeneity, nor equality...

Globality means affinity, unity, communion, the same root, spiritual kinship, common visibility ...

The Chapter affirmed that as Marists of Champagnat, "we need new structures and processes that recognise and support our different vocational paths as Marists."

The new profile for the Secretariat expresses the desire to continue promoting the lay identity in communion with the brothers, which manifests itself in a laicism lived in the family, in one's own profession and in the midst of the world.

The lay delegation that is being promoted in the Institute, now with the new director, means that each group of this charismatic family has its own identity, organization and specific path.

This is what the final message of the II Seminar on Charism and Laity of the Latin American Conference of Religious CLAR (2017) has recalled: Charismatic families are a number of institutions and groups of believers united by a single foundational charism or charismatic root – although living different life styles and nuances of the same charism, that includes different vocations and life styles, none of which rises above or overlaps with the others, since they walk together in life complementing each other for the good of all and at the service of the Kingdom."

The new structure of the Secretariat of the Laity challenges us to abandon comfort and security in terms of the inertia experienced in the brother-laity relationship. The challenge is for everyone.

The Chapter says that, as Marists, we are all "fully committed."

Commitment of the laity in a life option for Marist values, and within a global body, with its own identity and as an organised group.

And a commitment of the brothers to create the conditions that helps elaborate this path in which the Marist charismatic Family's communion is built through vocational diversity, one's own identity and a mature and sustainable organization. *Br. Javier Espinosa*



The former Extended Secretariat of the Laity



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