



# MARIST NEWS

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

## 201 YEARS OF THE INSTITUTE

### THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARIST BROTHERS



On January 2, the Institute of the Marist Brothers celebrated 201 years of its existence. To remember its foundation in La Valla in 1817, the General Council organized a celebration at the General House in Rome.

Some brothers of the General Council, brothers and lay people who work in the General Administration and

some brothers from Italy and members of the Marist community of Giuliano, near Naples participated in the Eucharist and the feast.

Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Carlos Huidobro, Secretary General, animated the celebration. The five calls of the General Chapter were the central theme

of the meeting.

Brother Ernesto invited everyone to have confidence in the future and to walk with courage to make Marcellin's dream come true. He asked each of the Marists present to reflect on what he wanted to be and do during this year that marks the 201st anniversary of the Institute.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The general councillors are arriving to the General House to assume their new roles. Brother Ken arrived from Australia on December 29. Brother Ben Consigli arrives next Thursday.

Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar general, and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, General councillor, participated in the Chapter of the Madagascar Province from December 27 to January 4.

The Provincial Chapter of Nigeria is taking place from January 9 to 12. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Ken McDonald, General Councilor will be present.

From January 7 – 12, Brother Chris Wills, director of the Cmi Secretariat, is participating in a meeting of the Fratelli Project's Council.



## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2018

### CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS OF SECRETARIATS

**December 27 – January 4:** Provincial Chapter Madagascar – Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and Br Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa.

**January 2:** Celebration of the 201 Anniversary of Foundation.

**January 7 – 12:** Fratelli Project Council in Lebanon – Br Chris Wills.

**January 9 – 12:** Provincial Chapter Nigeria in Orlu – Br Ernesto Sánchez and Br Ken McDonald.

**January 12 – 13:** Meeting of the Brothers Today Secretariat and Manziana and Escorial teams in El Escorial, Spain – Br Tony Leon and Br Óscar Martín.

**January 15 – 19:** Marist International Solidarity Network - 1st Assembly in the General House: FMSI.

**January 15 – 17:** Assembly of the Mission Councils of Europe in Guardamar, Spain – Br Beto Rojas.

**January 16:** Regular Council in Rome.

**January 22 – 23:** BICE's Administration Council (bureau international catholique de l'enfance) in Paris, France – Br Álvaro Sepúlveda (FMSI).

**January 22 – 26:** Sustainability and formation in Curitiba, Brazil – Br Libardo.

**January 24 – 27:** Preparation for the International Gathering of Marist Youth 2019 - Guatemala – Br Mark Omede and Br Beto Rojas.

**January 25 – 27:** Leaders on Education of the Province Mediterránea in Guardamar, Spain – Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez.

**January 28 – February 3:** The community of General Council gathers in Nemi, Italy, to build community life.

**February 3 – 8:** Mission Commission for Africa in Nairobi, Kenya – Br Beto Rojas and Br Mark Omede, FMSI and Cmi.

**February 5:** meeting of people in charge of solidarity of the Marist Branches (SM, SM, SMSM, FMS) – Br Álvaro Sepúlveda (FMSI).

**February 5 – 10:** Annual general Meeting of the CSAC (Provincials of Africa) in Nairobi, Kenya – Br Oscar Martín.

**February 7 – 8:** Europe Brothers Today Commission in Lisbon, Portugal – Br Tony Leon.

**February 12 – 27:** First Plenary Session of the General Council – General House.

**February 15 – 16:** I International Marist Congress of Education in Guadalajara, Mexico – Br Álvaro Sepúlveda (FMSI).

**February 19 – 23:** General Council gathering with Secretariats and offices – General House.

**February 28 – March 2:** FMSI Board meeting, General House – Br Libardo and Marzia Ventimiglia.



#### OFFICIAL PHOTO OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

The photo of the Superior General will be available in February. The entire Council will meet for the first time at the end of January and the photo will then be edited. We will publish it in this bulletin. During this time of waiting, on our site you can find some photos of Brother Ernesto at the following address: <https://goo.gl/uXdj8v>

NEWS IN BRIEF

FIRST PROFESSIONS

In December, there were several first professions in the Institute. Br Alexnny José Flores made his vows in Medellín, Colombia. In Matola, Angola, the profession of seven novices was celebrated with the participation of Br Óscar Matín, General Councillor.

DEATH OF A MARIST VOLUNTEER

On Christmas Day, the young Australian Patrick Rodgers died suddenly in Cambodia, where he was working as a Marist volunteer, with the Brothers in Pailin. The funeral was held on January 4 in Australia. The relatives underscored how their volunteering in the Marist mission had contributed to his realization and asked the participants for a donation, as thanks, for the Marist project in Pailin.

UNITED STATES

The Province of the United States is organizing an assembly with lay Marists, which aims to create a space to explore issues inherent in the life of the laity and draw paths for the future of the charism in the country. The Assembly will be held in Long Branch (New Jersey), from July 18 to 20.

BR EMILI'S BOOK

On Tuesday, the Spanish Marist Conference, Religión Digital, Mensajeros de la Paz and Ediciones Khaf launched in Madrid, the book "A New Beginning", written by Br Emili Turú and José Manuel Vidal.

A SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS' COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY

SEMINAR WORKSHOP ON KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



Thirty Five participants coming from Nine Notre Dame Schools in the Diocese of Marbel and Five Marist Schools (Marbel, Kidapawan, Cotabato, Espina and Lagao) together with their respective local community-barangay level leaders attended a Seminar Workshop on Keeping Children Safe: A School and Community Leaders' Collaborative Advocacy. The seminar took place on November 16-17, 2017 in General Santos City, Philippines.

The workshop was aimed at strengthening the partnership of the schools and the community leaders in the protection of children. Specifically, the seminar modules tackled the key role and functions of the Barangay Child Protection Council of which the school is a member. It also clarified the collaborative efforts of the school and community leaders in working for the best interest of children.

Mrs. Naira Aratuc from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shared about

Understanding Children and the Risk-Factors in the Philippine Context. Mrs. Lourdes Gambala, a Barangay Councilor and Mrs. Ma. Lucita Romaquin, a volunteer street educator, shared testimonies of their active involvement in the Barangay Council

for the Protection of Children (BCPC). Br. Crispin Betita, tackled the topics Case Management and Guidelines for a Community Based Diversion and Prevention Programs for Children at Risk.

Br. Ted Fernandez, the Chair of the East Asia Province Child Rights and Protection Committee expressed his hopes to the participants that they would gain more knowledge and broaden their perspective in school and community in handling cases that would lead to the proper care and guidance of children and youth.

This Seminar Workshop is the third wave of the series of seminars funded by Misesan Cara and partly by Maristen Solidarity International, Germany, through FMSI.

**As our General Chapter comes to an end, we commit ourselves to be pro-active in ensuring that The Marist Institute at all levels conforms to the highest standards of child protection, so that all our works are child safe and child friendly.**

**The participants of the 22nd General Chapter - Friday, 20th October, 2017**



## MARIST WORLD



Australia:  
Adelaide Retreat



Chile: Instituto O'Higgins Rancagua Instituto  
O'Higgins Rancagua



Spain:  
Marist volunteers of Compostela



Philippines MAPAC: seminar on Child  
Rights and Protection



Madagascar: Marist lay people donate  
presents to children in need in Antsirabe



Bangladesh: Teachers seminar in  
St. Marcellin School, Moulvibazar

## EAST ASIA PROVINCE

### THE DAWNING OF LAY MARIST LIFE HAS BEGUN

Around Ten Lay people joined the brothers' community in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, for an evening of orientation and sharing on Marist Life last November 30, 2017. The process began with each participant raising questions and expressing feelings about their experience of Marist life. Some shared the need for more opportunities to get to know more the brothers and their mission and how to live Marist life in the day-to-day teaching ministry.



What followed was the sharing on Vocational Itinerary embodied in the document Being Lay Marists with a presentation of the Marist Life and Mission of the Institute. Agnes Reyes facilitated the input and reflection process. Br. John Chin, Br. Joachim Heng, Br. Anthony Cheng and Br. Paul Saw gave encouraging support through their presence in the gathering.

Prior to the meeting with the laity, the PJ community with the added presence of Br. John Heng from Sibu, Sarawak, met on November 29, 2017, for the sharing of updates from the Secretariat of the Laity particularly on the document Being Lay Marists and on the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family. It is within the thrust of the East Asia Province to establish the CMMF in places where it has not yet existed. The newly-released statement from the General Chapter was also taken up during the meeting.

With the vitality felt among the participants of this gathering of lay and brothers, practical steps forward are now being thought of to ensure that Marist life and mission grow roots among the laity in communion with the brothers.

## CONNECTED WITH YOU, PASSIONATE FOR LIFE

### VOCATIONAL YEAR IN THE PROVINCE OF WESTERN MEXICO

On December 30th last, at the end of the Provincial retreat of the Brothers, the Marist Province of Western Mexico, during a Eucharistic celebration, inaugurated the Provincial Vocational Year 2018. The intention of this initiative is to promote and strengthen the commitment for Vocation Animation, in the Marists of Champagnat of Western Mexico, in which reflection, prayer, witness and action lead to the fullness of the lived experience of the vocation to which we have been called, making Jesus known and loved. The Superior General, Brother Er-



nesto Sánchez, sent greetings to the Marists of the Province on the occasion of the launching of the Marist Vocational Year 2018 ([Text Br Ernesto in PDF](#)).

The motto of the Vocational Year is: "Connected with you, Passionate for life".

Throughout this year the Marists of the Province will be accompanied by three symbols:

The Cross with the commitment of assuming the responsibility in Vocation Animation

Candle which will enlighten the prayers and moments of interiority of the religious communities

Itinerant Cross which will be present in the activities of the Marist Educational Communities of the Province.

## COLOURING MARCHA COMPOSTELA

### EDUCATING SPIRITUALITY IN YOUTH MOVEMENTS

Over 150 young people closed the year 2017 with the Escuela Champagnat de Tiempo Libre with three formation actions designed for the Federación MarChA Compostela of Spain in Valladolid.

Nearly 100 animators of the MarChA de Compostela Groups participated in the courses of new animators, educating spirituality in youth movements and leisure time coordinator. Another 50 completed their first year of animation, discussing topics such as the profile of the MarChA animator, initiation into programming, and practical resources for leisure time animation.

The recipients of these formation actions are young people who are leading youth groups or young people who are called to lead well the provincial groups or activities with young



people in the coming years. Teaching spirituality in youth movements is one of the Province's current priorities. In these formative actions

the participants have grown in their spiritual development through all its possible expressions.

#### Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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Our website: <http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube channel:

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

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