



FINISHING A LONG CANONICAL JOURNEY

BEATIFICATION OF 19 MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH OF ALGERIA

The publication of the decree of beatification of the martyrs of the Church of Algeria, that we covered in our Agios.Mar 10, is the end of the long canonical journey of the cause, first in its diocesan phase and finally in its Roman phase.

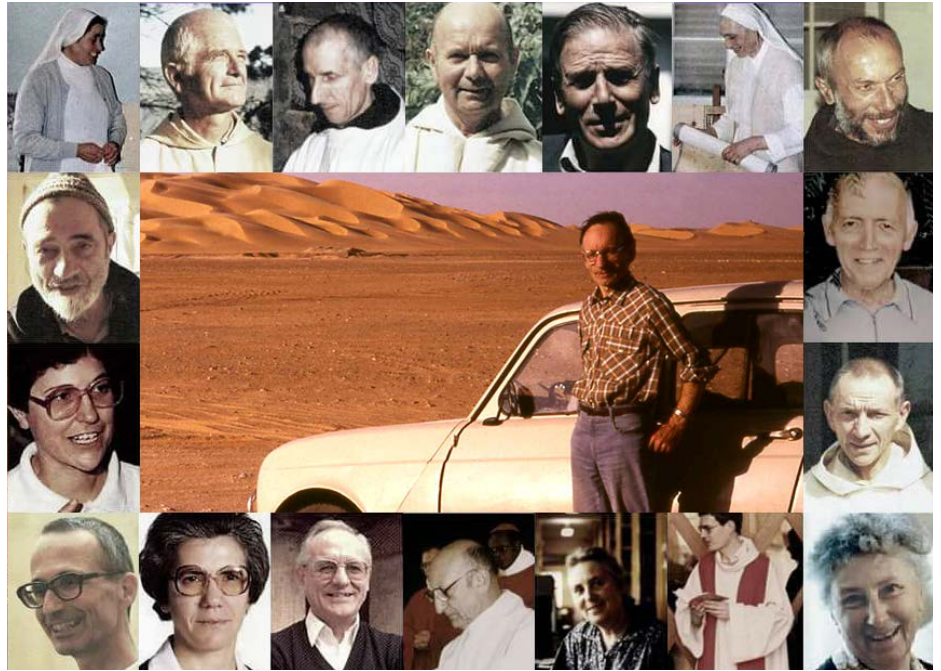
The 19 martyrs of the Church of Algeria belong to nine orders or different religious congregations, plus the diocese of Oran, the titular seat of Bishop Pierre Claverie.

This cause is known as "the martyrs of Algeria", which includes Br Henri Vergès.

Preparations are currently underway for the ecclesial celebration of the beatification to celebrate the lives that these brothers gave to the Lord in faith.

The 19 martyrs of the Church of Algeria belong to four different nationalities. One is from Belgium, two were born in Algeria, two were born in Spain and 14 in France.

This variety of institutions and nationalities is a richness that highlights the charismatic fecundity that we share in our ecclesial communion.



BR HENRI VERGÈS - A LIFE ITINERARY

Henri was born on 15 July 1930 at Matemale (Eastern Pyrenees), a small Capcir village on the high Aude valley, at 1500 metres of altitude. He was the first of six children of Joseph Vergès and Mathilde Bournet, modest peasants. His father was elected the mayor of his village. His mother, already busy in her home found time to help the neighbouring poor. From his human roots, he learned the meaning of work, of simple work, honesty, endurance and sharing.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From Monday, Feb. 12, until Feb. 27, the general council is meeting for its first plenary session at the general house. This week, they will follow up on the Rule of Life and the Constitutions as well as other documents of the XXII General Chapter. They will also reflect on their role as a Council in relation to the Institute.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, the general councils of the Marist Brothers and of the De La Salle Brothers will meet at the general house. On Thursday and Friday, Feb. 15 and 16, Brother Álvaro Sepúlveda of FMSI is taking part in the I International Marist Congress of Education in Guadalajara, Mexico.



Separation

At twelve, he left his family to start his training in the Marist life. His first years were spent at Espira de l'Agly, near Perpignan; then he moved to Saint Paul Trois Châteaux. He made his first religious profession in 1946. He spent one year to prepare himself for the elementary teaching diploma examination at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, near Saint Chamond, in the house built by Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers. Henri began his teaching apostolate in October 1947 at Saint Geniez-D'olt in the Aveyron. His health could not cope with an intensive work and a frugal food. He celebrated his twentieth anniversary at Osseja, a sanatorium near his birth place. That was an enriching time for his religious life.

Maturing

Henri pronounced his perpetual vows as a Marist Brother on 26 August 1952. He resumed his teaching in various schools in the Ardèche, at Cheylard and at Aubenas. From

1958 to 1966, he worked as the deputy master of novices at Notre Dame de Lacabane, in Corrèze. With a peasant tenacity, he kept studying until he obtained his Masters in Philosophy. After the 1967-68 general chapter where he had been a capitulant, the superior general asks him to go and work in Algeria. Henri accepted wholeheartedly: for a long time he had wanted to become a missionary. He resolutely undertook to learn the Arabic language during the holiday with his family. He reached Algiers on 6 August 1969, feast of the Transfiguration.

Blossoming

His presence in Algeria during twenty-five years can be divided into three main stages:

1969-1976: Direction of the Saint Bonaventure School at Algiers during six years until the establishment was nationalised.

1976-1988: He was a Mathematics teacher at Sour-E.-Ghozlane.

1988-1994: He is in charge of a library at Algiers on Ben Cheneb Street. This library is used by thousands of secondary school children. He was assassinated in his working office on 8 May 1994. Sister Paul-Hélène was murdered on the same day and in the same library.

Influence

"Our dear brother Henri has been an authentic witness of Christ's love, of fidelity to the Church and of faithfulness to the Algerian people."

(Cardinal Duval's words, during the funerals at Notre Dame d'Afrique, on 12 May 1994, feast of the Ascension of the Lord)

AUSTRALIA: MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN

SOCIAL MEDIA LAUNCH

Australia's Marist Association of St Marcellin launched new social media accounts on Jan. 30 on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

"A common desire we heard from people in 2017 was for there to be more opportunities to connect with others throughout Australia," affirmed Joe McCarthy, deputy leader of the Marist Association.

"People want to share ideas and dreams, see what others are doing, and be able to further contribute to the development of life and mission in ways not restricted by their local circumstances," he wrote in a press release on Jan. 30. He underscored that "the primary rea-

son for launching the variety of social media platforms is to assist this to happen, so, the invitation is to jump on board, encourage others to do the same, and let's get to know each other a whole lot better."

The [Facebook page](#) is called Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat (Australia). The name of the [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts are 'wemarists'.

The Association also launched a website to download the 'Marist Association Daily Prayer' App, which can be downloaded for free [clicking here](#). The App was originally launched in August.

The Marist Association of St Marcellin, established by the Institute of the Marist Brothers, has over 600 members in Australia, including laity, priests, sisters, a bishop and a hundred Brothers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

COCHABAMBA NOVITIATE

The novitiate of the América Sur region is in Cochabamba, Bolivia. On Feb. 2, the novices began the formation phase of this year. The community has three brothers who serve as formators, five novices in the first year and six in the second.

PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

The provincial council of Australia has decided to dedicate one day to the remembrance of victims of child abuse. Lent was the period chosen. This year, the dedication will be made on Feb. 16, with a prayer that recalls the victims abused in Marist institutions and all the people who are victims of this crime.

MEXICO

The First International Marist Education Congress promoted by the Marist University of Guadalajara is themed "Citizenship and education." The event will take place from Feb. 15 - 17. More information can be found at <http://congresoeducacion.maristas.org.mx/>

PROFESSION IN FIJI

Brother Tabunga Etuati made his first profession in the Institute on Feb. 10, at the novitiate of Lomeri. In addition to the participation of the parishioners, the celebration was attended by the superior and the council of the Pacific district.



ARQUEBUSE, HERMITE AND OTHER PRODUCTS FROM THE TIME OF THE FOUNDER

NEW BOOK ON FAMOUS MARIST BEVERAGES



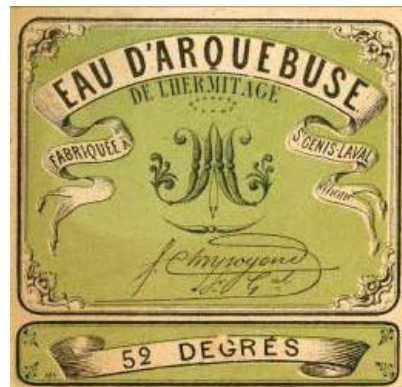
West Central Europe released the English version on Jan. 30 of its new book on Arquebuse and on other drinks that were produced throughout the Institute's history.

To commemorate the Institute's bicentenary, which concluded on Jan. 2., Brother Heinrich Schamberger of the same province wrote the book titled '160 years of Arquebuse, Hermite and other products from the time of the Founder: In honour of the Bicentenary of the Marist Brothers of Champagnat 1817 – 2017.' The preface is written by Brothers Brendan Geary, provincial of West Central Europe, André Lanfrey, author of volumes 1 and 2 of History of the Institute, and Brother Heinrich.

Available in English, French and German, the publication explains the origin of Marist products in France, Italy, Germany and other countries,

and their financial contribution to the youth apostolate of the Marists.

The Brothers continue to run a distillery in Furth, where it is possible to find Alpestre, Hermite, and Maristener. The profits from these products are used to support the Marist mission in different parts of the world.



The distillery was run by Brother Berthold Dinauer for 30 years until he retired and was replaced by former Marist student Robert Rothammer, on Feb. 15, 2016. (<https://goo.gl/3sZ5oh>)

This little publication pays tribute to the dignity of manual labour that contributed significantly to the growth, development and financial viability of the Institute.

To download the full book in the following languages, click below.

MARIST WORLD



Rwanda: Sustainability Project for Africa and Asia, II Workshop, in Gisenyi



Italy
Gregorian University



El Salvador
Marist candidates in Mejicanos



Bolivia
Marist Novitiate of Cochabamba



General House
Birthday of Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa



Portugal: European Brothers Today
Commission, Lisbon

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA: PROJECT CONCLUDES WITH MORE THAN 200 SOLIDARITY ACTIONS

NETWORKING MARISTS

More than 200 solidarity actions were carried out in the Brasil Sul-Amazonia province throughout all of 2017, as part of a project celebrating the Marist bicentenary.

"The project ([Maristas em Red. or Networking Marists](#)) was the way we wanted to celebrate the bicentenary, by being a transforming presence and mobilising people and organizations in order to leave a legacy during such a special year," said Guilherme Endler, of the province's advisory of institutional communication and representation.

"It was important to unite projects and dreams of people who are passionate about education, for the promotion of life and the transformation of the world," he added on Jan. 29.

In mid-December they exceeded their goal by reaching 205 initiatives involving innovation, education, spirituality, citizenship and human rights, sports, sustainability, art and culture.

Among the actions that were carried out, the following are worth highlighting:

1. A Portuguese course for Haitian immigrants in Porto Alegre, addressing cultural issues and also offering psychological legal assistance.
2. Clean and give a new look to the Plaza Boa Esperanza in the town of Santa Maria.
3. The project 'Historias de Vida' to listen with sensitivity to the stories lived by the patients of the Geriatrics Hospital São Lucas in Porto Alegre.
4. The project 'Colorear hace bien': the students of the Marist youth ministry of the Colegio Marista Medianera, in Erechim, revitalized the wards of children and oncology of the Hospital Foundation Santa Terezinha, with the aim of making the patients happy and to contribute to their recovery.



There was also a campaign to donate blood and books, dental care in various communities in situations of vulnerability, and the revitalization of several public spaces.

The platform where you can see the initiatives will remain online so that the actions carried out continue to inspire more and more people.

130 MARISTS GATHER FROM LEBANON, SYRIA, SPAIN AND ITALY

MEDITERRÁNEA PROVINCE: BOX OF 5 DREAMS

From Jan. 25 – 27, 130 Marists from Lebanon, Syria, Spain and Italy met to work on the messages of the XXII General Chapter that took place in Colombia last September and October.

Under the theme 'Caja de los 5 sueños' (Box of 5 dreams), Brothers and laity from all the fields of Marist educational works from the four countries that form the Mediterránea province met at the Guardamar Marist Center in Guardamar del Segura, Spain.

"Let us allow our hearts to be touched and let us change the world around us," said Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes, provincial of Mediterránea, during the encounter. "Let's sail together to make shared dreams come true."

Other participants included Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, vicar general, and Georges A. Hakim, a Blue Marist from Aleppo, Syria.

"We cannot stay in the chapel because we have to take it outside and incarnate it, since God invites us to live a life in fullness, not a half-life," said Br Luis Carlos.

The themes were divided into five blocks called: global family, faces and hands, bridge builders, margins of the world and emerging realities.

According to the province's website, the objective of the meeting was to convert the participants into "bridges of



mercy and fraternity, having an open heart for this, taking the initiative without fear, inviting the excluded after going out to meet them, and testing our capacity of service and its usefulness".

The participants heard several testimonies such as those of Mario Araya and Gabriel Bernardo da Silva, who live in the international community of Syracuse, Italy, and spoke about their mission with immigrants, "building bridges" with them.

During the Mass that closed the meeting, Br Juan Carlos stressed the importance of interior transformation inviting participants to be "boats, crossing to the other shore, over the sea of our difficulties, to meet those who need us the most."

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: FINAL PROFESSION IN NEWLY BUILT CHAPEL

BROTHER BLAISE JAI

A Brother of the district of Melanesia made his final profession in a newly built chapel in his home town, Marangis, Papua New Guinea, on Jan. 20.

Brother Blaise Jai made his final vows in the Immaculate Heart of Mary chapel, which was inaugurated and blessed by Archbishop Stephen Joseph Reichert of the Archdiocese of Madang,

making it the first Mass celebrated in the chapel.

The participants travelled to Marangis by boat and took part in a procession to the chapel following a cultural dragon dance.

District superior Br Jean Marie Batick received the final vows of Brother Blaise, who is currently based in Vanuatu.



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