Institute of the Marist Brothers

# ACTS OF THE 22nd GENERAL CHAPTER

Rionegro, Colombia | September-October 2017



a new La Valla

marists 2017

22nd general chapter

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# PRESENTATION

Under the motto "A New La Valla", the 22nd General Chapter invited us to a new beginning. Br Emili Turú, in the convocation letter, reminded us that *"every General Chapter is a moment of a new beginning, since we, collectively, ask ourselves what does God want of us in this concrete historical moment and we try to place the necessary means to respond to his calls. A new La Valla, then is not a call to reproduce nostalgic and romantically, the first Marist community. Rather, it is a question to update La Valla at the beginning of the XXI century when a new world is emerging".* The 22nd General Chapter, equally to other Chapters, was a call to the global Marist family to co-create the future that we want for our life and our mission.

In the closing session of our 22nd General Chapter it was manifested, just as Br Ernesto Sánchez, SG declared, ***"the new beginning has already begun"***. *In a multicultural, international context,* in Rionegro (Colombia) Brothers, Laity, men and women, met, and experienced "A New La Valla". This experience gave voice to the future of our Charism based on communion. Marists together, fully committed, united in diversity, co-responsible in the Marist life and mission. Like our first community of La Valla, we felt inspired by the Home of Nazareth to develop the attitudes that make a reality, the family spirit, love, and pardon, support and help, self-forgetfulness, openness to others, and joy. For the first time in our history, and as a tangible sign of a new beginning, the General Chapter was celebrated outside the See of the General Government; also for the first time young Marists, Laity and Brothers were invited, to take part in the life of the Chapter and to address the members.

Like with many lived experiences, it is difficult to express in words hope, the dreams, challenges and aspirations of those who took part in the Chapter. Having said this, the Minutes of the 22nd General Chapter constitute one of the reference documents for the General Council itself, for the Provincial and District Governments, and for all the members of the Institute, at a time to remember, understand and apply the intuitions, calls and decisions of the Chapter.

These Minutes are divided into seven sections:

### *1. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER*

This section contains the preparation of the Chapter and the development of the sessions of every day. All this helps to understand the steps taken by the Assembly, besides putting into a context or contextualizing their decisions.

### *2. OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE CHAPTER: LET'S JOURNEY TOGETHER AS A GLOBAL FAMILY*

This section contains the Message of the 22nd General Chapter, the letter of the Chapter to the Marists of Champagnat, the five calls of the Chapter and the principles and suggestions. The electronic version is also offered in the Web Page of the Institute: http://lavalla200.champagnat.org/es/

### *3. 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER: TEXTS AND DECISIONS*

In this section we find the Report of the Commission of Verification, the new structure of the Chapters, articles and statutes of the Constitutions and of the Rule of Life, approved by the Chapter, as well as the methods of election used during the 22nd General Chapter.

### *4. METHODOLOGIES AND DYNAMICS USED IN THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER*

This chapter contains Statutes and methodologies of the Chapter processes of the 22nd General Chapter. They are presented as they were approved by the Chapter and, which, in turn, will serve as the base to launch the 22ndI General Chapter.

### *5. REFLECTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER*

In this section are contained the interventions of Br Emili Turú, Superior General 2009—2017, of Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba, the new Superior General, of the young and of the young Brothers, who were invited. In addition other official declarations of the Chapter.

### *6. COMMISSIONS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER*

This section contains the data or information of the Commissions previous to the General Chapter as well as of the participants to it in the city of Rionegro – Colombia.

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### *7. NEW GENERAL GOVERNMENT*

The document ends with a presentation of a short biography of the members of the new General Council elected for the period from 2017 – 2025.

These Minutes are published in the four official languages of the Institute: French, English, Spanish and Portuguese. The official version was written in Spanish. The original language changes according to the documents and is the one that serves as reference for the other three versions.

Brothers Benjamín Consigli, João Carlos do Prado, Carlos Saúl Corzo Uribe were in charge of compiling, and organizing all the material prepared during

the development of the 22nd General Chapter, which are presented below. Br Superior General and his Council decided that the modifications to the Constitutions and Statutes, approved by the 22nd General Chapter, and in this case, by the Holy See, will become effective in the year 2019. As Marists of Champagnat, we follow Christ serving children and young people, journeying as a global family.

Br. João Carlos do Prado,
Secretary of the 22nd General Chapter

# I
# PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE 22nd GENERAL CHAPTER

## 1. THE PREPARATION

In June 2015, the General Council, named the Preparatory Commission, formed by the following Brothers: Álvaro Sepúlveda (Santa María de los Andes), Ben Consigli (USA), Carlos Huidobro (General Administration), Darren Burge (Australia), Eugène Kabanguka (General Government)), João Gutemberg (South Brazil Amazonia), Joseph McKee (General Government - Coordinator), Juan Carlos Fuertes (Mediterranean), Pau Fornells (General Administration – Secretary), Rajakumar Susai Manickam (South Asia) and Vincent de Paul Kouassi (Western Central Africa). This Commission counted with the advising of Mr. Matthieu Daum, Director and Consultor of Nexus, from France.

In tune with the three years of preparation for the Bicentenary of the Institute, the General Chapter was celebrated under the theme *'A new La Valla'*. A year before, the Preparatory Commission sent to the Administrative Units the document inviting all the Marists to get ready for the Chapter. It called all to enter into a process of listening to "the new" which emerges from the reality in which we live, in order to detect the energy and capacity or potential to live today the Marist charism. Three stages motivated the proposal.

The first stage was, "to create new conversations" which would permit to examine or explore the meaning of living today "the experience La Valla" seeking to have a greater conscience or awareness of the world around us. In addition, as well as discovering other situations which may be taking place in our environment or milieu, without us being aware, and imagine and find ways of entering into contact with those new realities.

For the second stage the Brothers, Laity – men and women – and the young were invited "to enter deeper into the territory of the new" taking up again the invitation of Pope Francis to be a Church "going out". A Church, which allows itself to be challenged by the geographic and existential frontiers. There was a clear invitation to encounter its realities – for example, persons or situations that are in the peripheries – opening minds and hearts to what the Spirit perhaps desires to communicate to them through these.

The third stage was called "harvesting fruits". It motivated all the delegates and the guests to the General Chapter to search a time to meet in groups of communities or as Province or District, to share the experiences of the two previous stages. This helped them to grasp or understand what had emerged in their Administrative Unit and to transmit it to the Chapter Assembly.

Finally, in order to fulfill the functions of the Provisional Committee of the 22nd General Chapter, the General Council appointed, according to regulations (Statutes of the XXI General Chapter Nº 27), on February 16, 2017 the following Brothers as members of the Commission: Joseph McKee (Vicar General and Coordinator), Ben Consigli (USA – Secretary), Rajakumar Soosai Manickam (Southern Asia), Juan Carlos Fuertes (Mediterranean), Darren Burge (Australia), Michel Razafimandimby Maminiaina (Madagascar), Deivis Fischer (South Amazonian Brazil) and Ernesto Sánchez Barba (General Councillor).

The Provisional Commission met in the city of Rionegro, Colombia, on August 31, 2017 for the immediate work of the 22nd General Chapter. Among its principal functions were to carry ahead the development of the global proposal of the program of the Chapter and the details of the activities and methodology of the work up to the time of the election of the Facilitating Commission.

# 2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 22nd GENERAL CHAPTER

## Day 00 – 7 September 2017

In order to fulfill the functions of the Provisional Committee of the 22nd General Chapter, the General Council appointed, according to regulations (Statutes of the XXI General Council Nº 27), on February 16, 2017 the following Brothers: Joseph McKee (Vicar General and Coordinator), Ben Consigli (USA), Raja Kumar Soosai Manickam (South Asia), Juan Carlos Fuertes (Mediterranean), Darren Burge (Australia), Michel Razafimandimby Maminiaina (Madagascar), Deivis Fischer (South Brazil-Amazonia) and Ernesto Sánchez (General Councillor).

On August 31, 2017, in the city of Rionegro, Colombia, this Committee began its functions, being Coordinator Br Joseph McKee and Secretary Br Teodoro Grageda. One of its initial functions is to propose the program of the first days of the Chapter until the election of the Facilitating Commission and to develop a global proposal for the whole Chapter.

## Day 01 – 8 September 2017

At 9:00h, all the participants of the 22nd General Chapter met in the Central Hall of the House of Encounters of De La Salle Brothers, in the city of Rionegro – Colombia for the opening ceremony of the 22nd General Chapter of the Institute of Marist Brothers.

A group of girls, students of the School of 'La Enseñanza' of the Sisters of the Company of Mary, made a street of honor waiting for those assisting to the General Chapter with a rose in their hands. They accompanied the Delegates, guests, auxiliaries and assistants up to the door of the Chapter room, by Regions of origin, beginning in alphabetical order by Africa, South America, Arco Norte, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

Br César Augusto Rojas Carvajal, Provincial host, welcomed all the members of the General Chapter; afterwards, Br Emili Turú, Superior General, addressed the Chapter and officially declared the opening of the 22nd General Chapter.

In the second session, Br Darren Joseph Burge, from the Province of Australia, presented to the Capitulars the dynamics of the fraternities, which will be lived during the whole General Chapter.

In the third session Br Juan Carlos Fuentes Mari, gave the floor to Br Hipólito Pérez, who in the name of the commission of verification of power for the General Chapter presented and read the act of verification of power, which was unanimously approved by all the Capitular Brothers.

Br Joe McKee read the list of the participants to the 22nd General Chapter in the following order: The Capitular Brothers, the Laity, the young Brothers and Br Libardo Garzón Duque (General Bursar), Br Vincent Uchenna Abadom (Provincial elected Province of Nigeria), the team of auxiliaries and lastly the facilitator of the General Chapter, Mr. Mattheu Daum.

Afterwards, Br Emili Turú made known to the Chapter assembly the reasons why the General Chapter had officially invited Br Vincent Uchenna Abadom to participate in the General Chapter. The Assembly unanimously approved the participation of Br Vincent in the Chapter.

Then, Br Joe McKee presented Mr. Matthieu Daum as facilitator of the General Chapter. The Chapter Assembly unanimously approved his participation and his role as facilitator of the General Chapter.

At the last moment of the session, the Assembly unanimously approved the participation of the team of auxiliaries in their respective functions.

At the end of the day, Br Benjamin Consigli presented to the Capitulars the document “The Process of the 22nd General Chapter”, before known as Regulations of the Chapter prepared by the pre-Chapter Commission for the revision of the Regulations of the General Chapter.

## Day 02 – 9 September 2017

Br Joe McKee invited the Capitulars to reflect at the working tables, on the document of the Process of the Chapter, presented in the last session of the day before by Br Benjamin Consigli and later studied personally.

At the end of the session, the Brothers and guests went out to go to the city of Medellin for the encounter of Pope Francis with the religious, on the Plaza de la Macarena, on the occasion of the Pope's pastoral visit to Colombia.

## Day 03 – 10 September 2017

The theme of the day was "Entering into the General Chapter" and as first step, Matthieu Daum, facilitator of the General Chapter, directed the Chapter group to work at the working tables on the following questions:

1. Who am I and from where do I come, what do I do and which are the things for which I am more passionate?
2. Have you participated in a General Chapter before, if so, in which one?
3. Which General Chapters in the history of the Institute (in which you have participated or not), left an echo in my mind and heart, and why? What happened in them that left a mark in me?
4. From the moment in which I knew I was going to participate in the Chapter and I have been thinking about it, which are my expectations, my suppositions on this Chapter – how is it going to function, what is it going to include, what we will be doing, etc.?

Afterwards, the proposal on the "General Development of the 22nd General Chapter", prepared by the preparatory Commission of the Chapter, was presented to the Capitulars. Later, Br Raja Kumar Soosai Manickam carried out a consultation to the Capitulars on the approbation of the Chapter Plan and its Process.

Continuing the work, Matthieu Daum invited the group to reflect personally first and then on the working tables on the following questions:

1. In your mind, what could you be carrying with you of your previous role?
2. What type of expectations (implicit or explicit) do you feel that you still have and which refer to what you were?
3. At this moment of the General Chapter, what difference do you see between, what your previous role was and this new role, which you are invited to take?
4. From what do you think you should let go, to move from being an ex-professed delegate to begin being a Chapter member, or from bring a guest or invited member to be a participant of this Chapter?

## Day 04 – 11 September 2017

The Brothers, who formed the Provisional Commission of the Chapter, made some observations to clarify some concerns expressed by the Chapter Assembly regarding: Who is the we?, Then a long series of concerns: the evaluation of the program, the time that the Chapter will dedicate to the study and approbation of the Constitutions, the type of government that we need, the theme of the Eucharist throughout the General Chapter, the encounter of a day with the young invited to the General Chapter, the languages to be used during the development of the General Chapter, the electronic vote, the forming of the Facilitating Commission and the use of the method of consensus as the methodology for the development of the Chapter.

In one of the sessions, there was the electronic voting for the document of the Chapter Plan and for the Chapter Process. The result of the voting was: for the Chapter Plan of the 79 votes of the Capitulars: 77 Votes yes, 2 Votes no and 0 abstentions.

The result of the voting of the Chapter Process was of the 79 Votes of the Capitulars: 75 Votes yes, 2 Votes No, 2 Votes Abstentions.
Then, Matthieu Daum continued directing the sharing by fraternities according to the following question: as a Capitular what do I have to leave to enter adequately according to my role to the General Chapter? The dynamics of transplanting a tree, as a symbol of the transfer that the Assembly is doing to pass from “delegates to Capitulars”.

In the afternoon at the working tables, the participants discussed the following questions:

1. Which are those two or three surprising histories, of so many situations or events, which happen in the world, or around me, which called my attention and which I discovered during the process before coming to the General Chapter?
2. Have these discoveries impressed or moved me? Why?
3. Of what I have reflected on or listened to at the working tables, what interior movements or motions do these produce in you?
4. Why are these movements or motions produced or what are those movements or motions generating?

At the end of the day, Br Raja Kumar Soosai Manickam, presented to the Capitulars what is the Facilitating Commission, and which is its role within the Chapter. Then there is dialogue among the Capitulars on the number of members that the Facilitating Commission should have. After sharing and clarifying, the electronic voting takes place on the number of members of the Facilitating Commission.

The question was asked: Do I agree that the Facilitating Commission has eight members? The result of the voting was, of 79 Capitulars: Yes 79 Votes, No, 0 Votes, Abstentions 0. Unanimously it was decided that eight Capitulars form the Facilitating Commission.

## Day 05 – 12 September 2017

The theme of the day is a "New awareness of the world around us". Matthieu Daum facilitator of the General Chapter invites the members to the working tables to share among themselves on the following question: From what you shared yesterday, what is "new" in the world? What are the signs seen of what the world will be in 2, 5 or 10 years?

In the second session, Br Benjamin Consigli, moderator of the session, coordinates the electronic election of the members of the Facilitating Commission.

In each scrutiny each Capitular will vote as many candidates as members are missing to be elected in the Commission. To be elected each person has to obtain the absolute majority, of the votes. Considering that all the 79 Capitulars are present, the absolute majority is 40 votes. All cases where there is a tie are solved in favor of the Brother younger in age. In case that in a scrutiny no candidate obtains the absolute majority, there is a second voting only of the two candidates who have the larger number of votes. Four scrutinies were necessary for the election of the eight members of the Facilitating Commission, which elected the following Brothers:

First Scrutiny: Br **Benjamin Consigli**, Br **Michel Maminiaina Razafimandimby**, Br **Darren Joseph Burge**, Br **Juan Carlos Fuertes Marí**, Br **Ernesto Sánchez Barba** and Br **João Carlos Do Prado.**
Second Scrutiny: Br **Lindley Halago Sionosa.**
Fourth Scrutiny: Br **Oscar Martín Vicario**.

For the first afternoon session, the facilitator Matthieu Daum, motivated the work in the Chapter room focusing on the world of today according to the different realities observed. The orientation for the participants is to continue discovering themselves in the midst of this transforming world in which we live daily. For this, he proposes the three following steps:

1. Share the list of all the fruits, which you have harvested during the last stage of the Pre-Chapter (the discoveries made by the Brothers and the laity around you) (in three words).
2. After having drawn up the previous list, identify in it, what is "new" about the world, what this is saying to us about how tomorrow may be.
3. The next stage, after this work, is to share in a more detailed way, the discoveries that say something of how tomorrow may be.

To share in the Plenary Session, at the working tables the groups prepared, on a flipchart, an image of the world, which they have shared.

At the end of the session, Brothers Emili Turú and Anthony León presented the book "Brothers", organized by the Secretariat 'Brothers Today' with the

support of the Australian photographer Conor Ashlrigh and sponsored by the Marist editorials FTD Educacão (Brazil), Grupo Edelvives (Spain) and GRAM Editora (Argentina). After the presentation, each participant received a copy of that book.

Br Benjamin Consigli
Secretary Provisional Commission

## Day 06 – 13 September 2017

To favor a new awareness of the world around us, all the participants of the Chapter, invited to an experience of immersion in the city of Medellin, visited 14 different foundations, which work in the defense and protection of children, young people and adults in situations of vulnerability.

At the end of the day, in the Marist Novitiate, there was an encounter to share the experience lived. There they had the possibility to live together with the Novices and Marist Laity of Medellin.

## Day 07 – 14 September 2017

Throughout the day, the Chapter Assembly had the opportunity to meet and share with a group of 25 young persons of the Norandina Province, invited to the General Chapter to express their dreams, concerns on Marist life. Brothers José Alberto Quintero, Andrés Gómez Ospina and Leonel Ramirez, National Coordinator of Youth Pastoral Ministry in Colombia, accompanied them.
During the development of the session, divided into three different moments, the young persons shared with the Capitulars a message written by them in which they thanked the Institute for all the good received from it and at the same time, they expressed some concerns and challenges. They invited the Capitulars to walk together with them, seeking alternatives of solution for the different needs and exhorting to a greater accompaniment on the part of the Brothers.

Br Juan Carlos Fuertes Marí, moderator of the session, gave the floor to Jimena D. Grignani from the South-Central Brazil Province, to coordinate the work of the afternoon session. She invited the Capitulars to interact with the young assisting to the General Chapter, sharing their dreams, concerns and challenges for the Marists in the present world.

At the end of the session, the young thanked the Chapter for the opportunity and possibility to speak and are listened to; they manifested that the role of the young is to accompany the Marist Project in the world; they are convinced that Brothers and young people together, can make a new La Valla.

The Chapter session of the day concludes with the photograph of the complete participating group; followed by the Eucharistic encounter between the young participants and the whole General Chapter.

## Day 08 – 15 September 2017

The central theme of the day will be "The image which emerges from the ecosystem". Matthieu Daum, facilitator of the Chapter, invited the group to have a moment of a small desert, this space giving a good possibility to move forward in the reflection of these days of the Chapter together with the two experiences lived during the past days: the solidarity visit of immersion in Medellin and the encounter with the young Marists.

On returning, Matthieu Daum explained to the Chapter group the process of the theory "U". This is an innovation theory related directly with change, transformation and learning. The process of the U is a methodology, which works with complex challenges, solves difficult problems and makes visible a broad range of opportunities.

This theory poses or considers a look toward the future according to hope and in collective construction, learning to leave all that does not allow me to walk and to open my mind and heart to all that is new, that the world, in its reality, and God, invite me to contemplate. It is a path of surrender to the will

of God; it is abandoning oneself to discover the new, which is emerging in the world. These responses do not come from us, they come from the same reality, they come from the calls that God addresses to us.

Through the video, "Can Wildlife adapt to climate change? (Erin Eastwoord) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCKRjP_DMII; Matthieu Daum, presented a metaphor which helps to understand the theory of the "U", according to adaptation to the transformation. After he directed the work for the afternoon by theme groups to consider the following questions:

1. What will exist in the next ten years, which does not exist today?
2. What exists today which will continue to exist in the next ten years?
3. What exists today which will not exist in the next ten years?
4. On what do we need to find more information?
5. What is going to be similar in the whole world? What is going to be different from one part to the other of the world?
6. What impact will this emerging world have in being a young person within ten years?

To finish the reflection for the day, eight tendencies of the world were presented, among which the Capitulars distributed themselves according to thematic interests. The tendencies proposed were the following: Economic tendencies, Political tendencies, Health tendencies, Education tendencies, Environmental tendencies, Religion/Spirituality tendencies, Sociological and population tendencies, Communication technologies.

He asks each group to prepare a creative presentation using resources and recycling materials made available by the support team. Each group is asked to embody its reflection in a power point file. The sessions of the day finished with the encounter by Fraternities.

## Day 09 – 16 September 2017

Matthieu Daum introduces the dynamics to share the work on the world

tendencies done in the afternoon of the day before. Once the presentations are concluded the members are invited to have ten minutes silence to connect everything that they heard, with that which as Marists we are invited to give life and response in our charismatic style. How is all this that is spoken causing an impact in me? What is it moving within me?

At the end of the session Br Carlos Alberto Rojas gave the indications of how the program is going to develop for the celebration of the Marist Bicentenary with a great representation of Brothers, Novices, members of the Marist Fraternities, Marists, professors and support personnel, coming from many Marist works from the three countries of the Norandine Province. Then we shared souvenirs, typical food from each region, songs, folkloric dances, a theater presentation, etc.

Monsignor Ettore Balestrero, the Apostolic Nuncio for Colombia and former Marist pupil from Genova, Italia, was present for the Eucharistic celebration.

## Day 11 – 18 September 2017

The theme worked on during the day was a "New conscience of the body". Matthieu Daum facilitator of the Chapter, reminded us that each one of the Capitulars is a body within an organism and that, in turn, this body is linked with the emerging world. He brought up seven principles that exist for the generative listening or contemplative listening. These seven principles are: to loosen the step and notice more what is present, listen with all my senses, listen to the words/images chosen, listen to the emotions of the person who is speaking, suspend the judgement, notice what I do not understand or what poses questions, instead of what I do not like of what I am hearing. What do I feel when I listen to what is said and why?

After that, each Capitular reflected, in a personal way, on the following questions:

What functions well? What does not function well? Beginning from the following perspectives:

1. In the manner in which we live (According to the seven principles for listening)
2. On how we are organized and function
3. In our Mission – in a special way with those with whom we work to carry out our Mission. How are we living it
4. In our Mission – and particularly in relation to those we serve.

After this reflection, Matthieu Daum, facilitator of the Chapter, beginning with question number one, invited to share in pairs during ten minutes, on 3 situations in which living together functions well, and three situations in which does not function well. The rotation by pairs was done three times for each question. These dynamics was carried out the rest of the day.

## Day 12 – 19 September 2017

At the beginning of the sessions, there were two very special intentions. The first one for the General Chapter of the Marist Priests in the city of Nemi, Italy, and the second one the terrible tragedy affecting the Mexican people because of the earthquake suffered this day, September 19 in the afternoon, to which the General Chapter has united itself, with heart and prayer.

During the morning, the Laity invited to the General Chapter moderated the work and the reflection of the Chapter Assembly. This began with the witness of a laywoman; then the group invited to contemplative listening of this witness, had to make a feedback of it.

Josep Buetas Ferrer reminded the long road that the Institute has covered during many years in the process of communion between Brothers and Laity. After countless reflections, encounters and searching in common, we count on a document that helps to explore the vocation of the Lay Marist. Then the exercise through the four basic sentiments of the human being (Fear, Sadness, Anger, Joy) was proposed to the Chapter Assembly, to explore what each participant is able to perceive in the relationship, Brothers and Laity.

On the other hand, in the afternoon session, Br Libardo Garzon Duque, General Bursar, presented to the Chapter Assembly the financial report of the Institute. At the beginning of his report, he thanked in a special way the Province of South Central Brazil for the support received to be able to advance in the report presented and for all the advice offered by the economic technical team through the Program Domus.

Br Libardo manifested that the Institute possesses a great amount of assets that for the future worries the responsibility in the care of them. He manifests that every time more, the margin of sustainability is diminishing, little by little, in the Institute. Before this, it is important to create a new mentality in the economic management or administration becoming aware of what the support of the Institute jointly responsibly implies. In the same way, he stated the importance of professionalization of the economic teams and the policies of transparency and clarity in the management or administration of finances in the different Administrative Units.

For the adequate sustainability of the Institute, it is important to keep in mind the four components, which can make it viable. The ethical management, a competent management seeing ourselves as a global body in solidarity. Some Administrative Units of the Institute have been receiving, from the General House, a support of financial counseling or advice through Mr. Luca Olivari.

After his presentation, Br Libardo Garzón, invited the Chapter Assembly to reflect on three questions:

1. What does this presentation tell you?
2. To guarantee sustainability of the Marist life and Mission in the future, what new ways of thinking do we need?
3. As a Chapter what questions do we need to ask ourselves?

After the reflection at the working tables, the plenary session opened for sharing. Br Libardo Garzón thanked for the suggestions and interventions of the Capitulars and reminded that all this helps to continue constructing the global conscience of the Institute.

The session of the day concluded with the encounter by Fraternities.

## Day 13 – 20 September 2017

During the sessions of the day, the reflection was around the message of Br Emili Turú, Superior General, to the 22nd General Chapter. In his message, Brother brought up and considered five elements that can help to create a new La Valla, to revive the prophetic spirit:

1. An Institute going out: the first invitation is to get out of our comfort zone. To leave the comfort zone forms part of our DNA even if sometimes we adjust and call out screaming to leave us in peace. Nevertheless, we know that the stakes in here are our vitality, our future, where does the Church need us more in this beginning of the XXI century? We have to stress two elements: the children and young people displaced, and the care of the common house. Beyond and over and above, the different concrete initiatives, there is something that we can and should do as a Global body to respond to this emerging situation in our world, whether alone or with other institutions.
2. The protection of minors: Today, as an Institution we are trying to be, in some way, part of the solution to this enormous social problem, of enormous magnitude. However, we have to recognize, with great sorrow, that in the past we were part of the problem and that we can continue being it, unless we seriously commit ourselves, both in the prevention as in the struggle to eradicate it in our societies. The existence of victims is a permanent souvenir that we failed as an Institute. Moreover, if in the past it was like this, we cannot fail against them again, under any concept!
3. Dancing with dinosaurs: refers to the book *Dancing with dinosaurs*, written by the Benedictine Mark Patrick Hederman. The author holds that today we have created new dinosaurs, Churches, Banks, Multi-Nationals. If we contemplate the history of the Institute throughout its 200 years, we could say that it has become a small dinosaur; what began as something very simple in La Valla, every day has become more complex. Is it then a question of renouncing to complexity? Not necessarily,

it is rather a question of learning to dance with that complexity. We have been adapting ourselves to that new reality, as we have been able to do it. The Project that we have called New Models was born with that purpose. That Project helped us to take the first steps in the sense of acting as a global body in the service of the mission, but I think that we have to continue advancing with audacity and creativity to give ourselves structures that are more adequate for the historical moment in which we are living.

4. For new wine new wineskins: in the last 50 years, we have changed very much as Institute, but I ask myself if many of the ancient images on religious life and on our identity in the Church have not continued to be anchored nostalgically in our brains, even unconsciously. I wonder and ask myself if our initial formation was not a reflection, in some way, of what happened in our communities. The starting point, certainly, has to be the profile of the Marist Brother whom we imagine for the future. If we think that, the Marist Brother is someone with global availability, a Brother for the world.
5. To be a Lay Marist: We find ourselves before a very important moment in the history of the Church, a moment of rebirth, a return to the style of the primitive Church, when the Laity carried out a total role in the mission. We must audaciously continue opening spaces of dialogue and encounter, which mutually make us grow. Beginning there, we still have many more steps to take, but these will be taken more easily.

Two open plenary sessions took place during the day, presided over by dialogue from the working tables, in which the participants expressed their opinion on the message shared by Br Emili Turú. Today the members of the General Chapter united through a communiqué with the victims of the natural phenomena that affected a great part of the minor Antilles, Dominica, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, United States and Mexico. In a special way, the Chapter is in communion with the Brothers, the Laity, the young people, the children and families where we have a missionary presence.

## Day 14 – 21 September 2017

According to article 29 of the Statutes in force of the Facilitating Commission of the 22nd General Chapter, Br Benjamin Consigli communicated to the Chapter Assembly that the Facilitating Commission unanimously approved the petition written by Brothers José Sánchez Bravo and Luis Felipe González Ruiz. They will travel to Mexico, from the 22 to the 25 of September 2017 to help the Province of Central Mexico on account of the damage caused by the earthquake of last September 19th.

The central theme of the day was on "internal movements" which arise in each one from the reflection of the past days. Matthieu Daum, facilitator of the Chapter, explained the four fields, which should be kept in mind for the conversations representing emerging futures, they are: Talking nice, talking hard, reflexive dialogue and the generative dialogue. In order to be able to go on the encounter path, in the field of conversations it is necessary to leave aside the ego that each one has. What is especially particular about dialogue is that it permits that things flow naturally.

Applying the dynamics of the generative discourse, he proposed thematic "Knots" which will help the reflection of the day regarding the global body of the Institute. The Knots proposed were: Government, finances, relationship between Brothers and Laity, Brothers (vocations, identity, role, community life, accompaniment, new manner of being Brother), our spirituality, global availability, mission (education, new peripheries, rights of children) and ecology.

Two great questions marked the reflection of the day:

1. What tension (or tensions) do I feel in myself (and perhaps around me) concerning this theme, which perhaps challenges me in my/our desire of being and acting as a Body?
2. After having felt the Body during the last days, what do I feel in relation to the state of our Body? Sentiments (happiness, fear, excitement, despair, enthusiasm, frustration, etc.)

The group of participants of the Chapter initially met by thematic interest groups and then at the working tables. They also had a time of personal silence to move to the reflection aroused and then two plenary sessions for sharing.

The day ended with the Eucharistic celebration, celebrating the international Day of Peace.

## Day 15 – 22 September 2017

Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Provincial of Central America informed the General Chapter, about the difficult situation that is being lived at present in Puerto Rico because of the hurricane Maria that passed through that country. We continue to be united with a fraternal spirit in prayer with the Marist family, which is facing great needs in that country.

Br José María Soteras shared with the General Chapter the dynamics of work that will be used for the study and approbation of the Constitutions, the Rule of Life and the Statutes in the 22nd General Chapter. Then Br Ernesto Sánchez, moderator of the session, proposed to the Chapter Assembly a pulse check to see how the Chapter is developing up to the present moment.

Matthieu Daum, facilitator of the Chapter, manifested that the moment lived during the day, is to learn to liberate, little by little that which prevents one from walking in peace. During the day, there were moments of personal time and times of sharing at the working tables, using some blocks of orientation questions.

After each Participant of the Chapter shared at his working table the image of the metaphor of the Institutional Body that he observed in his mind and heart, the facilitator of the Chapter invited each working table to show consensus, in priority order, of some elements, of our global body, of which we must "let go", and which cannot continue in the future.

The session of the day ended with the sharing in fraternities and the celebra-

tion of the birthday, of those assisting to the General Chapter, who were born in the month of September.

## Day 16 – 23 September 2017

After the community Eucharistic celebration, the Chapter assembly shared in plenary session the reflection made at the working tables the previous day. The Participants to the Chapter expressed in the plenary session about the consensus that each working table reached on the theme of what do we have to "let go," reflected upon the previous day.
Basing himself on the sharing had during the morning, Matthieu Daum, facilitator of the Chapter, invited the Chapter group to continue deepening on "letting go", in order to be able to give the best of each one to this emerging world, according to three levels: Personal, Administrative Units and Global Body. To help in this exercise he proposed the following questions:

**A. At Personal level**
- Personally, of what do I need to let go?
- What do I need to let die?

**B. As an Administrative Unit**
- As an Administrative Unite, of what do we need to let go?
- What do we need to let die?

**C. As Global Body**
- As a Global Body, of what do we need to let go?
- What do we need to let die?

Three working groups were proposed for the reflection. The young invited Brothers, the Administrative Units and the General Administration. The session ended with the sharing of each one of the groups on those elements, which are a priority to let go, in order to be able to grow in the global body that we want to build.

## Day 17 – 24 September 2017

The Participants of the 22nd General Chapter attended the Eucharistic celebration in the Major Seminary of Medellin, the place where fifty years ago, the Second Latin American Episcopal Conference took place. The Episcopal Conference of Medellin was a moment of renewal for the Church of Latin America. From there emerged the theological movement known as the Liberation Theology.

The ceremony was presided over by the Archbishop of Medellin, Monsignor Ricardo Tobon Restrepo. His homily had three moments. The first one, he recalled that thanks to Jesus, we are all invited to be messengers of the proclamation of the Gospel "You also go to my vineyard and I will pay you" and he referred to the words of Isaiah: "Look for the Lord while He can be found". In the second moment, he mentioned the importance of our mission as educators, since this is a theme, which never ceases to be actual, and that as Marists we are called to continue being faithful to the intuitions of Marcelin Champagnat. In the third moment, Monsignor Ricardo, invited the group of Capitulars to keep in mind three words in the reflection, which they are doing in their journey in Rionegro, these were in their order: go to the essential, renewal and involvement.

After the Eucharistic celebration, a refreshment was shared in the Major Seminary of Medellin, and the group then went to the Botanic Garden of the city where we shared lunch and there was time to visit this place and its surroundings. During the day two Marist communities of Medellin (Novitiate and Santo Domingo), as well as some Marist Laity from the Fraternities of the city accompanied us.

## Day 18 – 25 September 2017

The day in the sessions was divided into two great moments, the first one consisted in taking back the work and the reflection done by the working groups on the previous Saturday regarding the theme "Let go", and the second mo-

ment was the opportunity to be open to "Listen to what God tells us". All this was lived in a climate of prayer and permanent meditation.

For the first moment of the day, the Capitulars had the possibility to reflect in a personal way, and then by Fraternities considering the following questions:

1. When I connect myself with my mind, my heart and will, to what I and we all said that we needed to let go; Do I have any fear to really let go? In affirmative case, which are my fears?
2. Is there any fear related to going out toward the "New"? In the affirmative case, which are those fears?
3. Which would be the cost, the price to be paid, to let go; all this in order to go out toward the "new"?

After this time of personal reflection, the Chapter Assembly met by Fraternities to share what they internalized personally.

Afterwards, the Capitulars met by the different Administrative Units, including the Brothers of the General Council, answering questions at personal level, of Administrative Units and Global on what it is necessary "to let go", and the necessary steps to do this.

In the afternoon, the Chapter Assembly began to live the dynamics of "Listening to what God tells us". For this Matthieu Daum, the facilitator of the Chapter, proposed to begin with a time of personal silence and finally share by Fraternities.

The Capitulars shared on a second occasion by Fraternities, the sentiments, the image or song that they prepared personally as result of the personal reflection of the day. The session ended with sharing in Fraternities. The day concluded with the Eucharistic encounter at 18.45 pm.

## Day 19 – 26 September 2017

The morning was a contemplative and personal moment of dialogue in si-

lence with God in an exercise of desert in order to return to the key forces, which form the future. To discover what has touched and moved each person up until now in the Chapter, as well as what cannot continue in the future; each one's proper fears and of what each one has really committed himself to let go. At the same time ask God; as Marists, who do you, want us to be in this emerging future. Who do you want me to be? As Marists, what do you want us to do in this emerging future? What do you want me to do?

During the afternoon the mapping of what they listened to in the desert exercise, was proposed. There was a moment of sharing all those calls, discovered in the exercise of the personal retreat. All this to make the process of our journey together, constructing "The new La Valla". Then there was the proposal to divide the 95 Chapter Participants into three groups: the young Brothers, the invited Laity and the Capitulars.

As the result of the sharing, the following thematic nuclei emerged: Youth and the poor, Transformation, Full Life, Laity and joint formation, Global Body, Communities of Brothers, Brothers, Centrality of Jesus of Nazareth, Trust, Authenticity, Simplicity of life.

The session ended with the sharing of each Chapter Participant of the sentiment with which he ends the day.

## Day 20 – 27 September 2017

The day began with the moment of the Eucharistic celebration. Afterwards, and gathered in the Chapter Room, Br João Carlos Do Prado, Secretary of the 22nd General Chapter, presented to the Chapter assembly the summary of the Minutes from September 7 to 16 for their approbation. He informed the Chapter Assembly about the process followed in registering each session of the Chapter. After listening to and accepting the suggestions made by some of the General Chapter participants, followed the approbation of the Minutes. In the Chapter Room were gathered the 79 Capitulars. The approbation was unanimous 79/79 positive votes.

Continuing, then Matthieu Daum, facilitator of the Chapter, presented the dynamics of work for the day, the central theme was to discover, which are the four calls that God is addressing to us for a New Beginning?

For the activity, the Chapter Assembly worked first, at the working tables where they prepared four phrases, which began as follows: "For this New Beginning, God calls us to..." After this work, eight new working tables were formed, identifying which areas of Marist life we want to explore more at depth as a Chapter in the light of the calls that we just heard.

As the result of the work of the day four calls emerged, to which the Participants of the Chapter Assembly gave their suggestions and opinions to continue working and constructing with them what God is telling us and asking, in the midst of this emerging world. The thematic nuclei of these calls were: Spirituality, Mission, Fraternity and the Life of the Brothers.

The session of the day concluded with the suggestions made by the Chapter Participants concerning the areas of the Marist life, which will be studied at depth, in working groups, during the next days of the Chapter. The Facilitating Commission. Is in charge of organizing these areas in thematic blocks, which will be presented to the Assembly in the next session.

## Day 20 – 28 September 2017

On the first session of the day, the group of the Laity invited to the General Chapter presented the document of the Marist Laity. They reminded the assembly that, in the XXI General Chapter, one of the calls was that of growing in "A new relationship between the Brothers and the Laity, based on sharing and looking for greater vitality in the Marist charism for our world."
Afterwards, Anthony Clarke and Josep Buetas read out the proposals from the Laity to the General Chapter which were: To strengthen the identity of the Marist Laity, saying a word about plans for formation, revitalization of the MChFM, linking and ownership as Marist Laity and finally, shared formation.

Next, Matthieu Daum, presented the thematic areas, the result of the group work of the previous day, taking as a basis the calls to which God invites us in this new beginning. These areas are: Mission, Brothers, Brothers and Laity, governance, finance and communication. The plenary session was opened, where the participants in the Chapter shared their opinions with regard to the proposal of the 6 thematic areas, with their corresponding contributions. After listening to the Assembly and noting the concerns expressed, Br Darren Joseph Burge, moderator of the session, proceeded to put to the vote the proposal of the Facilitation Commission for working in 6 groups, corresponding to the 6 areas of thematic interest already outlined.
The voting was conducted with cards of different colours (green, yellow and red). Present were 78 of the 79 Capitulars. By a unanimous vote of 78/78, the proposal of the Facilitation Commission was approved for working in 6 groups using those thematic areas.
Subsequently the working groups were organized in such a way that participants could choose to go to the group which most interested them.
The session finished with the work on thematic areas and the Eucharist was organized by the group of the Laity invited to the chapter.

## Day 22 – 29 September 2017

The task for the day consisted of three sections. In the first, work continued in groups according to the thematic areas as on the previous day (Mission, life of the Brothers, Brothers and Laity, governance, finance and communication). These groups reflected on the principles that could guide their reflection and action on this topic for the next 8 years.
In the second section, a little more detailed presentation was made of the work that would be carried out, starting from next week, with reflection on the documents of the Constitutions - Statutes and the Rule of Life to be approved.
The third section consisted of the presentation and respective approval of the process for the election of the Superior General and Vicar General. Before the presentation and reading of the text, Br Emili Turú, together with Brothers Joseph McKee, Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Eugène Kaban-

guka, Josep María Soteras, Victor Manuel Preciado and Michael De Waas, thanked the Institute for all the support received in the course of these eight years of serving the Institute in the General Government. As a symbol of welcome and an expression of gratitude towards them, the General Assembly listened to them and acknowledged them with enthusiastic and warm applause. Following this, Br Benjamin Consigli, coordinator of the Facilitation Commission, presented the procedure to be carried out for the election of the Superior General and Vicar General on October 3. After some time dedicated to personal reading and discussion at the working group tables and a period of plenary session, where opinions and contributions of the document presented were heard, the document was approved.
There were present 77 of the 79 Capitular Brothers. The question formulated for the approval of the document was: Do I accept the procedure for the election of the Superior General and Vicar General? By unanimous vote (77 of a possible 77) the General Assembly approved the procedure for the election of the Superior General and Vicar General to be carried out on 3 October 2017.

## Day 23 – 30 September 2017

Today's session began with the Eucharist, in which thanks was given for the appointment of the new Superior General of the Marist Fathers, Father John Larsen of New Zealand.
The session for today had three central sections: the first one was dedicated to the group work by thematic areas, giving continuity to what had been developed the previous day regarding the preparation of the principles suggested in each thematic area. The second section, a plenary session in which the work groups on thematic areas shared with the Assembly the principles and calls to which they had come to an agreement.
The third section was dedicated to saying farewell to the group of the Laity who had been invited to the General Chapter. Initially, Br Emili dedicated some words of thanks to them for their participation and their contribution in the course of the Chapter. The session ended with a celebration in their honour.

## Day 25 – 2 October 2017

Br Michael Maminiaina Razafimandimby, moderator of the session, explained to the General Assembly that, in accordance with article 29 of the existing statutes, the Facilitation Commission of the 22nd General Chapter unanimously approved the written application of Br Samuel Holguín Díez to be absent from the General Chapter for family reasons; next, the morning was devoted to personal and prayerful reading of the Constitutions, previously announced by Br Emili Turú.

In the afternoon, the General Assembly gathered at 15:00h for a period of Marian prayer. Following this, Br Benjamin Consigli reminded the Capitulars of the discernment document referring to the election of the Superior General and Vicar General.

Later, some time was devoted to prayer and personal reflection, keeping in mind what was expected from the next Superior General and his Vicar in terms of animation and government, and in the spirit of the calls that have arisen in the course of this General Chapter.

The Capitulars had the opportunity to discuss freely with the others about their reflection; it is a time "of discerned" discussion, according to the tradition of the Society of Jesus.

At 17:00h, during the Offertory in the Eucharist, the Capitulars wrote on a card a maximum of two names of possible Brothers who could assume the mission of serving the Institute as Superior General. Brothers Seán Sammon and Emili Turú prepared a list with the resulting names of the poll as an aid to discernment, with the understanding that the election would not be restricted exclusively to this list.

## Day 26 – 3 October 2017

At 10:00h, all the Capitulars congregated in the Chapter room. The group presiding over the session was composed of Brothers Emili Turú, president of the Chapter, Benjamin Consigli, coordinator of the Facilitation Commission, João Carlos Do Prado, secretary of the 22nd General Chapter, Michel Maminiaina Razafimandimby and Aureliano García Manzanal as deputy sec-

retaries. Brothers Bernard Beaudin and Deivis Alexandre Fischer form part of the table as scrutators.

Br Emili, president of the Chapter, proposed that the Capitular Brothers be the only ones in the room and that all the electronic equipment be turned off. In accordance with the procedure laid down in the Constitutions (art. 131) and in the Regulation of the Chapter process (Chapter No. 7), the election of the Brother Superior General was put in motion.

After the votes cast had been counted, Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba obtained an absolute majority and he replied in the affirmative when Br Emili Turú asked him if he accepted the result of the election. Consequently, Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba is elected as the XIV Superior General of the Institute.

Immediately the Assembly broke into applause and the Brothers approached Br Ernesto to congratulate him, at the same time the bell sounded, announcing the event to the whole house and to the rest of the Institute. Subsequently a procession was organized towards the house Chapel, preceded by Br Ernesto who carried aloft a relic of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

In the Chapel, Br Ernesto uttered his first words as the new Superior General saying: " *This is a moment when my heart burns with joy and happiness. Thank you for your trust. It gives me courage to know that we are together in this adventure of the New La Valla that we love with all our heart".* He mentioned that, in the course of these years when he will be at the service of the Institute, he wishes that a Marian time be lived with all that this means. He finished by thanking in a special way Brothers Sean Sammon and Emili Turú for the baton that they now transfer to him and that he will try to carry with him with much care and affection. The session ends with a short prayer.

At 16:30h, the Capitulars meet again in the Chapter room for the election of the Brother Vicar General. The same group that presided over the morning directed the session, except for the president of the Chapter who, starting from this moment, was Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba. In accordance with the procedure laid down in the Constitutions (art. 132 and 133), the election of the Brother Vicar General began. After the votes were cast and counted, Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco attained an absolute majority. Br Ernesto Sánchez asked him if he agreed to the election and when he answered in the affirmative, those present in the Chapter room applauded and approached to greet Br Luis Carlos, elected as the new Vicar General of the Institute of

the Marist Brothers. The day finished with the celebration of the Eucharist in thanksgiving for the life and the acceptance of Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez. Later on, a festive meal took place in the Latin American style, accompanied by the young novices and the Brothers of the two communities of Medellin: The novitiate and Santo Domingo.

## Day 27 – 4 October 2017

The day began with the celebration of the Eucharist, commemorating the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. The sessions for the day were devoted to the working groups and the thematic areas. Each group finalised its work and the plenary session from each working group followed, giving special attention to what they had heard in the plenary session from the different working tables. Following the conclusion of the Principles, they concentrate on the recommendations by areas.

Br João Carlos Do Prado, secretary of the 22nd General Chapter, presented to the General Assembly the minutes of the second week, from days 18 to 24 September 2017. He pointed out that the minutes had been amended, taking into account the indications and suggestions made by the Capitulars; he also pointed out that a recording exists of audio and written minutes for each session which will continue during the General Chapter. Making use of the cards (green, yellow and red), the Capitulars approved the minutes unanimously.

## Day 28 – 5 October 2017

During the day the groups dealing with thematic areas of communication and Calls, Brothers and Laity and also finance, present to the General Assembly the draft of the Principles and recommendations which they had been working on in the course of the last few days. After each presentation there was a plenary session, and later an indicative poll was taken, where the Capitulars agreed with the content presented, which they would continue working on, keeping in mind the suggestions of the Assembly.

In the afternoon session, Br Josep María Soteras, together with Brothers Anthony John Clark and Eduardo Navarro, proposed to the Assembly that they work on "The Rule of Life" as a separate document distinct from the text of the Constitutions. This was put to the vote. The Assembly in plenary session suggested that the name "Rule of Life" should not be used, but there should be a less normative and more inspiring name for the vocation and life of the Marist Brother.
After listening to the Assembly in plenary session, Br Darren Joseph Burge, moderator of the session, suggested to the Assembly that they begin the voting process starting with the following question: Do we want to have a "Rule of Life" as a separate/distinct document to the Constitutions? To approve this, it was suggested that there should be 2/3 of the entirety of votes. The number of voters present was 76. The vote then took place and the scrutiny was as follows: Yes: 75 votes; No: 1 vote. Having obtained 2/3 of the vote, the General Assembly approved having a "Rule of Life" as a document separate/distinct from the Constitutions. The day ended with the celebration of the Eucharist.

## Day 29 – 6 October 2017

During the first part of the morning, the groups for thematic areas who had not yet shared their work made their presentations; at the end of this session, more time was given to the groups to sum up the 5 Principles and Suggestions that should be presented to the General Assembly. In the afternoon, groups 1) Brothers, 2) Governance and 3) Brothers and Laity presented the proposal of their Principles and Suggestions to be submitted for the approval of the Assembly by means of a vote.

1. **Brothers Group**
After the presentation, time was allocated for discussion at the work tables and later on the plenary session was opened. After listening to the Assembly, there was a motion to vote for the proposal that had been suggested by Br César Rojas and his group. Immediately voting took place to include in suggestion 3 the expression: «That we should leave our area of comfort and act in a concrete way.» The proposal was approved following the result of the scrutiny: of a total

of 77, there were 75 green cards and 2 yellow cards. Then the voting on the final proposal took place with the following question: Do we agree with the proposal as presented? The proposal was approved unanimously.

2. **Governance Group**
Following the same dynamics as the previous group, after the presentation, time is allotted for discussion at the work tables and later on there is a plenary session. After listening to the Assembly, the voting for the proposal of Br Brendan Geary regarding the removal the first part of the paragraph of Suggestion 2 takes place, where the expression " New Models " is included. This proposal is approved with the following result of the scrutiny: of a total of 77 votes, 69 green cards, 6 red cards, 1 yellow card and 1 abstention. Subsequently, the voting takes place for the final proposal of the group with the following question: Do we agree with the proposal as presented? The result of the scrutiny is: of a total of 77 votes: 76 green cards and 1 abstention; consequently, by obtaining a majority of the votes, the Assembly approved the proposal as presented.

3. **Brothers and Laity Group**
Continuing with the proposed dynamics, the group made its presentation and time was allocated for discussion at the work tables followed by the plenary session. The voting took place and the result of the scrutiny was: of a total of 77 votes, 66 green cards, 3 red cards and 8 abstentions in favour of the title "Marists of Champagnat". Immediately, the voting took place on the final proposal of the group with the following question: Do we agree with the proposal presented and under the title Marists of Champagnat? The result of the scrutiny was: of a total of 77 present, 71 green cards and 6 red cards were presented; consequently, there being a majority, the Assembly approved the proposal with the modifications ratified.

## Day 30 – 7 October 2017

Br Benjamin Consigli, coordinator of the Facilitation Commission, presented the proposal for the procedure to be followed for the election of the Gen-

eral Council. He highlighted articles 136 and 137 of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers which refer to the formation and constitution of the General Council. After suggesting the procedure and having listened to the opinion of the General Assembly, the following agreements were approved:
The Assembly proposed some suggestions for the election process which were accepted by the Facilitation Commission. The Assembly unanimously agreed that the number of elected Councillors for the 22nd General Chapter should be 6 Brothers; the discussion at the tables took into consideration the diversity of cultures in the Institute; it also unanimously approved that, in the event of a tie in the fourth vote, the younger Brother would be chosen. Lastly, the voting proceeded to the proposal of the procedure for the election of the General Council by electronic vote with the following question: Do I approve the process of election of the General Council as presented with the approved modifications? Of 77 votes, the result was: Yes - 77 votes, No - 0 votes. The procedure was approved unanimously.
At the final part of the session, the group dealing with communication and the Calls presented their working proposal.
The day ended with the celebration of the Eucharist, remembering the Feast of the Holy Rosary, followed by a musical concert offered by the Amadeus group, with students of the Champagnat School from the city of Pasto.

## Day 32 – 9 October 2017

The morning session was devoted to the finalization of the presentation on the Principles and Suggestions of the groups dealing with the thematic areas of finance and mission. The morning ended with discussion in administrative Units on the project of "New Models."
Beginning with the finance group, a vote was taken regarding the proposal: "To remove suggestion number 6 and to include it in suggestion number 4". It was made clear that for a proposal to be approved it required an absolute majority, that is to say 39 of the 77 possible votes. The result of the scrutiny regarding this proposal was as follows: 40 green cards and 37 red cards. On reaching the absolute majority, the Assembly approved the suggestion that number 6 be included in number 4.

Later, a poll was taken regarding the proposal: "To explore new economic models". The result of the scrutiny was as follows: 35 green cards, 3 yellow cards and 39 red cards. By not reaching an absolute majority, the Assembly did not approve the proposal. Following this, the vote was taken for the approval of the Principles and Suggestions presented by the group with the following question: Do we agree with the proposal presented by the Finance Group? The Assembly unanimously approved the proposal as presented.
Later, the mission group presented its Principles and Suggestions. A vote was taken regarding the proposal of adding in the suggestion 2, "... Including the document Marist Educational Mission". The result of the scrutiny was as follows: 34 green cards, 39 red cards and 4 abstentions. The proposal was not approved, and the text stood as presented by the Mission Group. Immediately, a second vote took place with the following question: Do we agree with the proposal presented by the group of Mission? Unanimously the Assembly approved the proposal as it was presented.
In the afternoon session, the process for the election of the General Council began. First there was a Marian session, then a conversation at the tables and later a period of personal prayer and discernment. The General Assembly convened at 18:00h in the chapel and, in a prayerful and meditative atmosphere, the Capitulars took part in a first survey of possible candidates to be General Councillors.

## Day 33 – 10 October 2017

Election of the General Council
At 9:30h, the Capitulars met in the Chapter Room to begin the process of electing the General Council, preceded by a period of prayer. Br Benjamin Consigli, Coordinator of the Facilitation Commission, proposed to the assembly that, as well as the secretary of the Chapter, Br João Carlos Do Prado, Brothers Michel Maminiaina Razafimandimby and Aureliano García Manzanal continue to act as secretaries. The General Assembly unanimously accepted the names proposed. Acting as scrutators were be the oldest, Br Bernard Beaudin, and the youngest, Br Deivis Alexandre Fischer.
Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General and President of the Chapter,

immediately assumed the presidency, recalling the importance of the responsibilities that the Capitulars had regarding the Institute. Next, he asked that only the Capitular Brothers should be present in the room and that all electronic apparatus should be switched off. There would be no type of electronic registration or recording of the election. The election of the General Councillors began in accordance with the procedure established in the Constitutions (art. 136 and 137) and in the Statutes of the Chapter (Art. 8).
In the course of three sessions, members of the General Council were elected: Benjamin Consigli, Óscar Martin Vicario, João Carlos do Prado, Kenneth Charles McDonald, Sylvain Romuald Ramandimbiarisoa and Josep María Soteras Pons.
At the end of the day the Eucharist was celebrated in thanksgiving for the new General Council and the day ended with a festive family occasion.

## Day 34 – 11 October 2017

Brothers Josep María Soteras, Anthony Clark, Eduardo Navarro and Sebastião Ferrarini, being part of the commission for the revision of the Constitutions, presented to the Assembly the global structure of the 5 chapters of the new text of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers, that is: Our Institute as religious Brothers, our origins as Brothers, our life as Brothers, our journey as Brothers, and our organization as Brothers.
The work outlined for the coming days was as follows: Presentation (October 11), personal comments (October 11, in the afternoon), suggestions (October 12, in the morning), proposals (October 12, in the afternoon), changes in proposals (October 13), validation of proposals (October 14, in the morning).
Br João Carlos Do Prado presented the minutes of the third week from 25 to 30 September; the Assembly unanimously approved the minutes of the third week. Subsequently Br Benjamin Consigli reminded the Brothers of the proposal that was made the previous week by Br Peter Carroll, to make a declaration asking for forgiveness of the victims of sexual abuse, on behalf of the whole Chapter. Most of the Assembly are in favour of making this declaration; a team was appointed to draw up a declaration which they would present to the Chapter the following week.

## Day 35 – 12 October 2017

In the morning the General Assembly worked on the preparation of comments and on identifying possible suggestions for the different articles of the document of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers. In the afternoon session the work of reflection was renewed around the topic of the "New Models" carried out the previous Monday October 2; the administrative Units highlighted the positive aspects, those that were complex, as well as some perspectives on the project.

The day concluded with a workshop and discussion on the politics and actions that should be adopted and carried forward in the Institute on the topic of the protection of the children and young people. In particular, this would deal with the topic of sexual abuse of minors, with a view to preparing a document which would serve both as advice and a guide to the prevention of this scourge and indicate the procedures to adopt to deal with the present allegations.

## Day 36 – 13 October 2017

The General Assembly returned to the work tables to deal with the preparation of Suggestions and on the document of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers. In the afternoon, the secretaries of the work tables presented a summary which had been prepared starting from the suggestions made in chapters 1 and 2. Work also took place on personal reading of the text of the "Rule of Life."

## Day 37 – 14 October 2017

Today's two sessions were devoted to the presentation of the summary of suggestions made by the work tables concerning chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the text of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers. There were periods of shared plenary session and several polls were approved with regard to these suggestions. The secretaries prepared possible proposals to be carried out the following week, in order to put them to the vote.

The group which was working on a proposal for the document relating to child protection, in particular against sexual abuse, presented its finding to

the General Assembly regarding the positive aspects, concerns and recommendations outlined in the document.
On concluding plenary session one, the team which was preparing the document on the Calls of the 22nd General Chapter presented the proposed document for the attention of the Capitulars, to read and to offer contributions before its final production.
The day concluded with the official photographs of the 22nd General Chapter.

## Day 39 – 16 October 2017

Br Robert Schieler, Superior General of De La Salle Brothers, and Paulo Petry, General Councillor of De La Salle Brothers for the sector of the Americas, joined the Brothers in the General Chapter for two days, and took part in some sessions of the General Chapter.
The day was dedicated to study and reflection on the second summary of comments and suggestions presented by the secretaries of the work tables on chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers. Later, the first summary of the comments and suggestions of Chapters 4 and 5 were presented.
Br João Carlos do Prado, secretary of the 22nd General Chapter, presented to the Assembly the minutes from 2 October to 8 October 2017. After some explanations, the minutes were approved unanimously by the General Assembly.
The afternoon was dedicated to the preparation of the comments and suggestions for the "Rule of Life" document presented by different work tables. In the evening, the document of the Marist Laity was presented; the Assembly made suggestions and offered contributions to this.

## Day 40 – 17 October 2017

The morning was devoted to voting on the first two chapters of the Constitutions and Statutes of the Marist Brothers. Br Josep María Soteras directed the voting for the Constitutions and the Statutes of the Institute of the Marist Brothers. Two-thirds of the votes are required for the respective approval of articles. This was agreed as being 51 votes. For the Statutes an absolute majority is required. This was agreed as being 39 votes. The results of the votes were as follows:

# VOTING ON CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES (v4)

## Chapter 1

| CODE 2017 | TEXT 1986-2009 | TEXT 2018 | PROPOSAL | PRESENT | YES Votes | NO Votes | ABS | MAJORITY | RESULT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101 | 1 | Art. 1 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 102 | 3 | Art. 2 | 2 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 103 | 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 9 | Art. 3 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 104 | 2 | Art. 4 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 105 | 8 | Art. 5 | 1 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 106 | New | Art. 6 | 2 | 76 | 73 | 3 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 106.1 | 164.4 | est. 6.1 | 2 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 106.2 | 8 | | 3 | 76 | 40 | 36 | 0 | 2/3 | NO |
| 106.2 | 8 | est. 6.2 | 2 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 107 | 8 | Art. 7 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 108 | 9 | Art. 8 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 109 | 10 | Art. 9 | 2 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 110 | 10 | Art. 10 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 111 | 163; 164; 171 | Art. 11 | 1 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 112 | 3; 169 | Art. 12 | 2 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 112.1 | 169 | est. 12.1 | 2 | 76 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 112.2 | 169.1 | est. 12.2 | 2 | 76 | 73 | 2 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |

## Chapter 2

| CODE 2017 | TEXT 1986-2009 | TEXT 2018 | PROPOSAL | PRESENT | YES Votes | NO Votes | ABS | MAJORITY | RESULT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 201 | 11 | Art. 13 | 2 | 76 | 72 | 4 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 202 | 15 | Art. 14 | 1 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 202.1 | 15.1 | est. 14.1 | 1 | 76 | 68 | 6 | 2 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 203 | 15; 25 | Art. 15 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 203.1 | 15.2 | est. 15.1 | 2 | 76 | 73 | 2 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 203.2 | 61.3 | est. 15.2 | 2 | 76 | 72 | 4 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 204 | 17 | Art. 16 | 1 | 76 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 205 | 17 | Art. 17 | 2 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 206 | 20; 22 | Art. 18 | 2 | 76 | 73 | 2 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 207 | 20 | Art. 19 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 208 | 23 | Art. 20 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 0 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 209 | 23; 24.1 | Art. 21 | 2 | 76 | 73 | 3 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 210 | 25 | Art. 22 | 2 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 211 | 26 | Art. 23 | 1 | 76 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 211.1 | 26.1 | est. 23.1 | 1 | 76 | 75 | 0 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 217 | 36 | Art. 24 | 1 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 217 A | New | Art. 25 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 217 B | New | Art. 26 | 1 | 76 | 70 | 5 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 218 | 37 | Art. 27 | 1 | 76 | 74 | 1 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 218.1 | 37.1 | est. 27.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 218.2 | 37.2 | est. 27.2 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 219 | 40; 41 | Art. 28 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 219.1 | 40.1 | est. 28.1 | 1 | 76 | 76 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 219.2 | 40.2 | est. 28.2 | 1 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 219.3 | 40.3 | est. 28.3 | 1 | 76 | 76 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 212 | 28 | Art. 29 | 2 | 76 | 73 | 2 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 213 | 32 | Art. 30 | 1 | 76 | 74 | 1 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 213.1 | 32.1 | est. 30.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 213.2 | 32.2 | est. 30.2 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 214 | 32 | Art. 31 | 1 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 214.1 | 32.3 | est. 31.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 215 | 33; 34 | Art. 32 | 1 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 215.1 | 33.1 | est. 32.1 | 1 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 215.2 | 34.1 | est. 32.2 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 0 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 215.3 | 34.2 | est. 32.3 | | | | | | | W. changes |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 216 | 29 | Art. 33 | 1 | 76 | 74 | 0 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 216.1 | 29.1 | est. 33.1 | 2 | 76 | 73 | 3 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 216.2 | 29.2 | est. 33.2 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 216.3 | 29.3 | est. 33.3 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 216.4 | 29.4 | est. 33.4 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 216.5 | 29.5 | est. 33.5 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 216.6 | 29.6 | est. 33.6 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 216.7 | 29.7 | est. 33.7 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 216.8 | 29.8 | est. 33.8 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 2016.9 | 29.9 | est. 33.9 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 216.10 | 29.10 | est. 33.10 | 1 | 76 | 69 | 3 | 4 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 216.11 | 29.11 | est. 33.11 | | | | | | | W. changes |

At the end of the morning Br Schieler, Superior General of De La Salle Brothers, addressed the General Assembly, and also Br Humberto Murillo, Superior of the District of Norandino. Lasallian Brothers provided lunch for the participants of the 22nd General Chapter, accompanied by the Bishop of Rionegro, Mons. Fidel León Cadavid Marín.
The afternoon was devoted to the presentation and discussion of the proposals presented by the Governance team regarding the Statutes of the Chapter. Finally, Br Josep María Soteras presented the proposal for the finalisation of the texts of the Constitutions and "Rule of life."

## Day 41 – 18 October 2017

Br Josep María Soteras supervised the voting on the Constitutions and the Statutes of the Institute of the Marist Brothers. For the respective approval of these articles 2/3 of the votes are required, meaning a total of 51 votes and for the Statutes an absolute majority is required, meaning 39 votes. The results of the voting are as follows:

## Chapter 3

| CODE 2017 | TEXT 1986-2009 | TEXT 2018 | PROPOSAL | PRESENT | YES Votes | NO Votes | ABS | MAJORITY | RESULT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 300 | Nuevo | Art. 34 | 1 | 75 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 301 | 47; 48 | Art. 35 | 1 | 76 | 72 | 1 | 3 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 302 | 49 | Art. 36 | 2 | 76 | 72 | 4 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 302.1 | 49.1 | est. 36.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 302.2 | Nuevo | est. 36.2 | 2 | 76 | 73 | 3 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 303 | 52 | Art. 37 | 1 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 303.1 | 52.1 | est. 37.1 | 1 | 76 | 73 | 1 | 2 | | Approved |
| 304 | 54; 55 | Art. 38 | 1 | 76 | 70 | 4 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 304.1 | 54.1 | est. 38.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 304.2 | 55.1 | est. 38.2 | 2 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 304.3 | 55.2; 55.3; 55.4; 55.5; 55.6; 55.7 | est. 38.3 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 305 | 58 | Art. 39 | 2 | 75 | 70 | 2 | 3 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 305.1 | 50.1; 50.2; 58.1 | est. 39.1 | 2 | 75 | 70 | 1 | 4 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 306 | 60 | Art. 40 | 1 | 75 | 72 | 0 | 3 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 306.1 | 60.1 | est. 40.1 | 1 | 75 | 70 | 3 | 2 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 306.2 | 60.2 | est. 40.2 | 2 | 75 | 68 | 4 | 3 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 307 | 60 | Art. 41 | 2 | 75 | 68 | 5 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 307.2 | 60.3 | est. 41.1 | 1 | 75 | 72 | 1 | 2 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 307.3 | 60.4 | est. 41.2 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 307.4 | 56.1 | est. 41.3 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 308 | 61 | Art. 42 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 308.1 | 61.1 | est. 42.1 | 2 | 75 | 73 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 309 | Nuevo | Art. 43 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 0 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 309.1 | 23.1 | est. 43.1 | 1 | 75 | 75 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 309.2 | 23.1 | est. 43.2 | 1 | 75 | 69 | 2 | 4 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 310 | 64 | Art. 44 | 1 | 75 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 311 | 67; 68; 77 | Art. 45 | 2 | 75 | 73 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 311.1 | 57 | est. 45.1 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 0 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 312 | 69 | Art. 46 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 312.1 | 69.1 | est. 46.1 | 2 | 75 | 74 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 312.2 | 69.2 | est. 46.2 | 2 | 75 | 72 | 0 | 3 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 313 | 70; 66 | Art. 47 | 2 | 75 | 72 | 1 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 313.1 | 70.1; 77.1 | est. 47.1 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 0 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 313.2 | 70.2 | est. 47.2 | 2 | 75 | 69 | 3 | 3 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 313.3 | 61.2 | est. 47.3 | 1 | 75 | 70 | 4 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 314 | 65; 66; 71 | Art. 48 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 314.1 | 71; 71.1; 71.2 | est. 48.1 | 2 | 75 | 73 | 0 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 315 | 72 | Art. 49 | 1 | 75 | 71 | 2 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 315.1 | 73 | est. 49.1 | 1 | 75 | 71 | 3 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 315.2 | 72.1 | est. 49.2 | 1 | 75 | 67 | 6 | 2 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 315.3 | 73.1 | est. 49.3 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 0 | 2 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 315.4 | 73.3 | est. 49.4 | 1 | 75 | 71 | 4 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 315.5 | 73.2 | est. 49.5 | 2 | 75 | 74 | 0 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 315.6 | Nuevo | est. 49.6 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 316 | 74; 75 | Art. 50 | 2 | 75 | 74 | 0 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 316.1 | 70.3; 75.1 | est. 50.1 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 316.2 | 74 | est. 50.2 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 316.3 | 74.1 | est. 50.3 | 1 | 75 | 72 | 3 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 316.4 | 74.2 | est. 50.4 | 1 | 75 | 70 | 5 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 316.5 | 75.2 | est. 50.5 | 2 | 75 | 72 | 2 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 316.6 | 75.3 | est. 50.6 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 316.7 | 75.4 | est. 50.7 | 2 | 75 | 72 | 3 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 317 | 78; 79 | Art. 51 | 1 | 75 | 72 | 3 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 318 | 81 | Art. 52 | 2 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 318.1 | 85.1 | est. 52.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 319 | 80 | Art. 53 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 0 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 319.1 | 80.1 | est. 53.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 319.2 | 80.1 | est. 53.2 | | | | | | | W. changes |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 319.3 | 80.1 | est. 53.3 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 320 | 82 | Art. 54 | 1 | 75 | 72 | 2 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 320.1 | 86.2 | est. 54.1 | 2 | 75 | 73 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 320.2 | 84.1 | est. 54.2 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 321 | 85 | Art. 55 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 321.1 | 86.1 | est. 55.1 | 2 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 321.2 | 86.4 | est. 55.2 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 0 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 321.3 | 86.3 | est. 55.3 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 322 | 85 | Art. 56 | 1 | 75 | 72 | 1 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 322.1 | 89.1 | est. 56.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 323 | 85 | Art. 57 | 2 | 75 | 74 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 323.1 | New | est. 57.1 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 324 | 87 | Art. 58 | 2 | 75 | 72 | 1 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 324.1 | 87.1 | est. 58.1 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 324.2 | 87.2; 87.3; 87.4 | est. 58.2 | 2 | 75 | 73 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 325 | 86 | Art. 59 | 2 | 75 | 74 | 0 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 325.1 | New | est. 59.1 | 2 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 325.2 | New | est. 59.2 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 325.3 | New | est. 59.3 | 2 | 75 | 72 | 1 | 2 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 325.4 | New | est. 59.4 | 2 | 75 | 75 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 326 | 91 | Art. 60 | 2 | 75 | 71 | 4 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 326.1 | New | est. 60.1 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 0 | 2 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 326.2 | 80 | est. 60.2 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 327 | 90 | Art. 61 | 1 | 75 | 71 | 0 | 4 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 327.1 | 91.2; 91.3 | est. 61.1 | 1 | 75 | 74 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 327.2 | 91.1 | est. 61.2 | 1 | 75 | 71 | 3 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 327.3 | 91.1; 91.4 | est. 61.3 | 1 | 75 | 73 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |

The Assembly also worked on the draft of the declaration that the Chapter prepared on child protection, with special regard to the topic of child abuse. A discussion took place at the work tables and in a general plenary session. It was agreed to publish this declaration on the web site of the Institute of the

Marist Brothers.

## Day 42 – 19 October 2017

In the morning, Br Josep María Soteras supervised the session on electronic voting of some articles of the Constitutions and the Statutes of the Institute of the Marist Brothers; before pointing out that for the respective approval of the articles, 2/3 of the votes is required, a total of 51 votes, and for the Statutes an absolute majority is required, a total of 39 votes. The total number of voters was 76 Capitulars. Later the voting took place on the following articles and statutes of the Constitutions:

| CODE 2017 | TEXT 1986-2009 | TEXT 2018 | PROPOSAL | PRESENT | YES Votes | NO Votes | ABS | MAJORITY | RESULT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 422 | 170 | | 2 | 76 | 34 | 40 | 2 | 2/3 | No |
| 422 | 170 | Art. 83 | 1 | 76 | 63 | 11 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 422.1 | 170.1 | est. 83.1 | 1 | 76 | 68 | 4 | 4 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 422.2 | 170.3 | est. 83.2 | 1 | 76 | 68 | 3 | 5 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 514.1 | 138.1 | est. 100.1 | 2 | 76 | 73 | 3 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 515 | 139 | Art. 101 | 1 | 76 | 73 | 3 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 516 | 140 | Art. 102 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 516.1 | 140.1 | est. 102.1 | 1 | 76 | 50 | 25 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 516.2 | 140.2 | | 2 | 76 | 25 | 47 | 4 | ½+1 | NO |
| 516.2 | 140.2 | est. 102.2 | 1 | 76 | 41 | 34 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 516.3 | 140.3 | est. 102.3 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 516.4 | New | est. 102.4 | 1 | 76 | 50 | 25 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 516.5 | 12 (est.cap) | est. 102.5 | 1 | 76 | 73 | 3 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 520.1 | 131 | | 2 | 76 | 16 | 59 | 1 | 2/3 | NO |
| 520.1 | 131 | est. 106.1 | 1 | 76 | 69 | 6 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 526.1 | 137.2 | est. 112.1 | 2 | 76 | 74 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 526.2 | 137.3 | est. 112.2 | 2 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 526.3 | 137.4; 137.5 | est. 112.3 | 1 | 76 | 75 | 0 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 532 | 144 | | 1 | 76 | 21 | 53 | 2 | 2/3 | NO |
| 538.1 | 150.1 | est. 124.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 538.2 | 150.2; 162.5 | est. 124.2 | 1 | 76 | 75 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 538.3 | 150.3 | est. 124.3 | 1 | 76 | 72 | 2 | 2 | ½+1 | Approved |

Then Br Josep María Soteras explained the procedure for continuing the voting for the rest of the articles and statutes of chapters 4 and 5 of the Constitutions and the Statutes of the Institute of the Marist Brothers, guaranteeing the security and confidentiality of the voting. The Capitular Brothers made use of an hour and a half for the respective votes. The results of the voting were:

## Chapter 4

| CODE 2017 | TEXT 1986-2009 | TEXT 2018 | PROPOSAL | PRESENT | YES Votes | NO Votes | ABS | MAJORITY | RESULT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 401 | 95; 106; 110 | Art. 62 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 402 | 95 | Art. 63 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 402.1 | 95.1 | est. 63.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 402.2 | 109.1 | est. 63.2 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 402.3 | New | est. 63.3 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 403 | 92; 93 | Art. 64 | 2 | 74 | 68 | 4 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 404 | 94 | Art. 65 | 2 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 404.1 | 94.1; 95.1; 95.2 | est. 65.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 404.2 | New | est. 65.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 404.3 | 94.2 | est. 65.3 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 404.4 | 93.1; 93.2 | est. 65.4 | 2 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 404.5 | 95.3 | est. 65.5 | 2 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405 | 96 | Art. 66 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 405.1 | 96.1 | est. 66.1 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.2 | 96.2 | est. 66.2 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.3 | 96.5 | est. 66.3 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.4 | 96.3 | est. 66.4 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 405.5 | 96.6 | est. 66.5 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.6 | 96.7 | est. 66.6 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.7 | 96.8 | est. 66.7 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.8 | New | est. 66.8 | 2 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.9 | 96.9 | est. 66.9 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 406 | 97 | Art. 67 | 2 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 406.1 | 97.1 | est. 67.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 407 | 98 | Art. 68 | 2 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 408 | 99 | Art. 69 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 409 | 100 | Art. 70 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 409.1 | 100.1 | est. 70.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 409.2 | 100.2 | est. 70.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 409.3 | 100.3 | est. 70.3 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 409.4 | 100.4 | est. 70.4 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 410 | 101 | Art. 71 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 0 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 410.1 | 101.1 | est. 71.1 | 1 | 74 | 69 | 5 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 410.2 | 101.2 | est. 71.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 411 | 102 | Art. 72 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 411.1 | 102.1 | est. 72.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 411.3 | 102.3 | est. 72.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 412 | 103 | Art. 73 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 412.1 | 103.1; 103.2 | est. 73.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 412.2 | 103.3 | est. 73.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 413 | 104 | Art. 74 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 413.1 | New | est. 74.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 413.2 | 104.1 | est. 74.2 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 413.3 | 104.2 | est. 74.3 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 413.4 | 104.3 | est. 74.4 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 414 | 105 | Art. 75 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 414.1 | 105.1 | est. 75.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 414.2 | 105.2 | est. 75.2 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 415 | 106 | Art. 76 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 416 | 107, 108 | Art. 77 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 416.1 | 108.1 | est. 77.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 416.2 | 108 | est. 77.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417 | 110 | Art. 78 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 417.1 | 110.2 | est. 78.1 | 2 | 74 | 69 | 4 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.2 | 109.1 | est. 78.2 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.3 | 109; 109.1 | est. 78.3 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 417.4 | 85.2; 109.3 | est. 78.4 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.5 | 109.2 | est. 78.5 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.6 | 164.2 | est. 78.6 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.7 | 164.3 | est. 78.7 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.8 | 109.5 | est. 78.8 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.9 | 109.4; 109.6 | est. 78.9 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.10 | 164.1 | est. 78.10 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 418 | 111 | Art. 79 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 419 | 112 | Art. 80 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 419.1 | 112.1 | est. 80.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 419.2 | 112.2 | est. 80.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420 | 113 | Art. 81 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 420.1 | 113.1 | est. 81.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.2 | 113.2 | est. 81.2 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.3 | 113.3 | est. 81.3 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.4 | 113.4 | est. 81.4 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 420.5 | 113.5 | est. 81.5 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.6 | 113.6 | est. 81.6 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.7 | 113.7 | est. 81.7 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 420.8 | 113.8 | est. 81.8 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 420.9 | 113.9 | est. 81.9 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 421 | 114 | Art. 82 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 423 | 116 | Art. 84 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 423.1 | 116.1 | est. 84.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 423.2 | 116.2 | est. 84.2 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 424 | 117 | Art. 85 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 424.1 | 117.1 | est. 85.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 424.2 | 117.2 | est. 85.2 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 425 | New | Art. 86 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 425.1 | New | est. 86.1 | 2 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 425.2 | New | est. 86.2 | 1 | 74 | 71 | 2 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 425.3 | New | est. 86.3 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 425.4 | New | est. 86.4 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |

## Chapter 5

| CODE 2017 | TEXT 1986-2009 | TEXT 2018 | PROPOSAL | PRESENT | YES Votes | NO Votes | ABS | MAJORITY | RESULT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 401 | 95; 106; 110 | Art. 62 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 402 | 95 | Art. 63 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 402.1 | 95.1 | est. 63.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 402.2 | 109.1 | est. 63.2 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 402.3 | New | est. 63.3 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 403 | 92; 93 | Art. 64 | 2 | 74 | 68 | 4 | 2 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 404 | 94 | Art. 65 | 2 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 404.1 | 94.1; 95.1; 95.2 | est. 65.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 404.2 | New | est. 65.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 404.3 | 94.2 | est. 65.3 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 404.4 | 93.1; 93.2 | est. 65.4 | 2 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 404.5 | 95.3 | est. 65.5 | 2 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405 | 96 | Art. 66 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 405.1 | 96.1 | est. 66.1 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 405.2 | 96.2 | est. 66.2 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.3 | 96.5 | est. 66.3 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.4 | 96.3 | est. 66.4 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 405.5 | 96.6 | est. 66.5 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.6 | 96.7 | est. 66.6 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.7 | 96.8 | est. 66.7 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.8 | New | est. 66.8 | 2 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 405.9 | 96.9 | est. 66.9 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 406 | 97 | Art. 67 | 2 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 406.1 | 97.1 | est. 67.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 407 | 98 | Art. 68 | 2 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 408 | 99 | Art. 69 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 409 | 100 | Art. 70 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 409.1 | 100.1 | est. 70.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 409.2 | 100.2 | est. 70.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 409.3 | 100.3 | est. 70.3 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 409.4 | 100.4 | est. 70.4 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 410 | 101 | Art. 71 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 0 | 1 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 410.1 | 101.1 | est. 71.1 | 1 | 74 | 69 | 5 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 410.2 | 101.2 | est. 71.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 411 | 102 | Art. 72 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 411.1 | 102.1 | est. 72.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 411.3 | 102.3 | est. 72.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 412 | 103 | Art. 73 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 412.1 | 103.1; 103.2 | est. 73.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 412.2 | 103.3 | est. 73.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 413 | 104 | Art. 74 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 413.1 | New | est. 74.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 413.2 | 104.1 | est. 74.2 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 413.3 | 104.2 | est. 74.3 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 413.4 | 104.3 | est. 74.4 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 414 | 105 | Art. 75 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 414.1 | 105.1 | est. 75.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 414.2 | 105.2 | est. 75.2 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 415 | 106 | Art. 76 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 416 | 107, 108 | Art. 77 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 416.1 | 108.1 | est. 77.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 416.2 | 108 | est. 77.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417 | 110 | Art. 78 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 417.1 | 110.2 | est. 78.1 | 2 | 74 | 69 | 4 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.2 | 109.1 | est. 78.2 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.3 | 109; 109.1 | est. 78.3 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 417.4 | 85.2; 109.3 | est. 78.4 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.5 | 109.2 | est. 78.5 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.6 | 164.2 | est. 78.6 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.7 | 164.3 | est. 78.7 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.8 | 109.5 | est. 78.8 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.9 | 109.4; 109.6 | est. 78.9 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 417.10 | 164.1 | est. 78.10 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 418 | 111 | Art. 79 | 2 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 419 | 112 | Art. 80 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 419.1 | 112.1 | est. 80.1 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 419.2 | 112.2 | est. 80.2 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420 | 113 | Art. 81 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 420.1 | 113.1 | est. 81.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.2 | 113.2 | est. 81.2 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.3 | 113.3 | est. 81.3 | 1 | 74 | 72 | 1 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.4 | 113.4 | est. 81.4 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 420.5 | 113.5 | est. 81.5 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.6 | 113.6 | est. 81.6 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 420.7 | 113.7 | est. 81.7 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 420.8 | 113.8 | est. 81.8 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 420.9 | 113.9 | est. 81.9 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 421 | 114 | Art. 82 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 423 | 116 | Art. 84 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 423.1 | 116.1 | est. 84.1 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 423.2 | 116.2 | est. 84.2 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 424 | 117 | Art. 85 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 424.1 | 117.1 | est. 85.1 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 424.2 | 117.2 | est. 85.2 | | | | | | | W. changes |
| 425 | New | Art. 86 | 1 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 2/3 | Approved |
| 425.1 | New | est. 86.1 | 2 | 74 | 72 | 2 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 425.2 | New | est. 86.2 | 1 | 74 | 71 | 2 | 1 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 425.3 | New | est. 86.3 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |
| 425.4 | New | est. 86.4 | 1 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 0 | ½+1 | Approved |

Articles of Constitutions 1986-2009 suppressed: 12; 13; 14; 16; 18; 19; 21; 24; 27; 30; 31; 35; 38; 39; 42; 43; 44; 45; 46; 50; 51; 53; 56; 59; 62; 63; 76; 83; 84; 88; 89; 115; 120; 121; 165; 166; 167 y 168.

Articles of Constitutions 1986-2009 suppressed: 27.1; 77.2; 77.3; 88.1; 88.2; 88.4; 88.5; 96.4; 102.2; 110.1; 152.8; 152.9; 158.3; 159.1; 159.2; 161.7; 161.9; 161.13; 161.14; 161.15; 162.4; 165.1; 170.2

In the afternoon session, the voting proceeded, using the electronic voting system, on the final document concerning the declaration of the 22nd General Chapter of the Marist Brothers to the victims and survivors of abuse, starting with the question: Do you support the latest version of the declaration for victims? The proposal was approved by the 76 Capitulars: 66 votes Yes, 8 votes No, and 2 abstentions.

Later on, the document on the Calls of the 22nd General Chapter was presented and a vote was taken on the acceptance of the document as it stood. The document was accepted by 75 votes in favour and 1 against. Next, and after a period of conversation followed by the vote, the Assembly approved the document, with 59 votes in favour, to entrust the final version of the slogan to the Commission.

Then, Br José Sánchez presented the General Assembly with the final document of the Statutes of the General Chapter prepared by the Team on Governance. After the explanations provided, the Capitulars proceeded to vote on the changes that had been suggested. They were reminded that for the approval of a proposal an absolute majority was required, meaning 39 votes of the 76 Capitulars. The results of the scrutinies were as follows:
A change to Statute number 10 of the Chapter by members of right to the General Chapter. The voting took place on proposal 1 which recognized members as of right to the General Chapter: the Superior General; the preceding Brother Superior General; the Brother Vicar General and the General Councillors in place at the opening of the Chapter; the Brothers Provincial and the District Superiors. The Brother Superior General and his council can choose up to 5 Brothers[1] in order to ensure that minority groups (countries, linguistic and ethnic groups), alternative voices and youth are adequately represented in the Chapter. These Brothers will be considered Capitulars, that is to say, with a voice and vote in all the decisions made by the Chapter. After ensuring the presence of 76 voters, the electronic voting took place, the votes being as follows: 50 votes Yes, 25 votes No, and 1 abstention. On obtaining an absolute majority, the proposal is approved.

The second vote dealt with the Statute of Chapter number 11 dealing with the election of members to the General Chapter. The proposal number 2 was voted. After counting 76 voters present, the electronic voting took place, the result being: 25 votes Yes, 47 votes No, and 1 abstention. Since an absolute majority was not obtained, proposal number 2 was not approved. As a result of this, voting for proposal 1 followed which proposed that the number of elected delegates to the General Chapter would be two Brothers for each province and one for each district. The proposal was approved by 41 votes Yes, 34 votes No, and 1 abstention, with 76 Capitulars voting.
A third vote took place, regarding Statute number 25 of the Chapter which

[1] This decision was not approved by the Holy See, which maintained the previous text, which sets the limit of two Brothers who can be appointed by the Superior General and his council (Constitutions 105.3).

intended to eliminate the text of the statute dealing with the extension of the mandate of a Brother Provincial when this finishes after the publication of the Circular on the convocation of the General Chapter. After checking the number of 76 Capitulars entitled to vote, the results of the scrutiny were: 52 votes Yes, 23 votes No, and 1 abstention. On obtaining the required absolute majority, the proposal for the change was approved.

The fourth vote referred to the Statutes of the General Chapter, starting with the following question:
Do you agree with the other changes of the Statutes of the General Chapter presented by the working group on Governance? After checking the number of 76 present for the vote, the result of the scrutiny was as follows: 73 votes Yes, 3 votes No, and 0 abstentions. On obtaining the absolute majority required, the proposal was approved.

During the day, Br Anthony Leon presented the formation programmes proposed by the secretariat "Brothers Today" for 2018 presenting visual responses of the Calls of the 22nd General Chapter, explaining these images.
The day closed with the final meeting of the fraternities and a prayer session in the Chapel with the whole of the General Chapter.

## Day 43 – 20 October 2017

The morning began with a time of prayer and later on Br Benjamin Consigli, moderator of the session, gave the directions for the closing day of the Chapter.

Next, Br Josep María Soteras presented the suggestions for the next steps regarding the document provisionally entitled "Rule of Life" and of the Constitutions and the Statutes of the Marist Brothers.

Voting then took place on the proposal made with regard to the delegation for the final preparation of the text of the Constitutions and the Statutes with the following: The 22nd General Chapter transfers to the General Council, after the adjustments and approval on the part of the Holy See, the respon-

sibility of publishing the text of the Constitutions and the Statutes in the official languages of the Institute. It allows the General Council to make the necessary adjustments in the text with the purpose of obtaining the approval of the Holy See. After checking the presence of 75 Capitulars, the result of the scrutiny was: 75 votes Yes, 0 votes No, 0 abstentions; consequently, the proposal was approved unanimously.

Next, voting took place on the proposal made with regard to the delegation for the final version of the Constitutions and Statutes with the following addition: *The 22nd General Chapter entrusts the General Council with the final production of the text for the "Rule of Life"* ***in accordance with the proposed outline, using the contents and suggestions given by the Chapter as a base text, as well as editing and publishing the text as our Proper Law in the official languages of the Institute. The Chapter accepts the "Rule of Life" as a text that is under its authority, for subsequent modifications and adaptations.*** *The General Chapter is authorised to make such adjustments as it feels to be necessary in the text in order to obtain the approval of the Holy See.* After checking that 75 Capitulars were present, the result of the scrutiny was: 72 votes Yes, 0 votes No, 3 abstentions; consequently, the proposal was approved.

A third vote took place regarding the recommendations for a text on the Charism. A proposal was recommended to the General Council that a team of Brothers and Laity be appointed to prepare a **text** which contained the essential elements of the **charism** that the Spirit implanted in Saint Marcellin Champagnat and in the first Brothers, and of the Marist **spirituality** which has been developed since then, shared by Brothers and Laity. The text should also show the **specificity of each vocation** and establish **basic approaches for the development of Marist life and mission**, especially in spaces which are shared. After checking that 75 Capitulars were present, the result of the scrutiny was: 72 votes Yes, 2 votes No, 1 abstention; consequently, the proposal was approved.
Subsequently, Br Josep María Soteras oversaw the voting on two statutes of the Constitutions and the Statutes of the Institute of the Marist Brothers. An absolute majority was required for the respective approval of the statutes which would be 39 votes. The results were:

| Art. | Proposal | Present | Votes | Yes | No | Abstention | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Art. | 541.11 | 1 | 75 | 70 | 1 | 4 | Approved |
| Art. | 541.12 | 1 | 75 | 70 | 2 | 3 | Approved |

Br João Carlos do Prado pointed out that the tablets used in the Chapter by each participant were a donation from the Marist Publishing Houses: Edelvives (Spain), FTD Educação (Brazil) and Gram Publisher (Argentina); he then informed the Capitulars that the computer system "La Valla 200" used during the General Chapter, would continue to be available for each participant of the Chapter so that they would be able to enjoy all the benefits that the system offers. Later on, Br João, secretary of the 22nd General Chapter, presented the minutes of days 9 to 20 October of 2017; these were approved unanimously.

Next, Br Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal presented to the Assembly the proposal of the International Meeting of Young Marists that will take place in Guatemala in January 2019 and he proposed the use of the Missio System. Subsequently the young Brothers invited to the General Chapter shared with the other participants their impressions and experiences during the Chapter and about the Institute; these were received with great pleasure and approval on the part of the Assembly.

In the afternoon, Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General of the Marist Brothers, addressed the General Assembly and the Institute. He also took the opportunity of thanking each one of the Capitulars, invited guests and the group of assistants who took part in the 22nd General Chapter of the Marist Brothers for their participation and the good atmosphere experienced in the course of the seven weeks. In the same way he showed his appreciation for the administration team and the support provided by the De La Salle community for their excellent hospitality and cooperation in the smooth development of the Chapter. He thanked in a special way the magnificent welcome and support that the Province of Norandina extended to the Institute in the excellent running of the General Chapter. Soon afterwards, he announced to the assembly the closing of the 22nd General Chapter of the Marist Brothers,

which was approved unanimously. Next, Br Ernesto officially brought the 22nd General Chapter of the Marist Brothers to an end.

At the end of the day the Eucharist was celebrated in thanksgiving for the experience of the Chapter, with the participation of the Brothers of the Novitiate community in Medellin and the neighbourhood (barrio) Marist Brothers community of Santo Domingo of Medellin. Afterwards a meal was celebrated in a familial atmosphere.

Rionegro, 20 October 2017

Br João Carlos do Prado
Secretary 22nd General Chapter

# II
# OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE 22nd GENERAL CHAPTER

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The document "Journeying Together as A Global Family" is the official message of the 22nd General Chapter, held in Rionegro, Colombia, from September 8 to October 20, 2017. It gathers the most important elements of the experience lived during the Chapter, as well as the calls and suggestions for Marist life and mission at all levels and for the people of the Marist Institute during the next eight years.

The five calls are born of a profound process of discernment following "Theory U" in which the Capitulars of both brothers and the laity reflected on the questions: "**Who does God want us to be** in this emerging world?" and "**What does God want us to do** in this emerging world? The calls, which were borne from these questions, were then applied in five areas of Marist life and mission: Our Brothers' vocation, Our mission, Brother-Laity relationships, As Champagnat's Marists, Governance and the Use of goods.

For each of these areas, principles and suggestions, they were developed in order to make viable the vitality of Marist life and mission in this new beginning of the Marist Institute.

In order to facilitate an understanding and pedagogical communication of the calls, Br Tony Leon created the respective visual representations, which are found next to each of the calls.

The document of the 22nd General Chapter presented below is divided into two parts: the first contains the message and calls of the 22nd General Chap-

ter and the second presents the principles and suggestions.

May the fruits produced by the 22nd General Chapter be stimulating for all who receive them. May they be meaningful to the readers individually, amongst their communities and within their respective ministries. May these calls awaken our senses to what it means to be Marist, as something refreshing at the dawn of our third century.

## 2. Message of the XXII General Chapter

### Journeying Together as a Global Family!

Greetings Marists of Champagnat, Brothers and Companions!
We want to share with you the joyful experience of the 22nd General Chapter.

The Norandina Province warmly welcomed us to Colombia. They shared their vibrant culture with us, and generously provided opportunities to experience and savour Marist life in this part of the world.

At this Chapter, the first to be held outside Europe, we lived the reality to which we are being called. We formed a rich and diverse community: we gathered from all continents, all Provinces and Districts, Brothers and Lay Marists.

Throughout the forty-four days we shared our hopes and dreams for our Marist future. The discernment which we entered into was a carefully planned and a deliberately structured process of contemplative listening and dialogue. This was a respectful and consensus oriented process to understand what God wants us to be and do.

Our Chapter was enriched by some very special moments:

- With religious of Colombia we met with Pope Francis, who once again inspired us.
- We listened to young people who expressed their gratitude for the Marist way and encouraged us to become even more directly involved in their lives.
- During a full day immersion in Medellin we visited a variety of ministries dedicated to accompanying and assisting people on the margins of life.
- We stood in solidarity with those who, during this time, have been affected by the devastation of hurricanes, earthquakes and violence.
- Br Emili's address to the Chapter helped us focus on crucial current and emerging realities.
- In our fraternal dialogue we have considered and shared, reflected and prayed.

• We have been challenged to let go of old ways, of comfort and security, and to respond genuinely to new needs.

All of these experiences have led us to the five calls and principles below. We are invited to a contemplative reading of these calls; to reflect on how we can make them a reality in our personal lives and those of the communities to which we belong.

**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.**

## 1. As a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope in this turbulent world

*Jesus, today you continue to call us to relate to others in a fundamentally new way (Mk 3, 20-31, 31-35), to listen to your Word and put it into practice, with urgency and without excluding anyone.*

You are pressuring us to set out immediately on pathways that lead to the future: that is, as Marists of Champagnat, to:

- form homes that are a light on the hill for those around, giving ourselves whole-heartedly to creating a family style of life that is open to all.
- promote and nourish Marist life in all its diversity, working towards our deeply-felt desire to act as "one global body"[1].
- be open, in all simplicity, to make ourselves available to go beyond geographic or provincial boundaries.
- rediscover, as Brothers, the original passion that inspired us to be Marists.

## 2. To be the face and hands of your tender mercy

*The promise of your Spirit in our lives (Lk 1, 35) urges us to be prophets of mercy and of being brothers and sisters to all.*

From this call, we hear you inviting us to:

- get in touch with our inner selves to be able to discover You as a God of love who is revealed in the ordinary events of our lives.
- cultivate a spirituality of the heart, that fills us with joy and makes us inclusive.
- revive the founding spirit of La Valla in our daily lives.
- live life to the full as your witnesses in a fragmented world.

## 3. Inspire our creativity to be bridge-builders

*Like Mary at Cana (Jn 2, 3),*
*we feel challenged by the needs*
*of the world around us.*

Inspired by Mary, we feel called to:

[1]During the Chapter repeated use was made of the expression *global body* as a synonym of *global family*. That is to say, all Marists of Champagnat belong to a single body or a single charismatic family, and we are being called to act as such.

• develop a good understanding of our ever-changing world, and face current challenges, without falling into the temptation of "answering questions that no one is asking anymore". (Pope Francis in Medellin, September 9, 2017)
• be a prophetic reminder of the common dignity and fundamental equality of the entire People of God.
• move away from a culture shaped by "ego-s" and adopt that of the "eco-s" (ecology, ecosystems, an economy of solidarity, ...) to reduce the scandal of indifference and inequality.
• be agents of change, bridge-builders, messengers of peace, transforming the lives of young people through an education that integrates awakening faith and living by Gospel values.

## 4. To journey with children and young people living on the margins of life

*We search for you, Jesus, like Mary, in the caravans of life,*
*in the tumult of our cities (Lk 2, 41-49), and in the masses of displaced people*
*who are seeking a better future for their children.*

This is a call that urges us to:
• open the eyes of our heart and hear the cries of of children and young people, especially the voiceless and homeless.
• be creative in giving resolute responses to their needs.
• empower those who have no voice, avoiding any paternalism.
• be present in more significant ways among the children and young people on the margins of the world.

## 5. To respond boldly to emerging needs

*Jesus, you went through life doing good*
*and yet many of your contemporaries interpreted your actions narrowly,*
*simply because you were a Galilean, a carpenter, and the son of Mary (Mk 6, 2-3).*

Today, too, you continue to challenge us to:

- abandon old paradigms and re-imagine ways of helping people see the love of God in today's world.
- undergo a change of heart and be flexible in our structures, with all the risks entailed, so as to move to the peripheries in defence of the poorest and most vulnerable.
- make a firm commitment to promote and defend the Rights of the Child.
- awaken in ourselves and those around us an ecological awareness that engages us in caring for "our common home"[2].

So Dear Sisters and Brothers,

At this particular time, for the vitality and viability of Marist life and mission we are called to be a genuine global family. Interdependence, rather than isolation and independence, must become the new *normal* for us as Marists. We are called to be witnesses of unity and hope.

We know that plans and strategies are not sufficient. We are called to conversion, both personal and collective. As Marists, we must be true disciples, and our communities must be beacons of light and the Marian face of the Church in the midst of the world.

The revisions to the Constitutions and our new Rule of Life[3] give concrete expression to these Chapter calls.

Irrespective of age, nationality, capacity this *Message* is for each of us personally. There can be no *new beginning* without the personal involvement, faith and commitment of each Marist.
Aware that these calls are challenging and even audacious, we rely on Mary, our Good Mother *"who has always done everything for us".* She will continue to be present with all who are known by her name as we journey together into our third Marist century.

[2]In all the text of the XXII General Chapter, where we speak of *our common home* we are referring to *our Sister, Mother Earth* (St Francis), as Pope Francis did in his Encyclical *Laudato Si'* on the care for our common home.
[3]The XXII General Chapter entrusted the General Council with the final editing of the document which we called the *Rule of Life* throughout the process of revising the Constitutions. Even though this document is yet to be given its definitive title, we refer to it here as the *Rule of Life*, since this describes its style and literary genre.

Our task is urgent, and our goal ambitious. God is calling us to be Champagnats today.
"Let's journey together as a Global Family!"
With affection,

*The Members of the 22nd General Chapter*
*Rio Negro, 20th October 2017*

# A NEW LA VALLA: PRINCIPLES AND SUGGESTIONS

*A new La Valla*, for *a new beginning*. This is what we General Chapter participants experienced together.
La Valla, the home of our origins, reminds us that Marcellin Champagnat was moved by the needs and possibilities of his surrounds and so listened attentively to the Spirit, to discover what God was asking him at that point in time.
In a similar way, we members of the Chapter undertook a careful discernment exercise, trying to answer the 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 answers to these two questions have been collected, in their essentials, in **the five calls** presented in the Chapter *Message*.
At the same time, aware that these calls contain concrete implications for all dimensions of our life and mission, we decided to develop the ideas across five areas: our vocation as Brothers; our mission; Brother-Lay relationship, as Marists of Champagnat; government and how we use our resources.
Each section begins with some **principles** or **beliefs** that, in the opinion of capitulants, will open the way for a new beginning among us. Then, by way of a set of **suggestions**, there are some concrete ways of translating these principles into lines of action.

# TOWARDS A NEW BEGINNING…

## a) …IN OUR VOCATION AS BROTHERS

**For a new beginning as Little Brothers of Mary, as mystics and prophets of a new world, we believe that:**

- we must deepen our experience of God who dwells within and in daily life, and so become God's passionate witnesses by full and happy lives.
- we are being invited to make our communities real homes, characterised by genuine relationships that allow us to build bridges between ourselves and with the people we meet around us.
- we have to embrace a simple lifestyle and experience our vulnerability as a source of fruitfulness and freedom.
- our vocation implies an availability to go anywhere in our worldwide family, working alongside the poor, especially children and young people, to transform the world.
- being brothers is a call to be signs of humanity in all its fulness, which implies healing the wounds of our own lives, promoting the dignity of each person, and caring for our common home.

### *THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST THAT:*

- Administrative Units launch a program for individuals and communities to reawaken a spirituality and experience of God that is truly integrated and apostolic.
- we undertake a thorough renewal of our community living, sharing the best of ourselves, overcoming any individualism, working on healthy relationships, creating more occasions to be together … opening our doors to the people around us, developing an intercultural sensitivity so as to build a church with a Marian face.
- every community, administrative unit and the Institute undertake a discernment on its simplicity of life and closeness to the poor, leading us to adopt concrete actions to move out of our comfort zones.
- make personal and community commitments to be more present among

young people, being proactive in encouraging them to live out their vocation, and renewing our plans for vocation ministry generally.

- reform our processes of initial and ongoing formation and offer new paths at the level of the Institute and Administrative Units to care for our vocation as brothers: accompaniment, attention to each brother's situation and stage in life.

## b) …IN OUR MISSION

**For a new beginning, as Marists of Champagnat, committed to the mission of evangelisation and education, we believe:**

- in the cultivation of contemplative practices which give meaning to life, and of being brothers and sisters to offer a prophetic sign in a turbulent world.
- in our evangelizing mission that urges us to respond to the cries of today's children and young people in new and creative ways.
- in our committed, preferential and constant presence among children and young people in the geographical and existential peripheries.
- in promoting, protecting and defending the rights of children and young people, and in empowering them as agents of transformation.
- in urgently changing the way we live based on an *integral ecology* (*Laudato Si'*, ch. IV).

### *THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST:*

- promoting a *culture of encounter* (*Evangelium Gaudium,* 220) through programs and meaningful experiences of encounters with God, with oneself and with others; establishing simple relationships where everyone is heard and valued.
- evaluating and adapting our mission of evangelization to the context of emerging realities.
- building Marist mission networks at the levels of Administrative Units, Regions and the General Administration, which favour innovation and the renewal of our education and evangelization.
- collaborating with other ecclesial and civil institutions, religions and

Christian denominations, to provide an inclusive and integrated response to the cries of today's children and young people.

- identifying those who are excluded and displaced (migrants, refugees ...), choosing to be present among them, and decisively committing ourselves to defending their dignity and seeking their inclusion.
- strongly and proactively implementing Child Protection Policies against all forms of abuse that are consistent with internationally recognized agreements which defend the rights of children and young people.
- developing initiatives for the empowerment of children and young people in all our ministries.
- creating an integral ecological awareness in all our communities and different ministries, and developing policies at all levels of the Institute that strengthen our commitment to the care of our 'common home'.

## c) …AS MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

### *FOR A NEW BEGINNING, WE BELIEVE THAT …*

- the future for the charism will be founded on a communion of fully committed Marists, brothers and lay.
- as a charismatic family we should walk together respecting the diversity of the Marist world.
- all Marists are co-responsible for Marist life and mission.
- we need new structures and processes that recognize and support our distinctive vocational paths as Marists.

### *THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST THAT …*

- each Administrative Unit discerns, proposes and accompanies concrete ways of building up communion as Marists.
- each Administrative Unit develops a plan for promoting different forms of Marist life, including appropriate strategies for formation, accompaniment and belonging, drawing on the document *Gathered Around the Same Table*, and others, such as *Being a Lay Marist* and the *Project of Life in Fraternity*

(CMMF)[4]

- that all levels of government establish and/or strengthen structures for all Marists to share leadership and responsibility for Marist life and mission.
- create ways forward which respond to the reality of each country and accompany Administrative Units to share with one another the variety of experiences being lived across the Marist world.

## d) …IN OUR STYLE OF GOVERNANCE

### *FOR A NEW BEGINNING, WE BELIEVE IN GOVERNANCE THAT:*

- engages in a dynamic of spiritual discernment to be constantly attentive to God's calls.
- favours prophetic servant leadership and closely accompanies Marist life and mission.
- puts in place governance structures that are transparent, simple, efficient and flexible.
- is responsive to emerging calls from children and young people on the peripheries and fosters the care of our common home.
- promotes inclusion and greater co-responsibility between Brothers and Lay Marists.
- promotes and strengthens the Institute as a global family and lets go of structures and attitudes that are not supportive of this.

### *THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST:*

- promoting close personal accompaniment on all levels.
- continuing the processes of regionalization and promotion of inter-regional collaboration to build a Global Body with structures, processes, and strategies that are agile, simple, and participative.

[4]The text *Gathered Around the Same Table – the vocation of Lay Marists of Champagnat* was published in June 2009. The other two documents, *Being a Lay Marist* and the *Project of life in Fraternity (Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family)* were presented to the General Chapter by the Secretariat for the Laity, after a process that involved wide participation. We consider these texts as *reference documents* for all Marists of Champagnat.

• promoting discernment and a rhythm of life that nourishes reflective and productive dialogue on all levels.

• identifying and forming leaders, lay and brothers, at all levels, in order to build up co-responsibility for Marist life and mission.

• that the Superior General and his Council have the flexibility to explore options as to where and how to form community and provide appropriate leadership, as they closely accompany Marist life and mission.

## e) …IN HOW WE MANAGE AND USE OUR RESOURCES

### *FOR A NEW BEGINNING, WE BELIEVE THAT:*

• our resources must be at the service of the life and mission of the entire Institute.

• we must ensure both the sustainability of our Administrative Units and the Institute as a whole, as well as the principles of transparency and accountability at all levels.

• we must reaffirm the principles found in the *Discernment Plan for the Evangelical Use of our Goods*[5].

• we need to be a global family in communion and solidarity.

• people are our most important resource.

• we must let go of economic models that lead to: dependency and a failure to take into account local economic and human resources and resourcefulness; the self-referential and fragmented use of resources; a lack of transparency, training and professionalism; barriers that interfere with our ability to live and grow as a global family.

***Therefore, we suggest:***

• developing a plan for the just sharing of human and financial resources at all levels of the Institute, including finding new sources of income and the creation of services and funds to support formation, solidarity, and an expanded mission.

[5] A document prepared by Br Séan Sammon SG and his Council in 2004, at the request of the XX General Chapter.

- develop a plan of action to achieve the sustainability of Marist life and mission at all levels.
- applying the principles found in the *Discernment Plan on the Evangelical Use of Goods*, promoting simplicity of life at all stages of formation as well as in the General Administration and all our communities and ministries.
- developing administrative policies on human and financial resources, in keeping with ethical principles, at all levels of the Institute in the form of a *Vade Mecum* or *Guide.*
- ensuring formation in administration and finances at all levels of the Institute and insisting upon the effective management of resources including: real estate and financial assets; planning; budgeting and controls, external and internal audits; the appointment of professionally prepared personnel to carry out these tasks.

# III
# TEXTS AND DECISIONS OF THE 22nd GENERAL CHAPTER

## 1. ACT OF THE "VERIFICATION COMMISSION OF THE POWERS OF THE CHAPTER"

A. **Introduction**

The "Verification Commission of the Powers of the Chapter", formed by Brothers Joaquim Sperandio (South-Central Brazil), Patrick McNamara (USA), Robert Thunus (West Central Europe) and Hipólito Pérez (Central America), named by Brother Superior General and his Council in the session of February 8, 2017, to carry out the following functions, specified in the current Statutes of the General Chapter (No. 26).

*"The verification commission of the powers of each Delegate informs the Capitulars of the Minutes of the elections of Delegates. Capitular Brothers previously named by Brother Superior General and his Council (Cf. C 137.4.8) form this Commission.*

*If those Minutes should show some indication or sign of irregularity or, if by other means, there would be information of some acts that could render an election invalid, the Chapter will study this and make a decision. If it judges it necessary, it can name a commission to make a detailed investigation. The Commission will then present a report and the Capitulars will make a decision.*

*After the powers have been verified and the Minutes are approved, the Brother Superior General declares the General Chapter regularly constituted".*

B. **Procedure**

This Commission met on September 7, last in Rionegro (Colombia) beginning the session at 9:00h in the morning and concluded it at 12:00h.

- In that meeting the functions of the Commission were read and assumed.
- The analysis of the content of the "Minutes of Election of the Capitular Brothers prepared by the Secretary General was read.
- The Minutes of the process of Election of the Capitular Brothers of the different Administrative Units in the Institute were revised or examined.
- A written report of that process will be presented to the participants of the 22nd General Chapter.

Before this meeting, the Secretary General, Br Carlos Huidobro, gave the documentation of the voting for the General Chapter of the different Administrative Units, an extensive information of the process of election of the Capitular Brothers and the "Minutes of Election of the Capitular Brothers" held in Rome on November 16, 2016.

C. **Results**

As Verification Commission, we state:

1. The process of election of the Capitular Brothers carried out in the Administrative Units of the Institute is valid and carried out in an authentic spirit of co-responsibility and transparency.

2. We assume and notify **two situations of minimum irregularity,** already pointed out by the Secretary General in the Minutes and communicated, in the proper moment, to the General Council and to the different Administrative Units concerned. The omission of the application of the Regulations was recognized, but both the Administrative Units concerned as well as the General Council assumed that it was not necessary to carry out a new voting. They considered that these irregularities, though it is convenient to point them out, in no way deny the spirit of authenticity lived in the process of election.

We point out the two irregularities:
a) In 12 Administrative Units, number 17 of the Regulations of the General

Chapter was not followed which indicates

*"If in the first scrutiny all the Delegates and necessary substitutes have not been elected, a second scrutiny is necessary. In this case, the Scrutineer Commission designates the candidates for the second scrutiny, who are the Brothers who follow on the list. Three Brothers are named for each delegate and substitute which is still missing".*

In those Administrative Units, the number of Brothers established by the Regulations, for the second scrutiny, to propose to the Province, was lacking, they did not take into account the three Brothers to complete the missing substitutes.

b) In the Minutes of the result of the election of the Capitular Brothers, in 10 Administrative Units sent by the Scrutineer Commissions, the number of votes obtained by the elected Brothers does not appear.

3. For this reason, the Commission suggests that when the new Regulations of the Chapter are written, in this section of the election of Delegates:

   a) That article 17 of the present Regulations is modified and clarified in a better form
   b) Send the precise or exact indication on the way of presenting the Minutes of election.

To confirm what we express in the Minutes we sign:

Commission "Verification Commission of Powers of the Chapter" *Rionegro (Colombia), 7 September 2017*

Br Patrick McNamara
Br Joaquim Sperandio
Br Robert Thunus
Br Hipólito Pérez (Coordinator)

## 2. NEW PROPOSAL OF THE NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE

The 21st General Chapter held in Rome in the year 2009 gave the mandate, and the General Government named a Commission to carry out a profound revision of the Constitutions and Statutes with an extensive participation of the Brothers of the Institute. The final document was presented to the Chapter Assembly during the 22nd General Chapter celebrated in Rionegro, Colombia.

The 22nd General Chapter approved the division of the text of the Constitutions and Statutes into two documents: Constitutions and Statutes" and the "Rule of Life". The first one corresponds to the Constitutions and Statutes, which will refer to the normative prescriptions of the Holy See for religious Institutes. The second document, which provisionally we call "Rule of Life", concerns more the charismatic life of the Institute.

In continuation, we present the texts approved by the 22nd General Chapter in the afternoon session of October 5, 2017, which deals with the separation of the two documents:

> "*Br Josep María Soteras, together with Brothers Anthony John Clark and Eduardo Navarro, presented to the Assembly the proposal to work on the 'Rule of Life' as a different document from that of the text of the Constitutions, which was put to the vote. The Plenary Assembly proposed that the name "Rule of Life" not be used but a less normative and more inspirational name of the vocation and the life of the Marist Brother".*
>
> *"After listening to the Plenary Assembly, Br Darren Joseph Burge, moderator of the session, proposed to the Assembly to follow the process of voting according to the following question: Do we want to have a 'Rule of Life' like a document separate/different from the Constitutions? For the approbation it had to obtain 2/3 of the total number of votes".*
>
> *"The number of those assisting was confirmed, and the number present of*

*those voting was 76. Then it was proceeded to the voting and the scrutiny was the following; 'Yes', 75 votes, No, 1 vote. Having obtained the 2/3 parts in the voting, the Chapter Assembly approved having a "Rule of Life" as a separate/different document from the Constitutions".*

## *2.1. STRUCTURE CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES*

The next structure-upheld ln Chapter 2 of this document corresponds to the daily minutes of the development of the 22nd General Chapter, in which appear each one of the voting of the articles and statutes of the new structure of this normative document of the Institute of the Marist Brothers.

**CHAPTER 1: Our Religious Institute of Brothers (12)**
1.1. Identity of the Marist Brother in the Church
1.2. The Vitality of the Institute
1.3. Living the Constitutions

**CHAPTER 2: Our Being Religious Brothers (19)**
1.1. Consecration as Brothers
1.2. Evangelical Counsel of Chastity
1.3. Evangelical Counsel of Poverty
1.4. Evangelical Counsel of Obedience

**CHAPTER 3: Our life as Brothers (Life in the Institute) (25)**
1.1. Marist Community
1.2. Itinerary of Spirituality
1.3. Apostolic Life

**CHAPTER 4: Our Journey as Brothers (25)**
1.1. Marist Formation
1.1.1 Purpose of all Marist Formation
1.1.2 Vocation Pastoral Ministry
1.1.3 The Pre-Novitiate
1.1.4 The Novitiate

1.1.5 The Post-Novitiate
1.1.6 First Stage: Formation for Mission
1.1.7 Second Stage: Apostolic Learning
1.1.8 Brothers and the Formators
1.1.9 Permanent Formation
1.2. Admission and profession in the Institute
1.2.1. Admission to the Novitiate
1.2.2. Admission to Profession
1.2.3. Profession and vows
1.3. Separation from the Institute
1.3.1. Other cases of separation
1.3.2. Expulsion of the members

**CHAPTER 6: Our Organization as Brothers (44)**
The Government of the Institute
1.1. At the service of the Marist life and Mission
1.1.1. Authority as service
1.1.2. Co-responsibility and subsidiarity
1.1.3. The services of government and animation
1.2. The Units of Life and Mission
1.3. The Administration of Goods
1.3.1. Evangelical use of goods
1.3.2. Administrative Organization
1.3.3. Government of the goods
1.3.4. The Bursars
1.4. General Government
1.4.1. The General Chapter
1.4.2. Functions of the General Chapter
1.4.3. Composition of the Chapter
1.4.4. Eligible Brothers
1.4.5. Elector Brothers
1.4.6. Brother Superior General
1.4.7. Brother Vicar General
1.4.8. Substitutes of the Superiors
1.4.9. The General Council

1.4.10. The Brother Superior General and his Council
1.4.11. Organs of Participation and Consultation
1.4.12. The General Administration
1.5. The Provincial Government
1.5.1. The Provincial Chapter
1.5.2. The Brother Provincial
1.5.3. The Provincial Council
1.5.4. The Brother Provincial and his Council
1.5.5. Organs of participation and consultation
1.5.6. Provincial Administration
1.6. The Community Government
1.6.1. The Animator of the Community
1.6.2. Community Administration

## *2.2. PROPOSAL OF STRUCTURE FOR THE "RULE OF LIFE"*

The proposal of structure for the document provisionally called "Rule of Life" was divided into two parts. The first part focused on the life of the Brothers and the second part on the essential elements of the Charism. The 22nd General Chapter in the session of October 20, 2017, decided the following on the first part:

> "*The 22nd General Chapter entrusted the General Council the final redaction of the* ***'Rule of Life'*** *according to the outline and contents and orientations given by the Chapter as the basic text, and to edit and publish the text as a text of Proper Right, in the official languages of the Institute. The Chapter assumes the "Rule of Life" as a text under its authority for later modifications and adaptations".*

**FIRST PART: "IF YOU KNEW THE GIFT OF GOD…"**
A FRATERNITY in the Church, inspired in Jesus, Mary and Champagnat, at the service of CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1. **Our vocation: TO BE "BROTHER"**

*1.1. Contemplates Jesus: Fraternity a gift that we RECEIVE (Mystery)*
*1.2. Contemplates Mary: Consecrated BY God*
*1.3. Contemplates Marcelin: Living a contemplative attitude (Marist Spiritual itinerary)*

2. **Our journey: LIVING IN "COMMUNITY"**

*2.1. Contemplates Jesus: Fraternity, gift that we SHARE (Communion)*
*2.2. Contemplates Mary: Consecrated IN community*
*2.3. Contemplates Marcelin: living fraternal attitudes (Journey of Marist life)*

3. **Our heart: IN A PERMANENT ATTITUDE OF "SERVICE·**
4. *3.1. Contemplates Jesus: Fraternity, gift, which we GIVE (Mission)*
*3.2. Contemplates Mary: Consecrated FOR the Mission*
*3.3. Contemplates Marcelin: Living in an attitude of service (Marist way of serving in the Mission):*

> *"A third voting session took place regarding the recommendations for a text on the Charism, with the proposal to recommend to the General Council to constitute a team of Brothers and Laity for the preparation of a* ***text****, which contains the essential elements of the* ***Charism*** *that the Spirit aroused in Saint Marcelin Champagnat and in the first Brothers. Also the Marist* ***spirituality, which*** *has developed from it, shared by Brothers and Laity. The text should also show the* ***specificity of each vocation*** *and establish* ***basic criteria for the development of the Marist life and Mission,*** *especially in shared spaces"-*

The 22nd General Chapter, in the same session of October 20, assigned to the General council the final redaction of the "Rule of Life" according to the outline, the contents and orientations given by the Chapter as basic text, to edit and publish it later as Proper Law in the official languages of the Institute.

**SECOND PART: ...A GIFT FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD…**

1. **In the SOURCES OF THE CHARISM…**

*1.1. The CHARISM of Saint Marcelin Champagnat (gift to the Church)*
*1.2. Its continuity and development in the Marian SPIRITUALITY AND MISSION*

2. **Toward a new DAWN OF THE CHARISM…**
*2.1. "To be a Marist", a call extended to all…*
*2.2. Incarnating diverse forms of vocation and identity*

# 3. METHODS OF ELECTION USED IN THE 22nd GENERAL CHAPTER

## *3.1. FACILITATING COMMISSION OF THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER*

The Facilitating Commission replaced the former "Central Commission" and was assisted by the Facilitator, Mr. Matthiew Daum. As the name itself indicates, the Central Commission was the "central" authority of the previous Chapters; instead, the Facilitating Commission had the purpose of facilitating a process of the General Chapter, which would permit the Body of the Chapter, *to live, participate and experience* a "New La Valla".

The Facilitating Commission assumed the responsibility of the organization and development of the Chapter. Its principal impulse was to create an environment of attentive listening, community discernment and construction of consensus.

The process of the 22nd General Chapter (*PC),* before known as Regulations of the Chapter, established the following norms or directives for the Facilitating Commission:

**a. The President of the Chapter (PC 3.1)**
The Brother Superior General is the President of the Chapter (Cf. Constitutions 138.).
**b. The Facilitation Commission (PC 3.2)**
The Facilitation Commission, once it has been elected, takes over responsibil-

ity for the organization and unfolding of the Chapter, especially in creating an ambiance of careful listening and consensus building.

**c. The composition of the Facilitation Commission (PC 3.3)**
The Facilitation Commission is made up of the officers who are the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and General Secretary of the Chapter, together with a number of other Brothers elected as members by the Chapter. The Provisional Committee proposes to the Chapter the number of members to be elected to the Facilitation Commission, and the criteria and the process for their election. Candidates should be asked for their consent before they are nominated for election to the Assembly.

**d. Electing members of the Facilitation Commission (PC 3.4)**
The members of the Facilitation Commission are elected by secret, electronic ballot, by an absolute majority *(one more than half)* of votes of the members present. If, after one ballot, there is no result, the second vote will be confined to the two candidates who have obtained the highest number of votes on the previous ballot, or if there are several, to the two youngest. If, after the second ballot, the candidates remain equal, the younger will be deemed elected. The officers (the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary) are chosen by the Facilitation Commission.

**e. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman (PC 3.5)**
The Chairman convenes the Facilitation Commission and presides over its work. The Vice-Chairman replaces the Chairman when necessary.

**f. The General Secretary (PC 3.6)**
The General Secretary of the Chapter is in charge of the Secretariat. He is responsible for the organization and the operation of the Secretariat. He is the Secretary of the Facilitation Commission. He has the responsibility of transmitting any official information concerning the proceedings of the Chapter.

**g. The Assistant Secretaries (PC 3.7)**
The Facilitation Commission will propose for approval by the Chapter names of Brothers to be assistant secretaries for the General Assemblies, or be responsible for Records and other Chapter secretarial duties. They may be non-capitulants.
The Brothers who integrated the Facilitating Commission for the 22nd General Chapter were the following: Benjamin Consigli (USA), Michael Mami-

niaina Razafimandimby (Madagascar), Darren Josep Burge (Australia), Juan Carlos Fuertes Marí (Mediterranean), Ernesto Sánchez Barba (General Administration), João Carlos do Prado (South-Central Brazil), Lindley Halago Sionosa (Eastern Asia) and Oscar Martín Vicario (Compostela).

### *3.2. PROCESS OF ELECTION OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND VICAR GENERAL*

The General Government (Taken from the Constitutions and Statutes of the Marist Brothers in force at the present date)

130. As successor to the Founder, the Brother Superior General gathers all the Brothers of the Institute around Christ. He guides them and accompanies them in their fidelity to their commitment. He discerns with them the best way to adapt their apostolate to the needs of the times, according to the charism of the Institute. He has direct authority over all Brothers, houses, Districts, and Provinces (C 622). He can, for a time, dispense a Brother, a community, or a Province from particular points of discipline of the Constitutions.

131. He is elected by the General Chapter in accordance with Canon Law, by a secret ballot, and by an absolute majority of the Brothers present (Const. 625, 1).

At the time of his election he must be perpetually professed for at least ten years (Const. 623). The term of his mandate is eight years. He can be re-elected consecutively only once (Const. 164 ff; c 624, 1). His resignation or his deposition is reserved to the Holy See.

The election is carried out in the following manner: After three ballots have not given a result, only the two candidates who have the highest number of votes are eligible. If there are more than two with the same number of votes, the oldest two are taken. If, after a fourth ballot, there is still an equality, the older Brother will be considered elected.

132. The Brother Vicar General is the closest collaborator of the Brother Superior General, replacing him in his absence, and when the Superior finds himself unable to carry out his task in whole or in part.

*132.1 The Brother Vicar General cannot be, at the same time, Econome General.*

133. He is elected or re-elected by the General Chapter under the same conditions and in the same way as the Brother Superior General.

### *3.2.1. PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND OF THE VICAR GENERAL*

***FIRST DAY:***
*In the afternoon:*

15:30h Personal time in a climate of prayer and recollection, each Capitular, keeping in mind what is expected of the next Superior General and of his Vicar, for animation and government and according to the spirit of the calls of this 22nd General Chapter:

a) Discerns on the persons capable of fulfilling the function of **Superior General** and of **Vicar General** (Cf. C. 130).
b) Writes on a sheet of paper a maximum of TWO names of Brothers

*Note: The Capitular Brothers are free to dialogue with others:*

17:00h During the Eucharistic celebration, at the moment of the Offertory, the Capitular Brothers present their written sheet.

Brothers Sean Sammon and Emili Turú effect the scrutiny or counting of this consultation. They consult the Brothers proposed more times, in order to get their acceptance before the possibility of being elected for the charge. They draw up a list, in alphabetical order, of the names of those Brothers (between 6 and 10) without mentioning the frequency.

**Second day**
*In the morning*

7:00h **Each Capitular Brother receives a copy of this list**.
Personal prayer
*The Capitular Brothers can get information from other Brothers about the candidates on the list.*

10:00h Election of the Brother **Superior General**.

*In the afternoon*

15:30h Personal time to discern and to pray.
17:30h Election of the Brother **Vicar General** with the same list of Brothers that they used for the election of the Superior General, without the name of the Superior.
18:30h Eucharistic celebration of thanksgiving.

**Norm of the Chapter Process for the election of the Superior General and the Vicar**

**Election of the Superior General**

The election of the Brother Superior General is a solemn moment and is carried out in an atmosphere of prayer and spiritual discernment, which includes the celebration of the Eucharist.

At the beginning of the session the tellers will distribute a ballot paper to each elector.

Each one completes the ballot paper, folds it, and places it in an urn on a table which has a crucifix and a relic of St. Marcellin Champagnat. The table is placed in front of the President of the Chapter.

If one of the capitulants is present in the house in which the election is taking place, but is unable to be present in the Chapter Hall, the tellers will collect his vote[1].

When all have voted, the tellers count the votes out loud in order to ensure that the number of votes is not greater than the number of voters present. If this should be the case, the ballot is null, and must be redone without examining the ballot papers. When the verification is correct, the first teller takes a ballot paper and reads aloud the name. He then gives it to the second teller.

The secretaries for the session take note of the names called by the teller. The President is responsible for the correct procedure. Each ballot paper is treated in the same way.

When all the ballot papers have been checked, the votes counted, and the whole procedure verified, the President reads out the number of votes obtained by each one. After each ballot, the voting papers will be destroyed in view of everyone.

If the first ballot does not give an absolute majority to anyone, a second or more ballots will be held, in accordance with Constitutions 131.

The one who is elected Superior General will indicate to the President whether or not he accepts the election. If he refuses, the election has no effect and a new election is held[2].

If the one elected Superior General accepts, the announcement will be made by the President in the following terms: "In the name of the Most Holy Trinity and under the protection of the Blessed Virgin and of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, in my own name, and in the name of all those whose place it is to elect the Superior General, I declare elected Brother... who has received the required number of the votes of the capitulants."
The official notification of the election will be sent immediately to all the Provinces and Districts of the Institute.

[1]Cf. CCL 167.2
[2]Cf. CCL 177.

If the Brother President of the Chapter is elected Superior General, the Vicar General makes the above declaration.

By a two-thirds majority, the Chapter can ask the Holy See to accept as Superior General a Brother who may be ineligible for the post due to a dispensable canonical impediment such as an age requirement or when he has reached the canonical limit stipulated for his time in office. For all that concerns Postulation, we are to follow the prescriptions of canons 180 -183.

If one or other of the Officers of the Chapter is elected Superior General, the General Assembly will proceed to elect a replacement for him.

## *3.3. ELECTION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL*

I. **Proposal of Procedure for the election of the General Council**
*(Approved on October 7, 2017)*

The General Council *(Taken from the Constitutions and Statutes of the Marist Brothers, in force in the present date)*

136. The General Council is made up of the Brother Vicar General and of Brothers called Councillors General, who, with the Brother Superior General, form a community.

The General Chapter decides on the number of General Councillors (at least four) whom it is to elect, and on the way they are to be elected. At the time of their election, they must be at least ten years perpetually professed. Their term of office lasts from one ordinary General Chapter to the next.

*136.1 Should circumstances call for it, the Brother Superior General and his Council can elect one or two other Councillors. (cf 137.4.2)*
**Brother Superior General and his Council**
137. The Brother Vicar General and the Councillors General are the direct collaborators of the Brother Superior General in governing the Institute. They

are available to the Brother Superior General for any task that he may entrust to them. He consults them on the important matters concerning the Provinces and the Districts.

*137.1 The Brother Superior General will convoke his entire Council at least once a year, to assess the situation of the Institute, to define the overall policy of his administration, and to examine questions of pressing urgency. (cf 137.4) For decisions taken to be valid, the presence of at least 4 members of the Council is required.*

**The Procedure**

**I. Criteria for the election of the General Council:**

The General Council has to reflect the desire of the Chapter to create a ***Global Family***

**Among others:**

1. Elect the best collaborators of the Brother Superior General.
2. Represent the cultural diversity in the Institute.
3. Willingness to work for a global family, instead of being a representative of his own part of the Institute.
4. Age, experience, skill and competence.
5. Capacity for leadership.
6. Capacity to listen and discern.
7. Capacity to accompany leaders and Administrative Units.
8. Capacity to accompany and empower persons, groups and processes.
9. Availability/flexibility to work in a team, and availability/flexibility for community life in different contexts and places, if necessary.

**II. Names of Brothers who could serve as General Councillors**
**Schedule proposed for the election of the General Council**

**First day:**
*Monday, October 9 selection*

15:00h Meeting for the Marian Prayer
15:30h Explanation of the Process
16:00 - 17:00h Two Table conferences.

Keeping in mind the criteria, the Capitular Brothers meet in the Chapter room, at the assigned tables, to get the names of the Brothers whom they believe could serve as General Councilors. After 30 minutes of conversation, the Capitulars move to another assigned table, and during the next 30 minutes, they will continue the same procedure as before to get names. The integration of the tables will respect the cultural and linguistic diversity of the whole Body.

17:00 – 18:00h Personal Prayer and Discernment

Once the conversations at the tables conclude, the Capitulars are invited to a time of personal prayer and discernment (one hour). The Capitular Brothers are free to consult with others about the Brothers.

During this time, each Capitular receives a blank sheet of paper and presents a list of six (6) names of Brothers whom he believes can serve as General Councillors, keeping in mind the different criteria presented. The Brothers who are not in the Chapter can also be named.

18:00h Community Prayer

The Capitulars meet in the Chapel to pray and in a specific moment of the prayer, they deposit their sheet of paper with the names of six Brothers. Brothers Seán Sammon and Emili Turú carry out the scrutiny of the consultation. They consult the Brothers who have been named more and get their acceptance on the possibility of being elected for the charge. They will draw up a list in alphabetical order of these Brothers (between 15 - 20) without mentioning the number of votes.

19:30h Supper

**Second day:**
*Tuesday, October 10*

7:30h The Capitulars meet in Chapel to receive a copy of the list of names. Personal prayer.
**Note:** The Capitulars are free to discuss the names with others
9:30h The Capitulars meet in the Chapter room to begin the process of election. The process can continue the whole morning and in the afternoon.
18:00h Mass of Thanksgiving.
19:30h Supper

## III. The Process of Election

- Six Councillors are elected. They can be Brothers who appear on the proportionate list or any other Brother(s) of the Institute.
- The Councillors are elected by secret vote and by absolute majority of the members present.
- The Councillors are elected **one by one,** leaving some reasonable time after every two elections; nevertheless, the Facilitating Commission may adapt the time if considered necessary.
- After three ballots without success, the voting will be between the two candidates who obtained the larger number of votes in the previous scrutiny; and if there are more than two, between the two younger ones (chronologically).
- If after the fourth ballot, there continues to be a tie between the two candidates, the younger one will be considered elected. If there is no tie, the candidate with the larger number of votes of the two candidates, will be considered elected.

# IV
# STATUTES OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

Final version revised and approved by the 22nd General Chapter on October 19, 2017 already in accordance with the new version of the Constitutions and Statutes of the Institute of the Marist Brothers.

(original version in Spanish)

**Introduction**

1. The General Chapter
2. The Preparatory Commission
3. Convocation of the General Chapter
4. Suggestions for the General Chapter
5. The Functions of the General Chapter
6. The Election of the Brother Superior General
7. The Election of the Brother Vicar General
8. The Election of the Members of the General Council
9. The Composition of the General Chapter
10. Members by right
11. Elected Members
12. Additional Members
13. Members invited
14. Brothers eligible for election
15. Brothers with the right to vote
16. The Date of the election of Delegates
17. The Conditions of the election
18. Voting Procedures
19. Voting by proxy
20. The Counting of the votes
21. The destruction of the ballot papers
22. The Report of the Elections
23. Obligation of the Delegates to attend the Chapter
24. Substitute for a Brother Provincial

25. Verification of the election of Delegates
26. The Provisional Committee
27. The Opening of the General Chapter
28. Obligation of the Delegates to remain
29. The Closing of the General Chapter

The numbering of the articles of the Constitutions and Statutes present in this document corresponds to that used in the Chapter, which is provisional until they are approved by the Holy See.

## *INTRODUCTION*

Canon 587.1 states that "the constitutions of the Institute are to contain... basic norms about the governance of the Institute...," while the same canon in 4 says that "other norms which are established by the competent authority of the Institute are to be properly collected in other codes."

Speaking specifically of the General Chapter, canon 631.2 requires that "the composition of the General Chapter and the limits of its powers are to be defined in the Constitutions. The Institute's own law is to determine in further detail the order to be observed in the celebration of the Chapter, especially regarding elections and the matters to be treated."

What concerns the General Chapter in the Constitutions is to be found in articles 138 - l42, together with the statutes 138.1 and 140.1,2,3. There are, however, other articles voted by the General Chapter, which will be presented in the present text.

So that the Brothers may find all that concerns the General Chapter in the one text, what is said in the Constitutions will be repeated here.

It should be remembered that no one has the authority to dispense from these articles (c 86). They may be changed only with the approval of the Holy See in the case of the Constitutions, or by the General Chapter in the case of other articles (C 169). The General Chapter may likewise modify those articles of the Chapter Process that are not matter of the Code of Canon Law.

### *1. THE GENERAL CHAPTER*

The General Chapter is an assembly representative of the whole Institute. It is an expression of the participation of all Brothers in the life and mission of the Institute, as well as of their co-responsibility in its government.
It exercises the highest extraordinary authority. The Brother Superior General convokes it and presides over it.
He convokes the ordinary General Chapter one year before the end of his mandate. For grave reasons and with the consent of his Council, he can also convoke an extraordinary General Chapter (C 102).

### *2. THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION*

Two years before the opening of an ordinary General Chapter, the Brother Superior General, with his Council, appoints a Preparatory Commission. This Commission sees to all that is necessary for the Chapter to achieve its responsibilities in regard to C. 117.
The Commission collaborates with the General Administration in regard to personnel and material needs. It may request the General Council to set up pre-Chapter groups on topics.
After consulting the Administrative Units and capitulants, the Commission draws up a global plan for the work and the process of the Chapter, including a proposed closing date. The plan will be submitted to the Chapter Assembly for discussion and approval during the first days of the General Chapter.

### *3. CONVOCATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER*

One year before the official opening of the General Chapter, the Brother Superior General and his council send to all the Brothers the Circular of Convocation. This Circular contains the opening date and gives the practical details for the election of delegates and the opening of the Chapter.

### *4. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER*

Not only Provinces and local communities, but also any Brother or group of Brothers, are free to make their wishes and suggestions known to the General Chapter. These contributions are signed and sent to the Preparatory Commission, which passes them on to the capitulants.
(c. 631, 3; C 102,1).

## *5. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER*

The ordinary General Chapter has the following functions (C 103):

1. to elect the Brother Superior General, the Brother Vicar General, and the members of the General Council, as prescribed in the Proper Law of the Institute;
2. to deal with major issues concerning the nature, aim, and spirit of the Institute, and to further their renewal and adaptation, preserving all the while the spiritual heritage of the Institute;
3. to establish its own rules of procedure; to draw up statutes for the whole Institute, the Rule of Life and to give orientations for guidelines, norms and regulations which contain elements of proper law which are not included in the Constitutions, Statutes or Rule of Life;
4. to put before the Holy See the modifications that may be needed on some points of the Constitutions.

## *6. THE ELECTION OF THE BROTHER SUPERIOR GENERAL*

The Brother Superior General is elected by the General Chapter in accordance with Canon Law, by a secret Ballot, and by an absolute majority (one more than half) of the Brothers present.

At the time of his election, he must have at least ten years of perpetual profession. He cannot be re-elected more than once in a row. His resignation or dismissal is the responsibility of the Holy See (C 109).

His term of the mandate is eight years. (C 109).

The election is carried out in the following manner: After three ballots have not given a result, only the two candidates who have the highest number of votes are eligible. If there are more than two with the same number of votes, the oldest two are taken. If, after a fourth ballot, there is still an equality, the older Brother will be considered elected.

## *7. THE ELECTION OF THE BROTHER VICAR GENERAL*

The Brother Vicar General is elected or re-elected by the General Chapter under the same conditions and in the same way as the Brother Superior General (C 111).

### *8. THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL*

The General Chapter decides on the number of General Councilors (at least four) whom it is to elect, and on the way they are to be elected. At the time of their election, they must be at least ten years perpetually professed. Their term of office lasts from one ordinary General Chapter to the next (C 136).

### *9. THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER*

The General Chapter is made up of members by right and of members elected by the Provinces and Districts. The number of those elected must be greater than the number of those who are members by right. The Institute's proper law determines who are members by right and lays down the way in which the elections are carried out (C 114).

### *10. MEMBERS BY RIGHT*

Members by right in the General Chapter are (C 105):

1. The Brother Superior General;
2. the former Superior General;
3. the Brother Vicar General and the Councilors General who are in office at the time the Chapter opens;
4. the Brothers Provincial and the District Superiors.

### *11. ELECTED MEMBERS*

The number of delegates elected to the General Chapter will be two brothers per Province and one per District.

### *12. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS*

1. The Brother Superior General and his Council can elect up to 5 brothers in case there is a lack of representation in the Chapter. These brothers will be considered capitulars, that is to say, with voice and vote in all the decisions of the Chapter.

2. Those brothers whom the General Chapter elects for Superior General, Vicar General and General Councillors are also capitulars, if they were not already so. If the elected Brother Superior General was not present, it would be necessary to wait for him before continuing the Chapter tasks. (C 105,2).

### 13. MEMBERS INVITED

The Brother Superior General and his Council may invite various people to the Chapter, their number not exceeding 20% of the total number of Brother capitulants. In dialogue with the Preparatory Commission, the Brother Superior General and his Council will define the nature and time period of the participation of the persons invited. The right to vote in Chapter decisions remains reserved to capitulants.

### 14. BROTHERS ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION

All Brothers perpetually professed, except those exclaustrated or those in the process of joining another Institute, are eligible as delegates to the General Chapter (C 106).

### 15. BROTHERS WITH THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Those with the right of electing delegates to the General Chapter are: all Brothers, whether in temporary or perpetual profession, except those exclaustrated or those in the process of joining another Institute (C 107).

### 16. THE DATE OF THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES

On the arrival of the Circular of Convocation, the Brothers of the communities elect the delegates, on a day fixed by the Brother Provincial. They follow the procedure indicated in the following articles.

### 17. THE CONDITIONS OF THE ELECTIONS

Delegates to the Chapter are elected directly by the Brothers. The election is by secret ballot, and requires an absolute majority (one more than half) of votes. The majority is calculated on the number of ballot papers received.
To replace the delegates who may not be able to go to the General Chapter, substitutes will be elected: one substitute for each elected delegate.
The election of representatives of the Administrative Units to the General Chapter will be based on the fact that the positions to be filled are those of the delegates. The procedure will be as follows.
First ballot: From a list of eligible candidates, each elector will choose the same number of names as there are elected delegates allotted to the administrative unit *administrative* (two for each Province and one for each District). The Commission which counts the votes will tally the TOTAL NUMBER OF

VOTES each Brother receives. It will then draw up a list, in descending order, of all the Brothers who obtained votes.
If those at the head of the list, up to the number of delegates to be elected, have received an absolute majority (one more than half of the votes tabulated), they are declared elected. If all the delegates have been elected, the next Brothers on the list, in equal number, are considered elected as substitutes, if they have at least one-third of votes.
If the required number of delegates and substitutes is not elected on the first ballot, a second ballot is obviously needed. In this case, the Commission announces the candidates for the second ballot. They are the Brothers next on the list. There must be three Brothers for every position of delegate ***and three Brothers for every*** substitute still to be filled.
Second ballot: From the new list of candidates, each elector writes on his ballot paper as many names as the number of delegates yet to be elected[3]. The Commission will tally the TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES each Brother receives. It will then draw up a list, in descending order, of all the Brothers who obtained votes. Those at the head of the list, up to the number of delegates still to be elected, are declared elected. Those next on the list, up to the number of substitutes still to be elected, are declared elected as substitutes. In every ballot, if there is a tie, the youngest/s one/s is/are considered elected.

### *18. VOTING PROCEDURES*

Each elector writes on a piece of paper, or marks on the list of Brothers, the names of as many eligible Brothers as there are positions to fill. He puts the voting paper in a small envelope, which he seals.
The votes are placed in a second envelope, which is sealed in the presence of all the Brothers concerned. This envelope bears the names of each one voting, and each one signs alongside his name.
This second envelope is placed inside a third and sent by registered mail to the Brother Provincial.

### *19. VOTING BY PROXY*

If a Brother is absent from the Province and likely to be unable to return his

[3] If all of the delegates but no substitutes are elected on the first ballot, a second ballot is required. On this second ballot each brother votes for just one person. (GC decision 26/06/2008)

ballot by registered mail to the Brother Provincial before the due date, he may vote by proxy.
In this case the Brother informs the Provincial by whatever means is most secure

1. that he chooses to vote by proxy,
2. the name of the Brother he appoints as proxy.

The Brother choosing to vote by proxy makes whatever arrangements he chooses with his nominated proxy.
The Brother Provincial informs the Superior of the Community of the Brother nominated as proxy.
The Brother proxy deposits two ballot papers and signs the envelope twice, once in his own name and a second time "as proxy for Brother N...".

### *20. THE COUNTING OF THE VOTES*

A four-Brother Commission to count the votes will be chosen by the Brother Provincial and his Council. The chosen Brothers may not be provincial councilors. The Brother Provincial fixes the date for counting the votes and presides over the Commission.

### *21. THE DESTRUCTION OF BALLOT PAPERS*

After any election the ballot papers are to be destroyed.

### *22. REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS*

On the day of the meeting for the counting of the votes, the report of the meeting is drawn up and signed by all present.
For the first round of voting, the following should be included in the Report of the Elections:

- a list, in descending order, of all the Brothers who obtained votes
- the total number of votes that each Brother received
- the names of those who obtained an absolute majority
- the names of the candidates for the second round of voting who are those who are next on the list
- the signatures of the scrutators.

For the second round of voting, the following should be included in the Report of the Elections:

- a list, in descending order, of all the Brothers who obtained votes

- the total number of votes that each Brothers received
- the names of those elected
- the names of the substitutes
- the signatures of the scrutators

The Brother Provincial sends a copy of the report to the Brother Secretary General. The Brother Provincial advises the delegates of their election and publishes the names of those elected in the Province. This advice serves as their convocation for the General Chapter.

If they detect any irregularity, Brother Superior General with his Council can annul the results of an election and require that a new one be held. They will so inform the General Chapter.

### *23. OBLIGATION OF THE CAPITULANTS TO ATTEND THE CHAPTER*

A Brother elected as a delegate is to consider his duty as a capitulant as a more important obligation than any other.

If, however, he considers that he has serious reasons for not going to the Chapter or for leaving before it finishes, he will put his reasons in writing to the Brother Provincial. The latter, together with his Council, is to decide, and if need be, advise the substitute and the Brother Secretary General.

### *24. SUBSTITUTE FOR A BROTHER PROVINCIAL*

If the Brother Provincial is unable to be present at the General Chapter, one of the substitutes will take his place. The Brother Superior General must be so notified.

### *25. VERIFICATION OF THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES*

A Committee to verify the proper election of each delegate informs the capitulants of the details of the minutes of the election of the delegates. The Committee is composed of capitulants previously named by the Brother Superior General and his Council (cf C 137.4,8).

If these minutes show some irregularities, or if, in some way, certain procedures have made an election not quite regular, the Chapter will discuss the matter and make a decision about it. If necessary, it may name a Commission to make a more complete study. The Commission will make its report and then the capitulants will make their decision.

After the verification is complete and the minutes approved, the Brother Superior General declares the General Chapter regularly constituted.

### *26. THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE*

Once the names of the capitulants are known, the Brother Superior General with his Council will appoint the members of the Provisional Committee before the opening of the Chapter (cf C 137.4.9).
He convokes this Provisional Committee some days before the opening date in order to establish the program for the first few days of the Chapter.
Once the Chapter opens, the Order of the Day will always be approved by the Assembly.

### *27. THE OPENING OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER*

It is the function of the Provisional Committee to organize a suitable ceremony for the opening of the General Chapter.

### *28. OBLIGATION OF THE DELEGATES TO REMAIN*

All the capitulants are required to be present until the work of the Chapter ends. No-one can absent himself definitively, except for grave reasons, and then with the permission of the Facilitation Commission. *{For the description, function and election of the Facilitation Commission, see Sections 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 of the Chapter Process (formerly known as The Rules of Procedure - pages 122-123.)}*
A request for this permission should be made in writing and placed at the Chapter Secretariat from whence it will be delivered to the Chair of the Facilitation Commission.

### *29. THE CLOSING OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER*

When all the subjects have been treated the final minutes are drawn up showing the length of the Chapter, and the number of sessions. These minutes will state that all that has been discussed, agreed upon and voted, has been faithfully inscribed in the Book of the General Chapter, destined for the Archives; that a copy of the wishes and decisions of the Chapter has been prepared for the *Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life*. These last minutes will be followed by the signatures of all the

[1] Si todos los delegados, pero no los suplentes, son elegidos en la primera votación, se requiere una segunda votación. En esta segunda votación cada hermano vota solamente por una persona (CG decisión 26/06/2008).

capitulants.
By a final vote of an absolute majority (one more than half) of the members present, the Chapter will be declared closed.

# V

# THE CHAPTER PROCESS OF THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER

## FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Proposed by the Pre-Chapter Commission for the Revision of the Rules of Procedure of the 22nd General Chapter: Brothers Ben Consigli, Luís Carlos Gutiérrez and Maurice Berquet.

## Introduction

### *A CHAPTER LIVED IN AN ATTITUDE OF COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT*

in reality, a General Chapter is much more than "an assembly representative of the whole Institute..." which expresses, "the participation of all Brothers in the life and mission of the Institute, as well as of their co-responsibility in its government." A Chapter is a meeting of a faith community which seeks to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

In order to give the Spirit freedom to act, the capitulants willingly strive to achieve an attitude of openness, of availability, of receptivity to the Spirit's action. It is essential that each person remain aware, day by day, especially at moments of difficulty and of fatigue, of the action of the Spirit in the chapter community through each member. Spiritual discernment is a common search for the Will of God, to which each person is conscious of bringing a unique contribution arising from his own personal experience of God and his community and apostolic experience.

### *WHAT IS COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT?*

Communal discernment is a prayerful, conscious process that enables a deep

attentiveness to the workings of God in all of life. It is a means to:

- Recognize and acknowledge what God is doing and desires;
- Truly listen to the Spirit who enlightens and prays within all participants;
- Let go of those ideas and prejudices that keep participants from truly listening and understanding the ideas of others;
- Hear and obey the voice of God.

Communal discernment engages all participants to seek the will of God together. To be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and to be free enough to listen attentively, prayer and contemplative dialogue are essential. Communal discernment presupposes what Saint Ignatius referred to as "indifference," that we are open to the whatever the outcome of our discernment, thereby accepting what emerges even if it is opposed to what we may have first thought.

Prayerfully and reflectively, the participants:

- Consider an option or action based on individual and communal experience;
- Share truth (hopes, fears, dreams, concerns);
- Listen attentively to the truth of others;
- Pray to be free individually and communally in order to listen to the Spirit.

Communal discernment is more than attaining an agreement. It is a process that allows a group to arrive at a decision based on deep listening, reflection, and sharing. What distinguishes communal discernment from other approaches to decision making is the incorporation of prayer, reflective quiet, attentiveness to the signs of the times, and contemplative dialogue. Experience, reason, intuition, and insights from all in the group are important and welcomed. Common direction and common good are sought through cooperation and collaboration. Living the Chapter in a spirit of communal discernment allows a group to respond together to the call of God.

### *A CHAPTER WHICH VALUES INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE*

Among other things, such dialogue involves recognizing our primary cultural identity and the various socio-cultural elements contributing to make us who we are. It means being open to the diverse perspectives, beliefs, behaviors and expressions existing among us in this changing era. It implies seeking unity in the plurality of intercultural dialogue, appreciating everyone and everything, discerning their newness, and the risk involved, knowing the presence of the Spirit at work there.

### *A CHAPTER WHICH VALUES CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING*

By definition, consensus is a level of agreement about a decision which enables it to be owned by all concerned, notwithstanding points of disagreement or difference of opinion regarding certain aspects of the decision. Each individual should be able to accept the group decision. The goal of our communal discernment is to reach – as far as possible – a kind of spiritual consensus – a way of sensing the will of God. It is an organic continuation of the consensus building process which has been used to take decisions at our most recent General Chapter and General Conference. Such consensus incorporates rational consideration, but comes most especially through prayerful listening. Consensus is not the same as unanimity. Not everyone must actually agree, but nobody can be so opposed as to feel obliged to resist. Since anyone can block consensus, the process gives each person power and requires each person to exercise that power responsibly.

**It is with this in mind, the following Chapter Process has been proposed:**

## *1. THE CHAPTER PROCESS*

### *1.1 THE PROCEDURE IN FORCE*

Until the Chapter approves a new process, the Rules of Procedure of the previous General Chapter remain in force. The Coordinator of the Provisional Committee submits to the Chapter any changes to the Rules of Procedure as proposed by the Preparatory Commission. For approval, they require an

absolute majority of votes of the members present.

### 1.2 MODIFICATIONS OF THE CHAPTER PROCESS

During the Chapter, any capitulant can propose a modification to the Chapter Process *(formerly known as the Rules of Procedure, and henceforth known as 'The Chapter Process')*. He will propose the modification to the Facilitation Commission. In this case, the Assembly's decision requires a two-thirds majority of the votes of the members present. If, during the Chapter, a capitulant wishes to add a new article to the Chapter Process, he proposes it to the Facilitation Commission which will then submit it to the Assembly.

### 1.3 PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

The Provisional Committee will facilitate the Chapter Process until the Facilitation Commission is elected.

## 2. ORGANIZATION

### 2.1. ADMITTANCE TO THE CHAPTER HALL

Only the capitulants, the support group, and other invited guests have access to the Chapter Hall. The support group and other invited guests do not have access to the Chapter Hall during meetings for the election of the Brother Superior General or the members of the General Council.

### 2.2. SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE CHAPTER

In order to facilitate the work of the Chapter, the Brother Superior General and his Council, and later the Facilitation Commission, may retain the services of a facilitator, some Brothers to act as translators, secretaries, or for any other work related to the Chapter.

### 2.3. THE PRESENCE OF EXPERTS

The Chapter may obtain the help of experts to deal with specific topics at a given time. A Commission or Study Group can also ask for experts, with the authorization of the Facilitation Commission.

### *2.4. THE NEED FOR DISCRETION*

The capitulants, invited guest, and the support group are bound to confidentiality (for the protection of physical and juridic persons). The Assembly decides if matters are to remain under the seal of secrecy.

### *2.5. MAKING DECISIONS*

The assembly of capitulants at a regular meeting in the Chapter Hall is the only body competent to take decisions.

### *2.6. OFFICIAL RECORD OF CHAPTER PROCEEDINGS*

Digital recording is recognized as the official record of the proceedings of the Chapter. The minutes are written up by the Secretaries of each session. They record what takes place, make a resume of the discussion of the plenary sessions, and record the decisions and the results of any votes taken. In a later session, this text is submitted for the approval of the Assembly. Digital or tape-recording of the election of the Superior General and the members of his Council is not allowed.

### *2.7. WORK GROUPS*

The General Chapter sets up the work groups that are needed. They must be approved by the Assembly. The purpose and structure of the work groups may vary according to the tasks for which they have been created. Each work group decides what officers it needs and freely elects them.

### *2.8. WORK GROUP MEMBERSHIP*

Each capitulant can be enrolled officially in only ONE Work Group. He can change from this work group during the Chapter, but only after having notified the Facilitation Commission.

### *2.9. SPECIAL COMMISSIONS*

Special Commissions can be formed by the Chapter to study particular questions.

### *2.10. WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE CHAPTER*

Each participant can express himself in the General Assembly in the 4 official languages of the Institute--Spanish, French, English or Portuguese. Oral and written translation will be done in English and Spanish only.

## 3. FUNCTIONS

### 3.1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAPTER

The Brother Superior General is the President of the Chapter (Cf. Constitutions 102).

### 3.2. THE FACILITATION COMMISSION

The Facilitation Commission, once it has been elected, takes over responsibility for the organization and unfolding of the Chapter, especially in creating an ambiance of careful listening and consensus building.

### 3.3 THE COMPOSITION OF THE FACILITATION COMMISSION

The Facilitation Commission is made up of the officers who are the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and General Secretary of the Chapter, together with a number of other Brothers elected as members by the Chapter. The Provisional Committee proposes to the Chapter the number of members to be elected to the Facilitation Commission, and the criteria and the process for their election. Candidates should be asked for their consent before they are nominated for election to the Assembly.

### 3.4. ELECTING MEMBERS OF THE FACILITATION COMMISSION

The members of the Facilitation Commission are elected by secret, electronic ballot, by an absolute majority *(one more than half)* of votes of the members present. If, after one ballot, there is no result, the second vote will be confined to the two candidates who have obtained the highest number of votes on the previous ballot, or if there are several, to the two youngest. If, after the second ballot, the candidates remain equal, the younger will be deemed elected. The officers (the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary) are chosen by the Facilitation Commission.

### 3.5. THE CHAIRMAN AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman convenes the Facilitation Commission and presides over its work. The Vice-Chairman replaces the Chairman when necessary.

### *3.6. THE GENERAL SECRETARY*

The General Secretary of the Chapter is in charge of the Secretariat. He is responsible for the organization and the operation of the Secretariat. He is the Secretary of the Facilitation Commission. He has the responsibility of transmitting any official information concerning the proceedings of the Chapter.

### *3.7. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES*

The Facilitation Commission will propose for approval by the Chapter names of Brothers to be assistant secretaries for the General Assemblies, or be responsible for Records and other Chapter secretarial duties. They may be non-capitulants.

### *3.8. ENLISTING BROTHERS TO SERVE AS TRANSLATORS FOR COMMISSIONS AND GROUPS*

The various Commissions or Study Groups may engage the services of Brothers who are translators for the Chapter, after consultation with the Chairman. The translators may be non-capitulants.

### *3.9. MODERATORS*

The Facilitation Commission chooses the Moderator of each session of the General Assembly, whether from among its own members, or from the list of other capitulants. The approved facilitator may also be a Moderator for any or the sessions.

### *3.10. FUNCTIONS OF A MODERATOR*

The Moderator who chairs the Assembly directs the discussions and sees that the processes proposed by the Facilitation Commission, are followed. He deals with any problem of procedure that may arise. All appeals against his decisions are to be submitted to the Assembly and a consensus decision making model will be used. Once consensus is reached, he can, if necessary, put any proposal to a vote.

### *3.11. THE TELLERS*

The checking of written votes is done by two tellers, the youngest and oldest capitulants in the Chapter Assembly.

## 4. THE WORK OF THE WORK GROUPS AND COMMISSIONS

### 4.1. THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Each Work Group or Commission will organize itself.

### 4.2. THE METHOD OF WORKING

Each Work Group or Commission makes a careful study of all the matters submitted to it. The capitulants exchange their views freely in the Work Groups or Commissions. They follow a process of decision making by consensus building.

### 4.3. SUB-COMMISSIONS

If necessary, the Work Groups or Commissions can divide into subgroups/sub-commissions. These too will organize themselves. The subgroups or sub-commissions submit their reports in such a way that they can be incorporated into the Work Group's or Commission's Report through the process of consensus building.

### 4.4. PARTICIPATION OF CAPITULANTS WHO DO NOT BELONG TO A PARTICULAR WORK GROUP/COMMISSION

Any capitulant has the right to be heard on any point that is being studied by a Work Group or Commission. A Work Group or Commission can also invite a capitulant to take part in a particular meeting. It may also call for written submissions from all the capitulants on a particular question.

### 4.5. THE PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

The Reports, or parts of Reports from the Work Group or Commissions are to be submitted to the Assembly without any modification.

### 4.6. PREPARING REPORTS AND HAVING THEM TRANSLATED

These Reports will be written in one of the two working languages of the Chapter—English or Spanish. Each Work Group or Commission will make translations that may be necessary for a clear understanding by the capitulants.

### 4.7. PRIORITY MATTERS

The Facilitation Commission may indicate to each Work Group or Commission which questions are to be given priority.

## *5. THE WORK OF THE FULL ASSEMBLY*

### *5.1. THE CONSENSUS BUILDING PROCESS*

The Assembly will follow a consensus building process. (See the appendices at the end of this document.)

### *5.2. DECISIONS BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

On certain occasions, the Assembly can accept a unanimous decision. In such a case, the Moderator says: "If there is no objection I propose..."

### *5.3. STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN STUDYING A TEXT*

Before adopting a text presented by a Work Group or Commission, the Assembly will normally respect the following steps:

- **Discussion of the item:** The item is discussed with the goal of identifying opinions and information on the topic at hand. The general direction of the group and potential proposals for action are often identified during the discussion.
- **Formation of a proposal:** Based on the discussion a formal decision proposal on the issue is presented to the group.
- **Call for consensus:** The facilitator of the decision-making body calls for consensus on the proposal. Each member of the group usually must actively state whether they agree or consent, stand aside, or object, often by raising a colored card, to avoid the group interpreting silence or inaction as agreement. The number of objections is counted to determine if this step's consent threshold is satisfied. (Usually, the consent threshold occurs when two thirds of those in attendance either agree or consent to a particular proposal.) If it is, those who do not agree or consent to the proposal are asked to share their concerns with the agreement, so that any potential harms can be addressed/ minimized. *This can happen even if the consent threshold is unanimity, especially if many voters stand aside.*

- **Identification and addressing of concerns:** If consensus is not achieved, each person who does not agree or consent to the proposal presents his or her concerns on the proposal, potentially starting

another round of discussion to address or clarify the concern.

- **Modification of the proposal:** The proposal is amended, re-phrased in an attempt to address the concerns of the decision-makers. The process then returns to the call for consensus and the cycle is repeated until a satisfactory decision passes the consent threshold for the group.

### 5.4. EVALUATION OF THE METHOD OF WORKING

The Facilitation Commission will provide time for the evaluation of the method of working and for adapting it if necessary.

## 6. VOTING

*In the spirit of consensus building, voting comes after reaching a high level of consensus in the assembly. In most of the cases, voting is preceded by sondages, as part of the whole dynamic of the Chapter process.*

### 6.1. SECRET, ELECTRONIC BALLOTS

Most elections and all decisions of the Chapter are normally made by secret, electronic ballot.

### 6.2. TYPES OF MAJORITIES REQUIRED

Ordinarily, decisions require an absolute majority *(one more than half)* of votes of the members present. The modification of the Chapter Process requires a two-thirds majority.

## 7. ELECTION OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

**7.1**. The election of the Brother Superior General is a solemn moment and is carried out in an atmosphere of prayer and spiritual discernment, which includes the celebration of the Eucharist.

**7.2**. At the beginning of the session the tellers will distribute a ballot paper to each elector.

**7.3**. Each one completes the ballot paper, folds it, and places it in an urn on a table which has a crucifix and a relic of St. Marcellin Champagnat. The table is placed in front of the President of the Chapter.

**7.4**. If one of the capitulants is present in the house in which the election is taking place, but is unable to be present in the Chapter Hall, the tellers will collect his vote (Cf. CCL 167.2).

**7.5**. When all have voted, the tellers count the votes out loud in order to ensure that the number of votes is not greater than the number of voters present. If this should be the case, the ballot is null, and must be redone without examining the ballot papers. When the verification is correct, the first teller takes a ballot paper and reads aloud the name. He then gives it to the second teller.

**7.6.** The secretaries for the session take note of the names called by the teller. The President is responsible for the correct procedure. Each ballot paper is treated in the same way.

**7.7.** When all the ballot papers have been checked, the votes counted, and the whole procedure verified, the President reads out the number of votes obtained by each one. After each ballot, the voting papers will be destroyed in view of everyone.

**7.8.** If the first ballot does not give an absolute majority to anyone, a second or more ballots will be held, in accordance with Constitutions 131.

**7.9**. The one who is elected Superior General will indicate to the President whether or not he accepts the election. If he refuses, the election has no effect and a new election is held (Cf. CCL 177).

**7.10**. If the one elected Superior General accepts, the announcement will be made by the President in the following terms: "In the name of the Most Holy Trinity and under the protection of the Blessed Virgin and of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, in my own name, and in the name of all those whose place it

is to elect the Superior General, I declare elected Brother... who has received the required number of the votes of the capitulants."

**7.11**. The official notification of the election will be sent immediately to all the Provinces and Districts of the Institute.

**7.12**. If the Brother President of the Chapter is elected Superior General, the Vicar General makes the above declaration.

**7.13**. By a two-thirds majority, the Chapter can ask the Holy See to accept as Superior General a Brother who may be ineligible for the post due to a dispensable canonical impediment such as an age requirement or when he has reached the canonical limit stipulated for his time in office. For all that concerns Postulation, we are to follow the prescriptions of canons 180 -183.

**7.14**. If one or other of the Officers of the Chapter is elected Superior General, the General Assembly will proceed to elect a replacement for him.

## APPENDIX A

### *CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING*

**Consensus decision making** is a creative and dynamic way of reaching agreement between all members of a group. Instead of simply voting for an item and having the majority of the group getting their way, a group using **consensus** is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least will not resist.

Consensus incorporates rational consideration, but comes most especially through prayerful listening. Consensus is not the same as unanimity. Not everyone must actually agree, but nobody can be so opposed as to feel obliged to resist. Since anyone can block consensus, the process gives each person power and requires each person to exercise that power responsibly.

What is most "convergent" is chosen, according to the reasons put forward. Dissent is expressed, by asking those who do not agree, to express what is vital/important to them and is missing. Further consideration is given, and again, possible alternative(s) are chosen. In "implicit consensus" the group agrees beforehand that the majority or two thirds will serve as indication towards a decision. In "explicit consensus" the group seeks unanimity, through letting go of what is relative, and "holding on to the non-negotiable," until agreement is reached.

Consensus implies searching honestly for the best solution in the present circumstances, doing all in my power to establish the best possible communication among us, and taking the necessary time in order to reach good mutual understanding. Consensus is reached after there has been open and frank dialogue where a capitulant has expressed his thoughts as freely as possible and has tried to understand correctly the thoughts of others. The Assembly consents to an agreement that is acceptable to all, following genuine dialogue and exploration of all the possibilities. Personal involvement of all capitulants at each stage of a decision will ensure an effective implementation of chapter decisions.

At certain moments in the General Chapter, capitulants may want to make formal interventions or proposals.

After consensus is reached on a topic or proposal, and if needed, formal voting can take place as a "pro forma" exercise, confirming the consensus which was reached.

As a decision-making process, **consensus decision-making** aims to be:

- **Agreement Seeking:** A consensus decision making process attempts to generate as much agreement as possible.
- **Collaborative:** Participants contribute to a shared proposal and shape it into a decision that meets the concerns of all group members as much as possible.
- **Cooperative:** Participants in an effective consensus process should strive to reach the best possible decision for the group and all of its members, rather than competing for personal preferences.

- **Egalitarian:** All members of a consensus decision-making body should be afforded, as much as possible, equal input into the process. All members have the opportunity to present and amend proposals.
- **Inclusive:** As many stakeholders as possible should be involved in the consensus decision-making process.
- **Participatory:** The consensus process should actively solicit the input and participation of all decision-makers.

This method aims to build communion and unity in diversity. It is based on the principles of **trust, co-responsibility** and **interdependence**. Work is done mainly in the groups or at tables, where communication and mutual understanding are easier and the involvement of each person is fostered. Co-responsibility is valued, and relationships are established between the members of each group or table, and between the different groups. Active participation of all, in a peaceful atmosphere of reflection, prayer and spiritual discernment, allows the Chapter to get the best benefit from the talents and gifts of each capitulant.

# APPENDIX B

## *USE OF COLORED CARDS*

- **The Use of Colored Cards**

- In the full Assembly, the Chapter will use a system of colored cards to facilitate the consensus process. Each member is given a set of three colored cards: red, yellow and green. The cards can be raised during the process to indicate the member's input. Cards can be used during the discussion phase as well as during a call for consensus. The cards have different meanings, depending on the phase in which they are used. The meaning of the colors is:

- **Red:** During discussion, a red card is used to indicate a point of process or

a breach of the agreed upon procedures. Identifying off topic discussions, speakers going over allowed time limits or other breaks in the process are uses for the red card. During a call for consensus, the red card indicates the member's opposition (usually a "principled objection") to the proposal at hand. When a member, or members, use a red card, it becomes their responsibility to work with the proposing committee to come up with a solution that works for everyone.

- **Yellow:** In the discussion phase, the yellow card is used to indicate a member's ability to clarify a point being discussed or answer a question being posed. Yellow is used during a call for consensus to register a stand aside to the proposal or to formally state any reservations. In general, Yellow indicates agreement but with some reservations which need to be addressed.
- **Green**: A group member can use a green card during discussion to add to the speakers list. During a call

# VI

# REFLECTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF THE 22nd GENERAL CHAPTER

## 1. Reflection of Brother Emili Turú at the opening of the 22nd General Chapter

***SEPTEMBER 8, 2017***

Welcome to this house which will be our home in the coming weeks of our General Chapter.
A month and a half ago, while preparing these words, I went to the Archives of the General Administration to read the Acts of the XVI General Chapter that took place in September 1967, that is 50 years ago. Br Charles Raphael, the then Superior General, reminded the capitulants that they were celebrating 150 years since the foundation of the Institute and 100 years since the first Marist 'mission' (at the level of the Institute as a whole), which was in South Africa.
Today we can say that all of us have the privilege – and the responsibility – of participating in the General Chapter of our bicentenary. And that, to celebrate the 150 years since our first Marist 'mission', a new international community will be established in South Africa in these very days when we are in Chapter.

### *AN ATTITUDE: AT THE EDGE OF WAITING*

Coming here from the four corners of the earth, a great responsibility has been entrusted to us, an extremely sensitive task, one that will demand of each of us great **freedom of spirit**, **detachment** from our own ideas and opinions, a **determination to learn** from others and a constant attitude of **prayer and discernment**.

We are being invited to take a seat in the school of Mary to learn from Her how to adopt a **contemplative way of looking at things**, something that does not happen spontaneously just because we want it to, but rather something to be worked at on our own and with a healthy dash of patience.

I follow on Twitter Carl McColman, a well-known writer on topics related to contemplation. Last June he surprised me with one of his tweets:

In the reflection developed by McColman on his own website, the Irish word for describing contemplation is *rinnfheitheamh* (RINN-eh-hev). The first part of the word means *border* or *edge*, as in the cutting edge of a sword; the second part of the word means *waiting*. Hence the literal translation of *rinnfheitheamh* would be **at the edge of waiting**. There could not be a better image to describe contemplation.

When applied to our own situation and the work ahead of us, I believe that we are being asked to engage in something as finely-balanced as standing *at the edge of waiting*.

*The edge of contemplation* is sharp, like the cutting edge of a sword, enabling us to distinguish the voice of the Lord from all the other voices coming from our ego; to cut through our attachments, our unreal fantasies, our fears... to bring us to greater inner freedom. What a wonderful ally contemplation will be in our discernment!

We have in front of us some six weeks of life together and of work at the service of the Institute, considered as a global body. We know that really important issues are waiting for us and that our time is limited. This reality may cause a degree of anxiety and angst in some of us, along with the desire to move matters along as fast as possible.

The Portuguese theologian, José Tolentino Mendonça, in his beautiful book, *Pequena teologia da lentidão (A short theology of slowness),* quotes Milan Kundera, *When things happen too fast, nobody can be certain about anything, about anything at all, not even about himself.* He goes on to say,

> *In our haste, we become forgetful. We pass by things without getting involved, we speak with others without listening to them, we accumulate information that we will never process. Everything takes place at a noisy, aggressive and superficial pace. Truly, the speed that we are*

> *currently living at prevents us from living. One possible alternative would be to recover the way we relate to time. Little by little, step by step. This is not possible without inner relaxation. Precisely because the pressure to make decisions is enormous, we need to take our time to protect ourselves from jumping from one thing to another without thought, from blindly compulsive actions, from parroted and banal words. Precisely because we find ourselves obliged to split ourselves in two and be everywhere at one, we need to relearn the here and now of presence, we need to relearn to be attentive to the whole, the complete, the heart of things, to oneness.*

If during the Chapter, then, there are moments when we feel impatient because answers are not appearing or anxious about what is not under our control... it may be good to remember this fine balance of trying to stand *at the edge of waiting*, in an attitude of expectation and curiosity.

### *A TASK: TOWARDS A NEW LA VALLA*

In the Letter of Convocation of the General Chapter I tried to remind us all of what is the heart of our work starting today and during the weeks to come: **to listen closely to the Spirit, to ask ourselves what God wants of us, to make La Valla relevant today**... This is what I wrote:

> Saint Gregory of Nyssa (4th century) said that in our Christian life we go *from beginning to beginning, through beginnings that have no end.* That means that our life, as Christians, is a constant beginning again. For this reason, we dispose ourselves once more to **listen to the Spirit**, and we constantly prepare to carry out His will.
>
> Our Marist Constitutions (139) tell us that one of the aims of a General Chapter is to *deal with major issues concerning the nature, aim, and spirit of the Institute, and to further their renewal and adaptation, preserving all the while the spiritual heritage of the Institute.* In some way, then, each General Chapter is a kind of new beginning, since we collectively ask ourselves **what God wants of us** at this particular moment in history and we try to supply the means needed to respond to God's calls.

> *A New La Valla*, then, is not a call to reproduce, in some nostalgic or romantic way, the first Marist community. Rather, it is to **make La Valla relevant today,** at the beginning of the 21st century, as a new world is emerging.

A task as important and sensitive as this is not an invitation to focus on ourselves and to go round and round over what we assume to be our needs. I believe that, at this historic moment, the Spirit is reminding all of us in the Church that He wants us to be in *a permanent state of mission* (EG 25), and that we have to overcome any form of *ecclesial introversion* that puts *self-preservation* first (EG 27).

So, my image of the participants of this Chapter is not that of an emotionally-torn Hamlet, asking himself *To be or not to be …* but rather that of a passionate Champagnat on his way from Bessat to La Valla, after his encounter with the young Montagne. May the inner fire that burned in the heart of Marcellin light up ours as well!

> ***Let us go forth, then, let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ****. Here I repeat for the entire Church what I have often said to the priests and laity of Buenos Aires: I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.* ***I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre*** *and which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life. More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and* ***Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat!"*** *(Mk 6:37).* (EG 49)

*Give them something to eat!* This phrase offers us an excellent perspective for our search during this Chapter. It is the needs of others that should move us more than our own. Our main task during these weeks, then, is not to produce beautiful documents but rather to try to respond to questions that matter, with a compassionate heart like that of Champagnat. **Where does the Church need us most** at this beginning of the 21st century? In which places around the world are the most vulnerable children and young people, and how should we be serving them, as a global body? …

## *A COMMUNITY: PARABLE OF FRATERNITY*

Throughout the Chapter, part of our task is also to form ourselves into a **community of life**, like *a new La Valla*.

And, when we speak of La Valla, our imagination soars towards that small house where 200 years ago Marcellin Champagnat began to give shape to the Marist dream. In Greece, an icon has been painted in memory of this event; in it we can see Fr Champagnat seated at the table along with the two Marist candidates. The similarity of this icon with that of the Trinity by Rublev is striking, perhaps suggesting that every community is called to be a living image of the Trinity, where *diversity* is not an obstacle for *communion* but rather a *condition* for it.

Inspired by the Trinity, we want to make visible the miracle of universal brotherhood. We want to proclaim in a prophetic way, with our lives, that it is not only possible for a community to be made up of people from different cultures, backgrounds and ages, religious and lay, men and women, but rather it is desirable and enriching. In this sense, the small fraternities that we are going to set up will be a privileged space for sharing life and faith, a gift for each one of us, and a living and life-giving cell of this community of life that our Chapter assembly is. Over these weeks, paraphrasing Gandhi, we will try *to be the change we want to see in the world*.

In my Letter of Convocation of this Chapter, I said that one of the symbols that has persisted among us coming out of the last General Chapter of 2009, and with a connection to our house at La Valla, is the *table*. Round tables, to be more precise, around which the whole General Chapter took place. Even

though it was not explicitly intended, these tables became a powerful visual image of the value of *fraternal dialogue*.

In these moments at the start of the XXII General Chapter, we are being invited again to take our place around the table and to take up the conversation of topics that are of great concern to all of us.

In 2009 the capitulants had the audacity to employ a methodology and process that they had no experience of, and by the end of the Chapter I believe that the majority recognised that this new way of proceeding corresponded better with our experience and life together as brothers. Many provincial chapters, assemblies, and meetings have followed the same process, and today, 8 years later, it is hard to imagine things happening in any other way.

This, then, is what we can see in two of the documents that we have received in recent weeks: the *Methodology for the XXII General Chapter*, and the application of this methodology to the new Rules of Procedure of the Chapter, now called *Chapter Process*. The commission that prepared these documents did really well in bringing these texts together, since it has to be stressed strongly that what is at stake is a **much deeper commitment** at the level of values than any simple change in methodology.

Earlier I said that we want to learn how to adopt **a contemplative way** of looking at things, from Mary who *treasured all these things in the depths of her heart* (Lk 2, 51). We can speak, then, of setting our minds and hearts in motion towards a new consciousness: a **new way of seeing and being** that will assist our discernment, given that **contemplation**:

- invites silence which supports slowing down, reflection, and deeper conversation
- centres all that we are, and all we desire to be on the movement of God's spirit
- supports a "flexible shaping" and integration of prayer, reflection, dialogue
- enables any conversation to become a spiritual experience rather than being about mere "business" or problem-solving
- assists a group in moving from "I" to "We"
- allows for creative possibilities, emerging options, and peaceful resolution

**Contemplative dialogue** is one way of expressing this new consciousness. It is dialogue as an authentic artform, something that will demand learning, effort, time, constancy, and patience. *We need to practice the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communication, is an* ***openness of heart*** *which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur. Listening helps us to find the right gesture and word which shows that we are more than simply bystanders* (EG 171).

*Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God* (EG 272). This is why the Pope is such a promoter of the culture of encountering, in a context that favours a *throwaway* culture, a culture of standoff and fragmentation. Dialogue, authentic dialogue, is fundamental in promoting this alternative culture and also for the future of humanity, as Zygmunt Bauman reminds us:

> *Pope Francis does not only preach the need for dialogue but puts into practice himself. Authentic dialogue, between people with explicitly opposing points of view, communicating in order to understand one another… For the future of humanity, in a world that is irreversibly multicultural and multi-centric, engaging in dialogue is a* ***matter of life or death****.*

We take up the invitation of Pope Francis to the participants at the Extraordinary Synod on the Family (2014) to **speak clearly and listen with humility**... because, he said, *we can frustrate the plan of God if we do not allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit*.

### *ONE WORD: MAGNIFICAT!*

From the very start of this Chapter, on this feast of the Birthday of Mary, we want to join her in saying *Magnificat!* for the blessings showered on our Institute throughout these 200 years.

> Our hearts are full of thanks for the tenderness and the presence of Her who *has done everything for us*.

Our thanks as well to those, across the five continents, who have taken part in the preparation process of the Chapter, entering into the process of *transformative conversations* and offering their contribution for the future of the Institute.

Thanks to the Preparatory Commission who, with the assistance of Mr Mathieu Daum, have completed an enormous task, of high quality and great sensitivity.

Thanks to each of the commissions who have been at work to facilitate our discernment over the coming weeks: the commission on the Constitutions; the commission on Rules of Procedure of the Chapter; the commission on child protection; secretariat of laity...

Thanks to the Province of Norandina for their welcome with open arms and for their logistical support from the very first moment.

Thanks to the various groups who have been working discreetly to ensure a smooth start to a gathering of this size, and who will continue the process throughout the Chapter in their different areas of responsibility: technology; ambience; liturgy and animation; communications; translations and secretarial support; general services...

Thanks to the members of the committee for verification of powers and the provisional committee of the Chapter, responsible for the first steps of this Chapter.

Finally, thanks to each one of you, participants of this General Chapter. We are being called to form an international **community**, as a parable of brotherhood. We have the **common task** of making La Valla relevant for today's world. We want to do all this with a **contemplative attitude**, *at the edge of waiting*. The openness and commitment of each one of us will allow the Holy Spirit to take us by the hand, leading us to **a new beginning**, as in our day we embark on the third Marist century.

*Magnificat…*

## 2. A Message to the Marist Brothers of the Schools from the Marist Youth around the World.

***RIONEGRO, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017***

Dear Brother Capitulants, Brothers and invited guests, dear collaborators of the XXII General Chapter. Mi name is... and I am ...years old and today I do not represent no one locality, or any one country or province. Today I stand in front of you representing the thousands of young people of the Marist world: the young people who you accompany, who actively participate and receive the evangelization efforts of the institute, who have been educated by you, and all who await you in your places of mission and on the peripheries that Pope Francis has invited you to serve, in the name and image of Jesus.

First, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to hear our voice during this important moment for the Marist institute. At the same time, we thank you for supporting young people over these past 200 years, where the Marist community has experienced many joys, sorrows, certainties and uncertainties, difficult decisions and opportunities, and in general we are thankful for the 200 years that the spirit has guided us, the Marists of Champagnat, in allowing us to share this journey and dream together as we face the challenges of creating "a new beginning".

Our reality as young people is not submitting to a culture of death, to a society where war and violence has destroyed our hopes and dreams, where many of us do not have an opportunity to raise our voices against the injustices of our world. Today's world has denied us of the opportunity to live our childhood and adolescence, leaving us to feel as slaves in a world that proclaims freedom. The social environment has cornered us into a game where we have lost the ability to be the protagonist of our own life, where poverty has hindered our potential to build and where addictions have become the escape of our everyday life. We feel that the guarantee of Human Rights has become a utopia and that it is found only on paper, distancing itself more and more from us instead of providing us with opportunities and a just world.

In light of these realities, what do we need and expect from the Brothers?

We believe that to educate and evangelize Young people, the main focus should be accompaniment. There is a sense that you have become distant from our

vital world, ignoring the different contexts and realities that we would like to confront with your help to change them. Therefore, we propose a new model of evangelization for young Marists, or for those who need it, this new model is your presence among us, come be among us, encounter us, be with us instead of seating behind your desk, making new references to the call of the Pope. Leave your comfort zone and be present in places where we are calling for hope. For this reason, we are proposing that you create mixed communities as a possible solution. Delegate the administrative responsibilities to the laypeople.

In this regard, we have observed that the image and significance of LaValla has been lost, in which we are invited to live in the service of others; in the joy of community. We are confident that a concrete way of promoting vocations to the Marist institute is by you become "living witnesses", among the children and young people, thus bring to life the joy and dream of Champagnat. The Brotherhood you share, among yourselves, should not only be based on service. It should be lived in the true spirit of community. As a result, we question and ask ourselves, "Can we say that the Brothers really love another as Champagnat wanted them to?

Regarding education, we ask ourselves, as Father Champagnat asked "how many children will die without knowing the love of God?", in fact, there is a big concern as to our spiritual growth, especially among us young people. Has it been diminished because of the Brother's abandonment of the ministries which has brought about a feeling of disconnect with the young and has created a crisis of values and vocational direction within this interior family.

Referring to our previous comments, we propose the development of physical spaces that respond to the diversity of needs, which welcomes children and young people who have been displaced due to internal and external conflicts within their countries; who have been marginalized due to inequality, violence, abuse and abandonment, who have lost their dreams due to war. These places would provide, as an end result, opportunities for children and young people to be formed and trained, helping them to surpass the challenges we face and help us to be part of a society that creates a new life.

We require your help and guidance to face of the situations and problems that the modern world is confronting; homosexuality, abortion, early pregnancies, suicide, racism, discrimination, intolerance, unemployment and the destruction of the environment.

Re-enforcing some of our previous ideas, we propose the development of a volunteer program as a possible solution and that will need further dialogue and attention from the institute. Therefore, we would like to suggest that we incorporate a youth branch to the idea of a volunteer program that also calls for the development of a progressive accompaniment process.
We also believe that the role of women within the Marist institute needs to be re-evaluated. The following question needs to be explored: What kind of response can the congregation give women who have a vocational call to live, as a religious, in the charism of Champagnat, as Marists?
Finally, my dear brothers, we want to express again our commitment as young lay people, despite the challenges we face and an unknown future, we would like to offer you, our reflections, so that you can continue to ask what do we, as Marists, need to do to build a better world. Please do not stop supporting young people, continue to be a sign of hope among children and young people and walk hand in hand with us and Mary, Our Good Mother, as we move toward a new beginning

## 3. Message sent to the victims of the natural disasters in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, United States and the Lesser Antilles

Rionegro, 20 September 2017
To the Victims of the Hurricanes and Earthquakes in the Americas
*Alone we can do very little; united we can do a* lot
(*Helen Keller)*
We, the participants of the XXII General Chapter of the Marist Institute, gathered in the city of Rionegro - Colombia, are united in the pain and the sadness suffered in some towns of the Americas, caused by the devastating natural phenomena that have lashed this part of the planet in the course of these last few weeks. The catastrophic effects of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Joseph and Mary in The Antilles, Puerto Rico, Dominique, the Republic Of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba and United States; as well as the unfortunate effects of the two earthquakes suffered in Mexico on 7th and 19th of September.

We are united in prayerful communion and solidarity with the people who have suffered and who have been victims of these tragedies. In a special way we affirm the support of the Marist family, Brothers, Lay people, the youth, children and families who suffered through these phenomena. Be assured of our prayers, with our shared heart and our hands which are willing to support and collaborate.

May the Good and Tender Mother of Guadalupe, Patron of Latin America, bless and strengthen you and also, encourage and strengthen our hearts to rush to the aid of those who have need of our help.

Participants at the XXII General Chapter.

## 4. Reflection of Br. Emili Turù at the Assembly of the XXII General Chapter

### *REVIVINGOURPROPHETICSPIRIT*

*How I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets*
*and that the Lord would put his Spirit in them.*
(Num 11, 29)

People often speak about how consecrated life is passing through **a time of crisis**, of profound change. How is it not going to be in crisis when everything around it is? We are privileged to be living within a **change of epoch**, and this affects the whole world, to differing degrees.

In spite of these tumultuous times, we believe, inspired by Mary, in the enduring and deep- down **action of the Holy Spirit** in history, working towards an alternative society, one that is more just and brotherly, and this fills us with hope. The Spirit is renewing the Church, calling it to be a ferment in this new society, and hence is inviting each of us to be a player in this renewal. As with the first Marists 200 years ago, the Spirit is calling us to *a new beginning*.

We have been caught up in this task of *aggiornamento* in the past 50 years since the 1967 Chapter, rightly named a *renewal* Chapter. I believe that our experience over this time, as has been the case for most other Religious as well, has been quite similar to a **biblical exile**, so that today we find ourselves in what has been called a ***middle space***. We have left behind the land we inhabited 50

years ago, but we have not yet reached the new land; we are like exiles, in a middle space. Religious life, such as we knew it in the past, is in the process of disappearing but new forms of religious life have not yet seen the light of day. Such a state invites creativity, but often it is also home to disorientation and a feeling of failure.

During the exile, the People of God lived through a profound experience of loss and vulnerability, even feeling abandoned. Yet this was the very context in which God summoned a small group to exercise the **prophetic role** of articulating hope.

Isn't this same prophetic role entrusted to consecrated life in our days, when we too live like exiles along with the rest of the People of God? Pope Francis has urged Religious repeatedly to be ***radical prophets*** and to ***awaken the world***.

This is an urgent call, for the impression of many inside the Church is similar to that of the People of Israel at some moments in their history: *We are given no signs from God; no prophets are left, and none of us knows how long this will be* (Ps 74,9). Could it be true that *the prophets are asleep*, in the words of the Syriac Apocalypse of Baruch?

Charisms continue the historical role of the biblical prophets. They are gifts for the common good, capable of recalling the value of selfless giving, of justice, and of truth. The founders of religious institutes, Champagnat among them, were, as a rule, highly creative and innovative people, launching institutions to give shape to their charism and accomplish their received mission. And so, with the passage of time, little by little, structures were generated for this purpose, and robust works and organizations were born, that were frequently both agile and highly effective.

The problems arose when these very institutions that were born of the charism to keep it alive and be at its service, ended up becoming the ultimate *raison d'être* of the charismatic movement. This is what Pope Francis reminded us about: *Charisms endure, they are strong; works pass away. People sometimes confuse Institutes with their apostolic works. Institutes are creative and are always in search of new paths* (Dialogue with the USG, Nov. 2013).

The time comes when the nucleus of the original inspiration gets confused with the organisational and historical form it has taken on, and people do not understand that the salvation of the original inspiration consists in *changing*

*these forms so as to remain faithful to their origins*. As contradictory as it sounds, **great creativity** is needed to be faithful to those who have gone before us. This is the **creative fidelity** spoken about in *Vita Consecrata* (37): *Institutes of Consecrated Life are invited courageously to propose anew the enterprising initiative, creativity and holiness of their founders and foundresses in response to the signs of the times emerging in today's world*.

I find the expression **creative destruction,** coined by the economist Joseph Schumpeter, to be very powerful. I think we must have the courage to **rethink**, **renew,** and even **dismantle** the organisational structures we have created, to be able to enjoy the freedom of setting out to new lands. Otherwise, it can happen that the prophetic power of a charism diminishes so much that it undergoes a *genetic mutation*.

I feel that, for us, after 200 hundred years of history, there is a serious and urgent call to **revive our prophetic spirit**: *How I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit in them*! (Num 11, 29). Isn't this what we are talking about when we speak of *a new beginning* or *a new La Valla*?

Aware that, *in general, it is **creative minorities** who determine the future* (Benedict XVI, 2009), we need a flourishing of creative individuals and communities to develop the necessary conditions for living again the miracle of our origins: the same enthusiasm, the same joy, the same fruits. We must put our most creative people on the peripheries. This is the most favourable place for any re-birth, instead of keeping them busy in maintaining structures that have been around forever, or focussed on the internal life and work of our organizations.

> *Charisms are not bottles of distilled water. They are to be lived out energetically, being adapted to the culture. But, people say, there is a risk of getting things wrong, of making mistakes. Yes, it is risky. For sure, there will always be mistakes, of that I have no doubt. But this should not hold us back, because then we would run the risk of even bigger mistakes. Moreover, we have to beg forgiveness constantly and acknowledge, with considerable shame, our apostolic frustrations caused by a lack of courage.*
>
> (Pope Francis, idem)

In any case, the decisive commitment of all is needed, starting with the lead-

ers of the Institute, to relive the experience that Jesus put to Nicodemus: *you must be born again* (Jn 3,7), even though its body is 200 years old. This means that each one of us is to become a *stem cell*, capable of regenerating the whole organism.

Let us call to mind the words of Pope Francis: *Wake up the world! Give witness to a different way of doing, being, and living! It is possible to live differently in this world. Religious must be men and women capable of waking up the world.* He went on to say that the priority of religious life has to be that of *proclaiming the Kingdom, and this is non-negotiable. The stress has to fall on being prophets, and not in play-acting in this regard...* (Pope Francis, idem)

Indeed, as Marists, we are not called primarily to be builders or keepers of institutions, but rather pioneers and daring souls, prophets of alternative ways of creating communities and communion between people; *shock therapy* for economic and political systems and for church institutions too.

In the document, *Making the Journey Together (Report of Br Superior General and his Council to the XXII General Chapter),* we summarised our vision of the Institute at the present moment. We offered reflections, and made some suggestions for future action. I am not going to repeat here what was said there – which, of course, I fully endorse – but I will highlight some areas that, in my opinion, can help us create **a new La Valla**, that is, **revive our prophetic spirit**.

## *AN INSTITUTE 'GOING FORTH'*

Recently I was thinking about what these 16 years in Rome have taught me. The first thing that came to my mind was the experience that each time someone manages to **move out of his/her comfort zone** and head down an untried path, marvellous things start to happen, unhoped-for things, surprising things.

I believe that this is also true for institutions, as collective bodies. The extent to which we are able collectively to abandon our comfort zones and explore new paths, will be the measure of our feeling of growing in hope, vitality, and enthusiasm.

Isn't a good example of this the tremendous enthusiasm generated in the Church when Pope
Francis put the focus on a Church *going forth* rather than the maintenance of the

institution?

This is an important message for those in leadership in religious life, and we all know that a General Chapter is the supreme extraordinary authority of the Institute in matters within its competence. If we use up more energy in maintaining what exists than in helping to bring the fresh inspirations of the Spirit to birth, we should not be surprised by somewhat disappointing outcomes. "*If you want different results, don't keep doing the same thing*", said Einstein.

Yet this is a call directed at all Marists. To move out of your comfort zone does not always mean going to some frontier mission or to another country. Geographical and existential peripheries can be found in the place where you are currently working or within a radius of a kilometre. The invitation to leave our comfort zone forms part of our DNA, even though at times we nest and plead to be left in peace. We know, however, that what is at stake is **our vitality, our future.**

At the start of the Chapter I said, "*Our main task during these weeks, then, is not to produce beautiful documents but rather to try to respond to the really important questions, with a compassionate heart like that of Champagnat.* ***Where does the Church need us most*** *at this beginning of the 21st century? Where around the world are the most vulnerable children and young people, and how should we be serving them, as a global body?*"
In the Council Report, you can find some reflections on this topic. Allow me to highlight a few points here.

## *DISPLACED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE*

The country where we are meeting, Colombia, has the second highest number of internally displaced people of all countries in the world, behind Syria in first place. Among the displaced people in Colombia there are more than two million children.

On the world level, in June this year the UNHCR reported that there are 65.6 million people who have been forced to leave their home areas. This figure is made up of 22.5 million refugees, 40.3 million internally displaced people, and 2.8 million others in the process of seeking asylum.
If all these people were to be gathered into a single place in the world, they

would form the 21st biggest country numerically, with a population similar to that of France and greater than that of Italy or Great Britain, for example. And more than this, if this group continues to grow at the same pace it has in recent years, by 2030 it would become the 5th highest population in the world.

A fact that is particularly relevant for us is that **half of all displaced people in the world are less than 18 years old.**

We are talking, then, about a phenomenon of enormous dimensions, something that I believe cannot leave us indifferent. As the Pope said in his Message for the Day for Migrants and Refugees this year, *Migration today is not a phenomenon limited to some areas of the planet. It affects all continents and is growing into a tragic situation of global proportions.* Indeed, it is a *sign of our times* that presents huge challenges.

The theme the Pope chose for this Day was precisely *Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless* because *children are the first among those to pay the heavy toll of emigration, almost always caused by violence, poverty, environmental conditions, as well as the negative aspects of globalization... (A)mong migrants, children constitute the most vulnerable group, because... they are voiceless: their precarious situation deprives them of documentation, hiding them from the world's eyes; the absence of adults to accompany them prevents their voices from being raised and heard. In this way, migrant children easily end up at the lowest levels of human degradation, where illegality and violence destroy the future of too many innocents, while the network of child abuse is difficult to break up.*

I was recently touched by a photo published in the Italian media, in which a group of immigrants arriving in a dinghy from north Africa, were holding up a notice where they had written: *Excuse us for not drowning*. This is surely the perception that most of them have, that they are disturbing us because they are upsetting our comfort and indifference.

For sure, many of you know the poem with which Primo Levi began his book, *Se questo* è *un uomo (Survival in Auschwitz: If This is a Man),* an account of his own experience in the concentration camp of Auschwitz. It is probably good to re-read these lines in the light of the facts just mentioned.

*You who live safe*

*In your warm houses,*
*You who find, returning in the evening,*
*Hot food and friendly faces:*
*Consider if this is a man*
*Who works in the mud*
*Who does not know peace*
*Who fights for a scrap of bread*
*Who dies because of a yes or a no.*
*Consider if this is a woman,*
*Without hair and without name*
*With no more strength to remember,*
*Her eyes empty and her womb cold Like a frog in winter.*
*Meditate that this came about:*
*I commend these words to you.*
*Carve them in your hearts At home, in the street,*
*Going to bed, rising;*
*Repeat them to your children,*
*Or may your house fall apart,*
*May illness impede you,*
*May your children turn their faces from you.*

We Marists are already engaged in looking after migrants who are minors, as was described in a recent FMSI publication, *Rights without Borders. Marist initiatives in caring for Migrants and Refugees*. This gathers the experiences of 14 initiatives undertaken in 11 different countries. In fact, I know of many more, and this is a source of joy for all of us.

The question I believe that we have to address now, as a Chapter, goes much further than various one-off initiatives. Is there **something that we could and should be doing as a global body** to provide a response to this emerging situation in our world, either by ourselves or with other institutions?

## *CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME*

Planet Earth is small and old, some 4440 million years old in fact. Around 3800 million years ago all types of life emerged on it, and 7 million years ago, beings emerged that were both conscious and intelligent, exceptionally active

and threatening: human beings. What is alarming is that the Earth **no longer has sufficient reserves** in its storehouse to provide food and water for all its inhabitants. Its bio-capacity is degrading daily.

Some years back *Earth Overshooting Day* was launched by the *Global Footprint Network*. This day, the date of which varies from year to year, points to the moment when human demand for natural resources exceeds the capacity of the earth to regenerate them in a whole year. This day has shifted from the end of September 2000 to August 2nd this year. This is the earliest date since the world started to experience this phenomenon at the beginning of the 1970s. In other words, humanity is currently using resources 1.7 times as fast as eco-systems can regenerate them. This is the same as saying that we are using up 1.7 planets.

On the other hand, and hypothetically, if we wanted to extend the type of consumption enjoyed by affluent countries to the whole of humanity, we would need 5 planets the same size as ours, something that is absolutely impossible as well as irrational.

Faced with this human attack on Mother Earth which many scientists have criticised, the Pope, in his Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, lamented the weakness of the powers of this world that have been fooled into *thinking that everything can continue as usual to feed their self- destructive vices* (59) by *behaviour which at times appears suicidal* (55).

How do we overcome the dangers of going down this road? The Pope answered, Change course. *A change in direction. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years… These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out**, pleading that we*** **take another course**. (53).

This change has a lot to do with the readiness to *outline the major paths of dialogue which can help us escape the spiral of self-destruction which currently engulfs us* (163). If we do nothing, we will have to face the worst. Yet the Pope trusts in the creative ability of human beings to combine forces around one great ideal, *one World with a common plan* (164).

The really urgent challenge, then, is to *protect our common home* (13); and for this we need, quoting Pope John Paul II, a ***global ecological conversion*** (5); **a**

***culture of care*** *that permeates all of society* (231).

In a happy coincidence with the slogan of our Bicentenary, the Pope states in his Encyclical, *The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and* ***make a new start****, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this. Here, I would echo that courageous challenge: As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek* ***a new beginning****... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.* (207)

How can we contribute to this *new beginning* for humanity? The Pope ends his Encyclical with the sixth chapter, *Ecological education and spirituality*. In it, he challenges educators to form for *ecological citizenship* (211) and a *new lifestyle*, based on *compassionate care*; *shared sobriety*; *the alliance between humanity and the environment*, due to their being intimately linked to one another; *co-responsibility* for everything that exists and lives, and for our common destiny (203-208).

In response to this invitation from the Pope, some of our Provinces on this American continent, have started to adopt the principles of ***permaculture*** to educate in a way that is truly integral. *Permaculture* is a design instrument for sustainable human systems for a future using less energy, inspired by nature, and is based on three ethical principles – care of the earth, care of people, and sharing resources.

The principles of *permaculture* draw their inspiration from the wisdom of many indigenous peoples, using concepts like *good living, living well*, or a *full life*. More than a philosophy of life, these principles provide a metaphor for a world in harmony with the Whole.

The reality of our planet demands **urgent action**. There is no choice. We cannot simply continue as always as if there is no threat. What will a *new beginning* with a stress on *global ecological conversion* mean for us? What contribution will we make to *protecting our common home*? How are we going to live out and spread a new culture, *a culture of care*? How can we promote *ecological citizenship* and a *new lifestyle*?

I think that a collective commitment on such a vital matter is important.

Let us remember that *living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience*. (LS 217)

## *SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN*

We know that the sexual abuse of minors, a terrible form of violence against children and adolescents, is an enormous social plague. Despite the fact that it is a growing problem in the world, most cases go undetected and unreported. According to data released by the World Health Organisation (Sept. 2016), 1 in every 5 women and 1 in every 13 men across the world have claimed that they suffered sexual abuse during their childhood. Similarly, the *Global Study,* prepared by UNICEF in 2014, estimated that more than 1 in every 10 girls suffered sexual abuse in their childhood.

Given the difficulties present in many countries of the world to detect and report cases of abuse, the data provided by a private organisation called *One in Four* seems to me much closer to the truth. This organisation was founded in the United Kingdom in 1999, and has an office in Ireland as well. According to this organisation, *evidence shows as many as* ***one in four adults*** *have experienced some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18*. These are figures from Europe (the Council of Europe recently launched a campaign entitled *One in Five*), but we know that they can be extrapolated to all the continents, to greater or lesser degrees.

Today, as an institution, we are trying to be, in one way or another, part of the solution to this social problem of enormous proportions. Still, we must acknowledge, with great remorse, that in the past we were part of the problem and that we might continue being so unless we make a serious commitment to both its prevention and the struggle for its eradication in our societies.

Institutions like ours, that should have protected minors from any form of abuse, failed them undeniably. Maybe we can find explanations to help understand how such situations of sexual abuse came about in our institutions but none of these explanations can be used as an excuse, for **they should never have occurred in the first place**.

The very existence of victims is a permanent reminder that we failed them as an institution. And if this was the case in the past, **we cannot fail them again**, not under any circumstances.

We have all received a wonderful inheritance from 200 years of history, full

of lights, but also with its shadows. This inheritance is the base on which we commit ourselves to build our future. Indeed, we can look to marvellous examples of excellence in education, of heroism and hard work; of family spirit; of models of faith, hope and charity; of marvellous companions in community; of simple, practical people with their feet on the ground... Today we realise that there have also been abusers, that is criminals, and that some leaders in the past, in spite of knowing of such situations, failed to act in an appropriate manner according to civil law and the Gospel. A protective veil of silence was thrown over cases of abuse for the sake of protecting the vocations of perpetrators and for the reputation of the institution. Victims were encouraged to keep silent and it was naively presumed that they would be capable of getting on with their lives, with no major consequences.

Today we know that abuse had and continues to have devastating effects on victims, who are left deeply wounded, often for their whole lives. On 2nd January 2017, in my message to mark the bicentenary of our foundation, I publicly asked forgiveness to victims of abuse in Marist institutions, because *we have not always acted with the sensitivity, speed and firmness that these situations demanded, or we have not always done enough to prevent abuse*.

Collectively, we did this again in the opening moments of this General Chapter. Yet we know that **it is not enough to ask forgiveness**. If in the past we failed victims and society, today we must be seen to be **especially committed** in the struggle against this social plague, beginning with our own institutions, but not only them.

We have to learn from our mistakes. *We agree to bear the burden and the grace of our past. We agree to honour what is, including even the broken things of life: ourselves, church, state, and all institutions. Their dark side is a necessary teacher*. (Richard Rohr)

Today, all of our administrative units have policies and protocols for the prevention of child abuse in our institutions. In nearly all places, we have people and/or teams responsible for overseeing this matter. On a global level, we have made a significant effort in training and accompaniment. But I believe that **we must go much further** than doing the bare minimum.

Bertolt Brecht used to invite contemporary people to be on their guard to protect democracy, since *the womb the monster crawled out of is still fertile*. Brecht was

talking about dictatorship as a monster; in a similar way, I think that we need to ask ourselves, in all seriousness, if *the womb the monster of abuse crawled out of is still fertile*.

The Pre-Chapter Commission on Child Protection has prepared a report in which it signalled some points to be stressed, then provided principles and recommendations towards this topic being taken up as a priority in the Institute. They underlined the responsibility of those involved in Marist apostolic works and proposed the topic's inclusion in initial and ongoing formation. They spoke of empowering children and young people, and made recommendations on how to respond to cases of abuse. Besides endorsing these proposals of the Commission, may I dare suggest some other initiatives to complement them:

- That, as an Institute, **an in-depth study be carried out of possible causes** that gave rise to and enabled the abuse that happened, in alarming numbers in some places. This study could include recommendations for the future, based on our own experience.
- That FMSI, on behalf of the Institute, continue to be strongly committed to the defence of Child Rights, promoting in a particular way the prevention of any form of abuse and raising awareness of this topic in society at large. I think that we have to be **active and strategic in our commitment** to eradicate this social plague in all the countries where we have a presence.

Finally, I would like to underline the importance of collaborating shoulder to shoulder, in a fully transparent manner, with public institutions seeking the well-being of children and young people, and the eradication of sexual abuse. In this sense, I was really impressed by the words of Bishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, Archbishop of Perth (Australia), related to the painful experience of living through the investigations of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.* In his pastoral letter of February this year, he wrote, *I am convinced that without this public accounting, to which the Australian community has a right, we as a Church would not have been able to confront our failings so directly. The public interest has been well served by this exercise*.

And he ended by stating, *Now the whole community, including the members of our own Church, expects concrete actions which will demonstrate the genuineness of our words of apology, contrition and shame*.

## *DANCING WITH DINOSAURS*

In my last letter to Provincials, I made reference to the book *Dancing with Dinosaurs*, written by the Benedictine Mark Patrick Hederman. The surprising sub-title of the book is, *A Spirituality for the 21st Century*... What on earth do dinosaurs have to do with spirituality, especially a spirituality of the future?

The author reminds us in this book that dinosaurs were the animals who had the greatest success of all creatures to have inhabited this planet, since they held sway for over 160 million years, before disappearing some 65 million years ago. Other animals just had to learn to live with them and survive in spite of them.

Hederman suggests that today we have created *new dinosaurs*: Churches, Banks, multi- nationals... And further, that unless organisations become dinosaurs, they will not survive the changing circumstances of history. Hence, it is better to dance with them, so as not to be torn apart by them!

If we contemplate the history of the Institute across its 200 years, we could say that we have become **a little dinosaur**. What began very simply at La Valla has been growing more complex with each passing day, especially in those places where we have been present for a long time. Educational works have multiplied, and their management and leadership have become ever more sophisticated and demanding; the number of Brothers is going down, in general, while the number of lay people present in our works has been continuously increasing; financing all these services has become a significant pressure for Province leader... A long list of factors could be added to describe the complexity of the present moment.

When faced with such complexity, our temptation is to pretend it does not exist and continue to do what we have always done, that is, when things were much simpler, or to set about managing complex matters without any preparation, as if religious profession automatically gives us what is needed in a professional world. In both cases, **the dinosaur produces victims**, frequently among the young Brothers.

So, should we simply deny the complexity? Not necessarily; rather, what it means is that we have to learn to *dance* with the complexity. Either way, I do not think that this has to be at any price. If the dinosaur structures that we have created are continually leaving victims along the way... it's time to ask ourselves if our structures are at the service of Marist life and mission, or if, on the contrary, our most energetic and best resources, are being consumed by the main-

tenance and management of these structures. And in the end, if we have to admit that we are not capable of *dancing* appropriately with this dinosaur, we must then seek out a dance partner better suited to who we are.

We have been adapting ourselves to this new reality as best we can, with greater or lesser success, depending on where we are. But we have to admit that **the coming years will be decisive for the survival of Marist mission**. Today we Brothers are a minority in our educational works, and this reality will become even more the case in the coming eight years. There is, then, no escape from adopting a different organisational structure for managing and accompanying Marist mission.

In fact, this was the express purpose of the project we called *New Models*, driven by our limitations in this regard, but, above all, by the values we profess, amongst which is our desire to be co-responsible with Marist laypeople. This project has helped us take some first steps towards taking on the character of a global body at the service of our mission, but I believe that we have to **keep advancing with daring and creativity** to give ourselves the most appropriate structures for the particular historical time in which we are living. These structures may appear complex, but they should feel *light* to those in leadership roles.

Of course, none of this excludes the **creative destruction** that I mentioned at the start, if this is the direction in which the Spirit of God is moving us. As I said earlier, *I think we have to have the courage to **rethink**, **renew** and even **dismantle** the organisational structures we have created, to be able to enjoy the freedom of setting out to new lands.*

### New wine, new wineskins

In the report presented by Br Charles Raphael to the capitulants exactly 50 years ago, he said that as of the 1st January 1967 the number of Brothers was 9,704; 937 more than in 1958, the year of the previous General Chapter. He also said that the average age of the Institute was 39.7 (37.8 in 1958).

You will find updated statistics for today among the support documents available to you on the computer system of the Chapter. There you can see that we have 1/3 the number of Brothers in 1967, that is, 6,719 fewer than 50 years ago, and with an average age of 64,9.

I remember that, during the 1993 Chapter, participants were given an extensive statistical overview of the Institute. I was surprised by the reaction of a good number of capitulants who complained about this information, saying that such information merely led to discouragement. Is it better, then, to bury our heads in the sand... simply because we find it depressing?

At the time, I could not really understand such a reaction to objective facts. Today, however, it makes me think of the weight placed (and maybe still placed) on the *quantitative* in religious life and, even more importantly, on the image of religious life that this mentality reflects.

In the last 50 years, we have changed much as an Institute. So much so, that if a capitulant from 1967 were to enter this room today, he would probably think it was some other congregation's chapter and not that of the Marist Brothers. Yes, we have changed a lot. Yet, I wonder if the old images of religious life and our identity in the Church remain fixed nostalgically in our brains, perhaps unconsciously.

In a good number of situations, in spite of our numerical diminishment, we Brothers have continued to live in the middle of structures developed for the 1960s or earlier, and I am not convinced that this has either helped us understand our new circumstances or adapt to these. Even when our theological underpinnings have been updated and helped us understand ourselves in a new light, everything that surrounds us on in our daily lives, in many cases, has **anchored us in the past** more than in the future.

I wonder whether our initial formation has not been a reflection, in one way or another, of what has been happening in our communities. It is true that, in seeking to adapt itself to new contexts, formation has been changing with the passage of the years, but, frequently, with structures from the past or, often, adopting programs, structures or experimental processes that have lasted for short periods only.

Across the different continents, without exception, we have been able to rely on excellent Brothers who have given the best of themselves in the formation of our candidates, with remarkable generosity and commitment. Brothers who, even in the midst of confusion all around them, feeling their way, have offered what they considered the most appropriate process for forming the Marist Brothers of the future. And I am not speaking in the abstract since I,

too, was one of these formators in the past century...
Surely, today, with the experience won over these recent years, we are in a better position to
**take decisions** about the initial formation we would like and how we would like it to be.

The starting point, of course, has to be the profile of the Marist Brother we are imagining for the future. During the 2013 General Conference at the Hermitage, I believe that we made real progress in outlining a response to this question, but, as we well know, General Conferences do not have the authority available to a Chapter. Might this be the moment to take up once more some of the proposals advanced in 2013?

With an eye to the work done during the General Conference and also what was accomplished during the Colloquium on initial formation in 2015, I would like to recall some of the questions still waiting for answers:

- If we think that a Marist Brother is someone with 'global availability', *a Brother for the world*, what programs and houses of formation do we need? Would we accept for the Superior General to appoint Brothers to their mission after their final profession?
- If we are called to be *mystics and prophets*, what *process of initiation* is required?
- If we imagine our future as linked to lay Marists, what are the consequences of this for our formation?
- If we believe that Marist Youth Ministry is a privileged means for promoting vocations for the Church, why is it that it is not a priority in some administrative units?
- How can we improve the process of *screening* candidates, especially when there are bigger groups of them?
- What would the accompaniment and care of our Brothers in the second stage of post- novitiate formation look like if we really took their life mentoring seriously?
- Isn't now the right moment to rethink formation as a whole, from initial through to ongoing, in the light of the experience of recent years and the profile of the Marist Brother we want?

## *BEING LAY MARISTS*

*We are at a very important moment in the history of the Church – a moment of rebirth, a return to the practice of the early Church when lay people played a full role in the mission of the Church, one of our most urgent calls now is to promote that rebirth, with sensitivity, courage and vision. If we do not do this then we will have diminished the Church of the future, the Church, the people of God, the body of Christ, that we all love.*

When Br Charles Howard wrote these words in his Circular on the *Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family* in 1991, there were hardly any organised groups of lay Marists. Today, 26 years later, there are more than 5,000 laypeople who are members of some type of Marist group. 3,526 belong to the Champagnat Movement, in one of the 266 fraternities, and the rest belong to mixed communities (Lay / Brothers), lay communities or some other type of Marist group or association.

At the same time, the experience lived by Marist laypeople has been gathered and described through various documents, some of them of high quality. The last of these is the one prepared by the Secretariat for the Laity of the Institute which is available to us on the Chapter computer system: *Being a Lay Marist*. I think this is an excellent framework of reference for the identity of lay Marists who feel called to live the Marist charism in the heart of the world. This could become, if we so want, **a great help** for all administrative units, especially those where there has been less progress in developing lay Marist life.

In any case, I think that we are all aware that such documents, however beautiful and sound they may be, are not what will make us advance together. The mere repetition of words and nice-sounding declarations of intent is useless if we do not then put into place the structures that will translate ideals into reality. In this regard, Pope Francis joked in a letter written to Cardinal Ouellet (2016), then President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America (CAL), saying that slogans and nice phrases are not what will give life to communities, and adding,

*For example, I now recall the famous phrase: "the hour of the laity has come", but it seems*
*the clock has stopped...*

If we take a look back at our past, what has led to our progress in relation to

Marist laypeople and to where we find ourselves today? Although we could surely name various building blocks, I would like to highlight the enormous importance of **personal relationships**. All of us, both Brothers and laypeople, have many figments of our imagination and preconceived ideas in our minds, but experience tells us that these evaporate when we sit down to share faith and life.

We must continue, then, on a daring path, **creating spaces of dialogue and encounter**, that foster mutual growth. Starting from there, there are still many other steps to take but these will fall into place more easily. The road forward is open and I am sure that the Spirit has many marvellous surprises in store for us, in the measure that we make forward progress.

What is the Lord telling us through the experience of these recent years? In my opinion, the Lord is reminding us, loud and clear, that He is behind this evolution of the lay Marist life and their connection to the Institute. And that **there is no turning back** in this process. That we must not do an about-turn. We can no longer conceive the future of Marist life and mission without relying on laypeople.

So, each administrative unit, each with its own starting point, has to ask itself what next steps it has to take. In some cases, it will be to put down firm foundations for Marist laypeople to flourish; in others, maybe some initial initiatives need to be completed; in others, it is a question of confronting with courage and transparency the conflicts that are part and parcel of all interpersonal relationships; in others, perhaps, of consolidating relationships and organisational structures that are seen to be the most appropriate for the future …

Whatever may be the case, we can rely on the gift of the experience of those who set out before us, as well as on the sound practices that we can share, in a spirit of fraternity.

Let us give heartfelt thanks to the Lord and to our Good Mother who have blessed us with the gift of Marist laypeople who are not only numerous but of great quality, as we can see for ourselves in the laypeople here with us these days at the Chapter. Nevertheless, I believe that the urgent task placed before us by Br Charles Howard in 1991 retains its special relevance: to **continue promoting *this rebirth*** *with sensitivity, courage and vision*.

We know that being prophetic is the other face of being mystic. I ask the

Spirit, using the words of Moses, for the gift of prophecy for each of us, a gift that can be translated as discernment, wisdom and audacity. *How I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit in them*. (Num 11, 29).

The Church, children and young people are expecting creative and courageous responses from us, convinced that there is a profound truth in what St Catherine of Siena said, *If you are who you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!*

## 5. Remarks by Brother Emili Turú at the end of the mandate of the current General Council

***RIONEGRO, SEPTEMBER 29***

A few days ago, I invited the Chapter Assembly "to revive the prophetic spirit", something I believe we are now promoting, in view of the work of the capitulants.

In continuing with this reflection on the prophetic spirit, my words are inspired by Ezra, one of the biblical prophets.

Br Sebastião Ferrarini has prepared an interesting study for the novices of Cochabamba entitled, *Two Hundred Years of New Beginnings*. In it, he retraces the different General Chapters, focusing, in particular, on how each of them was a seed of *new beginnings*. In a quite original way, he divides Marist history into 4 broad stages with biblical names: the *Nazarene* period (origins); the *Davidic* period (from the Generalate of Br Louis Marie to the First World War); the *Babylonian* period (until the 1960s), and the *Esdras* period, beginning with Br Basilio Rueda up to the present day.

The *Esdras* period for Br Sebastião refers to the experience of the prophet Esdras who found the Book and the Law amongst piles of rubbish in the Temple, and who provoked *a new beginning* for the Chosen People. In a similar way, Br Basilio initiated a process of *returning to our origins* or a *new beginning*.

The Book of Nehemiah narrates in colourful detail the celebrations of the People of God, presided over by Esdras. Together they praised the Lord, begging forgiveness and making a collective commitment.

In like manner, in my own name and that of the General Council, I want to be united to the prayer of the *Esdras* people:

- *Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever; and blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise! You alone are the Lord!* (Neh 9, 5-6).

Thank you Lord, and Mary, our Good Mother, whose closeness we have so keenly felt on our journey over these past eight years.

Thank you to all the Brothers and lay Marists who have always welcomed us with great warmth and respect, as an expression of your great love for the Marist charism.

Thank you to all who worked alongside us on the General Administration with such enthusiasm and generosity.

Our thanks to you, Provincials and District Leaders, and your Councils, with whom we have felt as brothers among brothers, all committed to the common good.

On a more personal note, my thanks to each of the members of the General Council, marvellous companions and extremely dedicated in the mission entrusted to them. In a special way, thanks to Joe, who with great sensitivity and honesty, has been an irreplaceable support.

To this thanksgiving we unite our prayer for pardon for our inconsistencies and failings, and for the times when we have resisted the Spirit: *But they, our ancestors, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and they did not obey your commands. They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them... But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them.* (Neh 9, 16-17).

Pardon, as well, for the times when we have not provided the leadership required by the Institute, or the companionship owed to you Provincials and District Leaders.

Chapter 9 of the Book of Nehemiah ends with the words, *In view of all this,*

*we are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing.*

We too, members of the General Council, commit ourselves, at the end of our mandate, to continue giving our best in the service of Marist life and mission, wherever in the future we are called to carry out our mission.

On behalf of myself and the Brothers of the General Council I would like to say that it has been a privilege and honour to serve the Institute during these eight years.

Many thanks!

## 6. Message of the Young Brothers invited to the XXII General Chapter

We, the invited young Brothers, want to take this special opportunity to address the Chapter Assembly. Indeed, our message is of gratitude, and an expression of our lived experiences as well as some concerns.

We and so many young brothers of the Institute were surprised by the bold initiative taken by Br. Emili and his Council to invite Young Brothers to the XXII General Chapter. We highly appreciate this unprecedented gesture that reveals a big openness to the voice of the youngest and sensitivity towards the future of the Congregation.

We feel that our presence was welcomed by everyone and we have fully enjoyed the warmth and fraternal support of all, the Capitulants. We were offered a number of opportunities to freely express ourselves in the working group discussions, fraternity sharing, plenaries and even in one-on-one conversations with many of you. We are grateful to you for all these wonderful moments that have enriched us a great deal.

We have witnessed mature and fraternal deliberations about important issues facing our big Family and have many good things to share with our fellow younger brothers upon our return.

With your permission, we want to take this chance to finally use the color cards we are given. Brothers, we show with great joy the green card…

• … for the fantastic atmosphere of fraternity which was expressed in thousands of ways in the simplicity in relationships, in the warm welcome, in daily

meetings, in celebrations... what a joy to be brothers, simply brothers!
• … for the contemplative mood of the chapter process and to the deep desire to constitute ourselves as a faith community actively listening to the Spirit. Also to the depth and variety of the liturgies and times of prayer.
• … for the freedom that allows you to suggest and adopt new ways of doing things, that are more simple and vital.
• … for an authentic effort to listen to the world so as to grasp and respond to the emerging needs of people, especially children and young people.
• … for a mature and fraternal way the election processes were lived, seeking the common good and without indulging in political games.
• … for the courage to create a space for young people and lay Marist to share their expectations about Marist life.
• … for an increasing awareness that we are a Global Body and that we are called to come together and to walk in communion, as a response to a world so many times shattered.
Bur we will also use the yellow card, to highlight some concerns and some questions we have.
• Have we been able to overcome our prejudices so as to engage in truly contemplative dialogues?
• Have we sought spaces that have allowed us to know in depth what is being experienced and what is happening in other parts of our Institute and of the world?
• Have we given careful thought to the formation of Brothers? Is it possible to dream about a new beginning without a radical renewal of our formative processes?
• What about vocation ministry? Have we really asked ourselves, with courage, what can we do so more young men will embrace our life choice? Or we are happy with our wishful thinking, or are just waiting to die?
Finally, we also have to raise the red card, to show alarm and disappointment.
• We remain very concerned about the accompaniment of young brothers beyond initial formation. We would like to find communities that would compel us to grow as humans, as Christians and as brothers, but this does not always happen.
• In this regard, we would like an investigation to be done and some reflection given as to why so many young brothers are leaving the Institute in some parts of the world.

• We believe we need to confront our lives and question ourselves about the way we are living and nurturing our vocation as brothers. We cannot be complacent about these inconsistencies under the excuse of "respect for the other". Maybe our hesitation to face issues like vocational ministry is ultimately due to the fear of being pushed into a radical rethinking of our personal and community lifestyle.
• It is our belief that, as an Institute, we put too much trust in ourselves, the way we do things and our past successes. Although good, has it limited us to properly discern and make decisions with a sense of audacity and in light of the Gospel?
• In reference to the Chapter itself, we show the red card protesting the silence that was felt around some controversial issues that we consider needed to be addressed through a more mature and open dialogue.
In conclusion, we want to restate that we have felt like brothers among brothers with the assurance that we are not the future, but part of the present of the Institute. That is why we commit ourselves to keep walking together, undertaking all the necessary changes to suppress the red cards, give a response to the yellow and build a future with more green ones. We take this opportunity to congratulate Br. Ernesto and the new General Council and to assure you with confidence: you can count on us!
We place ourselves under the patronage of our Good Mother and St. Marcellin Champagnat.

Brendan, Júnior, Fábio, Eric, Nelson y Omar

## 7. A statement from the 22nd General Chapter of the Marist Brothers to victims and survivors of abuse

***20TH OCTOBER, 2017***

We, the participants of the Marist Brothers' 22nd General Chapter, the highest extraordinary authority in the Institute, join Pope Francis and International organizations that promote and defend the rights of children, in condemning any form of abuse of children and young people; emotional, physical or sexual.

We acknowledge the pain and suffering caused to victims by some members of Marist Institutions. We apologize to you for the hurt that these acts have caused. We know that your lives have been damaged, and that this suffering has been shared with family and loved ones.

Abuse is the very antithesis of our Marist values, and undermines the very purpose of our Institute. Any abuse of children is a betrayal of the noble ideals of our founder, St Marcellin Champagnat.

At the end of his mandate, our Superior General, Br Emili Turú, in his address to the 22nd General Chapter, had these words to say:

> *"Institutions like ours, that should have protected minors from any form of abuse, failed them undeniably. Maybe we can find explanations to help understand how such situations of sexual abuse came about in our institutions but none of these explanations can be used as an excuse, for they should never have occurred in the first place.*
> *The very existence of victims is a permanent reminder that we failed them as an institution. And if this was the case in the past, we cannot fail them again, not under any circumstances".*

We support the work that has been done in the Marist Institute in recent years to protect children in Marist schools, institutions and ministries, to require all parts of the Marist world to implement Child Protection Policies, and to provide training and awareness to prevent child abuse from happening again in our institutions.

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

## 8. Remarks by Brother Ernesto Sánchez at the closing of the XXII General Chapter

***THE "NEW BEGINNING" HAS ALREADY BEGUN!***
***20TH OCTOBER, 2017***

A few days ago, we received a video greeting from a large group of young people gathered in Brazil. With one voice they called out to us: "The new beginning has already begun!" I was excited to hear these words because they came from young people. It was something like listening to the voice of someone who had been watching us during these six weeks through the great win- dow of this chapter room, one who gently raising a voice, knock- ing a little on the glass and saying to us: "Brothers and Marist lay men and women gathered in Chapter, you have already been experiencing the 'New La Valla.'"

I then looked at the image of Our Lady of Fourvière, the Table of La Valla, and the picture of the Last Supper ... powerful symbols that have been present in our Chapter Hall. Based on these sym- bols, I would like to share with you today some ideas related to swome key themes.

### 1 We look to Mary

Upon looking at the image of Mary, the one who has accompanied us throughout these weeks, I have tried to come closer to her heart, much like Marcellin Champagnat did. I have tried to imagine, if only for an instant, what she may have experienced in the moments after she dared give her confident and adventurous yes to God (cf. Lk 1:38). I believe that only a free and passionate heart enabled her to accept this unusual, unknown and new beginning; although her plans were to change completely in a few moments. Mary left immediately for the hill country to meet Elizabeth (cf. Lk 1:39), and months later gave us Jesus (cf. Lk 2,7). We can also imag- ine what was happening in the heart of Mary, her fear and anguish when they were not able to find a place worthy to receive the child to whom she was about to give birth (Lk 2,7). Again, I believe it was thanks to her free heart, filled with the warmth of God, that she welcomed this newness.

Along with the spirit and strength we may feel at this moment, maybe we too experience certain fears thinking about our return to the different real- ities, where we will be well received, but where we also will face challenges, and difficult or complex
situations. Just as we have experienced at this Chapter, we may also be afraid of knowing there are some things which we need to "let go of"in order to allow other new things to be born. As with Mary, only if we have a free and fervent heart will we be able to welcome the newness and give Jesus to the world.

## 2 The table of the "New La Valla"

As well as being accompanied by Mary, we have also been accompanied by the table at La Valla. It is a clear and powerful symbol for all those who today are deeply connected with Marcellin's charism. There is room for all at this table: Brothers, Marist lay men and women, many educators, those people serving in Marist works, children, youth, former students, families, together with some priests, and men and women religious who nourish their vocational path from Marist sources. It is a table that welcomes all the Marists of Champagnat. A table to which all can approach. This is the greatness of this gift to the Church and to the world; the Marist charism which makes us feel like we all belong to a great family.

The day after my election, I was asked to present a brief video message to a group of young people from our schools in the United States who were meeting to share some days the experience of creating a "New La Valla". Similarly, I made a video for a group of young Brazilians to which I referred at the beginning of my address. Using the table as a symbol, I wanted to explain in a simple and pedagogical way, what"A new La Valla" could mean for me, while keeping in line with what we have been contemplating throughout this Chapter. The table that Champagnat built balances on four legs, which could be likened to the four key columns of our "New Beginning":

- The first: To be tireless searchers for meaning in our search for God;
- The second: To form homes that nurture life and generate new life;
- The third: To be prophets of human dignity, present among the most vulnerable and children and youth, who have no voice.
- The fourth: To be a healing and co-creative presence of our common home.

I would now like to say a word about each of these four columns, starting

with the last I just mentioned.

### *A. TO BE A HEALING AND CO-CREATIVE PRESENCE OF OUR COMMON HOME*

During these days we have enjoyed the beautiful, green landscapes that surrounds this city of Rionegro, and the continuous rains that allow it to maintain this beauty. On the opening day of the Chapter, we heard that 30% of Colombian territory is part of the Amazon. This geographical proximity reminds us of the great importance that this ecosystem has for the world.

Our common home, our mother earth, has been crying out to us for many years to do something to stop our excessive use and exploitation of our planet. The generosity and abundance of our common home ibeginning to wear out, not because it does not want to give us more, but because we are taking excessive advantage of it in uncontrolled ways. Pope Francis, in his Encyclical Letter Laudato Si ', on the care of the common home, says: "Self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today. Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion." (LS #219)

What positive consequences could be achieved if, we Marists, took a joint action, seriously, contributing our small part in the 80 countries where we are present? Could we start from a personal action that pro- gressively affects our Provinces, Districts and General Administration? We have already made some ini- tiatives here and there. How can we achieve more? Imagine how this theme of ecology and care of our common home could be incorporated in important decisions regarding structures, constructions, use of resources, and above all in the positive influence we could have on so many people, families, children and young people who, in their daily decisions, are transforming the world. To do this, we can try to promote a deeper appreciation and respect for ecological concerns, and offer training, through our educational and pastoral ministries.

## *B. TO BE PROPHETS OF HUMAN DIGNITY, PRESENT AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE AND FORGOT- TEN CHIL- DREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE*

During the first days of the Chapter, we all lived an experience of personal solidarity on the outskirts of Medellin city. This experience undoubtedly helped us to connect with many situations with which we are familiar, where the human dignity of children and young people is still being trampled upon today.

Till this day, I still remember the faces of those young girls whom we met at the centre we visited. In their faces I see lives so beaten, yet, at the same time, with a spark of hope and dreams, thanks to the closeness of those people who accompany them in their recovery. What touched me powerfully in this Chapter was this experience, together with the Eucharist we celebrated days later at the Major Seminary in Medellin, where we honoured the group of Bishops who, almost 50 years ago, pledged through their Medellin doc- ument, to be a close and tender Church, courageously giving preference to the poor.

My Brothers and Marist lay sisters and brothers, the call is clear for us to courageously abandon our com- forts, in order to be free to seek concrete ways that lead us to meet the most needy and marginalized children and young people; so that their gifts can enrich us and, with these young people, we can become prophets of human dignity. We have heard the strong challenge for us to respond to the reality of dis- placed people that is strongly evident in so many parts of the world where we have a presence. This proph- ecy calls us to determined action in the defence of children's rights, in condemning any kind of abuse done against them, and in working with determination and courage so that they will never again experience such violence and loss of trust.

In determining the concrete ways in which we can best respond to these marginalized children and young people, I believe in the transforming potential provided by the resources of our educational and social works, universities and our youth movements. I myself am the fruit of Marist educational action, because my vocation was forged as a Marist student and a member of youth ministry.

What implications might this theme of being prophets of human dignity

have for each of our educational works and all kinds of other activities? What does it ask of us personally? What is it asking of us at each of the levels of community, Provinces and Districts, and the General Administration?

### *C. TO FORM HOMES THAT NURTURE LIFE AND GENERATE NEW LIFE*

I dare to say that, over the course of these six weeks, we have lived as a Chapter community the experience of"home"that has nurtured life and has generated new life. In a multicultural, international context, with a diversity of ages and experiences, Brothers, lay men and women, support staff and our chaplain Fr Rodrigo, we have all experienced "A New La Valla".

We have given voice to the future of our charism being based in communion; Marists together, fully com- mitted, united in diversity, and being co-responsible for Marist life and mission.

We have stated that we want to promote a deep renewal of our community life; to be creators of hearth and home, to generate authentic relationships, to experience our vulnerability as a place of openness and freedom, to desire living a simple lifestyle, close to the poor, committing ourselves personally and commu- nally to be more present among young people, accompanying them with proactive vocational proposals.

Only with Marists, who are passionate followers of Jesus, as religious Brothers, or as Marist lay men or women, will it be possible to construct"A New La Valla". I will spare no effort to invest all that is necessary in human energy and financial resources to awaken and accompany the vocational processes. In a balanced way, I want to insist on the power of"witness", along with planned concrete actions that will generate new Marist life. I would like to propose to you, and to all Marists, that we dedicate one day per week throughout the year (approximately 50 days a year) to consciously and closely support actions, or ways of being pres- ent, that will cultivate and accompany the future potential of our Marist life, be it in the forms of religious or lay life. Everyone may ask themselves what he or she could concretely do. Hopefully this challenge could be met by many people throughout the Marist world. For my part, I would like to be the first to respond to the invitation I make to you.

Could we imagine the synergy that we would be able to form, creating a series of living homes that gen- erate life in 80 countries? The "Ring of Fire" that already exists in our world (a network of more than 400 volcanoes that extends from South America and North America to East Asia, Australia and New Zealand) could be a beautiful symbol to illustrate this synergy. This "Ring of Fire" communicates and forms a whole, an image of the global body that we ourselves desire to continue building as an Institute. The fire speaks of passion, of heat, of unity, of communication and, above all, of light. That is what we are called to be, light and heat in the midst of a world that is so fragmented.

### *D. TO BE TIRELESS SEARCHERS FOR MEANING, IN OUR SEARCH FOR GOD*

The fourth and last key column I want to speak about, and from which is born the three I have previously mentioned is to be tireless searchers for meaning in our search for God. During this Chapter, we have spo- ken of our desire to go more deeply into our experience of God, to have a personal encounter in our daily lives, to be his passionate witnesses of a full and happy life. To achieve this, we favour programs that will cultivate interiority and revive our spirituality and life in God.

During these days of the Chapter, it is evident that all of us have lived personally, and in community, many moments of quiet, contemplative prayer. We wanted to live a process that allowed us to hear the Lord's calls whispered within us and, from here, we were able to bring forth new and creative ideas. In the midst of a world filled with so much noise and moving at a fast pace, this cultivation of interiority in each of us, in our communities and in our works, can be a privileged field that gives rise to a grounded spirituality adapted to our times. We have a very rich spiritual and charismatic heritage, from which we can continue be fed with the"bread of the house"and share it with so many people, especially with many young people who are confused, searching, or thirsty for meaning, depth, an authentic life, or God; although they may not name it as such.

### 3. Love and service in the leadership of Jesus.

Finally, together with the image of Our Lady of Fourvière, the Table of La Valla supported by those four columns that I have quickly described, I want to present a third image for reflection. I mention this image, because I want to directly speak to you, Provincials and District Superiors, members of the General Council, the lay men and women and young people who were invited to this Chapter. Looking at the mural that has accompanied us from the very beginning in this Chapter Hall, we are reminded that the essence of Jesus' leadership was his call that we be servants, loving one another, prepared to wash the feet of others.

It is apparent to me that repeatedly, throughout this Chapter, we have affirmed our desire to become more of a global body as a Marist Institute. This movement can become a reality if each of us takes seriously this call. Transparency in communication, as well as openness and availability, will be key points helping us to move forward. We need an organization and structures that are flexible and adaptable, that generate life and avoid being too heavy. Our Administrative Units, Regions and General Administration need to work hand in hand, continuing to create networks and, by necessity, adapting our organizational frameworks to ensure the ongoing vitality of our charism and mission.

For all of us involved in the service of leadership, it is important to take good care of ourselves. This begins with finding a healthy balance between work, rest, health care and our spiritual needs, including the im- portance of having someone to accompany us. Personally, I would like to say to you that in the service that I, as Superior General and Luis Carlos, as Vicar General, together with the General Councillors, we wish to place our greatest energies in the care and accompaniment of people, beginning with those of you, our Provincials and District Superiors. Do not hesitate to contact us at any time. Talking with each other about the truth of our situation will be the best service we can offer each other. Proximity and service will be the signs of a Marian leadership that I expressed as my wish only minutes after I was elected.

As well as my personal experience, and wanting to be the first to give witness to carrying out the goals of this General Chapter, it is important that we

imagine and think about the pedagogical process that we need to initiate in the coming months to engage the entire Institute in acting on the calls and recommen- dations of this XXII General Chapter. As well as attending quickly to this goal, do not hesitate to invest the time and energy required to motivate and accompany eachsperson and group in the process of opening to them these calls, assisting them to learn what they too need to leave behind so as to allow something new to be born.

## *GRATITUDE AND CONCLUSION*

I would like to conclude my closing remarks by expressing to each of you, the participants and guests of this XXII General Chapter a word of thanks for your dedication and passion during these six weeks. In ad- dition to discerning the orientations for the coming 8 years, we have concretely followed the process of revising and approving our Constitutions and Statutes, as well as progressing a new'Rule of life': both very valuable documents that encourage hope and coherence to those of us who live Marist religious conse- cration. In particular I want to thank the young Brothers and Marist lay guests who were present with us at this Chapter. Your presence and contribution have been very valuable and together with you we have been co-creators of this"-New La Valla". Thanks to the Preparatory Commission, the interim and Facilitation Commissions, along with the great support received from Matthieu, our Chapter facilitator. Thank you for the great work done by the International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions and for the dynamic texts they proposed.

Thanks to all those who have offered us various services during the Chapter (translation, liturgy and anima- tion, secretariat, computer science, communications and chaplain), your fraternal, available and discreet presence has been of great value to us. Thanks to the Province of Norandina for going above and beyond in so many ways to offer all of us capitulants a clear experience of your love for all things Marist. Thank you to the Marist communities and fraternities of Medellín, particularly the Novitiate. Our thanks also go to all the people involved in the services and for the attentive care provided by the staff of this La Salle Confer- ence Centre.

In the Last Supper mural that has furnished this Chapter Hall, as well as calling attention to the faces of the men and women disciples and young people gathered around Jesus, there is also a powerful symbol of what we want to be as Communion in the Church today. I was interested to see that on the table are five loaves and two fish offered by the young man at the multiplication of the loaves (Cf Jn 6,9). This reminded me that this young man was able to think not of himself, but give all of what he had; he gave himself as a sign of multiplication. I believe that if each one of us here is capable of letting go, of actually letting go, of giving ourselves without reserve, the multiplication will become evident.

With you, I wish to send a warm embrace to the whole Marist world, especially those who suffer and are in difficulties. To the young brothers and middle-aged brothers, who bear an important weight in animation and mission. To our older brothers and sisters, who are a vital reference in the Institute, I hold you in loving memory. To the young, and lay people in formation or vocational discernment. To the Marist lay men and women who belong to the Champagnat movement, and to those who have been associated or associated with the Marist charism.

My greetings and cordial embrace also to those Brothers and lay people working in missions on the fron- tiers, among others, the LaValla200 communities. Thank you to the many educators who give themselves every day in schools and social works, youth movements, universities, publishing houses and so many people dedicated to the administrative field or various services in our communities and apostolic works. Each one from his or her place forms an important part of this global body of Marcellin Champagnat. We are aware of the interest they have had in following closely the events of this Chapter, assisted by the services of communications and information technology. Thank you all for your participation in the pre-chap- ter process and, above all, thank you for the communion in prayer that we have experienced during these weeks.

My thanks to the Brothers of the outgoing General Council: Joe, Eugène, Antonio, Mike, Victor, Josep Maria, John Klein, for all you have lived and realized together throughout these eight years. Together with them I thank Libardo,

Pedro, Carlos, with whom we have formed community. Many thanks to all the staff of the General Administration, Secretariats and various services, as well as to many teams and commissions in the service of the Institute. In particular, I wish to thank our Brother Emili, for your closeness and dedication, your leadership and vision, especially for being the person you are. The Institute holds you with great appreciation and recognition for all you are and have done. In a few moments, together with Luis Carlos, we can extend our thanks to you and to so many more people.

As capitulants, we have been privileged to be summoned to live this rich experience. It has been a privi- lege that has become a commitment. Our meeting with Pope Francis in Medellin at the beginning of the Chapter confirms us in the hope and task of continuing to build a Church with a Marian face. With Mary, a woman who was able to create a home where she created new life and cared for Jesus, she will continue to encourage and accompany us. Marcellin Champagnat frequently repeated the words: "Mary, this is your work", and that gives me a total confidence that she will continue to take charge of this"New La Valla". From all this, we hear her telling us: "The new beginning has already begun! Let us put our hands to work and build it!"
Thank you very much.

# VII

# COMMITTEES AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE 22nd GENERAL CHAPTER

## 1. PREVIOUS COMMISSIONS

### *A. PRE-CHAPTER COMMISSION ON THE CONSTITUTIONS, STATUTES AND RULE OF LIFE*

**Albert Nzabonaliba** – Afrique Centre-Est
**Antonio Peralta** – Santa María de los Andes
**Eduardo Navarro de la Torre** – México Occidental
**Josep Maria Soteras Pons** – Administración General (Coordinador)
**Sebastião Ferrarini** – Brasil Sul-Amazônia
**Tony Clark** – Australia

### *B. PREPARATORY COMMISSION*

**Álvaro Sepúlveda** – Santa María de los Andes
**Benjamin Consigli** – United States
**Carlos Huidobro** – Administración General
**Darren Burge** – Australia
**Eugène Kabanguka** – Administración General
**João Gutemberg** – Brasil Sul-Amazônia
**Josep McKee** – Administración General (Coordinador)
**Juan Carlos Fuertes –** Mediterránea
**Matthieu Daum** – Laico – Francia (Facilitador)
**Pau Fornells** – Norandina (Secretario)
**Rajakumar Susai Manickam** – South Asia
**Vincent de Paul Kouassi** – África del Oeste

### C. COMMITTEE

**Ben Consigli** – United States
**Darren Burge** – Australia
**Deivis Fischer** – Brasil Sul-Amazônia
**Ernesto Sánchez** – General Administration
**Joseph McKee** – General Administration (Coordination)
**Juan Carlos Fuertes** – Mediterránea
**Michel Razafimandimby Maminiaina** – Madagascar
**Rajakumar Soosai Manickam** – South Asia

### D. THE VERIFICATION BOARD

**Hipólito Pérez** – América Central (Coordinador)
**Joaquim Sperandino** – Brasil Centro-Sul
**Patrick McNamara** – United States
**Robert Thunus** – West Central Europe

## 2. PARTICIPANTS OF THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER

### A. CAPITULARS BROTHERS

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**Emili Turú Rofes**
**Joseph McKee**
**Antonio Carlos Machado Ramalho de Azevedo**
**Ernesto Sánchez Barba**
**Eugène Kabanguka**
**Josep María Soteras Pons**
**Víctor Manuel Preciado Ramírez**
**Michael De Waas**
**Seán Sammon**

### *AFRICA*

**Cyprian Bankakuu Gandeebo** (West Africa)
**Evaristus Eddie Kasambwe** (Southern Africa)
**Francis Lukong Yufenyuy** (West Africa)
**Joachim Okoye-Ezetulugo** (Nigeria)
**Joseph Chigozie Udeajah** (Nigeria)
**Michel Maminiaina Razafimandimby** (Madagascar)
**Norbert Mwila** (África Austral)
**Sylvain Romuald Ramandimbiarisoa** (Madagascar)
**Théoneste Kalisa Ruhando** (East Central Africa)
**Venceslas Baindekeli** (Afrique Centre-Est)

### *AMÉRICA SUR*

**Adalberto Batista Amaral** (Brasil Centro-Norte)
**Alberto Guillermo Aparicio** (Cruz del Sur)
**Ataíde José de Lima** (Brasil Centro-Norte)
**Deivis Alexander Fischer** (Brasil Sul-Amazônia)
**Inacio Nestor Etges** (Brasil Sul-Amazônia)
**João Carlos do Prado** (Brasil Centro-Sul)
**Joaquim Sperandino** (Brasil Centro-Sul)
**Patricio Maximiliano Pino Medina** (Santa María de los Andes)
**Raúl José Schonfeld Hergenreder** (Cruz del Sur)
**Saturnino Alonso Ortega** (Santa María de los Andes)
**Sebastião Antonio Ferrarini** (Brasil Sul-Amazônia)

### *ARCO NORTE*

**Benjamin Consigli** (United States)
**Bernard Beaudin** (Canadá)
**Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal** (Norandina)
**César Augusto Rojas Carvajal** (Norandina)
**Daniel O'Riordan** (United States)
**Diego Antón Campo** (Norandina)
**Gerárd Bachand (Canadá)**
**Hipólito Pérez Gómez** (América Central)
**José De Jesús Hernández Martín** (México Occidental)
**José Sánchez Bravo** (México Central)

**Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco** (América Central)
**Luis Enríque Rodríguez Santana** (México Occidental)
**Luis Felipe González Ruiz** (México Central)
Miguel Ángel Santos Villarreal (México Occidental)
**Patrick McNamara** (United States)
**Richard Roy** (Canada)

## *ASIA*

**Benterege Mervyn Percy Rohana Perera** (South Asia)
**Juan Felipe Castro Piñeros** (Asia)
**Lindley Halago Sionosa** (East Asia)
**RajaKumar Soosai Manickam** (South Asia)
**Robert Teoh T Khiang** (East Asia)
**Young-Chul** (Domingo) **Lee** (East Asia)

## *EUROPE*

**António Leal Das Neves Jorge** (Compostela)
**Aureliano García Manzanal** (Mediterránea)
**Brendan Geary** (West Central Europe)
**Gabriel Villa-Réal Tapias** (Hermitage)
**Gerard de Haan** (West Central Europe)
**Jaume Parés Casellas** (Hermitage)
**José Abel Muñoz Gutiérrez** (Ibérica)
**Juan Carlos Fuertes Marí** (Mediterránea)
**Juan Miguel Anaya Torres** (Mediterránea)
**Manuel Jorques Bru** (Mediterránea)
**Maurice Berquet (Hermitage)**
**Máximo Blanco Morán** (Compostela)
**Michael-Germain Morel** (Hermitage)
**Moisés Alonso Pérez** (Ibérica)
**Óscar Martín Vicario** (Compostela)
**Pere Francesc Ferré Jodra** (Hermitage)
**Robert Edmond Thunus** (West Central Europe)
**Samuel Holguín Díez** (Ibérica)
**Tomás Briongos Rica** (Compostela)
**Xavier Barcelo Maset** (Hermitage)

### *OCEANIA*

**Darren Joseph Burge** (Australia)
**David George McDonald** (Pacific)
**Jean Marie Batick** (Melanesia)
**John Mathew Hazelman** (Pacific)
**Kenneth Charles McDonald** (Australia)
**Michael Charles Green** (Australia)
**Peter Gerard Carroll** (Australia)

## b. Invited

### *LAY*

**Anthony Richard Clarke** (Australia)
**Elma Rafil Balcuna** (East Asia)
**Gabrielle Giard** (Canadá)
**Jimena D. Grignani** (Brasil Centro-Sul)
**Joseba Louzao** (Ibérica)
**Josep Buetas Ferrer** (Hermitage)
**Michael Greeff** (Southern Africa)
**Nohemy Pinto** (América Central)

### *YOUNG BROTHERS INVITED*

**Brendan Sinei** (Melanesia)
**Eric Kramo** (África del Oeste)
**Fabio Queiros De Oliveira** (Compostela)
**José Augusto Junior** (Brasil Centro-Norte)
**Nelson Luna Beltra**n (East Asia)
**Omar Peña Jacobo** (América Central)

### *OTHER INVITED BROTHERS*

**José Libardo Garzón Duque** (General Economo- General Administración)
**Vincent Uchenna Abadom** (Nigeria)

# 3. SUPPORT TEAMS DURING THE XII GENERAL CHAPTER

## a. Collaborators

### *AMBIENCE*
**Agapito Gómez Medina** (Norandina)

### *COMMUNICATIONS*
**Cristiano Codarin Giamarco** (Brasil Centro-Norte)
**Luiz Carlos Da Rosa** (General Administration, Rome)

### *TRANSLATION AND AUXILIARY COORDINATOR CENTRAL COMMISSION*
**Br. Teodoro Grageda Vazquez** (East Central Africa)

### *LITURGY AND ANIMATION*
**Alexandra Morales Culqui** (Norandina)
**Br. Anthony Leon** (General Administration, Rome)
**Br. Dong Ryeol** (Anselmo) Kim (Eas Asia)
**Br. Fabrício Alves Da Cruz** (Brasil Centro-Norte)
**Br. Rodrigo Ortíz, OFM** (Chapelan – Norandina)

### *ASSISTANT SECRETARY*
**Br. Carlos Saúl Corzo Uribe** (Norandina)

### *GENERAL SERVICES*
**Br. Orlando Escobar** (Norandina)

### *TECHNICAL SERVICES*
**Laércio Da Cruz Loureiro** (Brasil Centro-Sul)

**Priscila Staniski** (Brasil Centro-Sul)
**Br. Marcelo De Brito** (Cruz del Sur)

### *WRITTEN TRANSLATION*

**Br. Anthony John Clark** (Australia)
**Br. Eduardo Navarro** (México Occidental)

### *ORAL TRANSLATION*

**Br. Albert Michael Rivera** (United States)
**Br. José Luis Grande Galindo** (Asia)
**Br. Teófilo Minga** (Compostela)
**Br. Vincent De Paul Kouassi** (África del Oeste)

## b. Facilitating Commission of the 22nd General Chapter

**Ben Consigli** – United States (Coordinador)
**Darren Joseph Burge** – Australia
**Ernesto Sánchez Barba** – Administración General
**João Carlos do Prado** – Brasil Centro-Sul (Secretario del XXII Capítulo General)
**Juan Carlos Fuertes Marí** – Mediterránea
**Lindley Halago Sionosa** – East Asia
**Michael Maminiaina Razafimandimby** – Madagascar
**Óscar Martín Vicario** – Compostela

## c. Facilitator of the 22nd General Chapter

**Matthieu Daum** – France

# VIII

# NEW GENERAL GOVERNMENT (2017-2025)

One of the functions of the General Chapter is to elect the General Government, which will be responsible during the next eight years of updating the dream of Marcellin Champagnat in today's world, according to the indications given by the Chapter Assembly.
On October 3, Br Ernesto Sánchez, from the province of México Occidental, was elected as Superior General, and Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco, from the province of América Central, as Vicar General.
A week later, on October 10, the new General Council was elected. The six Brothers chosen by the Capitulars were: Ben Consigli (United States), João Carlos do Prado (Brazil Centro-Sul), Josep Maria Soteras (L'Hermitage), Ken Charles McDonald (Australia), Óscar Martín Vicario (Compostela) and Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa (Madagascar).

**Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba - Superior General**
Br Ernesto was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 21 February 1961, and is the ninth child of a family of 16,
including his parents Carlos and Juanis. He was a Marist student from preschool to high school and entered the postulancy at the age of 17. He did a course in basic teaching during the scholasticate, followed by a licentiate in religious sciences and mathematics.
Br Ernesto obtained a licentiate in vocational ministry studied and later completed a master's degree in the same field. He then took part in the course for formators in Lyon, France.
He taught four years in a primary school and three years in a secondary school, while he was a formator at the juniorate. He belonged to the provincial team for vocation and youth ministry and taught in high school for five years.
He was director of the postulancy for four years before being called to the General Administration where

he was secretary to the commissions on religious life and vocations ministry for four years, and director of the secretariat of vocations for two years. On 23 December 2008, he began serving as provincial of Mexico Occidental and was elected as general councilor on 3 October 2009. On October 3, 2017 he was elected Superior General.

**Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco - Vicar General**

Br Luis Carlos was born in 1967 in Spain. He made his first vows in the Institute in 1986 in Palencia. Soon afterwards he went to Guatemala and made his perpetual profession in 1992.

Luis Carlos' apostolate first involved teaching in Marist schools in Guatemala, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. He was then appointed by the provincial as the Brother responsible for overseeing Marist education and lay people. He worked in the province's six countries.

His university studies were in social studies and languages. He has a degree in religious sciences and theology, a master's degree in educational administration and supervision and a PhD in education. He has a great passion for teaching, which he sees as a space for transformation, humanization and evangelization. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Religious Conferences of Puerto Rico and Guatemala. Br Luis Carlos was elected as provincial of América Central in December 2013.

During this time, he was a member of the Mission Commission, and the Sub-Committee on Education of the Inter-American Conference of Provincials (CIAP), where he also has been coordinator of the Permanent Council.

**Br Ben Consigli - General Councillor**

Ben was born in 1962 in New York, USA. He made his first profession in 1989 and his perpetual profession
in 1995.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Humanities from Queens College of New York City University, a Master of Arts degree in teaching history from Rutgers University in New Jersey, and a Graduate Professional Diploma in Educational Administration from Saint John's University in New

York. Ben was a teacher, even during his initial formation at Archbishop Molloy High School in New York and Roselle Catholic in New Jersey. He also served as a school administrator at Molloy from 1995-2000.
In 2000 he was appointed Principal of the Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Texas. In 2001, he was appointed Vice-Provincial for the former Esopus Province, USA. Since 1995 Ben has been involved Province administration as Provincial Councilor, member of the Finance Commission, Vice-Provincial, Assistant Provincial, and Director of Education. In 2009 he was appointed Provincial, a position he held until 2015.
During his sabbatical (2015-2016), Ben studied at the School of Applied Theology in Berkeley, California. Before the General Chapter, Br Ben served as a guidance counselor at Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Florida.

**Br João Carlos do Prado- General Councillor**
Br João was born on 15 January 1971 in the city of Jaborá, in the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil. He made his first profession in 1992 and his perpetual profession in 1999. He has a master's degree in education from the PUC of Paraná (2009), a bachelor's degree in religious studies (1994), a bachelor's degree in letters and a specialization in psychology of human development. From 1995 to 2002, he taught religious education and coordinated the service of religious orientation in the Marist school Frel Rogério, in Joacaba. He later worked in coordinating the formation at the center of vocation and youth animation of the same city.
From 2003 to 2008, he coordinated the area of pastoral ministry of the Brasil Centro-Sul province. He was member of the Provincial Council from 2002 to 2008. He coordinated the area of mission of the Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL) from 2006 to 2008 and in 2009 and 2010 he was executive secretary of UMBRASIL. From 2011 to 2016, he was director at the Institute's Secretariat of Mission.
In 2017 he went to New York to prepare himself for the beginning of a PhD in education. He was appointed provincial of Brazil Centro-Sul in May 2017 and took up office in December that same year.

**Br Josep Maria Soteras - General Councillor**

Br Josep Maria was born in 1958 in Igualada, Barcelona. After his first years in both public and Catholic schools, he continued his studies at the school of the Marist Brothers in Igualada. After his Marist formation at Les Avellanes, Josep Maria made his first profession in 1979 and his final in 1985. He studied teaching in Alcalá de Henares (1982) and then a bachelor in sacred scripture (Rome, 1990).

He has worked in schools in Catalonia and has been a school principal first in Barcelona (1984-1986) and then in Mataró (1991- 1994). Since 1992, he has participated in various teams of the provincial government; and he took up several tasks in coordination, animation and government during his time in the L'Hermitage province. He particularly enjoyed the courses he offered to religion teachers. On October 3, 2009 he was elected as a General Councillor.

**Br Ken McDonald- General Councillor**

Br. Ken was born in 1959, in Townsville, Queensland, Australia. He was educated by the Sisters of Charity and later by the Marist Brothers.

He made his first profession in 1980 at Mittagong. He made his perpetual profession five years later in Papua New Guinea. Ken has degrees in history and master's degrees in Religious Studies and Counseling. Ken served the Marist mission in Melanesia from 1984 to 2015. He taught and was principal in various schools in Papua New Guinea for 30 years. Ken also did very important work for some years, assisting traumatized children and young people affected by the civil war in Bougainville.

Ken was Superior of the District of Melanesia from 2006 to 2015. After returning to Australia in 2015, he has served the Province of Australia as Vice Provincial.

**Br Óscar Martín Vicario- General Councillor**

He was born on the 10th September 1966 in Burgos, Spain. He undertook his initial formation in Arévalo, Miraflores and Salamanca. He made his first profession in 1986 and his perpetual profession in 1993.

In his first years of Marist ministry Oscar was engaged in the pastoral forma-

tion and animation of young people in Segovia, Salamanca and Valladolid. He was a teacher and responsible for the Scouts.
He has degrees in Education and Hispanic philology and theology. He has been Provincial Delegate for solidarity and SED and responsible for Province youth ministry. In 2005 he became Coordinator of the Animation Team for 20 Marist Educational Centers for the Province of Compostela.
He also served for a time as Vice-Provincial. Oscar was Provincial of Compostella from 2010 to 2016. For some of this time he was also President of the European Conference of Provincials. Since 2016, Oscar has served the Marist mission in Mozambique, where he was a member of the formation team at the Marist Novitiate in Matola.

**Br Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa- General Councillor**
He was born in 1962 in Mahajanga, Madagascar. He made his first vows in 1979 and his perpetual profession in 1986.
He worked during several years in a primary and secondary school. After his studies in Religious
Psychology in the Gregorian University in Rome, in 1994, and Post-Graduate in Education in Nairobi, he was Formator at the Marist International Center of Nairobi for 7 years, after which he was named Provincial and fulfilled this charge from 2002 to 2007. He was responsible for the Pastoral work of Vocation Promotion from 2008 to 2012. Then he was Director of a School in the North of Madagascar.
Once again, he was named Provincial, a function which he assumed since January 2014, until the end of the month of December 2017. During that time of leadership, he was President of the Union of Major Superiors of Madagascar. He was member of the enlarged Secretariat of the Marist Laity from 2009 to 2016.

Benjamin Consigli, fms – Coordinator of the Facilitating Commission
João Carlos do Prado, fms - Secretary of the 22nd General Chapter
Carlos Saúl Corzo Uribe, fms - Assistant Secretary of the 22nd General Chapter

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