



MARIST NEWS

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

INSTITUTE STARTS A NEW COLLABORATION WITH ROME'S CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION



From left to right: Fr Hans Zollner, president of the Centre; Br Emili Turú, superior general; Marzia Ventimiglia, director of FMSI; Br Michael De Waas, president of FMSI; Karlijn Demasure, director of the Centre.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

This week, the General Council, in addition to a regular Council, reviewed the following topics of its programme: youth ministry, international youth meeting, International Mission Committee, General Chapter, Cmi and the new international communities, planning of June 6 at the General House.

The Chilean, José Peñaloza, a computer expert, is volunteering at the General House for three weeks, to help Armando Alegría, in charge of the IT services of the general administration. This is the third year that, during his vacation, he provides this service.

Members of the general administration met with the Centre for Child Protection in Rome on Jan. 31 to discuss introducing its eLearning programme within the Marist Institute.

The programme includes topics such as understanding perpetrators for the safeguarding of minors, clinical care for offenders, therapeutical care for victims, and prevention and red flags.

The Centre for Child Protection is part of the Pontifical Gregorian University. Its president, Father Hans Zollner, is also a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

Br Emili, the director of the Marist International Solidarity Foundation Onlus For the benefit of children, Marzia Ventimiglia, and FMSI president Brother Michael De Waas took part in the meeting with Fr Hans and the Centre's director, Karlijn Demasure.



We believe that we must reach as many people as possible, people who are engaging actively in the safeguarding of minors and who are aware of the necessity and feasibility of prevention

Fr Hans Zollner



They discussed introducing the Centre's distance learning programme (E-learning) for the safeguarding of minors to allow Marists to receive formation at university.

"We are glad and grateful that the Marist Brothers have decided to work together with the Centre for Child Protection-Global Alliance network so that children and adolescents can live and grow in a safe and caring environment, as Jesus Christ calls us to do," affirmed Fr Hans on Feb 4.

"We believe that we must reach as many people as possible, people who are engaging actively in the safeguarding of minors and who are aware of the necessity and feasibility of prevention," he told the general house press office.

"In a reality as massive and diverse as the Catholic Church, we want local agents – dioceses, universities, schools, etc. – to put in place what Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have insistently asked for."

On Feb. 9 and 10, FMSI met with with lecturers of universities from Spain, Brazil, Peru and Mexico in Rome to brief them on the programme.

The eLearning is available in English, Spanish, Italian and German and it is currently being translated into French.

The Centre for Child Protection also offers a diploma from February to June, as well as international conferences and research projects.

Brother Fortune Chakasara, of the Child Rights and Protection Commission in Zimbabwe, was the first Marist Brother to receive the diploma in 2016.

Brother John Katumbi, of Malawi, and Brother Shanthi Liyanage of Sri Lanka, started the same course on Feb. 6.

VIDEO ON THE COMMUNITY OF PROJECT LAVALLA200> OF SYRACUSE NEW WAY OF SHARING LIFE WITH LAY PEOPLE AND BROTHERS



The community of Project Lavalla200> of Syracuse has released a video that intends to share the path taken during its first months of formation and insertion in Sicily, southern Italy.

"The video aims at showing who is part of this project and the different challenges that arise," says Mario Araya, member of the community. "It is a new way of living the mission and a new way of lay people and

brothers sharing their lives."

The community is formed by Brother Onorino Rota (Italy), Mario Araya (Chile), Gabriel Bernardo Da Silva (Brazil) and Brother Michael Callinan (Australia).

The video is captioned. To choose your language, use the setup button (details) in the lower part of the video frame.

To watch the video, visit: <https://goo.gl/BDlLeV>.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MARISTS AND LAITY, ITALY

Eleven brothers and laity of Italy gathered at the general house in Rome on Feb. 11 to take part in a seminar promoted by the Secretariat of the Laity. This service will be promoted in several provinces. Its public includes Marists, both brothers and laity, in charge of the animation of the laity.

BLUE MARISTS

The Marists brothers of Aleppo have started a new project: teaching the mothers of elementary students English and French. There are 27 participants in the project, who are doing the course four days a week during the morning

NEW ZEALAND

Twenty-three new teachers of Marist schools of New Zealand met on Feb. 8 to take part in a seminary on Christian life and Marist charism.



The orthodox bishop of Naziantzou, Theodoritos Polyzogopoulos, with the two Marist communities of Greece

THE PRESIDENT OF GREECE PARTICIPATES IN BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday, Jan. 28, a Mass was celebrated in the Orthodox church of Saint Denis in Athens, in which the brothers of the two Greek communities took part, all members of the educational, administrative and technical staff as well as the retired teachers of the two schools and the Marist social works of Greece.

In an ecumenical context, the participants, both Catholic and Orthodox, prayed for the intercession of Saint Marcellin Champagnat and thanked him and the first Brothers for the service provided to children and young people, as well as for the charism linked to the brothers and lay people who continue their mission throughout the world.

The President of Greece, Prokopis Pavlopoulos, was present at the Eucharist,

presided by the Orthodox bishop, Bishop Theodoritos Polyzogopoulos of Naziantzos, in recognition of the education and social work that the Marists have offered since arriving to the country and that they continue to offer.

In addition to the honor of receiving the Head of State, the Marists had the joy of the participation of the Provincial of L'Hermitage, Brother Pere Ferré. During the reception, Br Pere thanked all the Marist Brothers of Greece for their commitment to the mission.

Bishop Théodorète congratulated the brothers and lay Marists of Greece for what they do every day, educating children and young people and for their witnessing of respect to all Christian churches and all men, independent of their race or religion.

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF MARIST YOUTH MARIST FAMILY BEGIN THE WAY TO PANAMA 2019

Saturday 28-01-2017 witnessed the first meeting in preparation for the international gathering of Marist youth.

The representative of the four branches of the Marist family were present. Br João Carlos do Prado and Br Mark Omede represented the Marist Brothers. Others were Fr Alejandro Muñoz (Marist Fathers), Sr Anne McCabe (Marist Sisters) and Sr Cristina Giustozzi (Marist Missionary Sisters). The delegates agreed to continue to work as one family in

the organisation of the International Gathering of Marist youth and the WYD coming up in Panama, 2019.

At the end of the meeting, proposals were made to the superiors general of the four branches for consideration during their next meeting.

This meeting took place at the General House of the Marist Fathers in Rome.

MARIST WORLD



Bolivia: Brothers from 5 countries in the way to final profession



East Timor: Vocational ministry in Baucau



Lebanon: Brothers of the two communities in Lebanon with friends



Ecuador: Provincial council commissions of Norandina meet in Quito



Colombia: Entrance into the Interprovincial Novitiate



Brazil: 13th general assembly of UMBRASIL

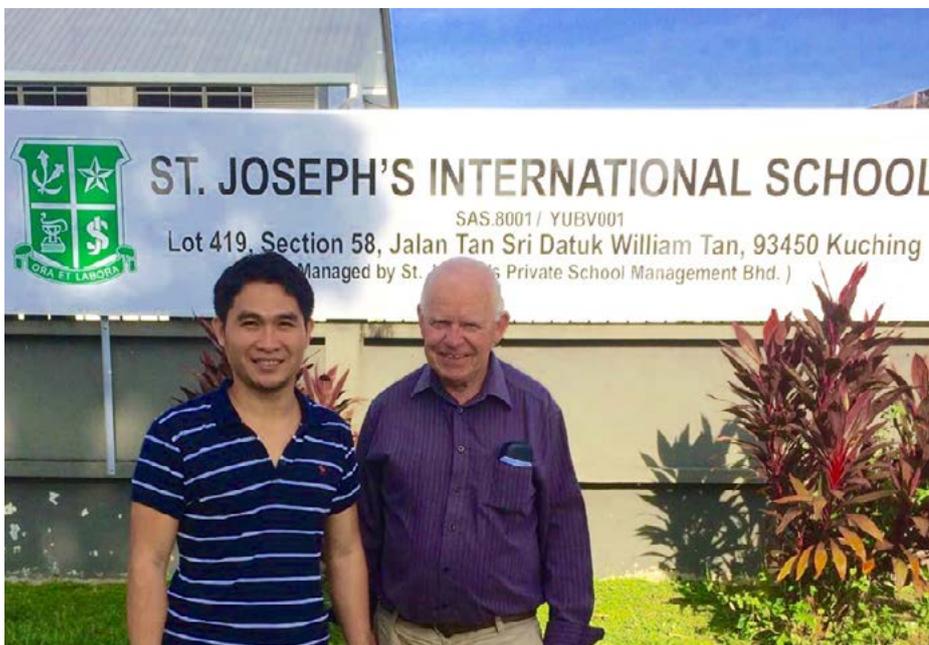
MALAYSIA: NEW MISSION IN KUCHING

EAST ASIA PROVINCE LAUNCHES NEW SCHOOL

Two Brothers from Australia and the Philippines have moved to Kuching,

Malaysia (East Asia Province), to lead a new school, which was inaugurat-

ed on January 3. So far, 100 students have joined Saint Joseph's International School, with the help of two Marist Brothers: its principal, Brother Paul Hough, and one of its teachers, Brother Niño Mark John Sinfuego Suarez.



But the once old abandoned school that was renovated in November will also have two more buildings added to it within the next few months, currently under construction.

The school now has 12 staff including eight teachers, two maintenance personnel, an office administrator and the principal.

After celebrating the school's first Eucharistic celebration on Jan. 6, local Archbishop John Ha Tiong Hock went on to bless the school.



SANTA ANA COMMUNITY RECEIVES TWO YOUNG LAY PEOPLE IN EL SALVADOR

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW EXPERIENCE...

The community of Santa Ana in El Salvador is comprised of three Marist brothers and two young lay Marists.

The beginning dates back to the beginning of the Institute, on Jan. 2, 1817, when Marcellin invited two young people to live an unprecedented and exciting project. Also, today we feel intimately united to that moment with the presence of two lay young people who live for the Marist life, whom we have invited to live in the community.

Before their arrival we lived a process of preparation: meeting with the youth, with their families, as well as opening our hearts of brothers to live a new experience with them.

The brothers know that we will have to be flexible in schedules and in behaviour, in certain taste and projects, in work and mission, as Father Champagnat did. And the important thing is to be family, to share life, spirit and mission. We already experienced with excitement the realization of our Community Project, our first community walk to the seashore, and our first community meetings.

These are the testimonies of the two young men.

Steven Dueñas, aged 19, third year of architecture in the University of El Salvador:

"This short time that I have been able to be a member of the community of the Liceo San Luis, has been a pleasant experience, and I have felt very comfortable and included in the community.

Something different from what I usually live, that has helped me to focus on myself and on Jesus through community prayer.

From each of the brothers I learned something new, experiences, sharing life, advice and stories ... Now I understand the value of having a family, the fact of being a little far away from them ... and when I am with them I enjoy it and live as one real family."

Harold Cruz, aged 19, student of Industrial engineering, third year, in the Catholic University of El Salvador:

"I definitely feel that there is a new beginning in my life, both spiritually and personally, and that this year shows me a path of maturity that I am willing to continue to walk, it has almost been a month since I have begun to notice changes for my own good. Sharing life with the brothers helps me to understand more about what it means to be a Marist and what that charism which Champagnat left us is about. This is just the beginning of the experience and I am excited to think of everything that is going to come in this remaining time, a future in which God is present."

As brothers, we also have a say in this new beginning, in this new experience. It certainly is and will also be something that helps us to be better Marists, to respond to God with greater generosity, like Mary, to be more attentive and open to young people today, to transmit the charism inherited and enriched by the history of so many Marists, both Brothers and lay people alike.

Alberto Ricica, fms

THE INSTITUTE JOINS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



February 6th is designated by the United Nations as the "International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation" (FGM). The Marist institution joins in this call for the elimination of the practice of FGM.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations General Assembly have all published statements and resolutions denouncing this practice.

The Marist Institution promotes the teaching of human rights, as this is one of the best ways to positively influence younger generations to progressively eliminate social practices that violate human rights. Let us educate ourselves by promoting equal rights, respect and the participation of both sexes in small educational communities and schools, which provide a cradle for learning on how to fully participate in adult society. Discrimination is one of the causes of social inequality.

It is estimated that some 200 million women and girls alive today have been subjected to FGM, and that about 3 million girls are believed to be at risk of mutilation every year.

The practice of FGM can take place any time after the birth of the child, up until marriage. This practice is also known as 'female genital cutting', however the term 'mutilation' better describes the concept from a human rights perspective.

The practice of FGM has existed since ancient times. Evidence has been found of its practice from as early as 5th Century B.C in Tropical Africa, the Phillipines, Amazonian Tribes and Australia; one form of FGM was even practiced in Europe and the United States until the middle of the 20th century, as a method of treating certain ailments. Today, FGM has not disappeared and continues to be practiced in some 30 countries across Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

It is clear that this practice does not provide any kind of benefit, but causes physical damage and lasting psychological harm, and constitutes a flagrant violation of the rights of women. FGM is carried out in communities where there is great inequality between genders, and is an example of extreme discrimination against women. Those who practice it violate the rights of health, safety and physical integrity, as well as violating the right to not be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and - if the victim dies because of the practice - violates the right to life. When practiced on young girls, FGM also violates rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

If a girl or a young person does not participate in this practice, they can be condemned in their community as well as suffering harassment and ostracism in the societies where it takes place. These communities justify the practice because they believe that the social benefits are greater than the disadvantages. The practice is seen as a sexual initiation that marks the transition from girl to woman, therefore, it supposes a cultural inheritance necessary for the upbringing of the girl and to prepare her for her adult and matrimonial life. It is considered an acceptable sexual behaviour, as it aims to ensure virginity until marriage and fidelity after it. It is also believed that undergoing FGM will help girls in finding a husband.

Those who practice this type of operation often believe that it has a religious foundation, however, FGM has no foundation in religion nor religious support, as there are no writings that support the practice. The position of religious leaders is varied: there are those who support it, others who say that it is irrelevant from a religious point of view, and others who are totally opposed.

Br Manel Mendoza, FMSI

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