



## MARIST PRESENCE IN INDIA: SEVERAL SCHOOLS, PROJECTS HELP 'UNTOUCHABLE' CHILDREN OUT OF POVERTY



Since arriving to India in 1974, the Marist Brothers have developed several schools and projects to help "untouchable" children break the cycle of poverty.

They run three schools in the country, located in the Tamil Nadu state in the south: Marist Primary School and Marist Higher Secondary School at P. Udayapatti, St. Marcellin Higher Secondary School at Mangamanuthu, and Marist Nursery and Primary School at Vizhalanmedu.

Since 2003, the Brothers also run a non-profit organization called Marcellin Trust for social and humanitarian work in the country, which has since developed two main projects: Operation Rainbow and La Valla Evening Study Centres.

Operation Rainbow, created in the same year, provides care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

In the last decade, the Brothers have run several other projects to provide skills for parents affected by HIV/AIDS and rural women, basic computer education for children and aid for people affected by the 2004 earthquake and tsunami.

In 2016, they established La Valla Evening Study Centres, that helps 380 children in after school work in 12 locations in the districts of Karur and Tiruchirappalli. Fourteen teachers and three Brothers work there.

There are 16 Brothers in India: three in Mangamanuthu, five in P. Udayapatti, five in Tiruchirappalli (Trichy com-

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The whole new general council will arrive at the general house in January. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Josep Maria Soterias, general councillor, arrived last week. Br Óscar Vigario has also arrived and will spend a few weeks in Rome.

The brothers who are members of the old general government returned to the general house and prepared their farewells. Brother Michael De Waas, who will now live in the city of Haldeanduwana, Sri Lanka, was the first to return to his Province.

Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat for the Laity is in Chile until Nov. 9 meeting with leaders of the laity of the Americas.

At the beginning of November, Brother Libardo Garzón, bursar general, participated in the meeting of the Bedford Fund in Canada.

On Nov. 10 and 11 a seminar on the "appreciative inquiry" method, organised by SEDOS, will be held at the General House. Several Marist Brothers will participate.

munity) and three in Trichy (Viyalan Medu). The three schools and the Marcellin Trust belong to the province of South Asia.

They are supported by the Marist family locally and internationally, as well as Australian Marist Solidarity, FMSI, Miseen Cara, SCIAF, India Village Project and several international agencies.

The Marist District of Asia is also present in India and has a community in the village of Talit.

### About the schools

#### Marist Primary School and Marist Higher Secondary School at P. Udayapatti

The primary school, which is run by the Brothers since 1988, has two Brothers and five lay teachers educating

300 children. The majority of the students are Hindus, while the minority are Muslim and Christian.

The secondary school has three Brothers and 35 lay teachers educating 900 children. It provides secondary education for boys and girls from different villages.

#### St Marcellin Higher Secondary School at Mangamanuthu

The school is run by three Brothers and 25 teachers, who educate 750 children. The girls and boys are referred to as 'dalits,' meaning 'untouchables'.

#### Vizhalanmedu Nursery and Primary School

Two Brothers educate 150 poor rural children, also 'dalits,' with the aim of helping them break the cycle of poverty. The school was established in 2015 after a strong support of donors and St Patrick's College in Dundas, Australia.

## ELDERLY BROTHERS OF MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

### BR ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ'S VISIT TO CASA CHAMPAGNAT



**The Brothers' joy and gratitude for his presence was evident.**

On Oct. 27, the community of elderly brothers of México Occidental had the joy of receiving the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, in Guadalajara.

The Brothers' joy and gratitude for his presence was evident. After greeting each one, and then moving on to the chapel, he addressed them with a few words recognizing their dedication and fidelity. He told them everything that he experienced at the time of his

election, as well as the appointment process. He entrusted his mission to the community's prayers; just as we had done during the whole time of the Chapter. We ended with a moment of prayer to Mary to entrust our Brother Ernesto and his Council with the leadership of the Institute. Before the final meal, a picture of the memory was taken with all the staff that looks after the community.

*Br Esteban González  
Community animator*

NEWS IN BRIEF

**CANADA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Since 1939, when the community of Kutama, Zimbabwe, was founded, Canada sent 128 brothers as missionaries in the countries that make up the Province of Southern Africa. In addition, in recent years, the Brothers of Canada have established a fund whose interests contribute a substantial part of the Province's annual income.

**ZAMBIA**

Zomba Catholic Secondary School celebrated its 75th anniversary in late October. It is a diocesan school looked after by the Brothers. The event included the participation of the provincial superior, Brother Norbert Mwila, and a message from Brother Dostie of Canada, who served as director of the school for 20 years. Currently the director is Brother Francis Jumbe.

**PHILIPPINES**

Regional police of General Santos City (Police Regional Office 12) has given the Marist Brothers an award for providing at-risk youth with skills to maximise their full potential and for raising awareness for the need of the community's involvement. The Brothers were given the '1st Pro 12 Good governance, quality and productivity awards (2017)' for their programmes Children At Risk (CAR) and Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).

**SOUTH AFRICA: NEW WEBSITE EXPLAINS THE MARIST HISTORY OF SACRED HEART COLLEGE**



A mother of students who attended Sacred Heart College until recently returning to the UK has created a website to explain the history of the Brothers at the College in Johannesburg: <https://goo.gl/F3mJeG>.

Caroline Kamana created the website 'Footsteps through Sacred Heart College' for her Masters in History of Art at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

It was part of her thesis titled 'Footsteps through Sacred Heart College: Surfacing Archival Heritage through Walking and Mapping.'

"The Marist family and Sacred Heart College have touched our family deeply and we will be forever grateful for our time spent with them," Caroline told the general house communications office on Oct. 29.

"We returned to the UK just over two months ago and I miss the community very much."

The aim of her research was to make known the information of archives, as well as architectural features located around the school that contain a part of the community's story.

Through a virtual "walking tour," Caroline hopes to raise awareness

**The model could be reworked for any of the Marist schools in the country or indeed on a wider level**

**Caroline Kamana  
Creator of 'Footsteps through Sacred Heart College'**

on the educational heritage of the Marist Brothers at Sacred Heart College.

In the conclusion of her research, Caroline affirms that the tour, which includes 40 stops, "provides an embodied way to create spaces for re-examination of a shared heritage in the specific sites that are shared by the community."

The information was drawn from archives of the College, as well as from

## MARIST WORLD



Philippines: Brothers of LaValla Fraternity and MAPAC superior, Buntong



Samoa: Marist Brothers Primary School Mulivai



Brazil: Formation team of Brasil Centro-Norte



Ecuador: Marists from Catacocha



El Salvador: Fraternidad Ecos



Brazil: 'Memory Martyrs of Spain,' Br Rafael Ferreira Júnior

archives located throughout the city of Johannesburg such as the Catholic History Bureau, Museum Africa and the Johannesburg Heritage Foundation.

"The model could be reworked for any of the Marist schools in the country or indeed on a wider level," she remarked.

## CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS OF SECRETARIATS NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2017

**Oct. 31 – Nov. 3:** Meeting with the Bedford Fund in Canada – Br Libardo Garzón, bursar general.

Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission.

**Nov. 1 – 9:** Encounter in Santiago de Chile with the three members of the Americas that participate in the Secretariat of the Laity at international level – Br Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat for the Laity.

**Nov. 11 – 12:** Meeting of the European team of Brothers Today in Lyon, France – Br Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today secretariat.

**Nov. 4:** Meeting of the preparatory commission for the seminar on Catholic education at the General House of the Piarist Sisters in Rome (Italy) – Br Mark Omede, assistant director of the Secretariat of Mission.

**Nov. 17 – 18:** Encounter of charismatic families in Rome – Br Javier Espinosa.

**Nov. 10 – 11:** "Appreciative Inquiry" workshop in Rome – Superior general, Br Ernesto Sánchez, Br Óscar Martín Vicario, general councillor, former superior general, Br Emili Turú, Br Javier Espinosa, Br Libardo Garzón and Br

**Nov. 20:** "Children on the move: diritti senza Confini" conference at the Italian Chamber of Deputies in Rome – Br Ernesto Sánchez, Br Óscar Martín Vicario, Br João Carlos do Prado, general councillor, Marzia Ventimiglia, FMSI director, and the directors of the Secretariat of Mission, Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede.

**Nov. 20 – 24:** Meeting of the International Committee of the Marist Mission at the General House– Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, vicar general, as well as Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede.

**Nov. 24:** Mass and Thanksgiving dinner for the General Chapter at the General House: Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Oscar Martín and João Carlos do Prado, and other members of the general administration.

**Nov. 21 – 23:** Marist European Conference in Syracuse, Italy – Br Joao Carlos do Prado, general councillor.

**Nov. 22 – 28:** Retreat in El Salvador for Brothers and laity of the América Central province – Br Hipólito Pérez, of the Brothers Today secretariat.

**Nov. 23:** Encounter of SED on 'Children Rights and Development Cooperation' in Madrid – Br Álvaro Sepúlveda, of FMSI.

**Nov. 24 – 26:** Encounter "Proyecto Tierra de Todos" with the Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE) and workshop "Taller Tutores de Resiliencia," in Granada (Spain) – Br Álvaro Sepúlveda.

**Nov. 25:** "Tutti Fratelli" gathering at the General House of the De La Salle Brothers: Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Oscar Martín, João Carlos do Prado, Javier Espinosa, Tony León of the Brothers Today secretariat and other Brothers of the general administration.

**Nov. 27 – 28:** Gathering of the director and the assistant director of the Secretariat for the Laity in Rome – Br Javier Espinosa and Pep Bue-tas.

**Nov. 27 – Dec. 1:** Assembly of Leaders of Youth Ministry in L'Hermitage, France – Br Tony Leon.

**Nov. 28 – Dec. 1:** Visit of FMSI at the Fratelli Project in Lebanon – Marzia Ventimiglia, Federica de Benedetti and Br Álvaro Sepúlveda of FMSI.



**Nov. 29 – Dec. 8:** Visit to the community of Lagny in France followed by an encounter in Valladolid, Spain, on a project of interiority – Br Javier Espinosa.

**Dec. 1 – 2:** VI Seminary of Education – Committee of education with the Union of Superiors General (USG) and International Union of Superiors General (UISG) at the General House of the De La Salle Brothers in Rome: Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede, directors of the Secretariat of Mission.

**Dec. 2 – 8:** Retreat in Guatemala for Brothers and Laity of América Central – Br Hipólito Pérez, Brothers Today secretariat.

**Dec. 1 – 5:** Provincial chapter of Santa María de los Andes in Santa Cruz (Bolivia): Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar general, and Br Ben Consigli, general councillor.

**Dec. 2 – 5:** Provincial chapter of Norandina in Los Teques (Venezuela): Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior general, and Br João Carlos do Prado, general councillor.

**Dec. 6 – 11:** Provincial chapter of Brasil Centro-Sul en Curitiba: Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, João Carlos do Pra-

do and Óscar Martín, general councillor.

**Dec. 9 – 14:** Provincial chapter of América Central in the City of Guatemala: Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez.

**Dec. 15 – 17:** Provincial chapter of Canada in Montreal: Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Josep Maria Soteras, general councillor.

**Dec. 14 – 15:** Provincial assembly of Brasil Sul-Amazonia in Porto Alegre: Br Óscar Martín.

**Dec. 14 – 17:** Meeting of Strategic Planning for Asia in Manila (Philippines): Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission.

**Dec. 20 – 21:** Seminar "Communication in times of crisis" with the European Mission Team in Barcelona (Spain) - Br Carlos Alberto Rojas.

**Dec. 22:** Christmas greetings at the General House– Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, and members of the general administration.

**Dec. 27 – Jan. 4:** Provincial chapter of Madagascar in Antsirabe – Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, vicar general, and Br Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, general councillor.



## BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA PROVINCE

### BROTHERS AND LAITY CULTIVATE SPIRITUALITY IN A RETREAT

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**In the same way that, the more we dig a well, the more we find purer water and in greater quantity, the more deeply we seek God, the more we perceive him in our lives.**

Br Genuino Benini

Consecrated Life and Laity  
coordinator, Brasil Sul-Amazonia

The third edition of the Retreat of Brothers and Laity - deepening experience brought together 36 participants to share for six days.

The meeting of the Brazil Sul-Amazonia Province took place in Veranópolis from Oct. 22 – 28 and had as its theme The Art of digging new wells. The initiative seeks to deepen and cultivate the charisma and, especially, Marist spirituality.

The theme was inspired by readings based on the biblical text of Genesis 26: 12-33, where Isaac, the son of Abraham, achieved the survival of his people and their animals through the art of digging wells.

The activities were led by Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity of the Marist Institute, and included moments of prayer, reflection and celebration. During the motivations, Brother Javier invited those present to think

about how the theme of the meeting unfolds in various situations, such as in daily experiences, in the Marist mission, in human relationships, in institutional relationships and in the vocation of Brothers and lay people.

The Coordinator of the Coordination of Consecrated Life and Laity of the province, Brother Genuino Benini, says that this relationship was very present from the beginning to the end of the retreat.

“In the same way that, the more we dig a well, the more we find purer water and in greater quantity, the more deeply we seek God, the more we perceive him in our lives,” he explains.

Other points that stood out at the event were the sharing of life in ‘small communities,’ the cultivation of silence and the exercise of contemplation.



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