



GENERAL COUNCIL AND SECRETARIATS MEET TO DISCERN INSTITUTE'S FUTURE STEPS A WEEK OF AWARENESS AND JOINT REFLECTION

The general council is gathering with secretariats from Feb. 19 – 23 at the general house in Rome for "a time of awareness and joint reflection, in an atmosphere of openness, discernment and mutual listening."

The staff of all the departments of the general house were invited to attend the session on the morning of Feb. 19 for the first part of the 'integration week' (semana de integración).

In his invitation letter, vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez affirmed that "the Council wants to make this

meeting an opportunity to carry out a joint work and brainstorm around the calls and orientations of the XXII General Chapter."

"This will serve to build a list of ideas, suggestions and initiatives that facilitate the realization of strategic planning for the animation and governance of the Institute that we will be building in these months," he added. In the first session, superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez underscored that the general government is hoping to work under seven prin-

ciples during its eight-year term – integration, synergy, unity, direction, organisation, communication and service.

The week also coincides with Br Ernesto's birthday on Feb. 21, which will be celebrated by the general council, the secretariats and all the staff with a Mass at noon.

From Feb. 21 – 23, the general council and the secretariats will focus on the Calls of the XXII General Chapter (<http://lavalla200.champagnat.org/en/>).



PERÚ: AN AMAZON MISSION WITH MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

A TEACHER FOR THE "DATEM"

From Dec. 26 – Jan. 31, the project "A teacher for the Datem" was held for the seventh consecutive year in the very heart of the Peruvian Amazon (province of Santa María de los Andes).

Around 425 teachers of indigenous peoples, from the soul of the jungle, attended the service offered by the Universidad Marcelino Champagnat (UMCH) with great generosity.

The 51 professors, with Masters degrees and university students at the end of their career, worked hard to form these "teachers of the jungle" who in turn now also have a bachelor's diploma. They are now prepared, in an excellent way, to serve their own native people and their community in a special way.

Several bilingual indigenous peoples, leaving their communities and accompanied by their family, went to San Lorenzo del Rio Marañón-Datem. They included indigenous Achuares, Awuajun, Wampis, Kandozis, Shapras, Shawis, Kichuas.

In parallel with the student-teachers, a school operated in the same place (75 children), for the children of the teachers-students of the summer courses of the UMCH, attended by several educators specialised in children.

The teachers who participated in the seminars were very grateful to the professors of the UMCH who for several years go to the Peruvian Amazon forest to improve the living conditions of each town and its inhabitants who often live and suffer the com-

plete oblivion of the authorities in the fields of education and health, according to the director of the local UGEL, the day of the opening of the 2018 course.

With enthusiasm and dedication, we respond to our theme:

"Committed to doing all the good... we can;
to all the people... that we can;
by all means... that we can;
in all the places and occasion ... that we can."

"All the peoples of the world come into our sights" Marcellin Champagnat.

Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the master, yes, the master, was present in the classroom and in the heart of each one of the natives, through our dream teachers every year by carrying the Marist charism to all.

This year 2018, after seven years of career, the First Promotion, "Datem" is born, which they translate into their languages as "the first that learns", baptised with the name of "Saint Marcellin Champagnat":

Emar amuniau San Marcelino Champagnat - Achuar
Dita amuinawai San Marcelino Champagnat - Awajun
Chitayuri kachinguru San Marcelino



Champagnat - Kandozi
Punturu yachakunata San Marcelino
Champagnat - Kichua

The management of the project is self-financed. The teaching community, which offered the best of itself, was made up of Brothers, teachers and volunteers from Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Spain (University of Salamanca). The rector of the University, Brother Pablo González Franco, offered everyone the final diploma that gives the green light to these 48 professors to be agents of transformation in their educational communities. Now, with a wisdom they have accumulated over the years, they will be able to create innovative dynamics within their families and in their native communities to which they are dedicated, with heart and soul, concerned about their development and progress. The teacher, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, did not go to distant lands as was his wish, but he was very present in the Peruvian Amazon, which for years has been "Maristised."

A DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR PEACE

Pope Francis has called for February 23, 2018 to be a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, urging everyone to 'say no' to violence and conflict. The pontiff made the appeal during his Sunday Angelus on Feb. 4 (<https://goo.gl/mfKJEU>).

South Sudan is suffering from a prolonged civil war and humanitarian crisis.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been affected by unrest following the shooting of protesting pro-democracy churchgoers opposed to President Joseph Kabila.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SPAIN

On February 24 the 6th Provincial Forum "A vueltas con lo social" will be held at the San José del Parque School in Madrid. Participants will include speakers such as the Brothers Álvaro Sepúlveda of FMSI and Eugenio Sanz, who works as a missionary in Bangladesh.

UMBRASIL

On February 22 and 23, the **14th Ordinary General Assembly of the Marist Union of Brazil** will be held, which will deal with the projects of Brazil in light of the calls of the XXII General Chapter. The 25 representatives of the three Brazilian provinces will draw up the plans for 2018 and will present the programmes carried out in 2017.

UNITED STATES

During this Lenten season, the Marist Brothers Novitiate community is sponsoring a weekly written reflection series. Each week, a member of the Marist College community will share their reflection on a scripture from the readings of the week. The first reflection was written by Br. Luis Ramos (read it here in English: <https://www.maristbrothersnovitiateusa.com/blog/we-begin>).

MEXICO

The Marist community of the indigenous people of Rarámuris, also known as the Tarahumaras, in Norogachi of the Sierra Tarahumara visited the Cervantes Bosque School of the México Occidental province in Guadalajara in the state of Jalisco, on February 17.

BRAZIL: TWO UNIVERSITIES COULD START FORMING PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE MARIST ECONOMY

MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL TEAM OF SUSTAINABILITY OF AFRICA AND ASIA



Two universities could soon start carrying out formation courses for people involved in the economic management of administrative units.

The idea was suggested by the technical team of sustainability of Africa and Asia that met in Curitiba, Brazil, from Jan. 24 – 26. The team suggested that the course of the University of Notre Dame of Dadiangas, the Philippines, be connected to the sustainability project.

The team, which took several steps in preparing the courses, proposes that they take place at the business school of the PUCPR University of Curitiba, Brazil, and at the Business School of the University of Notre Dame of Dadiangas, Philippines.

Among the participants of the meet-

ing was Brother Libardo Garzón, economic general, Alfie Custodio of the business school of the University of Notre Dame of Dadiangas, Brother Devasiri Fernando of the South Asia province and Brother Francisco Baeza of the PACE province.

The meeting also addressed the evaluation by the technical committee, which belongs to the University of Curitiba and is carrying out the project of sustainability of life and mission in Asia and Africa.

The participants took the opportunity to connect the formation course for economies of Asia and Africa, with the sustainability project that is being carried out in some administrative units of these continents.

These topics will be presented to the general council to request its guidance.

MARIST WORLD



Brazil: meeting of communities of the Brazil Centro Norte province



Mexico: the Rarámuris in Norogachi visits the Cervantes Bosque School



Spain: formators of the post-novices of Compostela and Mediterranea



Australia
Marist House Fitzroy



General House: the general councils of the Marist Brothers and of the De La Salle Brothers



Kenya: meeting of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent - Nairobi

BUILDING A NEW SCHOOL

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND BRAZIL

Three Brothers from Brazil will be engaged in a new school in East Timor, soon to be established by the province of Australia.

They are Brothers Manoel Soares da Silva, of the Brazil Centro-Norte province, João Batista Pereira, of the Brazil Centro-Sul province, and a third Brother still to be chosen by the Brazil Sul-Amazonia province within the next few months.

The province of Australia and the bishop of the diocese of Baucau, Bishop Basílio do Nascimento, have been in discussions for some time about the school's location, which will be in an area of great need.

There are currently two Marist works in the country, run by the province of Australia: the Instituto Católico para Formação de Professores (Catholic Institute for Formation of Teachers) in Baucau, since 2005, and an initial



formation programme for young men aspiring to become Marist Brothers. In 2013, the Brothers of Australia asked UMBRASIL, which represents Brazil's three provinces, to support its work in the Institute and in the initial formation of young men.

Brazil then sent Brothers Lecio Heckler in 2013 and Pedrinho Tambosi in 2015 to Baucau, where they are currently involved in pastoral work for the local diocese and offer initial formation for future Marist Brothers.

Brothers Manoel and João are in Australia from Feb. 9 – July 29 to learn English before travelling to East Timor. Once in East Timor, they will turn their attention initially to the learning of Tetum, the native language of East Timor, and then on the new school.

The presence of the Brazilian and Australian Brothers in East Timor follows the message of the XXII General Chapter, "Journeying Together as a Global Family!".

One of its five calls is to be "a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope in this turbulent world." This call also asks Marists to "promote and nourish Marist life in all its diversity, working towards our deeply-felt desire to act as "one global body"."

In the picture, Brothers Manoel Soares da Silva (third from the right) and João Batista Pereira (first from the right) arrive to Australia.

FMSI RAISES €5,000 EUROS FOR ROHINGYA CHILDREN IN TWO MONTHS

COLLABORATING WITH CARITAS BANGLADESH

FMSI raised €5,000 euros in two months for Caritas Bangladesh, who is looking after Rohingya children in refugee camps.

With the help of the Marist Brothers in Bangladesh, the money FMSI raised in its campaign from November to January has reached Caritas Bangladesh who will in turn use it to continue aiding the Rohingya people who are fleeing from Myanmar.

According to Caritas Bangladesh, nearly 860,000 people who have fled military persecution in Myanmar are living on bare earth floors under tarpaulins.

Caritas is providing food support and

household items for 70,000 refugees in their camps. Its future plans include ongoing food assistance, emergency shelter, living supplies, water and sanitation, child protection, social services, and potentially design and infrastructure support for new camps. Pope Francis, who is very much aware of the crisis, visited Myanmar from Nov. 27 – 30 and then Bangladesh from Nov. 30 – Dec. 2.

FMSI is also raising funding for other projects in countries including Syria, Lebanon, South Sudan, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi and Mexico.

Its latest campaign, “#meneprendocura” (“#Itakecare”), aims to raise



money for basic teaching material, meals and to help build a well in Malawi.

For information on how to donate money to FMSI, [visite www.fmsi.ngo](http://www.fmsi.ngo).

ITALY: TWO MARISTS ARE AWARDED A DIPLOMA IN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

A NEW LICENTIATE DEGREE IN CHILD PROTECTION IS NOW ALSO AVAILABLE

The Centre for Child Protection of the Gregorian University of Rome awarded 18 students of various congregations from 12 countries, including two Marist Brothers, a diploma in safeguarding of minors on Feb. 9.

During the ceremony, president of the CCP Father Hans Zollner also announced the launch of a new two-year licentiate degree* in safeguarding, which will begin in October at the university, with only 12 vacancies.

Brothers Jeff Rhey Reston Antiquisa of the Philippines and Okechukwu Venatius Anochie of Nigeria are now among the five Marist Brothers who have obtained the diploma since the Centre began offering it in 2016. Brother Fortune Chakasara of Zimbabwe received it in 2016, and Brothers Shanthy Liyanage of Sri Lanka and John Katumbi of Malawi, in 2017.

Br Okechukwu was among the five students who presented their research project during the graduation ceremony, under the title ‘child street hawking in Nigeria.’ Br Jeff’s research was on ‘Catholic educational institutions and their leading role in child protection in the Philippines.’



Br Jeff stated safeguarding children in the Philippines is important because “with a population of 100 million of which 31 per cent are children, many are left behind, like the children of overseas Filipino workers.”

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to safeguard these children because they are the hope of the future of the Filipino society,” he stressed. “It’s a wonderful course, the course itself is tough because it involves emotion and if you experience listening to victims of abuse, you will be really moved and touched by their stories.”

Spain’s Cardenal Cisneros University College in Alcalá de Henares is already

running the Centre’s e-learning programme for 97 teachers. Three other Marist universities – the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná in Curitiba, Brazil, the Universidad Marcelino Champagnat in Lima, Peru, and the Universidad Marista de Mérida, Mexico – are still in the process of introducing the programme.

Fr Hans, also a member of the Vatican’s Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, un-

derlined that “the diploma course is important because we need to know a lot about the roots of abusive behaviour, which has many causes.”

“We need to do whatever can be done to understand better how to protect children and young people and what we can do to prevent abuse in those who feel attracted sexually to young people,” he told the general house communications office on Feb. 9.

Superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez, vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and FMSI’s Brother Rick Carey attended the ceremony on behalf of the general administration, as well as other Brothers from the general house community.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE MARIST MISSION IN AFRICA AND ASIA

SEMINAR ON THE SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT FOR MARIST LIFE AND MISSION

From Feb. 4 – 10, the province of East Central Africa held a workshop that aimed to make Brothers and laity more aware that “our resources must be at the service of the Marist life and mission of the entire Institute,” at Rubavu, Rwanda.

All the communities and apostolic works in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in the Central African Republic were represented by Brothers and laity. Brothers Libardo Garzón, general economo, Teófilo Minga, translator and Jorge Gaio, provincial economo of Brazil Centro Sul took part, as well as two laity from Brazil who worked as facilitators, Masimo Dirksen Della Justina and June Alisson Westarb Cruz.



In his presentation, Br Libardo showed the participants that the project is a matter of concern for the whole Institute and he emphasized on the dangers of a self – referential and fragmented use of resources as well as a lack of transparency, formation and professionalism; he explained that these are barriers that interfere with our ability to live and grow as a global family.

The workshop allowed each participant to know the financial realities of various communities and apostolic works. Figures were presented and analysed in an atmosphere of trust but with due criticism.

It also appears that in some schools, there is a misunderstanding on the role of a school bursar and the school principal, particularly in buying items needed to run the schools. The provincial underscored the need to clarify the role of each one in the administration of a school.

During the work done in matrix 8 and 9, participants were divided into groups of work and the situation of each school was carefully studied. The objective was to identify strengths, weakness, threats and opportunities. This was really cumbersome as participants had to think and argue, keeping in mind the two objectives: to generate income

and to offer quality education in Marist values. Participants were also asked to find out concrete actions which can help achieve the objectives. It took each group at least two hours to complete the work on each school.

Income generation goes hand in hand with the use, the maintenance, improvement and optimization of the Institute’s existing assets and facilities but also with an increase in number of Marist Private Schools. That is the reason why each community and apostolic work must develop a spirit of saving.

On Feb. 9, the participants had a fraternal gathering to thank the Brothers and the lay facilitators. In his speech, the provincial expressed his gratitude to Br Libardo who contributed financially to the expenses of the workshop. He also thanked the facilitators reminding the participants of the importance of implementing the workshop to manage well the Institute’s resources.

The workshop ended on Feb. 10 with two speeches. First, Br Libardo insisted on the spirit of belonging to the Institute. Then, the provincial explained two things that are associated to mismanagement: when there is incompetency or dishonesty. Furthermore, he deplored the loss of some Marist values such manual works, as well as the loss of virtues such as humility.

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