



MARIST NEWS

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS INTENSIFY COLLABORATION

REGIONS OF OCEANIA AND ASIA

The provincial and district superiors of the six administrative units from the regions of Oceania and Asia met on March 7 and 8 in Singapore to increase joint work between the two regions.

Participants included Brothers Mervyn Perera (South Asia Province), Juan Castro (district of Asia), Jean Marie Batick (district of Melanesia), David McDonald (district of the Pacific), Robert Teoh (province of East Asia) and Peter Carroll (province of Australia).

During the meeting's two days, the following topics were discussed: the



Marist Asia strategic plan; the collaboration between the lay Marists of the two regions; collaboration

and assistance in finance; collaboration in initial formation; interaction between the two Marist education networks that are being developed separately, thinking about the development of a possible Asia-Oceania Education Network; volunteering; study on the quality of community life and the will to develop the faith; the possibility of academic study for young Brothers from the two regions in Australia.

To read the full description of the topics covered in the meeting, visit [this link](#).

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL IDENTITY

AMÉRICA SUR'S REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETS IN BRAZIL

From March 20 – 23, América Sur's regional committee, hosted by the Brazil Centro Sul province, met at the Marist House Champagnat Marcelino (CMMC), in Curitiba, with the objective of advancing the strategic initiatives and to plan the next general assembly of the provincial councils of the América Surregion, which will be held from July 3 – 6 in Porto Alegre, coordinated by the Brazil Sur Amazonia province.

It was the first meeting of the regional committee that was attended by the newly appointed executive secretary of the América Surregion, Brother Natalino Guilherme de Sousa, who also serves as the executive secretary of UMBRASIL.

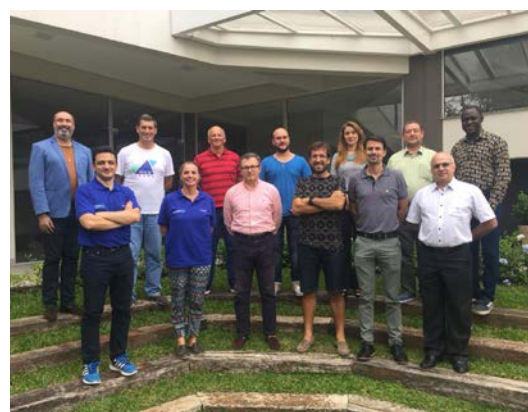
Paulo Serino, member of the Institute's Secretariat of Mission, and Brother Mark Omede, the secretariat's assistant director, took part in this

meeting after they were invited by the regional committee.

The meeting marked the farewell of Brother Jorge Gaio of the regional committee, replaced by Brother Tiago Fedel, present at the meeting.

During the days of the meeting, participants reflected on the works developed by the teams of each of the strategic projects: strategic plan, novitiate and regional formation, vocational animation, identification of experts, network of schools, network of economies and communication. The results will be presented to the provincial councils in the regional assembly in July of this year in Porto Alegre.

The strategic projects will contribute to the region's consolidation, the strengthening of the regional identity



and the integration of the provinces that make up the América Sur region, bearing in mind the vitality of the mission and the Marist charism.

The Institute is made up of six regions. The América Sur region includes five provinces: Brasil Centro-Norte, Brasil Centro-Sul, Brazil Sul-Amazonia, Cruz del Sur and Santa Maria de los Andes.

PHILIPPINES: PRAYING FOR OUR LIFE'S DIRECTION

LAY FORMATION FOR YOUTH SEARCHERS

Twenty-two participants gathered for a Lenten offering with the theme Praying for our Life's Direction on March 10 at the Sacred Heart Formation Center, in General Santos City, Philippines. It was the first of three in a series of thematic formations offered to the laity during Lent.

The participants were graduating students from Notre Dame of Marbel University, Notre Dame of Dadiangas University and the staff of the East Asia Province Center.

The session content, process and prayer themes evolved around Discernment Process and Its Essential Criteria, the Pitfalls to Avoid in Discernment, and How to Let Discernment Take on Flesh in coming up with decisions on life's directions.

The gathering was made more enriching with the presentation of the Marist Mission by Brother Edgar Ceri-



ales, Coordinator of Marist Lay Volunteers, who presented avenues where they could volunteer for meaningful experience of mission.

Participants also had an exposure to the community of the Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM), where they had a glimpse of a life lived as consecrated religious.

Edwina Enriquez, a Champagnat Movement member, was present to accompany the group in their journey of faith in finding God's direction in their own lives.

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, SHERBROOKE AND DRUMMONDVILLE

FOUR YOUTH COMMUNITIES

Among the Marist communities of the Province of Canada, four of them are mixed and intergenerational, involved in hosting young people: Montreal, Quebec, Sherbrooke and Drummondville.

These communities are part of a Provincial project that aims at giving youth the opportunity to live in a Marist community, opened to young workers and university students aged 18 or older. These homes receive students from all walks of life and from multiple countries and different religions.

Montreal

In September 2009, the community welcomed its first resident: Pierre Rancourt. Seven youth joined the community in 2010 and since January 2018, there are 14 youths with brothers René Mailloux and Réal Cloutier.

Quebec

The community, located on "rue Paradis", here opened to youth is



located five minutes from the Université Laval. This community has been running since 2012 and currently has two Brothers and seven youths residing there.

Sherbrooke

The community opened in 2015. Over a dozen youths have lived in the community since then. This year, the community has five youths, one lay, and two brothers. As part of the experience, they assume all the do-

mestic tasks of household chores, such as cooking and cleaning.

Drummondville

The community, which lies around 100km north east of Montreal, was set up in 2011. This year, the community of Drummondville has two Brothers and two youths.

For more information or to contact the communities, visit: <https://goo.gl/tNJCo9>.

NIGERIA: MEETING IN ORLU

MARIST YOUTH COMMISSION DECIDES A TWO-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Six members of the Marist Youth Commission of the Nigeria province decided on its two-year strategic plan during a meeting at Orlu, Nigeria, held for two days earlier this month. They reflected on the fourth call of

the 22nd General Chapter Message which asks Marists "to journey with children and young people living on the margins of life." The commission also recalled one of the recommendations of the province

of Nigeria's ninth provincial chapter which appeals to "intensify Marist youth ministry in the province to create more opportunities for the less privileged children and youth."

One of the commission's aims is to evangelise youth in the peripheries.

Four initiatives were adopted for recommendation to the provincial and his council, which will guide the commission's work for the next two years:

- Sustain the Marist Youth Football Club at Uturu – a platform that reaches youth on the periphery.
- Classes during summer holidays for poor children each August in Uturu.
- Marist Youth Festival in the diocese of Enugu in Feb. 2019, at the football field of Iva-Valley.
- Proposal to use Uturu's rice mill for a youth centre.



SWITZERLAND: CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

GENERAL DISCUSSION IN THE UN

From March 19 – 21, a children's advisory team met in Geneva to prepare the next Day of General Discussion of the United Nations (DGD 2018). Eight children and adolescents from India, Moldova, Norway, Scotland and Senegal met with experts from the Committee on the Rights of the Child to refine the details of this important day that is convened annually to discuss a specific issue.

The focus of the year 2018 will be "Children and Adolescents as Human Rights Defenders". Just as Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize 2014, was a teenager who was committed to the right to education of Pakistani girls, other children can play an active role in defending their rights and their communities.

Among the calls of the 22nd General Chapter (2017) the Marist Institute is inviting provinces to: "flee from paternalistic approaches and empower those who do not have a voice", and "commit ourselves firmly in the promotion and defense of the rights of children."



For this reason, FMSI is inviting the provinces to take advantage of this opportunity and participate in the preparation of this DGD 2018 with the aim of encouraging Marist children and adolescents to strengthen their protagonist participation and leadership in the defense of human rights.

FMSI is working with other organisa-

tions to carry out a large survey that gathers the opinion of children and youth from all continents. This will be valuable information that will be discussed by the experts of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Sept. 28, when the DGD 2018 is held at the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Geneva.

MARIST WORLD



Nicaragua
Easter with Remar, Estelí



Colombia: Easter in Medellín,
with Brothers and lay people



Spain: The Way of Saint James,
Compostela Province



Spain
Pasqua de les Avellanes



India
St. Marcellin School, Mangamanuthu



Cambodia: Formators & Cmi directors
visit a Lavalla200> members, Phnom Penh

AGIOS.MAR 18

PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS: BLOOD ECUMENISM

Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, held a ceremony on March 27 at the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere in Rome, Italy, with the Sant'Egidio community to prepare the celebration of the Easter triduum.

Figures who have offered their lives for the Gospel, blood of known and unknown martyrs, were recalled during the prayers of the faithful.

Never in history have Christians been so persecuted, massacred and united by the testimony of blood as they are today. Our times are the times of blood ecumenism. In very different contexts and for various reasons, we are beaten and killed a little bit everywhere because we are Christians.

The prayer meeting was convened in "thanks to God for the shed blood, which continues to flow in the veins of noble and humble witnesses of the Gospel."



"This remembrance is also a challenge to all of us, poor sinners, to further raise the torch of daily love towards everyone and especially towards the refugees, the abandoned, the poor," the cardinal continued.

The ceremony took place a few days after the announcement was made of the upcoming canonisation of Oscar Romero, a martyr of our times who died 38 years ago in San Salvador when he was celebrating Mass.

GREECE: GLOBAL CHARISMATIC FAMILY IN ATHENS

DAY OF REFLECTION ON THE CALLS OF THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER

After the Institute's 22nd General Chapter, held from Sept. 8 – Oct. 20, 2017 in Rionegro, Colombia, the provincial council of the L'Hermitage province considered it necessary to reflect on its messages and conclusions.

The province organised on March 17, at the Lycée Leonin de Patissia in Athens, a day of reflection, which was attended by the Marist Brothers of Greece, the steering councils of the two local Marist schools and the social centre "Heart without borders", the principals and deputy directors of each level, as well as the prefects of the classes.

After the initial prayer, the superior provincial, Brother Pere Ferré, and the vicar provincial, Brother Gabriel Villa-Réal presented, through a video, the most significant moments of the General Chapter and then spoke of the five calls that the capitulars sent to the Marist world, explaining the meaning of the icons used and the Gospel verses that each of them expresses:



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 living on the margins of life.

To respond boldly to emerging needs.

Then, the participants shared their experiences in groups and talked about the experience of these calls in their daily lives. At the end of the day, Br Pere thanked the formation teams of the two Marist schools in Greece for organising the work and, all the participants, for their presence and interest in this "new beginning" at the threshold of the third century of the Marist Institute.

EL SALVADOR: JOINT FORMATION BROTHERS AND LAITY

LENT WITH OUR COMMON HOUSE: THE EARTH

On March 11, the Marists of Champagnat met at the Liceo Salvadoreño in El Salvador to hold a joint formation meeting, with the theme 'Lent with our common house: the Earth.'

The encounter, held in the morning, included formation between brothers and laity that favored communion and reflecting on one of the calls of the 22nd General Chapter and of Pope Francis' invitation to develop an ecological conscience that leads us to care for and protect our common home, the earth.

The moments of silence and interiority helped the brothers and the laity reflect on the decisions that must be taken to stop causing harm to the creation and the personal and



community commitments that must be acquired in order to have a new relationship with the earth with the

awareness that creation was given to us as a gift and therefore we must take care of it and protect it.

AUSTRALIA: CALLS OF POPE FRANCIS, DISCERNMENT AND ACCOMPANIMENT

COMMUNITY LEADERS GATHER AT MITTAGONG

From March 15 – 18 March, over 30 Brothers from the province of Australia gathered at Mittagong for the annual Community Leaders' Gathering.

In this year's meeting, held at the L'Hermitage Retreat Centre, participants had more time for personal and group reflection and contemplation than in previous years.

Brother Mark O'Connor reflected on the personal journey of (Pope) Francis and Marist lives, the priority of mercy in the care of Marists for themselves and for others and accompaniment. Other topics in his presentation included consolation, desolation and discernment as Marists, as well as renewing the joyful Marist service of others.

Australia's provincial superior, Brother Peter Carroll, presented the book "Brothers" to the community leaders. It is a photo book commemorating the Institute's bicen-



tenary, which had been presented by Brother Tony Leon – director of the Brothers Today secretariat – during the 22nd General Chapter in Colombia last September. Each community was given a copy of the book, which captures the different work done by the Brothers around the world.

Two representatives of the Mascot

Office, offered the Brothers support on financial queries.

Two members of the Marist Association spoke about their experience of their local group based in Sydney. The gathering concluded by discussing priorities and future activities of the province, which is now five and a half years old, and a Mass.

ARGENTINA: ALL BROTHERS

MEETING OF COMMUNITY LEADERS



The animators of the 22 communities of the Cruz del Sur province (Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) will meet with animators of four other congregations from Aug. 31 – Sept. 2 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Congregations that for the moment have adhered to the initiative are the Brothers of the Holy Family, the Conceptionists, the La Mennais Brother, the De La Salle Brothers and the Marist Brothers.

It will be the first inter-congregational meeting of community leaders of Cruz del Sur and will be animated by

Brother Alvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, Lasallian.

The aim is to give greater visibility in the Church to the vocation of the Brother religious and the idea arose after the Vatican published the document "Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church."

Gathering of community leaders of the province

The last gathering of community leaders of the Cruz del Sur province was held from March 9 – 11 in Buenos Aires.

The topics of this last meeting, inspired by the province's theme of the year (There is life ... and it summons us), were: my situation and that of my community, my service in community leadership, the project of community life and our vocation as Brothers and community life.

The encounter concluded with a dialogue with Brother Alberto Aparicio, provincial superior, on the future activities of Cruz del Sur.

The communication and broadcasting team of the province affirmed that "the Brothers, who are leaders, valued the meeting positively. Their hope is to be able to lead the walk of each Brother and of their community and they hope to be able to shape this year's challenges of growth into a simple project of community life."

BRASIL: BECOMING PRESENT AMONG THE EXCLUDED AND DISPLACED


BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE MOBILIZES FOR THE CAUSE OF THE REFUGEES



Dados sobre refugiados no Brasil

- O Brasil concentra o segundo maior número de solicitações de refúgio de venezuelanos (12.960).
- No Brasil, 9.552 pessoas, de 82 nacionalidades distintas, já tiveram sua condição de refugiadas reconhecida até o final de 2016.
- Desde o início do conflito na Síria, 3.772 sírios solicitaram refúgio no Brasil.

Fonte: ACNUR/ONU/Brasil

 Apoie essa causa.
Seja solidário.

One of the themes that marked the reflection of the capitulars was the reception of the refugees. With a simple gesture of opening their arms, the capitulars recorded in Colombia a video attached to the Caritas Internationalis campaign #ShareJourney, saying "welcome" to immigrants and displaced persons.

This awareness of the need to welcome those who are obliged to leave their own land is the basis of the third call of the Message of the 22nd General Chapter: Inspire our creativity to be bridge-builders.

Among the "principles and suggestions" inherent in the mission, the capitulars recommend "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."

Initiative of the Brasil Centro-Norte province

On March 16, the province launched a mobilization campaign for the cause of refugees, which aims to raise awareness among students and family members, collaborators, and the entire educational community, for the development of collective actions in favor of immigrants.

The campaign aims to sensitize and mobilize the Marist public, to "immerse" in the charismatic and solidary dimension in favor of the cause. The next steps suggest concrete actions, through participation in solidarity

campaigns, promoted by national and international organisations, and other initiatives of civil society.

The vice-president of the educative works of the province, Brother Wagner Cruz, thinks that "the campaign shows us that this is a cause without borders, and the union of the efforts of the Institute can make a small, but important, difference in the life of these refugees who are in so much need of our support."

For more information and updates on this initiative, visit: www.marista.edu.br/campanharefugiados.

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