



MARIST NEWS

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

108 NOVICES IN THE INSTITUTE

NOVIATIES OF THE MARIST BROTHERS ACROSS THE WORLD

There are 11 novitiates in the Institute's six regions: three in Africa, one in América Sur, three in the Arco Norte, two in Asia, one in Europe and one in the Pacific. There are now 108 novices in the Institute. The novitiate lasts two years and some include a two to three month visit to a Marist community outside the novitiate.

Novitiates in Africa

The Marist Brothers Formation Centre in **Kumasi, Ghana**, was established in 1990. It starts in August and ends on June with the first religious profession. The novitiate, which currently has 26 novices and four formators, belongs to both the province of Nigeria and the district of West Africa.

The Novitiate of **Save, Rwanda**, is an Inter-provincial novitiate and receives novices from the provinces of Madagascar and East Central Africa. It has now 12 novices – four in the second year and eight in the first year. The novitiate usually begins in September and its professions are held in June.

The Novitiate of **Matola, Mozambique**, has 14 novitiates this year – seven in the first year and seven in the second year. The activities start in February and end in December. The time spent in the novitiate is around 17 – 18 months, excluding the time they

go for a three-month community experience. It was founded in 2007.

Novitiate in America Sur

The Noviciado Regional Champagnat de **Cochabamba, in Bolivia**, is an interprovincial novitiate running since 2017. It receives novices from the provinces of Santa Maria de los Andes, Cruz del Sur, Brasil Centro-Norte, Brasil Centro-Sul and Brasil Sul-Amazônia. The novitiate currently has 11 novices, five in the first year and six in the second, and three formators. The programme begins on Feb. 2 and finishes 22 months later. The novitiate works with two official languages: Spanish and Portuguese. The formation includes human development, fraternity, Marist spirituality and global availability. It has internal classes, at home, as well as an inter-congregational study center.

Novitiates in Arco Norte

The Marist Brothers Novitiate in **Esopus, New York**, is in

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Brothers Óscar Martín, general councillor, and Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, were in Sri Lanka, where they visited the Marist Sevana Spirituality Center, the novitiate of Tudella and participated in the perpetual profession of Brother Jiji Dhasan and five first professions in Negombo.
- Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission, is participating in the meeting of the Commission of the Asian Mission in Singapore, from April 9 – 13.
- The European Commission of the Mission is meeting from April 10 – 12 in Lyon with the participation of Brother Mark Omede, assistant director of the Secretariat of the Mission.
- From April 8 – 13, the meeting of the Asian Lay Commission is taking place in Singapore, with the participation of the co-director of the Secretariat of the Laity, Agnes Reyes.
- Brother Josep Maria Soterias, general councillor, is visiting the district of Asia from April 9 – 17. He will first participate in the assembly of superiors and then in a meeting with the Council in Thailand.
- From April 10 – 18, Brothers Jeff Crowe and Ángel Medina will be accompanying the community of Atlantis, in South Africa, of the Laval-la200> Project.
- Brothers Óscar Martín and Tony Leon participate in a meeting of the International Commission of Brothers Today from April 11 – 17 in Manila, the Philippines.



the province of the United States. It currently has one novice. Classes begin in August and finish in the same month two years later. The programme includes studying history, spirituality, the Institute's mission, theology, youth ministry, languages – particularly French and Spanish – and a hands-on experience working with young people in the local community.

The Novitiate of **Jérémie, Haiti**, is in the province of México Occidental. It currently has six novices in the first year. It begins in July and ends with the first profession after two years. The novices are also asked to do a 30-day silence retreat, six months after they have entered the novitiate to help them in their discernment.

The Noviciado Interprovincial **La Valla in Medellín**, Colombia, receives novices from the provinces of México Occidental, México Central, América Central and Norandina. It currently has 12 novices and three formators. The novitiate begins its activities on Feb. 2, feast of the Presentation of the Lord and Day of Consecrated Life. The second-year novices return to their provinces early December. This year, there are five first-year novices and seven in the second year.

Novitiates in Asia

The International Novitiate of **Tudella, Sri Lanka**, is in the South Asia province. Its programme begins on May 3 and this year it will receive 19 novices. The Novitiate includes a three-month placement in an apostolic community from May 15 - Aug. 10. After they make their first vows, they have a month's holiday with their family and a month in a community in their country. They then begin their post-novitiate formation in Manila, Philippines, at the Marist Asian Pacific Center (MAPAC).

The Immaculate Conception Novitiate of **Broce in Cotabato, the Philippines**, is in the East Asia province and opened in 1960. It currently has three novices, one in the first year and two in the second. The novitiate begins on May 15 and ends two years later, on May 20.

Novitiate in Europe

There is only one novitiate in **Europe**, located in **Seville, Spain**. This year, it has one novice, currently in the second year. The novitiate was born as an initiative of the Spanish Marist Conference and is opened to all the provinces of Europe (Ibérica, Compostela, Hermitage, Mediterránea, West Central Europe). It starts in October/November and finishes June/July two years later. The novitiate participates in the inter-congregational formation programme of the "Internoviciado del Sur".

It follows the biblical and theological formation in the Center of Theological Studies, of the University of the Jesuits of Granada. The novitiate's pastoral activities are done in the parish and in the "Casa de Todos" - an intercongregational social work that aims to respond to the needs of the neighborhood where the novitiate is located.

Novitiate in Pacific

The Marist Brothers **Pacific Novitiate in Lomeri, Pacific Harbour, Fiji** is in the Pacific district. It has been forming Brothers of the Pacific Islands for over 40 years. There are currently three novices, two are from Samoa and one is from Fiji. The programme begins and finishes on August, around the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady.

See this link for a map with all the Institute's novitiates worldwide: <https://goo.gl/UAjWUJ>.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MEDITERRÁNEA

Directors of Andalusia and Badajoz, Spain, met with the provincial education team to address current issues of the Marist schools and to address with hope this third school term and the planning of the next school year.

EAST ASIA

On March 28, Holy Wednesday, around 30 members of the CMMF Marbel gathered with the intention of nourishing prayer and nurturing the Marist family spirit. The theme reflected on was trusting God’s creative touch in one’s life as capped by the words of Saint Edith Stein: “How wonderful to walk along in life holding the hand of God...!”

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

On April 3 and 4 there was a meeting of the provincial vocational team, to evaluate the planning of the triennium 2016 – 2018. It aimed to perceive what progresses have been made in the established goals, what still needs working on, to listen to the realities of the regions and the “Connection Project”.

COUNCILLORS IN SALAMANCA

The Institute of Marist Studies of the Pontifical University of Salamanca has organised the ninth Coffee Cycle Colloquium under the title “22nd General Chapter: Journeying as a Global Family”. This year it will be celebrated in two venues: on April 17 in Ourense, with Brother Ken McDonald, and on April 24 in Palencia, with Brother Ben Consigli.

CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PROVINCE

NEW PROVINCIAL COUNCIL IS INSTALLED AT THE BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK



During the provincial chapter of the United States, held from March 22 – 25 in Wappinger Falls, New York, Brother Patrick McNamara assumed his role as provincial superior for three years – his second term in office – and the delegates from across the country chose their new provincial council.

The members of the new Provincial Council are Brothers Dan O’Riordan, Hank Hammer, Sean Sammon, Robert Clark, Owen Ormsby and Al Rivera.

Superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez and general councillor Brother João Carlos do Prado attended on behalf of the general administration.

The chapter began with an opening speech of Br Ernesto, who called on the brothers and laity to focus “on who to be, rather than on what to do,” and asked them to “let go of things that are holding them back” and “to dream.”

Br Patrick also addressed the brothers (<https://goo.gl/juLDpi>), touching on education, evangelisation, and efforts to promote solidarity around the world. After Mass celebrated by Marist Father Kevin Duggan and evening

prayers, a lay American – Maureen Hagan – introduced a video from the Marist Young Adult community in which youth discuss their concerns on the future.

On March 24, the brothers elected their new provincial council, and the lay Marists that were attending discussed future goals and this summer’s lay Marist assembly.

After a Eucharistic celebration, a video titled “Looking Ahead to the Future: Entering the Third Century of the Marist Institute”, was aired to help them reflect on the future’s hopes and challenges.

The evening prayer, titled “To journey with children and young people living on the margins of society” included the washing of hands to represent new beginnings, journeying together, and service to others.

The morning prayer held on March 25 under the theme “To respond boldly to emerging needs” was followed by the installation Mass of the new provincial council, coinciding with Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week.

MARIST WORLD



Germany: Youth and vocational ministry of Europe visit the Mindelheim community



Sri Lanka: 'Marist Sevana' the Marist House of Spirituality



Papua New Guinea Port Moresby



Australia Aquinas College, Adelaide



United Kingdom: students from Guadalajara, Spain, visit London



Philippines Mindanao: renewal of vows

EL SALVADOR: "HERE I AM LORD TO DO YOUR WILL"

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BR RENÉ MONTES

Brother René Montes, Salvadoran by birth and former student of that institution, made his perpetual vows on March 24 at the chapel of the Colegio Marista San Alfonso in El Salvador.

The celebration began with a Mass attended by brothers from throughout the Province of América Central, relatives of Brother René and many friends who expressed all their affection and support in this new stage of his consecrated life.

During the rite of the profession, Brother Hipólito Pérez, provincial of América Central, handed over to the parents of Brother René, an alliance that was blessed by the priest so that they would place it on him as a symbol of the commitment of his vocation forever.

"I am happy celebrating this 'yes' to the Lord, in response to his merciful and boundless love that I experi-



enced in recent years and that was confirmed during the time that I had to face a disease," said Br Rene, after professing his vows.

Br Hipólito expressed his gratitude to God for the miracle of Br René's life and for the gesture of giving a definite "yes" to the Congregation of the Little Brothers of Mary. "Courageous, confident and risky decision, René,

in a society of temporality, where nothing or almost nothing is final and where very few things are forever," exclaimed the Provincial.

The celebration concluded with a simple reception, where the attendees shared a small snack. Many congratulations, hugs and expressions of affection flooded the atmosphere.

“BEING THE FACE AND HANDS OF YOUR TENDER MERCY”

THRESHOLDS SPIRITUALITY COURSE

Nine brothers of the provinces of Norandina, L’Hermitage, Compostela, América Central, Ibérica, Brasil Centro Sur and Santa María de los Andes have lived the Thresholds spirituality course. Brothers Antonio Peralta and Joaquim Sperandio are the animators and coordinators of the course.

For eight weeks, from Feb. 8 – April 4, we stayed at the Marist Spirituality Center of El Escorial, Spain.

We dealt with seven thresholds that we needed to go beyond with respect to our personal reality. This differential transformation is based on rebalancing two experiences: the doing and the being.

Key factor to live this experience is to be open to something new that can be born in oneself and, like Nicodemus, ask ourselves: how can an old man be born? Our community experience has led us to live harmoniously, projecting us to live the challenge proposed by the 22nd General Chapter, “A new beginning.”

The human, the spiritual and the Marist have been the areas in which we have tried to grow, each one from his own personal, pastoral, professional, religious situation... and all framed in a climate of openness and fraternal community. The process of living, feeling and expressing has managed to create a climate of sincerity, trust and quality fraternal life.

The themes, contents, activities, meetings and experiences have been well harmonized and balanced, by the managers and exhibitors, in times and forms.

These are the THRESHOLDS covered in this course: My



story is a sacred story. Integrate my reality. Be good news. My way in the Holy Spirit. A new Marist religious life. Growing in interiority. God’s dream for me.

These are the stages, processes, experiences and encounters that have helped us to cross the seven thresholds: We begin with an approach to the mysticism of Saint John of the Cross in Segovia. Days of personal retreat. Care and respect for the person. Know yourself and your interrelationships (Enneagram). Contemplative prayer. Ecological conversion (The common house). Defense of children’s rights. Spirituality and exegesis (Fray Marcos - double edged sword). The 22nd General Chapter (animated by Brother Ernesto Sánchez). Pilgrimage on St Marcellin’s paths in L’Hermitage. Cultivating interiority. Easter solidarity in Basida host communities. We concluded through the lands of Ávila, reliving the mysticism of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

PHILIPPINES: LAY MARISTS

CMMF FORMATION ON MISSION AND GENEROUS SERVICE

One of the theme chosen for the Lenten reflection of the CMMF in the Philippines was about mission and generous service. The thematic lay formation was held on March 17, which included a visit to a home for the elderly at General Santos City. Thirteen CMMF members interacted and listened to stories of about 22 elderly.



In the afternoon, the CMMF family joined Marist lay volunteers at the Province Center for inputs on (1) the state of the indigenous peoples in the Philippines, presented

by Grace Dalde and (2) faces of mission and the street children of Marcellin homes, by Brother Crispin Betita. They later participated

in a Eucharistic celebration and witnessed to the commissioning of the first group of Marist lay volunteers.

MÉXICO CENTRAL AND OCCIDENTAL

REPORT ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Those responsible for solidarity of the Marist Provinces of México Central and Occidental prepared, alongside other organisations of civil society, an interesting report on the rights of children and youth in the country. This report will be released in the coming months by FMSI and its allies in Geneva, in the context of the Universal Periodic Review.

Mexico is experiencing a structural crisis of violence, insecurity, corruption and impunity that affects an important part of its almost 40 million children and adolescents. The report focuses on issues such as children with disabilities, migrants and indigenous people; the effects of earthquakes, pollution and poverty; the difficulties in implementing the new protection system and violence against women.

Along with providing detailed and solid information, it presents the government with more than 40



recommendations. These will be presented in embassies and permanent missions of several countries, so that their representatives recom-

mend them to Mexico when it corresponds their examination before the Human Rights Council, next November.

ARGENTINA: FMSI PREPARES A DOCUMENT ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

ANNUAL MEETING OF FMSI CONO SUR



During the annual meeting of FMSI Cono Sur, which took place from March 8 – 10 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, its members prepared a document to present provincial superiors with a work proposal on the rights of children in each Marist region.

The objectives of the meeting included presenting the strategic plan of FMSI, reporting on the current status of each country within the framework of the agree-

ments established for 2017-2018 at the last meeting and reflecting on the participation of children and young people.

FMSI Cono Sur's members participated, including Juan Yency Arias Alarcón (Peru), Mauricio Siñaniz (Bolivia), Georg Raczynki (Chile), Mauricio Fuentes (Uruguay), Roció Amarilla (Paraguay) and Analía Ruggeri (Argentina).

Others that attended were Marzia Ventimiglia, director of FMSI, Federica De Benedittis, fundraiser and project coordinator of the FMSI office in Rome, Jimena Djauara Grignani, observer member of the FMSI board in Brazil, Brother Jorge Walder and Romina Díaz, members of the local teams of law and public policies.

Norberto Liwski, president of the Committee for the Defense of Health, Ethics and Human Rights (CO-DESEDH) and member of the BICE board of Argentina, reflected on the spaces for the participation of young people in Marist institutions.

Brother Alberto Aparicio, provincial of Cruz del Sur, presented the process of regionalisation and part of the strategic plan for the commitment to the promotion and defense of children's rights in the América Sur region.

YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH AND THE DISCERNMENT OF VOCATION

300 YOUTH DRAFT ONE OF THE SYNOD'S INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS DOCUMENTS

The director of the Secretariat of Mission, Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, participated in a meeting on behalf of the Institute of the Marist Brothers alongside other religious to help hundreds of youth prepare one of the documents that bishops will use for their synod.

Around 300 youths from different cultural and religious backgrounds gathered at the Vatican for a March 19-24 pre-synod meeting, which is a precursor to the October synod of bishops on "Young people, the faith and the discernment of vocation."

Br Carlos Alberto was asked to supervise one of the 20 different language groups of 15 youths alongside Father Raúl Tinajero, pastoral youth director of the Spanish Episcopal Conference (ORI ESP: director pastoral de juventud de la Conferencia Episcopal Española), in charge of drafting a document that was presented to Pope Francis during his March 24 Palm Sunday Mass.

Between the Rome gathering and social media participation through six different Facebook groups in different languages monitored by other youth, over 15,000 young people took part in the discussion.



They discussed an initial draft on Thursday and, after adjustments were made, a final draft was approved on the morning of March 24.

The three sections of the finalized 16-page document are: the challenges and opportunities of young people; faith, vocation, discernment and accompaniment and the Church's formative and pastoral activities.

The document's introduction affirms it does not aim at being "a theological treatise" nor "to establish new Church teaching," but rather to serve as "a compass" for the bishops gathering in October that helps them understand the reality of youth today. Requests include that the Church

"addresses the widespread crisis of pornography, including online child abuse, and the toll it takes on our humanity" and to specify what the role of women in the Church entails.

Regarding vocation, youth underscored that it is still an "abstract" concept to many and that therefore they do not reflect much on it.

They also affirmed that many feel "excluded for being Christians in a social environment that is adverse to religion," and stressed the need to "encounter ourselves and others" to form deep bonds.

Youth said that what they want is to be "a joyful, enthusiastic and missionary presence within the Church."

BEING A LAY MARIST

FORMATIVE MEETING OF LEADERS OF THE MCHFMM OF THE BRASIL CENTRO-SUR PROVINCE

From March 9 – 11, a formative meeting of leaders of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (MCHFMM) of the Brasil Centro-Sur province took place at the Centro Marista Marcelino Champagnat.

Under the title Being lay Marist and under theme I am light of the world, formators, brothers and advisors of the fraternities immersed themselves in the experience of feeling like walkers in the Marist itinerary.

It was a meeting marked by sharing, openness of hearts, spirituality, coexistence, prayer and fraternity.

The participation of lay people and brothers was evidence of the new relationship and walking as Marists of Champagnat for a new beginning, being a beacon of hope and bridge for the world, connected with Cham-

pagnat's charism.

The Brasil Centro-Sur province has 21 Fraternities of the Champagnat Movement



AFRICA: 'COLOURED' AND MIXED-RACE COMMUNITY

LAVALLA200> ATLANTIS COMMUNITY WILL GET INVOLVED IN YOUTH INITIATIVES

All the members of the Lavalla200> Atlantis Community have reached Cape Town, South Africa, and will be spending the following months looking into various possible initiatives to help youth.

Atlantis is a small location located 70km north of Cape Town.

"We have already been informed about the incidence of various social-economic problems, such as domestic and sexual violence, drug and alcohol abuse, gang violence and high drop-out rates from among school teenagers," wrote Brother Tony Clark, a member of the community, in a press release of the Australia province published March 23.

"Some of my early impressions of Atlantis are the life, energy and large numbers of young people that are present in this predominantly 'coloured' or mixed-race commu-



nity that has a population of some 67,000 people," he added.

Tony underscored that "the impact of poverty and unemployment can be clearly seen in the housing conditions

and public spaces, where numbers of people congregate on street corners or in the local shopping centre."

The community's members are: Maria Bobillo Añel (Spain), Br Tony Clark (Australia), Br Nnodu Onwutalu (Nigeria - not in the photo) and Br Pietro Bettin (Italy).

They were hosted by another community of the Marist Brothers in Rondebosch before moving to their new house on April 2, which they are renting until they can buy one.

"Everyone we have met has been very welcoming, encouraging us to become collaborators in contributing to the positive development of the Atlantis community," concluded Br Tony.

Cape Town was the first Marist mission established outside Europe in 1867.

PROVINCE OF CRUZ DEL SUR

ENCOUNTER OF ANIMATORS OF THE CMMF FRATERNITIES

Animators of fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family of the Cruz del Sur province met on March 17 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to continue structuring its newest ones, such as that of Paraguay.

Twenty-five members, including brothers, animators and advisers, from nine fraternities participated. There are about 17 fraternities in total in Argentina and Uruguay. During the meeting, a fragment of a video of Brother Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, was shared, in which he says that "the laity are the vitality of the Institute" and it was used to help them reflect on what "makes them vibrate" as animators of fraternities.

A text that had been approved as a reference document for the Institute by the 22nd General Chapter entitled "Project of life in fraternity" – and which traces the identity of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family – was later presented.



The participants also reflected on the five calls of the General Chapter– a session animated by the provincial superior, Brother Alberto Aparicio, with two questions: Who does God want Marists to be today? and what does God want Marists to do today?

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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