



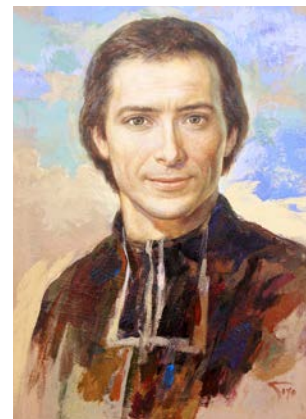
FEAST OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT ARCHBISHOP JORGE C. PATRÓN TO MARISTS: 'BECOME LIKE CHILDREN'

The feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Institute of the Marist Brothers, was celebrated worldwide on June 6 – including at the general house in Rome, Italy. Around 130 brothers, laity, friends, the superiors of the three other Marist branches, and members of other religious congregations took part in a Mass at the main chapel, followed by dinner.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided by former Marist student Archbishop Jorge C. Patrón Wong, currently the Vatican's Secretary for Seminaries of the Congregation for the Clergy, and concelebrated by superior general of

the Marist Fathers, Father John Larsen, and Father Ottavio Laino, of the Order of Minims.

In his homily, Archbishop Patrón stressed that "the most important thing Marcellin taught us is to become like children (...) because a child lets himself be pampered by God, he lets himself be loved by God." "Because when one lets himself be loved by God he can love others, you cannot love if you do not receive, wel-



GENEERAL ADMINISTRATION

- The plenary session of the general council started this week. On Monday and Tuesday, the councillors shared the experiences they had had during several weeks of studying English, Spanish or French as well as their participation in some activities at various levels of the Institute. They also began planning their visit together to the District of Asia, which will take place in the first half of August.
- On June 5, Brothers Chris Wills and Valdicer Fachi, from the secretariat of the Collaboration for Mission, International participated in a meeting of the Fratelli Project Council, held at the General House of the De La Salle Brothers.
- General councillor Brother Ben Consigli welcomed nearly 30 students and a professor of the University of Texas (Austin) to the General House on June 5.
- From June 7 – 9, the meeting of the councils of the four branches of the Marist family is taking place in Nemi, Italy.

come, accept it as a lay person, as a consecrated, as a priest," he added. "We are not here because we are better (than others) but because we are extremely and abundantly loved by God's merciful love."

Archbishop Patrón spoke about the importance of questioning one's self each day on what one has learned and what one has shared or testified during the day.

During the Prayers of the Faithful, laity and brothers put together an image of the face of Saint Marcellin under the altar.

At the closure, Superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez thanked everyone for attending and stressed the importance of "rediscovering the meaning of fraternity."

He also touched on the Bishops' Synod on the Youth, titled 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment', which will be held Oct. 3 – 28 and to which the Institute has been invited to take part in the preparation meeting promoted by the Pope with the young people.

"As we celebrate his life and legacy on June 6, today, let us rediscover his attentive eyes and his compassionate heart (...) and our commitment to those who are in the peripheries," concluded Br Ernesto. "May Our Lady, the Good Mother, accompany us on this mission as she did with Marcellin."



NEWS IN BRIEF

PHILIPPINES

The Marist Brothers held its annual Marist Summer Discernment Workshop in General Santos City. Thirteen young men gathered for discernment workshops in the cities of Marbel, Dadiangas, Cotabato and Lagao. The discernment workshop team was composed of Brothers Albert Muñoz, Larry Sevilla and Jeffrey Guino.

IRELAND

On May 28, three brothers celebrated their anniversaries as Marist Brothers: Brother Wilfrid Harrison (70 years old), Brother Julian Harrison (70 years old) and Brother Bonaventure (60 years old). The sum of their anniversaries adds up to 200 years.

BRAZIL

Over 300 people participated in the celebrations for the 20 years of Marist presence on the Ilha Grande dos Marinheiros, in Porto Alegre. The Marists in this town have a community, a social centre and two schools.

CAMBODIA

The Marists are building a hostel for children and youth from rural communities. The Hostel is situated next to the secondary school in Pailin town and will provide residential accommodation for up to 96 students from poor, rural families who are presently deprived of a secondary education because of the remoteness of their village. Australian Marist Solidarity is working on the fundraising to this project.

YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS OF THE AMERICAS

The provincial administrators of Marists in Europe met in Glasgow, Scotland, to address the Institute's economic and management issues.

DEEPENING THE INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE IN FRATERNITY

FOURTH WEEK OF FORMATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THE LAVALLA200 PROJECT



Living in community was the central theme of the fourth week of formation for the candidates of the Laval-la200> Project, from May 28 – June 3. Sister María Salomé Madariaga (Chile) and Father Tim Norton (Australia) proposed to everyone a formation on living the richness and challenges of an intercultural experience. The objective of working on this topic was given by the importance that the intercultural community dimension has in the programme.

The formation began by presenting the intercultural immersion itinerary, which passes through six stages: denial - defense - minimisation - acceptance - adaptation - integration. They also explored different ways of

dealing with conflicts, depending on the profiles of each person, as well as knowing the skills necessary for an assertive community experience.

According to her theoretical presentation, Sister Salomé conducted diverse dynamics with the participants, sometimes organising them by fraternities and other times by vocations and generations. The participants perceived that the community experience is one of the main pillars of the Lavalla200> Project.

At the end of the week, the members of Asia and Oceania presented everyone a little bit of their own culture and the Marist presence in their continents. As a highlight, there was a great dinner, in which the participants were able to taste Asian dishes using their own hands.



SHARING LIFE DURING THE CURRENT FORMATORS COURSE

CHRONICLE OF THE SECOND AND THIRD WEEK OF THE COURSE IN ROME



We are continuing with the formation course for current formators in Rome. I will share with you the experience of these last two weeks (May 21 – June 2).

Father Felix Mushobozi helped us to become aware of the importance of being responsible for the care of the common home. We inhabit this land and we are responsible for it. It was three days of intense sharing and deepening around the *Laudato Si* document.

Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, was present on May 21. He reflected with us what the XXII General Chapter meant, the path the Institute has walked so far and the method used to reach the five calls. As formators we have a great responsibility to know, deepen, live and invite others to make the five calls of the Chapter a reality. This

should not be something strange in the formative process. The following days Br Graham Neist, of Australia, helped us understand and reflect on the new spirituality. He helped us to think about a new awareness that includes vulnerability, communion, conversion and respect. The presence of the Spirit is permanent. He gave us tools to contemplate reality from different perspectives and to not limit ourselves with our own eyes. We felt challenged to live a new spirituality from our hearts, and to share it with others and with creation. He invited us to regularly contemplate reality to better understand it.

From Thursday, May 31, to June 2, we had two and a half days with Brother Oscar Martín Vicario, general councillor, in which we discussed the first three calls of the Chapter, rereading them with the perspective of our role as current formators. God invites us during this time to be beacon of hope, in a formation community, to be the hands and the face of God's mercy to welcome the young and accompany them during their formation, as well as to be builders of bridges inspired by the icon of the third call of the Chapter. This is, for us, a time of grace and of a lot of community richness due to the sharing of life, spirituality, challenges, and the difficulties with the formators of various parts of the continent. Being a formation community, it is a constant challenge for us to be open and attentive to hearing the God's calls today.

APPOINTMENT OF THE SUPERIOR OF THE WEST AFRICA DISTRICT

BR CYPRIAN BANKAKUU GANDEEBO

Brother Cyprian Bankakuu Gandeebo was appointed as the new superior of the district of West Africa on May 8 for a first three-year period.

Brother Cyprian will begin his term in August, during the district chapter.

The announcement of the new superior for the district, which depends on the province of *Mediterranea*, was made by Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes Mari, the provincial of *Mediterranea*.

In his letter to the brothers of *Mediterranea* and West Africa, he thanked Br Cyprian for "his generosity and availability for having accepted this service as superior of the district." "I also appreciate the brotherhood, the leadership capacity, the determination and the closeness of Brother Francis Lukong, that these years has carried out this task in the district," he added.

The district of West Africa is made up of Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea and Liberia. The district house is in Accra, Ghana.



Brother Cyprian Gandeebo

Brother Cyprian Gandeebo comes from Ghana and is the first of eight children. He joined the postulancy in Orlu, Nigeria and the Novitiate in Kumasi, Ghana. He made his first profession in 1997 and went on to Nairobi for his Scholasticate formation.

In 2000, he returned to Ghana and was appointed as Bursar in Marist Preparatory School. In 2001 he began working at St Marcellin Champagnat School and in the same year he was appointed as promoter of vocations. In 2007, he was a formator at the Marist Brothers International Novitiate in Kumasi.

In 2008, he was appointed to the Marist International Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. He then served as principal of Marist International University College, in Nairobi, until he was elected as superior of the West Africa district.

BRAZIL: STRENGTHENING THE MISSION AND CHARISMA OF CHAMPAGNAT

MEETING OF BURSARS OF THE AMÉRICA SUR REGION

From May 19 – 22, Brothers, advisors and representatives who work in the Marist Union of Brazil (Umbrasil) and in the administrations of the five provinces that make up the América Surregion gathered in Porto Alegre. The event had the objective of providing the distribution of good practices and formation among the participants, in line with the proposal to strengthen the regional identity and the integration of the Marist units in the continent.

The meeting was initiated by the provincial of Brazil Sul-Amazônia, Brother Inácio Etges, who touched on his speech points of the XXII General Chapter and opened a debate on challenges for brothers and laity. During this time, points were addressed such as the evangelical use of goods and the responsibility of the bursars as guardians of the patrimony and of the Marist mission.



In the sequence, the participants presented the status of two of the projects carried out by the network of bursars: the economy of scale and the domus system.

According to the coordinator of the network of bursars of the América Sur region, Brother Renato Augusto da Silva, the event is very important to create indicators and tools that can help in making decisions.

“In each meeting, we create, prepare and resume what has been projected throughout the last two years. The meetings hope to achieve conquests for the entire region, from an economic, financial and mission point of view,” explained the bursar of the Brasil Centro-Norte Province.

About the América Sur region

The initiative has the objective of integrating the region’s administrative units, strengthening the mission and charisma of Champagnat, with a relationship of synergy within its processes, structures and people.

The América Sur region was officially founded in March 2016 and is formed by the provinces of Brasil Centro-Norte, Brasil Centro-Sul, Brasil Sul-Amazônia, Cruz Del Sur (Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) and Santa María De Los Andes (Bolivia, Chile and Peru).

ARGENTINA: THERE IS LIFE... AND IT BRINGS US TOGETHER

ASSEMBLY OF THE CRUZ DEL SUR PROVINCE

Fifty-two brothers met for the assembly of the Cruz del Sur province at the Villa San José in Luján, Argentina, in preparation for the VI Provincial Chapter, that will take place from Sept. 28 – 30 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Before the assembly, held from April 19 – 21, there was a meeting of all the government, animation and management teams of the province in February. In August, the province will continue its journey with a mission assembly. The theme of the assembly was ‘There is life ... and it brings us together’ and it focused on being thankful to God, to the brothers and lay Marists, who generously give their lives. During the Assembly, an activity was carried out in which they selected the most important topics and the most outstanding proposals, according to the brothers’ ages.

For temporary brothers, they underscored the importance of accompaniment and integral formation of (young – adult) brothers as well as the importance of guaranteeing their participation and representation.

For brothers aged 30 – 49, they emphasised the value of new community and leadership styles.

For brothers from 50 – 59 years old, the importance of building vital communities together and guaranteeing the charismatic and the generational change of the laity in the management was highlighted.

For brothers from 60 – 69 years old, they spoke about



the search for simple structures of the provincial government and for discernment when shaping communities, to accompany people in their particular situation.

Regarding brothers aged 70 – 79, the emphasis was placed on the accompaniment of communities and on paying special attention to the care of the brothers and the laity through listening, accompaniment, respect and formation. Finally, for brothers aged over 81, the assembly underscored the importance of having the Provincial Council assure and strengthen the mission of “making Jesus Christ known and loved” and educating with the Marist charism in all Marist works. It also revealed the value of looking after the young and the elderly.

THE LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY OF MOINESTI

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING

The Project Lavalla200> is a proposal of the General Council to offer brothers and lay people an experience of living together in communities of different cultures during a period. One of them is in Romania and it started in October last year.

Four Marists, plus one as a gift: this is the Lavalla200> community of Moinesti. The four are Brother Barsen Garcia from Peru, Spaniard by birth, Brother Mario Meuti from Italy, Francisco Decezar and Nanci Prochnow from Brazil, who have been married for four years. The fifth member is Brother Antolin Santos, who has lived in Romania since 2000 and he has been "handed over" to the Moinesti community for one year, until June. Without him, some practical issues would have been very difficult, establishing connections, communicating... because none of the others knows the Romanian language.

Providence allowed them in early September to find a large house for rent, and the community was established in October 2017, obviously thinking of all of them. On the other hand, the process to obtain a long-term visa was very long for the two Brazilians: each week they asked for a new document, then the Consul was on vacation, the invitation to go to the Romanian embassy in Peru, which after 45 days, got back in touch saying that they could not grant the visa... Almost six months of waiting, but Francisco and Nanci arrived finally on Feb. 24, 2018.

During the first year, the project of this community was very simple: to learn the language and to explore the territory, so that in the second year we could envision the new Marist work. Reality often turns out to be a bit more complex: the idea of learning an "easy" language soon died out after a week. It is true that it is a neo-Latin language and many words are like Italian, French, Spanish, but the strong influences of

Russian (up to 1849 it was written in Cyrillic), Turkish, Hungarian, German, Slavic... have produced a pretty much original and complex mix, especially in the way of organizing the sentence, which certainly does not have the linearity of the other Latin languages. Considering, also, that nobody has more memory than when he was aged 20, after months of lessons (two hours a day in a school in Moinesti) and of daily exercises... they still say that they are "at sea."

Jeff Crowe and Angel Medina realised this during their visit in March and encouraged the community to find ways to practice the language on a daily basis, which is impossible at home.



And then they contacted other religious communities: the Sisters of Maria Bambina, who in Faraoani, near Bacau, have a family home and said they were ready to receive someone, in fact, that they were happy to have a male figure. And then a trip to Iasi (the second most important city in Romania, three hours from Moinesti) with two objectives: to appear before the bishop and to meet the Brothers of the Christian Schools, who had invited them several times.

After this meeting, they reached the following decision: Barsen, Francisco and Nanci were to move to Iasi. There, in addition to the hospitality of the Lasalle brothers, they continue the language school with a new teacher, who has a lot of experience, speaks perfect Spanish and is very helpful in explaining the linguistic dynamics.

In Iasi, in addition to practicing Romanian at home, they are present in two centers where they perform various activities with children during their spare time.

Mario, instead, chose to live in the foster home of the Sisters of Faraoani and every day goes to Bacau for Romanian lessons, but he is realizing that the best teachers are the children themselves, with whom he eats, whom he accompanies to school, whom he helps with their homework ...

This experience of "semi immersion" will continue until the first week of July.

Semi-immersion, because every weekend the community returns home to be together, but they return especially to continue relations with the territory and the authorities of Moinesti. The relationship established with the mayor and with the parish priest of the Catholic Church has been excellent: it was they who welcomed the Brothers during their first visit in March 2017 (Brother Antolin Santos Illana and the provincials of Mediterránea and Ibérica). They came upon the request of the Bishop of Iasi.

During these last few weekends, the community has had several meetings with the people in charge of the municipality's social services and, with their help, they know the reality of Moinesti, beyond what it seems at first sight ... and they are starting to imagine their immediate future.

There are still not enough elements to make decisions and, hopefully, there will be more elements in the coming weeks. However, they agree that it is time to choose a neighborhood, one which they already know of and in which they can envision a possible Marist work. They also plan to establish the community's house there as soon as possible to be a "presence" among the people and not just external visitors.

PHILIPPINES: RENEWED MARIST SERVANT-LEADERS FOR A NEW EVANGELIZATION

12TH MARIST MISSION CONGRESS

The 12th Marist Mission Congress 2018 was held at JC Complex, Kidapawan City (the Philippines) on May 23-25, 2018. The congress theme was "Renewed Marist Servant-Leaders for a New Evangelization."

Father Hipolito P. Paracha, DCK, the Vicar General of Kidapawan Diocese presided the opening liturgy. Brother Manuel de Leon, the school president, welcomed the 135 delegates from Marist Schools and non-school ministries.



The highlights of the opening program were the messages of Brother Robert Teoh, provincial of East Asia and the video message of Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba, superior general. The delegates were challenged to respond to the calls of the 22nd General Chapter.

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GUATEMALA: THE 'VOLCÁN DE FUEGO'

AMÉRICA CENTRAL PROVINCE CONFIRMS THAT MARIST INSTITUTIONS ARE SAFE

After the eruption of the Volcán de Fuego (Volcano of Fire) - about 50 km from the capital of Guatemala - on June 3, the América Central province has confirmed that Marist institutions are out of danger.



Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

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