



A WIDE SPACE TO MAKE 'A NEW BEGINNING' A REALITY

HAITI: THE FEAST OF ST MARCELLIN IN DAME MARIE

Marist Brothers from Canada arrived in Haiti in 1985 to look after a primary and secondary school in the city of Dame Marie. Thirty-three years of collaborating in the formation of citizens in this island of the Antilles have passed. Haiti is known as the Pearl of the Antilles. In fact, the word Ayiti in Arawak, the language of the native inhabitants of the island, means "Land of Mountains". Currently, there is another secondary school in a rural area called Latiboliere. Our three schools have a total of 1,100 students, looked after by four Haitian brothers, six Mexicans and many lay teachers.

In Dame Marie, Saint Marcellin's Day was celebrated with three significant activities, and of those three the most significant was Mass. It was celebrated by Father Dimitri, a former Marist student of Latiboliere. In his homily, he showed great knowledge of Saint Marcellin and the Institute's work. The choir was formed by students from our primary school, Nuestra Señora de Fatima, and our secondary school, Nuestra Señora de la Nativité. Their songs gave the Mass a deeper sense of spirituality. Something very typical of Haiti was a type of dance that the students performed while the choir sang the Magnificat, after the Holy Communion. Apart from our students, there were students representing several of the city's schools in the Mass. Our social insertion in this city is a fact worth mentioning. This was an appropriate day to artistically express the Haitian culture and therefore we did so. In each of our schools, our students demonstrated their talents in singing, dancing and in publicly expressing themselves. The desire to participate was so great, that it was difficult for us to choose among the many who wanted to participate. The



family spirit is characteristic of everything that is genuinely Marist. In Dame Marie, this family spirit was expressed by the students eating together in their respective halls. The young people themselves prepared their food and decorated their halls with Marist themes. We, brothers, also shared our food with all our collaborators. Haiti is a somewhat isolated country. It is isolated not only geographically but culturally, socially, politically, economically and religiously. Despite of the abandonment of the Western Church during several centuries, its population is deeply religious and Catholic. Haiti is a place where much needs to be done to realise Marcellin's dream. If someone does not know where to go to live out the Institute's theme of 'A new beginning', they can come to Haiti. Here they will find they can contribute greatly in order to make it a reality.

Ir. José Contreras Landeros - Provincia México Occidental

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- From June 11 – 15, Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba and his council are holding meetings with the former superior general and general council.
- The annual meeting of the Interna-

tional Commission of Marist Patrimony began on June 11 at the general house. Br Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today secretariat, is accompanying the members of the commission.

- This week, Br Rick Carey of FMSI is participating in a formation meeting in South Africa for project management and fundraising for Southern and East Africa.

BR. ATAIDE JOSÉ DE LIMA

SUPERIOR PROVINCIAL OF BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

The General Council has appointed Brother Ataide José de Lima as provincial superior of Brazil Centro-Norte for a second term (2018-2021). Br Ataide will begin his second term on Dec. 12, during the V Provincial Chapter, which will take place in Mendes.

The announcement of the appointment was made at the end of the Mass for the liturgical feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat on June 6. It was held alongside all the collaborators of the provincial house and other friends, including members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, such as the Boa Mãe Fraternity. Superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez noted it was a great joy to be able to announce it on a very meaningful day for the entire Institute and for those who participate in the Marist mission.



During the celebration, Br Ataide reminded them that "our mission is to give continuity to what Champagnat taught us, to continue the tasks he entrusted to us and to live what God asks of us in our daily lives: to do good, to be an image of God's good-

ness for the children and young people of today." He concluded by giving thanks for the opportunity to continue with his work and invited all brothers and collaborators of the province to continue with theirs.

"Not only the brothers, but all, in one way or another, are invited to participate in this dream and join this mission, being the face and the hands of God's mercy and tenderness," he stated.

In his letter to the province, Br Ernesto thanked Br Ataide "for his openness and availability to serve the Institute as provincial, the team work he accomplished with his Council and with other provincial commissions, favouring the province's life and mission amidst its current challenges."

Br. **Ataide**, a native of Mogi das Cruzes, has a Bachelor's degree in history and a Master's in educational methodology. He is a Marist brother since 1984, and served in the youth ministry and as a director at the Marist School of Goiânia. For many years, he was also a formator in the different stages of the brothers' initial formation. He joined the Provincial Council in 2009, a period in which he also served as secretary of the same. In 2012, he was appointed vice provincial and, on 24 June 2015 he was appointed as provincial superior for a first term of three years.

ALL CO-RESPONSIBLE FOR MARIST LIFE AND MISSION

PHILIPPINES: MEETING ON MARIST LAY VOCATION



Forty-two lay people from the Philippines, East Asia province, responded to the invitation to come together and reflect on the vocation of the Marist laity as God's gift. The convening of the group on May 26 at the East Asia Marist Province Center was meant to be a time for sharing life stories on personal Marist encounters and nurturing the Marist lay vocational path.

Brother Lindley H. Sionosa, vice provincial, welcomed the

group and spoke encouraging words to the participants. The presence of brothers in the gathering communicated an affirming message that resonates well with the Chapter's principle on being Champagnat Marists today: "For a new beginning, we believe that we are all co-responsible for Marist life and mission."

The inclusion of the laity in the General Chapters' documents through the years was presented by Elma Rafil. Following her sharing was the presentation on the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, the process for its revitalisation, and the encouragement to welcome those who wish to join the movement.

It was inspiring to hear participants say that their experience was enriching. Speaking on behalf of the participants from the corporate sector, Danny Sabino, manager of Churner Group of Companies, expressed his hope that the Champagnat Movement will also be organised for those who are not working in Marist schools. It nurtures the gift of Marists wherever lay people are and opens opportunities of sharing with others the values of Saint Marcellin.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BRAZIL: TRAFFIC MINISTRY

The Cajuru Hospital, of the PUC of Curitiba, together with the archdiocese, inaugurated the Traffic Ministry at the end of May, which aims to promote health and education as well as improve urban roads. The Marist Hospital attends about 600 victims of traffic each month.

EL SALVADOR

On June 2, brothers and lay people who are taking part in the Vocational Accompaniment Itinerary, met to reflect on the identification and definition of vocational elements, comparing them with their own lives and situating them within the personal and community process that they live.

EDUCATION IN EUROPE

The continental education commission met on June 7 and 8 in Alcalá de Henares, Spain.

CAMPAIGN OF EDELVIVES

The Edelvives Foundation is promoting, together with the ANAR Foundation, a campaign entitled 'Do not keep quiet, speak up' (Não fique quieto, conta-lo), which seeks to prevent and report cases of sexual abuse against children. The campaign has several supplements that can be downloaded at www.note-callescuentalo.org. Three other provinces with works in Spain are carrying out similar campaigns: 'Contigo' (With you) in Compostela; 'Rompe el silencio' (Break the silence) in L'Hermitage; 'Caminamos a tu lado' (We walk by your side) in Mediterránea.

UNITED STATES

This Saturday, the province will commemorate the jubilees of religious life of several brothers. Six brothers will celebrate 50 years and another six will celebrate 60, 70 or 75 years of religious life.

EVANGELICAL USE OF GOODS

A COURSE WILL ADDRESS MARIST ECONOMIC ISSUES



A formation course for Spanish and Portuguese speaking Marists involved in administration of the Institute's economy will take place from Oct. 1 – 26 at the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná university in Curitiba, Brazil.

A second such course for English speakers will be held in the Notre Dame of Dadiangas University in General Santos City, the Philippines, from May to April 2019. Around 25 participants are expected to attend each course.

The Institute's department of financial services and the International Council of Economic Affairs are carrying out several initiatives, including the formation for people involved in the administration of the Institute's economic affairs.

Brother Libardo Garzón, the Institute's economer general, noted that "the objective is to provide formation for brothers and lay people involved in the management of the Institute's assets that will allow them to properly manage the Institute in line with the Vatican document 'Economy at the service of the charism and mission' and the XXII General Chapter of the Institute, in accordance with the requirements of the current context."

Aside from the workshops given by professionals, one of the methodologies that will be used will be the learning through the sharing of each one of the participants' experiences.

The group will also visit several successful companies that relate to the

topics that they will be covering in the course.

To better live the charism of Saint Marcellin throughout the month, participants will be encouraged to experience community life among themselves, living as true Marists of Champagnat.

Superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez launched a video (<https://bit.ly/2L64fWL>) on May 18 for the participants of this formation course.

"The Chapter was clear that, apart from continuing to grow as a Global Family, there are several areas in which we want to apply it and one of them is 'our management and use of goods,'" he states in the video.

"There are some principles that I believe are very valid, very clear, in line with – for example – resources at the service of life and mission; ensuring sustainability; all principles that are in line with the discernment of the evangelical use of goods; the idea of communion and solidarity," he continues.

He stressed that "it is interesting that (the Chapter stated that) people are our most important resource" and "it seems to us that this time of formation in Curitiba is a good occasion also to take care of you."

The course for Portuguese and Spanish is currently in the process of registration. For the English language, a survey is currently being conducted to collect the needs of the provinces and districts to design a programme that best meets their needs.

MARIST WORLD



General House: Meeting of actual and previous General Council



India: Saint Marcellin Higher Secondary School - Mangamanuthu



Italy: Meeting of the general councils of the four Marist branches, in Nemi



Ireland: Jubilees of religious life in the Marian College



Argentina: Escuela Marcelino Champagnat, Rosario - 25 years



Fiji
Marist Brothers Primary School Mulivai

UNITED STATES: SHARING LIFE ACROSS BORDERS

YOUTH GATHER FROM MEXICO, USA AND CANADA

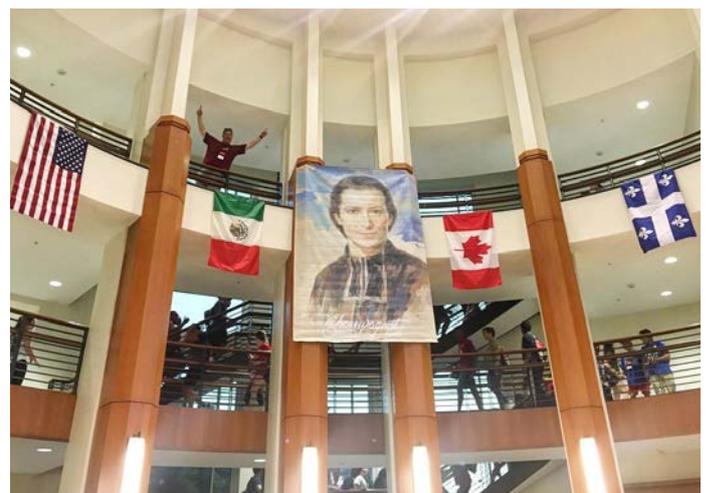
Over 200 students from Marist schools of Mexico, the United States and Canada participated in a weekend gathering at the Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

The theme of the gathering, held from May 25 – 28, was 'The time has come,' taken from a song of Pentecostal music band 'Hillsong United'.

During the morning prayer on May 26, youths dressed up as different people present in Saint Marcellin Champagnat's life and gave a brief history of his upbringing and life.

Keynote speakers included the vice provincial of the United States, Brother Dan O'Riordan, whose talk was titled 'How Marists have answered the call when their time came.'

During the weekend, the participants gathered in small groups to discuss the role of Marists in their lives and the people that have inspired them to become better Marists. The students were also able to choose three of the following workshops: Art prayer, Be here now, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Live on purpose: Find your power to change the world; Goaldiggers; Making ideas happen, Improvisation: the language of God; Leadership through listening, Our Marist life, Creating the divine get-away, The time has come - avengers, assemble!; The time



has come, are you ready?; Voices that challenge: Marist youth as agents of justice and peace; When is a group a community?; Human rights defenders.

They gathered in the College's auditorium for the annual music ministry concert and held a night prayer under the title 'All that we share.'

One of the purposes of the meeting was for students to realise that other people from within their own country or from abroad often experience similar life situations.

SPIRITUALITY AND THE NEW RELATIONSHIP OF BROTHERS AND LAITY PEOPLE

FIFTH WEEK OF THE LAVALLA200> PROJECT'S FORMATION PROGRAMME

The fifth week of formation, which took place from June 4 – 9 for the candidates of the Lavalla200> programme in San Martín a Monte, Italy, had two modules, one on faith and culture and one on the new relationship between brothers and laity.

The first module, 'Faith and Spirituality', was led by María Pilar Benavente Serrano (Piluca), of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa.

The module addressed the harmonious relationship between faith, life, spirituality and interiority. During one of the dynamics, Piluca gathered the participants in groups and encouraged them to identify, throughout the history of Champagnat, what had been the decisive moments that had made him perceive the God's presence and had enabled him to move forward in his work. She then asked the participants to reflect on which moments during their lives they had felt the God's presence of God (faith itinerary).

Mid-week, the Lavalla200> community held a multicultural celebration for the feast of Saint Marcellin with the celebration of the Word in different languages, sharing life and the Eucharist. At the end of the day, there was a festive dinner in homage to the founder of the Marist Institute.

The second module was led by José María Pérez Soba (Chema) and Ana Sarrate, two Marist lay people from the Ibérica province. The theme 'Marists in communion' aimed



to help them reflect on the different vocations of brothers and laity and the new relationship that is being established between them, especially in an intercultural experience such as Lavalla200>.

The week ended with a presentation on Marist expressions in America. There were presentations on Marists in Brazil, Bolivia and Colombia, followed by a fraternization with drinks and typical foods of the regions.

MARISTS AND LASALLIANS AIM TO STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP

Members of the general council met with directors of a university belonging to the De La Salle Brothers in Andorra on May 30 at the General House of the Marist Brothers in Rome.

The gathering, organised by the Secretariat of Mission, included Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (vicar general); Br Ben Consigli and Br João Carlos do Prado (general councillors); Br Libardo Garzón (economy general); Br Carlos Alberto Rojas and Br Mark Omede (Secretariat of Mission directors).

The directors of the Universitat Oberla Salle, located in La Massana, that took part were August Climent, the university's chancellor; Br Josep Guiteras fsc, president of the university's promoting society; and Br Joan Carles Vazquez fsc, the university's manager.



"This meeting was born with the purpose of knowing different possibilities for the training qualifications and the management of the formation that

the Institute offers to brothers and lay people at the provincial, regional and global levels," Brother Carlos Alberto stated on May 31.

'I HAVE TO DO MY PART TO MAKE THIS A BETTER WORLD'

LEBANON: TESTIMONY OF A VOLUNTEER OF THE FRATELLI PROJECT

Through the secretariat of the Collaboration for mission, international (Cmi), the Fratelli Project receives volunteers for short periods or a year in Rmeileh, Lebanon.

The project – which educates over 600 Syrian refugee children – will receive 14 volunteers from Spain, the Philippines, Ireland, Brazil and Italy during the summer.

In addition, it currently has three one-year volunteers: Bruno Socher, from Brazil, who started in January, Sara Amarillas, a lay Lasallian from Mexico, who started on July 1, and Laura Gonzalvo Calle, from Spain, who arrived in October. Below is the testimony of what Laura has experienced in the last seven months.

I have been living in Rmeileh since October, in a community with two Marist brothers, two de La Salle brothers, and two other volunteers. Together with a staff of 20 educators, we carry out the Fratelli Project. A project by and for the most vulnerable children living in Lebanon. Most of them are Syrian refugees. The project looks after around 600 children and young people each week.

The activity starts at 8:30 in the morning, when classes begin and run through until 5:30 pm – which is when the last group that comes for academic support leaves. I am in the mornings with Preschool giving support to educators. In addition, on Tuesdays and Thursdays I coordinate the sewing workshop that is offered to families.

On Saturday mornings we work with the children of the so-called shelters, or refugee camps. (Since Lebanon does not have a large territory, many refugees have settled in old, abandoned or half-built buildings). We do leisure activities with them, which include dynamics based on values, and we encourage spaces for them to talk and learn to relate to each other in a positive way since all children who come to the Fratelli Project live in a very vulnerable situation and have experienced very difficult situations because of the war.

This experience cannot be more positive. Every day is a new challenge and a new opportunity to give the best of myself. I am growing both personally and professionally. I study law and, without a doubt, this experience will help me professionally.



I think it is necessary that everyone, to the best of our ability, act and do everything possible to change that which we do not agree with. Personally, I think it is necessary and just to taking into consideration those people who simply seek a better life and to give their children a better future. As Pope Francis said in his letter for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we must welcome, protect, promote and integrate, and that is what the Fratelli Project does here in Lebanon.

When I came across this project, nearly three years ago, it did not leave me indifferent and as time passed by it was clearer to me that I could not remain indifferent to this injustice that I saw every day from home. I must act in some way, I have to contribute with my share to make this a better world, so I decided to come for a year here and live every day with people who are trying to find a decent life. There are people who come to Lebanon, others who travel to Greece, others who publicise various initiatives, others who help economically... there are thousands of ways, perhaps as many as there are people, and none is better than another since all are necessary. I think the important thing is to do something, however small, to improve and leave the world and society better than what it is like now.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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

Our website: <http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Follow us:

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat