



PROVINCE OF CANADA

PILGRIMAGE AND FORMATION OF MARIST LEADERS IN HERMITAGE

The team of Marist leaders from the Canada province offered a pilgrimage for the formation of leaders in Hermitage, France, from July 20 – 29.

The group was formed by the provincial council, lay leaders of the different Marist works, members of the team responsible for the Association of Lay Marists (AMDLM), members of the Provincial Animation Commission (CAP), animators of Marist fraternities and lay people who in one way or another have a leadership or responsibility role in the province of Canada.

During the experience, the participation of the CAP youth in the organisation and the way in which the young people integrated themselves into the adult team was remarkable.

In addition to their involvement in the pilgrimage, the young people gave a workshop where they questioned their role in the province and the place that they should have in making decisions, as well as the need to work in the different works in the peripheries.

Therefore, the main objective was to nourish and reflect in depth on the Marist identity of the leaders and help them to make sense of their specific mission within the Marist community, knowing that they have received a call and a Marist vocation in a secular world.

Another objective was to allow leaders to contribute to updating



the elements of the Marist charism for the province of Canada and to prepare together an environment conducive to the continuation and perennality of the Marist Mission in the province.

The workshops covered the calls of the XXII General Chapter and invited participants – through different activities in small groups – to discuss and share their different points of view on the topics of the workshops.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez participated on Aug. 20 and 21 at a meeting in Barcelona with the “links” that are responsible for the management of the “Marist places”.

Raúl Amaya, director of the Secretariat of the Laity, is participating in the meeting of the

MChFM leaders from the Arco Norte region, in Guatemala City, from Aug. 19 – 24.

A meeting in Ghana on the sustainability project of the Marist mission in Africa is taking place until Aug. 24. Brother Ken McDonald, general councillor, is participating.

COLOMBIA: A HEART WITHOUT BORDERS

SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHILDREN OF VENEZUELA

Brothers and lay Marists from Bogota, Colombia, launched a shelter to help Venezuelan immigrant families with children aged between five and 14.

“Understanding the difficulty children have in changing their reality and context, the project aims to give a warm welcome to these children and that, in the most harmonious way possible, they can understand and start the process of adapting to their new reality,” Claudia A. Rojas Carvajal, one of the organisers of the project, stated in a press release.

Under the name ‘*Corazón sin fronteras*’ (A heart without borders), the centre served 25 Venezuelan children from Monday to Friday, from 7.30 am to 4.00 pm for four weeks, starting on June 5.

During those days, the children received a breakfast, a lunch and two snacks each day.

They were also given assistance to improve their self-esteem and personal security, resilience, recreational and educational reinforcement, and height and weight control.

The organising team was formed by Brothers Laurentino Albalá and Alexnys Flores, Claudia Rojas Carvajal (lay Marist), Leonel Ramírez (youth ministry), Dioneira Abril (administration of the Colombia sector), and Francisco Murillo and Maryury Morales (solidarity). The centre was coordinated by Sandra



Patricia Rodríguez, who had the help of several volunteers from mainly fraternities and lay Marist groups, youth ministry, university, as well as some teachers and students of Bogota’s Champagnat school.

Venezuelan crisis

Venezuela has been hit hard by an economic crisis and shortages of food and medicine have become common. Norandina province – composed of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela – has

launched an appeal with three initiatives to help fundraise money for Marist educational works in Venezuela, which is experiencing its worst socioeconomic and political crisis in history.

You can contribute through the Marists of [Norandina](#) or [FMSI](#).

Province Norandina:

Bank: Banco del Pichincha C.A
Quito, Ecuador
Swift code: PICHECEQ
Beneficiary’s name: Agrupación Marista Ecuatoriana
Current account number: 2100145328
Beneficiary’s address: 9 de octubre No 23-70 y Veintimilla

FMSI:

Bank: Banca Prossima
BIC code: BCITITMM
Beneficiary’s name: Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale Onlus
Current account number: 100000125288
IBAN: IT70M0335901600100000125288

...the project aims to give a **warm welcome** to these children and that, in the most harmonious way possible, they can understand and start the process of **adapting** to their new reality.

Claudia A. Rojas Carvajal

NEWS IN BRIEF

NOVIATE IN FIJI

The Marist communities from Suva and Lomeri gathered at the Marist Brothers Pacific Novitiate in Lomeri on Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady to participate in the welcoming of two new novices into the Novitiate. They are Ieremia Karekennatu and Ienraku Temoai, both from Kiribati.

POSTULATE PHILIPPINES

Davao's postulate has 22 candidates for religious life. In recent days, 13 new candidates have arrived, adding to the nine candidates for the consecrated Marist life of the second year. The new postulants come from 4 countries: Cambodia (1), Vietnam (1), Bangladesh (2) and East Timor (9).

BICENTENARY MEMORIES

UMBRASIL launched on Aug. 15 a book portraying the most important initiatives that were developed in Brazil from 2014 – 2017 to celebrate the bicentenary of the Marist Institute. The publication is available in digital format at <https://goo.gl/ru9QP2>.

ANNIVERSARY IN CANADA

Brothers Jacques Bélisle and Yvon Deschamps recently celebrated 50 years of religious life in a celebration presided over by Bishop Alain Faubert, auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Montreal. Also, Brother Réal Sauvageau, currently a formator in the novitiate of Sri Lanka, is celebrating this year his fiftieth anniversary since becoming a Marist brother.

EL SALVADOR

The Intercommunity Meeting of Marist Brothers and Sisters of El Salvador was held on Aug. 11. Just over 20 brothers as well as the two Marist sisters of Champagnat participated. The atmosphere of the meeting was familiar and reflective.

RESILIENCE FORMATION IN HAITI

OVERCOMING TRAUMA, SICKNESS AND OTHER ISSUES



A special training to help overcome trauma among other mishaps took place in Dame Marie, Haiti, from July 30 – Aug. 3 as part of an agreement between the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI) and the International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE), who are funding the programme.

These workshops, titled Resilience for Marist educators, have already begun taking place in Granada, Spain, and in Rmeileh, Lebanon, where the Fratelli Project is located.

The 'Blue Marists' will receive their formation in Aleppo, Syria, in the last week of September and members of the Fratelli Project will receive the second part of the workshop during the first week of October.

Veronica Hurtubia, an expert in resilience from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, Italy, is in charge of the Resilience for Marist educators. Her workshop in Dame Marie – and in coming days in Port-de-Paix – aims to train Marist and Lasallian brothers as well as lay people that serve in Dame Marie, Port au Prince and in other areas.

Resilience helps children overcome

the trauma of their past, build solid lives and move forward knowing how to protect themselves. It is the ability of an individual or group to overcome great difficulties and grow in life. It may concern trauma, severe poverty, serious illness, heavy mourning, or other problems.

Resilience is not simply enduring, but rather the ability to rebuild one's life and even transform misfortunes into something positive.

This is yet another good opportunity for FMSI to help "empower those who have no voice".

Resilience helps children overcome the trauma of their past, build solid lives and move forward knowing how to protect themselves

MARIST WORLD



East Timor: Aspirants with Brothers Ben Consigli & Oscar Martín Vicario - Baucau



Cuba: School of leaders - Cienfuegos



India: Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez & Br João Carlos do Prado (gen. councillors) visit Talit



Kenya: Br Francis becomes new principal of International University College - Nairobi



Australia: The Marist Educational Leadership Programme - Canberra



Sri Lanka: South Asia province retreat - Negombo

NEW PRESIDENT OF FMSI BROTHER KEN McDONALD

General councillor Brother Ken McDonald began his role as president of Marist International Solidarity Foundation ([FMSI](#)) on Aug. 1, substituting Brother Libardo Garzón.

"I expect an effective collaboration and an increasing support and synergy with the new general council," affirmed Marzia Ventimiglia, FMSI director, on Aug. 9 regarding the nomination of Br Ken.

FMSI is the foundation created by the Institute to promote and protect the rights of children.

FMSI carries on its mission through the activity of advocacy and lobbying and with projects in the countries in which the Marists are present.

FMSI was constituted in 2007 in Italy as a non-profit organization of social usefulness (ONLUS).

Since 2011, it has the special consultative status before the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.



“WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE, BUT THIS IS THE WAY!”

SPAIN: RETREAT OF BROTHERS AND LAITY IN COMPOSTELA

From Aug. 2 - 8, the Province of Compostela organized its second retreat for Brothers and Laity in Tui. Forty-nine people came together, 33 brothers and 16 laity, ready to reflect on the calls of the Chapter and see which implications these had on the lives of the Marists of Champagnat.

These were days of silence and prayer, also of sharing and of seeking paths to make these calls a reality in our lives, that with different rhythms and intensity I felt them resound in the heart of all the participants.

Elderly Brothers, the younger ones and the Laity of different ages, shared illusions, hopes and felt that this path of communion is something, which is becoming a reality in Compostela.

I felt the encouragement of some elderly Brothers who told me:

“Courage, we are with you. We do not know what we can contribute, but this is the way!”

Therefore, with this certainty we advanced during these days assured that we are travelling through a path

that fills all of us with hope and reaffirms that the Marist Charism is a shared gift, which is worthwhile to give to the world in which we are living.

The Team of Communion of Brothers and Laity of Compostela, organized this event, and we thank everyone for

this gift of the Spirit. We also thank wholeheartedly the presence of Raúl Amaya, Director of the Secretariat of the Laity of the Institute, who kindly accepted to animate this retreat and brought us the fresh air of what the main lines of the Institute are for the next years.

Felicísimo Pérez Fernández



PHILIPPINES: PROVINCE OF EAST ASIA

GATHERING OF MARIST BROTHERS, PARENTS AND AFFILIATES



On July 28, the first ever gathering of the Marist Parents and Affiliates of the Philippines, East Asia province, was held at the Marist Province Center, in General Santos City, Philippines.

Forty-five brothers and three aspirants from several communities in the country took part in the Marist Parents, as well as 52 parents, relatives, friends, and four Marist affiliate members.

Vice provincial Brother Lindley Sionosa spoke to them of the calls of the XXII General Chapter, as well as the current state of the East Asia province.

He mentioned the various endeavours and projects of the province and discussed the structure and functions

of the Marist governance, focusing specifically on the general government until it finishes its term in office in 2025.

Br Lindley also recounted some information about the current 117 brothers of the province, spread across

their areas, including those that were assigned to other areas.

It is hoped that, by God's grace, this first gathering will continue to become an annual event in the lives of the Marist family in the Philippines.

SECRETARIAT OF THE LAITY: GATHERING IN TUI, SPAIN

The director of the Secretariat of the Laity, Raúl Amaya, met on Aug. 1 and 2 with the Team of Communion between Brothers and Laity of the Compostela province in the Casa Marista of Tui, Spain, prior to the animation of the retreat of brothers and laity.

The participants were Brother Tomás Briongos Rica, provincial of Compostela, and the team members: Carmo Maciel, Emma Manzano, Francisco Guisasola, Br Teodorino Aller, Br Andrés Carpintero, and the two coordinators, Felicísimo Pérez and Br Javier Barreales.

The topic of the meeting was to share the various charismatic accompaniment experiences that the province is offering to laity and brothers, organised in the Itinerary document 'Bonnaire' of Marist Identity.

Another topic was to share the emphasis that the Secretariat of the Laity is promoting, which is why participants discussed the path that has been taken in recent years and the future's challenges, including what it will mean to put into practice what is proposed in the document [Being a Lay Marist](#).



The dialogue generated some ideas for the preparation of a future Itinerary of Accompaniment of the Marist Lay Vocation for the Compostela province and to continue strengthening the communion between brothers and laity.

FORM ME: JOINT FORMATION WITH AN INTERPROVINCIAL CHARACTER



FORMARME 10 (FORM ME 10), the tenth generation of a Marist formation process that has been around for 16 years in the provinces of México Central and Mexico Occidental, concluded in July in Mexico City.

Its objective is for participants to drink from the sources that gave rise to the Marist Institute, such as the Biography and Letters of Father Champagnat, the lives of the First Brothers, their Charism, Spirituality, Mission and Community Life, as well as the documents of life e mission of the Marists of Champagnat.

The course, which was launched in 2002, began taking place with just one meeting.

It is currently done in two consecutive summers. The experience is planned and executed with the participation of a reference community formed by brothers and lay people who share their feelings of enthusiasm about being Marists of Champagnat who participate in

a project of joint formation with an interprovincial character.

Here are some testimonies, in Spanish, of FORMARME 10: <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=4848> .

MARIST LEARNING ZONE CENTRE IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

WORKING WITH DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

A Marist centre that works with disadvantaged young people in the outskirts of Sydney, Australia, was launched officially on July 27 in a ceremony with the participation of 60 locals.

The Marist Learning Zone, a joint project between the Catholic Education in the Diocese of Parramatta and the Marists, also received the blessing of Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen.

The MLZ is run by the Lavalla200> community of the Oceania region situated in Mount Druitt, a suburb of Sydney, and whose members are Argelia Hernández Mendoza, Rodrigo Gris Castro, Br Jonnel Sisneros and Br Lawrie McCane.

The centre, which also has employed staff, began in 2015 when the Mount Druitt Lavalla200> community was first formed and was exploring the needs of young people in the area.

Superior provincial Brother Peter Carroll and the Execu-



tive Director of Catholic Education Catholic Diocese of Parramatta, Greg Whitby, unveiled the plaque. Greg spoke about the important role that the MLZ plays in re-connecting disengaged students and Br Peter emphasised the special Marist character of the MLZ.

"THERE IS LIFE... AND IT CONVOKES US!"

MISSION ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE CRUZ DEL SUR

Under the motto "there is life... and it convokes us!" the Mission Assem-

bly of the Province Cruz del Sur, was carried out in Lujan, on the 1, 2 and

3 of August. The participants in this Encounter were Brothers, Laity and teachers from Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.



On this occasion, we worked on the lineament of the Province Cruz del Sur in view of the next three years. The intense activity allowed us to recognize the concerns of the teachers and of the animators in tune with the changes, which education and society in general, are going through.

Among several themes, was stressed the need to deepen on the work of inclusion in the works as well as the importance of the link or bond between these and the Province.

Having as objective to celebrate the life of the Province and to remember what has been cultivated, the days were full with many activities that deepened the growth as a body and the sense of belonging, with the center placed on the calls of the XXII General Chapter and the journey toward the New La Valla.

In order to motivate the reflection, there was the presentation of the co-participation of the Province Cruz del Sur in two important projects at international level: Program SYRIA and the Board BICE Argentina.

There was also time for the presentation of the community Lavalla200 of the Region South America, in Tabatinga, Brazil.

The activity gave special attention to generate new dynamics of integration, to revise our lived experience of "Being a Marist Today", and to observe and read the context in which we find ourselves immersed at present and analyze which are the "consequences" of being a Marist at the present time.

The work carried out culminated with an integral analysis and conclusion on which should be the direction of the Mission in the next years.

In this way, it was possible to attain the representation of the three countries, which form the Marist Province Cruz del Sur, in the objectives proposed for the next three years.

PROVINCE OF MEXICO OCCIDENTAL

LOMA BONITA: 8 BROTHERS AT THE SERVICE OF THE MARIST MISSION

The Marist community of Loma Bonita in the city of Guadalajara is the second largest community in the Marist province of Mexico Occidental.

It is a community that has a very rich experience, spirituality and wisdom.

There are eight brothers who carry out pastoral tasks in different areas: **Brother Aureliano Brambila** dedicates himself to researching our founder and his charism; **Brother Jorge Flores** is making a commitment to follow the canonization process of the Servant of God, Brother Basilio Rueda; **Brothers Cecilio Herrera and Mario Eduardo González** animate the ministry work at the Marist primary school in the city of Guadalajara; **Brother Hugo Pablo Vázquez** is the director of the high school with more than 500 students; **Brothers Oscar Sánchez, J. Guadalupe Salcido and Héctor Dessavre** (community animator) accompany the formation and ministry work of the Marist University.

It is a different and passionate community; a community that wants to have a new and renewed presence, with its own reality; with the young people that surrounds it, since the house is inside the university and the high school facilities.

They strengthen their life every day by praying and

sharing their lives with Jesus, Saint Marcellin Champagnat and Mary.

In the photo, the community on pilgrimage to the famous shrine of Our Lady of Zapopan, to place the course that begins in the hands of God, through Mary.



Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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

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