



MEETING OF THE AFRICAN MISSION COMMISSION

INCREASING THE MARIST VOCATION AND MISSION IN AFRICA

The African Mission Commission (AMC) held its second annual meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, from Aug. 16 – 21 with the presence of all its members. Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal and Mark Omede, directors of the Secretariat of Mission, Brother Valdicer Fachi, director of Collaboration for Mission, International (Cmi) also attended.

The members of the AMC are Brothers John Yaw Kusi-Mensah from Ghana, Francis Jumbe from Malawi, Michel Longena Bokolu from Congo, Michel Maminiaina Razafimandimby from Madagascar and Ifeanyi Stephen Mbaegbu from Nigeria.

The agenda for the meeting included reports on the current situation of each of the five administrative units in Africa by its representative, a review of the initiatives of the New Models strategic plan for Africa, the New Horizons II formation programme, an evaluation of the Commission and an input of Cmi on its work and its role.

The initiatives of the New Models Project approved by the provincials are in the fields of communication, youth min-



istry, formation of leaders, child rights, vocation ministry and initial formation.

The goal of the initiative on communication is to create awareness and facilitate the flow of information and understanding for effective management of the life, mission and sharing of best practices at a Marist regional level. To achieve these, the Commission has assigned two of its members to update the brothers on events happening in the region through newsletters, which will be published biannually.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

• The General Council is meeting for its plenary sessions from Sept. 3 – 20. In this first week, they are reflecting on various topics such as: the recent visit to the district of Asia and East Timor, the programmes of ongoing formation, the Lavalla200 communities, child protection and other organisational issues. They are also studying the suggestions received

from the Administrative units in relation to Strategic Planning, on which they will work next week, together with the Secretariats.

• On Sept. 7, Brother Mark Omede, of the Secretariat of Mission, participated in the meeting of the Education Commission of the UISG and of the Union of Superiors General (men), in Rome.

• Thanks to Cmi's mediation, Cassandra Schumacher, from Australia, is volunteering with FMSI at the general house from Sept. 3 until the end of November.

• Marta Graupera Canal started working this week as the new coordinator of translations in the General House, replacing Brother Teófilo Minga.

The initiative on youth ministry aims at making it a top priority, creating an African proposal for its development and reaching out especially to the youths on the margins of our society. The commission is still looking for the possibility of organising a workshop for leaders and coordinators of youth ministry in Africa.

The initiative on the formation of leaders, which started in the New Horizons Programme Phase I, aims at developing Marist leaders who will contribute to the realization of an authentic transformative leadership in a new Africa. There is an approved budget to pilot a project in Malawi as phase II and that will be extended to a wider area in Southern Africa in the future, if the pilot phase is successful. On the other hand, a concept has been presented to have another donor agency run another pilot project in 12 schools in five African countries. The pilot project encompasses lead-

ership formation, child rights and sustainability.

Finally, the initiative on child rights seeks to raise awareness and implement concrete proposals on children's rights and protection in all Marist works in Africa. This initiative is part of the New Horizons II project and collaborates with FMSI.

Regarding the vocation ministry and initial formation initiative, the Commission will present to the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC) a proposal for a specialised team to lead this initiative with the participation of the Brothers Today Secretariat.

The meeting ended with a general comment on the International Gathering of Marist Youth scheduled to take place in Guatemala from Jan. 15 – 20, 2019.

PROGRAMME 'AMANECER' AIMING TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS

The sun has already risen for the 23 participants of the 'Amanecer' (dawn) programme of 2018 at the general house in Rome, Italy. And everything indicates that, during the two months, from Sept. 1 – Oct. 31, we will have a pleasant atmosphere of fraternity, a temperate climate of spirituality, and a human warmth fueled by the burning fire in the heart of each participant, maintained throughout the generous giving of life through the breath of the Holy Spirit.

Around 12 brothers, sisters, priests and lay Marists will help the group take new steps, encourage them and help them increase their trust in the future, aiming towards horizons of a new meaning in their lives and of a new understanding of global charismatic families. It is expected that the dynamics, the experiences, the shared moments, the cultural visits, the Marist places, the moments of further reflecting on the personal mystery will contribute to the growth of each one and of all, as a community.



Belonging to two congregations, 19 Marists and four Marianists, they come from the 10 Spanish and Portuguese speaking provinces (Southern Africa, Central America, Brazil Centro-Sul, Brazil Sul-Amazonia, Compostela, Iberian, Mediterranean, Western Mexico, Norandina, Santa María de los Andes) we began the process of permanent forma-

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Although one's hopes are relativized as the years go by, one's experience and wisdom of life help one in discerning and in choosing "the best part".

It is with this disposition that the rising sun of this programme Amanecer is being welcomed and accompanied.

The programme's coordinators are Brothers Afonso Levis, of the Brasil Centro-Sul province, and Landelino Ortego, of the Norandina province.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A MARIST IN THE CLAR

During its XX General Assembly, the Confederation of Religious in Latin America and the Caribbean elected Brother José Sánchez Bravo (Provincial of México Central) as its second president for the period 2018 – 2021. The president is Sister Gloria Liliana Franco Echeverri, of the Company of Mary, of Colombia.



CHILE

Educators and students from the Chilean Marist schools of San Fernando, Rancagua and La Serena met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Aug. 23 and 24 for the 21st Seminario Internacional de Aprendizaje Servicio (International Service Learning Seminar) - one of the challenges of implementing the last strategic planning 2011-2017 (18) of the Marist sector Chile. They reflected on the educational needs of the 21st century, further reflecting on the importance of the formation in solidarity of the communities and territories.

WEST CENTRAL-EUROPE

Three brothers from the province, Brothers Michael Schmalzl, Augustin Hendlmeier and Alois Engel, have found the graves of 18 of the 43 German Marist Brothers killed in the First World War, mainly in Belgium and France. The three also believe that they were the first brothers to visit the tombs and pray for them, entrusting them to the Good Mother. This year marks the 100th anniversary since the end of the First World War.

**REGION OF ARCO NORTE
REGIONAL MEETING OF ANIMATORS OF THE CMMF**



The Secretariat of the Laity, with the support of the Provincials of the Arco Norte Region, organised and animated the Regional Meeting of the Animators of the CMMF, that had as headquarters the Marist Centre in the City of Guatemala in the Province of América Central, from Aug. 20 – 23.

We had the participation of the leading animators of the CMMF from the six provinces of the region, with 31 participants, representing each province in which there is a Marist presence. We were also joined by the Provincials of Mexico Occidental and Canada and the vice provincial of America Central, which created a wonderful experience of dialogue, communion and fraternity.

The objectives for the work and reflection were:

1. to explore in depth the knowledge of the CMMF and the new Project of Life in fraternity.
2. to prepare the provincial animators of the fraternities as directed by the new document.
3. to be familiar with and to welcome the conclusions of the XXII General Chapter.
4. to reflect and to reach agreement for a greater vitality of the CMMF in each one of our situations.

The CMMF is one of the most solid realities at laity level in the Marist world. The process of revitalization that the movement has experienced in the past years can be key to the answers to the call to be a Global Charismatic Family asked of us by the XXII General Chapter.

The current challenge for the CMMF is to enliven the new positions of the Project of Life in fraternity, and this necessarily goes by the provincial formation of the animators and the creation of a communication network and of regional support for the Movement. This meeting has sought to achieve this, and we are convinced that with the help of the Holy Spirit the agreements achieved will be a contribution to a greater vitality for the charism and a future of more communion in the region.

Finally, we thank those who contributed this experience, sharing their love, happiness and conviction on this Marist road: to Ana Sarrate (Iberica Province) who coordinated the process of upgrading the CMMF and the writing of the new document, to Ana Saborío (Province of America Central) and João Luis Fedel (Province Brazil Centro-Sul), and members of the Secretariat of the Laity. We also thank those who supported us and who made sure that everything was so well prepared that this meeting was carried out in such an excellent way.

MEETINGS OF MARIST YOUTH IN BRASIL

Superior General Brother Ernesto Sánchez sent a message to the meetings in which he told the young people that they are “an important part in the dream of Champagnat.” “A dream that today could translate as being a beacon of hope in a needy, turbulent world,” Brother Ernesto pointed out. “We could imagine the difference we can make in the world if each one of us becomes a living beacon of hope amongst friends, family and amongst the poor.”

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL - FOURTH MARIST PROVINCIAL YOUTH DAY

Around 900 young people, collaborators and brothers participated in the Fourth Marist Provincial Youth Day in the province of Brasil Centro-Sul on Aug. 25 and 26 in Curitiba.

Under the slogan ‘Inspired by Mary: called to be a house of light and a beacon of hope for the world’, the goal was to gather young Marists to reflect, discuss and pray about sociopolitical and ecclesial issues.

Some issues addressed in the meeting were the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, sacred femininity, the Social Doctrine of the Church, youth empowerment and inclusion.

The workshops were also related to the XXII General Chap-

ter, the 2018 – 2019 Fraternity Campaign and the 2019 World Youth Day.

During the event, a celebration took place for the thirteenth anniversary of the creation of the Marist Youth Ministry with the animation of a musical group of the Santa María School.

On Sunday, they participated in Mass celebrated by Father Vilson Groh, which was followed by an interview programme with Sister Valéria Leal, who presented the image of Christ as a young person and as a friend as well as the different possibilities of God’s call.

The weekend concluded with a few words from Brother Tiago Reus Barbosa Fedel to motivate the youth.



BRAZIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA - NEARLY 2,000 STUDENTS DISCUSS HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Over 1,600 students gathered in the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS) for the Meeting of Young Marists from the Province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia, on Aug. 25 in Porto Alegre.

The presentations dealt with topics such as racism, sexism and homophobia.

"It is very important to approach these matters because the PJM is a space for the acceptance of diversity", affirmed Carolina Oliveira, a student of the Marist School Champagnat.

Using the slogan 'Attitude', the objective of EJM is to help the young people to reflect on the current situation of the country and to motivate them to make a difference.

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the world if each one of us becomes a living beacon of hope amongst friends, family and amongst the poor."

The meeting, organised by the Marist Youth Ministry of the University, had the support of about 70 collaborators able to offer the young people workshops, moments of celebration and of sharing.



The province's ministry coordinator, José Jair Ribeiro, indicated that the great participation of the young people is one of the most important characteristics of the EJM.

"One can see the commitment of the young people during the meeting," he pointed out. "Not only do they take part in the organisation, they have a place to speak, and can debate on causes that are very important to them."

Care for the environment was taken very seriously as demonstrated by the event where recyclable materials made by the members of the MYM were used, there were no canvases or placards, the use of plastic was restricted and at meals, foods which had little impact on nature were prioritised.



FROM THE PERIPHERIES TO THE CENTRE

CONTACT VISIT TO THE MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA AND OF EAST TIMOR

During the first weeks of August, the General Council made a contact visit to the communities of the District of Asia and East Timor. It was a symbolic gesture: during the first joint visit as leaders of the Institute, the Superior General and his Council wanted to stress the vision that will mark the coming years of animation, "from the peripheries to the centre."



In today's bulletin, are the texts of Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and João Carlos do Prado (Bangladesh and India) and Josep Maria Soteras and Ken McDonald (Cambodia).

BANGLADESH AND INDIA

We, Brothers Luis Carlos and João Carlos, had a beautiful experience of fraternity, contact with the different local realities and of the Marist life and mission in Talit, West Bengal, India, and in the cities of Mymensingh and Giasnogor, in Bangladesh.

We had meetings and interviews, in all the communities, with the brothers who wanted to. In accordance with the reality of each place, it was possible to listen to young people with a Marist vocation and volunteers who were doing some sort of experience in the community. We also had the opportunity to visit the local bishops.

In Bangladesh, in the cities of Giasnogor and Dhaka, it was possible to visit and share the work with the Marist Missionary Sisters.

We are very grateful for the excellent welcome they gave us everywhere and for the openness and availability in helping us to know so deeply the Marist reality, as well as the social and ecclesial realities of each of the places we visited, and of the children, youth and families whom we met.

We returned to the general house with a grateful heart and touched by having been able to listen to God in each of those places we visited.



CAMBODIA

"We, Brothers Josep Maria and Ken, had the privilege of visiting three Marist Presences in Cambodia: Takhmao, Pailin and Sen Monoron. The simplicity and commitment of the Brothers who worked in each of these places was obvious. At the centre of each ministry were the relationships with children and young people who live on the peripheries and are discriminated against. The presence of Marists, often in places where others would not go, gave hope of a future to disabled children, provided the opportunity for education to those disadvantaged by a corrupt system or were the stable presence of the church.

We also were able to visit two significant places from the time of the Khmer Rouge. One was S-21. This was a school in Phnom Penh which during the time of the Khmer Rouge was used as a torture centre. Many people including children were tortured here and the site has been kept as a memorial to those who died. The other was the Killing Fields where many were taken to be murdered. This experience leads us to reflect on the impact of such systemic violence and murder on a society.



Also we became aware of the impact of the Cambodia economy on the lives of young people. Cambodia has liberal gambling laws and a thriving casino industry particularly close to its borders where foreigners have easy access. The industry entices young people to leave school early in the hope of a job and money. Often ending up in sex work and drug use.

The Marists in Cambodia are doing great work, making a difference in the lives of many people particularly the young."

MARIST WORLD



Australia
Marist House Fitzroy



Philippines
MAPAC - Marist Asia Pacific Center



Kenya: Marists of Furth, Germany,
visit the provincial house - Nairobi



Guatemala: Assembly of the Mission
of the Province of América Central



France
Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage



Brazil
Tabatinga - Lavalla200>

'CHAMPAGNAT IN THE PACIFIC' (CITP) COURSE

EMPOWERING LOCAL MARIST MINISTRIES IN OCEANIA

Sixteen members of the Marist Schools of Fiji as well as teachers from Lomary Primary School and St Peter Chanel Primary School gathered in Fiji for a three-day course to reflect on Marist values.

The Champagnat in the Pacific (CITP) course provides opportunities for those involved in Marist ministries to recognise and deepen an appreciation of their own personal call in life, spirituality and their own journey of faith. This understanding is enriched through gaining a greater awareness of Marist history and the charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

This year's programme, held at the Marist Brothers Novitiate in Lomeri from June 29 – July 1, was coordinated by Sheena Penjueli and Brother Luke Fong.

Speakers included Brother Jone Seduadua, who spoke about Saint Marcellin Champagnat, Brother Fergus Garrett, who covered the saint's letters, Dan Dungey, the course facilitator who discussed Marist pillars, and Percy Wong, who reflected on realities, challenges and calls.

After this retreat, Marists in the Pacific now plan to establish Champagnat Marist groups in schools for greater mutual support.



This was the first CITP course held in Lomeri, Fiji. A previous one was held last August in Auckland, New Zealand, with the participation of representatives from Samoa, Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand, who then wrote out their own local formation programme.

The next CITP course in Lomeri is currently being planned and is expected to take place from June 27 – 30 next year.

CRUZ DEL SUR: PROVINCIAL MEETING OF THE FRATERNITIES OF CMMF



A meeting of fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family of the province of Cruz del Sur took place in Luján (Argentina) from the 10th to the 12th of August, entitled "In the footsteps of Marcellin."

In a video played during the meeting, the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, discussed the topics of fratern-

nity, spirituality and mission.

"And it is clear to me that you, through your experience in these fraternities, are best placed to discover and to understand what it means to live the Marist charism as lay people and, I would say, to adapt it", he added. "The Marist future is based on the communion of people who live the charism passionately and also have to walk together."

"We should look to share more responsibility in our life and mission and we must support our different vocational paths", he continued. "I believe that all of this confirms the existence of this movement".

Alberto Aparicio, the Brother Provincial, stressed to the fraternities that "all Marists share the responsibility for the Marist life and mission."

The 50 participants reflected on the significant places in the life of Saint Marcellin in relation to the life of the lay Marists.

The meeting drew to a close on Sunday with a Mass in the Capilla de Fidelidad, in the Villa Marista San José.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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