



INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF MARIST YOUTH 2019

150 YOUNG MARISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD MEET IN GUATEMALA

Almost 150 young Marists, aged between 20 and 30 years old, from all over the world, will take part in the International Gathering of Young Marists which will take place in the city of Guatemala from the 15th until the 21st of January, 7 days before World Youth Day in the city of Panama.

At the gathering, entitled "Weaving Life", there will be a total of 180 people, including participants from the four branches of the Marist Family.

During the meeting, the young Marists will reflect on four topics or "experiences of life: community, solidarity, interiority and commitment", said Brother Mark Omede Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Mission of the Marist Brothers and member of the commission in charge of organising the gathering in Guatemala.

The objective of the gathering is to contribute to the young people elements for the discernment of personal vocation as a way of strengthening their role of leadership in the Church and in society through the development of a project of life (Project "Weaving Life").

The meeting of the Marist family in Guatemala already has a web page and can be found on the social networks.

"The title 'Weaving Life' was chosen after reflecting on topics such as JMJ, vocations, service to the community and the Synod of the Bishops in October of 2018, whose main principals are always the youth", affirmed - once again - Brother Mark Omede.

The members of the organizing committee belong to the four Marist branches: Brothers Carlos Rojas Alberto and Mark Omede (Marist Brothers, of the Secretariat of Evangelisation and Education), Father Juan Carlos Piña (Marist Fathers), Sister Cristina Giustozzi (Marist Missionary Sisters) and Sister Anne McCabe (Marist Sisters). There is also a local organizing team, coordinated by Brother Jorge Sánchez Kopper, fms.

To better coordinate the event, the organizing committee has met four times: April 17th (through Skype), from the 27th to the 30th of June in the city of Guatemala, December 28th (through Skype) and from the 10th to the 15th of January in the city of Guatemala.

After the first international meeting of young Marists in Sydney (2008), the large gathering of young Marists have also taken place in Madrid (2011), Río de Janeiro (2013) and Lyon (2016).



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- On the 15th January in Guatemala, the International Meeting of Young Marists begins, consisting of the 4 branches of the Marist Family. The general administration will be represented by Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General; Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General; Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and Ben Consigli, General Councillors; Beto Rojas and Mark Omede, directors of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, and Tony León, director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today.
- On the 14th and 15th of January, Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor, participates in the Assembly of the

European Council of Mission in Les Avellanes, Spain.

- From the 16th until the 22nd of January, Brothers Óscar Martín, General Councillor, and Valdicer Fachi, director of Cmi, will participate, together with the representatives of the De La Salle Brothers, in the regular visit of the Council of Fratelli Project to the community and the work in the Lebanon.
- From the 17th to the 19th of January, Brother Libardo Garzón, Econome General, will take part in the Meeting of the provincial bursars of Arco Norte in Miami, United States.

TO ASSURE A BETTER CONTINUITY IN THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF FORMATION

PHILIPPINES: MARIST BROTHERS ASIA FORMATORS CONVENTION

The annual meeting of the formators of Asia, that took place in MAPAC from January 9 to 12, 2019, is always a moment of great joy and communion. It gave us an opportunity to share ideas about different issues of formation and to help us to go ahead together, supporting one another and growing in our awareness of our part in this charismatic global family. This year, we were eighteen participants coming from Philippines (General Santos, Cotabato City, Davao, Mapac), Bangladesh, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Australia.

After the important work of last year on the different itineraries developed in each stage of formation (aspirancy, candidacy, postulancy, novitiate and post-novitiate), one important goal of this meeting this year was to share our different programs in order to assure a better continuity in the different stages of formation. It is a work in progress but already we have a better vision of the overall path that each formand is invited to walk and how we can support one another to accompany them.

Another important issue of this year was how to integrate the dimension of ecology into our different programs of formation. Starting from the conference of Mr Joe Nacianceno, teacher at the adjacent Marist School, and the thoughts of Laudato Si, we tried to develop different possibilities regarding LEARNING, NEW ATTITUDES TO DEVELOP AND CONCRETE ACTIONS.

Another very positive moment was the sharing of our best practices in formation. Sometimes, it can happen that we focus on the problems and not enough on all the positive things that happen in our community of formation or what we do. Some examples of these best practices are : a better unity practiced in the formation team, a close connection with the parish in different activities,



special programs to know the lay people, community experience outside the country for scholastics or young brothers, workshops on Non Violent Communication, systematic accompaniment, etc.

Another important issue is the level of English of our young brothers who are coming to MAPAC and also in the preceding stages of formation. We suggested to some propositions to improve the situation. It was nice too to listen to the experience of the brothers who had participated in the formation course, last year in Rome. They confirmed the importance of caring for one another and to assuring the necessary conditions to be able to go ahead in a healthy way and to have the energy to adapt ourselves continually to the changes of the youth of today. One important element as regards this issue

is to develop a quality of sharing and intimacy among the formators themselves.

On the last day, in an exercise regarding our future, we reflected on, and shared ideas about three questions :

What is still going to be in our formation in five years time ?

What is there now that will not be there in five years' time ?

What is not there now taht is going to be there in five years' time ?

Finally, to make concrete our ecological orientation, we planted a tree in a simple but meaningful missioning ritual.



22 BROTHERS MEET IN THE LOMERI NOVITIATE, FIJI

GATHERING OF THE U/50 BROTHERS OF OCEANIA

The 22 brothers from the three province/districts of Oceania province gathered at the novitiate in Lomeri, Fiji, from 4 to 8 January, to look at how the younger brothers of this region are responding to the Calls of the XXII General Chapter. Meanwhile, tropical Cyclone Mona was ominously approaching this beautiful tropical island bringing heavy rain.

Having only a few brothers in this age group in Oceania, such gatherings are significant to share stories amongst their own peers. However, the 5 days included more than just conversation amongst themselves...

One of the highlights of this gathering was to extend our service of simple manual labour in painting some classrooms at the local St Marcellin's Primary school in Suva. The sense of camaraderie, joy and common hard work unified the group and impressed the Pacifican novices who had joined us for these days. This activity began a great momentum of brotherhood for the next few days.

Another important moment was to listen to the voice of the local laity. Sheena Penjueli, who works with young people at risk at the Champagnat Institute in Suva, shared with us her Pacifican laity story. All were impressed and touched by her gentle Marian presence.

At the final liturgy, Br David McDonald, district leader of



the Pacific, gave a moving Maori blessing to the four novices. Two of whom will make their first profession on the 23 February and the other two proceed onto their second year of novitiate formation.

Perhaps the best way to summarise these five days is with the reflections of the novices who recognised this group of U50 Oceania brothers as joyful and confident men.

The rain stopped and the sun shone brightly on the last day.

FIVE THOUSAND NEWS ITEMS IN CHAMPAGNAT.ORG



With the news of the final document of the Synod of the Bishops on youth, available in several languages, Champagnat.org published, on 14th January, the 5.000th news item, since 2004.

The great wealth of the Institute web site is that all of the material remains on-line, reflecting, in a dynamic way, the last 15 years of the life of the Marists of Champagnat.

The new site on which we are working will be on-line in the next few months; its objective is to improve even more that channel which continues more and more, to have the main role in the ideal of taking our journey as a Global Family.

MARIST WORLD



Australia
Retreat in Adelaide



Ireland
Marian College, Dublin



Spain: Assembly of the European Mission
Councils in Les Avellanas



Brazil: Colégio Marista Nossa Senhora de
Nazaré, Belém



Cambodia
La Valla School in Takhmao



Madagascar
Antsirabe: training of young brothers

JOURNEY WITH THE CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE

THE FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED

The final document of the Synod of Bishops (PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) on the theme: "Youth, Faith and vocational discernment" which took place from October 3 to 28, 2018, has just been published. Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General of the Institute, was one of the members, representing the Union of Superiors General.

On the day before the International Encounter of Young Marists, which will take place in the city of Guatemala, from January 15 to 20, and, of the World Youth Day, which will be celebrated in the city of Panama, from January 22 to 27, it is important to take the document published by the Vatican, in order to be able to identify the keys of action in relation with the young people.

The interest of the Marist presence on youth themes responds to the call of the XXII General Chapter, which asks



"to journey with the children and young people marginalized of life".

PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

The Strategic Plan for Provincial Evangelisation until 2023 was presented, containing 5 priorities: to promote social transformation, to promote a culture of peace, to foment the solidarity pastoral role, to consolidate the pastoral-pedagogic administration and to re-invigorate pastoral conversion.

■ CRUZ DEL SUR

In the course of 2018 the Province promoted several opportunities for dealing with formation for its leadership in the promotion of the care and prevention of situations of sexual abuse which people suffered in the Marist educational centres. In a video published recently one can see what has been shared during the year: <https://youtu.be/vR2lryx-LtV4?t=5>

■ THE LAITY IN MAPAC

The young students of the Centre of Formation for young Brothers in Philippines participated last week in a seminar on being a lay Marist and the mission shared by Brothers and Laity, under the direction of Elma Rafil, responsible for the Commission of the Laity of the East Asia Province.

■ LAVALLA200> SYRACUSE

On January 18th the international community of Syracuse inaugurates the Intercultural Centre of Help and Orientation (CIAO) that will be a fundamental structure for the work of the community in defence of the dignity and inclusion of the migrants who come to Italy.

■ UNITED STATES

The Province organised a retreat for young university students interested in the Marist religious vocation, in New York. From the 3rd to the 10th of January the students learned what it is to be a Marist Brother and they studied the life of the communities and the mission they carry out.

TO LISTEN, TO FIND AND TO PROJECT

THE PROVINCE MEDITERRÁNEA CELEBRATED ITS CHAPTER



The Mediterranean Province celebrated its VI Chapter from the 2 to 5 of January, in the Marist Residence of Guardamar del Segura, in Spain.

During the first day of work, which coincided with the commemoration of the 202 anniversary of the foundation of the Marist Brothers, Br. Juan Carlos Fuertes took possession of the charge for a second mandate as Provincial, in the presence of Brother Luis Carlos Gutierrez Blanco, Vicar General and the Brothers Ben Consigil and Joao Carlos de Prado, General Councilors. The Chapter – which has turned around three fundamental keys: to listen, to find and to project, assumed the three lines of action quoted by the Provincial Assembly held from 5 to 8 of December: Evangelize, Marists of Champagnat and Diversity.

Under the motto “Change Chance”, the encounter reflected on the more interesting lines of work regarding the future and defined the principal actions to be followed.

“May the Spirit which moved Marcelin at his time, also worry us today and fill us with the force and tenderness of God which makes all things new, Br. Juan Carlos Fuertes recalled at the conclusion of the first day of work.

During the second day, Brother Provincial presented a report on the life of the Brothers and on the Marist communities of the Mediterranean Province. He also presented questions on how to “discover the essential; what gives us life” and, on the other side, “to

identify what we have to let go, what we have extra, in order to be able to advance”.

In the third session, the Brothers of the Chapter elected as members of the Provincial Council of Marists of the Mediterranean Province Brothers Aureliano García, Chano Guzman, Gregorio Bartolomé Delgado, Damiano Forlani, Javier Gragera and Samuel Gómez. In the same way, Br. Juan Carlos Fuertes elected Br. Aureliano García as Vice Provincial for the next three years. The new Provincial Council named Brother Juan Miguel Anaya as the new Administrator for the Province.

In the last day of the Provincial Chapter, the Chapter members examined and discussed the Provincial norms, valued the work carried out and outlined the priorities of the Marists of Mediterranean. On the other hand, Br. Cyprien Gandeebo, Superior of the Marist District of Eastern Africa, communicated to the participants the reality of the presence of Mediterranean Marists in this zone, while Br. Georges Sabe, representing the Blue Marists, thanked the Mediterranean Province for the support which it has always given to the community of Aleppo.

In concluding this Chapter, Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General of the Institute, and Brothers Ben Consigli and Joao Carlos, members of the General Council, addressed some words to the Assembly gathering their impressions after participating in the encounter. See [here](#) the interventions.

KENYA: 67 STUDENT BROTHERS IN NAIROBI

WORKSHOP ON MARIST PATRIMONY IN MIC



The community at the MIC (Marist International Centre), in Nairobi (Kenya), has to date 67 student Brothers, from five administrative units: the district of West Africa and the provinces of Madagascar, Southern Africa, Nigeria and East-Central Africa.

The professional formation of the Brothers in MIC takes four years. As part of their religious preparation, the Brothers also take part for three years,

from May to July, in the programme of Religious Studies in MIUC (Marist International University College). This formative itinerary allows them to obtain at the end, a post-probationary recognition in education and a diploma in religious studies.

Every year of study consists of two semesters (1st semester: August to December; 2nd semester: January to April). At the moment, there are 23

Brothers studying in the first year, 17 in the second, 18 in third and 9 in the fourth.

As part of their formation, the Brothers of MIC can also take part in the annual workshops. These courses, carried out in December, following the exams of the first semester, are not part of the plan of studies for careers, however, they are very useful for personal development.

During the first year of study, the Brothers can attend the workshop on Marist Patrimony (Marist Spiritual Patrimony). The Brothers in the second year can take part in the workshop on the Rights and Protection of the Child. The third year students can join the workshop on business studies, while the fourth year Brothers - who are preparing to leave the house of formation and fully take part in the apostolate -, can join the workshop on Spiritual Leadership and Animation of Retreats. Next, we will publish the testimony of a young Brother, Br. Henri Ngeli, the first-year student who has taken part in the workshop on Marist Patrimony.

“To know and love our founder, Father Marcellin Champagnat is an integral part of our identity as Marist Brothers. Understanding his geographical, historical, social, spiritual and educational background, makes us understand ourselves better as Marist Brothers. With the view to broaden the knowledge of our founder acquired in the postulancy and novitiate, Brothers in initial formation are given opportunity to attend the one-week workshop on Marist patrimony annually. From December 17th to 21st, 2018, Bro. Spiridion Ndanga who is the coordinator of Marist patrimony in Africa ran the workshop.

During the workshop, Brothers in first year learnt a lot about Fr. Champagnat using the documents of the Institute, more especially the letters of Champagnat. Bro. Spiridion in his sessions showed a great passion for

Champagnat and the Institute. He encouraged each one of us to deepen and renew our relationship with our founder. He challenged us to reflect on how Champagnat’s attitudes impart on us as Brothers. He told us not to be as orphans but to have a strong relationship with our father. By undertaking Champagnat’s work, we present his face to the youth. Therefore, the more we come to know Champagnat, the more we grow in the knowledge that we are part of his dream of transforming the youth for better.

The first year Brothers thank Bro. Spiridion for animating the workshop. As we continue making Jesus Christ known and loved, it is our hope that ours will be the face of Champagnat to the youth whom we are called to serve”.

Br. Henry Ngeli

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