



## MEETING ON CHILD PROTECTION IN THE CHURCH

### THE SUPERIOR GENERAL PARTICIPATES IN THE MEETING CONVOKED BY POPE FRANCIS OF BISHOPS FROM EVERY PART OF THE WORLD

The Superior General, Br Ernesto Sánchez, will take part in the [meeting on Child Protection in the Church](#), convoked by Pope Francis, to be held in the Vatican from 21 to 24 February.

[190 people](#) from the five continents will attend the meeting, including the presidents of Bishops' Conferences and members of the executives of the Unions of Superior Generals of Men Religious (USG) and of Women Religious (UISG). Br Ernesto is attending as a member of the executive of the USG. Br Emili Turú will also be attending as the new Secretary General of this body.

The meeting will consist of nine presentations, interspersed with group workshops and other discussion forums. Provision has been made for a penitential service led by the Pope as well as a Mass on Saturday when the Pope will deliver concluding remarks.



Last Tuesday, men and women Religious, through the USG and UISG, released a joint statement prior to the meeting, expressing their support for the Pope's initiative. "We need a different culture in the Church and in our wider society. We need a culture where children are treasured and where safeguarding is promoted" (read the full document here: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Italiano](#)).

## GENEAL ADMINISTRATION

- Throughout this week, the General Council is meeting with the directors of the Secretariats and other departments of the General House to continue the work of preparing the General Administration's Strategic Plan for animation, leadership and government.
- Br. Ernesto Sánchez last Monday participated in a regular meeting of the Executive Council of the Union of Su-

periors General.

- From 21 to 24 February Br. Ernesto will be in the Vatican to participate in the meeting on the protection of minors in the Church.
- On Wednesday, the entire General Administration met to celebrate the life of Brother Ernesto, who celebrates his birthday on Thursday.

## NOVIATE OF THE REGION SOUTH AMERICA

### ELEVEN NEW NOVICES IN BOLIVIA

Eleven new brothers have entered officially, on February 2, to the Champagnat Regional Novitiate, Cochabamba, Bolivia, of the Region of South America.

The Formation team formed by Brothers Isidro Azpeleta Sebastián (Santa María de los Andes), Rubens José Falqueto (North-Central Brazil) and Sebastião Antonio Ferrarini (Amazonia South Brazil), received them with a welcoming ceremony.

The eleven Brothers of first year are: Evanilson Ferreira Lopes, Jefferson Bonomo, Jose Elizaldo Araujo Da Silva (North-Central Brazil), Nathan Da Vosta Cardoso Dos Santos, Bruno Marcondes, Carlos Henrique de Oliveira (South-Central Brazil), Antônio José Lima da Silva Provincia, Danavan Farias Machado (Amazonia South Brazil), Víctor Salvador Colmán Martínez (Paraguay, Cruz del Sur), Ángel Gabriel Ponce Vives (Peru, Santa María de los Andes), Gilber Galarza Pérez (Bolivia, Santa María de los Andes).

Father Fernando Rojas, the Chaplain, celebrated the Eucharist as part



of the welcoming ceremony. In this event were present the five Brothers Provincial of the Region South America, the Marist Community of North Ticti, together with two Postulants from Bolivia and some relative of the Novices. In the Eucharist, the Novices received some signs: the Consti-

tutions of the Institute, a multicolored woolen cloth from Bolivia and a small gift from each Brother Provincial. A musical team from the Novitiate animated the ceremony. At the end of the Eucharist, all had lunch together and in the afternoon, they participated in the celebration of the

Day of Religious Life, which was held in the Cathedral of Cochabamba.

This year 2019, 18 Brothers, 3 Formators and 15 Novices form the community of the Novitiate.

Four Novices form the second year of the Novitiate: Luis Carlos Lima, Jhony Quadros Joner (North. Central Brazil), Rafael Reinaldo Rodriguez Fernandez (Sul-Central Brazil), Luciano Taminski (Amazonia South Brazil).

## NOVICIADO MARISTA CHAMPAGNAT DE COCHABAMBA

HNO. ISIDRO PSMA	HNO. ÁNGEL PSMA	HNO. NATHAN PMBCS	HNO. DONAVAN PMBSA	HNO. RAFAEL PMBCS	HNO. JOSÉ PMBCN
HNO. FERRARINI PMBSA	HNO. BRUNO PMBCS	HNO. LUIZ PMBCN	HNO. JHONY PMBCN	HNO. JEFFERSON PMBCN	HNO. VÍCTOR PCS
HNO. RUBENS PMBCN	HNO. LUCIANO PMBSA	HNO. CARLOS PMBCS	HNO. ANTÔNIO PMBSA	HNO. GILBER PSMA	HNO. EVANILSON PMBCN

MARIST VOCATIONS

**BRAZIL**

On 6 and 7 February, the UMBRASIL Working Group on Vocation Promotion met in Brasilia with representatives of all the bodies that cover Marist educational works across the three Provinces of Brazil.

**COMPOSTELA**

Twenty-five students from the Marist schools of Valladolid, Tui, Segovia, La Coruña, Salamanca and Burgos, plus six educators had a live-in meeting in León on the topic of vocation. It was an opportunity to discover how to grow and to make decisions about the future of one's own life.

**GUATEMALA**

During the first days of February, Vocation Week was celebrated at the Liceo Guatemala, under the theme "Leave your mark on the world".

**MEXICO**

Two young men began their postulancy in the community of Toluca, Province of Central Mexico. Br. Javier Peña will be responsible for accompanying them during this formation process.



**COLOMBIA**

Almost 270 young people participated in the "School of Leaders 2019", which took place last weekend.

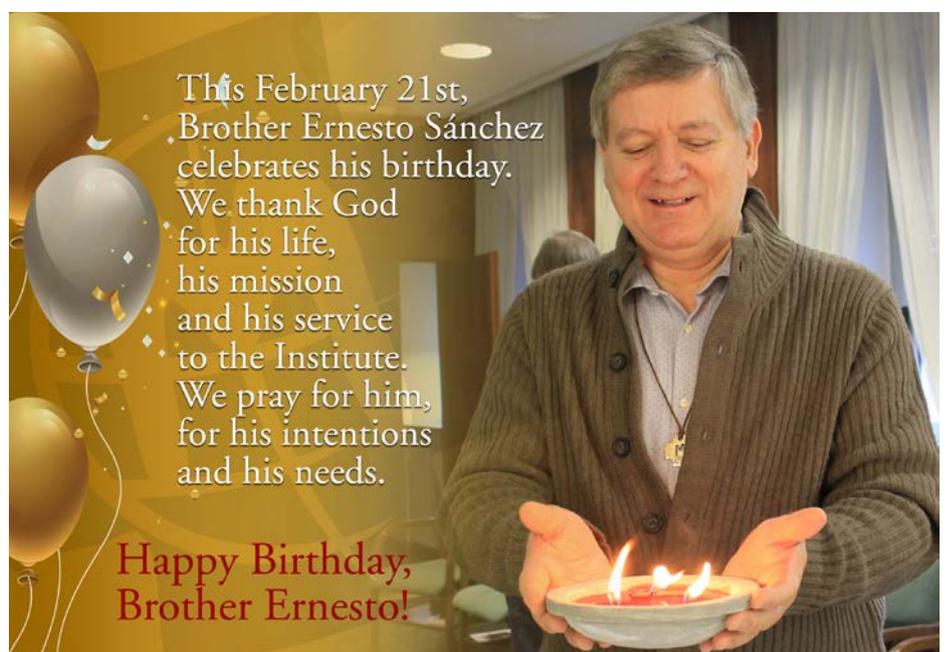
MARIST FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

THE FMSI PROMOTED THE COLLECTION OF HUMANITARIAN AID FOR THE FRATELLI PROJECT



During the month of January 2019, the FMSI promoted among the lay employees of the General House, the collection of humanitarian aid for the "Fratelli" Educational Center of Rmeileh (Lebanon). The donation was sent on January 31, thanks to the logistical collaboration of the Italian Army of the UNIFIL Command, that coordinated the expedition through the "Garibaldi" Bersaglieri Brigade present in Lebanon. The shipment with a total of 200 kilos contained clothing, school supplies, food, and toys.

The Rmeileh Center is a joint work of the "Fratelli Project", directed by the Marist congregation and the Lasallian congregation, which offers basic school program to children and adolescents from 3 to 16 years old. The Fratelli project was created in 2016 in Lebanon by the congregations of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Marist Brothers as a response to the urgent, emerging needs of the most vulnerable children and young people. It assists mainly Syrian and Iraqi children displaced by the wars in the Middle East.



## MARIST WORLD



El Salvador  
Colegio Marista San Alfonso



France  
Rosey



Argentina  
Educators' meeting - Mar del Plata



Haiti  
Postulants in Okay



Australia  
Lavalla200> Mount Druitt



Guatemala  
Colegio Liceo Guatemala

## TO RESPOND TO THE CALL TO 'COME AND SEE'

### THE MARIST SCHOOL, MARIKINA, HELD LAY FORMATION FOR THE NEW LAY PERSONNEL

The Marist School, Marikina, in Philippines, Marist Province of East Asia, hold formation for the new lay personnel and employees, on January 19, as part of the Orientation Program and the Lay Formation Program, and to respond to the Jesus' call to 'Come and See'.

With firm belief that all Marists are co-responsible for Marist life and mission, the team of Marist Lay formation facilitators headed by the Campus Minister, Jose Nacianceno, together with Ophelia Marcelino, Luz Jaban and Marjorie Rañeses gave inputs and facilitated the workshop process.

The intent is to form participants, so they know more about Marist Spirituality and the charism of Saint Mar-



cellin Champagnat. The opportunities for prayer, sharing, storytelling, testimonies, group dynamics, discussions, reflections and meals were meaningful to all participants. The Marist charism and the Marist core values were introduced and deep-

ened through the different group dynamics.

The call of the 22nd General Chapter to move away from a culture shaped by "ego-s" and adopt that of the "eco-s" was also emphasized. The group was challenged to go beyond the call on ecological awareness to ecological conversion that can truly engage us in caring for "our common home".

In the evaluation, the participants expressed their gratitude in encountering and experiencing spiritual depth, and nourishment of their Marist spiritual life. The workshop ended with expressions of commitment to be evangelizers, partaking in God's mission in the Church and in our global family today.

## ROADMAP FOR THE COMING YEARS

### MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN TEAM OF BROTHERS TODAY

Our meeting took place in the city of the Apostle James in Compostela, Spain, from 6 to 8 February 2019. We know that there is a 'millenarian' aspect to our task and that this can only be discovered in its totality by taking a first step, by undertaking an adventure of a faith that is itself on pilgrimage, always open to being expressed in new and better ways. This was essentially the plan of our meeting as the European Team of Brothers Today.

Our Roadmap for the coming years has been designed around the following broad themes:

- Ongoing formation
- Knowing one another better as Marists in Europe and joint activities
- Ministries for senior Brothers
- Network of Marist communities across Europe

Each of these thematic 'blocks' holds the multiple dreams of what we would like to develop over the next few years. We have to prioritise and little by little be more concrete about some of them.



We would like to give special emphasis to setting up a network of Marist communities across Europe to help us benefit from more synergy, as companions on the journey, discovering new horizons for our Marist mission on our old continent. We spent most of our meeting discussing this topic. We reviewed the background to this initiative which came up in 2011 on

the occasion of an Extended Council meeting for Europe (a meeting of all the Provincial Councils with the General Council), and which has been gradually spreading. We gathered the suggestions of the various Provincial Councils of Europe and had another look at the framework document for the "Network of Marist Communities in Europe". Our proposal will go back to the Provincials of CEM for their study and approval if they agree. We really believe that this is an initiative that could be life-giving for us.

Santiago de Compostela provided a further opportunity for us to continue our dreaming in this home of 'the camino' ... The community of El Gelmírez, made this easy for us through their warm, fraternal welcome.

We were fortunate to be able to share our dreams with Angel Medina and Tony Leon, directors of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, who are the Institute's people of reference for what we want to achieve through our European team of BROTHERS TODAY.

May Mary, our pilgrim Mother, accompany us along our way.

## CHANGES IN MARIST NEWS

Starting in March, our newsletter will be sent with MailChimp, one of the most popular systems for managing mailing lists and sending material by email. MailChimp will also manage the mailing list.

Due to that change, it is necessary to renew your own subscription in order to continue receiving Marist News.

Subscribe now to our new mailing list by clicking on this address:  
<https://goo.gl/zjvAAp>

See here (<http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=5026>) more details about this change.



## CHARISM OF CHAMPAGNAT IN THE AMAZON

### MARIST VOLUNTEERS PREPARE AND QUALIFY TEACHERS OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

More than forty-five Marist volunteers from Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Spain have prepared and qualified 363 teachers from the original peoples of the Peruvian Amazonia, as part of the project "A teacher for the Datem", which was carried out from December 28 to January 31 in the heart of the jungle.

Through the experience Datem – which bears the name of an Amazonian Province – the Marists of Champagnat have offered this year pedagogical formation to the teachers of the following indigenous communities: achuar (64 teachers), kandozi (27 teachers), wampis (37 teachers), kichwa (25 teachers), chapra (11 teachers), shawi (67 teachers), awaiún (80 teachers), and shiwilo (3 teachers).

"A teacher for the Datem", is a Project carried out since 2012 by the University Marcelin Champagnat of Lima, Peru, with the collaboration of Marist volunteers, who every year travel to the North East of the country, to form and advice the native bilingual teachers according to the Plan of Studies. The objective is also to "obtain that the Amazonian teachers can be an echo in each one of their schools, in their own original languages, of a qualification with Marist charism" has said Br. Bernardino Pascual Juárez.

As a part of the Project, 32 members of the first Promotion 2018, "Saint Marcelin Champagnat" have received their



degree as Bachelor in Initial Education and Primary Education.

In the same way, 140 members of the Promotion 2019 "Teacher of Datem with the heart of Marcelin Champagnat" received the degree of University Bachelor.

The Rector of the University Marcelin Champagnat (UMCH), Br. Pablo Gonzalez Franco, named by the original peoples, honorary APU, and the whole staff of the UNCH and, collaborators of the Project Datem, feel very satisfied of a service which was already "in the mind" of Saint Marcelin, long before he was a saint, when he would say "All peoples enter in our looks and in our concerns".

## "TOLERANCE ZERO" TO EVERY TYPE OR FORM OF ABUSE

### WORKSHOP DEFENSE AND PROTECTION OF MINORS



From January 29 to February 2, a Workshop "Defense and Protection of Minors" was held in Guatemala, being in charge Maria Paz Ábalos, analyst Junguina, Psychologist and supervisor; who traveled from Chile to share with us her experience and formation on this theme.

A group of 60 participants met in the Marist Center of Formation. On this occasion the invitation went beyond the frontiers of the Province of Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Cuba) since there was the presence of Brothers and Laity from Honduras, Ecuador, Central Mexico, Colombia and Argenti-

na. Everyone with the desire to learn on the theme of the Defense and Protection of Minors.

To describe the lived experience, I quote the words of Br. Hipolito, Provincial of Central America, who when greeting said: "this workshop is very valuable, profound, intense and demanding, it is a very significant experience because it touches our own reality, the reality of the victims and of those who make the victims, -who abuse -, whom perhaps we know".

María Paz was in Guatemala the first time in the year 2017 when she dealt with this theme with Brothers, Community Superiors. Then in the year 2018 she worked with Brothers and Laity in directing posts and this year 2019, Brothers and Laity participated, who work in different leadership posts (rectors, administrators, councilors, pastoral agents, etc.).

This sensitiveness permits creating a new conscience of working together on this theme, which demands justice, responsibility, defense and protection and, in this way, be attentive and respond to the call of implementing Policies of Protection of Children, develop programs of qualification to avoid that the abuse of children takes place in our Institutions, in such a way that our works may be places where children feel secure.

## MARY THE “INFLUENCER” OF GOD

### POPE FRANCIS INVITES THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO IMITATE MARY

Pope Francis addressed the young people participating in the World Youth Day with a discourse pronounced during the Vigil with the young people, in Campo San Juan Pablo II – Metro Park (Panama) on Saturday, January 26, 2019, with a revolutionary language and very popular one.

In Panama, there were more than 600 thousand young people from 156 countries with Francis. The Holy Father told them:

“The Gospel teaches us that the world will not be better because there are fewer sick, weak, frail or elderly people to be concerned about, or because there are fewer sinners. No, the world will not be better on account of this. It will be better when more people, like these friends who have spoken to us, are willing and enthused enough to give birth to the future and believe in the transforming power of God’s love. To you, young people, I ask: are you willing to be an “influencer” like Mary? [“Yes!”] She dared to say, “Let it be done”. Only love makes us more human, not fights, not bullying, not studies on their own: only love makes us more human and fulfilled; everything else is a pleasant but useless placebo”.

To define Mary as ‘influencer’, as the ‘influential of God’ is to attribute to her a new “title”, this time taken from commercial language of “marketing” which will have to be filled with all the theological and Mariological content that it wants to express. We all know that the more common titles, “Mother of God”, “Virgin Mary”, “Conceived without sin”, “Assumption”, are the ones more used. Starting, today



we will add to the “Rosary” of titles, including the more current, up to date one, coined directly by Pope Francis: Mary “influential of God”.



In ‘marketing’, that term is used to refer to someone who makes a proposal to us of following, of acquisition, of behavior.

Possessing the theological and mariological dimension Mary goes ahead, she precedes us on the way of faith. To Jesus through Mary.

The path of Mary, says the Pope, is a life that “is not a salvation up “in the cloud” and waiting to be downloaded, a new “app” to be discovered, or a technique of mental self-improvement”. He insists: “Still less is that life a “tutorial” for finding out the latest news. The salvation that God offers us is an invitation to be part of a love story interwoven with our personal stories; it is alive and wants to be born in our midst so that we can bear fruit just as we are, wherever we are and with everyone all around us”.

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