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# MARIST NEWS

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Peru, 2-6 April

## VIII ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF HIGHER EDUCATION



**T**he closing of the VIII Assembly of the Marist International Network of Higher Education took place on 6 April at Marcellin Champagnat University in Lima.

With the theme of building bridges in a fragmented world, the assembly aimed to strengthen the reflections and

dialogue between the different Marist actions of higher education on the five continents.

The Marist International Network of Higher Education has been seeking, since 2004, to create multidirectional connections in inter-institutional communication among Marist universities.

Since the First Assembly, which took place in Curitiba (Brazil), the relationship between the representatives of the group are based on the principles of identity, belonging, equality and participation.

For the Director of the Secretariat of Evangelization and Education of the

### general administration

- On Monday, Brothers Ken McDonald and Óscar Martin, General Councillors, completed their visit to the Province of Madagascar.
- The members of the General Council, will take part in the fourth session of the formation programme in leadership which will take place from the 11 to 13 April, in Rome.
- Brothers Valdicer Fachi, Director of the Department of Cmi, and Jeff Crowe, in charge of the formation and follow up of the communities of Project Lavalla200, will visit the international

community of Holguin, in Cuba, from 8 to 15 April.

- Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelism, will take part in the working meeting for the Region of America del Sur, in Mendes, from 8 to 10 April.
- On Monday Brothers Tony León and Ángel Medina, directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today, took part in the meeting of the team "Tutti Fratelli" in the General House of the De La Salle Brothers. The team is made up of religious from Brothers' congregations.

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Br. Ernesto Sánchez

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Marist Institute, Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, the meeting was a success, because it was possible to establish common ideals among the participating institutions. “During the week solid foundations have been built for the future of a network full of vitality that will serve to support and develop the young people of the world”, Brother Carlos Alberto affirmed. In addition, a positive outlook for the new configuration of the Executive Committee has been strengthened, and this is an advance in the long work together. “We hope that the answers from the institutions that were present will be good,” he said. And continued: “We are grateful to Marcellin Champagnat University, to the rector, Brother Pablo González Franco, and to all the people of the Provinces who collaborated to make this assembly possible.”



#### New Executive Committee

On April 4, three representatives of the Higher Education Institutions were elected to form the new Executive Committee of the Network.

Br. Manuir Mentges, Pro-rector of Graduate and Continuing Education of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), was

elected president and member of the Committee - representative of Portuguese speaking; Br. David Hall, dean of the Catholic University of Australia, representative of the English language and Br. Roberto Mendez Lopés, rector of the Marist University of Querétaro, representative of the Spanish language.





All elected members will serve the Network for two years.

### Presence of the Superior General and the Vicar General

Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, were present at the Assembly. Br. Ernesto opened the Assembly speaking about the importance of considering higher education as a network. "It is important that we put aside the fragmented culture and learn to work together," he said. "It's time to work in networks and create synergies from this great opportunity." He also recalled the need to give prominence to young people in the university context, in line with the calls of the Synod on Youth.

Br. Luis Carlos invited the participants to follow the entire path that the Network is building in this assembly. According to the Vicar General, "the size of our institutions, their academic and professional backgrounds are very diverse". "The Institute recognizes this diversity and accepts it as a way of communion among all," he emphasized, while reminding those present that "in the calls of the Chapter we can find ways to build

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the mission and create possibilities of synergy for the Network.”

### 2021

The Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), in Porto Alegre, has been chosen as the venue for the next IX Assembly, which will take place in 2021.



# marist world

*Brazil*  
Marist College of Ribeirão Preto - São Paulo



*United States*  
#MaristYouthEncounterChrist retreat



*Uruguay*  
San Luis, Pando - Canelones



*Bolivia*  
Marist catechists of Cochabamba



*Spain*  
Marist School of Cartagena - Murcia



*Australia: Timor Leste Postulants with Br. Luke (96) at St Gregory's College Campbelltown.*

## Floods in Africa

# SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE FLOODS IN MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE AND ZIMBABWE

**A**bout the floods that have affected Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe last days, Br Norbert Mwila, Provincial of Southern Africa expressed the Marist solidarity with the people of those countries and said that the Marist Family wasn't affected. Here the text Br. Norbert sent us:

"In all the three countries, we don't have any Marist communities, schools or Institutions affected by the floods. However, we are in solidarity with the affected people and in their situation. As for Beira in Mozambique, there are some family members, relatives and friends of the Brothers who unreachable by means of roads or phones due to the extensive damage caused by the floods".





Universal Periodical Review  
of Madagascar, Italy, Bolivia  
and El Salvador

## FMSI PRESENTS NEW REPORTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MINORS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Last week of March, FMSI presented four new reports to the United Nations for the Universal Periodical Review of Madagascar, Italy, Bolivia and El Salvador.

The documents were carefully prepared, over a number of months, for the Brothers and lay Marists in their respective countries, each one of them being supported by other Catholic organizations and the civil society.

Next October there will be the opportunity to plead for them and to position the recommendations to promote the human rights of minors and young adults.

These are the topics that will be promoted for each country:

**Madagascar:** the rights of minors

(economic and sexual exploitation, violence, registration of births, children living in streets) and education (access and free primary education, desertion, access to secondary education, quality of the education).

**Italy:** national institution of human rights; children and migrant young adults; psychological abandonment of minors; right of the families to their choice of education.

**Bolivia:** participation of children, adolescents and young adults; under-age work; sexual violence in adolescents; violence against women.

**El Salvador:** pregnancies in adolescents; children and adolescents affected by the "gangs"; education of quality and appropriate infrastructure for learning.



### Universal Periodic Review - UPR

It is a process carried out by the Human Rights Council (HRC).

It consists of the periodic review of the fulfillment of human rights in each of the member states of the United Nations.

This process consists of the following phases:

The State presents the report about human rights in the country;  
Exam and Interactive Dialogue between

the State under review and the States party to the CHR and the observer States  
Adoption of the HRC report – Non-Governmental Organisations can address the State and members of the HRC orally  
The last phase involves both the State and NGOs and National Human Rights

Institutes interested in implementing the recommendations.

This process constitutes a cycle that lasts four and a half years, so when this period ends the State is again examined by those who make up the HRC.

FMSI has participated in the elaboration of 44 reports, with the cooperation of other NGOs or alone (13 in America, two in Europe, 13 in Africa, nine in Oceania and seven in Asia).

Workshop on Learning plus Service

# PARTICIPANTS FROM THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND CENTRAL MEXICO ATTENDED THE COURSE

Thanks to the alliance between the Marist Provinces, Gladis Araceli Avelar of El Salvador and myself from Guatemala, members of the Commission of Solidarity for the Province of América Central were able to accept the invitation of the Province of México Central to take part in the original Workshop for Learning and Service (A+S) which took place in the Provincial House of Tlalpan (México City), and was divided between Mr. Esteban Andrés Ore Saldívar, Coordinator of Learning and Service for the Marist sector of Chile in cooperation with the organization of the Provincial Coordination of Education under Mr. Alfonso Ruiz de Chávez and the Provincial Coordinator of Solidarity led by Miss Socorro Álvarez.

From the 14 until 16 February the participants taking place in the workshop were: from the Province of América Central (2), Province of Canada (2), and 30 people approximately taking part from the different educational works of the Marist Province of Central México.

Since this formation responds to the third Call of the XII Chapter General - "To be agents of change, builders of bridges, committed messengers of peace in the transformation of the life of young people through the evangelizing education" -, the objective of the workshop was to be aware of the foundation of the educational proposal of the Learning Service, as methodological tools to promote education for solidarity based on the academic curriculum. It also explained for us the methodology of A+S that looks to maximise for the students, solidary premeditation and pedagogic premeditation; and with it to look ahead for the significant learning for

the students, informing them of the surrounding realities and creating a bond with the society, and this way to contribute with the development of the community, through the realization of projects of the students that are part of their academic activities.

As a general thematic, it approached the context and the dimensions of the Marist mission; as well as specific topics: the Models of solidarity, the importance of the protagonist participation of the students, the Learning Service (elements, learning quadrants, methodological structures, impacts and institutionalization of methodology).

In the case of the present participants from Guatemala, El Salvador and Canada we were invited to visit, from the 18 to the 21 February, four Marist educational works (Colegio México Bachillerato; Instituto México Toluca; Colegio Pedro Martínez Vásquez; and el Instituto Marista Morelos).

In sharing our set up in Mexico we had the opportunity to get to know the programme Educación Marista for el Buen Vivir which seeks to create and "looks to create processes of ecological understanding, environmental education and permacultural design that allow for the outline of the pedagogic itineraries of the Marist schools, as well as the personal transformation and of our educational communities toward more simple, more and better new lifestyles linked with the environment and as a less consumist society...".

Within the dynamics of the educational works it is important to point out the interrelated topics: Care of the Common House - Good living - Permaculture - Learning Service and Planning the Sociocognitive-humanist Model.

To conclude, I am very grateful to our Marist friends of the Province of Central Mexico (Solidarity, Education, Vocation), for their welcome, their attention, the everyday care and sharing. I wish to thank the Province of Central America for its trust and the opportunity of the formation.

María Victoria Racancoj Mejía  
Marist Foundation - Commission of Solidarity



### ■ GUATEMALA

On 16 March there took place in Guatemala the first "Oasis" of 2019. Called to be "Builders of Bridges" around 17 lay men and women with 20 Brothers, all Marists, met in the Guatemalan Secondary School all of them called, all travelling together.

### ■ COLOMBIA

34 Brothers from the Colombian sector of the Norandina Province met in Assembly, in Cali, in the course of the last weekend.

### ■ BROTHERS OF AUSTRALIA

This week the fifth recording of the series "Talking Heads" was published: "Why would anybody want to become a Religious Brother today?" Several people from Australia asked about the religious Marist life and the Brothers from Australia answered their questions. The videos are published on this channel: <https://vimeo.com/maristvocations>

### ■ THE CARE OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV

In India, 2.400.000 people suffer from HIV / AIDS. In the last year in Trichy, Operation Rainbow helped 137 children at risk from being refused help with schooling because they or some member of their family were seropositive members of their family suffered, Operation Rainbow helped opening up new opportunities. Their holistic focus helped to support the children and demolished barriers. The Annual Rainbow Report can be seen here.

### ■ MARIST HERITAGE

35 co-workers from the Brasil Centro-Sur Province took part, from 26 to 29 March, in the first module of the formation course on Marist Spiritual Historical Patrimony, The next two modules will take place in June and September.

## VIGIL COMMEMORATING OUR MODERN-DAY MISSIONARY MARTYRS

Each year in Rome a prayer vigil is celebrated to remember our modern-day missionary martyrs. This year it took place on March 21, Missionary Martyrs Day. It was organized by various groups of the Diocese of Rome together with the Saint Egidio Community. Some members from our General House participated. In 2018 forty missionaries met a violent death. The paralyturgy honoring them was preceded by a procession that began at the Basilica of Saint Anastasia, very near where the first Christian martyrs of Rome gave their witness to the Faith. Scripture passages, other readings, and praying the Missionary Rosary accompanied the pilgrims on their way to

the Tiber Island and the Basilica of Saint Bartholomew, which was dedicated to the martyrs of the 20th and 21st centuries by Pope John Paul II.

There they viewed a video of Brother Jean Pierre Schumacher's testimony; he is the only surviving witness to the massacre in Tibhirine, Algeria. Then the names of all the missionaries who gave their lives for the Gospel were recited. They gave their lives in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Oceania and Europe. As each name was read, a candle was lit, as four crucifixes, representing the home continents of the deceased missionaries were carried in procession to the altar.

Br. Antonio M. Estaun, Postulator General



## NOVITIATE OF TUDELLA

April 7, saw the first profession of the novices who finished their period of formation in Sri Lanka. The first three Brothers of Timor Oriental are among them.



On-going formation in Manziana

# REREADING THE PERSONAL STORY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PATH OF LIFE

In the house of Manziana (An International Center for Marist Formation) a course for middle-aged Brothers ("Senderos" Mid-life) is taking place, from March 21 to June 8, 2019, with 18 participants, from 10 Administrative Units.

The program is meant for the Brothers of mid-age "mid-life", to enable them to reread their personal life history and be in tune with the calls of the Spirit, to grow in the different dimensions of their existence and to continue responding to the deepest desires of their hearts and that of the Marist mission today.

The theme is "journeying together as a global family". This is the first group of participants in a training in Manziana, since the rebuilding and restructuring into a permanent formation community, designed for the whole Institute. For the first time within this environment "we are feeling and living as a global family". This course was done in the past in two houses but today we have brothers of different languages who are together at the same time. Past experiences were divided into Spanish-Portuguese speaking, in San Lorenzo del Escorial; and the English speaking, in Manziana.

The course is structured into ten "parts":

- Contemplation: Sacredness of my story
- Ecology and consecrated life
- Fraternity experience



- The spiritual itinerary
- Self-care and integrated life
- Affectivity and sexuality in the CL
- Global family and intercultural life
- In the footsteps of Marcellin
- Constitutions and Rule of life
- Accomplices of the Spirit and Misio Dei (Gods Mission)

Within the program, the Manziana team will also be offering six themes for meditation:

1. Contemplative prayer and internalization times
2. Fraternal life
3. Domestic services and work on the farm
4. Accompaniment
5. Workshops

6. Silence and solitude

In addition, six possibilities of experiences are presented to the group:

1. Pilgrimage to Marist places
2. Camino de Santiago
3. Pilgrimage of fraternity
4. Meeting with the community of Taizè
5. Inter-congregational experience
6. Global family

The Manziana training team is made up of five brothers: Joe Walton (Southern Africa); Antonio Peralta (Santa Maria de los Andes); Angel Medina (Cruz del Sur); Joaquim Sperandio (Brasil Centro Sul) and Teófilo Minga (Compostela). The Chaplain is Father Joseph Pilla, from Nigeria.



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