



To the Marists of Champagnat in Sri Lanka

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND HIS COUNCIL

At this time when you are grieving over the terrible attacks of last Easter Sunday, 21st April 2019, on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka, I want to express in the name of the Institute and the General Council, our profound sadness, consternation and sorrow for these totally unjust and inhuman acts of violence which we vigorously condemn.

We want to express our solidarity towards Brother Mervyn Perera, Provincial, and the whole Church of Sri Lanka, along with all men and women of good will of whatever faith or ideology. We are deeply sorry to learn that there are three students and some parents and alumni of our own schools, Maris Stella Negombo and Maris Stella Thimbirigaskatuwa, who have lost their cherished and irreplaceable lives. We extend our condolences and prayers to their families, to those of all the others

who were killed or wounded, and to the whole people of Sri Lanka. In like manner, we want to reaffirm our

faith in seeking peaceful solutions and in the power of love as the Christian way and the only and basic response to build lasting peace and justice.



We ask all the Marists of the world, in all their different networks, to unite with us in prayer, passing on this message, and making some gesture of solidarity, for the eternal rest of those of our Marist community and other innocent victims who died, for the recovery of those wounded, for the consolation of all their families and friends, and for stable and enduring peace in your beloved country.

With affection,

Br. Ernesto Sánchez, SG,
and the General Council

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general administration

- From April 28 to May 4, Brothers Ken McDonald and Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councilors, visit the District of West Africa.
- Brother Libardo Garzón, Econome General, meet with the Executive Committee of the Bedford Fund at the General House from April 29-30. From 2 to 3 May, he will meet again with the Council of the same entity at the General House.
- From April 29 to May 3, Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas is in Guatemala to participate in the meeting of leaders of education and evangelization of the Arco Norte Region.
- The Marist Conference of Asia, which is taking place in Sri Lanka, begins this Tuesday and ends on Thursday with the participation of Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, Councillor General.

Philippines: National Gathering of Marist Laity

A WEEK-END ENCOUNTER OF DEEPENING MARIST LAY LIFE



On April 12-14, 2019, forty-two lay people from across the Philippines convened for the 1st Champagnat Marist National Week-end Encounter held at the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu. The Weekend Encounter was an engaging experience of discovering, nurturing, and appreciating Marist lay life. Spearheaded by the Philippine Sector Laity Committee, the event was organized to respond to the suggestion of the 22nd General Chapter particularly on “Promoting a culture of encounter through programs and meaningful experiences of encounters with God, with oneself, and with others.”

In this weekend program of communion, learning, sharing and praying, the participants were engaged in reflections on themes on Communication, Communion, Nurturing Marist Lay Life, and Deepening Prayer: A Life-Giving Experience of the God Within.

Participants joined the Palm Sunday Celebration at the local parish, where their

presence was symbolic of Marist lay life as gift to the Church. Following the Mass and concretizing the commitment to take care of our “common of home”, twenty fruit-bearing and hardwood trees were planted on the grounds of the Marist Asia

Spirituality and Mission Center.

The event concluded with the participants looking forward to nurturing and growing more the gift of being Lay Marist in the concrete circumstance of life.

BR. MOISÉS CISNEROS

Brother Moisés Cisneros was born on 12 August 1945 in Quintana de Raneros (León), Spain, to a family who knew how to instill in all of its children a deep sense of life and of the Catholic faith, a legacy that was already a family tradition and way of life. He began his apostolate in El Salvador at the San Alfonso School. During his time at the Liceo Salvadoreño, he made a beautiful projection in the community of Atehuán. He was founder of the community of Chichicastenango. Being director of the Marist School of Guatemala, in zone 6, he was assassinated in his office on 29 April 1991.



With his violent death he left the memory of his dedication and self giving to the

simple people of Ateos, Chichi and Zone 6; memory of the intense concern for the young brothers of his community and of his 25 years as an apostle among Central American children and youth. From his faithfulness up to his death, he confirmed the Gospel verse: “If the grain of wheat does not fall to the ground and die, it is unfruitful, but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

■ COLOMBIA

Br. César Rojas, Provincial of Norandina, is the new president of the Conference of Religious of Colombia. Brother César will succeed Gloria Liliana Franco Echeverri, of the Company of Mary, in the animation of Colombian religious life.

■ BOOK ON SUPERIORS GENERAL

The Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, during the Provincial Assembly held last weekend, launched the book "Superiors General - Biographies of the Superiors of the Institute of the Marist Brothers, from 1839 to 1993". It is a publication of the Marist Memorial, published by Editora Universidade Champagnat.

■ COMPOSTELA

The Assembly of Social Works of Compostela has gathered in Vouzela educators to become aware of provincial solidarity and priorities for the next triennium and reflect on the Rights of Children, the participation and protagonism of children and young people in social works.



■ MALAWI

Some weeks ago, 28 teachers, with 2 Brothers accompanying, gathered at Mtendere to deepen their understanding of our Marist call, led by Mike Greeff and Pam Paton-Mills. The leaders looked at practical ideas for starting Marist Life groups, covering the Calls of the Chapter as one way to engage with Marist understanding.

Human rights: build bridges and strengthen processes

A YOUNG MARIST ATTENDS THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK IN SERBIA



Being invited by the Bridge 47, CIVICUS and supported by the Marist Solidarity Network (Brasil Centro-Sul), a 17-year-old Brazilian man, Gabriel Genivaldo dos Santos, from the Province Brasil Centro-Sul, participated in the International Civil Society Week - ICSW. The event took place from April 6 to 11, in Serbia.

Gabriel participated in the round table discussion on data, technology and global structures alongside Michel Forst, UN Special Rapporteur on the status of human rights defenders.

The theme of ICSW 2019 was "The Power of Union," and it brought together about 700 civil society leaders to build bridges and strengthen processes in the face of major global challenges. The participation of the young Marist can be watched in Portuguese from

the time of 1:18 on the link <http://bit.ly/2Z1tS2V>.

In his speech Gabriel asked adults representatives of civil society organizations about the language used in the production of data on childhood and youth, "You are here to build bridges, to walk the streets, to climb stairs, but where are you looking at? What language are you using", in reference to the distances between the action of organizations and the peripheries.

He also called for organizations to work more closely and with young people, guaranteeing their right to participation. "It's not technology we need to connect and impact. Our bodies find many other ways to express themselves and gain the attention that should actually be a right [...]. Our bodies and our arts scream. Can you see?", he asked.

marist world

Germany: Chapter of the Central West Europe Province in Freising

Philippines
Br. Ernesto with postulants in Davao

Canada
Provincial Retreat in Mont Champagnat



Cambodia
Meeting of the MDA Council

Sri Lanka
International Novitiate of Tudella

Chile: Meeting of Alumni of the Marist School of Villa Alemana

People are twice as likely to consider religious life if encouraged by somebody

RELIGIOUS VOCATION IN USA

National Religious Vocation Conference and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate have published an infographic demonstrating recent trends regarding entrants to religious life and professions in the United States.

religious life at the age of 25 or younger.

- People are twice as likely to consider religious life if encouraged by somebody else and five times more likely to consider doing so if encouraged by three or more people.

You can look at the infographic data [here](#).

This information shows that there is much we can do to find and welcome those with vocations to the Marist Brothers!

Some key points:

- 440 people entered religious life in 2018. This number is down from 2017 but still up from 2015.
- 240 people professed religious vows in 2018, almost double the number from 2015.
- Half of those surveyed first considered religious life when they were 19 years old or younger.
- Half of those surveyed entered reli-



Novitiate of Medellín

Workshop on a sustainable future for Marist life and mission in Africa and Asia

ATTENDED BY AROUND 50 PEOPLE WITH LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES IN NIGERIA

"A sustainable future for Marist life and mission in Africa and Asia" is a project being conducted in Administrative Units in Africa and Asia by a taskforce devoted to increasing financial sustainability in these regions.

The idea behind the project is to "provide the means (for the AUs) to have a better vision of what they have, how this is being managed and how it might be managed better". "We are trying to work with Provincial Councils so that they can move ahead on their own," in the words of Br Libardo Garzón Duque, Econome General, in charge of this initiative, which is also being driven by the Province of Brazil Centro-Sul, which is providing technical support and advice.

Although the taskforce began to meet in 2011, it was only in 2016 that the project got underway with the first work meetings in the provinces of Central-East Africa (PACE) and Madagascar, the District of West Africa, and the Province of South Asia. In the same year, there was a meeting in Nairobi with participants from all the Provinces of Africa.



In January 2018, Br Libardo and the taskforce decided to begin work with the other Provinces of Africa: as a result, the Province of Nigeria held its workshop at the beginning of April 2019, and the Province of Southern Africa, that will have its workshop in May.

At the workshop in Nigeria, which took place from April 8 to 11, they were present the Provincial, Br Vincent Abadom, members of the Provincial Council, the commission of financial affairs, Brothers and

around 50 people in leadership positions.

"Nigeria is already well-organised; they have a strategic plan running from 2014 to 2020. What we did was to review this plan and its progress, and to build on this, using the methodology developed for these workshops," explained Br Libardo who was present for the Nigeria workshop. June Cruz and Fernanda Arruda, both from Brazil Centro-Sul attended as facilitators.

"Now at the start of the coming year we are going to have a meeting of the 'global' team, made up of a representative from each of the Provinces taking part in the process to make some adjustments and envision the next steps", added Br. Libardo speaking about where things have reached.

The initiative "A sustainable future for Marist life and mission in Africa and Asia" originated in 2009 when the General Chapter asked the General Council to set up a group to consider the financial sustainability of the Provinces of Africa and some of Asia.



“You are all brothers”
Matt 23:8

RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY, MAY 1

“Hello Brother!”

is a familiar greeting which many of us receive each day in our communities or work place be it from students, colleagues or parents. However, this greeting took on a special meaning on 15 March in New Zealand, when Daoud Nabi, a 71 year old Afghan Muslim grandfather greeted the terrorist gunman who stormed the Al Noor Mosque in Christchurch. Daoud met hostility with hospitality and welcomed a stranger as a brother into his place of worship. Sadly, Daoud became the first of 50 victims killed by the madness of the racially motivated perpetrator.

“Hello brother,”

is often seen as the recognition of our unique and often misunderstood identity as religious men in the church and this title distinguishes us from the more commonly understood ordained member of the clerical church: ‘Father’.

On the 1st of May, parts of the world celebrate Religious Brothers Day, a day connected with the feast of St Joseph the Worker and there are resources prepared on some websites such as

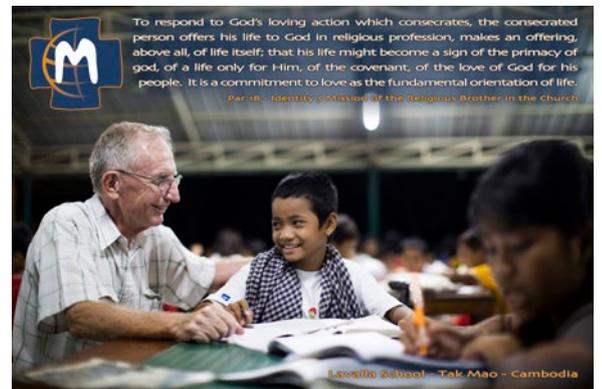
<https://nrcv.net/292/publication/9454/article/13029-religious-brothers-day-may-1>



As part of the preparation for this Religious Brothers Day, the communication department in Rome has been releasing posters each week for the past 6 weeks

on social media. These images connect with the theme of being Brothers Today. The images are of brothers and of brothers with other Marists of Champagnat. Each of these images are accompanied by a

quote from the 2015 Vatican document, The Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church. Attached are some of the images from the past 6 weeks. There are still several weeks of images to come.





As part of the celebration of Religious Brothers Day, a slideshow has been created with recent images of brothers from each of the regions. The images are accompanied by the ‘Bicentenary Salve Regina’ composed by Michael Herry and sung by an international choir of brothers. The slide show begins and ends with a view of our galaxy from the edge, a place where religious brothers are constantly called to attend. You can access this video on this link:

<https://youtu.be/V64LooFAxrE>

Perhaps on this Religious Brothers Day, we can learn from the legacy of Daoud Nabi, the Muslim grandfather who met hostility with hospitality and greeted the stranger as brother first. As religious brothers whom Pope Francis describe as ‘Experts in Communion’ may we always step out to our edge and greet others in the way that we can best relate, “Hello brother, hello sister.”

Br Tony Leon, Secretariat of Brothers Today



New Provincial Council of Central-West Europe:

- Ronnie Mc*
- Michael Schmalzel*
- Robert Thunus (Provincial)*
- Roberto Di Troia*
- Nicholas Smith*



New Provincial Council of East Asia:

- Domingo Lee*
- Manuel de Leon*
- Allan de Castro*
- Andrew Chan*
- Dominador Santiago (Provincial)*

New Zealand: Creating networks and strengthening Marist life

MEETING OF THE OCEANIA COUNCIL

The Oceania Council met in Auckland, New Zealand, on 15th April 2019 to consider projects related to the calls of the XXII General Chapter and the initiatives of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration.

Those present were: Benedict Tooming, Jean-Marie Batick, Terence Costello, David McDonald, Dan Dungey, Sixtus Winduo, Peter Carroll, Tony d'Arbon, Frank Malloy, Kevin Wanden, Paul Kane (Left to right in the photo).

The Region of Oceania is made up of the Province of Australia and the Districts of Melanesia and the Pacific. Four topics

were taken up at the meeting: a Network of Schools, a Network of Youth, Leadership Formation, Spirituality and Nurturing of Marist Life.

In relation to the topic of Network of Schools, the aim is to build upon existing relationships across the various countries and educational jurisdictions in the Region. This initiative provides the possibility of sharing human resources across the region and volunteering opportunities for teachers in Melanesia and the Pacific. They will also explore the formation of two new sub-networks Marist Schools Melanesia and Marist Schools Pacific. They want to build closer

alignment among all Oceania networks.

In relation to the topic of a Network of Youth, the Council hopes to create a Network of Marist Youth Ministry and develop a regional plan for youth ministry. In the same way, they are exploring the possibility of an Oceania Youth Forum in 2020/21

Under the heading of Leadership Formation, while encouraging all Marists to take responsibility for their personal and professional formation, they plan to identify future leaders and sponsor them to undertake further formation in leadership. Existing programs in the Province and Districts include Champagnat in the Pacific, Wokabaot wantaim Champagnat program in Melanesia, In the Footsteps I and II, as well as Marist Schools Australia programs.

In relation to the topic of Spirituality and Nurturing Marist Life, the main aim is to develop an awareness of being a 'Global Family', connecting to the proposed global Spirituality network, and initial and on-going formation in the Champagnat Marist charism and spirituality. These programs are delivered by the Mission and Life Formation Team, Marist Schools Australia and formation programs offered in the Pacific and Melanesia. The next meeting of the Oceania Council will be the August video conference.



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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