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MARISTNEWS

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Brothers of the South America Region Gather in Florianópolis

OVER FIVE DAYS, 45 BROTHERS PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS ON SPIRITUALITY, VOCATION AND THE REGIONAL MISSION

Between April 28 and May 2, the Regional Encounter of 45 Brothers between the ages of 46 and 60 from the five provinces of the Region was held at the Champagnat Retreat House in Florianópolis, Brazil. The theme of the meeting was our spirituality and ways of strengthening regional cooperation.

The main topics discussed were the deepening of our daily personal encounters with God, the development of our experience as Brothers in the same region, recalling our First Love (God's Call) and our commitment to being creators of brotherhood by becoming passionate witnesses living a full and happy life.

We were blessed with the presence of Fr. Vilson Groh, who addressed the idea of living in Florianópolis like the com-

munity of Montserrat, with a high level of vulnerability. We also experienced immersion in the local culture. Fr. Groh



general administration

- The General Councillors, Ben Consigli and João Carlos del Prado, are visiting the Iberian Province from the 11th to the 17th of May.
- From the 13th to the 17th of May, Brother Álvaro Sepúlveda, of FMSI, will be present at the meetings of the Council for Human Rights in Geneva, Costa Rica, Portugal and the Ivory Coast.
- From the 13th to the 20th of May, Brother Tony León, Director of the Secretariat Brothers Today, will be accompanying the Vocational Pastoral team from the Province of Western Mexico.
- The General Councillors, Brother Ken McDonald and Brother Óscar Martín, began their visit to the Province of East Central Africa on May 14th and will finish on May 20th.
- May 14, The Superior General and the Vicar General attended the presentation of the Plaque recognizing the Marist

School of San Leone Magno as a "House of Life".

- On May the 15th, the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, takes part in the celebration of the 300 years since the death of Saint John the Baptist de la Salle, in the General House of the de la Salle Brothers.
- From the 15th to the 18th of May, Brother Valdicer Fachi, Director of the Cmi Department, and Agnes Reyes, Co-director of the Secretariat of the Laity, will take part in the meeting of the Commissions of Asia, in Malaysia.
- On May 17th, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, will take part - in the Vatican - in the meeting of the Council of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life.
- On May 18th, General Councillors, Ben Consigli and João Carlos del Prado, begin their visit to the Mediterranean Province.

also invited us to build community and connection through attention to small gestures in our daily lives. He stressed that “the beauty of life is not found at the starting point or the conclusion, but along the way where encounters are experienced.”

There was also time for reflection on the Theology of Consecrated and

Fraternal Life, entitled “Brother, Simply Brother”, led by Friar Edimar Fernando Moreira.

According to the contact Brother Provincial of the Region, Br. Inacio Etges, the five days of dialogue were important for living group brotherhood. “An atmosphere of enthusiasm and renewal of commitment of Marist Religious Conse-

cration was palpable during the week.” And for the Executive Secretary of the South America Region, Br. Alberto Guillermo Aparicio, the program provided occasions for exchange and integration of ideas among the participants. He concluded, “Each moment contributed to the whole and on the final day, we had time to review our Life Project.”

Guatemala: New steps in Mission – education and evangelisation

THE 6 MARIST PROVINCES OF THE ARCO NORTE REGION MEET IN GUATEMALA

From 29 April to 2 May, a meeting was held in Guatemala City on new steps in mission regarding education and evangelisation.

Representatives from each of the two areas (education and evangelization) of the 6 Marist Provinces making up Arco Norte took part: Br. Duberney Giraldo and Br. Nelson Cardona (Norandina); Ana Laura Calderón and Cecilia Estrada (México Occidental); Ofelia Ramírez and Br. Jorge Arturo Carbajal (México Central); Pedro Marti and Larry Tucker (United States); Pedro Chimeno and Marie-Mychèle Tessier (Canada), Br. Jorge Sánchez and Nicéforo Garrán (Central America); in addition to other participants: Br. Justino Gómez and Mrs. Irma Zamarripa (Regional Committee) and Br. Alberto Rojas (Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation of the General Administration).

The main aims of the meeting were: to share on efforts to date at the level of the Institute and the Region; design a “road map” for the Region regarding Education and Evangelisation; and define the coordinators of each of the two areas of the Region.

At the meeting, they first undertook an overall analysis of work done as a “Global body”, as a framework for as-



sessing directions that they have taken together, in a spirit of openness, ready to share experiences with others, accept new ideas and be surprised at fresh contemporary developments.

By way of outcome of the meeting, the participants developed a common vision for each of the areas and a plan for working together on this, in the short, medium and long term.

In an atmosphere of fraternity and mutual understanding, and making an effort to include the diversity that exists across the Arco Norte Region, they focused on the future that is emerging, trying to respond to the new challenges with daring and to look for alternative strategies of Marist mission in the region, alternative ways of promoting its viability.

El Salvador: To be attentive to the situations that harm the rights of the children

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT MEET IN THE HOUSE OF THE HERMITAGE

On 27th of April the Brothers and lay Marists of El Salvador took part in a shared community meeting carried out in the house The Hermitage of San Salvador.

The meeting had as its objective the sharing of knowledge of the presence of the Brothers and lay Marists among the Salvadoran children and youths who live in situations of vulnerability. The meeting began with a prayer based on the special interest that Father Champagnat showed for the children, the poorest and the abandoned.

The presentation of data on the situation of the children in El Salvador, whose principal rights are vulnerable, was given by Giorgina de Villalta, General Manager for the Network of Childhood and Adolescence (RIA) of that country.

The presentation of Mrs. Giorgina highlighted the need for the Marists of El Salvador to be involved actively and to be attentive to the situations that harm the rights of the children and young people of the country. The meeting brought to mind the call of the XV Provincial Chapter that asks us to "involve ourselves actively in the formation, awareness and effective defence of

the rights of the boys, girls, adolescents and youths."

The programme was completed with some notes on the Corporation Marist Brothers of El Salvador, and some provincial information given by Bro. Juan Antonio Sandoval.



Marists from Chile and Central Mexico took part in a Forum

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Two representatives of the Marists from Chile and Central Mexico took part in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the sustainable development that was carried out on April 24 in the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) in Santiago, Chile.

The two Marists taking part were Georg Raczynski, Coordinator of the Marist Foundation for Solidarity, of Chile which encourages sustainable development programmes in favour of children and young people; and also Ana Laura, a Marist student from the Province of Central Mexico. She took part in the forum of youth for the 2030 agenda, carried out on the 17th and 18th of April in Cepal. This forum is the third meeting on

Sustainable Development, organized by CEPAL, in which representatives of the 33 countries of the whole region take part, with the primary goal of strengthening regional cooperation. Two representatives of the Marists of Chile and Central Mexico participated in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the sustainable develop-

ment that was carried out April 24 in the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, Chile.

The two Marists participating were Georg Raczynski, Coordinator of the Marist Foundation for Solidarity in Chile that encourages sustainable development programmes in favour of children and

young people. And Ana Laura, Marist student from the Province of Central Mexico who was part of the forum of youths for the 2030 calendar, carried out on the 17th and 18th of April in Cepal.

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marist world

Australia
Year 12 Vocations Forum, Sydney



Brasil Centro-Norte: blessing and presentation of images of Br. Henri Vergès to the communities



Lebanon: Meeting of the European team of Brothers Today in Champville



Spain
Maristas Champagnat School, Guadalajara



Malaysia: Br. Sylvain visits the Catholic High School, Petaling Jaya



Ireland
Marian College Dublin

Romania: 15 years of presence and mission in Bucharest

THE SAINT M. CHAMPAGNAT CENTRE WELCOMES CHILDREN AT RISK OF ABANDONMENT AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

On the 29th of April, the Marist Brothers of Bucharest celebrated 15 years of their presence there, where they work to protect children who have been separated from their parents by the tribunal for safeguarding children, either for a short time or long-term.

Currently the Saint Marcellin Champagnat Centre (Case ale Sperantei) which can accommodate 32 children who are at risk, belongs to the province of Iberia. The main objective of this programme is to help the children and young people of Bucharest and to prevent family and school abandonment of the children of the neighbourhood.

From 2006, the Brothers in the Marist Centre have been welcoming children who come from difficult or broken families, whose parents have problems of alcoholism, drug addiction, imprisonment, unemployment, lack of work and basic services. In some cases, the young person in this house of refuge has suffered some type of child abuse by adults (mendicancy or sexual abuse). And there are also children who have difficulties

in school or who have personality problems.

The Brothers, together with other lay Marists, offer the children: education, social visits, medical and psychological services, socio-cultural and recreational activities. They also promote family/social integration, psycho-emotional recovery as well as offering professional advice.

The Saint Marcellin Champagnat Centre is made up of 4 family houses with 8 children in each, and 26 people work there.



Guatemala: Meeting of the different communities of Brothers

COMMEMORATION OF THE XXVIII ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF BRO. MOSES CISNEROS

The Marist Brothers from the different communities of Guatemala held a meeting of communities on Sunday April 28, in the Marist College of Chinautla, in Guatemala. One of the main objectives of this meeting was to commemorate the XXVIII anniversary of the murder of Bro. Moisés Cisneros. The Marist Brothers of Guatemala celebrated the Eucharist accompanied by the educational community of Marist School, the place where Brother was murdered. Present were former pupils, members of the Marist fraternities, nuns and religious friends.

Looking back on the life of Brother Moisés, he was remembered as a Marist who left his mark of love and fidelity in his Brothers, teachers and children to whom he gave himself so generously. Also, it was officially announced that the first steps have been taken to introduce the cause of his beatification.

With the objective of sharing the Marist life and progress in the different missions, the second part of the meeting included an opportunity to analyze the legal matters concerning the Marist Association, to discuss the most important events in the province and to share fraternally among the Brothers.



Tercentenary of the De La Salle

This year, the de la Salle Brothers celebrate 300 years since the death of their founder, San Juan de la Salle. Since last year several events have marked the historical date, (<http://www.lasalle.org>). To commemorate the anniversary, on the 15th of May a solemn mass will take place in the General House of the Congregation of the Brothers. On this date, La Salle was declared the universal patron of educators.



Philippines: “Do Whatever He Tells You”

EAST ASIA PROVINCE HOLDS 5TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

“Do Whatever He Tells You: Responding Boldly to Emerging Needs as a Global Family in this New Beginning” was the theme of the 5th Provincial Chapter of the East Asia Province held at the newly inaugurated Marist Asia Spirituality Center at Lake Sebu, South Cotabato on April 24-28, 2019. From the General Government, Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, Councillor General, took part in the meeting. The Chapter began with the installation of Br. Dominador A. Santiago as the 3rd Provincial Superior during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by Archbishop Angellito Lampon, OMI of the Archdiocese of Cotabato. In his message to the Brothers and the Lay Marists, Br. Ador would like to put emphasis on the three guiding principles of PRAYING, CARING AND DARING as he leads the Province for the next three years. In the message of Br. Ernesto at the opening of the Chapter, he reminded the delegates and the participants of “Who is God asking us to BE?” Our vocation as Brothers is rooted in our deep experience of God; genuine fraternal relationships in community; being available to the children and young people especially the poor; and healing wounds by promoting



human dignity and care of the common home. Look at Mary as a model. Mary always welcomed “newness” by saying YES to be the Mother of God because her heart was free filled with the warmth of God’s love. More than the plans and strategies; more than the things we preached and do, we are called to personal and communal conversion. On the second day, Bro. Robert Teoh, together with the other Brothers and Lay Partner, made reports on the state of the Province. The reports included topics on Mission, Spirituality and Community Living, Marist Lay Partnership, Marist Volunteer Program, Children Rights and Keeping them Safe, Vocation and Formation, Finances and the Marist Asia Conference Strategic Plans. A young man was also invited to share on the voice of the Marist Youth where he emphasized the need to accompany, listen, encourage and support the young as they search for meaning and real purpose of life in this turbulent world. After spending time in discernment, the Chapter delegates and participants identified six priorities to guide the new Provincial

Administration for the next three years. These are on the areas of a) Spirituality and Prayer, b) Governance and Pastoral Care, c) Vocation and Formation, d) Journeying with Children and Young People, e) Lay Partnership and f) Responding Boldly to Emerging Needs. As a “gift” of the Chapter to Br. Ador and to the Province, they elected the following Brothers to compose the new Provincial Council: Andrew Chan, Allan de Castro, Domingo Lee, and Manuel V. de Leon. Br. Ernesto in his closing message said, “his role as Superior General is simple BUT important and that is to make sure that the dream of St. Marcellin is alive in the minds and hearts of every Marists of Champagnat.” Lastly, Brother Ernesto congratulated the Province for putting up the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center, not only as a gift to Asians but also to the Institute where the richness and beauty of the Asian Spirituality be nurtured and shared. Brothers Ernesto and Sylvain, from the General Government, will be bringing with them three special gifts from the Province of East Asia, namely: 1) the experience of planting a tree, 2) the “moment of contemplation” every morning at the Chapel, and 3) the family spirit that is very alive among the Brothers and the Lay Mission Partners in spite the cultural diversity.



New Provincial Council

Germany: “Beacon of hope”

CHAPTER OF WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE PROVINCE

The 7th Provincial Chapter of the West-Central Europe Province took place in Freising, Germany, from 23rd to 26th April. From all parts of the Province – Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands and Great Britain – there were 15 brothers and 12 lay Marists. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, vicar general, João Carlos do Prado and Ben Consigli, general councillors, were also present in the name of the General Administration.

“Beacon of hope” was the theme which guided these days with a very good spirit among the participants. Through rich conversation and moments of prayer the Chapter participants approved 5 priorities for the Province over the next 3 years (2019-2022). These priorities reflected the influence of the calls of the XXII General Chapter:

- The sustainability of the Marist mission through partnership (Mission)
- Attending to the Spirit in our lives (Spirituality – interiority)
- Ecological challenges (Integral ecology)
- Vocation and formation of Marists of Champagnat (Marists of Champagnat)



- Interconnectedness and exchange of Marist youth throughout the Province (Marist Youth)

“
As a global
charismatic family,
a beacon of hope in
this turbulent world
”

The last day, a new Provincial Council was elected to assist Brother Robert Thunus, new Provincial, during his mandate: Br. Roberto Di Troia (Belgium), Ronnie McGowan (UK), Michael Schmalz (Germany) and Nicholas Smith (Ireland). Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, encourage those present to be open to the workings of the Spirit and quoted from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:17): “ I will pour out my Spirit on all... your young will see visions, your old will dream dreams.”

Bro. Robert said: “I’m very happy and confident about the outcome of the Chapter. The participants pointed out the real challenges we are facing now, trying to involve and support more lay people and young adults in our mission, with the need also to strengthen together our Marist identity and spirituality as the heart of our actions.”

Brothers Ben Consigli and João Carlos do Prado, link Councilors for Europe, encouraged the newly elected leadership of the Province to continue to build bridges with the other Marists of the Institute, especially those in the region of Europe, who all aspire to create a global Marist family.



New Provincial Council

Children rights: following the ideals of Marcellin Champagnat

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN



After three years as a joint working group, the end of 2019 will see the first part of the agreement between FMSI, the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUC PR) and OEA (the body specializing in childhood for the American Organization of States - OEA) whose objective is to fight child violence.

One of the purposes of this project, set up in 2016, is to investigate how best to eradicate violence against children in Latin America. In 2017, an educator, Ana María Eyng (of PUC PR) visited six programmes working with vulnerable in Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala and Chile. She interviewed more than 300 children, adolescents, parents, mothers and professionals involved. Of the 6 programmes analyzed, two involve the Marist Brothers: Marist Community: located in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. Truce - Marist Community Programmes: an initiative carried out by the Marist Foundation for Solidarity (GESTA) in Chile. The preliminary results of the investigation - which identified

some factors concerning children at risk - were presented during the Assembly of the Marist International Network of Institutions for Higher Education in Lima, Peru, which took place from the 1st to the 6th of April.

With the object of ensuring that children and adolescents can also be informed on the topic, as well as the executive summaries translated into Portuguese, English and Spanish there is available a user-friendly version produced by the students of the Marist School Santa María (Montevideo, Uruguay). The fight against violence is a key topic for the Marist Institute since its foundation. The fundamental intuition of Marcellin Champagnat arose from the shock he felt on seeing his teacher's use of corporal punishment, in a rural school in France at the beginning of the XIX century. Until the end of his life, Father Champagnat inculcated in his Marist educators the importance of eradicating physical and psychological abuse in schools.



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