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MARIST NEWS

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Beyond geographic and existential walls and borders

MARIST INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

The Institute of the Marist Brothers, through the Department of Cmi (Collaboration for Mission, International), offers people with some connection to Marists to spend time as an International Volunteer. In volunteering, we promote the culture of encounter, go beyond geographic and existential borders, and seek to be beacons of hope for the children and young people who are living on the margins of society. Our desire is to build and live as a charismatic global family.

As Marists, we open our minds and hearts to build up a culture of solidarity in all our ministries. Volunteering is a concrete way of collaborating in Marist mission through sharing hope and life on a global stage. Marist volunteers are invited to embody the Marist charism in their own lives. Their action and witness gives new life and expression to the solidarity aspect of the dream of Marcellin Champagnat, "all the dioceses of the world figure in our plans." For us, volunteers are all the Marists who freely offer their presence and service in one of the eighty countries of the world where the Institute is present, devoting a period of their lives and sharing their skills. Volunteering is an effective way of building constructive relationships and making connections between nations and cultures; it is a powerful tool for sharing knowledge, skills and values, and making a difference in situations of poverty. The Common Good, more than the individual, is the badge of volunteering. Volunteers go out from their home context to go to



other places and collaborate in activities for human dignity and the respect of human rights.

Through volunteering, you can have a life-changing experience in cultural contexts different to your own. You can work with and have an impact on the life and reality of other people, whether through educational activities for planetary citizenship or advocating respect

for life in complex and diverse contexts. You get to know people personally and their circumstances in life. Becoming a volunteer demands responsibility, openness, availability and a capacity to serve. In encountering other people, the one who gains the most is yourself.

If you have some connection with the Marists of Champagnat, as Brother, layperson, student, ex-student, member of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, ... you can be a Marist International Volunteer. You must be over 18 years old and be ready to offer some period of your life to serve in other Marist contexts. For more information and orientation, get in touch with the Volunteer Coordinator of the Province you belong to and see what is required for taking part.

Have you ever thought, as Brother, layperson, student, ex-student, of becoming a Marist volunteer? Listen to your inner voice. God may be touching your heart and inviting you to be His hands in the service of others, along with the most needy children and young people. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/ozVzz-vrc8kk>

general administration

- Last Monday the General Council began its usual summer plenary session. It will finish on 29 June. This week the Brothers Councillors present a synthesis of the contact visits made to various Regions during the months of March to May.
- From 1 to 4 June Alcalá de Henares, Br Alvaro Sepulveda from FMSI took part in an evaluation of the agreement between the Marists and the Gregorian University about the course on "Safeguarding Children", conducted in Marist universities.

- Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the secretariat of Education and Evangelisation, attended the General Assembly (30-4 June) and the International Congress (4-8 June) of the OIEC (International Office of Catholic Education) in New York.
- The directors of the Secretariat of the Laity will meet in the General House from 7 to 9 June.
- The "Senderos" program at Manziana that began on 21 March will conclude on 8 June. 18 Brothers from 10 administrative units have participated.

Philippines: Marist spirituality in the workplace

A FORMATION OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONNEL OF KIDAPAWAN COLLEGE

The Calls of the 22nd General Chapter specifically suggest for Administrative Units “to develop plan for promoting Marist Life, including appropriate strategies for formation, accompaniment and belonging.” For this, initiatives had been done by the different groups, Marist connected organizations, and schools to foster the nurturing of Marist life of both brothers and lay.

The Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED) of Notre

Dame of Kidapawan College convened about Seventy (70) personnel for a Seminar Workshop on Marist Spirituality in the Workplace on May 21, 2019. The objective was to provide formative opportunity for the personnel to know more the essential characteristics of being Marist, deepen understanding of Marist Spirituality that is Marian and Apostolic, and appropriate these upheld Marist values in their own context and workplace. Ms. Agnes S. Reyes, the East Asia Laity

Coordinator facilitated the seminar-workshop input and process. Mr. Christopher James Ferrer, the IBED school principal, convened the one-day session with the interest of revitalizing Marist life in the academe. Among the participants, a number of whom are new personnel, 35 expressed their interest to know more about the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, a promising indicator, for sowing the seeds and letting grow the gift of being Marist in one’s own workplace.



Philippines: Twelve new Brothers will begin their first year of formation in July

MAPAC CONCLUDED ITS YEAR OF FORMATION

Nine Brothers from the Marist Centre of Asia-Pacific (MAPAC) concluded their year of formation 2018 - 2019. Three Brothers finished their second year, while six concluded their first. The period of formation in the Centre lasts for two years.

The six Brothers who completed their first year of study are: from Kiribati (1), Samoa (1), China (2), Vietnam (1) and Bangladesh (1), while the three Brothers who finished their second year are from Vietnam (2) and the Solomon Islands (1).

Twelve new Brothers will begin their new year of formation (2019 - 2020) starting



from July and they will join the 5 first year students who will begin their second

year in the Centre. The MAPAC formation team consists of Brothers, John Matthew Hazelman, Director; Simón Serero, Management Assistant; Raymond Kenneth Arthur, animator of the Lavalla Fraternity; William Vincent McCarthy, coordinator of spiritual direction; Hilario Schwab, animator of the Alfano fraternity; Ilnam Choi, bursar. Also members of the educational personnel are:

Marjorie Rañeses, Brother Manuel Uluan and P. Eduardo Verdadero, DCDH.

MARISTS IN SPAIN

On 20 June, Marists from the 4 Provinces with a presence in the country will attend a meeting in Madrid organised by the Conference of Religious, the association of Catholic Schools and the Spanish Bishops Conference to discuss abuses of power, conscience and sexuality.

COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA

On 25 May, in order to celebrate the day for Child Rights in the country, a group of young people from REMAR and teachers from the Los Naranjos College in Colombia visited Venezuelan migrant children who are staying at the Marist house called "Un corazón sin fronteras". There was time for play, talking about the rights of children and just spending time together.

CHILD PROTECTION

On 3 June, the book *Romper el silencio: diez rostros, diez voces* (Break the silence: ten faces, ten voices), was released in the St Paul's bookshop in Madrid. It brings together the witness of ten educators from different countries on their experience to date and the commitment of the Marist Institute to take steps in regard to child protection. The book was written by the journalists Imma Amadeo and Jordi Martínez, and edited by Edilvives.

IVORY COAST

On Sunday, the brothers of the District of West Africa and the Province of Mediterraenea joined the community of Bouake to celebrate the golden jubilee of Marist presence in the country.

BRAZIL CENTRO-NORTE

140 leaders of Province bodies and youth ministry met in Mendes. It provided an opportunity to refine common strategies and deepen their Marist spirituality through prayer and sharing.

Brazil: Campaign for Children Reaches 20 million People

MARIST VIDEO ENCOURAGES CHILDREN'S SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE



The Marist Center for the Defense of Children (Brazil Centro-Sur) reported the release of the eleventh video of the "[Defend Yourself](#)", Campaign promoting children's self-defense against sexual violence. It demonstrates things children can do openly, and also others that nobody need notice. The new video, "Defend Yourself", using easy to understand language, explains the concepts of privacy and personal space, fundamentals of self-defense. The video was launched on May 18, in Brazil the National Day Against the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Minors.

The [11 videos](#) of the award-winning campaign have already reached at least 20 million people through social media and are viewed in every country where Marists of Champagnat are present.

"When they are well-instructed, chil-

dren have a better chance of avoiding abuse, counting always on the support of trusted adults," explained Vinícius Gallon, a co-author and coordinator of the campaign, on speaking about the campaign begun in 2014.

The campaign has garnered various awards and was certified an excellent resource by the Organization of American States.

About the Marist Center for the Defense of Children

Created in 2010, The Marist Center for the Defense of Children, linked to the Marist Network of Solidarity, defends the rights of children, adolescents and young people, via the strengthening of the System of the Guarantee of Rights. The body also analyzes public budgets and promotes political actions in coordination with government, networks, forums, commissions and councils of the Rights.

marist world

Ireland: Marist College, Athlone - Annual Awards Ceremony.

Samoa
Marist Primary School

Chile
Colegio N. Sra. de Andacollo - Las Compañías



Fiji
Preparation Program for Perpetual Profession

Brazil
Colégio Marista São Francisco - Rio Grande

South Africa
Three2Six Project

Why have hundreds of thousands of Christians been persecuted?

THE CENTURY OF MARTYRS

Today I want to present and invite people to read another book that has caught my attention: *El siglo de los mártires*, Ediciones Encuentro 2019. The original was published in Italian in 2000. Andrea Riccardi the historian, and founder of the *Comunità di Sant Egidio* of Rome, has entered into the great archive of the Commission for New Martyrs, where letters can be accessed, indications, memoirs that, in these latter years have arrived from all parts of the world to Rome at the request of our Pope, Saint John Paul II. This book has been written with the material obtained from that consultation. Given the little space taken up by *Agios.Mar*, I will limit myself to copying the text from the back cover.



The XX century produced the declarations of human rights, but also hundreds of millions of victims slaughtered in genocides, civil and world wars, deportations, annihilations of ethnic groups, classes, religious or ideological groups, etc. In that context, Christians of all persuasions suffered martyrdom in unheard of numbers. This book tracks its history, framing it in its respective political circumstances: the martyrdom of the Armenians, in the Turkey of "the new Turks"; the orthodox Russians, in Soviet Russia; the Mexican Catholics, in the Mexico of the liberal revolution; the martyrs of Spain, in the anarchist and socialist revolution parallel to the civil war; Central Europe, under Nazi, Fascist and communist totalitarianism; the Christian minorities of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, in revolutions and decolonization; not forgetting the unstable

republics of Spanish America nor the "martyrs of charity."

This martyrdom of colossal dimensions constitutes a decisive key to understanding the present and serves as a guide for the future, professing or not professing the faith of the victims. The author shares the vision of Saint John Paul II: in the weakness of those who gave their life forgiving, confiding in a divine power that is the light of humanity amid the darkness in which each generation fights for good and freedom.

Why have hundreds of thousands of Christians been persecuted? This book covers the history of Christians murdered in the XX century for their beliefs. The reading of these histories is already a deserved homage to its main characters.

Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún, Postulator General

The “Asrama Butitin Project” in Nabawan, Malaysia

MARIST AND DE LA SALLE TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

Last year, the Marist Brothers and the De la Salle Brothers began a joint project in Nabawan, Malaysia, to help disadvantaged children move on to secondary education.

This initiative, the “Asrama Butitin Project”, is a boarding school for poor students who live in neighborhoods located far from the public schools. The goal of the project is to instill in the students the positive attitudes integral to their human development and to equip them to serve as role models to the other young people in the community. Presently 41 girls and 24 boys live at the school under the care of one De la Salle Brother, two Marist Brothers from the East Asia Province and two lay people. Their mission is to encourage the young people’s personal and group formation through the following activities:

Learning computer literacy

Teaching and strengthening English language skills



Community living and sharing household tasks—cleaning, gardening and cooking

Times of prayer

The president of the supervising committee is a layman, Johnny T. Kulai who, while continuing his work as a lawyer.

Marist Brothers and De la Salle Brothers working together

Both congregations share the charisma of education and have been collaborating in ministry for some time now in a number of projects. This was evident during the last Marist General Chapter, in Colombia, held in a De la Salle house. For a few days they welcomed the presence of Brother [Robert Schieler](#), Superior General of the De la Salle Brothers.

In addition to the community in Malaysia, it is worth noting the joint ministry of the two congregations in the Fratelli Project in Lebanon, and in the Bonanza community (Mediterranea Province). We can also mention the presence of a De la Salle Brother in the final stage of formation of the LaValla200 group last year, and which presently lives in the De la Salle community of Tabatinga, Brazil.

Spirituality, Laity, and Mission

ASIA COMMISSIONS AIM FOR REGIONAL PROGRESS

On May 15-18, 2019, the three Asia Commissions on Spirituality, Laity, and Missions held their meeting at Port Dickson, Malaysia. The meeting objectives include the review of the progress of the actions taken in the previous planning, the intention of consolidating the initiatives of the different commissions and the identification of priorities to be carried out in the next Two years in reference to the Asia Ten-Year Strategic Plans.

Mr. Luca Olivari, consultant of the General Administration, facilitated a formation session on leadership and teamwork. His presence offered an advantage to the participants as he provided technical guidance in the process of fine-tuning the direction of Marist life and mission in Asia Region. Mr. Luca also presented realities of progress in other regions, offering examples of best practices which Asia Region may explore.

With the short term goals identified in each Commission and the areas of collaboration among commissions clearly delineat-



ed, Br. Ador Santiago, FMS, the East Asia Provincial and Chair of the Marist Asia Implementation Team, expressed his hopes for the action plans to be communicated to others and carried out as indicated to ensure achieving the aim for Regional progress.

June - August 2019

CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS OF SECRETARIATS

01 - 04 June: Evaluation meeting of the course on the "Safeguarding of Minors" in partnership with the Pontifical Gregorian University (in Alcalá de Henares, Spain) - Alvaro Sepúlveda, FMSI

03 - 04 June: General Assembly of the International Organization for Catholic Education (OIEC) in New York, United States - Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation

05 - 08 June: World Congress of Catholic Education organized by the OIEC in New York, United States - Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede, directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization

03 - 28 June: Plenary session of the General Council

06 June: Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat

07 - 9 June: Meeting of the directors of the Bureau of the Laity at the General House

08 June: The "Senderos" course for middle-aged Brothers ends in Manziana

10 - 14 June: Integration week of the General Council with the secretariats of the General Administration

13 - 14 June: Meeting with the Council of the Province of West Central Europe in Guardamar, Spain - Brothers Ben Consigli and João Carlos do Prado, General Councillors

14 - 16 June: Assembly of the Province of West Central Europe in Guardamar, Spain - Brothers Ben Consigli and João Carlos do Prado, General Councillors

17 - 18 June: BICE Board of Directors in Paris - Br. Álvaro Sepúlveda, FMSI

20 - 22 June: Meeting of the 4 branches of the Marist Family in Manziana, Italy - Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General and General Council

24 - 28 June: Meeting of the International Commission of Spiritual Patrimony, General House - Brothers João do Prado and Óscar Martín, General Councillors, and Tony Leon, Director of the Secretariat Brothers Today

26 June: Annual meeting of Miseen Cara in Dublin, Ireland - Br. Rick Carey, director of FMSI

01 July: Meeting with Maristen Solidaritat International in Furth,

Germany - Br. Rick Carey, director of FMSI

01 - 05 July: Time away together for the General Council

02 - 06 July: Meeting of the African Mission Commission in Nairobi, Kenya – Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede, directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization

04 - 08 July: Meeting of the "Corazón Solidario" Network, Guatemala - Br. Valdicer Fachi, director of the Cmi Department

08 - 11 July: Meeting with provincial bursars in Nairobi, Kenya - Br. Libardo Garzón, Econome General

08 - 13 July: Meeting of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent in Nairobi, Kenya - Brothers Ken McDonald and Óscar Martín, General Councillors

08-20 July: Programme of preparation for perpetual profession, Novitiate in Lomeri, Fiji - Br. Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Secretariat Today

12 July: Meeting of the Council of the Union of Superiors General in Rome - Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General

15 - 19 July: Retreat in the Province of the United States - Br. Josep Maria Soteras, General Councillor

15 - 17 July: Meeting of the Committee for the Area of Marist Mission within the General Administration, in Santa Marinella, Italy - Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (Vicar General); Ben Consigli and Ken McDonald (General Councillors), Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede (Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation); Rick Carey (FMSI); Valdicer Fachi (Cmi Department).

18 - 22 July: Chapter of the Province of the Hermitage at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, France - Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General; João Carlos do Prado and Ben Consigli, General Councillors

23 - 24 July: New Horizons 2 project launch in Maputo, Mozambique - Andrea Rossi and Natalia Surrado, from FMSI

25 - 27 July: Second session of the Chapter of the Province of México Occidental, in Guadalajara - Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, General Councillors

25 - 29 July: Meeting of the Committee for the Area of Marist Life within the General Administration, in Guardamar, Spain - Brothers Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, João Carlos do Prado and

**MESSAGE OF BR. ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ,
SUPERIOR GENERAL, FOR THE FEAST OF
SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT**

**"LET MARY'S
HEART BEAT IN US:
THE GREAT GIFT THAT
MARCELLIN LEFT US"**



Óscar Martín (General Councilors); Brothers Tony Leon and Ángel Medina (Secretariat Brothers Today); Raúl Amaya, Pep Buetas and Agnes Reyes (Secretariat for the Laity); Br. Valdicer Fachi (Cmi Department).



25 July - 03 August: Visit to administrative services and some educational works of the Province

of East Asia - Brothers Libardo Garzón (Econome General) and Carlos Alberto Rojas (Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization)

29 July - 02 August: Visit to the Fratelli Project in Lebanon - Br. Valdicer Fachi, Department Cmi

29 July - 03 August: Retreat in the District of West Africa, Ivory Coast - Br. Óscar Martín, General Councillor

03 - 20 August: Visit to the Province of América Central - Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, General Councillors

03 - 15 August: Visit to administrative services and some educational works of the District of Melanesia - Brothers Libardo Garzón (Econome General) and Carlos Alberto Rojas (Secretariat of Education and Evangelization)

08 August - 03 October: "Horizons" training programme in Manziána

10 - 16 August: Workshop and Chapter of the Marist District of Asia - Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General; Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and Josep Maria Soteras, General Councillors

August 11 - September 27: Formation Program for candidates

for the "international communities for a new beginning" in Rome, Manziána and l'Hermitage - Brothers Jeff Crowe and Ángel Medina

August 17 - 28: Visit to administrative services and some educational works of the Pacific District - Brothers Libardo Garzón (General Treasurer) and Carlos Alberto Rojas (Secretariat of Education and Evangelization)

19 - 24 August: Provincial Chapter of South Asia, Sri Lanka - Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General; Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and Josep M. Soteras, General Councillors

18 - 22 August: Visit to the Pacific District - Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General

23 - 24 August: Meeting of the preparatory committee for the Assembly of Canada, in Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu - Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Ken McDonald and João Carlos do Prado, General Councillors

25 August: Meeting of the preparatory committee for the Regional Assembly of Arco Norte, in Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu, Canada - Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Ken McDonald and João do Prado, General Councillors

26 August: Meeting with the Provincial Council of Canada and the Marist Association of Laity - in Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu - Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Ken McDonald and João do Prado, General Councillors

31 August - 01 September: Provincial formative meeting of the CMMF in Porto Alegre, Brazil - Raúl Amaya, director of the Secretariat of Laity.

"To be the face and hands of your tender mercy"

THE MARISTS OF BRAZIL ORGANISE A MARIAN ENCOUNTER AT VERANOPOLIS

A mariology congress was held in Veranópolis from 20 to 24 May. The event brought together some 60 participants, brothers and laypeople from across Brazil.

Starting from the phrase, "To be the face and hands of your tender mercy", those attending explored the marian face of the Church in terms of mercy, tenderness and prophecy.

The theme was approached from four different angles: biblical-theological; socio-political-cultural; mystical-prophetic; charismatic-institutional. Activities included presentations, group work, prayer moments, a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Caravaggio and a visit to the art exhibition of Leticia de Castillos, The Smiles of Mary in the Amazon.

Sonia Vidal, advisor to the department of Consecrated Life and Laity within the Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL), explained the purpose of the congress as, "It is part of the five-year plan

for the formation of leaders / multipliers responsible for activities at

the Province-level, aimed at reflecting on and strengthening our Marian identity. The event was a lead-up to the Mariology Symposium in 2021."

It was also an opportunity to celebrate the 230th anniversary of the birth of St Marcellin Champagnat and to commemorate this, the book "Letters of St Marcellin Champagnat" in French and Portuguese was published. This edition contains the signed texts and drafts of Marcellin, reproduced as faithfully as possible, along with informative notes on the people and context of his time.



Colombia: Charismatic connection of lay Marists

MARIST PROVINCE OF NORANDINA



and to spreading the Marist charism, as a form of expressing the Marian face of the Church. We give thanks to God for allowing us to make the Marist charism our own, as a life option."

The Grupo de Semillero 1, consisting of fourteen lay Marists who made their consecration one year ago in Venezuela, during the VIth Provincial Chapter, also renewed their connection using their own formula.

The whole preparation was done by the Commission of the Marist Laity of Colombia, led by Claudia A. Rojas Carvajal.

On April 30th, there took place in Cali (Colombia), the ceremony of formalising the commitment to the Marist charism of ten lay Marists who have been preparing for this for just over a year.

Brother César Rojas, Provincial, took part in the celebration, together with other Brothers and a large group of lay Marists from the province. This celebration was presided over by Wilson Durán, of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers.

The ten lay Marists pronounced the formula of their commitment together. The Brother Provincial honoured those to be consecrated with the Marist cross of Champagnat designed for use by the lay Marists who publicly show their connection to the charism and which has a deep meaning; accompanying this symbol Brother Caesar gave each a warm congratulatory embrace, accompanied by some words to each one as a symbol of his or her charismatic connection.

The lay Marists expressed their commitment in the following way: We commit ourselves to revitalising and sharing the Marist charism, as a form of expressing the Marian face of the Church."

The ten lay Marists of "Grupo Semillero 2" choosing the Marist charism as a life option are: Luis Ernesto Jojoa and Alfredo Mora, from Sibundoy; Eduardo Obando, from Ipiales; Jenny Narváez and Mildred Baena, from Pasto; Ruth Calvache and Mario Trujillo, Popayán; Ingrid Arteaga, from Cali; Gloria Ríos, from Manizales; and Rocío López, from Villavicencio. Two more lay Marists have been following the complete formation process and will make the commitment with "Grupo Semillero 3" which is in preparation.

The extensive formula of commitment makes reference to the three dimensions mentioned, with special emphasis on the Marist, as can be seen in the following: "We commit to revitalising

Lay Bonding in Norandina

For the Norandina province, the discernment processes and lay connection can be experienced in two ways. The Marist laity which continues experiencing the formation stages and which are explicit in the document "to be a lay Marist", develop their discernment through the stages of Fourvière and La Valla for the discernment and lay charismatic connection.

The Marist laity which has already had certain experiences through formation and proximity with the charism and which fulfils a series of criteria are denominated vocational groups; in these groups the preparation for connection is accomplished in the course of about one year, and ten records are developed with the accompaniment of a Brother or lay mentor. The records correspond to three wide aspects: human, christian, Marist; and each aspect is made up of 3 or 4 topics.



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