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MARIST NEWS

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Partnership in Mission

WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE PROVINCE

Marists of West-Central Europe Province gathered in Guardamar, Spain, 14 to 16 June, for the 3rd Provincial Assembly. There were 60 participants from the five countries of the Province. Also Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ben Consigli, General Councilors, were present. The theme of this provincial meeting was "Partnership in Mission" and the objective of the Gathering was to empower fellow Marists to take greater ownership of Marist mission in the province. The participants expressed their passion for Marist Mission and undertook a series of actions in each country to further develop mission.

The gathering was a tremendous community event and the participants left with renewed energy for the year ahead.

The process led by two members of the Marist [Kinharvie Institute](#) from Glasgow was really excellent.

The liturgical moments were very special and well prepared by members who attended the weekend and helped all grow in the way of Mary.

The Mission Council of the Province will continue to support



new initiatives to develop mission in the Province.

At the closing session, Br. Robert Thunus, Provincial, said that these days were a very good experience of Marist life which strengthen our Marist identity as a Province and was in synergy with the priorities of the recent Provincial Chapter and the theme of the General Chapter "Journeying together as a global family". He reminded also that our mission is to be beacon of hope and home of light for young people and our world.

general administration

■ After the plenary session, which ended last Friday, the General Council spends a week on holiday on the Italian coast.

■ Brother Rick Carey, director of FMSI, met with Maristen Solidaritat International on July 1, in Furth, Germany.

■ Brother Jeff Crowe, responsible for the follow-up of the communities LaValla200, is visiting the international com-

munity of Tabatinga, Brazil.

■ Mark Omede, assistant Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, will participate in the meeting of the African Mission Commission in Nairobi from July 2-6.

■ Brother Valdicer Fachi, director of the Cmi Department, will take part in the meeting of the "Corazón Solidario" Network in Guatemala from 4 to 8 July.

International solidarity

SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND COLLABORATE WITH THE MARISTS OF INDIA

About 15 years ago Brother Douglas Welsh and Tony McLean were commissioned by Lawside RC Academy (Dundee, Scotland) to travel to India. Their objective, the possibility of collaborating with the Brothers of Mangamanuthu and Trichy.

In the course of these years the Marists of Scotland have been able to become very close to the Brothers and students of Marcellin High School, Mangamanuthu and the Rainbow Project in Trichy, which takes care of the mothers and children with AIDS.

Several schools in Scotland are involved in the project; as well as praying for their friends in India they raise funds to provide them with books, writing and drawing materials, photocopy machines, computer equipment. For the Rainbow Project sewing machines materials, books, money for the education of the children; they also contributed money to help the Brothers during the typhoons that hit the country.

The picture shows some students of St. John's High School presenting their latest cheque to Brother Douglas, trustee of



the India Village Project.

There is not enough space here to describe the magnitude of the connection between Scotland and India, but more information can be obtained from this website: <http://indiavillageproject.org>

SOUTH AFRICA

From 24 to 28 June, the International Marist Community LaValla200> of Atlantis was put in charge of organising a "Holiday Programme" for the children, adolescents and young people of the city. An average of 250 children took part every day in the proposed activities. On one of the days, those taking part had the opportunity to visit the Marist College of St. Joseph in Cape Town (60 km), where the Marist students prepared innumerable recreational activities.



PARAGUAY

Last month, 54 young people from the cities of Asunción, Caaguazú, Coronel Oviedo, Horqueta and Limpio met at the Annual Youth World Retreat. The retreat was organized by Monica Linares, from Argentina.

UNITED STATES

Many young Marists from the United States had a great experience this summer as part of their mission trips: a group of students from St. Joseph's Academy recently spent a week in El Paso; while students from Saint Joseph Regional High School in Montvale and Marist High School in Bayonne are currently in Merida, Mexico; and a group of 26 Marists travelled to Kentucky to build a chapel in honour of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

MARIST PLACES

A group of 15 young Marists from Quebec, together with Brother Bernard Baudin, are visiting Marist places in France.

AUSTRALIA

The Marists of the Province gathered in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney in the course of last weekend to celebrate the jubilees of Marist consecrated life of several Brothers.

BELGIUM

The Marists of the country met on June 29 to celebrate Saint Marcellin Champagnat with the community of the elderly Brothers in Genval. Jean-Luc Hudsyn, auxiliary bishop of Malines-Bruxelles.

Province Brasil Sul-Amazônia

MARIST MEMORIES PROJECT:
STORIES OF LOVE AND LIFE

To preserve a record of the people who have helped to build the history of the Marist Network. This is the central objective of the [Marist Memories Project](#): Stories of Love and Life, which this year sees its third edition.

The initiative has [31 mini-documentaries](#) that portray the story of the lives of Brothers and Lay Marists, and addresses topics such as vocation, mission and the educational legacy, especially in Rio Grande do Sul. The project is a way of keeping alive the history of the institute and also of paying tribute to the people who gave of themselves for this work to continue.

Archivist Grazielle Santorum, a mem-

ber of the project team, explains the historical importance of the videos: "The oral narrative is a complement to the documents we have in the province archives. From their own words, we can learn about the lives of the interviewees, and also be better informed about the origins of our work in the south of the country.

Marist Brother Pedro Pellizzaro, one of the characters in the third edition, also thinks that documentaries are much more than tributes. "They tell the stories of people who are emblematic of the places where they were, whose life journeys have been linked to mission," said the 82-year-old Brother, 61 of them in Marist consecrated life.

Vatican
2019 South African Marist Pilgrimage



General House
Brothers Today and Cmi



Vietnam
Hung Phu Parish - Saigon



Brazil
Young Brothers from Brasil Centro-Norte



Madagascar: Marist school in antsiranana -
Celebration of the independence



United States
Celebration of Brother Jubilarians in Douglaston

Provincial Youth Meeting brings together Marists in Brasilia

REFLECTION, DEBATE AND POLITICS INVOLVE THE YOUTH OF BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

A Provincial Youth Meeting was held from the 17th to the 25th June with the aim of promoting reflection, prayer, sharing, discussion and celebration. With the theme "Youth, Faith and Social Discernment", the event brought together young people, collaborators and Marist Brothers from different regions of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte. The opening coincided with the Mass celebrated on the 17th by Cardinal Sérgio da Rocha in Brazlândia. On Wednesday the 19th, the young people were received at the National Congress where they held a chat on the political participation of young people and education.

Several workshops were proposed to help in the reflection. Among the themes were: political participation and leadership,



cultural manifestations of young people, youth in movement, Christianity and diversity, black and indigenous identities

in education and youth and the UN. Approximately 100 participants were present.

Spain: After one hundred years of work, Champagnat's dream is still alive

MORE THAN 1500 PEOPLE CELEBRATED THE CLOSING OF THE CENTENARY OF THE MARIST PRESENCE IN LEÓN



On Sunday 9 June, the celebration of the centenary of the presence of the Marist Brothers in the city of León, Spain (the Marist Province of Compostela) officially came to an end with a Mass celebrated in the cathedral of the city and presided over by the bishop, attended by Marist Brothers, teachers, former teachers and Brothers, students, ex-students and families linked to the Marist schools in León. After Mass, more than 1500 people went to St. Joseph's College, where a musical was presented - by the primary school pupils - to commemorate these 100 years of Marist life in León. The day continued with a celebration and ended with a prayer to Mary, our good Mother.

The Marist presence in the city of León dates back to September 12, 1918 when four French Marist Brothers came to the city.

At the moment there are three communities of brothers: two of them are in school and the third, which is a community welcoming vocations, is in a house in the city.

There are two Marist schools, the oldest being St. Joseph's College, which has 1155 students in nursery, primary, compulsory secondary and high school. There are 70 teachers and 23 others who work in the kitchen, act as monitors

and administrators and various other services.

Champagnat College is modern and was initially a juniorate as well. In this school there are currently about 200 students in three stages: infant, primary and compulsory secondary education. There are twenty teachers here. It is also the residence of the elderly, retired and sick brothers of the Province.

It is important to highlight the growing presence of the MarCha youth group which, in its initial stages, works in each of the two colleges and as soon as the youngsters are older (university stu-

dents), they have a joint dynamic.

And it should be remembered that there is a Marist spirituality group of lay people (teachers and some parents) and some brothers who try to share the charism of the institution.

Likewise, the social work promoted by the Montagne Foundation of the Marist Province of Compostela is also taking its first steps - still in its early form - which will work by giving school support to boys and girls of the gypsy community. After one hundred years of Marist presence, we can say that Champagnat's dream is still very much alive in León.

Colombia: The reflection of God's face, hands and merciful heart

CENTRE IN MAICAO WELCOMES MIGRANT BOYS AND GIRLS

To celebrate in a concrete way the memory of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, on June 6 the Province of Norandina inaugurated the Marist house "A heart without bounds", in Maicao, Colombia, located some 10 kilometres from the border with Venezuela. It is a project which welcomes, during the day, children of Venezuelan migrants who do not have anywhere to leave their children because of the hard and difficult conditions that they have to confront when arriving from Venezuela in Colombia.

Below, Mrs. Kenia Dales, a Marist teacher from Venezuela who migrated to Colombia and directs the social centre, shares with the Marist world her experience in these first weeks of work.

« Less than a month ago I was at the border between Venezuela and Colombia, although I was very afraid because of the mission that I had taken on. From the very beginning I thanked God for the opportunity given to me and although many thoughts crossed my mind, fear, concern, happiness... conflicting emotions, even so, I continue thanking God, Our Good Mother and Marcellin because every day is an adventure of love, of dedication and hope.

This adventure took place in Maicao (Guajira), in a small neighbourhood, Los comuneros. Accompanied by Brother Héctor Colala and with the collaboration of the Social Pastoral, the Marist house "A heart without bounds - Maicao", opened its doors on June 6 to welcome children of migrant Venezuelans and returning Colombians. This project, run by the Marist Community of the Province of Norandina, welcomes children aged 5 to 14 years during the day. Together with them people have come to our house with a great desire to help; getting to know them makes me understand that God has opened the roads for us and is present among us: Pamela, Diani, Sandra, are becoming more and more part of the project day by day.

From the beginning, I have heard so much from the parents of these children. In the midst of their innocence, some sadness escapes from behind their smiles. Life does not prepare us for such situations until we live them. However, there are circum-

stances that force us to leave everything: everything that was ours: everything that was part of our day to day living, including the people we love; leaving our roots, that piece of land called home; to cross boundaries in search of new opportunities.

And we go out with broken dreams, filled with fear, alone or with the closest of our families, our children; we allow ourselves to be taken to another land and the road becomes eternal thinking of the past, worried for those we leave behind or for those who go with us to an uncertain destination. The sound of the wind whispering in our ears becomes a cry from the depth of our being: "everything will be fine", encouraging us, faking a smile in the midst of our anguish.

Looking at their tired faces, listening to every word, trying to express everything that they keep in their heart and feeling their warm hands in mine, to give thanks, to make it worthwhile to be here. To tell them that I am listening to them and that I understand

them because I also am leaving everything behind, to give them a smile, to tell them to have faith, a lot of faith that with the help of God everything will improve; this is my first commitment; although I ask myself can I do more? How else can I help them?, can they read and recognize in us the face of Jesus?

"A heart without frontiers" is an oasis in this desert, a small drop of water that will do everything possible to quench the thirst of the little ones who come to our doors, we will do everything in our power and more, so that they feel loved and



cared for. The little ones who have come to our house this week with dirty shoes and burnt skin, arriving fearful, but after a while they run through the courtyard, their smile fills every corner, some want to draw, to sing, to dance, to see them eat between laughter and vague discussions, those that only children understand, to look at them enjoying an ice cream which is the first for some and from nowhere to listen to "I LOVE YOU, TEACHER" so open, so innocent, so sincere makes me think that I am in the place that I should be. And at the end of the day their parents arrive and they jump for joy talking about everything

that they have done.

My heart beats stronger with so many conflicting emotions, I do not stop thanking God because every day the children who come to our house become part of Champagnat's dream. By way of reflection, I leave you this: More than 30,000 Venezuelan children are on this border; families with 5 or 6 children are seen in the streets, squares, shelters, settlements, so we must question ourselves if in reality our life history is sad or not, in comparison to that of these parents and children who have had to live such a confused, cruel and uncertain reality.»

Italy: Brothers and lay people living together in community

A VISIT TO THE MIXED COMMUNITY OF GIUGLIANO

On Saturday 8th of June, Agnes Reyes, Pep Bue-tas and Raúl Amaya of the Secretariat of the Laity, together with counsellors Brother Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and Joao Carlos do Prado, visited the mixed community of Giugliano, in Naples, Italy.

This community, together for almost 10 years, is composed of Brothers Giorgio, Doménico and Damiano and for the laity, Rosa and Gianluca who are married.

The dialogue was very warm, cheerful and with a lot of good fellowship. They told us all about the different stages of their process and how step by step they have come to learn how to share their life, their spirituality and Marist mission through their respective vocations, strengthening their communion and their respect and solving the diverse aspects which come from living together.

These are vocations that depend on sharing and so they become enriched; they make an inclusive home of the community, a welcome space for anyone who visits them; of openness, dialogue and flexibility to integrate the news of the Spirit. Also, it means that you can be Marist without necessarily taking part in educational work, as is the case of Rosa, who is a lawyer and works outside of the school and participates as catechist in her workplace.

To learn about the construction process and growth of the community was a great gift for us. We were witnessing a way



that touches people deeply in their answer to the calls of God and of life. The different stages of beginning, advancing, going back and starting again are beautiful dynamics of open hearts which are conscious that there is a horizon to be discovered and that the most important thing is achieved by living and being open to others each day.

The Marist future of Brothers and lay people sharing in community, as a global charismatic family, is already here in this community. It shows that today, Brothers and lay people can live together, strengthening our common vocation and enriching our specific vocations. The important thing is that we are Marists and that our charism brings us together in the service of the Lord, wherever He takes us.

Thank to Rosa, Gianluca, Giorgio, Doménico and Damiano for sharing with us the gift that God has entrusted to them.

Marist Presence in Karcag and Esztergom, Hungary

MARIST BROTHERS PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR ROMA CHILDREN



The Marist Brothers of the Hermitage Province have been in Hungary since 1999, serving disadvantaged children and youth, especially the Roma (gypsies), in the cities of Karcag and Esztergom.

Their work began with the objective of advocating for equal opportunity for young people and improving the quality of life of the young Hungarian Roma living in the suburbs.

As part of their charitable activities the Brothers and Lay Marists of the Hermitage Province offer the children with education, social protection, medical services, psychological counseling and recreational activities. They also provide for social assimilation, equal opportunities and defense of the rights of children and young people.

Marists serve in three institutions:

- A children's center, called A Mi Hazunk (Our Home), built

in 2001, offering education to the Roma children living in a suburb of Esztergom

- A primary school, St. Paul Marist (Szent Pal Marista Altalanos Iskola), built in the city of Karcag, 2008. The school has about 230 students, of which 99% are Roma.
- An open house (T.I.P.) in Karcag for students who are part of the Marist Network.

As part of their social and educational services, the Marists offer the poor families various programs of assistance and service, such as "Baba-Mama Foglalkozas" a daycare center for children up to age 3; a program "Mi Sulink", for those children unable to attend the primary school. Similarly offered are workshops for women, and others that provide assistance to youth (intermediate group - 2009) via various courses of work training and job placement.



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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