



Year XII - Number 588 | 23 JULY 2019

# MARIST NEWS

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Preparation for perpetual profession in Lomeri

## 15 MARIST BROTHERS READY TO SAY "YES"

**W**e just finished our 8-week long preparation for perpetual profession here in Marist Brothers Novitiate where we arrived last May 24.

We, the 15 participants from six different countries, are the following: Dominic Nekebatu (Solomon Islands) and Jeremy Wabi (Bougainville) from the District of Melanesia; Fabio Oliveira (Portugal) from the Compostela Province; Cong Nguyen (Vietnam) and Quy Nguyen (Vietnam) from the Marist District of Asia; John Emil Alada (Philippines), Rechie Dean Bagsican (Philippines), Raymund Gallardo (Philippines), Lloyd Gamboa (Philippines), Deo Dudz Hizo (Philippines), Philip Caesar Renacia (Philippines), Cian Marco Tabuada (Philippines), John Allen Timola (Philippines), Aljon Yonder (Philippines) and Moses Cho (South Korea) from the East Asia Province.

Along with the Novitiate community, we were welcomed by the Preparation Team headed by Br. Bryan Davis (Australia), Br. Jacobo Song (South Korea), and Br. Ted Fernandez (Philippines).

Br. Bryan Davis led the first week with "Vocational Quest", where we shared about our vocation stories, our questions



on religious life, discernment, meaning of life for us, and our hopes and expectations.

Br. Graham Neist presented the topic on Listening and Responding Contemplatively, where contemplative practice and "turning up" (presence) appealed to us.

Br. Michael Green presented us Marcellin's Spirituality according to the vows, wherein the "bon enfant" style of being a brother, a down-to-earth way of being a brother, struck us the most.

Br. Seán Sammon presented An Undivided Heart, a topic on celibate chaste living, and even gave out copies of his book.

## general administration

■ The Marist Life Area of the General Administration is meeting in Guardamar, Spain, from 25 to 29 July: Brothers Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and Óscar Martín, General Councillors; Brothers Tony Leon and Angel Medina, of the Secretariat Brothers Today; Raúl Amaya, Pep Buetas and Agnes Reyes, of the Secretariat for the Laity; Brother Jeff Crowe, of Laval-la200>; and Brother Valdicer Fachi, of the Department of Cmi.

■ The second stage of the New Horizons project has been launched in Mozambique. Mark Omede, from the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, and Andrea Rossi from FMSI

are attending.

■ The General Councillors, João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, are attending the second session of the Chapter of the Province of Mexico Occidental, taking place from July 25-27, in Guadalajara.

■ Brothers Libardo Garzón, Econome General, and Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, will Visit administrative services and some educational works of the East Asia Province from July 25 to August 3.

Br. Barry Burns presented Living Simply, a connection of our vow of poverty with our pope's call to care for our common home. Br. Tony Leon presented Brothers Today as an epic love story, and he even prompted us to make our own artworks. Br. Ángel Medina presented New Expressions of Marist Life, particularly the La Valla 200 Program. In the midst of the program, the brothers enjoyed going to the nearby beach in Loloma to swim and play volleyball. But what excited them most was drinking kava, a must-try local drink here. Each brother even bought Bula shirts and some even

wore Fijian sulu. Our final week of the program was dedicated to what we call as the Synthesis, when each brother gave a creative presentation of all their experiences of the program with songs, dance, music, artworks, poetry, crafts, video presentation, and even told their own life stories. And now, our hope for the future is that we would bring all of these learning into our respective communities and our ministries. Please pray for us.

France: When the charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat touches people's hearts, it changes their lives

## PILGRIMAGE TO MARIST PLACES

During the last number of weeks, several groups of the Marist world have passed through the Marist places in France: Canada, United States, Paraguay, Brazil, Spain, among others. In the following text, the group formed by members of the directive Teams of the educational works of Ibérica tell of their experience.

It's 8:00 in the morning. Notre Dame de L'Hermitage wakes up. A new day begins with the sound of the bells and a good breakfast. Next to us, there is a group of North Americans, who, a few days later, will be Brazilians. This beautiful place on the mountains of the Pilat Regional Park would never have imagined that people from all over the world would travel on pilgrimage, Marists coming to know their origins, the beginning of Marcellin Champagnat's great dream. This week we have had the opportunity to contemplate with our own eyes the lush nature of the Pilat Regional Park, the environment surrounding all the towns and villages in which Marcellin began his life as a priest back in 1816. We were able to walk through the streets of his native village; listen to his experiences, like that of the young Montagne; and feel the magic that surrounds the first house of the Marist Brothers in La Valla. We have also known many other important places in the life of our founder, such as the great village of Marthes, where they venerate Saint Marcellin as one of their own; villages such as Le Bessat and Maisonnettes; and the city of Lyon, with its beautiful and imposing basilica of Fourvière, where we had the opportunity to pray and manifest our commitment as the first brothers did then in the "Fourvière promise".



We learned from the first Brothers that their simplicity, their work and their goodness made them models for all who came later, and that today their charism is still alive in all of us. Marcellin was their first example and for more than 200 years their tenacity, compassion, joy, kindness and inspiring energy have built a diverse and global family that continues its work of educating and evangelizing children and young people. We have had the privilege of enjoying as children the teachings and virtues that the present community of the Hermitage has passed on to us about its past and present, always building bridges to the future. We will eternally thank them for their warm welcome and the gift that we carry in our hearts: the illusion of communicating to our companions and students what we have lived, and the experience of fraternity and belonging to a great family.

**COLOMBIA**

On June 25, the Bicentennial School of Independence was inaugurated in Bosa. And on July 19, the Secretary of Education of Bogota gave the school to the Marist Institute to administer. The school will accommodate 1,890 students, from pre-school to high school.

**CRUZ DEL SUR**

For the first time, a group of lay-people and Brothers from Paraguay - from the cities of Asunción, Limpio, Caaguazú, Horqueta and Coronel Oviedo - participated from July 8 to 12 in the Self-Knowledge and Spirituality Workshop, within the framework of the Project "On the Shore of Genesareth" organized by the Marist Vocation Team.

**MEXICO**

Last Monday, the Marist Migrant Support Centre were visited by staff from some international organizations - IOM, the International Organization for Migration in Mexico and UNHCR, the UN Agency for Refugees - at the facilities of the Marist University of Querétaro to assess the situation of the Venezuelan people in the city.

**PROVINCE OF L'HERMITAGE**

New provincial council: Mathaios Levantinos, Jaime Pares, Michel Morel, Pere Ferre, Provincial, Xavier Giné, Ramon Rúbies, Gabriel Villa-Real.

**Guatemala: American Conference of Provincials****II MEETING OF THE NETWORKS OF AMERICA**

The members of the animating teams of the Inter-American Solidarity Heart Network and the Inter-American Spirituality Network met in Guatemala City from July 4-8, 2019. The team animating the itinerary of formation to perpetual profession was also part of the meeting.

The meeting of the inter-American networks has provided continuity to the one held in November 2018, in Mexico City, and completed the work of planning for each of these. The work was animated by Brother Alberto Aparicio, executive secretary of the South American region, and by Brother Gregorio Linacero, coordinator of the regional committee of Arco Norte. José Sánchez, Provincial of Central Mexico and coordinator of the American Conference of Provincials (CAP) and of the Arco Norte Region, and Br. Inacio Etges, Provincial of Brasil Sul-Amazônia and coordinator of the South America Region. Valdicer Fachi, director of the Department of Collaboration for International Mission (CMI).

It was an important moment to continue dreaming of the animation of the spirituality and solidarity of the American continent. And the preparation of our young Brothers for their perpetual profession. The abundance of life on the continent

was evident in each of these groups. In the course of these days, the planning of each one was completed. With them we want to promote these two areas, which are so important and complementary, in continuity with the tradition that both have had in the continent, for many years.

In the photo, from top to bottom and from left to right: Mr. Gustavo Balbinot (Spirituality Network), Bro. Gregorio Linacero (coordinator of the Regional Committee of Arco Norte), Mrs. Gabrielle Giard (Solidarity Heart Network), Mrs. Analía Ruggeri (Solidarity Heart Network), Mrs. Ofelia Ramírez (Spirituality Network), Bro. Inacio Etges (South America Provincial Coordinator), Bro. Valdicer Fachi (WCC), Bro. Alberto Aparicio (Executive Secretary of the South America Region), Bro. Rodrigo Cuesta (Itinerary of preparation for perpetual profession), Mrs. Socorro Álvarez (Red Corazón Solidario), Bro. Luis Felipe (Itinerary of preparation for perpetual profession), Bro. Vicente Falcheto (Red Corazón Solidario), Bro. Juan Antonio Sandoval (Red de Espiritualidad), Bro. José Sánchez (Provincial coordinator of CAP), Bro. Anacleto Peruzo (Itinerary of preparation for perpetual profession).

marist world

Sri Lanka  
Maris Champagnat Association - Annual Meeting

Brazil: Solidarity Mission of the Province of Brasil  
Centro-Sul - Santos

Peru: Vocational Week - Educational Center  
"Santa Rosa" - Sullana



Italy  
Lavalla200> Siracusa

General House: European Course of Accompaniment  
for Vocational Discernment

Philippines: MAPAC (Marist Asia-Pacific Center)  
1st Year Brothers

Australia: Nurturing the Present and Next generation

# EACH YEAR, MORE AND MORE YOUNG MARISTS DECIDE TO JOIN THE MARIST FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA

“We are blessed with so many fine Marist young adults who have come through our MYM school-based programs over the years (Remar, Marist Connect, Student Leaders Gatherings, Marist Forums etc) and who choose to remain connected and deepen their journey with our spiritual family”, said Br. Greg McDonald, National Coordinator of Marist Youth Ministry in Australia, when speaking of these young Marists. 15 such recent graduates are in paid positions in Marist schools across the country or our regional offices, and so ready to “give so much to the Marist mission in Australia”, added Br Greg. The Province and Marist Association

fosters and invests in Marist presence through retreats and formation experiences, so that future generations – those in the 18-25 group and those over 25 – will be the torch-bearers in the years ahead. As one of the formation activities, Br Graham Neist, Caitlin Humphreys and Joe McCarthy facilitated a retreat in May, for 25+ year olds, members of the Association, and in professional careers. Similarly, at the beginning of July, there was a retreat, also at

Mittagong, open to the 18-25 age group currently involved in MYM, on the theme “friendship with God”. Br Darren Burge led the group of recently graduated young adults who are currently studying at university as well as working or volunteering in MYM.



"We are blessed because the Lord has been good to us"

## RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS IN THE MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA

The Marist District of Asia has been growing little by little since 2006. It owes its development primarily to the Lord of the harvest who has sent us vocations in the countries where we have begun to work. Another great influence in the awakening and growth of vocations is the unwavering faith of so many families who have endured pain and suffering to maintain the faith of their ancestors; They are the Church of martyrs which continue to be a seed-bed of vocations ... I also believe that the simplicity of life and the passion of our brothers to be where the needs are greatest has also been a flame that communicates fire and burns in the hearts of young people who are passionate about the work of Marcellin.

From the beginning, we have seen the need to work in vocational ministry in each country in a different way, because in certain places working for religious vocations would appear to be working against the growth of local clergy. In other countries where we work, our missionary presence is not legally accepted and we have to live discreetly and work without raising many waves. Despite all these problems, the brothers have insisted on taking ownership of the lifestyle of each country. The language, the culture, the mentality and the way of living the faith have demanded that we become one with those to whom we were sent and so today, with great satisfaction, I can see the brothers who have been in the missions for more than 10 years, talking and writing fluently those languages which, at first, seemed encrypted and incomprehensible languages.

Communication is the basis of this meeting to carry out the formation of our local brothers. That is why we have also insisted on the need to have a common language in the District and that language is English. From the time of their Aspirancy the study of English



is required, and that study continues throughout training. Thus, at the end of the post novitiate, we have brothers who have experienced what it means to be part of the global family.

We thank all the Marist world for the support they have given us during these years, because the training is costly and it is thanks to the fraternal help of all of you that we have been able to continue the initiation into the religious life, living in rented houses and, sometimes, moving the house of formation from one place to another, according to the needs. Today, thank God, we have our Postulancy in Davao, Philippines, open to other Provinces, an International Novitiate in Sri Lanka, of which we are a part, and an International Training Centre called MAPAC (Marist Asia Pacific Centre) for the Post- Novitiate.

The aspirants are in three of the countries where we work: Bangladesh, with four aspirants; India with three; and Vietnam with nine. At the end of their aspirancy, young people who are accepted pass on to the shared Postulancy in Davao.

There are twenty Postulants. Twelve in their second year: eight from East Timor (Province of Australia) and four young people from our District (1 from Vietnam, 1 from Cambodia and 2 from Bangladesh). In their first year, there will soon be 8: five from Vietnam and three from

India. During the first year, the applicants focus on the study of English and training for community life. During the second year they focus more specifically on vocational discernment and more concrete formation on aspects of Marist life.

The Novitiate has the capacity to receive twenty novices; currently there are eight novices in their second year (7 from Vietnam and 1 from China). There are ten first year novices (1 from Vietnam and 9 from East Timor).

After the Novitiate the brothers follow professional studies in Manila, Philippines. At present the group of young brothers studying in this centre is composed of 18 brothers of various Administrative Units. Our District has five brothers in their first year and three in their second year.

It is a great joy to be able to see clearly the fruits of this vocational and training work, considering the first six local brothers currently working in different communities. Two of them prepare, along with thirteen other brothers of other Administrative Units, to make their perpetual vows following the specific programme for this purpose in Fiji. When we finish describing the vocations in the District with a panoramic view, we have no choice but to sing with the Psalmist "We are happy because the Lord has been good to us" (Ps 125).

Bro. Juan Castro - Superior of the District

Brazil: Culture of Encounter and Dialogue

# MEETING OF PROFESSIONALS IN COMMUNICATION

"The Culture of Encounter and Dialogue" was the central theme of the XIII meeting of Marist Communication held at the Pontifical University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS). The event, promoted by the Marist Network (Brasil Sul-Amazônia) brought together more than 130 communicators from the institution.

The Marist communication meeting is held every two years and depends on the participation of all the communication professionals of the Province, who meet to discuss topics that affect the management of communication and the development of communication practices in each project of the institution. The theme of this thirteenth Meeting, which is inspired by the reflections of Pope Francis, reinforces the importance and effectiveness of dialogue for collective construction, openness, availability and respect for others. These were the points of interest dealt with during the event, and from the perspective of communication, different reflections were generated among the professionals.

Professor Marlene Marchiori and Executive Vice President of Weber Shandwick, Everton Schultz attended the opening of the



event and spoke about reputation and trust within organizations. Through her academic experience in the field of communication, Marlene reinforced the importance of professionals' strategic performance: "educating for communication is our greatest challenge," she said.

For his part, Schultz presented cases from different areas and helped reflect on ways of executing new strategies of action with the public: "getting out of our bubble is the first step," she said. Similarly, she presented research data pointing to how institutional positions have an impact on the reputation and

July 23: Anniversary of the Fourvière Promise

# "WE IRREVOCABLY DEDICATE OURSELVES AND ALL OUR GOODS TO THE SOCIETY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN"

On July 23, 1816, the day after their ordination, a group of young priests, full of enthusiasm, travelled to the shrine of Fourvière in Lyon, France.

At the feet of our Lady, in the small chapel, next to the current Basilica, they promised to establish the Society of Mary.

From the beginning, the first Marists conceived the Society of Mary as a large tree with different branches: priests, brothers, sisters and lay people.

The origins of the Society of Mary remind us that, as religious and laity, we come together for mission, and are called to be the Marian face of the Church through our particular way of being and building Church.



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