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MARIST NEWS

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Southern Africa: New Horizons Workshop

IMPROVING QUALITY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN 21 MARIST SCHOOLS IN THE 6 COUNTRIES



The six countries (Angola, South African, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) that make up the Province of Southern Africa participated in a training workshop organized by [FMSI](#) from 23 – 24 July 2019 in Maputo, Mozambique to equip country coordinators with necessary knowledge and skills as the Province embarks on a three-year New

Horizons Phase Two (NHII) program. The program is funded by [Misean Cara](#) and will take place in 21 schools of the Province. The next three years will be exciting in the Southern Africa Province. The New Horizons II has various activities that aim at achieving the following expected results:

- Increased access to quality education for children and girls

general administration

■ On the 8th August, the Horizons Formation Course for Brothers under the age of 45 will take place at the Marist International Formation Centre in Manziána. The course will end on the 3rd October and from the 19th to the 28th September the participants will be at the Hermitage. Thirteen Brothers from Asia (Philippines 1), South America (Brazil 3) and Africa (Nigeria 3, Malawi 2, Cameroon 2, Rwanda 1 and Zambia 1) will participate.

■ Brothers Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and Josep Maria Soteras, General Councillors, are in India, making a contact visit to the Marist's communities.

■ From the 10th to the 16th August, the Chapter for Marist District of Asia will take place in Cambodia. Brothers Luis

Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and Josep Maria Soteras will participate.

■ On August 11th the formation of candidates for the international communities of the Institute begins (Lavalla200> and other communities). The participants are: Ms. Almera Ibañez (Eas-Asia, Philippines), Br. César Barba (México Central), Br. Esteban Ortega (Ibérica, Sp), Br. Fabricio Basso (Brasil Sul-Amazônia), Br. Giorgio Banaudi (Mediterránea, Italy), Br. Luke Fong (Pacific, Fiji) and Ms. Galista S. Dony (East Asia, Malasia). During the first week the participants will be at the General House. Then they will spend a month in two houses near Manziána and finish their period at the Hermitage on 28 September.

from poor and marginalized families in 21 Marist schools in the 6 countries involved, involving local experts already trained in New Horizons 1

- Strengthened capacity of Marist Schools to uproot violence and discrimination against children in school and community environments by adopting a child rights approach and inclusive teaching methods so to ensure children well-being
- Increased capacity of school leaders and teachers to drive school improvement towards quality standards of education and sustainability
- Reinforced the Education system at institutional level in terms of its capacity to advocate children rights.

In his remarks, Bro Norbert Mwila (the Provincial) thanked [FMSI](#)



for the work they have passionately and jointly carried out with the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization to ensure that the project funding is solicited. He thanked also [Misean Cara](#) for their timely intervention, which will go a long way in

improving the quality of Mission of the Marist family in the Province, and hopefully for the rest of Africa and Madagascar. Finally, the Provincial commended the country coordinators and other leaders for accepting their respective roles and encouraged them to abide by all the project

details and ensure that the project achieves its intended results in all countries of the Province.

The facilitators (Br. Mark OMEDE, Andrea ROSSI, and Andrea CORTEMIGLIA) were on point in delivering the content of the workshop.

Province of East Asia

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF BR. ROMULO PORRAS

During these months of vacation in the northern hemisphere, many brothers have celebrated an important milestone in their journey as followers of the ideal of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. In recounting the celebration in the Philippines below, we recall all the brothers who celebrated the jubilee of religious life during these days.

The Province of East Asia celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Br. Romulo Porras on July 20, 2019 during a Thanksgiving Mass at the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center in Lake Sebu. The theme of the celebration,

“I am forever grateful for God’s presence in my life”, spoke of 50 years of fidelity and faithfulness that truly called for great rejoicing.

The brothers and mission partners from different communities and ministries, formands, affiliates, SM and SMSM Sisters, other religious, former brothers, friends and of course the family and relatives of Br. Romulo were in attendance of the celebration. After the Mass, a fellowship meal was shared and it was an opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones.

Br. Romulo, more fondly called Br. Romy, entered the novitiate in 1969 and made his first profession the following year. Br.



Romy has worked in a variety of ministries over the years. At the moment, he is the community leader of Lagao Community and the Province Archivist. He is also actively involved in vocation and formation as in-charge of the Contact Program, and the accompagnateur and the spiritual director of some of our formands and young brothers.

The simplicity of life, the willingness to go where he is needed, the constancy in religious exercises, the patience, the gentleness: these are among the characteristic traits that tell the world who Br. Romy is. He is indeed a gift to the Institute, to the Province and to the Church.

UNITED STATES

Members of the Provincial Council, Brothers Patrick McNamara, Dan O'Riordan, Al Rivera, and Hank Hammer attend this week the USA National Assembly of the Conference of Major Superiors of Male Religious which is being held in San Antonio, Texas. Br. Todd Patenaude and Br. Eduardo Navarro will be presenting a workshop at the conference on the El Paso Migrant & Refugee Project.

VOCATION MINISTRY IN BOLIVIA

In Cochabamba, the second vocational race took place, a community activity to celebrate each one's own vocation in a sporting and friendly way. A total of 51 young people participated. On October 25th, the third race will take place in honor of the Marist martyrs.

MEDITERRÁNEA

Some Brothers from the Province, from 2 to 8 August, met at Fuenteheridos for a retreat. Another retreat took place in Cordoba from 1 to 5 August, with the participation of brothers and laypeople.

NORANDINA

Br. Antonio Ramalho animated the retreat of the Brothers of the Province at the beginning of July in Fusagasugá. There were 84 Brothers from the three countries of the Province: Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.

WEST AFRICA

Thirty Brothers from Ghana, Ivory Coast and Liberia participated in the District retreat. Br. Óscar Martín, General Councillor, and Br. Cyprian Gandebo, District Superior were present. The theme was community life.

Universal Periodic Review of Spain**SEXUAL ABUSE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN: CENTRAL THEMES OF THE MARIST REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

In Spain, between 10% and 20% of the population have suffered sexual abuse during their childhood, yet only 15% of cases are reported to the courts. On the other hand, the number of unaccompanied foreign minors (MENAS) has increased recently: in 2016 the number was 42% higher than in 2015 and 163% higher than in 2014.

These worrying figures are included in the report that the Marist Provinces, with a presence in Spanish territory, have just presented to the United Nations. In this way they contribute to the Universal Periodic Review to which Spain will be subjected in December 2019.

Since last February, the solidarity representatives of the Provinces of Ibérica, Mediterránea, L'Hermitage and Compostela have coordinated in defining the areas of greatest concern, gathering information and preparing recommendations to the Spanish State.

Among these recommendations is the urgent need for legislative reform to address sexual abuse, ensuring prevention in education, improving the judicial system and availability of resources.

Likewise, for the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors, it is recommended to have data that show the real dimension of the problem, to ensure personalised intervention for those who live in protection centres and to guarantee that they have access to the same rights as the rest of the minors in the territory.

The next steps will deal with the incidences before the embassies are in Madrid and before the permanent missions in Geneva.



PROVINCE BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL

Retreat for Brothers and Laypeople

"Marist Apostolic Spirituality" was the theme of the 2019 Retreat for Brothers and Laypeople which brought together 30 people in the Champagnat hermitage in Florianopolis.

"The significance of this retreat is that it was conducted as a

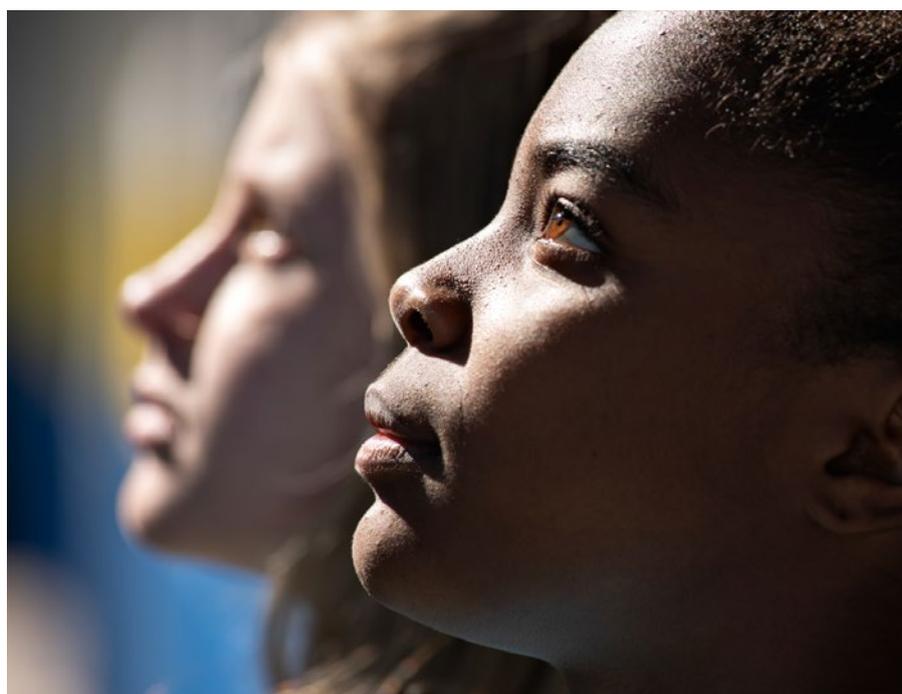
joint exercise with Brothers and Laypeople. The openness of the Brothers and their witness made this rich experience of living our charism in a spirit of communion possible. This is what the XXII General Chapter asked of us, that we become a global charismatic family," explained João Luis Fedel Gonçalves, the

Province Director of Identity and Mission. Gustavo Balbinot, a layman from the Province of Brazil Sul-Amazonia and member of the Interamerican Network on Marist Spirituality, led the reflections. "A retreat is always a passionate adventure aimed at producing something new within us; a special occasion for reflecting on our lives with their lights, learnings, shadows, challenges and above all the marvellous call of God, calling us and uniting us to Himself – together – to be refreshed and increase the value of our lives for our own sakes as well as for others, in daily life, in how we live our vocations, our relationships in family and community, and our mission," added the Provincial, Br. Bene Oliveira.



More than 500 people participated in the Marist Solidarity Mission, in the month of July

The "Missão Solidária Marista Ir. Miguel Angel" for educating to solidarity program took place, From July 14 to 20, 2019. This is the first stage of the program of Education for Solidarity of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul. That "program" has three pillars of action in the territory: a) promotion of the right to play, through workshops for children and adolescents, b) inculturation, which takes place through living with families - given that the young people are welcomed in the houses of the community - and missionary visits, c) the concrete gesture, which is the development of some significant action for the community (for example, the revitalization of some collective spaces,



marist world

*Spain
MarCha Compostela - Way of Saint James*



*Mexico
Irapuato: opening of the school year 2019-2020*



*General House
Marists of Champagnat from El Salvador*



Brazil: Manaus: Meeting of Marist communities in the Amazon region



*Paraguay
Coronel Oviedo*



*Italy
Lavalla200> Siracusa*

work with collectors of recyclable material, listening to the homeless, etc.).

“Missão Solidária” has been running since 2005. It is estimated that more than 2500 young people have participated at least once. This year 2019, it took place in four cities: Caçador, Fazenda Rio Grande, Guaraqueçaba and Santos, with the participation of more than 400 people, including missionaries and work team.

Because it is an immersion, the young missionary is offered the opportunity to go through other stages. The Marist university students are awarded the “Missão Universitária Ir. Henri Vergès”. This stage focuses on the specificity of academic knowledge. The two years

experiments were carried out in the cities of Jesuits and Paranaguá, where approximately 100 missionaries were in attendance.

Having participated in the first stage, either in the Solidarity Mission or in the University Mission, the young person can participate in the next stage, which is called “Missão Solidária Ir. Lourenço”, whose main pillar is the dispossession of the young missionary, as well as the pedagogical-pastoral priority of being a significant presence among the people of the chosen territory. In 2019, this stage took place in São Bento do Sul, with the attendance of 13 missionaries, from July 7 to 12.

In the third stage of this program, young

people are invited to participate in the “Missão Champagnat de Solidariedade”. Inspired by the Founder, they are called to be in a space beyond institutional frontiers. This year, seven missionaries are taking part in the process that will end in June 2020.

More than a solidarity activity carried out during the young people's holidays, the program of Education for Solidarity wants to be a moment of transformation in the lives of those who participate. It is part of a journey because it is not an isolated activity, but rather aims to give the young person autonomy in matters of charity, solidarity and social justice, so that when they return to their realities, they understand them as permanent areas of Mission.

The next issue of Marist News will be sent out on the 22nd August.

South Africa: Marist International Community Atlantis – Lavalla200>

HOLIDAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In March of 2019, the Atlantis Marist International Community expanded from four to six members with the welcome arrival of Brazilian married couple, Juliana and Diogo. Initially, they spent two months living with the Marist Brothers Community in Rondebosch and attending English language classes before then moving to Darling to join Maria and the Brothers Tony, Nnodu and Pietro. From the end of June to the beginning of July (17/06 to 05/07), the Atlantis Marist International Lavalla200> Community contributed to various activities for the children, teenagers and young people of Atlantis during their mid-year school holidays. During these three weeks, the community supported the local team at Rebecca Van Amsterdam Hall. From the 24th to 28th June, the community took responsibility for coordinating a week-long Holiday Program, assisted by leaders from Saint Joseph Marist



College, Saint John the Baptist Parish and the local team.

The objective of the Holiday Program was to offer the young people of Atlantis a safe and peaceful space for recreational and educational activities. Given the social reality of Atlantis, it was wanted to guarantee the

children, teenagers and young people their right to play and learn. An average of 150 children per day participated in the program's activities. These activities included games, sport, dance, co-operative games; artistic workshops, cultural presentations and educational activities (life's project, anti-bullying, developing good relationships and assertive communication).

The Atlantis Marist International Community sees these Holiday Programs closely connected with the call of the XXII General Chapter for Marists of Champagnat to be with amongst children and young people in situations of social vulnerability.

Europe: From the perspective of the Marist Christian charism

ACCOMPANIMENT / MENTORING FOR VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

The second round of the European training in mentoring for Vocational Discernment held its first session at the General House from 13 to 18 July. Brothers and lay Marists from Lebanon, Greece, Ireland, France, Italy and Spain took part in this formation meeting. Brothers Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, and Ken McDonald, General Councillor, spent some time with the group.

In the training – led by the European team for youth and vocations ministry – participants studied the topic of mentoring and key aspects of discernment from the perspective of Marist Christian charism. Along the way, they had the chance to exchange ideas and experiences, get to know one another's context and meet at a more personal level as members of the one Marist Family.

Following the evaluation of the first round of the training conducted in 2017 and 2018, the European team for youth and vocations ministry felt it was important to conduct a second round of training, with the first session this year and the second to happen in 2020.



The team leading the training has arranged visits across the European region to better understand the different contexts and existing ministries and to discuss hopes and needs with the laypeople and brothers involved. These training courses feature in the overall program of vocations ministry adopted by the Marist Conference of Europe.



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