



Year XII - Number 592 | 28 AUGUST 2019

MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG

The urgent challenge to protect our common home

DEVASTATING FIRES HAVE AFFECTED MORE THAN 2,200 KILOMETRES IN THE AMAZON

In recent days, the whole world has expressed its concern over the fires that have devastated the Amazon jungle. Last Sunday, the Pope exhorted the Church to pray that the fire may be extinguished with the collaboration of all.

On the 22nd, the bishops of Latin America also expressed their concern about the seriousness of the tragedy and said: *"We urge the governments of the Amazon countries, especially Brazil and Bolivia, the United Nations and the international community to take serious measures to save the lungs of the world. What happens to the Amazon is not just a local issue but of global reach. If the Amazon suffers, the world suffers."*

The 22nd General Chapter asked all the Marists of Champagnat to pay special attention to ecology, *"challenge us to awaken in ourselves and those around us an ecological awareness that engages us in caring for 'our common home'".*

The next Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, from October 6 to 27, has as its theme the Pan-Amazonian Region. The Preparatory Document recalls that *"the Amazon is a region with rich biodiversity; it is multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-religious; it is a mirror of all humanity which, in defense of life, requires structural and personal changes by all human beings, by nations, and by the Church"*.

"The cry that comes from the Amazon not only refers to its self-preservation, but also to the living conditions on Earth. If the Amazonian ecosystems continue to fail, the quality of human life in the global sense will be compromised," says Brother João Gutemberg, from the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia.



general administration

■ The Superior General and his Council return to the General House this week, having visited different regions and having participated in the chapters of several administrative units.

■ During these days, Br. Oscar Martín Vicario, General Councilor, is visiting some communities of the United States Province, concentrating on the New York and Mid-Hudson area.

■ On August 26, the Vicar General, Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez,

and the Councilors, Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, participated in the meeting of the Provincial Council of Canada and the Marist Association of Laity in Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu.

■ On Saturday and Sunday, Raúl Amaya, director of the Laity Secretariat, will participate in the Marcellin Champagnat Family Movement training meeting of the Brasil Sul - Amazonia Province in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The situation in Bolivia: letter from Brother Saturnino, provincial

Los maristas de la Provincia están en primera línea defendiendo la Amazonía, especialmente en Bolivia, en Roboré. El hermano Saturnino, Provincial, envió el siguiente informe el 27 de agosto.

“For the last few days I have been in Roboré, which is the centre of fire control operations in the Bolivian Amazon. During this time In Roboré there are no classes in order to prevent breathing problems.

In our school during the weekend we welcomed into the classrooms around 50 people from 3 peasant communities. As the fire was close to their communities they evacuated infants with their mothers, children and elderly people. After spending the night and Sunday at school, in the evening they returned to their villages.

Later, they stayed at the fire-fighter's school (there are currently 100) who had arrived from other parts of Bolivia to help the large contingent of soldiers, police, fire-fighters, doctors and other volunteers who have been working in the area for several days fighting the fires.

The teachers and people from different institutions, in coordination with the Mayor's Office, are engaged in preparing food in large common pots for several hundred people, those who are working on fire control, those who look after the health and other needs of the communities (small towns) and those who look after various other needs. There is a constant flow of aid with materials to put out the fire, bottled water, medicines, masks to protect against contamination and food for the affected population and for those who collaborate in fire control and health care.

And prayers are being intensified to ask the God of Life to send rain to stop so many environmental disasters, caused by fires, among the population, the animals, and the great diversity of flora and fauna of the place.

One problem is that sometimes through social networks there are stories that are false. And they cause fear. The situation is very serious, but in the large populations it is controlled, they suffer more in the peasant communities that are closer to the forest suffer more.

And since we are in the midst of political campaigning for the October elections, all the groups are taking advantage of it to



make it political. When they bring help, many seek to take pictures of themselves in which they are shown to be helping. Yes, it is evidence of dedication, but in many cases the suffering of the people is being used for personal benefit. That, too, is a pity.

This has worldwide repercussions because the Amazon is one of the great lungs of the Planet.

In the educational works of Bolivia, there is great participation in the population of Roboré and its surroundings. And in other places they are collecting and sending solidarity aid: bottled water, non-perishable food, medicines (eye drops, gauze, chin- straps, serums, ointments, ...), clothes, shoes. The intention is to collect materials in order to support, above all, later on, when there is no longer so much aid and when the rivers have become polluted and this has a greater impact on the populations that have been left without resources for their survival where they live.

And we will study at Province level sustainable aid that we can deal with.

At the regional level the situation is also very complicated because it is not only in Bolivia. The Amazon in Brazil, which is the largest, is also suffering large conflagrations. In the Chaco, Paraguay, they are also suffering from fires.”

Br. **Saturnino Alonso**, Provincial of Santa María de los Andes

Marist Presence in the Amazon

Our Marist presence in the Amazon goes back more than 100 years. It was in 1903 when the missionary Brothers, coming from the Province of Aubenais - France, settled in Belém do Pará, founding the Province of Brasil Norte, which today belongs to the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte. At present, four Marist Provinces form part of the territory of the International Amazon: Brasil Sul-Amazônia, Brasil Centro-Norte, Norandina and Santa María de los Andes. In this region there also exists an International Marist Community of the Lavalla200> Project, in Tabatinga.

GHANA

The Brothers Martin Mbeng, Devine Sebe-ey and Mbiatem Yves, with fifteen other Religious men and women from twelve different religious Institutes participated in the Formation of Formators Program at the Institute for Continuing Formation. It was a nine-month program which commenced in October 2018.

KENYA, MIUC

Brother Francis Veye, from the West Africa District, currently working at MIUC in Nairobi, has completed his PhD with a specialization in "Educational Administration and Management." Brother studied at Atlantic International University, USA.

120 YEARS MEXICO

The first Marist school was inaugurated in Mexico, in the city of Guadalajara, on August 20, 1899. It was named "Immaculate Conception College". Brothers Pedro Damian, Filogonio and Anselmo sowed the first seed of the Marist community that flourished rapidly throughout the country.

CENTRAL AMERICA

On August 23, members of the administrative offices in El Salvador began a formation meeting on issues around the Marist charism. The training was conducted by Brother Javier Espinoza and Nohe-my Pinto.

AUSTRALIA

Last Friday, at a simple ceremony in the chapel at Mascot, Australia, 11 East Timorese aspirants were accepted as postulants. They, together with Br Paul Kane, flew out of Sydney for the Philippines where they will begin their postulancy.

Caring for Growing Life in Cruz del Sur

THE TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS RENEWS THE PROVINCE'S COMMITMENT

The provincial team of Cruz del Sur that advocates for the rights of children, adolescents and young people met on August 7, at the Manuel Belgrano Marist School in Buenos Aires, to renew the province's commitment to the protection of the rights of children and young people. The meeting was attended by the Vice-Provincial, Br. Marcelo De Brito and the Provincial Delegate for Child Protection, Br. Gonzalo Santa Coloma.

The new members of the team were introduced: Valeria Ramírez (Argentina) and Francisco Farina (Argentina), both graduates in social work, who together with the lawyer Rocío Amarilla (Paraguay), Br. Jorge Walder (Uruguay) and

structures and respective competencies were jointly reviewed. Likewise, actions and functions were agreed upon within the framework of the triennial plan for the three countries that make up the Marist Province of Cruz del Sur.

Among actions planned, pride of place was given to the presentation of the new provincial document "Caring for Growing Life", which summarizes the Provincial Policy for the Promotion and Defense of the Rights of Children, Adolescents and Young People, offers general orientations and adds a valuable protocol for action in situations of violation.

Finally, the team devoted preferential



Analía Ruggeri, Coordinator, will be in charge of the animation of the next triennium of shared work in the defense and promotion of the rights of children, young people and adolescents.

During the meeting, the organizational

time to the agenda of participation and advocacy in local, regional and international policies from FMSI and the Solidary Heart Network, underlining their importance, and renewed its commitment to the animation of all planned actions.

marist world

*Spain
Hermanos del Distrito West Africa in Málaga*



*Brazil
Celebration in Maraponga, Fortaleza*



General House: Birthday of Brother Carlos Huidobro, Secretary General



*Cambodia
Pulung community in the countryside*



*Sri Lanka: New provincial Council of South Asia:
Mervyn Perera (Provincial), Fernando Devasiri, Nicholas
Fernando, Sebastian Lazar and Sunanda Alwis*



*Australia
Timor Leste Aspirants in Randwick*

Diocesan Tribunal of Guadalajara

THE CAUSE OF BR. BASILIO RUEDA ADVANCES

The news of the progress of Brother Basilio's cause comes from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. The date for the completion of the history of Br. Basilio Rueda Guzmán's life, virtues and reputation for holiness is set for September 11, 2019. The Archdiocese of Guadalajara has scheduled that date for the solemn act of closing of the work of the Archdiocesan Tribunal, to be presided by Cardinal José Francisco Robles Ortega. The venue for this great event will be the Archdiocesan Chancery in Guadalajara at 1:00 p.m.

In March 2017, the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints asked for a supplement of instruction, increasing the number of witnesses to complete the work already done in the archdiocese. The court set up for this purpose has heard the testimony of 21 other witnesses from various sectors. This will satisfy the Congregation's request.

At the end of the closing session, the acts of the process will be taken to Rome where we will have to await the decree of validity of what the diocesan tribunal of Guadalajara has done.

From that moment on, the finalization of the Positio can begin.

We thank God for the valuable contribution made before the tribunal by the 21 new witnesses who testified to the reputation of the Servant of God Basilio Rueda for his holiness of life. And let us hope that very soon the work to finalize the Positio can begin.



South Africa: "A sower went out to sow his seed"

REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE ATLANTIS LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY

On 24th and 25th July, the Atlantis [Lavalla200>](#) Community, South Africa, has reviewed your strategic planning. The first edition was written exactly one year ago, and it was necessary to update, since now the community has grown with the arrival of Juliana and Diogo. The facilitator of the activities was Sister of Holy Cross Aine Hugues, that welcomed all members in your own house.

During these two days, it was possible to evaluate this first year's walk, as well as share personal stories lived in Atlantis and review the analysis of strengths, problems, threats and opportunities. Besides that, there were time to reevaluate vision, mission and, after, dream of new ministry possibilities.



Many ideas have come to life, such as articulating - together to Atlantis leaders - a specific youth leadership training program (thinking of 'mission multipliers'). This initiative will be priority to the community in the next twelve months. Another point discussed was continue reinforcing activities with children, young people and parents to cultivate a nonviolent culture.

Like the sower, all the members are – send by God - trying to sow the seeds of hope in the holy ground of Atlantis.

The [Atlantis Community](#) is composed by Anthony John Clark fms, Bobillo Añel, Juliana Maria Fontoura Galline, Luiz Galline, Nnodu Onwutalu fms and Pietro Bettin fms

Breaking the usual routines

THE MARIST LAITY OF EL SALVADOR GATHERED FOR A SPIRITUALITY JOURNEY

A group of lay people from El Salvador met on Sunday, August 11, to participate in a Spirituality Itinerary. As part of a journey begun a few years ago, the aim of this experience is to provide time for reflection and an opportunity to practice meditation. A time to listen and to welcome, to open up to others through dialogue and to enrich oneself from a new vision.

At first, the participants were invited to identify their own spiritual personality which is lived in a community process, in the relationship with others, during daily life.

The themes touched upon gave rise to a profound confrontation: accepting people as they are, learning to "let go", ceasing to pretend to be more intelligent, ceasing to seek the approval of others, ceasing to try to change others and trying to change oneself.



The meeting focused on the Marian and apostolic character of Marist Spirituality.

The lay people who attended the itinerary listened attentively to each of the themes mentioned. The proposal is a beautiful investment by the Province in the dimension of the Marist charism and spirituality.

International Marist Volunteering

KIMBERLY, PHILIPPINES VOLUNTEER IN PAILIN

Kimberly A. Camiring is a Filipino Marist volunteer from the East Asia Province. She was in Pailin, Cambodia, from April 20 to May 21, working on the programme "Integrating Visual Arts in English Language Teaching".

Kimberly is part of the Marist Volunteers programme of the East Asia Province, which works in coordination with the General Administration's Department Collaboration for Mission, International (Cmi).

The Marist Brothers have been present in Cambodia (District of Asia) since 1995. The mission of the Marists in this area responds to the need to work for the most needy and vulnerable children and young people.

We transcribe below the testimony written by Kimberly, where she tells us about her experience in Cambodia.

What we did in Pailin opened our eyes to see things in different perspectives and to see Jesus in the eyes of every child we teach. The whole experience was a roller coaster ride. We felt different emotions in our one month stay there.

From the time we stepped foot in Pailin, we already felt the family spirit embracing us. The brothers (Bro. Francis, Max, Ricardo and Pierre) the staff and the children at the center welcomed us warmly and made our stay there memorable. They helped us in any ways possible and provided us everything that we need. They offered great friendship and camaraderie that we will be always thankful for.

We may find it difficult to implement the program at first because the idea that we had in mind turned out to be quite different from the actual situation, good thing we are taught to always find solutions to every problem. We started teaching English at the center from 8 am to 7pm



with only recess and lunch for a break. And we did that with different age groups and pupils.

We also visited a nearby village on a Saturday and teach English to the kids there. It was tiring; we had to adjust with almost everything - the culture, the language and the people we meet. But as time goes by, we started to feel at home and be comfortable with everyone at the center. Together with our mentor Dr.Noemi Silva, we were able to teach English to the students at the center and introduce

different art and physical activities. Teaching the kids and seeing their genuine smiles made me inspired and motivated to do more. It was priceless.

bonus. We were able to see the magnificent Angkor Wat, and stroll around Phnom Pehn enjoying different local cuisines. The time might be short, but it was sweet.

We will always be grateful for this opportunity given to us and we will always be proud to be Marist Volunteers. The whole journey in Pailin made me feel VOLUNESIA - a moment when you forget that you are volunteering to help change lives because it already changes yours - and YES, it indeed changed mine.

I am still looking forward for future volunteering activities and being able to use my God-given life in service to other people in all walks of life. Mabuhay Marist Volunteers!"

Have you ever thought, as Brother, layperson, student, ex-student, of becoming a Marist volunteer? Listen to your inner voice and contact the Coordinator of Province Volunteering or the [Department of Cmi](#) (Collaboration for Mission, International) - cmi@fms.it



Brasil: "Nuestros Superiores Generales"

THE BOOK PRESENTS THE BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SUPERIORS OF THE INSTITUTE FROM 1839 TO 1993

El Memorial Marista de la Provincia de Brasil Centro-Sur publicó el libro "Nuestros Superiores Generales" con las biografías de los Superiores del Instituto de los Hermanos Maristas, desde 1839 hasta 1993.

El libro, publicado por PUC-PRESS, presenta la biografía de los diez primeros sucesores de Marcelino Champagnat. La obra ofrece un análisis de la evolución del Instituto Marista desde 1839 hasta 1985, donde se cuenta el trabajo de los superiores por continuar, ampliar y actualizar la misión marista en las diferentes regiones donde el carisma ha estado y está presente.



Las investigaciones recientes han ayudado a reconocer a Marcelino Champagnat como el iniciador de un movimiento, cuyo éxito ha dependido desde el principio de los Hermanos que lo han ayudado a hacer realidad la obra de María. Esta publicación completa también un vacío en la historiografía marista de la lengua portuguesa, al dar a conocer la figura de los superiores generales ya fallecidos, desde el hermano Francisco (1839-1860) hasta el hermano Carlos Howard (1985-1993). Todos ellos respondieron con fidelidad y de manera creativa al carisma del Padre Champagnat y han logrado expandir la misión marista hasta nuestros días.

[Leia aqui, en português, la presentación completa de la obra.](#)
[Memorial Marista - Curitiba](#)

Province of United States

FIRST PROFESSION OF BR. LUIS RAMOS

Brother Luis Ramos professed his first vows during a ceremony held August 10 at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, New York.

Brother Luis grew up in the Bronx. He graduated from Marist-founded Mount Saint Michael Academy in 2011. During his college years he became actively involved in the Marist Young Adult Program and spent one year living and working as a volunteer at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus, NY. He entered the Marist Brothers Postulancy in September 2016 and lived in community with Brothers in the Bronx, NY. He became a Novice to the Marist Brothers on August 19, 2017 and lived in community with Brothers at the Marist Brothers Novitiate on the campus of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. Brother Sean Sammon served as the Master of Novices.



"Professing vows was a beautiful experience. To have the Marist family, my family, and my friends there helped me feel God's love and kindness" Br. Luis said following the ceremony.

Brother Luis is currently teaching religion at Marist High School in Chicago, IL and lives in community with Brothers at the Leavitt Street Community.

Italia: "Horizons" training program in Manziana

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AS A GLOBAL FAMILY



"To be bridge builders" is the theme of the Horizons Ongoing Formation Program, aimed at Brothers under the age of 45, which runs from August 8 to October 5 at the Marist International Formation Center in Manziana, Italy.

Thirteen brothers from the following provinces will participate in the program: East Asia (1), Southern Africa (3), Brasil Centro-Norte (1), Nigeria (3), Brasil Sur-Amazônia (2), West Africa (2), PACE (1).

Horizons invites the Brothers to look to the future, to go on pilgrimage, to get to know new territories and dreams, to grow and to give a new meaning to their lives so that they can see everything more clearly.

This year, the Horizons program proposes to explore eight

themes, called "hills": Interiority/San Francisco's way, non-violent communication, toward a new spirituality, accomplices of the Spirit, integrated life and self-care, "Where are you going?", rule of life, pilgrimage of fraternity, and pilgrimage to Marist places.

During their formation, the Brothers will dedicate their time to the following experiences: contemplative prayer, fraternal life, manual work, accompaniment and seminars. They will also go on pilgrimage to Marist places and meet the Taizé community.

In addition to sharing as a global family, the Brothers will travel the road to St. Francis from August 15-21 and visit the Hermitage from September 21-27.

DISTRICT OF MELANESIA

In recent weeks, three-day training programs have been carried out in the schools of Tenaru (Solomon Islands) and Bougainville (Papua New Guinea). The program is an initiative of



the Oceania Partnership Commission (OPC) to work together and support the administrative units of the Marist Region of Oceania in the exchange of programs and key formation processes. Wakabout is a 3-day reflection program, where Marist spirituality, vision and education in the tradition and life of our founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat, are explored.



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Website

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