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MARIST NEWS

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Challenges to our Mission

THE POLITICAL SITUATION AFFECTS MARIST SCHOOLS IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING REGIONS

“Since November 2018, all the educational establishments run by the Marist Brothers in the Cameroon’s English-Speaking Regions have seen their doors shut. Many schools have witnessed the kidnapping of staff members or students or both. Equally all students who were previously in Marist run schools are either at home or have moved to other schools either in the lone regional headquarters where a few schools are operating below their capacity or to other towns in the French speaking zones of Cameroon. Prior to the onset of the crises in 2016 Marist Brothers in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon had about 2200

students”, says Brother Peter Awoh, speaking about the situation of Marist schools in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon, country where most people is French-speaking.

Cameroon is one of the six countries of the district of West Africa – alongside Chad, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea and Liberia. Marists are present in Bafut/Bamenda, tatum, Douala, Mbengwi. In the country, the Marist schools are: Saint Albert’s College, Bafut; with 1,020 students; Saint Joseph’s College, Mbengwi, with 600 students, and Saint Pius’ College, Tatum, with 300 students. The fourth is the bilingual diocesan boarding school College Notre Dame des Nations in Douala.



Echoes from the anglophone crises

“The crisis which have bedevilled not only the school system in Anglophone Cameroon but the entire Anglophone regions began with a strike called by teachers and lawyers over labour matters relating to erosion of the culture of English educational sub system and common law legal system. This peaceful strike by lawyers of the common law system and teachers of the English educational sub system turned bloody when security officers fired at peaceful unarmed protesters in December 2016 which resulted in the shooting of several protesters resulting

general administration

- This week, the General Council holds the traditional meeting with the Directors of the Secretariats and Departments of the General Administration. On Mondays and Tuesdays, a training programme was held on the theme of Protection of Minors. The other time is reserved for the meeting of the liaison Councillors and also the integration and creation of synergy.
- On September 8, the Inter-congregational Formation Meeting for community animators began at the General House

of the De La Salle Christian Brothers. About 60 brothers from 14 congregations are attending. Among them are 5 Marist Brothers.

- Brother Antonio Estaún, Postulator General, will take part on Wednesday at the conclusion of the instructions on the process of life, virtues and fame of the sanctity of Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán, which will take place in Guadalajara, Mexico.

in the death of at least one protester. It was clear that what had begun as a teachers and lawyers strike had attracted more sympathizers and spiral out of their control.

On the 11th of February 2017 the first calls for a separate state for the Anglophones became loud. What had begun as a call for federation burgeoned to calls for complete separation and restoration of independence. In late November 2017 the seminal stages of the armed conflict started. By October 2018 a good portion of the English-speaking Cameroon was under the control of the separatist forces popularly known as "Amba boys". Separatist forces have traded accusation with the government over who is responsible for the kidnappings and burning down of schools and other facilities.

In 1961 the British Southern Cameroon's voted in a plebiscite to join French Cameroon as equal partners. In 1972 a new constitution abolished the federal structure of Cameroon and introduced a unitary centralized form of government. Cameroon's current problems stemmed from the abolition of the Federal form of state which saw the erosion of the educational and legal systems which British Southern Cameroon had brought into the union" (Br. Peter Awoh).

Facing the reality

"The negative effects of the crisis in Cameroon are abounding: many people have died, some are internally displaced; many more are refugees, villages have been destroyed and many schools have been closed for the last two years. For the Marist Brothers in Cameroon this is a serious challenge: Our apostolates have been greatly affected. This is the challenge in front of which we cannot remain indifferent. We have been reflecting and finding different ways of responding and we need to continue this process. We believe that we cannot afford be idle and irrelevant simply because our schools are not operating.

When Saint Albert's Comprehensive College, Bafut could no longer operate, the Bafut Community had to figure out how to continue being relevant without a school. Faced with the ugly situation we opted to engaging in manual work aimed mainly at keeping the biggest Marist investment in the country intact. The brothers of the Bafut community have embraced this work with a positive attitude. We continually remind ourselves of work as something intrinsically good; we are co-creators of Gods world and work is part of our contribution in making the earth a beautiful home" (Br. Tansam Elvis).



Renewing our service to all those in need

"The Brothers in Tatum Community had to redefine and reorient their apostolate and sense of brother-hood to embrace more and more poor young people caught in the violence, deprived of schooling and compelled to stay idle unlike their well to do friends fleeing to safer regions of the country. By occupying them with skills, development programs focused on fluent reading, basic study skills, public speaking and recreational games. Some of the young people had their eyes opened to hidden talents they can explore when the situation eventually comes back to normal. Besides these programs in moments of relative calm, the community became a makeshift refugee center, welcoming and sheltering fleeing neighbours each time they were forced out of their homes by raging gun battles between the warring factions. Brothers have equally got fully involved in the Pastoral life of the Christian Community, offering spiritual and moral guidance where needed and collaborating to distribute material assistance to the displaced and homeless. As the crisis continues, we, as Brothers have a renewed opportunity to continue questioning our sense of consecration as Marists and our service to young people and all those in need when surprised by unusual circumstances out of the mainstream of our traditional school focused apostolate. By the end of the crisis, we have got to think and address the plight of teenage mothers and adolescents currently initiated into drugs and gun violence as well as those orphaned or traumatized by the crisis in various ways" (Br. Stephen Kpunsa)

Trusting in God while we wait for a change

"As we wait in hope for the new academic year 2019/2020, we look up to God to soften the hearts and minds of the warring factions to feel the cry of the poor parents and children for peace and effective school resumption in the two regions of English Expression in Cameroon" (Br. Tansam Elvis).

BRAZIL SOUTH AMAZON

In August, Brothers Ari Salet and Inacio Etges celebrated their jubilees of religious life, 60 and 50 years respectively. This year other Brothers of the Province also celebrated an important milestone in Marist life: Herbert Wildner (80 years); Dorvalino Tolotti, Fábio Pauletto, Jorge Corrêa and Lodovino Marin (70 years); Dealmo Lunkes (60 years); Benini and Silfredo Klein Genuinos (50 years); Rodinedi Siveris (25 years).

CENTRAL MEXICO

In September 2017, two earthquakes damaged some of the Province's projects. Two years later, last week in Ixtaltepec, students were finally able to move from the temporary classrooms to the new ones, although reconstruction work is still going on.

AUSTRALIA

James Hodge renewed his vows for the third time in Alice Springs. Some Brothers joined the community along with the staff of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School and a group of young alumni to witness Brother James' act of commitment.

EAST TIMOR

The vocational meeting "Come and See" welcomed 17 young people from different municipalities of the country to Baucau for one week for a vocational discernment meeting. During the meeting, activities of human, intellectual, spiritual, physical and humanitarian formation were carried out.

BOLIVIA

About 40 Marists participated, together with Brother Saturnino, Provincial of Santa María de los Andes, in a formative meeting on volunteer work, transformed by solidarity.

Province of Central America

MEETING OF BROTHERS UNDER 55 YEARS OF AGE

From August 30th to September 1st, 24 brothers and two Marist sisters under the age of 55 met at the Marist Formation Center in Guatemala. We represented almost a third of the Province and we wanted to meet as a family in order to encourage one another, get excited, fall in love again with our life, vocation and mission.

With the motto "APASIÓNATE!" ("BE PASSIONATE!") and the logo of a kite, we wanted to symbolize our desire to assume the tasks of our present stage and, with our feet on the ground and our eyes lifted up, look to what lies ahead, what we have to build with so many other brothers and laypeople.

On the first day, we had the opportunity to reflect on the moment: what we are living on a physical, psychological, cognitive level. Also what we must pay attention to and take care of.

On the second day we were able to share our personal experiences that define

and confirm us at this stage. Reflecting on the symbol of the kite, we built one, or at least we tried. We also shared our spiritual experiences.

On the third and last day we focused on dialogue, from the point of view of fraternity and freedom, on aspects that concern us and the lived experience of the province. Without a doubt we have much to contribute, we are already doing it, and we must continue to do it with responsibility and courage.

We returned to our communities and missions with much enthusiasm and energy. We are aware that it is Jesus who holds our kite-lines tightly and guides our flight. It is he who invites us to be passionate every day about our fraternal life and our mission as brothers and sisters among children and young people as Marists of Champagnat. May Mary help us to be courageous and overcome our fears of "the heights" and to always go beyond.

marist world

Spain
Mission Council of the Province of Compostela



Argentina
Centro Marista H. Miguel Ángel Isla - La Plata



Brazil: Vocational School of the Region América Sur - Porto Alegre



Cambodia
Lavalla School



Canada: Intergenerational mixed community of the Marist Bellevue house in Sherbrooke



South Korea: Meeting with East Asia Marists involved in the Champagnat's ideal

Vocation Promotion in the America Sur Region

SESSION OF THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL TRAINING ON VOCATIONAL CULTURE

The first stage of the Vocational School of the America Sur Region was held from September 2 to 7, in Porto Alegre (Brazil). Around 80 participants attended the gathering dedicated to the vocational animation of the five administrative units that make up the America Sur Region. Also present were other guests from around the Marist world.

The Vocational School is a regional training project, inspired by a program encouraged by the province of Brazil Centro-Norte. The initiative seeks to offer theoretical and practical training to participants and provide a space for debate and deepening based on regional realities and contexts.



The week's activities focused on four themes: Marist life; Theology and Anthropology; Psychology and Spirituality; Ministry and Experience.

One of those invited was Brother Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, whose presentation enabled the participants to reflect on vocational culture in the Marist world.

Raúl Amaya, director of the Secretariat of the Laity, was also present.

The objective of this initiative is to develop a process whereby, from now until 2022, the Region implements at least three exemplary vocational promotion projects.

Philippines: Young Brothers among excluded people

ELEVEN MARIST BROTHERS FROM MAPAC LIVED THREE DAYS OF IMMERSION EXPERIENCES

During the first year of post-novitiate formation, as part of their studies at the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies (IFRS), Marist Brothers at MAPAC choose an area with vulnerable groups in which to work for 3 days.

This year, eleven young Brothers, along with other students from different religious congregations as well as lay volunteers, chose to have the 3-day Immersion in 4 different areas: the street families in Quezon City, the women workers in Valenzuela City, the fisher folk and indigenous people of the Philippines, particularly the Aeta community.

The IFRS provided this opportunity for all students to see, smell, touch, taste and listen to the lives of these people and learn from them.

Following is the Brothers' testimony, relating their experiences during those days.

The street families in Quezon City

"Being with the street families through the Karitone Empowerment Centre (KEC) was a challenging experience for me. I was amazed at how determined and hopeful they were, despite their situation, to provide a better future for their own children and the sector as a whole. The daily struggles of survival have somehow brought out the goodness in them, from sharing the little they possess and encouraging each other not to lose hope. This taught me not only to be thankful for all I have, but also to utilize it to empower others." (Br. Petero Navuku)

The women workers in Valenzuela City

"I stayed two and half days with Amy Balderama and her four children. They currently rent a small house costing 3000 pesos per month. It is a very small house, hardly providing enough room to sleep and eat. I felt quite touched by their situation. I often think about the father, who is sick and physically challenged, but still has to work to support the family. I wish I could do something for him in addition to writing and talking." (Br. Nguyen Hoang Anh)

"I enthusiastically participated with the group of women workers. I lived with one Filipino family and visited several factories where the women worked. It was a wonderful opportunity



for me to experience how they lived. I implore our good Lord to bless them and their family members." (Br. Xia Baoxuan)

"It was wonderful to be with the family, and I learned a lot from them." (Br. Nguyen Duy Binh)

"Being with the women workers made me realize the value of hard work, family spirit, determination, and firm belief in God. I hope and pray that they may continue to trust in God amidst

all their trials." (Br. Karl Angelo Labio)

The indigenous people of Aeta

"I cannot fully explain the experience in words, but can only attempt to sketch a picture of what happened. I had mixed feelings about what I encountered there: muddy, not enough food, no modern toilets, no extra clothes, no comfortable bed, no private room, no firm Catholic faith, not much education. But all of this did not matter because the presence of God within those people taught me to accept with joy the person I am." (Br. Steve Vaea)

"For my immersion exposure I was assigned to the aboriginal community up in the mountains. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to experience the people's reality. I also felt at home, because of the family spirit they showed me, a foreigner. We prayed together as one family, even though they have a different religion." (Br. Jacinto Anacletho)

"To taste the reality of the poor by any means: come, stay with them, eat what they offer you, and realize how their lives affect yours as well. In that way we can find out what they really need." (Br. Tran Dinh Luan)

"Sometimes we need to explore new things in order to know the meaning of life more deeply. Being with the Aetas really helped me to appreciate and to love more the things God has created." (Br. Engel Java)

The fisher folk community

"I was really touched by the life of these people. My time with them challenged me a lot; yet living with them was a good experience." (Br. Benjamin Corbafo).

"I was very privileged to live with a fisher folk family for three days as part of the immersion program. It was a rich experience for me." (Br. Robert Howee).

Joining the Pope in Africa

THE POPE TRAVELS TO MOZAMBIQUE, MADAGASCAR AND MAURITIUS

During his second trip to the African continent, the Pope visited Mozambique, from September 4 to 6, Madagascar, from September 6 to 9, and Mauritius, from September 9 to 10. Marists have a significant presence in Mozambique and Madagascar.

It is more than 30 years ago that the Pope John Paul II also visited these 3 countries (Mozambique in 1988, and Madagascar and Mauritius in 1989). In a video message published on August 30, addressed to all those expecting him in Mozambique, Pope Francis said: "I invite you all to join with me in praying that God, the Father of all, may strengthen efforts towards reconciliation, fraternal reconciliation in Mozambique and throughout Africa, which is the only hope for a solid and lasting peace".

Marists in Mozambique

The Marist Brothers have been in Mozambique since 1948. Currently there are 4 communities, integrated into the mission of the Province of Southern Africa: the novitiate training centre in Matola, and education establishments in Bilene, Manhica and Nivava.

Marists in Madagascar

The Brothers arrived in Madagascar in 1912 – more than 100 years ago. Today there are 11 communities. As well there are several Marist Laity groups, Marist Youth of Madagascar (JMM), Marist Brothers Alumni and an association of Brothers' parents. The mission of the Marists here is based on education



and teaching in schools. There are 7 schools, 1 university and 1 primary school.

Marist Life growing in Africa

After a visit to Africa in July of this year, Brother Oscar Martín, General Councilor, said: "in Africa there are almost 70 Marist novices, which is a very great number. We have three novitiates: one is the novitiate of Kumasi, with the novices of the district of West-Central Africa and Nigeria. We have a second novitiate, which is in Save, Rwanda, where the novices of the PACE province and Madagascar are located. And we have a third novitiate, in Mozambique, in the city of Matola, where the novices of the province of Southern Africa are... We are trying to accompany these African provinces with their great human potential, so that little by little they will develop this feeling of regional unity. And they will have their place in all the dynamics in which the institute is involved as a Global Family".

LATEST DECEASED BROTHERS

09/09/2019: **William (Bill) Dillon**

Province Australia - Australia, Melbourne

29/08/2019: **Pedro José Arrondo**

Redrado Province Ibérica - Spain, Villalba

26/08/2019: **Serafín Rodríguez**

García Province Compostela - Spain, León

24/08/2019: **Sérgio Martini** Province

Brasil Sul-Amazônia - Brazil, Santa Maria - RS

30/07/2019: **Aurelio Sedano**

Gutiérrez Province Ibérica - Spain, Zaragoza

27/07/2019: **Julio Enríquez Cabrera**

Province Norandina - Colombia, Pasto

24/07/2019: **Bertrand Beaugard**

Province Canada - Canada, Château-Richer

22/07/2019: **Ambroise Fillion**

Province Canada - Canada, Château-Richer

22/07/2019: **Jérôme Billod** Province

L'Hermitage - France, Saint Genis-Laval

21/07/2019: **Victor Vermeersch** Province

Europe Centre-Ouest / West Central Europe - Netherlands, Nijmegen

16/07/2019: **Emmanuel Paul**

Azzopardi Province Australia - Australia, Campbelltown

08/07/2019: **François Hanser**

Province L'Hermitage - France, Issenheim

22/06/2019: **Isaac Alonso Arribas**

MOZAMBIQUE: 13 ADVICES FROM POPE FRANCIS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

On his second apostolic trip to Africa, Pope Francis, in Mozambique, met with the young people for an inter-religious meeting on September 5, at the Maxaquene Stadium in Maputo.

Here are 13 advices that the Pope Francis recommended to the young people in his speech:



1. You are important! You need to know this. You need to believe it. You are important! But be humble.
2. A shared and celebrated joy, a joy that reconciles and becomes the best remedy against all those who want to create dissension among you.
3. Do not let yourselves be robbed of joy. Keep singing and expressing yourselves in fidelity to all the goodness that you have learned from your traditions.
4. It is not good to give up!
5. It is essential never to forget that social enmity is destructive. The world is destroyed by enmity. And the greatest enmity of all is war. So find ways of building social friendship.
6. "If you want to get somewhere in a hurry, walk alone; if you want to go far, walk with others".
7. Dream with others, never against others. Keep dreaming the way you dreamed and prepared for this meeting: all together and without barriers.
8. The enemy of dreams and commitment is not just giving up but also anxiety.
9. The most beautiful things take shape over time, and if something doesn't work out at first, don't be afraid to keep trying.
10. Peace is a process that you too are called to advance, by being ever ready to reach out to those experiencing hardship.
11. Try to grow in friendship with those who think differently than you, so that solidarity will increase among you and become the best weapon to change the course of history.
12. Many people, including a great number of young people, have already taken up the pressing challenge of protecting our common home. This is the challenge before us: to protect our common home.
13. Let me leave you with a final thought: God loves you, and this is something on which all our religious traditions are agreed.

LATEST DECEASED BROTHERS

Province Ibérica - Spain, Lardero
22/06/2019: **Josep Aleu Mangues**
Province L'Hermitage - Spain, Les Avallanes
20/06/2019: **Rodolphe Breuer**
Province Europe Centre-Ouest / West Central Europe - Belgium, Rouvroy
16/06/2019: **Camille Gauthier**
Province L'Hermitage - France, Saint Genis-Laval
16/06/2019: **Angelo Giuseppe**

Voarino Province Mediterránea - Italy, Carmagnola
14/06/2019: **Eulogio Pérez Barbero**
Province L'Hermitage - Spain, Mataró
13/06/2019: **Brian Louis Beggs**
Province Australia - Australia, Campbelltown
11/06/2019: **Tomás Amador Higarza Suárez**
Province Compostela - Spain, León
11/06/2019: **Terry Maney**
Province Pacific - New Zealand, Auckland

10/06/2019: **Jean Roche**
Province L'Hermitage - France, Saint Genis-Laval
09/06/2019: **José del Álamo Álamo**
Province Mediterránea - Spain, Benalmádena
02/06/2019: **Julio Enrique Quintero Vargas**
Province Norandina - Colombia, Ibagué
27/05/2019: **Marcel Thélisson**
Province L'Hermitage - France, Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux

South Africa: Days of prayer, reflection, silence and communion in Saint Lucia

RETREAT OF THE MARIST YOUTH

Marist Youth, South Africa have been very blessed to spend a week away (26th – 30th August 2019) on retreat in St Lucia, which is on the east coast of KwaZulu-Natal. It was a wonderful experience for all involved, as it allowed each of us to slow down, and step outside the bustling busy lives we lead. It enabled us the chance to stop and truly examine our own spirituality and that of St Marcellin Champagnat. We had an intimate space for reflection, silence, prayer and discussion, encased by the beautiful surrounds; a haven for

nature lovers. Accompanied by the life and vibrancy of the buck, monkeys, hippos, and butterflies just to name a few.

As with our Global Marist Family, we had representatives from all over the world; South Africa, Brazil, Germany, and Australia, and it just demonstrates how far reaching the Marist Family really is.

We were blessed to be accompanied by Br Neil McGurk and Sr Elizabeth Marie Ansart who were instrumental in the implementation of the retreat. The expe-

rience was facilitated by Frances Correia and Pam Paton-Mills whose knowledge, passion and spirituality only gave strength to us all.

Marist Youth South Africa is still in its infancy, but the strength of the youth is strong. The desire and hunger for Marist connection is only growing, and I for one look forward to seeing this wonderful group of youth grow in the Spirit of Marcellin.

Beth Code – Marist Youth Coordinator – South Africa

Some reflections from attendees

“St Lucia is a very special place and the Catholic Retreat Centre within St Lucia is an equally special place - evidence everywhere of the presence of the Holy Spirit. This was the backdrop to the 2019 Marist Youth Retreat attended by a group of young folk, all there for the purpose of Spiritual introspection (and some fun!). Every time I had the opportunity to observe, interact with or contribute to the Retreat it was me who grew. The quiet hand of the Spirit using the experiences and voices of these young people to show me the way along my own journey. Another deep Marist experience of our mission”.

Mike Greeff – Marist Schools Council Director, South Africa

“One of the numerous joys in being part of this Marist experience is with the possibility of establishing new bridges. Last week, Juliana and I had the grateful happiness to participate in a youth retreat from South Africa and, in addition to the activities itself, we were able to know a little more about the reality of such amazing people as well as sharing a Little of our per-



sonal history and the international community of which we are part. It was days of prayer, reflection, silence and communion in Saint Lucia, a true natural paradise surrounded by hippos, crocodiles and lush nature. And in the afternoons, activities with the children of the village khula - our first contact with Zulu culture. Being in a space like this, for a week, strengthens the feeling of belonging to a great global charismatic family!”

Diogo Galline – Lavalla200> Community Member – Atlantis



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