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# MARIST NEWS

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

Creating synergies to encourage the global family

## COLLABORATIVE WEEK OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL WITH THE DIRECTORS OF THE SECRETARIATS AND DEPARTMENTS

From 9 to 13 September, during the plenary session of the General Council, the Superior General and his Councillors met with those responsible for the Secretariats and Departments of the General Administration. The objective of this week, held for the third time this year, is to create synergies and to work so that the animation of the Institute is carried out in a coordinated manner.

In this session, for the first time, two days were dedicated

to the formation of the participants. The other days were characterized by the work of coordinating between the areas, especially those of mission and Marist life, together with the respective Liaison Councillors. Special emphasis was given to the coordination of the work of animation according to the progress of each of the 6 regions of the Institute, with the help of the Liaison Councillors of each region. Ángel Diego García Otaola, new director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, who has been part of the team since the beginning of September, participated for the first time.



### Workshop on Child Protection

On Monday and Tuesday, the participants reflected on the global crisis caused by child abuse. On the first day, the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, shared his experience during the meeting held in the Vatican last February on "[the protection of minors in the Church](#)". In the first place, he highlighted the points that caught his attention and finally he underlined what he learned

## general administration

■ During the last week of the plenary session, which ends on September 20, the General Council will study the draft Rule of Life with a view to its approval. It will reflect on two themes: the vocation of the Brother today and how to respond as a Marist Institute to situations of social crisis. On Wednesday 18 the Council will meet with the General Council of the De La Salle Brothers for reflection and sharing; it will take place in La Salle. The General Council will conclude by signing some agreements and will also have a Regular Council, in which some appointments will be included.

■ Brother Valdicer Fachi, director of the Department Cmi, will be in Lebanon, visiting the Fratelli Project and studying future

partnerships. He is accompanied by the Superior General of the Scalabrinian Fathers.

■ Tony Leon will participate in the "Tutti Fratelli" group meeting at the General House of the De La Salle Brothers for community animators: 60 Brothers from 14 congregations will participate. On the Monday and Tuesday, Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor, was also present with the group of Brothers.

■ Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, and Xavier Gual de Miguel, of the Province of L'Hermitage, began the preparation of the World Leader Formation Programme for Marist Youth on Monday and Tuesday.

during this experience, which he summarized in 5 different themes: victims at centre; attention to initial and ongoing formation; the role of women; better protection policies and protocols; and transparent, effective and professional communication.

The second day was coordinated by the General Councillors, Brothers Ben Consigli and Ken McDonald. It was a unique opportunity to become aware of the reality in the Institute, and it was emphasised that the issue of abuse of minors represents a global issue that affects all those who are involved in the Marist mission, anywhere in the world. Participants will then continue to ask themselves what can be done, in a proactive way, to respond to the crisis, being aware that apologising is not enough.

In the course of these days, the participants were reminded of the three documents that the Institute has and that serve as a parameter for animating action at the institutional level: the 2012 document on the standard procedures of the Institute, which will be revised shortly; [the declaration of the XXII General Chapter](#), addressed to the victims of abuse; and the document



of the General Council "A response to the global crisis of sexual abuse", in force since last February, which are recommendations of the General Council addressed to the Provinces.

It became clear that, for the Marists of Champagnat, the starting point that should guide pastoral and all missionary action is that Marcellin Champagnat also experienced situations of violence and did not tolerate them.

### America Sur Region

## THE REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS TEAM PREPARES FOR THE SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

The America Sur Region communications working group met in Curitiba, Brazil on August 28. The agenda for this meeting was to evaluate the development of the communication plan, discuss the support needed for joint actions and update the regional guidelines that will be presented to the Regional Committee meeting to be held in Paraguay from September 23 to 26.

Notable among the topics addressed was the exchange of communication initiatives developed in each of the five Provinces of the Region. Similarly, specific recommendations were proposed advising on other strategic initiatives which could strengthen regional action.

The presence of new members from the Marist provinces Brazil



Centro-Sur and Cruz del Sur has contributed to the strengthening of the working group. Lorena de Oliveira Mendes, Communication Director of the Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL), was also present on this occasion.

## CRUZ DEL SUR

From 5 to 7 September, the Historical Patrimony Team organised a Workshop Retreat that brought participants closer to samples of objects-witnesses of Marist History carefully preserved in the Marist Villa of Luján, offering a unique opportunity for contact with elements and images that evoke the mysticism and passion of the Marist mission over time.

## MEXICO CENTRAL

The Province began the implementation plan of the Strategic Operational Vision 2026, with the emphasis on Education, Management, Institutional Processes, Actions and the Marist Spirit. This video shows in detail the 7 principles that guide the vision for 2026: <https://youtu.be/rNHGolRgw7Y>

## MARIST FAMILY

On 12 September the whole Marist Family celebrated the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. Following a tradition in Rome for many years, the General Councils of the religious branches of the Marist Family came together for a Mass and festive lunch, which was hosted by the SMSM Sisters.

## UNITED STATES

Br. Sam Amos renewed his temporary vows at the opening school mass at Marist High School in Chicago last Thursday.

## LEBANON

A new mixed community with 21 laity and brothers is being formed at the Collège Mariste Champville – an elementary, secondary and high school in Dik el Mehdi, 18km north of Beirut.

## Mexico: Enriching the Teaching of Interiority

# INTERIORITY WORKSHOPS IN THE PROVINCE OF MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL



290 teachers from nine schools in the Province of México Occidental participated throughout the month of August in various interiority workshops. The training sessions had two objectives:

\* To cultivate the teachers' own interiority from its four constituent dimensions: social, bodily, psychological and transcendent, since their personal state is

the most important factor in the accompaniment of their students through the process of interiority.

\* To offer elements that enrich the teaching of interiority, as well as the methodology that is applied from the Project "EN TI", which is already being implemented in 18 schools of the province.

## Brazil: A century of life and love for his neighbour

# 100 YEARS OF BROTHER ALFREDO MORETTI

On September 5, the Province of Brasil-Centro-Sul celebrated a very special event: the centenary of the birth of Brother Alfredo Moretti. Alfredo was congratulated and thanked for being an example of dedication to the Marist charism for all the brothers, lay people and Marist volunteers.

Those who know Brother Alfredo Moretti emphasize the joy and simplicity as the characteristics of his personality, both in his personal life and in the development of his mission, from the very beginning, when he entered the Institute of the Marist Brothers in September 1933.

To pay tribute to this century of life full of love and meaning, some 80 people - among friends and relatives of the Brother - gathered on 8 September at the Champagnat Marist Centre in Curitiba to celebrate and have lunch together in camaraderie.



marist world

Italy: Candidates to the International communities - Manziana



Greece Nea Smirni



France: West Central Europe Marist Leaders at l'Hermitage



Germany Marist European Mission Council in Mindeheim



Bolivia Novices of Cochabamba



Argentina: Champagnat Movement - Fraternity La Valla, Rosario

FMSI and Caritas Italy

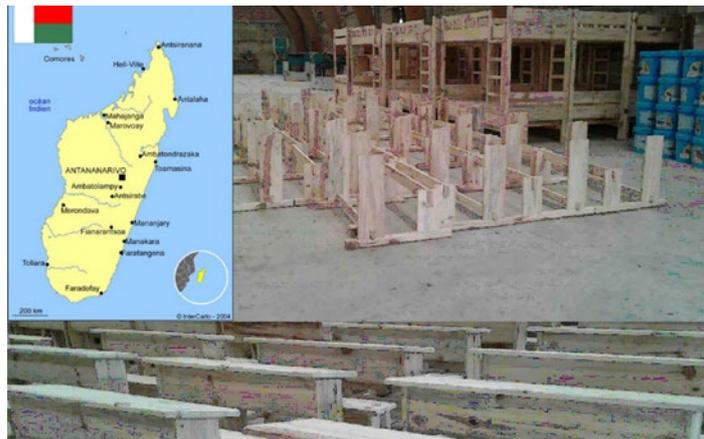
# NEWS DESKS FOR 280 STUDENTS AT THE MARIST SCHOOL IN MADAGASCAR

Thanks to the mediation of FMSI, 280 low-income students in Antananarivo, Madagascar, will have new desks. FMSI promotes educational projects for children and young people in vulnerable areas. This project was financed by Caritas Italy.

them belong to very poor families whose parents make great sacrifices to send them to study. With so many needy students, the school does not have adequate resources to invest in new educational equipment to replace that which has deteriorated over time.

The Marist Saint Champagnat College in Antananarivo was built in 1957 and offers higher secondary education to 1,870 students.

The college is maintained thanks to the contribution of the Marist Brothers and to the fees paid by the students, variable according to their means. Many of



Thanks to the contribution of Italian Caritas, 190 benches have been purchased for 280 students.

These new desks will also be used in the provision of courses and other educational activities aimed at the general population, for which the school makes its facilities available.

# CLOSING OF THE DIOCESAN PROCESS OF THE CAUSE OF BROTHER BASILIO RUEDA

In the Office of the Archdiocese of Guadalajara, Jal. (Mexico) on September 11, 2019, Feast of the Maternity of Mary, at 13 hours, was celebrated the closing session of the supplementary Diocesan process of the Cause of Brother Basilio Rueda Guzman. The act was presided over by the Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Guadalajara Francisco Robles Ortega together with the members of the Tribunal, and presented by Brother José Flores García, Vice Postulator of the Cause. At the beginning of the session, the Cardinal invoked the light of the Holy Spirit by a fervent prayer.

In his interventions the Promoter of Justice said that he had nothing to point out or object against the process, the president of the tribunal and the delegate of the Cardinal declared as integral and authentic both the original as well as the transcription and the public copy and they ordered that the two last documents be handed over to the bearer to take them to Rome and hand them over to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. Brother Miguel Angel Santos Provincial of the Western Mexican Province, named Mrs. Liliانا Columna Torres Vásquez, Notary of the Tribunal in charge to take the documents to Rome. She accepted this charge and made the oath to fulfil faithfully this charge entrusted to her

Once the Cardinal received the oath of the bearer, he and the Episcopal Delegate ordered that the acts of this session, signed and sealed by them and by the Promoter of Justice, be included



in the original records, and the transcription and the public copy which are going to be handed in Rome and that the Notary recognizes the authenticity of the signatures and seals.

They ordered as well, that the original process, closed and sealed, is diligently kept in the Archives of the Archdiocesan Curia, which is not to be opened without the permission of the Archbishop and that the transcription and public copy of the same, closed, sealed and signed by the Notary on the exterior part, hands them over, with the envelope of the legal letters and the instrument of the closing, to the assigned bearer. After all this was done the Cardinal, the Episcopal Delegate, the Promotor of Justice and the assigned bearer signed the minutes of this closing session. With all these juridical formalities, the Diocesan phase of the Cause of Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán is ready to take the next step to the Roman phase.

In this solemn closing act of the work of the tribunal of the supplementary diocesan process of the Cause of Brother Basilio Rueda, was present, represent-

ing the Marist Institute, Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún, General Postulator, Brother José Flores García, Vice Postulator of the Cause, Brother Luis Jorge Flores Acevedo, ex General Postulator and a representation of the Provincial Councils of the Provinces of Central Mexico and Western Mexico with their respective Brothers Provincial José Sánchez Bravo and Miguel Angel Santos.

In addition, present in this act were the Sister and the nieces of Brother Basilio and Mons. Oscar Sánchez Barba, brother of our Brother Superior General, who has been a great support with his advice during the diocesan process.

The Archdiocese of Guadalajara, Jalisco – Mexico, decidedly urges in this way, the promotion of the fame of sanctity incarnated by Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán, eminent son of this land who comes to join the legion of martyrs in this area or extension of Jalisco who gave witness of their faith by the shedding of their blood. Let us praise the Lord for the fecundity of the Christian life in these Christian communities, which live under the protection of our Lady of Guadalupe.

## Pope in Thailand

**His Excellency Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam, Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See to the Kingdom of Thailand and His Eminence Cardinal Francis-Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij President of the Bishops' Conference of Thailand, have officially announced, on 13 September 2019, the intention of Pope Francis to make an Apostolic visit to the Kingdom of Thailand on 20-23 November 2019.**

## Strengthening Marist Volunteering

# BR. VALDICER FACHI, DIRECTOR OF CMI, VISITS MARIST INSTITUTIONS IN BRAZIL

Brother Valdicer Fachi, director of the WCC, visited the three Administrative Units of Brazil and UMBRASIL during the last week of August. The object of these meetings was to encourage the creation and to strengthen interprovincial volunteering, and also to provide time for formation and visibility in volunteering.

## Brasil Centro-Norte

Brother Valdicer Fachi, director of the Department of Collaboration for International Mission (CMI), carried out a three-day work visit to the Province, where he held dialogues with the areas, with the Socio-Educational Units, participated in institutional events and exchanged experiences on volunteering and solidarity.

On August 26, in a meeting with the Provincial, Brother Ataide José de Lima, and the Director of the Sector of Consecrated Life and Laity, Brother Márcio Henrique da Costa, the idea of constructing an international volunteer project was discussed, so that the activities could grow and achieve better results.

On 27 August, the CMI director met with the Sector for Consecrated Life and Laity, and the Evangelisation and Solidarity Coordination of the Socio-Educational Management. Brother Valdicer Fachi spoke about the work of the CMI. Reflection took place on the possibility of including international volunteering along the lines of action of the province, underlining above all the potential of Marist Student Volunteering. The Province has implemented this programme to strengthen the ethical awareness of the Marist educational community among the students. This volunteer programme consists of three phases: local, regional and international.

On August 28, Brother Fachi took part in video-conferences with some formative courses and a meeting with the Commission of the Laity and the Socio-Educational Units that are already developing Student Volunteering.

## Brasil Centro-Sul

The Director of CMI attended a meeting with the IT Team of the Religious Organisation, under the coordination of Mr Juliano Burket Teixeira, to rethink and propose improvements to the management system of the NEXUS Interprovincial Volunteering. Some of the new features of the system will be presented at the Meeting of Provincial Volunteer Coordinators (CPVs) in November.

He also met with the Directors of Identity, Mission and Vocation to learn about and to discuss the proposal for restructuring the



path to follow for the construction of the Culture of Solidarity. Local and interprovincial volunteers are already doing this. Taking into account the contributions made, the directors will present - at the appropriate time- the proposal to the Provincial Council for its revision and approval.

## Brasil Sul Amazônia

Besides talking with Brother Inácio Nestor Etges, Provincial, Brother Fachi had the opportunity to participate in the XII Congress of Social Educators at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul - PUCRS, which dealt with the topic Different Voices. He also spoke with the members of the Pastoral Coordination of the Province and the Provincial Coordinator of Volunteers, whom he praised for their availability and interprovincial volunteering as a way of contributing to the creation of the Global Charismatic Family. In the Marist Youth House, he had the opportunity to be present at the meeting which brought together more than 200 animators and advisers of Marist Youth Ministry.

## UMBRASIL

Br. Valdicer took part in the day of formation for the Brothers and collaborators of the Marist Union of Brazil - UMBRASIL, and addressed the theme "Building a Global Charismatic Family". Collaboration in interprovincial and inter-congregational projects and initiatives is a way of building bridges and overcoming geographical and institutional barriers.

Province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia

# PROVINCIAL MEETING OF THE CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT OF THE MARIST FAMILY

From August 31st until September 1st, more than 180 Laypeople and Marist Brothers took part in the Formative Meeting of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family of the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazonia. The event held in Porto Alegre brought together representatives of the 35 Fraternities of the Province with a view to promoting occasions for exchange, integration and formation on the progress of the Movement.

The central theme of the meeting was good practices to keep alive the pillars of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family. The programme included an exchange of experiences and a workshop on Marist Apostolic Spirituality.

Also present were representatives of the other two Provinces of Brazil and the director of the Bureau of the Laity of the Marist



Institute, Raúl Amaya, who spoke about the lay perspectives of the Marist world, and highlighted the co-responsibility of Brothers and Laypeople for carrying out the charism of Champagnat: "The Marist future is a communion where brothers and laypeople will share the same charism. A new presence and way of being Marist in the world".

Spain: Putting children and young people first

# 800 TEACHERS CELEBRATE THE MARIST EDUCATOR DAYS IN COMPOSTELA

Some 800 teachers from the Spanish sector of the Compostela province have participated in the Marist Educator Days held in Valladolid, León and Vigo. At each of the gatherings, the educational motto of this academic year – NOW – was introduced. Additionally, awards were presented for the most innovative projects and practices carried out in the last two years. Inaugurating the conference, Marist provincial of Compostela, Brother Tomas Briongos, highlighted the "difficult but exciting" challenge in beginning this new academic year: to develop the motto NOW and to implement the new strategic plan that encompasses eco-social awareness, Marist life, the importance of children and youth and social mission. These four objectives are included in the commitment which distinguishes the dedication of all Marist educators.

The conference concluded with a presentation on "authentic evaluation" given by Cesar Poyatos and Loli Garcia, members of the Innovative Catholic School Teachers' team.



Italy: Journing together as a Global Family

# FORMATION PROGRAM FOR CANDIDATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES

On August 11, the Formation Program for candidates to the international communities of the Institute began at the General House. After a week, on August 17, the participants went to Manziana. After several weeks of preparation, the closing week will take place at the Hermitage and, after that, on September 27 they will be destinate to some of the International Communities of the Institute.

The seven participants this year come from seven countries with seven mother tongues: Qalista S. Dohny from Malaysia; Almira Ibañez from the Philippines; Br Cesar Barba from Mexico; Br Fabricio Basso from Brazil; Br Esteban Ortegas from Spain; Br Luke Fong from Fiji and Giorgio Banaudi, from Italy. With two Lavalla200> team members, the brothers Angel Medina and Jeff Crowe, we are living in two rented houses nearby to Manziana. These places were chosen so as to be able to share some workshops with the Horizons group now present at the Brothers' centre.

The preparation program is experiential. We live in small fraternities, consciously working on our interpersonal, intercultural relationships, being a Christian community, and sharing in all the house activities. We have a lot of laughs, especially with language.

Workshops also stretch our understanding of the inspiring call and challenges of mixed, international communities as one expression of our "global Marist family". Even though we had to change our dates this year, we have been able to have our key presenters: Br Lluís Serra on our personalities (through the



Enneagram); Fr Anthony Gittins CSSP on the fundamentals of Intercultural Living and Mission; Louise Evans on Non-violent communication (through the 5 chairs); Br Graham Neist on Discernment and Spirituality; Fr JC Rey Parades on Mission for Today; Agnes Reyes, co-director of Marist Laity, and Br João do Prado address the vocation to be Marist; the team along with Fr Tim Norton SVD work on intercultural competency and community living.

In the coming weeks, candidates will indicate their willingness to commit 2 or 3 years to wherever the Superior General may ask them to go. They will have the chance to discuss their personal situation with either Br Luis Carlos, Vicar General, or Br Oscar Martin, the Councillor responsible for this Institute initiative. At the end of a week at the Hermitage of focus on Marcellin's experience, there will be a simple ceremony of commitment and commissioning on Thursday September.



### Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto:comunica@fms.it)

**Website**

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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