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MARIST NEWS

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Paraguay: Strengthening formation and planning of the IV Regional Assembly

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTH AMERICA

From 23 to 26 September, the Regional Council, made up of the Provincials of the five member provinces (Cruz del Sur, Santa María de los Andes, Brasil Centro - Norte, Brasil Sur - Amazonia and Brasil Centro - Sur) and the Regional Committee of South America, met in Paraguay to discuss and to debate the progress of the different initiatives being carried out by the region. Also present at the meeting were Brothers Óscar Martín Vicario and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, General Councillors, who shared their thoughts concerning the direction the Institute is taking.

On this occasion the themes for the next Regional Assembly - which will take place in 2020, in Cochabamba, Bolivia - were raised, in which the Brothers Provincial and

their Councillors, Coordinators of the teams of the regional initiatives, the Vicar General, Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco and the two General Councillors who participated on this occasion will also take part.

During the meeting of the Regional Council and the Committee regarding the organisation of the assembly, issues of concern arose, such as the need to strengthen formation to deal with institutional crisis situations. They also reflected on the importance of participating in the theme of Solidarity and the different current migratory patterns.

Regional projects and fraternity:

Other topics discussed were: the possible implementation of a regional identity, the project of Selection of Experts, the possible composition of a team for initial and ongoing formation and the constant review of the progress being made by the Network of Schools.



The atmosphere was one of fraternity and the work was intensive. On Tuesday 24th in the course of the evening, those present were entertained with traditional dances

general administration

- On 30th September, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, met with the Brothers of the Amanecer Programme at the General House.
- On 01 October, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, met with the Brothers of the Horizons Programme in Manziana.
- On October 1, Brother Carlos A. Rojas, Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, participated in the

meeting of the Inter-provincial Team for Educational Reflection (EIRE) of the Spanish Marist Conference in Madrid.

- Brother Libardo Garzón, Econome General, will take part in the meeting of the Bedford Fund in Canada.
- Brother Josep M. Soteras, General Councillor, will take part in the retreat on the Rule of Life with the Brothers of the Horizons programme in Manziana.

performed by the students of Champagnat Marist College in Coronel Oviedo, traditional songs and a composition created for the Marist Bicentennial by the "Hermitage" group .

The future of the Region in 2020

The IV Regional Assembly will take place in Cochabamba,

Bolivia. It will provide an opportunity for contact and interaction with the Regional Novitiate, one of the first initiatives that the region implemented, which delivers satisfactory results. On this occasion the plan is to work with the formation team and the novices who are in the Novitiate House.

Open to the Light

BROTHERS OVER 70 PARTICIPATE IN THE "AMANECER" PROGRAM

Under the motto "Invited to be Community Builders" the "Dawn" program invited 15 senior Brothers (70 - 80 years of age) to participate in a spirituality course that is taking place at the General House from September 1 to October 31. The participants come from the following provinces: Compostela (2), Hermitage (1), Mediterránea (2), Ibérica (3), América Central (1), Norandina (3), Santa María de los Andes (1), Canada (1) and Brasil Centro Sur (1).

During the course, the Brothers, along with the presenters, are exploring the following topics:

"On Pilgrimage with Brother François" and "Walking with our Martyrs", with Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún; "Anthropology of the Older Brother", with Br. Juan Jesús Moral Barrio; "Honoring Spirituality (the human, affective...)", with Br. Carlos Alberto Huidobro; "Personal and Community Prayer", with Br. Xavier Barceló Maset; "Laity and Brothers around the Charism", with Dr. José María Pérez-Soba Díez del Corral; "Following Jesus and Water from the Rock", with Fr. Antonio Gascón; "Integral Health in the Mature Years in Religious Life", with Dr. Evelio Blain Yáñez; "Identity and Mission of the Brother" and "Mary today", with Br. José María Ferre; "The Elderly in the Bible", with Br. José María Soteras, General Councilor. The Chaplain is Fr. Pedro García González.

The "AMANECER" Program invites the participating Brothers:

- to open themselves to the light, to a new dawn, to new opportunities, to new frontiers.
- to be at home in peace and joy with their personal history and to see God's presence in their life experiences.
- to be able to respond to what the Spirit is asking of them in the here and now.
- to feel that they continue to play an important role in the life and mission

of the Institute,

- to make these two months a rich experience of sharing with their brothers.
- to return to their communities ready to be a leaven of fraternity, hope and service.

During the first week the Brothers had the opportunity to meet and share community life. They also visited places such as the Etruscan Necropolis, Cerveteri, Bracciano, Anguillara, Subiaco; and Assisi on September 18. On September 25 they had an audience with the Pope.

On September 30, the brothers will meet with the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba. From October 1-11 they will go on pilgrimage to the Marist places in France. On their return, the Brothers will visit the Catacombs of St. Callixtus, the Ardeatine Caves, Frascati, and Gastelgandolfo. After sharing several weeks of formation and solidarity, the older Brothers will return to their respective communities on October 31.

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BOLIVIA

33 catechists from the Bolivia sector took part in the spiritual retreat: Charism, thanksgiving and commitment. Brother Isidro Azpaleta, the pastoral coordinator, the local evangelisation delegates and the spirituality team took part in the meeting.

EL SALVADOR

Last Saturday, September 21, 51 teachers of the Diploma in Educational Philosophy and Marist Spirituality, visited the municipality of Talnique, La Libertad where they shared games, dances, drawings and food with the children there. Food and clothing were also given to be distributed in the community.

SPAIN

130 young people from the Marist Province of Ibérica are taking part in the First Youth Assembly of the Province, which is taking place in Laredo.

BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL

The third and final module of the Hermitage course, promoted by the Director of Identity, Mission and Vocation of PMBCS, which closed in September, had taking part about 25 collaborators from different mission fronts of the Marist Group. Brother Rafael Ferreira, of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, who coordinates the Centre for Marist Studies (CEM) and the Marist History of Apipucos (HMA), was one of the speakers, together with collaborators of the PMBCS and with Brother Ivo Strobino, of the PMBCS, responsible for formation.

Initiatives and vision for the future

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF THE MARIST MISSION



The European Council of the Marist Mission (ECM) held its

first meeting this year in Mindelheim, Bavaria, from 8 to 11 September. The meeting provided an opportunity to meet the Marist family in Germany and to get to know the wealth of the Marist mission in this country. During the meeting the members of the European Mission Council met the volunteers of CMI Germany, to learn about their initiatives and their vision for the future. The meeting was carried out with great enthusiasm and led to the sharing of new projects for the benefit of the young people of the region.

At the beginning of the year, the work of the European Marist Mission Council was based on the objectives of the SCM which were established from the priorities and initiatives of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration concerning the regions and, in particular, the region of Europe, the directives of the Assemblies of the European Mission

Councils and the proposals of the SCM. The continuation of the 3rd edition of the European Course of Formation in Marist Leadership is also planned. The Directory of Marist Europe for the five Provinces of Europe is another step in the creation of Marist Europe.

An important highlight of the meeting was the collaboration with the Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, Br. Beto Rojas, on the initiative for creating a Global Network of Marist Schools to "foster innovation and renewal of our education and evangelisation" (XXII General Chapter).

marist world

Sri Lanka
Marist International Novitiate, Sri Lanka



Japan: Br. Patrick with Marist Community at MBIS in Kobe, Japan. Br. Yohan, J. Yodhida, Patrick, and Allen



Bolivia
Marist Catechists



Spain: Agents and coordinators of the Marist Social Works - Province Mediterranea



France: Candidates to the international communities of the Institute at the Hermitage à l'Ermitage



Brazil: Cemadipe Marista Environmental Project - Goiânia

Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia

BROTHERS AND LAY PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT RETREAT

From 9 to 14 September, the retreat for brothers and laity took place in Veranópolis - An experience of deep reflection. The meeting brought together about 27 people from the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia and had as its theme Hope and interior life following the Nazarene.

During the retreat, each participant was invited to recognize the presence of God as "the One who is", looking into their own lives and reflecting on their dedication and spirituality. Natalino Guilherme de Souza, Executive Secretary of UMBRASIL, attended the retreat and explained how this week's meeting came about: "The journey was took place with much prayer, silence and fraternity. We were in a welcoming atmosphere of generos-

ity and faith that allowed us to leave this retreat with hearts full of joy, reaffirming our hope in the steps of the Nazarene.

For Renata Damati Louzada, of the Marist College of St. Francis, the meeting was a unique experience of faith, interiority, and care: "These different feelings encouraged me to reflect on life as

an individual and as a community member. It is rewarding to be able to take the time to contemplate one's own being, to strengthen and renew one's convictions."

The Retreat for Brothers and Laity - Experience of deep reflection - is promoted annually by the Coordination of Consecrated Life and Laity of the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia.



Reflecting on the past, building the present and dreaming of the future

MORE THAN 1,300 YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN THE MARIST YOUTH MEETING (EJM) 2019



More than 1,300 students and graduates from 25 units of the Marist Network participated in the Meeting of Marist Youth (EJM) held this Saturday, September 28 in Erechim (RS). With the theme "Time to Be" the event marked the celebration of 10 years of Marist Youth Ministry (MYM).

The MYM was organized by members of the Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) together with the Pastoral Coordination of the Marist Network and the Marist College Medianeira which hosted the 2019 event. The programme included workshops, celebrations and the building of fellowship.

The President of the Marist Network, Brother Inacio Etges, and the General Councillor of the Marist Institute, Brother Oscar Vicario, took part in the opening of the event. In his greeting to

the young people, Brother Oscar highlighted the responsibility of all in the Collective Construction of Society: "Today is a very special day. What we feel, what we share and the friendship we experience are the best gifts of these ten years of MYM. In his video message to young people, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, mentioned that: "this is a good opportunity to reflect on the experiences of the past, to build on the present and to dream of the future".

After the event, the young people took part in a Eucharistic celebration celebrated in the Shrine of "Nossa Senhora de Fátima". In the afternoon there were workshops on topics such as: sustainability, empathy, attentive listening, leadership, responsibility, friendship, education, solidarity, among others.



Philippines

On September 20, the MAPAC Community welcomed the students of the Passionist Sisters, accompanied by the director of the school, Sister Janet Rojas CP and Sister Mary Paz and their teachers, to teach them about vermiculture: worm breeding, habitat and eating habits. And also to learn how to plant cabbages.

Argentina: "Being beacons that illuminate life"

PROVINCIAL MEETING OF FRATERNITIES

The Fraternities of the Province of Cruz del Sur met from the 13th to the 15th of September under the theme "Being lighthouses that illuminate life", in the Villa Marista de Luján (Argentina), to renew their commitment to keeping the light of God alive in their works and communities.

At the opening of the first day, following the introductory prayer, the Provincial, Brother Raúl Schönfeld recalled the call of the last Provincial Chapter "As Marists of Champagnat, we feel called to be and to promote communities committed to his vitality" and he invited the Fraternities to discern together what is the unique, singular contribution which they offer to the Province of Cruz del Sur, what they feel called to give, what services they want to give.

With their eyes fixed on the image of the Lighthouse, which animated the Meeting, the participants reflected on the foundations of their lives and of their fraternities. In the afternoon, they continued to work with the image of the Ladder which, like their convictions "with their lights and shades", encourage us to move forward. They also meditated on the way in which He finds us and what it means to meet Him and our brother in our concrete realities.

The first day closed with a celebration led by Brother Guillermo Mautino, who assisted the fraternities so that they could share their experiences together, unite and thank each other for all they experienced in the course of the day.

During the second day the Fraternities reflected and discussed the realities that they wanted to highlight. And in the moving concluding Mass, presided over by Father Raúl and with the presence and animation of Brother César, the 20 years of the Fraternities were celebrated: Un corazón sin fronteras, from Buenos Aires; Violetas en la Roca, from Pergamino and Huellas de Marcelino, from Mendoza; as well as the 25 years of the Fraternidad San Marcelino Champagnat, from Rosario.

Two of the new Fraternities present were also welcomed: Nuestra Señora del Valle, from Libertador, Jujuy, and La Valla, from the city of Rosario, Santa Fe.

After lunch, they all returned to their places with hearts filled with gratitude for what they had experienced and for the challenge of keeping alive the light that God, through Marcellin, kindles in the Fraternities.



Marist International Centre, Nairobi

POST-NOVITIATE FORMATION FOR AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR

The Marist International Center (MIC) is a post-novitiate training center for Africa and Madagascar. It offers a four-year program towards a degree in Education and a diploma in Religious Studies. Today, the community is made up of 80 Brothers - 70 in formation accompanied by 10 formators.

Brothers in formation live in the MIC community and study at Marist International University College (MIUC).

MIC 2019-2020 students come from the continent's five administrative units and, following the order of their studies, there are :

- First year: 6 from Southern Africa, 1 from Madagascar, 5 from Central-East Africa, 7 from Nigeria and 3 from the District of West Africa;
- Second year: 6 from Southern Africa, 1 from Madagascar, 3 from Central-East Africa, 8 from Nigeria and 3 from the District of West Africa;
- Third year: 5 from Southern Africa, 1 from Madagascar, 3 from Central-East Africa, 1 from Nigeria and 7 from the District of West Africa;
- Fourth year: 8 from Southern Africa, 4 from Nigeria and 5 from the District of West Africa.

The formators who accompany the young brothers are Patrick Bwalya and Nicholas Banda (Southern Africa); Rasolonjatovo René Elie and Tiamaro Alphonse (Madagascar); Spiridion Ndanga, Albert Nzabonaliba and Cristian Gisamonyo (Central-East Africa); Mark Anokwuru

(Nigeria); Vincent de Paul Kouassi and Peter Awoh (District of West Africa).

Currently, MIC offers its facilities - the Basilio and Hermitage fraternities - to different congregations and religious groups that conduct courses and spiritual programs. This initiative is aimed at making its own study programs and workshops known to these other participating groups.

New directors of MIC and MIUC

On August 4, the Board of Directors of Marist International University College appointed Brother Albert Nzabonaliba as the new director of MIUC for a period of four years. He replaces Brother Francis Veye, who has been Acting Director since August 2018.

As a consequence, the Conference of Superiors of Africa has appointed Br. Mark Anokwuru, from the Province of Nigeria, as the new Superior of the Marist International Center (MIC). He replaces Br. Albert Nzabonaliba and his appointment is for three years.



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