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MARIST NEWS

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Marist Spirituality and Charism

THE FRATERNITIES OF MEXICO HAVE CELEBRATED THE XXV NATIONAL MEETING OF THE MCFM

The members of the Marist Fraternities of the Provinces of México Occidental and México Central gathered from October 4-6, at Casa Juan Pablo II, in San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Fraternity Meetings of the MCFM.

The event, which follows the Third Call of the XXII General Chapter, "To be Builders of Bridges", was attended by 145 participants from 19 fraternities, from both Central and Western Provinces, accompanied by 16 Brothers.

The Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba, participated in the event by means of a video message in which he greeted and encouraged everyone to continue working for each one of the fraternities.



The MCFM emerged as a gift of the Holy Spirit to the Institute in the words of Brother Charles Howard in 1985, and it grew slowly but surely in several cities of Mexico.

The first National Meeting was held in 1995 at Quinta Soledad, in Mexico City, with the idea of sharing the experiences of the fraternities and with the objective of strengthening prayer and encouraging the growth of this spirituality. Since then, these meetings have been held every year without interruption, praying to Jesus, Mary and Saint Marcellin to help the laity grow in Marist spirituality and charism.

general administration

- From October 12-17, Brothers Ken McDonald and João Carlos do Prado, General Councillors, visit the Province of the United States.
- Br. Libardo Garzón, Econome General, participated in the meeting of the bursars of the Arco Norte Region, in Canada, from 9 to 11 October. From Tuesday to Thursday of that week, he took part in the meeting of the bursars of the América Sur Region, in Buenos Aires.
- Brothers Ángel Diego, Director of the Solidarity Secretariat, and Valdícer Fachi, Director of the WCC, met this Monday and Tuesday in Geneva with Brother Chris Wills, and familiarised himself with the UN and some of the associated institutions.
- From October 9-13, the directors of the Bureau of the Laity

participated in a joint formation course for laity and brothers at General Santos, Philippines.

- Oscar Martín, General Councillor, met with the formation community of Manziana.
- Until Thursday, Brother Tony Leon, Director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, is accompanying a group of pilgrims from Australia and Fiji on their visit to the Marist places of France.
- Brother Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa, General Councillor, visited the postulants of the District of Asia in Davao, Philippines, from 12 to 15 October.
- On Monday, the formation programme for English-speaking Third Age Brothers began in Manziana, Italy, and will end on December 8.

Arco norte: Innovation in mission, education and evangelisation

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ARCO NORTE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The members of the regional committee of Arco Norte met on September 29th and 30th in the Provincial House of Guatemala City. Present at the event were : Socorro Álvarez (M.C.), Irma Zamarripa (M.O.), Bro. José Sánchez (Provincial M.C.), Bro. Gregorio Linacero (A.C.), Bro. Justino Gómez (M.C.), H. Félix Roldán (Canada), H. Albert Rivera (U.S.A.) and H. Alejandro González (M.O.).

After a period of prayer led by Brother Gregorio, Brother José Sánchez, Provincial of Central Mexico and delegate of the Brother Provincials in the team, congratulated and encouraged the work done by the group, which over the years has demonstrated great effort and quality in the projects carried out. José encouraged the members of the team to continue their work for the good of the region and of the Institute.

After reviewing the organisation chart of the regional structure and reviewing the different committees and work teams with their respective missions, goals, objectives and suggested programmes of activities, the different teams and commissions presented their progress showing their already planned programmes of activities, objectives, themes, responsibilities and costs. In this way: animation and vocational culture; Formation; Innovation in mission - Education and Evangelisation, Economies and, in a relevant way, Communication. Special attention was given to the reflection by the inter-regional teams on spirituality and solidarity.

Both Bro. Gregorio and Bro. José Sánchez reported on the innovative projects initiated by the General Administration, as well as the changes in the organisational structure for the animation of the 6 regions of the Institute.

Following the reports, the members developed the initiatives which they suggested to the Brothers Provincial to continue with the projects and activities which the committee has prepared for the region, so that they may be employed as useful tools for decision making.

Nicéforo Garrán presented what he saw at the meeting held in Rome for the creation of the World Network of Marist Schools.



Brother presented the project and the global consultation that is being carried out for this purpose, and invited the participants to share their questions and opinions.

The meeting was an opportunity for the members of the team to get to know each other and share their efforts, ideas and concerns in favour of the mission entrusted to us. A delicate mission entrusted to us. We hope to be mindful of their recommendations in order to serve with greater quality.

COMPOSTELA

Dancing with God was the title of the workshop held at the Marist Spirituality Centre in Vouzela, Portugal. From 11 to 13 October, the 12 participants, Brothers and Laity, were able to share experiences of contact with the Lord and to discuss the meaning of dance as an experience of inner life.

UNITED STATES

Students from all the Marist Schools of the country attended the annual LaValla Weekend Retreat in the Centre at Esopus and came to a deeper understanding of the many difficulties experienced by the refugees crossing the USA borders as well as engaging in a number of service projects and prayer experiences.

CENTRAL MEXICO

On October 5, the annual Marist pilgrimage to the Basilica of Guadalupe took place. From different parts of the city, the various groups that form part of the Obras e Instancias Maristas left in an atmosphere of great encouragement, faith and celebration.

CRUZ DEL SUR

From 27 to 29 September, the National Meeting of Marist Youth, a meeting point for Marist Youth Ministry, took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, simultaneously with the National Meeting of Marist Friends which took place in Córdoba, Argentina.

SYNOD

Mark O'Connor, of the Province of Australia, is in Rome following the Synod of Bishops on Amazonia. He writes "letters" in English, which are published on the website of the Diocese of Parramatta, at this link: <https://catholicoutlook.org/>

Champagnat Regional Novitiate of Cochabamba

THE BROTHERS DISTRIBUTED FOOD TO FIRE-FIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME TO PUT OUT THE FIRE IN TUNARI PARK



Days before the opening of the Amazon Synod, the Novitiate in Cochabamba, Bolivia, joined in several activities to mark Creation Week. Sadly, these days coincided with numerous fires that broke out throughout the Amazon and much of Bolivian Chiquitanía.

At the same time, near the Novitiate, there was also a fire that devastated much of the Tunari Park, a chain of mountains that belonged to the Andes Mountain Range, which some three to four thousand metres high.

During the first three days of October, the Novitiate took part in a solidarity action, and as part of it, prepared and distributed food to some 200 fire-fighters and volunteers who worked so hard day and night to extinguish the fire.

The other Marist communities of Bolivia -Comarapa, Santa Cruz, San José de Chiquitos and Roboré- also coordinated various actions aimed at giving aid to the population affected by the fires in Eastern Bolivia.

marist world

Spain
Huelva



Chile
Meeting at the Marist Spirituality Center



France: Marist Pilgrims from Australia and Fiji in La Valla



Philippines
Joint Formation for Brothers and Lay of East Asia

Italy
Lavalla200> Siracusa - C.I.A.O. Center

Canada
Meeting of provincial economies of Arco Norte

World Mission Day

On World Mission Sunday 2017, Francis announced his intention to dedicate the entire month of October 2019 - not just World Mission Sunday - to the Church's evangelizing activity. The central focus of the Church Mission is that "God wills that all people be saved by coming to know the truth and experiencing his mercy through the ministry of the Church, the universal sacrament of salvation," Francis wrote in his message for the month. Next Sunday, October 20, is Mission Sunday.

Read the [Pope's letter for World Mission Day 2019, Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World](#)



Spain: Young people... now!

1ST IBÉRICA YOUTH ASSEMBLY



On September 27th, 28th and 29th, the 1st Ibérica Youth Assembly took place in Lardero (La Rioja). Organised by the Youth and Vocation Ministry Team of the Province, and with the support of all the local organisations, it was attended by dozens of young people from MarCha Groups (Option and Catechumenate stages), as well as other young people involved in Marist ministry, members of mission teams and brothers from the Provincial Council. A total of 130 young people took part in the Assembly. The participation of Br. Mark Omede, Assistant Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, who came from Rome to accompany this very special meeting, was very special.

The objectives of the assembly were:

- To create a meeting space for young people.
- To give priority to young people in their processes of personal and group growth.
- To become aware of the concerns of young people in today's society.
- To reflect on the role that young people can have in the Church and in the Marist world of today.

With these aims in mind, eight workshops were organised, divided into four large blocks: interior life, care of our shared home, social conscience and church. These questions, in addition to encompassing the current concerns of young people, have offered them the opportunity to reflect on what they are doing and what they could do in this regard. Each participant experienced his or her own assembly, as they could choose the underlying theme they wanted to work on and two of the eight workshops offered.

All the workshops were organised by the young people themselves. Whoever participated in "Women in the Church" was able to unpick ideas inherited from the patriarchy of our faith. In the "Youth in the Church" workshop they were able to reflect on how young people can help spread the Kingdom. Those who participated in the "Refugees and Migrants" workshop learned the story of several people who had to leave their country and the reasons for their flights. The people who attended the Fourth World workshop could read the testimony of people who belonged to this situation in our society, among other things.

In the "Art of Interior life" workshop the creativity and dancing skills of the participants were put to the test. Some people with their masks had the opportunity to look inside through the Interior life workshop. Those who attended the "Responsible Conservation" workshop were able to get to know all kinds of fair trade products in line with respect for nature by learning how to conserve consciously. Finally, the "Environment" workshop tested the participants' knowledge of waste recycling and reflected on how we treat Mother Nature.

"It was a time and opportunity to listen, reflect and share what each of the participants lives freely. It was a time for meeting. Young people are not the future, we are the present and the now. May these ideas that fill us with strength not only remain in the assembly, but may we all live the NOW in each day and moment of our life.

Amaya Espuelas,
Ibérica Youth and Vocation Ministry Team

Cambodia: A school that Marcellin Champagnat would be proud of

AROUND 100 STUDENTS RECEIVE EDUCATION AND MEDICAL CARE AT LAVALLA SCHOOL

Brother John Kachinsky, from the United States Province was, in mid-September, in Cambodia, in the LaValla School, the only registered primary school in this country for students with a physical disability. Here below, we share the testimony of Br. John.

After nineteen hours of flying(!) I was warmly greeted at the Phnom Penh Airport by our Australian Marist Brothers who work at The Lavalla School on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia.

The Lavalla School was founded by the Marist Brothers in 1998. It's the only government-approved school to provide a full primary education to students with physical disabilities. There are about 100 students here from the ages of 10 to 17. In addition to classroom instruction, students live on campus, receive medical care and counseling services, and participate in a wide-array of extracurricular activities. Their education is tuition-free. Most of the faculty also have physical disabilities, many of them former students who provide great modeling and much hope to students about what they are capable of achieving.

I am privileged to be here during the five-day orientation for new students. Forty rising students and their parents are attending a program run by faculty, staff, current students, and alumni. Virtually all of these students have never attended school and come from impoverished regions of the country where they have never met another physically challenged person prior to this week.

In just a few days, I have witnessed an amazing transformation in these young people who now realize they are not alone, that there is "nothing wrong" with them, and that this is a place where they can be themselves. One young girl who initially hid her right arm because she has no hand on that arm, became



less self-conscious each day and was dancing at our school festival last night with a level of confidence that amazed me.

This is truly a Marist school and one that Marcellin Champagnat would be proud of!

Let us remember to pray for each other.

Br. John Kachinsky, FMS

Definitive consecration to the Institute

PERPETUAL PROFESSION IN THE PROVINCE OF NIGERIA

Three Brothers made their Final Profession of Religious Vows in the Marist province of Nigeria on 21st September, 2019 at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Orlu, Imo State, Nigeria. The three Brothers were: Br. Arikpo Effah Vincent, fms. Br.Nwodo Elias, fms and Br. Ibegbu Emmanuel, fms. They came from the dioceses of Ogoja, Nsukka and Orlu.

The ceremony was presided over by His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Augustine Ukwuoma, the Catholic Bishop of Orlu Diocese. Delivering his homily, he stated "that religious life is not an easy journey, but the grace of God makes it easy."

The event witnessed a huge turnout of priests and Religious of different dioceses and religious congregations. The occasion was also graced by the presence of the family members of the final-ly professed Brothers, Lay Marists, Marist staff and students, friends and well-wishers.

Highlights of the event featured presentation of gifts, cultural dance, among others. We thank God for the success of the Final Profession and for the clement weather he granted us. To God be the glory!Dios!



Living together as brothers

THE LAST DAY OF THE INTERCONGREGATIONAL EXPERIENCE "TUTTI FRATELLI" 2019

Friday, October 4, was the last day of the four-week Tutti Fratelli Program held at the General House of the de la Salle Brothers with 60 brothers from 14 congregations and 35 countries participating.

The day started with the Morning Prayer inspired by the upcoming Synod of Bishops for the Pan Amazon Region and using the themes of the REPAM (Red Eclesial Pan-Amazónica or Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network).

It was followed by the session with Superiors General. We were blessed with the presence of the SG's of the de la Salle Brothers, the Brothers of St. Gabriel, the Brothers of Charity, the Holy Family and the Marist Brothers. They shared with the participants their and their Institutes' respective challenges, difficulties and hopes. During the open forum, the participants had the opportunity to express their views and comments on what they heard as well as to ask questions for further clarification.

To ensure that the experience did not end in Rome, the brothers were invited to go into regional groups to talk about and

come up with concrete plans on how to spread the vision of the Tutti Fratelli to as many other religious brothers throughout the world as possible. The morning session was highlighted by the distribution of the Certificates of Attendance in a simple dynamic akin to a graduation rite.

In the afternoon, the participants gathered again to receive directions regarding the evaluation of the whole program, which was afterwards done online by each.

Later in the afternoon was the Closing Liturgy which used the symbol of the apron, signifying that we are all servant leaders and that we "wash one another's feet" as we continue the work of the Church through our respective missions. As his personal prayer, each participant and team member then expressed his words of gratitude.

The remainder of the evening after dinner was fellowship night with songs, dances, poetry, cultural sharing, games and drinks. It was a fitting conclusion to the month-long experience of living together as Tutti Fratelli.



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