



Year XII - Number 601 | 23 OCTOBER 2019

MARIST NEWS

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

Itineraries for vocations, commitments and joint formation

MEETING OF THE ENLARGED BUREAU OF THE LAITY

The Enlarged Bureau of the Laity held its session this year, October 3-8 in Marikina, Philippines, at MAPAC.

Our work and dialogue were guided by the objectives of our planning: Lay Vocation Itineraries, Lay Commitments (bonding and association) and Joint Formation (experiences of communion, brothers and laypeople). We reviewed the process of each of the initiatives, analyzed the needs of the laity at the global level and in each region and reflected on the strategies we are using to advance our mission, including the structures of animation of the vocation of the

laity at the global and regional level and the adjustments we must make.

Participants included Raúl Amaya (director), Agnes Reyes (co-director, Asia), Pep Buetas (co-director, Europe), Ana Saborío (Arco Norte), Carole Wark (Oceania), Joao Luis Fedel (South America) and Brother Elias Odinaka Iwu (Africa). Also present was Manu Gómez (Europe) who will become co-director from February 2020. In addition, we had the active presence of the two liaison Councillors, Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa and João



general administration

- Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General will visit the community of MIC in Nairobi, Kenia on October 24 and 25.
- The Provincials and Councilors of the Region of Arco Norte will meet from the 21 to 26 October, in New Jersey, United States. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, General Councilors, will participate in this encounter.
- Br. Oscar Martin, General Councillor, will visit the community of Lavalla 2000> of Atlanta and South Africa, from the 22 to the 26 of October.

- Brothers Valdicer Fachi, Director of CMI, and Rafa Matas, General Councilor of La Salle, will visit the frontier region between Colombia and Venezuela, from October 24 to November 1, to continue the discernment process in view of possibly opening the Project Fratelli in that region.
- Brother Tony Leon, Director of the Secretariat Brothers Today, accompanied - during the first two days of the week – the English speaking Brothers, who are in Manziana for the program of formation for the Brothers of the third Age.

Carlos do Prado; and with the valuable help of Brother Teófilo Minga, who supported us with the translation.

At our gathering, we highlighted the meeting we had held, on October 3, with members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family of the Philippines: we felt the development of lay life and communion that is practised in the Philippines, the joy of sharing the same charism and the dreams of the future for the Province of East Asia.

Another very relevant experience was the meeting with the formators and scholastics of MAPAC, on October 8. It was a wonderful time in which we were able to present the Bureau of the Laity, its objectives and members. We first developed

a conversation in small groups and finally a plenary session on the meaning of the lay vocation and communion shared by brothers and laity.

Another aspect highlighted was the incorporation of ecological reflection, trying to respond to the calls of Pope Francis and the XXII General Chapter, which encourage us to live a life with greater commitment to the care of our common home.

We are very grateful to the brothers and laypeople of Marikina, who were excellent hosts. It was a true experience of the Church with a Marian character, an experience at the table where bread is shared in fraternity. A special thanks to Agnes Reyes, who organized the logistics and served us wonderfully.

South Africa: Provide a great celebration in Christ

ATLANTIS COMMUNITY LAVALLA200> AT THE TAIZÉ PILGRIMAGE OF TRUST

From 25th to 29th September, the members of Atlantis Marist International Community (Lavalla200>) were involved in the Taizé International Pilgrimage of Trust, which was held at St. Joseph's Marist College (Cape Town). This gathering brought together nearly 3,000 people from around the world. Under the theme 'Together, seeking paths of hope', its objective was to provide a great celebration in Christ - source of peace and reconciliation, to offer moments of faith sharing among peoples of different cultures, and to live an experience of church as communion.

All pilgrims were allocated to different Christian faith communities around the city of Cape Town. In these places, were welcomed by host families, who opened their homes and hearts to all. The daily program consisted of spending each morning in host parish for morning prayer, listening to stories of hope from local people followed by other activities. All pilgrims were, then, transported to St Joseph's (the central venue) for meals, moments of Taizé prayer, workshops, reflection, silence, sharing and communion.

In the week preceding the international meeting (19 to 25 Sept), the Marist International Community, together with the

Atlantis Anglican parish, hosted seven participants from three European countries (France, Germany and Lithuania) for a brief immersion experience. The pilgrims were generously hosted by parish families. During these days, they had the opportunity to get to know something of the complex and challenging realities of Atlantis, have dialogue with local leaders, visit places of hope and engage in activities with children and youth.

The ecumenical communion and interreligious spirit of Taizé is a sign of hope for this turbulent world. Connecting with many people of different cultures – unity in diversity -, makes real the Call of the XXII General Chapter for the Marists of Champagnat: to be creative bridge-builders.



POST-NOVITIATE EUROPE

Brothers Alberto, Zé Luis and Jesús, from the Provinces of Compostela and Mediterranean, renewed their temporary vows on October 14, in Madrid. Brothers Tomás and Juan Carlos, Superiors of the two Provinces, were present in the celebration.

DISTRICT OF THE PACIFIC

The Brothers of the District on October 7 celebrated those who celebrated a Jubilee this year. During the time of prayer, the Brothers lighted a special candle and received the commemorative plate of the occasion. The Brothers celebrating a Jubilee are Peter Horide, James, Mark Chamberlain, John Koorey, Patrick Hill, Christopher Poppelwell, Kevin O'Malley and Denis Gallavin.

COMPOSTELA

All the persons who work in the Centers of the Province receive formation in order to be able to proceed in case of suspicion of any type of ill-treatment. Protection of children is a priority and guardianship is being developed in vertical sequence for all the pupils of the different stages in the schools of the Province.

GHANA

The new academic year has begun in the Ashalaja College (Our Good Mother School). Now, besides the 468 pupils of elementary school and the 148 of Infant education; the High School has opened its doors this year with 44 pupils. Ghana, together with Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Chad, and Liberia, belong to the Marist District of West Africa,

ABOUT THE COURSE SUPERIORS GENERAL

The Marist Memorial de Curitiba, South Central Brazil, will organize a Workshop on the Marist Historical and Spiritual Patrimony, from the 27 to the 28 of November, and will have as central theme "The Superiors General of the period of the consolidation of the Marist Institute (1839-1907)". You can enter in the [following link](#) to get more information.

Unions of Men and Women Superiors General

8TH SEMINAR ON THE FORMATION OF EDUCATORS



With the theme "Effective Innovation from the Sources", the Unions of Superiors General (UISG and USG) held the 8th Seminar on the Formation of Educators on October 4-5 at the Marist Brothers' General House.

The Secretariat for Education and Evangelization of the Marist General Administration is part of the Education Commission of the USG and UISG, which organized the seminar.

The course, which takes place annually in Rome, is aimed at those in charge of education in the General Curia, to the members of the General and Provincial Councils and to the various national or regional officials of the different educational institutions concerned.

This year's seminar, facilitated by Professor Augusto Ibáñez and Father Samson Ehemba, proposed that the participants work on the meaning of educational innovation, to see the present reality that Catholic schools are living,

and to deal with these two matters: the aim or purpose of the Catholic school, and how to achieve a unique, significant and sustainable transformation that will generate a cohesive quality education.

The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- To strengthen the innovative approach of the Catholic school arising from its Christian identity.
- To reflect on the conditions that will guarantee the development of meaningful educational innovation.
- To identify the right questions to ask and the necessary steps to take in response to strategic challenges.
- To analyze the keys to an innovation that will contribute to the strength and uniqueness of the Catholic school.
- To draw up a joint document on the theme of the seminar that gathers the contributions of the various groups and that will encourage reflection by the staffs of the institutions and schools.

marist world

Kenya
Marist International Center, MIC - Nairobi



Netherlands
Nijmegen



Bolivia
Marist School in Cochabamba



New Zealand
Jubilees of the Brothers



Germany
Maristen Gymnasium Furth



Nigeria
Marist Comprehensive Academy, Uturu

El Salvador: Putting our faith in the youth

MEETING OF BROTHERS AND LAITY

Forty lay people and brothers took part in the final meeting this year of the "Oasis" Programme in El Salvador. The participation of brothers underlined the challenge of communion, sharing our faith and charism with the laity.

The focus of the reflection was on the Papal Exhortation

Christus Vivit, which was the motivation for one of the objectives of Oasis: to place our faith in life with our youth. In a simple reminder given at the end of the meeting, some dimensions of this commitment to life were recalled, such as the commitment to communion, to a rejuvenated Church and to a renewed charism.



Among the echoes that resonated were: working for an open-door Church, for a Church that listens more and recognizes that some things must change. The echoes also sounded on a personal level: not to be strange, but at the same time to dare to be different, to demonstrate other dreams that this world does not offer.

The meeting allowed us to have an experience of enriching dialogue, but also of silence and self-discovery which nourished the desire to continue building firmly the way of communion for the Marist future.

Colombia: Continuing and renewing the formation of formators

MEETING OF FORMATORS OF ARCO NORTE

From 21 to 29 September, 13 Marist Brothers dedicated to the formation of new brothers from different countries in the Arco Norte Region, met in Colombia, invited by the Provincials of Marist Arco Norte, to share experiences, ideas, and to draw up a working plan for facing the new challenges presented by modern times.

Brothers Guillermo Villarreal (México Occidental), Toño Cavazos and Jean Mance Louis Jeune (México Occidental - Haiti), Daniel Herrera, Enrique Ruiz and Javier Peña (México Central), Juan Carlos Bolaños and Alejandro Herrera (América Central), Carlos Andrés Obando, Geovanni Velasco and José Miguel Caballero (Norandina), Rodrigo Ortiz (Franciscan, chaplain) participated in this First Meeting of Initial Formation as Arco Norte), accompanied by Brother Albert Rivera (Coordinator of the Formation of Brothers and Laity of Arco Norte).

The brothers - who serve in the initial formation of the brothers in the houses of formation and formative communities during the postulancy, novitiate and post-novitiate stages - met with the objective of seeking common regional ground for initial formation in the Marist vocation. And in preparation for this, they worked together with the provincial teams of initial formation on the strengths and weaknesses of initial formation, the opportunities and difficulties, based on some current documents which proposed emphasis on these.

As a result of the meeting and reflection on their work, the Brothers visualized the main challenges they face:

To develop processes and experiences that help the young person to discover what he brings with him, placed in his heart by God, and to identify himself with Jesus and his project, from an incarnated spirituality, through itineraries that foster the search for God, the strengthening of interior life, the living of silence and the capacity for communication. To live the newness

of religious life in a simple and austere way, allowing ourselves to be sensitive and close to the poor, discovering the causes of their poverty, giving evangelical witness and committing ourselves to the transformation of their reality, especially in the face of the needs of the NNAJ.

inspired by the Gospel, to promote a culture of ECOS or encounter, expressed through welcoming and inclusion, close communication and dialogue, care for our common Home, sincere interpersonal relationships, fraternal and family spirit, leading to a life of service and dedication to others.

To develop constant and personalized processes that allow the integration of evangelical values into daily life in formation communities in which brothers and laypeople commit themselves to accompaniment, formation, human and Christian growth.

To encourage a change of mentality (in those in formation, in the Brothers and in the laity) in order to live in communion, discerning and respecting what is specific to each vocation, enriching Marist life in all its aspects.

To continue and renew the formation of formators, taking advantage of institutional spaces and other resources, motivating new brothers for this task, in order to help the integral growth of those in formation.
To revise and update the itineraries and formative processes so that they help in the discernment of one's own life, in a personalized way, adapted

to the contexts and calls of Religious Life, of the Institute and of the Region, with strategies for communication and cooperation between brothers and laity.

The formators hope that these challenges will be reference points in their joint journey in the coming years as Arco Norte, together with the initiatives that came from each of them and that led them to propose implications for each stage of formation and for the Region.

To conclude, the Brothers are grateful for the spirit of fraternity that they have lived as a community and they hope to share together an intercultural and regional family atmosphere, by listening to God.



Communities for a new beginning

APPOINTMENTS AND CONCLUSION OF 2019 PREPARATION PROGRAM

On Thursday evening 26 September, in the Notre Dame de l'Hermitage chapel, France, Br Ernesto commissioned the seven people who had taken part in this year's program for candidates to the Communities for a new beginning. The following day the group made a pilgrimage to Fourvière where they signed a 'Pact' of how they want to live their experience of intercultural living and mission in the coming years. They have now returned to their homes to prepare for 'going forth' (the expression of Pope Francis) to their destinations.

Lavalla200> communities:**• Moinesti (Romania):**

Ms. Qalista S. Dhony – East Asia Province, Malaysia

• Mt. Druitt (Australia):

Br. Fabrício Basso – Brazil Sul-Amazônia Province

• Syracuse (Italy):

Br. Giorgio Banaudi – Mediterranea Province

• Tabatinga (Brazil):

Br. Luke Fong – District of the Pacific, Fiji

Others joining this community: Ms. Martha Eugenia Martínez – Mexico Occidental (She spent the last 2 years in East Harlem, New York) and Mr. Mario Araya – Santa María de los Andes, Chile (He spent the last 3 years in Syracuse, Sicily)

MDA Marist District of Asia**• Giasnogor (Bangladesh):**

Br. César Barba Gómez – Mexico Central Province

Other communities:**• Fratelli Project – Lebanon**

Br. Esteban Ortega Martínez – Iberica Province

• Philippines – as lay Marist volunteer

Mrs. Almera Ibáñez – East Asia Province, Philippines



France: Regional Meeting of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SIX CMMF FRATERNITIES MEET AT LA NEYLIÈRE

On September 28, the regional meeting of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family took place at the Marist Fathers house, La Neylière, in the Lyon hills. The meeting brought together representatives from six fraternities in the central region of France. Also invited were laity belonging to other Marist groups, including local Marist ministry

teams and brothers from the surrounding communities. We were about forty.

This initiative was a response to the call of the General Chapter, inviting everyone to become passionately involved in building a lifestyle of family, open to all. It also responded to the call to build bridges, accentuated by the province Forum and Chapter. The main objective of the day was to sensitize those gathered to the updated Personal Life Project and to outline the program of Marist Formation.

Well prepared times of reflection as well as the impressive personal sharing of lay Marist, Michele Ragni, allowed for deep sharing. A time of celebration in the chapel of Neylière brought the day to a close.

The warm welcome, the shared picnic in the grounds, lit by a beautiful sun that day, fostered an atmosphere of joy and peace. It certainly gave encouragement to start again with this updated project and also to deepen the Marist charism in our daily lives.



Chile: Santa María de los Andes, Extended Provincial Council

THE THREE SECTORS OF THE PROVINCE MEET TO DEEPEN EXISTING AND GENERATE NEW LINKS



Between October 1 and 3, a new version of the Extended Provincial Council of Santa María de los Andes was held at the Marist Spirituality Centre of Las Condes, in Santiago, Chile.

The meeting brought together representatives of the three sectors of the province - Bolivia, Chile and Peru - working in the different provincial teams and administrative roles. Also present during these 3 days: the provincial council, mission delegates, coordinators and members of the various province teams: Finance, Education, Communications, Spirituality and Laity, Ministry, Solidarity, Protection and Brothers.

The first day began with a prayer which led into an activity where the participants had the opportunity to reflect on and share their life story. Then began the presentation of strategic objectives that each sector had prepared, based on guidelines established by the provincial council. The provincial, Br Saturnino Alonso, himself presented the provincial strategic guidelines and each sector's strategic plans.

On the second day, the Executive Secretary of the Marist South America region, Brother Alberto Aparicio, explained to those present about the path that Marist South America has taken since its formation in 2016. Following this introduction, he



presented a broad outline of each of the six strategic projects in progress: Schools network, Communication, Novitiate, Finance network, Vocational animation and Identification of experts.

The meeting centred on work in committees. After the presentation on the region, committee members looked at how to move forward in their area and prepared a presentation of the provincial journey so far. The third day of the Extended Provincial Council, the committees continued their work and reflected on the importance of the province work in Marist life.

The Extended Council ended its meeting on Thursday with a thanksgiving eucharist for the work done and the bonds strengthened.

Manu Gómez Cid

NEW CO-DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE LAITY

The General Council has named Manuel Gómez Cid from the Mediterranean Province as the new Co-Director of the Secretariat for the Laity. Beginning in February 2020, he will form part of the coordination of the Secretariat together with Agnes Reyes and Raúl Amaya. Pep Buetas, who has been in the Secretariat during the last six years, will remain in this charge until July 2020.

Manu Gómez Cid

I am Manu Gómez Cid, Marist lay person from the Mediterranean Province. I was born in Seville, in the south of Spain. I am married to María and we have three children, Pablo, Marcos and Daniel. I belong to a community of Marist Laity, men and women, of my city, with whom I share life, mission and experience as a believer.

My whole life has been linked to the Marist life. My life as a student was spent in the Marist schools in Granada, Badajoz and Seville, my home city. The experience that made me gradually discover the richness of the Marist charism was my being linked to the "Grupos de Amistad y Vida Cristiana" (Friendship Groups of Christian Life) GVX, of the former Bética Province. In camps and in vocational lived in experience, the life lived by the Brothers was revealed to me and, together, with my personal growth and as a follower of Jesus, the person of Marcellino Champagnat captivated me.

I studied Physics in the University and when I finished, I was then qualified for teaching in secondary school. During all this time of my University life, I was greatly involved as Director of the GVX and the social concern was developing in me, collaborating in some marginal reality in my city and in camps of rural work. I began to participate in the Group 'Project Bolivia', linked to the NGO SED, and during one year I lived in the Marist community of Comarapa (Bolivia) supervising some development projects in the peasant's zone of Siberia.

When I returned from this experience, I began to work as professor in the Marist School of Seville. However, I continued to be linked to the GVX and to the Project Bolivia. In this group, I met my wife, María, and we got married in 1999. In 2002, we spent a whole year in a new experience



of cooperation in Comarapa (Bolivia).

In the School, I have served as coordinator of Pastoral Ministry during four years and as Director four other years. During this time, it was a gift for me to participate in the Preparatory Commission of the II International Assembly of the Marist Mission, which was held in Nairobi (Kenya) in 2014.

During these last years, I have been a member of the Team of Pastoral Ministry of Mediterranean, encouraging the life of the works and, in a special way, everything concerning the Marist Youth Pastoral Ministry.

Since September 2019, I coordinate the Council of Marist Life of my Province, trying to encourage the lay vocational discernment processes, the different community realities, the lived experience of the spirituality and everything that will make us grow in the Charism of Champagnat, both Brothers and Laity. I will harmonize or reconcile this service being Co-director of the Secretariat for the Laity of the Institute, during the next three years.



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Website

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