



Year XII - Number 604 | 13 NOVEMBER 2019

MARIST NEWS

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

Arco Norte Region

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

Over 50 Brothers from the Provincial Councils of the Provinces of Canada, United States, Central Mexico, Western Mexico, Central America and Norandina gathered at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey – United States, October 21-25, 2019 for the 2nd Arco Norte Regional Assembly. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, from the General Council, also joined the meeting as well as Brother Alberto Aparicio, Executive

Secretary of the Region America Sur. Fr. Alex Ibarra, a Columbus graduate, served as chaplain to the group; Br. Hank Hammer arranged music for worship.

The Assembly opened with a presentation by Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General on the topic of Regionalization as a means to create a Marist Global Charismatic Family as prescribed by the last General Chapter. He called Provinces to a spirit of interdependence, not isolation or independence, as the new normal way of being. Br. Luis Carlos outlined Strategic Plan of the General Council, 2017-25 which will promote Marist life throughout the Institute among Brothers and Lay Marists.

To begin the assembly, each province provided a snapshot of life and mission within the Province. Each Provincial focused on any developments in their membership, political situations, new mission projects, greater collaboration with Lay Marists that have occurred since the last Regional Assembly particularly in light of Calls of the last General Chapter.

Brother Gregorio Linacero (Goyo), of Central America, has been the Coordinator of the Regional Team. Brother Goyo provided



a review of the ARCO NORTE Strategic Plan (2016-26) and its implementation up to the present especially in the areas of financial planning, joint formation experiences, best practices and innovation in education, evangelization, and solidarity efforts. Brothers João Carlos and Ken, the General Council link Councilors for the Region, led the group in a process to identify the vitality and viability of Marist life and mission in our region. The participants identified their concerns about their efforts together as well as suggestions for the future steps, and were considered some item as: communications, building a culture for Vocations and co-responsibility within the Region for Marist life and mission.

The First Major Concern of the Assembly focused on the future of the Province of Canada, and how can the Marist charism and mission continue in the future as resources for leadership and presence by the Brothers are limited. In these regards, Br. Gerard, Canada Provincial and François Giard, president of the Marist Association of Lay Marists (AMDAL) provided a context of the reality of this Administrative Unit in relation to the evolution

general administration

■ From the 10 to 16 of November, Br. Josep Maria Soteras, General Councilor and Dorotea Cinianni, Archivist in the General Administration, are now in Curitiba, Brazil carrying out meetings on the digital systems of the Institute,

■ From the 13 to 17 November, Brothers Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, Ken McDonald and Joao Carlos do Prado, General Councilors, and Libardo Garzón, General Bursar, will be

in Canada; to participate first in the meeting of the Commission (Wednesday and Thursday) and then, to assist from the 15 to 17 of November, to the Assembly of the Province of Canada, in Tois-Rivières, Quebec

■ Agnes Reyes, Co-Director of the Secretariat for the Laity, gave a course of formation in Davao on the Marist Laity and communion with the Brothers.

of the number of brothers, mission opportunities, role of the laity and the proposal to be creative to overcome the challenge of the future of this Province.

The Assembly participants proposed to make a strong effort to network the Lay Marist leaders of Canada with Lay Marist leaders of ARCO NORTE, collaborate with the leaders of the Province of Canada and support the deliberations of the Province of Canada Assembly (15-17 November 2019).

The Second Major Concern of the Assembly considered the question, "What could we do better to continue growing as the ARCO NORTE region?" Assembly members discussed many suggestions:

- Let members of the Province and Lay Marists be aware of the AN Strategic Plan and activity. Continue our present efforts without needs for additional plans. In regard to our AN Strategic Plan, 2016-2026, let's have some concrete resolutions for our goals. As one brother stated, "let's land the plane'.
- At the moment we have no AN infrastructure. Establish a modest infrastructure including appointing a Regional Executive Director to promote collaboration and implementation.

This has taken place in the America Sur Region.

- Work to overcome a sense of self-sufficiency in each Province; promote a sense of belonging to the region.
- Start three simple language schools for the practice of English, Spanish, and French.
- Invite members of the 'other' provinces to attend special events in our own especially to each Provincial Chapter.
- Promote volunteer opportunities in each region so members can become acquainted with the challenges in each province.
- Publicize the activity of the committees who are implementing the AN Strategic Plan (2016-26)
- Work to optimize the use of our Province resources for Marist life and mission.
- Develop prayer tools like the Advent Booklet that could focus on the call to be a Marist Global Charismatic Family along with the concerns and awareness of realities of Arco Norte.

On the final day of the Assembly, Br. Alberto Aparicio, Executive Secretary of the Region of America Sur offered an informative presentation on the activity of the Brothers and Lay Marists in their region.

Marist community and the local public administration team up to promote the formation of immigrants

INTERNATIONAL LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY OF SYRACUSE

On October 11 the International Center for Assistance and Guidance (CIAO), that works with immigrant and refugee youth in Siracusa, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Provincial Center for Adult Education (CPIA) to promote Italian language literacy courses (A2). The signatories, on behalf of both institutions, were Mrs. Simonetta Arnone for the CPIA, and Brother Claudio Begni, for the Marist Province of Mediterránea.

The agreement is the outcome of an extended process of contact, verification and study. Thanks to this initiative, the CIAO can now offer its facilities to many residents of the neighborhood—in large part immigrants and refugees—and to anyone unable to travel to the headquarters of the CPIA in Siracusa, for training to obtain a diploma in Italian language study, one of the requirements for getting a job.

Building networks and working together to unite the public and the private sectors are concrete examples of good social practices already operating in the field. The courses began on October 15th and so far there are more than 50 participants from almost 20 different nations, a melting pot of languages and cultures that fits perfectly with CIAO's mission.

The Marist community of Siracusa belongs to the Lavalla200 project and works with newly arrived migrants, especially unaccompanied minors. The members of the Marist community of Siracusa are Br. Giorgio Banaudi (Prov. Mediterránea), Regina Biasibetti (Prov. Brazil Sul-Amazônia), Br. Ricky Gomez (Prov. Norandina), Rosa Maria Schiaffino (Mediterránea) and Gabriel Bernardo da Silva (Prov. Brasil Centro-Sul). Until a few days ago, were also part of it Mario Araya (Prov. Santa María de los Andes).



BRAZIL

From the 13 to 17 of November, will be carried out in Manaus, the School of Professional Formation, promoted by the Provinces of North-Central Brazil and Amazonia Sul-Brazil.

Addressed to vocational animators, the objective of the School is the construction of a vocational culture in the Congregations and other entities of the Church.

AUSTRALIA

Mr Edwin Bakker has been appointed to the role of National Marist Youth Ministry Coordinator, commencing January 2020. Edwin is well known in Marist circles due to his significant contributions over recent years as the National Remar Coordinator.

PHILIPPINES

The Marist communities and ministries are serving as channels for donations in cash and/or relief goods to help the victims of the earthquake that hit many parts of Southern Mindanao, on 31 October. There are still a lot of needs that have to be provided for.

SPAIN

On October 30, the pupils of Nursery School and Primary School from the School Cartagena participated in an activity in favor of the Mar Menor, underlining the preservation of such an important space for the region and a unique ecosystem in Spain as well as in Europe.

CANADA

Next week-end will take place the Assembly of the Province of Canada, which will bring together 110 participants, between Brothers and Laity, in Trois-Rivières, Quebec.

Manziana, a blessed time of Sabbath rest

THE 2019 ENGLISH SPEAKING THIRD AGE COURSE

The Third Age Spirituality Program

kicked off on October 14 at the Marist International Formation Center in Manziana, Italy, and will run until December 8. The participants are thirteen Marist Brothers and three Marianists Brothers.

Since 2003, some Brothers of the Marist Congregation participate in both the English and Spanish-Portuguese language programs that are held in Rome.

The Third Age Program is intended to offer their participants an opportunity to come apart from their present life context for a while to review their life journey in gratitude and grace and be nourished for their life and mission in the years ahead. It can be a blessed time of Sabbath rest, personal renewal and openness to God's transforming presence in their life.

The group is headed by the Brothers John Klein (America) and Bob O'Connor (Australia) who led the group through orientations for the coming days.

As part of the program, Br. Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, gave inputs on "Being a Brother Today"; Br. Emili Turú, former Superior General of the Marist Brothers, talked about "Mystics and Prophets". Input continued with presentations by Brother Stephen Olert FSC on Wellness, Life Planning and Taking Care of Yourself. The issue of Health and Wellness will be



addressed shortly by Dr Gerri Abbatiello. Are part of the host community the brothers: Joe Walton, Joachim Sperandina, Angel Medina, Antonio Peralta Porcel and Teafilo Minga.

Pilgrimage to France/France and Spain

During the program the brothers will make a pilgrimage to the respective places of Marist and Marianist origin. The Marist Brothers will be staying at the Hermitage. The Marianists meanwhile will be able to enjoy the inspiration of their Chaminade pilgrimage, travelling to their places of origin in both France and Spain.

Participants

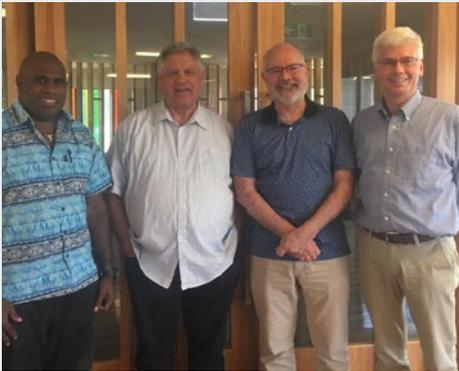
The Marianists Brothers are: Brother Michael Sullivan (America), Fred Silberels (Hawaii) and Father Mike Reaume (Ireland). The FMS group are Tom Chim (Singapore), Joseph Peiris (Sri Lanka) Bryan Stanaway (New Zealand) and Brother Terence Costello (Fiji, District of the Pacific), Juan Castro (Mexican brother working in District of Asia), Jeya Lourdusamy (India), Rosendo Yee (a brother from Philippines working in Malaysia) and six Australian Brothers: John Furlong, Paul Hough, Frank McIntosh, Anthony Robinson, Peter Stewart and Michael Hill.

marist world

Spain: Postnovitiate of the Provinces of Compostela and Mediterranea - Madrid



Australia: College of Leaders of Oceania with Br. Ben Consigli



Brazil: Community of Lavalla200> of Tabatinga



Sri Lanka
Negombo



Hong Kong
St. Francis Xavier's School Tsuen Wan



Kenya
MIC, Nairobi

Province Iberica: The importance of communication in schools

XVI MARIST EDUCATOR'S DAY

More than 650 people from various Marist educational works in Spain took part in the XVI Day of the Marist Educator, held on 26 October in the Chamberí schools in Madrid and Santa María la Real in Sarriguren (Navarre).

Marists from the educational works of Euskadi, Aragón, La Rioja, Navarra, Castilla La Mancha, Madrid and the province of Cáceres in Extremadura participated in the day.

"Communication in schools" was the theme of the conference given by two experts in educational marketing, Jesús Martín and Unitxer Zenón.



The speakers reflected on the consequences of this communicative paradigm for schools, from the functionality to obtain

new registrations and professionalize marketing processes, to the risks that may exist in terms of image and reputation.

Malawi: responding boldly to the emerging needs

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The eighth Chapter of the Province of Southern Africa took place from the 28 to 31 of October, 2019 in the community of “Marist Secondary School”, in Mtendere, Malawi. The theme of the Chapter was “Responding boldly to the emerging needs”, as an echo to the fifth call of the XXII General Chapter.

The Chapter Assembly was formed by Br. Provincial and twenty-two Delegate Chapter members, from the six countries, which form the Province, including also two Post-Novitiate Brothers from the Marist International Center (MIC). Three Marist laypersons participated as guests (from Malawi, Angola and South Africa) and five Brothers offered their services in the Secretariat, interpretation and photography.

Brothers Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, Oscar Martin, General Councilor, from the General Administration, participated and Br. Mark Omede, Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, was invited to be the facilitator of the Chapter and to support the Coordinating committee of the Chapter.

Br. Norbert Mwila, Provincial, named for a second mandate, presented a report on the manner as to how the priorities of the Province have been treated, during the last three years. He thanked the outgoing Provincial Council and the whole Province for their work and for the trust, they have given him as Provincial.

The Chapter reflection centered on five main themes, which



offered Br. Provincial and his Council suggestions for the animation and government for the next three years: Community life, Mission, Laity, Formation and Sustainability of our Mission.

Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, expressed to the Chapter Assembly, among other ideas, the following:

“With Mary and like her, we can give a greater place to God in our life and have a freer heart, which makes us capable to accept novelty. Southern Africa is a Province of young Brothers, with an average age of 45 years. It is necessary to revive the fire of the passion in our heart to live our consecrated and community life better, to generously serve so many children and young people in the six countries, which form the Province. I thank Brother Norbert, for his dedication, closeness and leadership. My desire for the new Council, that they serve the Province as a Global Family, beyond each one of the countries. I remind you that all, brothers and Laity, in the Province, in Rome, in the Institute, form part of the same team, we wear the same T-shirt as “Marists”: the team of Mary”.

The last day, after a process of discernment accompanied by Br. Oscar Martin, the new Provincial Council was elected. The following are the Brothers elected: Ebel Muteveri, Francis Jembe, Geraldo Medida, Fortune Chakasara, Euclides Nangolo and Evans Musakanya.

In the Eucharistic celebration of the last day, the priest invited Br. Norbert to go to

the front, together with his new Council, to receive the blessing and be sent by all the Chapter Assembly.

The Province of Southern Africa is present in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Spain: Enriching Marist internationality

SECOND WEEK OF FORMATION FOR EUROPEAN LEADERS

18 participants of the 3rd edition of Marist Leaders Formation have completed their second training week in October. From October 6 to 26, the participants themselves chose a week to visit and work in one of 10 Marist social projects in Europe. In Spain: Torrente (Casa Hogar Champagnat), Madrid (Spiral), Ponferrada, Barcelona (Gabella); in Italy: Syracuse (CIAO); in Hungary (Karcag and Estergom); in Holland (Moria-Westerhelling), in Romania and Portugal.

During their one week stay in Marist social projects, the future leaders lived in the communities and offered their services to the children and young people in vulnerable situations.

The participants had previously completed their first week at Notre-Dame de L'Hermitage, a time of orientation and personal sharing.

The Formation of Marist Leaders lasts five weeks and has scheduled the third week of training in January 2020. Topics such as leadership, human resources, communication and innovation will be presented by experts from the province of Iberia.

The Formation of Marist Leaders is addressed to Marist

Brothers and Lay people who assume or will assume roles of animation, management and decision making in areas of mission within the Provinces of Europe. This program, conceived in the European context of our provinces, fosters the enhancement of internationality and awareness of the different realities present in the provinces. It also offers a broader formation in Marist leadership.



Life entirely given as a "prophet of brotherhood"

COMMEMORATION OF BR. HENRI VERGÈS, IN FRANCE



Following on from the "Henri Vergès Day" at Espira-de-l'Agly on May 8th, another gathering was organized at Matemale, the birthplace of our Blessed Brother, on Saturday, October 26. At the outset, Bishop Turini, Bishop of Perpignan, and Brother Pere Ferré, Provincial, unveiled a new commemorative plaque.

During the thanksgiving mass, Brother Georges Cellier, in place of the homily, highlighted some features of the character of this "Son of Capcir": interiority, simplicity, spirit of service, life entirely given as a "prophet of brotherhood". The meal that followed gathered about thirty guests in a room provided by the town hall.

In the afternoon, videos and testimonies (notably that of Pierre Vergès) allowed a better knowledge of Br. Henri, "true Little Brother of Mary".

On [our website](#) you can find the homily in French of Bishop Turini

South Africa: A beacon of hope in Atlantis

LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY ATLANTIS DOES ACTIVITIES WITH WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A beacon of hope in Atlantis, South Africa, is the St Clare's Sanctuary for Women. The sanctuary, founded by the Holy Cross Sisters, is staffed by two social workers (Lynette Marrian and Nikita Adams) and three "house-mothers". For a period of three months, the sanctuary welcomes women, and their children, who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. These women are given the psychological, spiritual resources they need to restore their dignity, to rebuild their lives, and be given practical help to find a job or alternative place to live.

Since May 2019, María Bobillo Añel (Spain) and Juliana Fontoura (Brasil), from the Lavalla200 Atlantis Community have been collaborating at Saint Clare's Sanctuary twice a week by offering educational and recreational activities such as meditation, yoga, arts and crafts, sewing, cooking (bakery and confectionery), music and dance.

In October, two special activities were a highlight for the women. The first activity was a "beauty day" that aimed to restore the women's self-esteem and enhance the sense of their own femininity. The women were assisted with their personal make-up, polished nails, hairdressing and being fitted in beautiful dresses which they later modelled. The second activity was a "Cultural day". Each week a different country will be celebrated. The first country cho-



sen was South Africa. The women presented their country, sang the national anthem, and prepared typical foods (bobotie and Gatsby sandwich). There was also a musical moment where all of them sang the song "We are the world". In the coming weeks the volunteers will organise a Brazilian and Spanish cultural day.

For Juliana and María, the work at the Sanctuary is very rewarding. "Working in this very new and sensitive context, is a continuous learning process. Spending time with these women, and their children, is a real joy. We are very happy to have the opportunity to collaborate in some small way with these women as they deal with this traumatic and painful experience in their lives".

Marist Union of Brazil

THE THREE PROVINCES OF THE COUNTRY PRESENT THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2018

On October 31, 2019, the Social Report 2018 of the Marist Works in Brazil was presented. The document - Coordinated by UM-BRASIL - contributes to register the activities developed by the Institutions of the three Marist Provinces of the Country.

The report makes known the Marist activities by means of data of management in the fields of action related to Human Rights, education, health, solidarity, Evangelization and publication and also actions addressed to the social and environmental responsibility. The Marist action in Brazil arrived, in



2018, to almost 125,000 students, including children, young people and adults, through their work in 89 schools of primary education and 7 units of higher education, which are distributed in 24 states of the country.

The Provinces of Brazil make high financial investments in education, health, solidarity and social assistance, because they believe and work in the construction of a more just society, equal and fraternal for all.

Know all the information of the social report doing click on [this link](#).

Brothers Angel Medina Bermúdez and Lindley Halago Sionosa

NEW DIRECTORS OF THE BROTHERS TODAY SECRETARIAT

The Superior General and his Council have named Br. Angel Medina Bermúdez (Cruz del Sur) as the new Director of the Brothers Today Secretariat. At the same time, Br. Lindley Halago Sionosa (East Asia Province) has been appointed Assistant Director of the same Secretariat, both for a period of three years. They will take office on January 1, 2020. Br. Angel, the current Deputy Director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, and responsible for accompanying the Lavalla200 communities, replaces Brother Tony Leon (Australia), who has been in charge of the Secretariat since January 2014, first as Assistant Director and, since 2015, as Director. Brother Tony concludes his term as Director at the end of January 2020.

Angel Medina Bermudez

He was born on August 12, 1958 in Albacete, Spain; his parents, Joaquín and Rosa, had four children, Angel taking second place along with his twin brother. His family moved to the north of the country in the 1960s, first to Monzón (Huesca) and then to Tarragona (Catalunya), where he met the Marist Brothers. He made his initial formation in Barcelona and Lleida, making his first profession in 1979 and his perpetual profession on November 10, 1985 in Les Avellanes. He studied teaching at the Marist University of Alcalá de Henares. After his first experience as a formator in Llinars del Vallés, he was sent to Rome, where he studied Moral Theology. From there he joined the District of Paraguay, where he has spent 24 years in apostolic ministry mainly in formation, in pastoral work and as District Animator. He was a member of the board of directors of the Conference of Religious of Paraguay and of the presidency of CLAR. In 2010 he was named Director of the Center for Spirituality in El Escorial (Madrid). After six years there, he joined the General Administration to collaborate with Brother Jeff Crowe in the Lavalla200 project as formator and accompanist of the communities.

In September 2018 he was appointed co-director of the Brothers Today Secretariat. He is currently part of the international community in Manziána as coordinator of the team that animates the International Center for Ongoing Formation of the Institute.



Lindley Halago Zionosa

He was born on July 1, 1974 in Polomolok, Philippines. He is the eldest of the five children of Santiago and Hermogena Sionosa. A member of the East Asia Provincial Council since 2013, Br. Lindley completed his primary, secondary

and university studies at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University in the city of General Santos, Philippines.

He completed his Bachelor of Science in Accounting in March 1995, and in June of the same year, he entered the Marist novitiate. Brother Lindley made his first profession on May 20, 1997. And three years later, in 2000, he completed his scholasticate at MAPAC with a B.A. in Secondary Education in Religious Education. He made perpetual profession on May 20, 2003. Subsequently, he attended the Formators' Course in Nairobi (Kenya) and L'Hermitage (France) between 2005 and 2006.

He worked as an aspirant teacher from 2003 to 2005 and as a postulant teacher from 2006 to 2009. He was also a member of the Preparatory Commission for the XXI General Chapter (2007-2009). He was master of novices from 2010 to 2016. Since 2016, he has been a member of the International Committee of Brothers Today.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

Twitter



https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat