



Year XII - Number 605 | 20 NOVEMBER 2019

MARIST NEWS

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

Project «Stand Up, Speak Up & Act»

MARIST CELEBRATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

As part of the celebration to mark the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization of the Institute launches the Project "Stand Up, Speak Up & Act".

This Project wishes to mobilize groups of children and young people from Marist Provinces and Districts throughout the coming year, so that they contribute to the elaboration of a document that defines criteria and suggests lines of action to promote their been listened to by the Institute (at the different levels), as well as to encourage their participation and empowerment. The Project "Stand Up, Speak Up & Act" emanates from the call of the XXII General Chapter of the Institute to "develop initiatives for the participation and empowerment of children and young people in all the realities of mission"where we are.

Each Administrative Unit of the Institute has a liaison person (link), who will be in charge of monitoring this process of participation and of sending the contributions made by the children and young



people of the different countries.

Given the scope of importance that the Secretariat gives to this document, more people will be asked to listen to the voices and reflections of groups of educators on the right to participation of children and young people in the spaces of Marist action.

In the last few months, different international groups of children, young people and educators have been working intensely on the preparation of the materials for the Project. The motivational videos were made by young people from the Province of Central Mexico

based on contributions from children and young people from 24 countries with Marist presence. The official poster "Stand Up, Speak Up & Act" was prepared by young people from the Marist Province of Mediterranean. The documents are the fruit of a collective contribution of educators from Brazil, Chile, Nigeria, Mexico, Spain, Colombia and the Philippines.

We invite you to be part of this Project and renew the Institute's commitment to become expert defenders of the Rights of the Child. For more information visit the [site](#).

general administration

- Last Monday, the two-week meeting of the Trappist – monks and nuns – held in the General House, ended. Approximately thirty-five monks and nuns participated, from the whole world.
- The team of the General Administration welcomed, on Monday, Mr. Luca Plagnerelli, who has assumed the charge of operational Manager of the services of the General House.
- Brothers Ken McDonald and João Carlos do Prado, General Councilors, will begin this week the visitation to the Norandin Province, where they will remain until the 13 of December.
- From November 20 to 26, Br. Josep Maria Soterias, General Councilor, participates in the Retreat of Central America, which takes place in El Salvador.
- On November 21 will begin in el Escorial, the Regional Program of Qualification for Animators of the European Community, with the supervision of the Community of Manziana. Brothers.

Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Oscar Martin, General Councilor will participate the first days.

- During the same days, in the Philippines, the Program of formation for Asia and Oceania for Community Animators, will take place. Brothers Tony León, Director of the Secretariat 'Brothers Today' and Joe Walton, from the community of Manziana. Agnes Reyes, Co-Director of the Secretariat for the Laity, will be present until the 29 of November.
- On November 22, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, will participate in the Council of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life and the Councils of the USG and UISG in Rome
- On November 23, Raul Amaya, director of the Secretariat for the Laity, will participate in the encounter of the Laity and Brothers of the Chile Sector of the Province Santa Maria de los Andes.

The Gaudete Project forms another group of Marist leaders

BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL PROVINCE

More than 30 administrators from several ministry areas of the Brazil Centro-Sul province (Health, Publishing, Education and Solidarity) participated in the second session of the Gaudete Project. The program was run between August and October of this year and the last stage of the formation took place in Corupá, Santa Catarina, on October 29 and 30.

The project - promoted by the Provincial Directorate of Identity, Mission and Vocation - has the as its objectives: to develop an appreciation of spirituality; to offer a space for reflection and sharing of personal and collective experience, as an aid to self-knowledge and intentional growth; and to make known the Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation Gaudete et Exultate.

In this final phase, Fr José Rafael Solano Durán worked with the group on the Gaudete et Exultate document, highlighting some points of correlation with administration and the role of an administrator.

On the second day, the group walked the Waterfalls Trail in Corupá, a journey of 3 km in the middle of nature. "The group

was very motivated. It was a wonderful outing, full of significant experiences, a time of communion and reflection on the importance of the journey as it relates to administration," says João Fedel, training coordinator.

The session concluded with a discussion about what it means to be holy as a Marist administrator. The consensus was that holiness is possible, it is very human, and can be applied in Marist service.



Canada: Marist House of Iberville

LAY MARISTS SPREAD MARCELLIN'S CHARISM AMONG YOUNG ADULTS

On August 17, the Province of Canada inaugurated a community animated by lay Marists in Iberville, Quebec. The project, presented to the provincial council in May 2018, has the purpose of promoting Marist life in the region and transmitting its values to new generations. The house is managed by Jonathan Drouin and Marie-Pier Quirion, the first couple to occupy and animate a Marist house in Canada.

The aim of the Iberville House is to provide a space for Marist Life among young adults in the Iberville region who wish to maintain a relationship with the Marist community after having graduated from Marcellin Champagnat Secondary School.

Since its opening, the Marist House in Iberville has been open to all Marists and welcomes visitors who wish to learn more about this experience. The House is also a workplace for the members of the Provincial Animation Commission (CAP) and a space for collaborative activities with Marcellin Champagnat



Secondary School (ESMC).

For the time being, the house has launched the "Marist Young Adults Evening" project (Soirées JAM: Jeunes Adultes Maristes). These meetings are held every two weeks and aim to bring together young adults ages 18 to 26 for fellowship and reflection on the various themes that affect them. This is one of the objectives of the CAP, which seeks to promote Marist life among young adults. The activities

at the meetings allow us to work on introspection, awareness of others and development of spirituality.

Another project being planned are the sessions for the staff of Marcellin Champagnat Secondary School. This will be done in collaboration with Claudine Cholette at ESMC and will allow teachers to deepen their Marist charism both in their place of work and in their personal lives.

Iberville was the first city on the American continent that received the Marist brothers in September 1885.

THE POPE IN OCEANIA

The Pope said to the press that next year he will travel to this continent for the first time. Faithful to his style, he will visit the 'peripheries' of the continent. He told Digital Religion that he will visit Papua New Guinea, in a tour that will include also the youngest country of Asia, East Timor and 'perhaps' Indonesia.

CUBA

The community LaValla200> of Holguin held a meeting with adolescents in the Parish of Saint Joseph, on the 15 and 16 of November. The 15 participants carried out different activities with the objective of strengthening them in their Christian faith.

ARGENTINA

The Province celebrated the jubilee of religious life of ten Brothers, who at their 50, 60, 70 and 75 years of age continue faithfully the ideal of Saint Marcelin Champagnat. The celebration took place in Lujan on November 10

BELGIUM

Approximately thirty persons participated in the Marist Day in Habay, an invitation to deepen "the spirituality of Marcelin Champagnat, in the service of the mission" with Brother Jean Ronson of Saint Genis, Laval.

IVORY COAST

Under the direction of Br. German Beda, Director of the School Center Saint Marcelin Champagnat in Bouake, on November 9, there was a meeting with the parents of the pupils of the school, to speak about Marist education and the activities of the school.



Marist Europe more united and coordinated

ASSEMBLY OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS IN VALLADOLID



An assembly of the provincial councils of West Central Europe, Hermitage, Mediterranean, Iberian and Compostela provinces has been held in Valladolid, Spain, from

November 4 to 7. It had as its slogan "Now, Europe". Members of the provincial councils, two lay people from each province and Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (Vicar General) and Joao Carlos do Prado (General Councillor) participated.

The assembly provided the occasion to share experiences of leadership as well as proposed projects for the next few years. However, the main focus was to look at progress made in the process of regionalization for Marist Europe.

During the meeting, participants looked at shared ways forward for the 5 provinces. This included the creation of teams to carry out training activities, develop projects and provide mutual

support in the different actions and activities that will be carried out.

The assembly deemed that NOW is the right time to take on joint challenges and commitments.

“

Transform us Jesus, and send us as a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope in this turbulent world (22nd General Chapter)

”

The European provinces are made up of the following countries: Spain, Honduras and Portugal (Compostela), Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Holland and United Kingdom (West Central Europe), Spain and Romania (Iberia), Algeria, Spain, France, Greece, Hungary and Switzerland (Hermitage), and Spain, Italy, Lebanon and Syria (Mediterranean).

marist world

India
Chetana Tribal Boys Hostel, Talit



Syria
Aleppo



Cuba
Lavalla200> Holguín



Spain: Alcalá de Henares - Marist Provincials of Spain and Visitors of De La Salle Brothers



Guatemala
Catechists of the Liceo Guatemala



Bolivia: Prayer for peace in the country at the Cochabamba Novitiate

Province of Cruz del Sur (Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina)

A MARIST SPIRITUALITY PROJECT TAKES ITS FIRST STEPS

Convoled by the Provincial Council, the community of "Nardo Puro", consisting of lay people and Marist Brothers, came together October 11-13 at Villa Marista in Luján, Argentina, to initiate Companions on the Way (Compañeros de Camino), a Marist Spirituality Project for the Province.

They were inspired to call themselves "Nardo Puro" by the story in John 12: 1-8, in which Mary, taking a pound of expensive pure nard, lovingly anointed the feet of Jesus, who was visiting Lazarus' house with his friends days before the Passion. Mary, despite criticism, used all the nard to anoint Jesus' feet, and the whole house was filled with the perfume's fragrance by this gesture of adoration.

During the meeting in Luján, the participants shared their



reflections on the gospel story, which led to a time of discernment and prayer to the Holy Spirit. This led to moments of interiority and group discernment of the keys to a new Marist spirituality for the Church.

Formation for elderly Brothers

ENDS OF THE PROGRAM AMANECER 2019

The 15 participants of the Program 'Amanecer' for the Portuguese-Spanish speaking Brothers ended their two-month period of formation in the General House, on October 31. This has been the seventh and last group accompanied by Br. Landelino Ortega, from the Norandine Province, who has finished his service. The new Director of the Program will be Br. Antonio Lazaro Gimenez de Bagües Gaudó (Mediterranean Province). In the meantime, the mandate of Br. Alonso Levis (South-Central Brazil) as Assistant Director has been extended until October 31, 2020.

Below we publish a text of Br. Alonso on the session celebrated from September 1 to October 31. In this link, you can read a description of Br. Jesús Orte Isla on the lived experience by the group in the Marist places.

After the experience carried out, one can observe a very positive result. We can underline the following aspects:

- The fraternal living together, peaceful and joyful, tinted by the peculiarities and talents of each Brother, has manifested and consolidated integration and mutual trust. A path, which follows the calls of the XXII General Chapter, and the contributions of two speakers, in regard with this age.
- The contents given allowed each participant, and all in the community to deepen the reflection, to meditate and to reconsider and rethink the personal history and the spiritual life: to see more clearly and understand the footprints of the presence of God, the action of the Spirit, the fidelity in following Jesus Christ, and in the ups and downs of the response given in the course of one's own life.
- This was a help to transform into wisdom of life the experience reflected upon and discerned. To deepen the knowledge on spirituality, prayer, the Charism and the Marist history, the relationship between Brothers, Marist Laity and Mary... To profit from the discovery of new horizons of meaning and mission... and focus on the objectives of the course; to open oneself to the light, to the new 'dawn'; to accept in peace and joyfully the action of God in one's own history; be ready to respond to the new calls of the Spirit and to the new calls of life and mission of the Institute; to be witness of brotherhood and of hope...
- The moments of community encounter during the daily



Eucharistic celebration - presided over by Father Pedro one of the participants of 'Amanecer'— in the prayers and celebrations, they revived the flame of hope and the missionary impetus in a new way of being witness and follower of Jesus Christ – conscious that he is the protagonist – of our Marist Charism and Marian.

- The community going out of the house, once a week, provided new knowledge and strengthened our fraternal and pleasant living together, in community recreation. These were greatly valued and appreciated.
- It is worthwhile to emphasize the special manner of the 10 day visit to l'Hermitage, where it was possible to "submerge" oneself in the sources of our Marist origin; and to be invaded by the sentiments of admiration, gratitude and stimulus before the solid foundations, physical and vital, constructed there, in fidelity to the Spirit; to perceive what takes place at present in life, the commitment and the will to continue ahead, grateful, trustful and committed.
- The will to profit of opportunities, whether through those proposed during the course or the possibility to submerge oneself in the knowledge of past cultures, where Rome was presented as a source or fountain of eternal interest.

To end I can emphasize the following conclusion: "Amanecer' was a gift for me!" I feel very happy to have participated in this course; it has been a grace!" Anyone who has not participated does not know what he has lost!" A special thanks to the coordination, for the wise, human and discreet manner with which they have directed the Course, and thanks to all for their predisposition, joy, commitment and FRATERNAL WITNESS".



The Board of Directors of the Confederation of Religious – men and women – of Latin America and the Caribbean (CLAR), last Wednesday visited the General Administration, during its annual visit to Rome. Brother José Sánchez Bravo, Provincial of Central Mexico, is the second Vice-President of the Board.

Region of Oceania

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN BRISBANE

The Oceania Council and College of Leaders met in Brisbane, in Australia, on 4 – 5 November 2019. The meeting was joined by Br. Ben Consigli who is one of the liaison councillors with the General Administration in Rome. The next meeting of the Oceania Council will be in April 2020 in Auckland.

The Council focused on the various undertakings across the region.

Southern Stars Leadership

Dr. Frank Malloy and Mr. Benedict Toomey updated the Council about the planned second phase of this program which will be rolled out in 2020. This involves 24 Principals and senior teachers from across the Marist schools in Melanesia and the Pacific.

Global Education Network

Currently the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization are conducting a consultation about forming a global network of Champagnat Marist Schools. Feedback from across the Region has been very positive towards this initiative.

Oceania Regional Trust Fund Board

With the establishment of the Oceania Region in 2010, several committees and commissions were formed to support the various activities across the Region. As a result, it became necessary to have a financial body which could coordinate the various activities. This need led to the formation of the Oceania Regional Trust Fund Board on 1 July 2012. Now with the increasing emphasis on a global family, the closer relationship between the finance offices across the three administrative units and the establishment of the Financial Administrators Network, the functions of the Trust Fund Board will now be undertaken by the Financial Administrators Network.

Particular thanks was expressed at the meeting to the chair of the Trust, Br. Julian Casey, and other people who have assisted the fund over the years.

La Valla 200> Community

Next year the community will be going through a significant transition. Once visa requirements have been arranged, Br. Fabrício Basso, from the Province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia, will join the community. In mid-2020, the three-year contracts for the members of the Mt. Druitt community will have been completed. Argelia Hernández Mendoza and Rodrigo Gris Castro will be returning to Mexico in August.

Oceania Partnership Commission

Mr. Dan Dungey presented an overview of the current initiatives being undertaken in Melanesia and the Pacific. The strategy is to build capacity within the various countries across the region to support and nourish Marist life. This has been achieved through participating in various programmes such as “In the Footsteps” or Contemplative Retreats and adapting these to the local context.



A further discussion was held about the various courses being provided by the general administration. These have been developed as part of the strategic plan of the General Council. Oceania representatives have participated or will be participating in the initiatives.

Marist Youth Ministry

Some time was spent discussing the possibility of exploring how the newly developed Game Changers, program for young Marists, could be adapted to the Melanesia and Pacific contexts.

Some representatives from the Region may attend the MYM gathering at Mittagong in February 2020.

Rule of Life – Wherever You Go

This document will be officially launched on 2 January 2020. The meeting discussed ways to assist communities to engage with this document.

Religious Calendar

The 2020 calendar will use the new draft Constitutions for the daily reflection. As this will increase the number of pages the calendar will be spiral bound.

Solidarity

As the Oceania Council meeting coincided with the launch of

the Australian Marist Solidary Christmas Appeal, the Council took the opportunity to express its thanks to Br Al Sherry who has retired as the director of AMS. Under Br Al’s direction AMS has assisted many of our Champagnat Marist works in Melanesia and the Pacific.

Changes of Personnel

The Council took the opportunity to thank Br David McDonald, District Leader of the Pacific for his time on the Council and College of Leaders. Br David has been a member of the Council since its establishment in 2012.

Mr. Joe McCarthy will be stepping down from the Oceania Partnership Commission when he takes up a teaching position in the New Year.

Australia: Commitment to the Environment

“LAUDATO SI” COMMITTEE MEETS TO PROMOTE THE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

Tn July 2019, the provincial council of Australia established the “Laudato Si” committee to advise the council on issues related to the care of our common home. Since then, members have conducted two internet meetings to deal with ecology issues, climate change and environmental sustainability.



The committee, made up of Cassie Wilmot and Brothers Dennis Cooper, Paul A. Murphy, Mark Needham, Graham Neist and Bill Selden, has already begun developing practical suggestions:

- The need to encourage all to read Pope Francis’ document.
- Some strategies on how to share our learnings on environmental issues.
- Involving Brothers and other Marists in the urgent need for environmental action, while acknowledging that many Marist communities are very aware of the issues and are currently engaged in energy saving activities.
- Looking to establish a zero-carbon footprint by the Prov-

ince within a reasonable time frame, e.g. 2027/2030.

- Education about what a carbon footprint is and how to implement actions to assist in reducing it in our living and working spaces through practical applications such as recycling, use of compost bins, changing lights to LED, using energy saving devices and programmes

where possible, eliminating excessive travel by car and plane, the use of public transport where possible, water use reduction and rain water storage etc.

- Assisting Marists identifying issues connected to environmental concerns such as drought, water contamination, rubbish in the oceans and waterways, excessive landfill and the consumer society that feeds it.

Regarding this topic, one of the calls of the XXII General Chapter asks Marists to “create an integral ecological awareness in all our communities and ministries and develop policies at all levels of the Institute that strengthen our commitment to the care of our common home”.

Region America Sur

V MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF CENTERS OF MARIST MEMORY

The Province Cruz del Sur welcomed the V Encounter of the Network of Centers of Marist Memory of the Region of South America, celebrated from 4 to 8 November, 2019, in Villa Marista in Lujan, Argentina. The objective was to promote the Network of Centers of Marist Memory of the Region and to promote formation and reflection among the professionals – coordinators, technicians, and collaborators – who work in these Centers of Marist Memory (Memorials or museums, according to each Province). Twenty-eight participated in the meeting. On the first day of the Encounter, they spoke about the NET of Centers of Marist Memory, in the context of the South American Region and of the Marist Institute, with the participation of Brothers Josep Maria Sotero, General Councilor of the Marist Institute, Alberto Aparicio, Executive Secretary of the Region of South America and Dyógenes Araùjo, member of the Commission of Marist Spiritual Patrimony. Dorotea Cinami, Archivist of the General Administration was also present.

In his conference, Brother Soteras considered the challenge of watching for a spirituality with identity, with horizons and roots and linked to the mission, and he proposed three lines of action: to open widely, from one side to the other, the doors of the heart to that spirituality, to establish its “places” of reference and contribute to the development of the NET.

In the afternoon of the first day, the progress and the difficulties that each participating Province had experienced since the last encounter of the Net, concerning the organization of the Centers and the orientating documents for the Management of the Patrimony: archivist, bibliographic, and of the museums, There was also sharing about launching the Institutional Policy for the historical Memory of the Marist Province Amazonia Brazil Sul. The second day was dedicated to the advising of technical formation; in the morning the collaborator of the Marist Province South-Central Brazil, Fernanda Arruda, presented a model of work with the tool Canvas for the elaboration of Swot Matrix of each Center of memory, which ended with the joint elaboration of a Swot Matrix for the Net. In the afternoon, the advisers Susana Brandariz and Magali Alonso spoke on the preventive



preservation of the common property and they carried out some practical activities.

At the end of the second day, two publications were presented: Our Superiors General (biographies of the Superiors of the Institute of Marist Brothers since 1839 to 1993), produced by the Marist Memorial of the Province of South-Central Brazil, and Saint Marcellin Champagnat (biography of the Founder of the Marist Brothers written by Manuel Mesonero Sanchez fms), produced by the Province Santa Maria de loss Andes.

In the morning of the third day of the Encounter, five teams were formed, which worked on some of the objectives of the Net: Education, Innovation and Investigation, Formation and Qualification and Communication and Spirituality. There was also technical formation on the System Pergamum and the places of the History and the Historical Archives of the Province of Cruz del Sur were visited.

The last day of the Encounter there was also a technical visit to the Museum of Modern Art in Buenos Aires. The integration of the group and the fraternal climate shared during the Encounter reflected the sentiment of belonging and the team work of the Net. The Encounter, besides, strengthened the mission that we all share: to work together in favor of the Marist Memory.



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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