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MARIST NEWS

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

« Commitment, Fraternity and Life »

PROVINCE OF CANADA ASSEMBLY

Members of the Canada province met from November 15 to 17 to dream together a future for the Marist charism. Participants were encouraged to keep in mind three basic attitudes - unity, gratitude and hope - as they entered into the gathering. The assembly itself encouraged people to experiment with new ways of being together around Marist charism and life, in order to co-create together the vision and transmission of Marist life and presence in Canada.



Friday was devoted to personal and communal reflection: reconnection with significant personal Marist moments and a look at relationships between brothers and laity. At the end of the day, the groundwork was laid for Saturday – what would be the right conditions and the risky ones to make a future possible?

Saturday took the theme of openness to ideas and others: creation of possible scenarios for the future and teasing out of key principles. The day ended with time given for what would be the work for Sunday - impressions and discussion of the proposals.

general administration

- This week the First gathering of the Province Coordinators of Volunteers is being held at the General House, organised by Cmi.
- From 26 to 28 November Br Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, will attend a meeting in Rome of the Council and the Assembly of the Union of Superior Generals. On 29 November the participants will meet with Pope Francis.
- From 26-30 November Br Libardo Garzón, Econome General, will attend a meeting of the International Council for Economic Affairs (CIAE) to be held in Singapore.
- On 27 November, Br Jeff Crowe, on behalf of Cmi, will attend the Assembly of Solidarity with South Sudan.
- From 27 to 30 November, Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation, will attend the CHILDREN'S GLOBAL SUMMIT Project "I can" to be held in Rome.
- From 28 November to 1 December, there will be a meeting in El Salvador of the Marist Laypeople of Central America. Br Josep Maria Soteras, General Councillor, and Raul Amaya, Director of the Secretariat of the Laity, will be in attendance.
- From November 29 to December 3, Br. Jeff Crowe will be in Syracuse, Italy, to make a pastoral visit to the community Lavalla200>.

Finally, Sunday took as its theme: Me, Marist. There was a sharing of each one's feelings around the experience of the previous days and the future. Time then to consider the proposals for concrete actions and involvement.

Finally, it was the words "commitment, fraternity and life" that concluded the assembly. More than 100 people left, smiling, confident of the possibility of a future for life and the Marist mission in Canada and ready to commit to its realization.



El Salvador: Memory and reflection looking to the future

XIV MEETING OF MARIST FRATERNITIES

1 30 members of the Champagnat Movement in El Salvador met on November 10 at the Liceo Salvadoreño, to share fraternity, dreams and proposals for the future.

In his opening speech, Br. Hipólito Pérez Gómez, Provincial of Central America, mentioned three words that synthesized the ideals of the meeting:

- Assume, that is, be protagonists and architects of the Movement; grow in autonomy and freedom, knowing how to make good decisions
- Go further into the issue, based on solid foundations. To intuit, that is, to know how to look beyond; respond to new times.
- To have creativity; give new answers.

The day was developed with great prominence and motivation

by the laity, who shared the Eucharist, their testimonies and the general organization.

The day's schedule had four moments that come from the statement: We continue the story ... From change and innovation ... Looking to the future ... As a universal family.

Each moment was identified with a brief motivation, a testimony, a personal text and a space for group dialogue.



The meeting concluded with the Eucharist presided by Fr. Patxi Loidi, who highlighted the role of the laity in the Church, not to be in churches and sacristies, but rather to witness the gospel in the midst of society and the world.

Finally, a memory of the Good Mother was given to each fraternity, to affirm the conviction that it is She who acts among her Children, Brothers and Marist Laity.

COLOMBIA

31 lay Marists and 3 Brothers from Popayan met on 4 November to discuss “The vocation, mission and Identity of Lay Marists”, led by Claudia A. Rojas, the Coordinator of Lay Marists.

SPAIN

On 20 November all the ministries of the four Marist Provinces (Compostela, Iberica, L’Hermitage and Mediterranea) involved in promoting initiatives for children, took the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to stress the equality of all children and anti-discrimination.

BOLIVIA

3 novices from South America Region have finished their Novitiate in Cochabamba and will return to their provinces, where they will made their first profession: Luiz Carlos Lima, from Brasil Centro-Norte and Rafael Rodriguez Fernandes, from Brasil Centro-Sul (December 7) and Luciano Taminski, from Brasil Sul-Amazônia (December 14).

COMPOSTELA

The community of León, Spain, welcomed for a week three young people who decided to live a Marist community experience. The event was very enriching for both young people (Nacho, Alex and Sheila) and Brothers (Pedro, Salva and Fito).

MEXICO

31 persons in charge of child protection from Mexico Occidental met from November 21 to 23 for training and working in this sector. For three days they reviewed the work carried out in the province in favour of a “Safe Home” for children.

Call to form homes that are a beacon of hope in this turbulent world

ASIA-OCEANIA INTER-REGION COMMUNITY LEADERS FORMATION PROGRAM



The Asia-Oceania Inter-Region Marist Community Leaders Formation Program began on Thursday, November 21, at the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu, Philippines. There are 15 Brothers and 8 Lay participants; while the team is composed of Tony Leon, Joe Walton, Lindley Sionosa and Agnes Reyes.

This formation program, which is one of 4 similar programs being conducted (the other 3 being in Europe, Africa and the Americas), is a response to the Institute call to form homes that are a beacon of hope in this turbulent world while continuously seeking new ways of being Marists today.

Guided by the survey conducted among AU leaders of Asia and Oceania in March this year, the program will revolve around the following topics:

- building a community
- staying present with a transcendent

and inclusive spirituality

- seeing a new expression of Marist life
- walking with the shadows
- listening to the generational voices
- communicating non-violently
- responding to the calls of the Chapter
- embracing the rule of the community leader
- animating and accompanying communities
- serving the district, province, region as “Marists of the Apron”

Resource persons are coming to deal with the different topics and there will be workshops to enhance the learning process. Brs. Ernesto Sanchez and Oscar Martin will also come around to be present among the participants.

Asia-Oceania Inter-Region Marist Community Leaders Formation Program will run for 3 weeks and will conclude on December 13.

marist world

Bangladesh
Members of the Marist Family in Giasnogor



Mexico: Centro de Apoyo Marista al Migrante - CAMMI - Queretaro



United States
Marist youth - Esopus



Spain
Post novitiate, Madrid



Cuba
Marist Youth Center



Cambodia: New Village accommodation for secondary school students - Lavalla School

Marist District of Asia

MEETING OF COMMISSION OF MARIST LIFE AND MISSION

November 17 and 18 members of different commissions of the Marist District of Asia, with the new leader of the Administrative Unite, Br. Canisio, and his Council, gathered in Bangkok. There were 15 Brothers in four different commissions: Marist life (community, spirituality, laity and Communication) Formation (formation of young brothers, vocation, ongoing formation) Mission (Apostolate, projects, youth) and Finance commission.



The participants worked based on the XXII General chapter's calls, and priorities of the last District chapter, that took place in Cambodia. The group discussed and planed out for next three years of Marist Life and mission in the District. The suggestions will be finalized by the council during their next meeting.

The participants were selected in different parts of the District and it was a mixed group of young and senior Brothers.

Also Br. Cesar Barba, a new member of the District, came from Mexico and took part in the meeting to learn about the Marist Life in the region.

Syria: The true «peace spring»

LETTER FROM ALEPPO No 37

Since the Turkish offensive against Syria almost a month ago, we have been receiving messages every day from our friends asking about our news and inquiring about what is happening. I will, therefore, try to briefly summarize a very complex situation. I will begin by sharing the context before the 9th of October, and then talk to you about the latest developments.

Current situation in Syria

Since a year and a half, there has been almost no fight in Syria. We lived in a state of "neither war nor peace", a prolonged status quo. The Syrian government controlled 70% of the territory including the main cities. However, 3 areas remained occupied, which had to be liberated and the situation was frozen. A big part of Northeastern Syria, about 25% of territory, with Turkey to the North and Iraq to the East (which contains the main oil fields) was occupied by the Kurdish militia (YPG), supported by the Americans (and the French) who, apart from their unlawful/illegal presence, trained, armed and financed the Kurds. This militia, formed from Syrians of Kurdish ethnicity, thought they could be taking advantage of the chaos of war to create a Syrian Kurdistan or an autonomous region.

Another small part of Syria in the Northwest (the Afrin region), also inhabited by Kurdish Syrians had been occupied by the Turkish army in January 2018, pushing nearly 140,000 people to leave.

Finally, the province of Idlib has been occupied for several years by the Islamists of front Al Nosra including tens of thousands of foreign terrorists.

On the other hand, the political situation has been a status quo. The Geneva talks were long dead and buried, replaced by Astana and Sochi meetings under the auspices of Russia, Turkey and Iran who were arranging the cease-fires and were trying to form a joint committee to draft a new constitution.

Syria, Turkey and the Kurds

To go back to October 9th, it must be pointed out that since the beginning of the war in Syria, Turkey had its eye on the Syrian Kurds who live mostly in the neighboring cities of the Turkish border and have benefited of the war in other parts of Syria to take control of the Northeastern part of Syria. That



provoked the ire of the Turks who did not want an autonomous Kurdish region in Syria that could give wings to the Kurdish independence activist movement in Turkey and his militia, the PKK. I must emphasize that the Kurds represent 25% of the Turkish population and live in the southern regions, near the Syrian border. Many times, in the past, Turkey has threatened to invade those regions held by the YPG and was holding back because of American threats.

On October 9, after President Trump announced the withdrawal of the American troops from Syria (in fact, they have only moved further south in Syria), Turkey launched its operation "Peace Spring" (SIC), and invaded illegally Syria. The offensive is preceded by air raids on the main cities (Kamichli, Derbasiye, Ras Al Ayn, Ain Arab) of that region, inhabited by Syrian Kurds, Christians and Muslims, causing a massive exodus of people to other cities in the region. Kurdish fighters of the YPG, abandoned by the Americans, begged the Syrian army to come to their rescue reaffirming their Syrian citizenship and their attachment to the Syrian government and fleeing to the South while leaving the field free to the Turks. After 5 days of fighting, a ceasefire is negotiated by Turkey and Russia stipulating that all Kurdish fighters should move 35 km away from the borders, that the Syrian army could return and restore the authority of the state, and that Russian-Turkish mixed patrols would control the border. Since then, the situation is frozen again.

Everything happened as if the script was written in advance. The Turks got what they wanted: a security zone in Syrian territory 35 km deep where the Kurdish military presence is prohibited. The Syrian government is the big winner having recovered, without fighting, a large part of the territories it no longer controlled since the beginning of the Syrian crisis and showing Turkey that it is in its interest to stop supporting Islamist terrorists and restore normal relations with Syria. The Russians have demonstrated their influence which has become considerable. The Americans keep control of Syrian oil wells and reconcile with Turkey, as the US support for Kurdish fighters was the main source of contention between them. And the Kurds, like many times in the past, were fooled, used for 3 years by the Americans to weaken the Syrian government and fight Daesh, and abandoned when their godfather has decided so. Yet, many political actors had warned them from this possible outcome, and that it was in their interest to stay in the arms of the Syrian State.

Almost concomitantly, the Syrian Constitutional Committee, created on September 23 after endless negotiations, held its first meeting on October 30 in Geneva.

Nobody expects quick results, as the conditions for the adoption of different articles of the new constitution are difficult and require almost the unanimity of the 150 members of the commission.

Regarding the region of Idlib, the Syrian army had launched several offensives to liberate it from the Islamist terrorists, but, at every attempt, it had to stop the offensive as a result of the pressure from Western powers who, to prevent a

victory of the Syrian government, announced their fear of a possible humanitarian crisis.

Exactly, as they did when Aleppo was liberated 3 years ago. However, during the last offensive, the armed rebels had to back up 10 km to the North; which put out of the reach of their cannons the 2 Christian cities from the region of Hama, Mhardé and Squalbiyé. These 2 cities were bombed for the last two years by Idlib's terrorists and have undergone several sieges. You should have seen the inhabitants of these two cities cheering in the streets showing their relief and their joy.

The situation in Aleppo

In Aleppo, the situation is stable. Essential services are provided, water 5 days per week and electricity 18 h a day. University and schools are back to their normal schedule. The armed rebel groups, settled in the western suburbs, continue to send, occasionally, shells to Aleppo. Recently, a shell fell 200 meters from the St Louis Hospital and my office, and caused the death of a person and wounded several.

The economic crisis is very acute with an impressive unemployment rate, a very high cost of living, a galloping inflation and increasing poverty.

The Blue Marists' projects

We, the Blue Marists, continue all our projects to help the poor and/or displaced families, with increasing difficulties to get funding.

We still take care of the refugee camp "Shahba" for displaced



from Afrin despite the danger. The camp is 55 km from Aleppo and only 3 km from the Turkish army lines. Very often, shells fall near the camp. This does not prevent us from going there twice a week to distribute food and sanitary products, treating the sick, teach and educate children and adolescents, and train the adults. To see the joy in the children's eyes and sow some hope in the people's hearts are for us a great satisfaction.



The children of our 2 educational projects ("Learn to Grow" with 65 children and "I Want to Learn" with 110 children from 3 to 6 years) have started again in October. There is a very strong demand from parents to register their kids with us; since, in Syria, preschools are privately paid out of pocket as opposed to the free elementary public school, and the parents of our families simply cannot afford to pay. We are at our maximum capacity because of the small size of our establishments. The children, exuding happiness, are accompanied by 24 instructors.

Our psychological support program, Seeds, has grown a lot this year due to the high demand. In addition to support the children and adolescents who benefit from our various projects, two new groups of children and adolescents are being taken care of. The Seeds team has grown and they are now about twenty counselors under the direction of a psychologist.

We continue our program of "Micro-Projects" to give jobs to the adults, to allow them to live from the fruits of their labor with dignity and to fight emigration. In 2019, we organized four 48-hour training sessions during which we taught 75 people how to create and manage a new project, and we have funded 45 projects that will allow 80 families to get out of poverty and become independent from the NGOs support for living. We consider that helping people to have a job is the priority in the current circumstances.

Our project "Heartmade" for making women's clothing from leftovers fabric has taken off and is developing. It helps in finding a job for women, to develop their skills, their creativity and their sense of beauty, and in respecting the environment by fighting the waste of fabric and clothing by producing

unique "handmade" pieces. We installed in our workshop solar panels to provide electricity to the sewing machines and rented a shop for sell our products. Eleven women work in this project helping to support 11 families, and we intend to develop this project and hire new people.

All of our other projects are about helping families live and grow. "Drop of Milk" distributes milk to 2900 children under 11; Two hundred displaced families are helped to be able to live in an apartment until they can go home; our medical program supports the medical or surgical expenses of about 150 patients per month; In our adult training center "MIT" we organize 2 sessions of 3 days of training per month for 20 adults each session; thirty women participate each week at the women's development sessions. All the sessions of our "Cut and Sew" project are full as well as for the Hope project for foreign language education.

The true "Peace Spring"

With our 85 volunteers and employees, we serve the poor and/or displaced families of Aleppo who consider us the true "Peace Spring". We try to help them live with dignity, to accompany them financially and psychologically and to show them an active presence and solidarity. Yet, all we do is just a few drops in the ocean of the needs of the people. In previous years, we were able to find the necessary funding more easily. The sources are drying up but the needs are still there until peace is established.

Indeed, if the war is coming to an end, peace is not there yet. After eight and a half years of an absurd and atrocious war, it is time for the Syrians to be able to live normally like any other citizen in the world.

With this hope in the heart, I thank you, dear friends, for your friendship, your solidarity and your support and send you greetings from all our team.

Aleppo, November 17, 2019
Nabil Antaki on behalf of the Blue Marists

PS: The violence persists. The Christians Syrians are mourning. Monday, November 11, a Catholic priest and his father from Kamichli were assassinated on their way to Deir Elzor to support their parishioners. The same day, two car bombs exploded close to the Chaldean church in Kamichli.

Appointments of the General Council

BROTHERS AND LAITY AT THE SERVICE OF THE MARIST CHARISM

In the latest letter that Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, sent to the Provincials, he listed several appointments made in recent months, to support the work of animation of the Institute. We mention below the appointments that have not yet been published in our website.

General House

- Br. Carlos Alberto Huidobro (Cruz del Sur), as Secretary General, extension of his term for one year, from 1st July 2019.
- Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún (L'Hermitage), as Postulator General, extension of his term for one year, from 1st August 2019.
- Br. Colin Joseph Chalmers (West-Central Europe), as Director of the Archives of the General Administration, extension of term for one year from 1st January 2020.
- Br. Antoni Martínez Frigola (L'Hermitage), as member of the Administration team of the General House, for three years from 1st January 2020.

Marist Life Area

- Ms. Agnes Reyes (East Asia), as co-Director of the Laity Secretariat, for a second term of three years, from 1st September 2020.
- Br. Antonio Lázaro Giménez de Bagüés Gaudó (Mediterránea), as Director of the Third Age program for Spanish and Portuguese speakers, for three years, from 1st January 2020. Our thanks to Br Landelino Ortego (Norandina) who completes his 7th program for Third Age Brothers in October this year.
- Br. Afonso Levis (Brazil Centro-Sul), as co-Director of the Third Age program for Spanish and Portuguese speakers, an extension of his term until 31st October 2020.
- Br. Félix Roldán Rodríguez (Canada), as Director of the Third Age program for French-speakers, from the 1st January 2020.
- Br. Antonio Peralta (Santa María de los Andes), as member of the ongoing formation team of the Institute, for three years, from 1st June 2019.
- Br. Teófilo Augusto Rodrigues Minga (Compostela), as member of the ongoing formation team of the Institute, for a second term, from 30 June 2019.

- International Commission of Brothers Today: Brs. Marcio Henrique Ferreira da Costa (Brazil Centro Norte, second term), Sefo Une (District of the Pacific, second term), Ebel Muteveri (Southern Africa), Juan Carlos Bolaños (Central America), Anselmo Kim (District of Asia), Alfonse Tiamaro (Madagascar), for three years, beginning 1st June 2019. Included as well is Br. Aureliano García Manzanal (Mediterránea), appointed in January 2019. The Director and Co-Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today are also members of the Commission.

Mission Area

- Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal (Norandina), as Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation, for a second term of three years, beginning 1st January 2020.
- Br. Okolo Mark Omede (Nigeria), as co-Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation, for a second term of three years, beginning 1st January 2020.
- Br. Kenneth Charles McDonald, (General Councillor) as President of FMSI for three years, from 1st July 2019.
- Br. Libardo Garzón Duque (Econome General), Br. Allen Sherry (Australia), Mrs. Inmaculada Maíllo (Ibérica), Mrs. Analía Ruggeri (Cruz del Sur), Br. Pascal Funsá Birkem (District of West Africa), as members of the Board of FMSI, for three years, from 1st August 2019.
- Marist Mission Commission: Brs. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco (Coordinator, Vicar General), Benjamin Lance Consigli (General Councillor), Kenneth Charles McDonald (General Councillor), Manuír Mentges (Brazil Sul-Amazonia), Francis Jembe (Southern Africa), Marciano Guzmán Morana (Mediterránea), Gregorio Linacero Melón (Central America), Alberto Guillermo Aparicio (Cruz del Sur), Ángel Diego García Otaola (Secretariat of Solidarity), Valdicer Fachi (Cmi), Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal and Okolo Mark Omede (Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation),



José Libardo Garzón Duque (Econome General), Mr. Frank Malloy (Australia), Mrs. María del Socorro Álvarez (México Central), Ms. María Bobillo (Compostela), for three years from 1st September 2019.

Finances

- Members of the Board of the Bedford Fund: Br. Brian Poulin (USA), for three years, from January 2019, and Mr Luiz Pilotto (Brazil Sul-Amazonia), for one year, from January 2019.

Other appointments

- Members of the Child Protection Commission: Brs. Kenneth Charles McDonald (Coordinator, General Councillor), Benjamin Lance Consigli (General Councillor), Óscar Martín Vicario (General Councillor), Gabriel Villa-Réal Tapias (L'Hermitage), Rogerio Renato Ma-

teucci (Brazil Centro-Sul), Fortune Chakasara Chiedzo (Southern Africa) and Mrs. Deborah Swain (Australia), Mrs. Nancy Camilleri (West Central Europe), Mrs. Marcela Hormazabal (Santa María de los Andes) and Ms. Qalista S. Dohny (East Asia), for three years, from 1st September 2019.

- Br. Maurice Paul Razanandro (Madagascar), as member of the community of Our Lady of the Hermitage, for three years, beginning 1st January 2020.
- Translators of the Constitutions and Statutes into Portuguese: Brs. Sebastião Ferrarini (Brazil Sul- Amazonia) and Antonio Leal (Compostela); and, into French, Brs. Maurice Berquet (L'Hermitage) and Josep Roura (L'Hermitage), from 1st June 2019.
- Br. Simon Serero (District of Melanesia), as Director of the MAPAC post-novitiate centre, for a period of one year, from September 2019.

Universal Periodic Review of Bolivia

MARISTS PARTICIPATE IN RECOMMENDATIONS ON RIGHTS ADDRESSED TO THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT

During the week of November 4-10, the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva hosted the final step of the project on the Universal Periodic Review of Bolivia. Marists, along with other organizations (a total of 18), participated in the preparation of a report that aims to reflect the situation of the Bolivian people in relation to human rights. This report resulted in a series of recommendations addressed to the Bolivian government, especially with regard to the rights of children, adolescents and women. These recommendations were transmitted through various meetings with some twenty missions (countries present before the United Nations) during the month of October. Finally, in the first week of November, the last part of the project was carried out, consisting of various actions. The main ones were:

Attendance at the official act where the different countries presented their reports to the country that is under review (Bolivia in this case).

A parallel event, where the main conclusions of the project were presented to the attendees.

A meeting with the person in charge of the Permanent Mission of Bolivia, in Geneva, to present the main points of the report.

In the last session before the United Nations, Brother Ángel Diego García Otaola, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity,



was accompanied by Mrs. Paulina Beltrán Rocha, representing the 18 Bolivian civil organizations that prepared the report, including FMSI for the Marist Brothers.

Thanks are due to all the people who participated in the preparation of the report and also to the work of Maria D'Onofrio, coordinator of the project on behalf of the CCIG (Centro Católico Geneva International).

Also at work were Brad and Pat, two former Marist students from Australia who, along with Br. Chris Wills from Australia, were involved in the project.

East Timor: Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores

SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT IN BAUCAU

End-of-year ceremonies, gatherings and farewells are always full of pleasant surprises at the Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores (ICFP), in Baucau, East Timor. The graduating students of 2019 invited the entire ICFP community to join them for Mass celebrated by Fr Manuel Ximenes SDB.

In that very special day, the students were very happy to unveil their painting of the East Timor version of Marcellin Champagnat represented as a Liurai (traditional leader). He is naturally wearing the traditional ceremonial tais (woven garment) with the symbols of office on his head - kaebauk - and his chest - belak. It is also possible to notice a special East



Timorese lively glint in Champagnat's eyes.

Final year student Natercia Afonso da Silva sang with full heart and soul the newly composed Champagnat song in Tetun, the chorus of which was a prayer of thanks to God for sending Marists to East Timor so that they (the students) could become Marist teachers too.

The Marist Brothers founded the College, which was originally accredited through the Australian Catholic University, at the request of the Bishop of Baucau in 2001.

Since 2006, about 600 students have graduated from the Institute.

FIRST GATHERING OF PROVINCE VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

25 – 29 November

“The aim of this first gathering is to encourage and give drive to interprovincial volunteering in the Institute through the setting up of the CPV Network”, said Br Valdicer Fachi, Director of the Department of Collaboration for Mission, International (Cmi), the organiser of the event.



General Design of Marist Formation

ASSEMBLY OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARIST PROVINCES WITH PRESENCE IN SPAIN

The members of the Provinces of Compostela, Ibécia, l'Hermitage and Mediterránea, which form the group of the Assembly of the Provinces with presence in Spain, met from the 11 to 13 of November, in the Spanish Marist Conference, convoked under the title of Updating of the general Design of Marist Formation, for the period 2020 to 2026.

The objective of the Assembly was to revise and update the interprovincial current in force framework of formation that is offered to the Provinces from the Spanish Marist Conference. This revision is preceded by a work of evaluation in each Province and the collection of suggestions, opinions and new initiatives that a Preparatory Commission of the Assembly of Representatives has analyzed, summarized and prepared to speed up the development of the Assembly.

The general Design of Marist formation (DGMF) is a plan of formation designed by the four Provinces to respond to the formative needs. For the Design – that follows the exposition or approach on human resources in the Provinces – an updated competitive focus has been assumed. This type of formation has as protagonist the Marist identity and, is fundamentally directed to personal and professional growth of educational agents, without forgetting giving attention to other competences of professional type.

Within this context, Br. Andreu P. Sánchez, secretary of the CME, has welcomed all those convoked recalling the document Marist Educational Mission published around 1998, referring to some important aspects, such as common interest, joint responsibility, foster the growth in Marist identity through formation plans or prepare the Marist responsible ones by means of permanent formation... Brother emphasized the long path covered since then, the fruit of which is visualized in the dynamism of the works, in the commitment of the persons and in the communion around the Charism of Champagnat.



But today, new challenges are presented that transform our works and our future vision of the Marist mission: regionalization, with the creation of European teams for the mission, the proposal of the construction of networks of Marist Schools at institutional level, the innovation and the implementation of new pedagogies, the take-off of Marist communication in a structured form, the transformation of relationships and the structures of our centers from the perspective of the rights of children...”, Br. Andreu pointed.

For the development of the different foreseen sessions and give a response to the needs of the Marist educational works, we have worked on the following fields:

- Field of Initial Formation, Identity and Marian deepening.
- Field of the Directive Function, Directive Teams and PAS Personnel of administration and Services.
- Field of Pastoral Ministry, MarCha and ERE
- Field of Education for Solidarity and the Development and Educators of Social Centers
- Field of guardianship Action of IP, SBC, and Accompaniment according to guardianship action.
- Field of orientation function and attention to diversity.



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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