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MARIST NEWS

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Coordinators of Province Volunteering

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK CREATED TO PROMOTE THE MARIST VOLUNTEERS

From the 25 to the 30 of November, approximately 40 Brothers and Laity will participate in the first World Assembly of the Coordinators of Province Volunteering (CPVs). During this encounter, the Network of the CPVs was inaugurated. The encounter was organized by the Department of Collaboration for Mission, International (CMI) and Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez, the Vicar General and Br. Oscar Martin, General Councilor were present; Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General inaugurated the first day of this act. In speaking about the importance of the Network CPVs Br. Luis Carlos emphasized, "The multiplication of gestures and lived experiences of humanness is the great opportunity of this Network so it will take the Good News and the dignity to many corners of our world and to many peripheries". In addition, on the encounter, the languages to construct bridges and be lighthouses or beacons of hope. It was an extraordinary week and extraordinary people!"

"Our encounter of Coordinators of Province Volunteering



has been a very positive experience to construct Nets. It has helped us to know one another, to exchange, to create bonds of union and synergies. In addition, it has led us to the concrete creation of this Network of Coordinators of Volunteers, a good news for the Global Family. It is the time for gratitude and at the same time a challenge to continue walking and knitting nets" expressed Br. Oscar.

"The first meeting of CPVs was an arrival point and a point

general administration

- Br Jeff Crowe who mentors the Lavalla200> communities, visited the community in Syracuse from 29 Nov to 3 December.
- From 2-3 December, there was a meeting of the Board of MAPAC in Manila, Philippines. Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, General Councillor, attended.
- From 2-6 December a Meeting was held of the Ad Hoc Commission of a Schools Network in Guadamar, Spain. Participants included Brs Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, Ben Consigli, General Councillor, Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede, Directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation.
- From 2-8 December the Retreat of the Province of Central took place in Guatemala. Br Josep Maria Soteras, General Councillor, was in attendance.
- From 2-10 December, Br. Valdicer Fachi is visiting the Lavalla200> community in Tabatinga.
- From 4-5 December, Br Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General took part in the Regional Formation Program for Asia and Oceania for Community Leaders, held at Lake Sebu, Philippines. Br Oscar Martin, General Councillor will continue there until 6 December.
- From 4-13 December, Raul Amaya, Director of the Secretariat of the Laity, will take part in the Regional Formation Program for Europe for Community Leaders, taking place in El Escorial.
- From 6-7 December a Meeting will take place of the Executive Committee of the Bedford Fund in Nairobi, Kenya. Br Libardo Garzon, Econome General, will attend.

of departure. Arrival because we have gathered what was learnt and the fruits of the road covered. Of departure, because with the creation of the Net of CPVs better coordinated and articulated processes become possible”, said Br. Valdicer Fachi, Director of CMI. We reaffirm that the Volunteer movement contributes to the construction of a culture of solidarity and to the construction of a Global Family”.

The Network of CPVs

The Network of Coordinators of Province Volunteering of the Marist Institute is international, and responds to the need to unite efforts on the path of the Inter-Provincial Volunteer Movement, by sharing good practices, improving the processes and unifying the language and the methodologies, to send Volunteers as well as to receive them. This Network seeks to contribute, in a more effective way, in the construction of a culture of solidarity and of encounter, in favor of those in greater need and who are excluded.

This Network, which collaborates with the development of a Global Charismatic Family, has the following objectives:

- Foster and promote and give impulse to the inter-provincial and Provincial Volunteer Movement in the Administrative Units of the Institute.
- Provide the CPVs a broad vision of the Marist life and mission, helping them to develop an international mentality and to have global availability.
- Create convergence regarding language, vision and procedures.
- Share materials, experiences and good practices.
- Assure promotion, diffusion and the value of the Volunteer Movement in the Institute.
- Work in synergy and collaboration with the Marist Organizations involved with the Volunteer Movement.



The Coordinators of Province Volunteering formally indicated by the Superiors of the Administrative Units, form part of the Network. The link General Councilors of CMI, the Director and the Assistant of CMI, and the Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity also integrate the Network. A representative of the System NEXUS will also be invited.

The coordination and functioning of the Network will be carried out through a General Assembly and an Management Council.

The General Assembly is the organ charged in making de-

isions. All the members form it and meets once every two years, the members being present.

The Management Council, in charge of the coordination of the Network is formed by:

- 1 CPV (Brother or Lay) from each Region indicated by the Regional Conference of Provincials for a three-year period, which can be renewed
- Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity
- Members of the Department CMI
- The link Councilors of CMI

The Management Council will meet once a year to evaluate and plan the progress. Its principal activities are:

- To implement the Strategic Plan or Lines of Action prepared from the orientations given by the General Assembly.
- To organize and coordinate the activities in the continents, at interprovincial level.
- To facilitate the response of the Network before emergency situations.

The goal of the Network for the next 2 years:

- For the future, the Network of CPVs has programed to produce the following themes:
 - The creation of modules of formation of Volunteers according to the duration of the Volunteer experience (a module for a long-term experience and another one for a short term).
 - The foresight of an adequate orientation (discernment of the motivation and adequate information on the culture of the place where the experience will take place) for the accompanying of the Volunteers.
- Creation of institutional materials used for the communication and promotion of the Volunteer Movement.
- Updating of the platform of the management of the Volunteer Movement, Nexus, so that it will be a system more directed to the process “easy to use” – according to the last recent normative – and so that the data will be more exact.
- Compilation of the good practices and the publication, in virtual manner, or through the creation of a space in Nexus.
- The creation of a fund destined for the Volunteer Movement (the Institution creates it and then there will be selection where it is directed) in order to find financial resources necessary to favor the mobility of the Volunteers.

CHILE

A delegation of Marist students travelled to Brazil on 30 November to have an exchange experience with the Marist Catholic University in Porto Alegre. Students from 5 Marist educational institutions are taking part.

MEXICO

People from all the Marist schools of Merida met on 24 November to make a pilgrimage, as the Champagnat Family, to the Joaquín Peón Aznar School, which belongs to the Marist Institute, Province of Mexico Occidental.

SOUTH AFRICA

The project Three2Six Project has been shortlisted for the Presence Learning & Teaching Award of Reimagine Education! As a shortlisted candidate, the project will take part in the Reimagine Education Conference in London from the 8th until the 10th of December.

AUSTRALIA

On November 28, members of the Association at Champagnat House and St Joseph's College, met at Hunters Hill with members of the Brothers Community for a meeting and celebration of Mass and refreshments.

GREECE

November 26, members of the Marist college of Néa Smyrni in Athens (teachers, teachers, parents, graduates, administrative and technical staff) participated in voluntary blood donation.

South America Region**THE REGIONAL COMMUNICATION TEAM MET IN PUERTO ALEGRE**

Members of the communication Team of the five Administrative Units of the Region of South America met in Puerto Alegre (Brazil) on November 19 and 20. Besides, the Team of communication, the Executive Secretary of the Region, Br. Alberto Aparicio, and the representative of the Regional Committee, Marcelo Cordeiro, were also present.

During two days, the advance or progress on the proposal of regional alignment of the canonical institutional dates was discussed. This project foresees a joint creation of priority messages for seven religious institutional dates. The objective of the initiative is to strengthen one of the premises of the Region of South America that seeks to generate a sense of regional belonging to the Administrative Units of the seven member countries.

In the same way, the advance exposed by the Regional Council was discussed as well as the organization of the initiatives that will be taken into account for approbation in the next Regional Assembly that will take place in April of next year.

For the Executive Secretary of the

Region, Br. Alberto Aparicio, the two days of dialogue provided a broader reflection, on Regional communication, which – according to his opinion, goes beyond the demands of functioning and shows the strategic perception that the Team seeks in the development of every Project. “I have seen the importance of the collective construction when one thinks on the impact of communication, not only for the Region, but also for the Marist world”, he mentioned and stressed it, “The whole Team reflects together, aligns proposals, suggestions and concerns”.

Something on the Region of South America

Internationality is a premise, which, every times, is strengthened more in the Marist Institute. To promote the continuity and sustainability of the mission to educate and to evangelize, our work advances every time, in a more global way. It is with this perspective that in 2016, the Region of South America was founded, which unites the five Administrative Units present in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

marist world

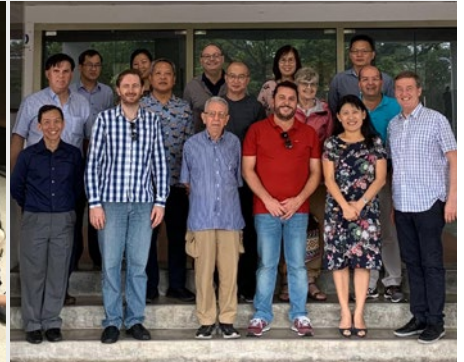
Mozambique
Novitiate in Matola



Venezuela
Colegio de Nuestra Señora de Chiquinquirá



Singapore: Meeting of the International Council
for Economic Affairs



Spain
Marist Educators Meeting in Alcalá



Paraguay
Community «Animación Musical Marista»



Guatemala
Meeting FORMAR 2019

Province of Brazil Centro-Norte

PROVINCE POLICY ON CHILD PROTECTION

To mark the 30th anniversary of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, being celebrated this November, the United Nations agency UNICEF published a report into the progress and challenges facing children and adolescents in Brazil. In parallel, Brazil has promulgated new laws covering child protection. This is the context in which the Province of Brazil Centro-Norte produced the 3rd edition of its Province policy on Child Protection. This represents a determined response to the XXII General Chapter that invited our commitment to promote and advocate the safety of children.

The work of updating began when the Child Protection Committee, coordinated by Br Carlos Henrique da Silva, appointed a working party to elaborate new directives, based on changes in legislation and the titles of Marist institutions. The working party made the changes in the document, extended the norms, introduced new elements and put more structure around the most frequent violations suffered by children and adolescents.



On 22 November, the working party presented its proposal for the 3rd edition to the Child Protection Committee, who developed a communication plan and a distribution campaign for the new document. The Committee then presented the document to the Provincial Council for its final approval.

Someone Like You (Alguien Como Tú)

A MOVIE THAT WILL HELP MARISTS IN SPAIN TO PROMOTE VOCATIONS

Someone Like You is the title of the medium-length movie promoted by the Spanish Marist Conference, composed of the provinces of Compostela, Ibérica and Mediterránea. Three years in the making, it premiered November 8 at Colegio Chamberí in Madrid. The movie, in which the characters find meaning for their lives when they meet Marcellin Champagnat, is "... primarily designed to be used in the field of youth and vocation ministry and in animating vocations with Marist Brothers, Laypeople, volunteers, etc.", explained José Antonio Rosa, coordinator of the initiative's organizing team.

Premiere in Madrid

"On certain occasions, God uses a word, a piece of advice, the example of a friend, a father, a mother, a teacher...." With these words, borrowed from Brother Jean Baptiste, the director of Colegio Chamberí, José Manuel Seijas, welcomed all those present, including the students who participated in making the film and their parents. The movie was directed by Diego Arjona, with Alberto Amarilla playing the part of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. In a roundtable discussion following the viewing of the film, Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes, Provincial of Mediterránea, thanked all the people who participated in its development, stressing that the sum of many "yesses" made it possible to produce this film, which for him "is like a vocation: it is a story that generates other stories". Brother Alex Mena, representing the entire team, emphasized the need to transmit ideas as this short film does. He recognized that he liked *Alguien Como Tú* very much, because as brothers "we try to live the day to day with normality and the saddest thing



is not to imitate the lead character in *Someone Like You*, but rather, someone strange, someone bitter, someone who transmits nothing". After the roundtable, the organizing team gave a gift of a statue of Marcellin Champagnat to all the actors, technical team, participants and collaborators who took part in the production of the film.

Vocational Project

Alguien Como Tú is first and foremost a vocational project. It is born with a clear objective of promoting, questioning, provoking, awakening, nourishing the deepest meaning of the life of those who participate in it, placing a special emphasis on the Marist vocation, hand in hand with Champagnat himself. With a plot centered on the stories of a boy and a girl in the 21st century, Mario and Ruth, to whom

Champagnat appears, is a Marist production for use as a resource in youth and vocation ministry, knowing that it is a very powerful tool for young people, and also for anyone seeking the meaning of life. Along with the film itself, suggestions for follow-up can be found in the accompanying literature. Three dimensions will be worked on in a special way: anthropological-vocational, biblical and Marist. This material, produced by EDELVIVES, will be delivered to schools, other ministries and communities of Brothers in the provinces mentioned above by the end of December 2019.

Peru: Helping the new “Montagnes” of Fr. Champagnat

MARISTS PROMOTE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS IN THE OUTER SUBURBS

In line with the call of the General Chapter to “be present among the children on the margins of the world”, the Group of Lay Marists of Champagnat in Peru is supporting around 30 kindergartens and informal projects of early education in the poorest areas of the city of Lima. The charism of the group, started more than 4 years ago, is to support those most in need through works of solidarity, seeking funds for building and equipping educational centres for children under 5 years old with no access to formal education.

The Group of Lay Marists of Champagnat in Peru is made up of Marist ex-students of St Joseph’s College in Huacho. Some of them belong to other groups such as “The Devotees of the Virgin of the Miraculous Medal”.

“Our Solidarity Project consists in helping the children in extreme poverty living on the edges of the city of Huacho and other locales such as the City of Primavera, Santamaria, Carqin, Hualmay, Vegeta, and Barranca. In concrete terms, we help with the gift of teaching materials, furniture, second-hand clothes for the children and their parents, building materials, and assisting in the construction itself of their small class rooms”, said Mr. Arturo Bazalar Barrón, a member of the group. This worthwhile Marist initiative of building education centres began at Christmas time 2014 when the Champagnat group visited a slum. “We took clothing and toys but the people told us, ‘we want a school for our small children’”, recalled Br Car-



los Arrazubi who accompanies the Group of Lay Marists. From then on, the Group set to work on various informal Programs of early education (Proneis), that is, programs of the Ministry of Education, developed for working with children, of 3 – 5 years of age, who live in marginal areas of the country and who do not have access to formal centres because of money or distance. As part of its Marist work, the Group, in collaboration with “Proneis”, provides concrete slabs and toilets, needed equipment, and, in some cases, physically helps in the construction.

How does a project of constructing small schools work? The government organises the curriculum and appoints a coordinator responsible for recruiting volunteers who, in addition to

APOSTOLIC LETTER ADMIRABLE SIGNUM OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

“Wherever it is, and whatever form it takes, the Christmas crèche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition.”



teaching the children, have to find a suitable place and provide teaching materials. This is where the Lay Marist Groups swings into action to “help the young ‘Montagnes’ of Fr Champagnat”, notes Arturo Barrón.

One of the last schools that the Lay Group helped the build was the pre-school “Rayito de Dulzura” in the Santa Maria district. The Marists participated directly in the construction alongside Father Canonio Colombo, curate of the City of Huacho. The building began in January 2016 and was made possible by the funds raised by Father Antonio who sought donations from Italian and German friends belonging to the Bad Mergentheim Community; the contributions of the Sodality of the devotees of the Virgin of the Miraculous Medal) and from a classroom

collection at St Joseph’s College.

“The Mission of the Lay Group is not just about material aid, but also spiritual, since we teach the little ones to pray, to know about Jesus Christ, and above all to love our Good Mother. Everywhere we have put something up, we leave an image of the Good Mother with its captivating charm, so that every day before classes begin, they can pray to her to look after them”, added Arturo.

The group began at an ex-students’ meeting at St Joseph’s College. They were determined to keep alive the call of Father Champagnat and so decided “to do the work of the Gospel”. Thus they launched this project, the activities of which are publicised on their Facebook page @laicosmaristasperu.

Chile: We share a common dream, that of Marcelin

ENCOUNTER BROTHERS AND LAITY

On Saturday, November 23 in Santiago de Chile the first Encounter of Laity and Brothers of CEM, took place, united by the motto, “We share a common dream, that of Marcelin”. Approximately 110 persons participated from different parts of the country, among pupils, Brothers, Laity who participate in the Movement of Marist Laity of Champagnat and of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, and Principals of schools and members of the animation teams and of Government. The encounter was organized by and animated by the Team Brothers, coordinated by Brother Patricio Pino and by the Field or Sphere of Evangelization coordinated by Rossana Avendaño. Raúl Amaya, from the Secretariat for the Laity also accompanied this experience.

The great objective was to know one another, to enrich ourselves and to accompany one another according to the dream of Champagnat, projecting a common road. The methodology was to live a personal and shared experience that would permit us to recreate our Charism, for which it was necessary to remember our dreams, recognizing that those dreams lead to decisions that dialogue with reality. Here other persons integrated, because to carry out what is decided, we need the others. We recognize these processes in the road of Champagnat and of the first Brothers and we see them in the personal and shared

road with our family and the communities.

The encounter ended with a marvelous dance in which we all danced holding hands in the rhythm of fraternity, of the mission and of the Marist spirituality. The Spirit of God was present, since we all enjoyed the simple dialogue, sharing at the table, the provoking laughter because of the games, the prayer, the music, the reflection and the communion of our Charism.

This lived experience permits us to take an additional step to recognize ourselves as a charismatic family, to enrich our Marist identity, which has been gifted to us with the diversity of our vocational expressions, and to become aware that we need one another and for this it is necessary to mutually accompany one another in the vocational road, feeling invited to revitalize a fraternal horizontal, simple Marian Church.



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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