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MARIST NEWS

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International Communities for a New Beginning

WHEN THE SPIRIT SINGS, THE DANCE OF MISSION BEGINS. JOIN IN?

The Department of Collaboration for Mission, International (Cmi) is organising the next preparation program for candidates for the International Communities for a New Beginning, which will take place from 21 April to 25 June 2020 in Europe. If your wish to join in this “dance”, get in touch with your Provincial or write to cmi@fms.it.



The project “International Communities for a New Beginning” is an initiative of the Marist Institute open to Brothers and Marist Laypeople who feel called to dedicate a period of their lives to go beyond their geographical and cultural borders. It is characterised by sharing life in mixed Marist communities, global availability, internationality and inter-cultural living and mission, responding boldly to emerging needs. After a Preparation Program, the participants are sent either to one of the Lavalla200> communities or to one of the special projects of the Institute, such as MDA (Marist District of Asia), the Fratelli Project in Lebanon, Solidarity in South Sudan and others.



general administration

- This week Br Ernesto Sanchez visited the Brothers of the District of the Pacific in Auckland, New Zealand. The District Chapter will take place in Fiji, from 12 to 15 December, with the Superior General and Br Ben Consigli, General Councillor, attending.
- Last Sunday the English-speaking Third Age Spirituality program finished at Manziana. It had begun on 14 October.
- This Saturday, the regional programs for community

leaders for Europe (El Escorial, Spain) and Asia / Oceania (Lake Sebu, Philippines) will conclude.

- The General Councillors, Brs João Carolos do Prado and Ken McDonald, completed their visit to the Province of Norandina at the start of this week.
- Br Libardo Garzon, Econome General, participated in the meeting of the Coordinators of the Sustainability Project for Marist Life and Mission, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 13 December.

Looking back the path followed in Marist Zambia

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CASTILLA MISSION IN AFRICA

Five decades ago, four Spanish Brothers from the once Province of Castilla (today part of Compostela Province) chose to go to Zimbabwe (antes Rhodesia) in 1969, and later in 1973, join the newly created Marist Sector of Zambia.

Brothers Ángel Mansoa, Isidro Getino, Dionisio Llorente and Jack González were the 4 pioneers who gave life to the Castilla Mission in Zambia, with the aim of responding to the mandate of the XVI General Chapter (1967) that each Province of Europe opened a mission in Latin America or Africa.

Over the years, there have been many events and characters that forged what today is the Marist Zambia that belongs to the Southern Africa Province. On the 50th anniversary of the Castilla mission in Africa, With the help of Br. Jack González, one of the 4 pioneers, we remember some dates.

In 1973, after approval by the General Council, the new Marist Sector of Zambia was established, attached to the Province of Castilla. At the date of foundation 7 Spanish Brothers and 6 Canadians continue to belong to Iberville, with the agreement that each year some will return to the District of Rhodesia.

In 1980, the St Paul's postulancy - inter-regional novitiate began at Mulungushi, with Luis Sobrado as master of novices. Then, in 1983, the first 4 Zambian brothers made profession. That same year, a Marist novitiate was opened for the first time in Zambia, St. Paul's, Kabwe with postulants from Zambia, and, two years later, from Malawi and Mozambique.

A few years later, in 1986, the MIC (Marist International Center) opened in Nairobi with two Zambian scholastics in the first graduating group.

In 1990, the regional inter-novitiate moved to Kutama with Brother Á. Mansoa as novice master and six novices from the Zambia sector.

Since 1992, more than 30 Brothers and more than 140 volunteers from Castilla (Compostela) have contributed to the "Zambia Mission", and have "let themselves be educated" by Africa.

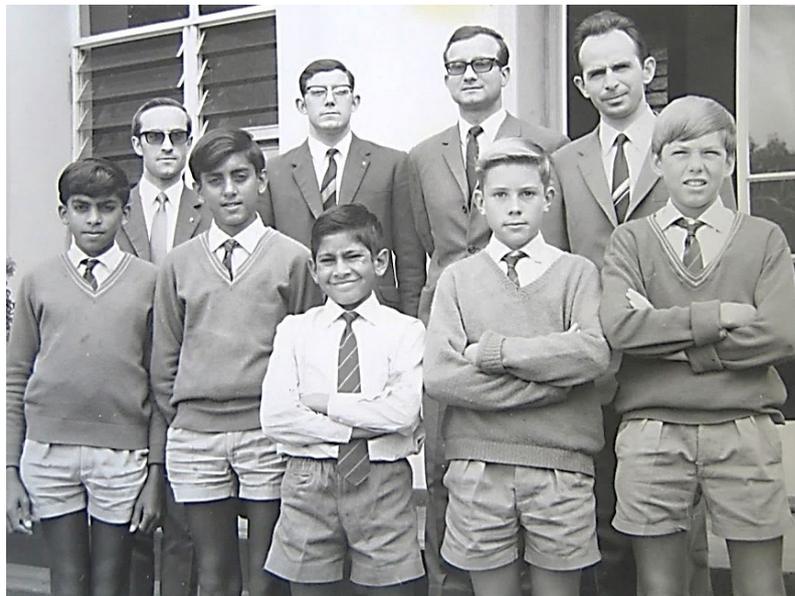
In 2000, the Marist elementary school opened in Mulungushi, Kabwe. The school now welcomes more than 500 students from this rural area.

In 2002, as part of the restructuring of Marist Africa, Zambia became canonically part of the new Marist Province of Southern Africa that includes Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and South Africa. Seven brothers from Castilla began to work in the new province.

2006 saw the opening of Chibuluma College, a co-educational initiative with Brother Evans Musakanya as director. Three years later, the Skills Training Center began operating. This and a Youth Center operated under the coordination of Brothers Felipe and

Raimundo. Several organizations, including SED, Manos Unidas, the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECI), and some local industries such as mines, contributed to the construction of this school.

Looking back on the journey, Jack Gonzalez, one of the pioneers, reflects: my opinion and option is that Castilla-Compostela has a moral and institutional responsibility to keep alive its historical commitment to Zambia-Mission, now Southern Africa. We are already doing it with the continuity of five Brothers of the Province in the area and with the annual sending of Brothers and volunteers through SED...all in a symmetrical style and relationship, "walking as a global family", in dialogue and leaving the initiative to the Brothers and policies of Marist Southern Africa", concludes Brother Jack Gonzalez, one of the 4 pioneers.



FIRST PROFESSIONS

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Brs Oscar Bolivar and Junior Jaramillo from the Province of Norandina made their first religious profession in the Marist Institute, in Medellin. Three professions are also happening in Brazil over these days: Brs Rafael Bonito (Brazil Centro-Sul) and Luiz Carlos Lima (Brazil Centro-Norte) on 7th December; that of Br. Luciano Taminski (Brazil Sul-Amazônia) on the 14th.

MARIST SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY

"The Superior Generals in the consolidation period of the Marist Institute (1839 – 1907)" was the title of a recent publication of the Office of Marist Historical and Spiritual Patrimony in Curitiba, with the support of the Marist Memorial of the Province of Brazil Centro-Sul and the Institute of Science and Faith of the Pontifical University at Parana.

GERMANY

A Marist team, made up of Brothers and Laypeople, met recently with the coordinators of Marist Schools in the country (Johanna Aschenbrenner and Hans Staudner) to discuss programs that are underway (such as the Marist Day which will be soon taken up by other schools) and other new projects planned for the intermediate level (based on the model of the Maristen-Realschool, in Cham).

PHILIPPINES

Around 70 teachers and members of the Champagnat Marist Family Movement gathered for a meeting with Br Oscar Martin, General Councillor, to discuss Marist life at some depth. The meeting took place in the Students' Centre at the Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU). It was an initiative of the Human Resources Office of the university, led by Ma Elma, to provide ongoing formation for Marist staff.

Marist Life in Chile

FACED WITH A CRISIS, MARIST SCHOOLS RESPOND



During the last few weeks, with Chile immersed in a social crisis, Marist schools have continued in their role of forming good citizens by providing various opportunities for reflection.

In his letter of October 24 the Mission Delegate, Ernesto Reyes, pointed out: "We Marists have been, are, and will continue to be formators of good Christians and good citizens, and promoters of the common good and solidarity, because that is our mission—to educate and instill in young people the values of Jesus Christ. We carry out this mission through school councils, talks, plenary sessions, community dialog, actions of solidarity, and conversations, among others. These have been provided by the administrations of the twelve

Marist schools in the country, where the students are able to freely express their opinions with deep respect for all positions, seeking only to understand what today's Chile needs to overcome the crisis and how to contribute to the building up of our country.

Some students have participated in other forms of expression, such as demonstrations both inside and outside of school, opinion polls, town halls, posters, etc. Students themselves plan activities that express their feelings and generate conversations that respect all the opinions and positions existing in the educational communities. They seek to discover what can be done to contribute to the reconstruction of a new and better vision of society.

marist world

Philippines
Meeting of the MAPAC Board in Manila



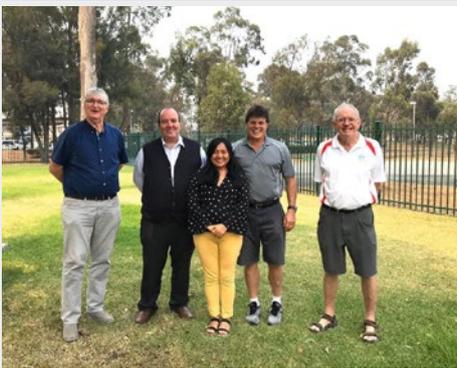
Spain: Ad hoc commission on the Global Network of Marist Schools - Guardamar



Sri Lanka: Students of Maris Stella College - Annual picnic to Kalpitiya



Colombia
Novitiate LaValla - Medellín



Australia
Lavalla200> Mount Druitt



Venezuela
Assembly of Brothers in Los Teques

Spain: "A New Horizon for my Neighbourhood"

MARIST SOCIAL PROJECTS CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF WORK AMONG THE POOR OF HUELVA



An average of 450 persons – youth, low-income families and migrants, receive help every year through the association, A New Horizon for my Neighbourhood. This Marist initiative in Huelva (Mediterranean province) celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Marist Columbus College on November 30.



The commemoration of this anniversary was celebrated with a Eucharist. Present for the occasion were Brother José Luis de Vicente, co-founder of the association, Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes, provincial of the Mediterranean province, Juan Manuel Gómez, president of the association, María Luisa Andivia, director of Columbus College and Gabriel Cruz, mayor of the city. Other Brothers and Lay Marists were also present.

By video message, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, said: "Greetings to all the Marists of Champagnat in Huelva, particularly to the association A New Horizon for my Neighbourhood, on the occasion of 25 years of service to boys and girls, teenagers from neighbourhoods on the edge of the city of Huelva".

A New Horizon for my Neighbourhood, created in 1994 and officially recognized in 1996, is a work of the Marist Brothers and, in particular, a social project of Marist Columbus College, Huelva.

Community Leaders, Bridge Builders

FORMATION PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS IN EUROPE



From 20 November to 12 December, a group of 15 Brothers are attending a formation course on community leadership organised by the General Council at El Escorial (Spain), led by the formation team from Manziñana and the Secretariat of Brothers Today. Participants come from all 5 Marist Provinces of Europe.

Based on their own life experience and the assistance of the facilitators, participants are broadening their abilities and knowledge to become better in their role. Over recent days, four Lay Marists sent by their Province have joined the program.

The program has four well-defined elements: sharing of experiences; fresh ideas from experts; extended periods of silence, personal prayer and reflection;

contact with experiences outside the Marist ambit.

“For me,” said Br Carlos, “it is a special privilege to attend this course. I have been able to share with Brothers with much more experience than me, share my feelings and happenings from my life with the others, and reflect together on the practical, everyday matters of our communities. It will certainly help me be a more aware and human community leader.”

To serve as a bridge in Marist communities, following the call of the XXII General Chapter, the community leaders need to have personal talents but also some theoretical understanding and practical know-how from various social sciences.

With regard to the community leader as a bridge-builder, the course program

notes the following, “Bridges unite territories, people, towns, and modernise structures. They reduce distances and facilitate contacts of all sorts. Based on his own experience, community leaders reduce distances, facilitate interpersonal contacts, create bonds with their Brothers, with the lay people around the community, with the world outside, and so foster fraternity. In this way, the community can be a beacon of hope and a home of light for the wider community and Marist ministries.”

The participants are aware that in their Provinces, there are other Brothers and Laypeople, community leaders or not, who would value the training they are receiving. So, the challenge is: how to share all that they have learnt and experienced with these treasured companions who have stayed at home.

Cambodia: building bridges in Takhmao

OPENING OF THE LAVALLA VILLAGE

On November 21 LaValla Village – a complex of 17 buildings for secondary students, in Cambodia, was incorporated to the Lavalla School which is a Primary education facility for students with physical disabilities and are mainly from the rural provinces where they are excluded from education.

"If their disabilities weren't so obvious – lost limbs, blindness, cerebral palsy, burns and scarring – you could believe the children you encounter don't have a care in the world; they are smiling, warm, happy, affectionate; truly grateful that you are visiting them. And the Cambodian staff, are very similar. Many of them also have disabilities but they are calm and positive", said Brother Peter Carroll, Australian Marist's Province Leader who was at the Opening of Lavalla Village.

The Lavalla Village was the last of Br. Terry Heinrich's major projects (deceased 20 November 2018), well supported by many. It is, a series of buildings grouped together that provide accommodation, study spaces, cooking and dining facilities for the secondary students who travel out each day to attend the local high schools. It provides much improved facilities for the older students, and a degree of independence".

"My visit coincided with the final Board meeting of Marist Solidarity Cambodia for 2019, and I had the opportunity to express my gratitude to the members for their generous commitment and welcome contribution. In addition to Brian Kinsella (Chair), Tony Burrows (Executive Director) and Allen Sherry, other members are Sister Regina Pellicore (Maryknoll), Brother Max Meier (MDA from Pailin), Ms Sophea Yi (local business woman) and Mr Chhom Sopagna (Finance Manager).



The meeting confirmed that the project is in good hands at both management and governance level" says Br. Carroll, while mentioning that they would not be able to continue the work without the support of some very generous benefactors.

"My few days there, the events I attended and the people I encountered, were most encouraging. Our Brothers, Brian, Tony and Michael, bring something very special to the community. Each have their own special gifts and each are contributing actively and generously to the project. I'm most grateful to them; as I know we all are. As I stated at the Opening, Marcellin would be proud of this special Marist project." Add the Australian Marist's Province Leader.

Much of the funding for the LaValla Village has been sourced by the team of Australian Marist Solidarity. Br. Terry put his heart and soul into that school, those young people and his Cambodian colleagues.



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