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MARIST NEWS

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AS A GLOBAL CHARISMATIC FAMILY,
LET US BE A BEACON OF HOPE
IN THIS TURBULENT WORLD.

(XXII GENERAL CHAPTER)



TO ALL CHAMPAGNAT MARISTS AND FRIENDS, OUR BEST WISHES FOR THIS CHRISTMAS, AND FOR THE NEW YEAR, THE 203RD OF OUR INSTITUTE.



SUPERIOR GENERAL AND GENERAL COUNCIL

general administration

■ Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General and Ben Consigli, General Councilor, were in Fiji, from the 12 to the 15 of December, to participate in the Third Chapter of the District of the Pacific.

■ Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, was present in the inauguration of the Museum of the Editorial El H. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicario general, was present in the inauguration of the Museum of the Editorial Edelvives, Spain, which took place on the 17th of December.

■ From the 16th to 19 December, Br. Ben Consigli, General Councilor visited the Province of Australia.

■ From the 16th to 20 December, Brothers Oscar Martin and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, General Councilors are in Peru to participate in the Retreat of the Province, Santa Maria de loss Andes.

■ From the 27 to the 28 of December, Br. Oscar Marin Vicario, General Councilor, will participate in the Assembly of the Iberian Province.

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2020 The next number of "Marist News" will be sent on January 8

Spain: Build and work as a Marist Family

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CREATION OF A GLOBAL NETWORK OF MARIST SCHOOLS

The committee created by the General Administration for the creation of a Global Network of Marist Schools had her a plenary session in Guardamar, Spain from 2nd to 6th December 2019. This was the second session of the Committee after their maiden meeting in May 2019 at the General House, Rome.

Highlights of meeting were the feedback analysis of the global survey conducted. Over sixteen thousand (16,000) respondents gave feedback on the global survey. This represented 88% of the Institute. The survey indicated positive and favourable responses. The outcome indicated the urgency the Marist world is in need of this global network of Marist Schools.

As part of the activity and tool to actualize the network, an online platform will be created that will host key deliverables of the network. One of such deliverables is the vision to produce a Map indicating all the Marist schools in the world. To this effect, administrative units were encouraged to send the data of all their schools to the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization in Rome.

In addition, a global project on Ecology will be developed to serve as a tool to kick start the process of networking our schools in concrete terms. Another key outcome of the meeting was the creation of a governance structure for the network. This includes the leadership and constitutional framework of the network. As part of the strategy to get the participation and involvement of the key stakeholders of the network, an assembly has been proposed in 2020. This assembly will continue the building and co-creation of the network in an inclusive way.

Finally, we continue the process of the actualization of this network which is one of the calls of the 22nd General Chapter, to build and work as a global Marist Family.

The participants included: Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General; Br. Ben Consigli, General Councilor; Brs. Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede and Mr. Diugar Buscarini, from the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization; Br. Ador Santiago, Provincial of East Asia; Br. Henry Uzor, member of the Marist Schools Commission of the Province of Nigeria; Br. Nicéforo Garrán, Province Education in the Province of Central America; Br. Natalino de Souza, Executive Director of UMBRA-SIL; Mr. Frank Malloy, National Director of Marist Schools

Australia; Mrs. Montserrat Giménez, Managing Director of the Cardinal Cisneros University School in Alcalá de Henares in the Province of Ibérica; Mr. Llorenç Claramunt, Director of the Champagnat Foundation of the Hermitage Province; Mrs. Ana Von Frankenberg Berger, Manuela Ferreira de Oliveira and Carolina Hermes Eichenberg, Specialists in Creativity and Innovation at the TecnoPUC Crialab in the Province of Brazil Sul-

Amazônia; Br. Chano Guzmán, Coordinator of the Council of Marist Educational Works (COEM) of Mediterranean Province; and Mr. Bartolomé Gil, delegate for Education of Mediterranean Province.

This Project is an example of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration (2017-2025) and is in line with the call of the XXII General Chapter to set up mission networks at all levels that promote innovation and renewal in our education and evangelization practices.



NEW WEB PAGE OF THE INSTITUTE

Beginning on December 20th, we will begin to carry out the necessary changes to inaugurate the new Web site of the Institute, on January 2. During this time, we will have no updating in www.champagnat.org. It will be possible to have access to the present site through a provisional link, that will be visible on the initial page.

URUGUAY

In 2019, The Marists celebrate 85 years of presence and committed contribution to the educational patrimony in the country. In the following link, it is possible to read a historical article with the details of the first foundation in Montevideo in 1934: <http://bit.ly/MaristasUruguay>

NOVITIATE TUDELLA

Brother Francisco (Paco) Garcia Ruiz has been appointed as the new Novice Master of the Tudella Novitiate. He will replace Br Nicholas Fernando whose six-year term concludes in April 2020. From the Province of Mediterránea, in 2007 he volunteered for the Mission Ad Gentes project and spent six years in India. Since 2014 he has been the Master of Postulants in Davao for the Marist District of Asia.

COLÉGIO DE NATAL

On December 10, the Marist School Natal, Province of Northern-Central Brazil, began the commemorative ceremonies of its 90th anniversary, which will take place in February of next year. Br. Ernesto sent a video message to the students and the educators: <https://youtu.be/pSXA739ZrS0>

MAPAC

In November, 25 young from Marist School, participated in a 24 hours “come and see” experience with the Marist Asia Pacific Center community, Philippines. They joined the community in manual work, devotions, sports and meals. The program theme was all about getting to know the life of a Marist brother.

USA

The 10th December, Br. Seán Sammon gave a “Theology on Tap” style presentation to a group of Archbishop Molloy faculty on the topic of being a Marist educator in a Marist school.

"If you cannot manage properly what you have, what is the purpose of having something else"

AFRICA-ASIA SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT LEADERS MEETING IN NAIROBI



A workshop was organized from the 9th to the 13th of December at the Marist International Center on Sustainability by the General Administration in collaboration with the technical team from Curitiba – Brazil led by Mr June Alisson. 18 participants took part in this meeting from the different administrative units in Africa and Asia as well as the technical team from Brazil and the Econome General Brother Libardo. The focus this time round was on risk identification and management. Any organization or institution needs to manage its risks in order for it to be successful. Risks are the uncertainties that affects the objectives of any organizations. They must therefore be clearly identified so as to help minimize the negative impacts and maximize the positive impacts. The various strengths and weaknesses of the various administrative units were also identified, and solutions proposed. Indeed, the workshop was an eye-opener for many of the participants and as we go back to our administrative units, we look forward to managing our ministries

in such a way that we get the means to run them well and efficiently not only now but also for the future of the young people to whom we minister. And therefore, we need to be Responsible, Transparent and Trustworthy in management of our resources.



CENTRAL MEXICO

On December 14, Bros. Oscar, Edgar and Yarib have made their first profession as Little Brothers of Mary, in the City of Mexico.

marist world

Advent - St Marcellin Champagnat School - Bouaké, Ivory Coast



Fiji: The new leadership of the district of Pacific with Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Ben Consigli



Chile: Vocation Animation Team of the Region "América Sur"



*Brazil
The international community of Tabatinga*



*Germany
Maristen Gymnasium Furth*



*Australia
Australian Catholic Youth Festival - Perth*

First Anniversary of the Beatification in Oran

DIOCESE OF ROME REMEMBERS THE MARTYRS OF ALGERIA



One year has passed since the beatification of the martyrs of Algeria in Oran on December 8, 2018, among whom is our Brother Henri Vergès who was the first of the group to be killed.

To celebrate the first anniversary, there was a celebration of "witness and prayer" in memory of the nineteen individuals killed in the civil war in Algeria between 1994 and 1996. The meeting took place in the parish of San Miguel de Frumenzio on Monday, December 9, 2019 with the support of the Diocesan

Missionary Center of the Diocese of Rome to the Group of New Martyrs, composed of Archè, Window on the Middle East, John Paul II Foundation for Cooperation and Development, the parish of Pope St. Inocencio I, St. Guido Bishop and the Missionary Community of Villaregia.

Father Thomas Georgeon, O.C.S.O., postulator of the cause for beatification of the nineteen martyrs, stressed the message of "peaceful dialogue between the Christian and Muslim religions" that these witnesses of faith have left us, and he pointed out that "it was a true miracle to have been able to celebrate this beatification together with the Algerian people."

Professor Ambrogio Bongiovanni, of the Pontifical Gregorian University, presented a reflection on the "mission in vulnerability" carried out by the Algerian Church through its "prophetic dialogue" with the Algerian people.

The attendees had the opportunity to view the exhibition "Our Lives Have Already Been Surrendered", published by the Italian Missionary Publishing House, that was set up on the premises of San Frumenzio Parish and interpreted with the "faces and words of the nineteen blessed".

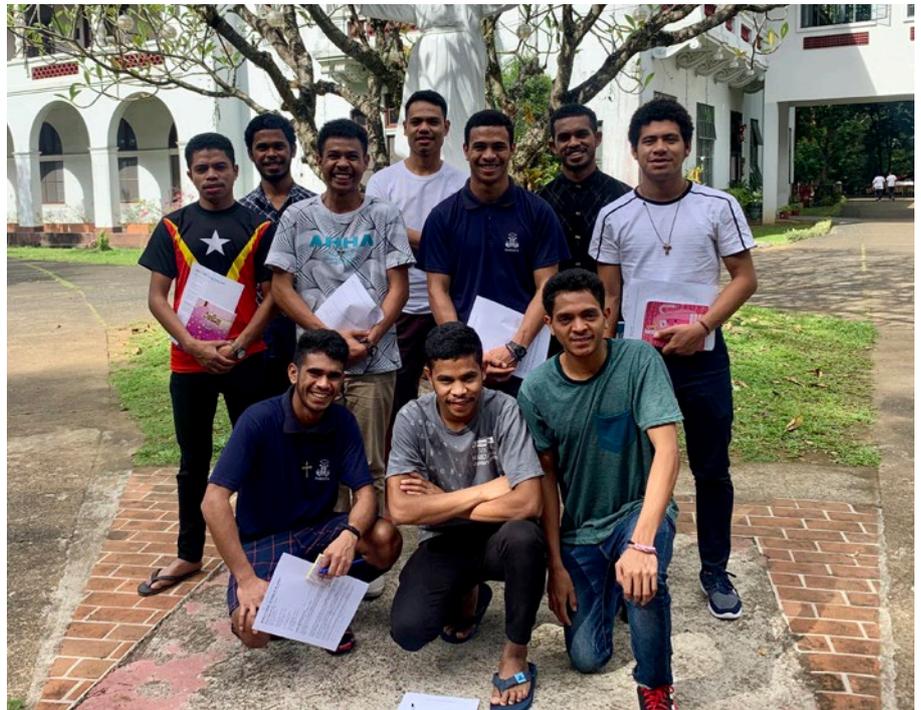
Philippines: The beginning of the Marist life

10 MARIST POSTULANTS ARRIVE TO MAPAC

On Monday 26 August ten postulants from Timor-Leste, all in their early twenties, arrived at the Marist Asia Pacific Centre (MAPAC) in Manila. The postulants began the process of settling into life in their new home in the Lorenzo Fraternity. They are Belarmino, Cipriano, Damião, Feliciano, Igidio, Jefriano, Joel, Norberto, Paulo, and Rogerio.

Prior to their arrival they had spent six months in the aspirancy program in Baucau (Timor-Leste) before travelling to Australia and then on to the Philippines. A warm welcome awaited the postulants when they eventually arrived at MAPAC. Waiting at the airport to greet them was Br John Hazelman (Director of MAPAC), Br Matthew Green (their formator from Australia for this first stage of the postulancy) and three of their countrymen, Brothers Benjamin, Melquiano, and Jacinto (first year student Brothers newly professed from the Novitiate in Sri Lanka).

The postulants will remain at MAPAC for nine months to



improve their English (Timorese people speak Tetun - their local language - and Portuguese). The English program is intensive with classes each morning and in the afternoons. The morning classes are organized into three groups, each with its own teacher. In addition, they have more practical classes in pronunciation, reading and library research skills in the afternoons.

The prayer life of the postulants is consistent with morning prayer and Mass each day. In addition, each evening the postulants have time for spiritual reading, meditation, and community prayer. Every third Sunday they have a silent reflection day and most recently they completed their first three-day silent retreat on the theme of Advent. The solitude and silence were received enthusiastically, and they are looking forward to their next retreat experience during Lent.

In May 2020 they will commence the second stage of the Postulancy joining the other postulants in Davao (on Mindanao, Philippines). All going well, after 12 months in Davao, they will then head to Sri Lanka for the Novitiate. Timor-Leste is the newest and poorest county in Asia with a very young population. As Brothers, these young men will make a significant contribution to the life and wellbeing of the young people of Timor.

THANKS TO TRASLATORS

The Communications Department of the General Administration warmly thanks the service of so many Marist brothers and laypeople who generously devote part of their time to translate our news, helping us to increase our awareness that we are a Global Family. Thanks to all the translators! For English: Bro Douglas Welsh (Scotland), Bro Michael Sexton (Australia), Bro John Allen (USA), Bro Jeff Crowe (General House) and Sister Mary Berchmans (Rome); for French: Brothers Gilles Hogue and Jean-Pierre Cotnoir (Canada) and Mrs. Annie Girka (France); for Portuguese translations: Br. Manoel Soares (East Timor), Heloisa Afonso de Almeida Sousa (Brazil) and Br. Teófilo Minga (Manziana).

In addition to these daily translations, other brothers and lay people assist Marta Graupera, Translations Coordinator, with the different versions of official texts and publications. Thank you all!

If you want to collaborate with this service, please write to: comunica@fms.it

El Salvador: The story continues

FIRST LAY ASSEMBLY IN THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Over three days, 34 Laypeople and 8 Brothers gathered for the first Lay Assembly of the Province of Central America. This initiative, the brainchild of the Laity Commission and the fruit of dialogue with the Council, has been in the planning since the end of 2018. The participants were united in their conviction that the story begun by Champagnat and the First Brothers continues today in the hearts of many Marists who have chosen to follow Jesus in the way of Mary. To bring this story into better focus, place it into our Province context, foster a collective identity that takes up the story as never-ending in our region, were among the aims of the gathering.

The richness resulting from the diversity of participants is to be highlighted, as well as the multiple sensitivities around our common dream. Besides laypeople from the various countries of the Province – Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Puerto Rico – there were others from Canada, Colombia, Chile and Bolivia. Diverse we certainly were but we discovered the same spirit around the one table and in the strength of our relations as Marist brothers and sisters. The attendance of Br Josep M. Soteras, General Councillor, and Raúl Amaya, Director of the Secretariat of the Laity, helped us to grow in our international vision.

In the months leading up to the Assembly, we made use of reflection sheets on the three broad themes to be taken up: identity, communion, formal bonding- association. The fruits of reports on these reflections were set out in a working paper as a focus for the Assembly process. The flow of the gathering, with personal, small group, and Assembly dynamics, helped in refining proposals, defining concepts, clarifying language and



spelling out the implications of the proposals for Laypeople, Brothers, and the various Province entities.

The Assembly gave rise to a feeling of hope, even in the face of a number of future challenges. Ways of deepening our communion were presented, be they between Brothers and Lay, or between Lay and Lay. After identifying various approaches to living the Marist charism, an attempt was made to give a name those who are choosing to adopt the charism as a lifestyle. It was suggested that the concerns of Marist laypeople and communion should be a common feature in all Province plans. The presence of a group of young Marists was a sign of a future communion based on ongoing formation activities. Regarding official bonding and association, the wish was expressed for a road-map setting out times and people to develop possibilities. There was a desire to continue the serious efforts of the Province to create formation pathways with a vocational character.

We all resonated with phrases like: "Only the one who is able to see far and well, can glimpse tomorrow." "We are invited to leave our routines behind, to think outside known schemes." "We need star trackers, pathfinders, beacons of a new future." We concluded that the experience we had shared was inviting us laymen and laywomen and brothers to be beacons of a new future.



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