



## WHEREVER YOU GO

# THE MARIST BROTHERS' RULE OF LIFE

On October 7th, the General Council released the Spanish and English versions of the text, *Wherever You Go: The Marist Brothers' Rule of Life*, and explained the process used in crafting this text and the meaning of this important Marist document. Today, the Council presents this document in French and Portuguese.

Our thanks to the brothers who have collaborated in the translations. For the French version: Brothers Maurice Berquet (L'Hermitage) and Josep Roura (L'Hermitage); For the Portuguese version: Brothers Sebastião Ferrarini (Brasil Sul-Amazônia) and Antonio Leal (Compostela). We are also grateful to those who have collaborated in revising these translations.

The official date of approval of the Rule of Life is January 2, 2020, the day on which we celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of our Institute. The document will eventually include a section for references, quotations and explanatory notes. A final version will be printed and sent to the Administrative Units.

The version we are presenting today, in the four official languages of the Institute, has some drawings by the Brazilian artist, Sérgio Ceron. These drawings are in the form of icons, whose motif is related to each of the chapters of the text. We are grateful for the work he has done.



## general administration

■ On January 2, the Superior General and the Vicar General, together with the community of the General House celebrated the 203 anniversary of the foundation of the Marist Institute. The General Councilors, the Community of the Administration, Brothers and Laity, and several Brothers from the Mediterranean Province, who live in the Marist communities in Italy, were also present.

■ Brothers Oscar Martin and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa participated until January 7, in the retreat of the Province of Cruz del Sur in Lujan, Argentina. The two General Councilors will be in Curitiba, from Thursday until Saturday, to meet the young Brothers in formation.

■ On January 6, began the programs of formation for Community Animators in Arco Norte (Mexico) and Africa (Rwanda). Both programs will end on January 31. The Brothers will be accompanied by the Directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today and by the Brothers of the Team of permanent formation of Manziana. Brother Ernesto, Superior General, will be in Rwanda until Friday.

■ On January 9, arrives to the General House Br. Lindley Halago Sionosa (Province East Asia) to assume the charge of Assistant Director of the Secretariat Brothers Today and to work as a team with Br. Ángel Medina, the new Director of the Secretariat.

As I expressed last October in my message announcing the Rule of Life, it is my hope that this new document will encourage us in the gift of our vocation, to live our lives according to the heart of Mary as Champagnat wanted when he gave us our name.

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BRAZIL SUL-AMAZON

# FIRST GATHERING OF THE FAROL MOVEMENT BASED AROUND THE SHARING OF LIFE STORIES

On November 30, the first gathering of the Farol Movement – Marist youth groups – was held in Porto Alegre (Brazil Sul-Amazon Province). The meeting sought to bring together young people searching to start a new type of Marist journey.

Launched in June 2019, the Farol Movement aims to develop a lay youth organization that provides experiences based on the Marist charism. Two groups have already been established, one in Porto Alegre and one in Passo Fundo. The Consecrated and Lay Life committee of the province is also in contact with other cities to coordinate the formation of other groups.

For Natalia Fernanda Menegol, member of the Porto Alegre group, the Farol Movement provides the opportunity to live an aspect of life that is often ignored in the day-to-day: “We do not always have space to share our personal history, to reflect on our life project, our dreams and share these with others”. Natalia also argues that it is necessary to identify together issues that can be worked on: “In addition to looking inward as a group, we now understand that it is important to move out, participating in social action or volunteering, for example”. Marcos Broc, member of the Consecrated and Lay Life



committee and in charge of developing the project, admitted that this early stage of the Movement had been marked by moments of doubt, fear and overcoming obstacles: “Our next step is to promote spaces to maintain the energy of these groups and to understand what is the essence of each one of them. Charism was the unifying point, and now ...? Are we just going to meet or do something to improve the world?” he asked, thinking about the future.

The Farol Movement of the Marist mission seeks to go out, to find its place in ministries, councils, organizations, campaigns and activities promoted by ecclesial or civil groups. Check the [e-book](#) and learn more about the Movement.

## GERMANY

# MEETING OF THE GERMAN MARIST COORDINATORS IN RECKLINGHAUSEN

From 17 to 19 of November, the Coordinators of Marist Activities in the four German Marist Schools in Germany met under the direction of Hans Staudner to learn more about the topic of “Promoting Marist Values at Marist Schools”.

The conference began with a morning devotion, designed by Hans Staudner (Marist Realschule Cham), and a Eucharistic celebration, which was celebrated by David Formella, a former Marist student and now a pastor in Recklinghausen. The morning was used to exchange views on the status quo of Marist work at the four Marist schools and to discuss



the possibilities and constraints of cooperation at national and international level. Together, it was agreed that the German Marist Schools should network more closely. In the future, a joint teacher’s trip to the mountain hut Silum in Liechtenstein and a joint school trip to Hermitage in France will be offered.

The second part of the conference dealt with the question of how Marist fundamentalism can be more integrated into the profile of Marist schools.

Eva Alfranseder presented in this context the “Marist Day”, which took place this year for the first time at the Marist Gymnasium Furth. It is a project day for the 5th grade with the aim of giving students an insight into the Marist world. They found out who Marcellin Champagnat was and what Marist values stand for all over the world. Firstly, the students got an overview of Champagnat’s life and the history of his own Marist school. Afterwards they worked in five stations, each focusing on the values family spirit, love of work, presence, simplicity and in the way of Mary. The project day ended with a reflection and a joint conclusion.

A second project was presented by Hans Staudner and Johanna Aschenbrenner from Cham. Under the motto “Marist your life – just live” they have developed a concept for the Marist virtues of simplicity, modesty and humility for secondary education. It first clarifies the three terms using video clips and develops ideas on what a simpler, humbler and more modest life could look like. With the help of specially designed maps, students can get ideas on how they can live easier and contribute to a better environment. Once completed, the project may result in a real student activity that aims to help others and themselves to live a simpler life.

In order to be able to carry out the two projects without difficulty at their own schools, each coordinator received a teacher’s and student’s booklet of the “Marist Day” and a “Marist Box” containing all the materials needed to carry out “Marist your life”

A big thank you goes to the hosts, the Maristenrealschule and the Marist Brothers in Recklinghausen, who welcomed and accompanied the coordinators with Marist hospitality.

## news in brief

### LIBERIA

On December 21, in Monrovia, Br. Harry Nyanti of the District of Western Africa made his perpetual profession in the Institute of the Marist Brothers.

### NEW ZEALAND

On the 2nd of January a large number of Brothers gathered at Onslow Avenue in Auckland to celebrate two Feast Days - the founding of the Institute by Saint Marcellin Champagnat in 1817 and the Foundation of the New Zealand Province in 1917.

### CENTRAL AMERICA

On January 4, there was a formative encounter for all the teachers, of all the Marist Schools in El Salvador who incorporated themselves in the work.

### UNITED STATES

Twenty-two Marist Young Adults gathered to celebrate the Foundation Day of the Marist Brothers in Esopus also with people from Canada plus 5 Marist Brothers.

marist world

AUSTRALIA: ADELAIDE RETREAT 2019-2020

SPAIN: JUBILEE BROTHERS 2019: PROVINCE IBÉRICA

AMERICAN SAMOA



RETREAT IN THE PROVINCE OF MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

LEBANON: FRATELLI PROJECT

GENERAL HOUSE: APPROVAL OF THE RULE OF LIFE

FRANCE

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTE CELEBRATED IN LA VALLA

To mark the feast of the foundation of the Institute, the brothers of La Valla invited the neighbouring communities to celebrate the feast: Rosey, Notre-Dame de l’Hermitage, Saint-Etienne and Chazelles sur Lyon.

The celebration of the Eucharist was presided by Br Gabriel Perret, chaplain of N.D. de l’Hermitage, at 11 o’clock, followed by a festive meal in the “mission room” of the Maison Champgnat.

We know well that it was at La Valla that it all started: five lights and a globe recalled the presence of the brothers and lay Marists on the five continents.

The brothers present there felt connected by thought and by prayer to all the brothers and laypeople of the Institute, aware that the mission started by Saint Marcellin continues today.

The presence of Brother Roger Charrier, who will join the com-



munity of Oran (Algeria) in a few days’ time, and that of Brother Diógenes Musine, who will leave the Hermitage after ten years of service to join the community of Issenheim, gave a special touch to this fraternal meeting on 2 January 2020.

EVANGELIZING THROUGH EDUCATION

## 2ND MARIST EDUCATION CONGRESS IN CHILE



**M**ore than 600 Marist educators from Chile attended the 2nd Marist Education Congress, held December 19-20, 2019 in Santiago. The theme was “For an innovation committed to Marist Evangelizing Education”. From the General House, [via video](#), Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, encouraged the educators: “We are at a time when educational change, innovation and cooperation are fundamental elements of the development of our Marist works and of education in general. For me, it is something very beautiful to describe education as a passion. It is a passion full of dreams, full of human feeling and full of intelligent discussion. I invite you during these days to explore these concepts: the passion for education, the ability to transform dreams into reality in the lives of children and young people, and in society, the Church, and the world”.

The goal of the conference was to reflect on the challenges for Marist education in the 21st century, in pedagogical, cultural, ecclesial and social transformational contexts. During the Congress, teachers from the twelve Marist schools of Chile held workshops on best practices, shared the projects they are implementing in their schools and addressed the following topics:

Evangelizing Education: To analyze the Marist Educational

Mission from the point of view of commitment to the Gospel, in the context of a diverse society sensitive to inclusion, full participation and with emphasis on individual rights.

Educational Innovation: To advance the updating of the educational process and to integrating, as a substantial element, educational innovation, in harmony with changes emerging in contemporary society.

Coordination within and among the schools: To recognize school cooperation as a key element to improve learning and a healthy and fraternal life, from a perspective of an inclusive and collaborative community.

On the first day of the meeting the speakers, Mónica Rincón and Daniel Halpern, spoke respectively on the topics “Keys for the future of an inclusive school” and “Interpretation of youth’s circumstances”. On the second day, there was a presentation on the theme “Evangelizing through education”. The topics discussed were: “Keys to the future of the school”, directed by Harald Beyer; “The mission of the laity in the face of the crisis in the Church” with the speakers Claudio Alvarado, Joaquín García and Josefina Araos; and “Challenges for leadership in the 21st century”, presented by Rodrigo Jordan Fuchs.

# CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS OF THE SECRETARIATS AND DEPARTMENTS – JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2020

**2 January:** 203rd. Anniversary of the Institute Foundation.

**03 – 07 January:** Retreat for the Province of Cruz del Sur, Argentina – Brothers Óscar Martín and Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa, General Councillors.

**6 – 31 January:** Regional Formation Program of Community Animators of Africa in Kigali, Rwanda – Brothers Tony Leon, Lindley Sionosa, Secretariat of Brothers Today, and Joe Walton (Manziana Community). Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, will be present from January 8 to 10.

**6 – 31 January:** Regional Formation Program of Community Animators of Arco Norte in Mexico – Ángel Medina, Secretariat of Brothers Today, and Joaquim Sperandio (Community of Manziana).

**9 – 11 January:** Post-novice meeting in Curitiba, Brazil – Brothers Óscar Martín and Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa, General Councillors.

**13 – 17 January:** Meeting of the International Mission Commission at the General House – Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General; Ben Consigli and Ken McDonald, General Councillors; Beto Rojas and Mark Omede, Secretariat of Education and Evangelization; Angel Diego, Secretariat of Solidarity; Valdicer Fachi, Director of the CMI Department and Libardo Garzón, General Bursar.

**13 – 18 January:** Retreat for the Province of Santa María de los Andes, in Chile – Brothers Óscar Martín and Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa, General Councillors.

**19 – 21 January:** Regional Formation Program of Community Animators of Arco Norte in Mexico – H. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General.

**20 – 26 January:** Meeting of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC) in Enugu, Nigeria – Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General; Óscar Martín and Ken McDonald, General Councillors.

**21 – 24 January:** Meeting of the network of bursars in Africa, in Enugu, Nigeria – Libardo Garzón, General Bursar.

**22 – 28 January:** Regional Formation Program of Community Animators of Arco Norte in Mexico: João Carlos do Prado, Gen-



eral Councillor and Ángel Medina, Secretariat of Brothers Today

**26 – 28 January:** Regional Formation Program of community animators of Africa in Rwanda – H. Óscar Martín, General Councillor.

**28 – 31 January:** International Committee on the Protection of Children, in the General House – Brothers Ken McDonald (Coord.), Ben Consigli and Óscar Martín, General Councillors.

**1 February:** Meeting of the teachers of the 4 Marist schools and the Sisters of St. Joseph in Athens – Leonteios School – Brother Tony Leon, Secretariat of Brothers Today.

**03 – 28 February:** Plenary Session of the General Council.

**06 – 08 February:** Retreat for the General Council community.

**7 February:** Fratelli Council Meeting – Brothers Oscar Martin, General Councillor, and Valdicer Fachi, Director of the CMI Department.

**10 – 14 February:** Collaborative week of the General Council with the directors of the Secretariats and Departments.

**10 – 14 February:** Visit to Vietnam – Br. Libardo Garzón, General Bursar.

**24 – 29 February:** Visit to the Lavalla200> Community of Holguin, Cuba – Brothers Jeff Crowe, director of Project Lavalla200>, and Valdicer Fachi, director de CMI.

**02 – 07 March:** Meeting of the General Council with the Provincials, in the General House.

**9 March:** Meeting of the General Council with the new Provincials.

## MEETING OF MARIST PASTORAL TEAMS FROM CANADA AND THE US

From December 13 to 15, the Provincial Animation Committee (CAP) from Canada met with part of the Lay Marist Steering Committee from the United States in Rawdon.

The meeting provided the opportunity for all to share from their particular situation: to ask questions about the different cultural and spiritual contexts, different styles of formation, the objectives and challenges of each team in responding to different groups and ages of family members, the understanding of the charism and how each perceived presence with young people.

Following the regionalization process recently started in the Americas, it seemed natural for the two teams to get together around the same table and jointly develop possibilities for the future.

During the meeting, members of both provinces had the opportunity to realize that they are part of the same team, with the challenge of exploring differences and recognizing them as opportunities for learning and mutual enrichment. The hope is that opportunities for collaboration emerge that creatively support local Marist initiatives.



The meeting made it possible to move forward in developing the identity of lay teams, at a time when the General Chapter calls us to live out our global character, recognizing the complementarity of differences in Marist life across the Institute.

By way of conclusion, the meeting drew out these words: brotherhood (and sisterhood), motivation, gratitude, wisdom, confidence, led by the Spirit, core, family.

### GENEVA

## THE INSTITUTE CONTINUES ITS WORK AT THE UNITED NATIONS

From December 9 to 13, Brothers Angel Diego, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, and Jesus Rodriguez, Secretary to the Superior General, participated in several meetings related to our work in Geneva on children's rights. Working through FMSI, the Marist Institute continues to try to influence the United Nations in the area of human rights, particularly those concerning children.

In the course of this week, the two brothers had several meetings with other congregations working in this same field: Franciscans International, Edmund Rice, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, ... Similarly, the Institute continues to collaborate with other entities and associations (BICE and CCIG) which form part of the management team.



The visit concluded with a Christmas meal, bringing together all those who work in and collaborate with the office where we are present in Geneva.

# 3RD CHAPTER OF THE DISTRICT OF THE PACIFIC



The Third Chapter of the District of the Pacific took place from the 11 to 15 December 2019, in the Lomeri Novitiate in Fiji.

The Chapter theme was “Journeying Together in Mission”.

The Chapter Assembly was formed by twenty-one delegates gathered from the five countries of the District: Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, Kiribati and New Zealand. Also present were four visitors, Brothers Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General; Ben Consigli, Councillor General as Oceania Link Councillor; Peter Carroll, Provincial of Australia and Jean Marie Batick the District Leader of Melanesia.

During the Chapter were presented reports on the manner as to how the priorities of the District have been addressed. And after discussing and reflecting together six priorities were highlighted: Environmental action, brotherhood and community, new ministries with youth, spirituality, Champagnat Lay Marist partnership and Oceania re-organisation.

Likewise, the leadership transfer was made from Br. David McDonald to Br. John Hazelman. And the last day, the new Council was elected: Afaese Afaese, Peter Horide, Sefo Une, Kees Van der Weert and Kevin Wanden.

The Closing Mass was celebrated by the Marist Fathers’ Provincial of Oceania, Fr Stefano Mataele.

Referring to the District Chapter, Br. Hazelman said: “Twenty-one of us have been purposely committing ourselves to the process of dreaming, sharing and deliberating on our experiences of Marist Life today but more importantly, moving forward towards the future”.

For his part, Br. Peter Carroll mentioned: “It was a privileged and blessed time for all who participated...”

On the last day, the four Visitors thanked the District for its missionary witness, and committed themselves to real, respectful dialogue, collaboration and partnership.



## Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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