



Year XII - Number 611 | 15 JANUARY 2020

# MARIST NEWS

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

## GENERAL HOUSE

# MEETING OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

From 13 to 18 January 2020 takes place in the General House the first meeting of the Marist International Mission Commission.

The Commission was created to facilitate a framework to interconnect the Secretariats, Networks and Regions in an integrated and sequential mode. It will assist the leaders in reflecting upon the initiatives and their implementation processes of the Strategic Planning at global, regional and province levels in the Mission Area. At the same time, the aim of the International Commission is to articulate the different initiatives and actions from the Regions, Networks and the General Administration to maximize their impacts and effects.

Having in mind that the Commission will reflect about the mission area of the Institute, the objectives of that first meeting are to promote the reflection and development of the Strategic Planning Strategies:

- Continue exploring ways that allow us “to be” and “to feel” as a global body (areas of mission, networks, regions, management, leadership, governance...).
- Promote an open and qualified servant leadership.
- Promote a “culture of encounter” and the integration of diversity (ecology, Western and Eastern spiritual expressions, diverse religious or cultural traditions, etc.) in our ministries.
- Promote the connection between the different networks and create new networks at the service of Marist mission.
- Encourage networking strategies to share human and economic resources at the service of Marist mission, especially related to emerging realities (migration, refugees, current and new presences, etc.).
- Promote a mentality of solidarity which emphasizes

co-responsibility, transparency, efficient and effective management, and sustainability through formation and professional accompaniment.

- Develop administrative and management policies for human resources, finances and real estate at all levels of the Institute, with careful attention to different regional, social and legal contexts.

The meeting is organized by the General Council in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Area of Mission and the Economato.

The members of the Commission are: Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez

Blanco (Coordinator, Vicar General), Br. Benjamin Lance Consigli (General Councillor), Br. Kenneth Charles McDonald (General Councillor), Br. Manuél Mentges (Network of Universities – Brazil Sul-Amazonia), Br. Francis Jumbe (Region Africa – Southern Africa), Br. Marciano Guzmán Morana

(Europe Region – Mediterránea), Br. Gregorio Linacero Melón (Arco Norte Region – Central America), Br. Alberto Guillermo Aparicio (America Sur Region – Cruz del Sur), Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola (Secretariat of Solidarity), Br. Valdicer

Fachi (Cmi), Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal and Br. Okolo Mark Omede (Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation), Br. José Libardo Garzón Duque (Econome General), Mr. Frank Malloy (Network of Schools, – Australia), Mrs. María del Socorro Álvarez (Network of Solidarity – México Central), Ms. María Bobillo (Network of MYM -Compostela) and Br. Kevin Wander (Oceania Region – District of Pacific). We are still pending for a member from Asia Region.



CHILE

From January 6 to 8 the members of the executive Councils of the twelve Schools of the Sector and the animation of the Province of Santa Maria de los Andes met, in the Center of Marist Spirituality (CEM) 'Los Condes'. From January 8 to 10, the XXVI Inter American Congress of Catholic Education met in the Marist School of Santiago, Institute Alonso de Ercilla, organized by CIEC, with an outstanding participation of the Marists of Champagnat.

AUSTRALIA

Brother Fabrizio Basso from the Province of South Amazonia Brazil, arrived last week to form part of the community La Valla 200 of Mount Druitt. The other members of the community are Argelia Hernández, Br. Jonnel Sisneros, Br. Lawrie Mc Carne and Rodrigo Gris Castro.

COLOMBIA

This year 2020, the Marist Novitiate "La Valla" of Medellin will have four new Novices (El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala and Venezuela) who will begin their first year, while the other five Brothers, who last year made their first year, will begin the second year.

MIC - KENYA

The annual Bulletin of the International Marist Center of Nairobi is available in our Web site, centered on Christ and the young, with articles dedicated to the house of formation for the young Brothers in Africa. The theme for the present academic year is "To construct a global Marist Family": See the following link: <http://bit.ly/2RaQdrE>

GENERAL HOUSE

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERIOR AND HIS COUNCIL TO THE MARIST IN AUSTRALIA



**D**uring last days, record-breaking temperatures and months of severe drought have fuelled a series of massive bushfires across Australia. Some 27 people have so far been killed – including four firefighters – and an estimated 10 million hectares (100,000 sq km or 15.6 million acres) of bush, forest and parks across Australia has burned.

Br. Peter Carroll, Provincial of Australia, in a message said:

"We are facing a major crisis across our continent. We have fires across 5 of our 6 States. Fortunately, none of our communities or schools have been affected. Frank Malloy our National Director has been helping friends fight fires and other Marists have also been involved in this. We are grateful for the thoughts and prayers of our global Marist Family."

En solidaridad con todos los australianos, el Superior General y su Consejo envían un mensaje a los Maristas de Australia.

“JMJCh Jan 09 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Over the past several weeks, we, the members of the General Council, have been following closely the news of the bush fires that have ravaged so many parts of Australia. With deep sadness, we have witnessed the terrible loss of human life—including people trying to protect their homes, farmers trying to save their livestock, firefighters and volunteers trying to protect their communities and neighbors—as well as the devastation to the bush and fauna of the surrounding areas that these fires have caused. This tragedy has shaken us to the core and reminds us of the fragility of our planet, of our common home. We join our prayers with those of so many Marists around the world who stand with you in these difficult times.

May the God of all goodness open the heavens to quench the flames, heal the parched land, and comfort each of us, both now and in the future.

Sincerely,  
Br. Ernesto Sánchez, SG, and the General Council

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## SPAIN

## ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE IBERICA

The Assembly of the Province Iberica was held at Casa de Lardero (La Rioja region) from December 26 to 28. The Assembly brought together around 70 brothers and 5 lay people involved in provincial structures. Br Oscar Vicario, General Councilor of the Marist Institute, participated as facilitator in order to deepen the calls of the General Chapter. The theme for this Assembly was: “Beginning anew in our vocation as brothers: mystics and prophets in a changed world”.

After an opening prayer, the first day began with the Provincial, Br Moises Alonso, outlining the different phases of the “U” process that would be developed throughout the assembly. The aim of the process is to grasp fully the reality, to affirm collective goals and, finally, to bring them to fruition. This first day, we reflected on certain aspects of spirituality, fraternal life and mission that we needed to change or to let go of. The purpose of this phase was to see what must be abandoned to respond faithfully to what God is asking now: Who does God want us to be? What is God calling us to be?

On Friday the 27th, the work of the assembly focused on a search for the collective goals of the province. The reflection brought together different perspectives: the General Chapter and its calls (Br Oscar), the Provincial Chapter and its orientations (F. Moises) and the laity. The latter concluded their intervention by saying: “We do not know how the Marist story will unfold, but we know that we will live it together.”

During the afternoon, participants gathered in groups to share on the calls they had felt and, in an open forum, commented on the responses of the different groups. These were then grouped



according to their content. The calls perceived by the assembly could be summed up as: 1) Being Brothers, 2) Being in God, 3) Being happy and faithful, 4) Being a meaningful presence, 5) Being generous and daring in our commitment.

During the last day, attention focused on the preparation of action proposals in order to “fulfill the collective goal”. Participants were reminded that the Assembly would not make decisions, but suggest guidelines for the provincial teams who would be responsible for examining them and making decisions. The themes raised often were, among others: to prioritize the development of brother-lay communion in the Province; make our communities open and human, where there is an environment of trust, where we experience the presence of God, places of welcome and availability; explicitly build local Marist Christian communities, with a common project, giving witness to fraternity, to unity and co-responsibility.

The Assembly is over... or rather not. Now is the time to “make it happen”, to engage in the struggle to change the things we love.

## EARTHQUAKES IN PUERTO RICO

Last week, the country was shaken by several very strong earthquakes: on Monday, the earthquake was registered at 5, 8 degrees in the Richter scale, and on Tuesday, January 7 there was another earthquake of 6.4 degrees.

The Marists of Champagnat of the Province of Central America are present in the island with two Schools, one in Manati and another one in Guaynabo, but these were not affected by the earthquakes. Puerto Rico, territory of the United States, counts approximately with 3.2 millions inhabitants.

Br. Hipolio Perez, Provincial of Central America, mentions in the message sent to the Marist Family that “the people is going through a very hard time, with much anguish and destruction. The Marists from Guaynabo and Manati have gone there to support and carry out tasks of solidarity”. He also says that the community of Brothers, the relatives of the Brothers and

the educators are well and the educational Centers have all the structural conditions to begin anew the classes on January 13”.



marist world

PARAGUAY: MOVIMIENTO NAVEGAR

INDIA: RAINBOW FAMILY CELEBRATED PONGAL – TRICHY

EL SALVADOR: MARIST YOUTH OF THE PROVINCE OF AMÉRICA CENTRAL – SCHOOL OF LEADERS



ROMANIA: MARIST SOCIAL CENTER OF MOINES-TI, ROMANIA

VIETNAM: TAN CHAU

PHILIPPINES: MAPAC

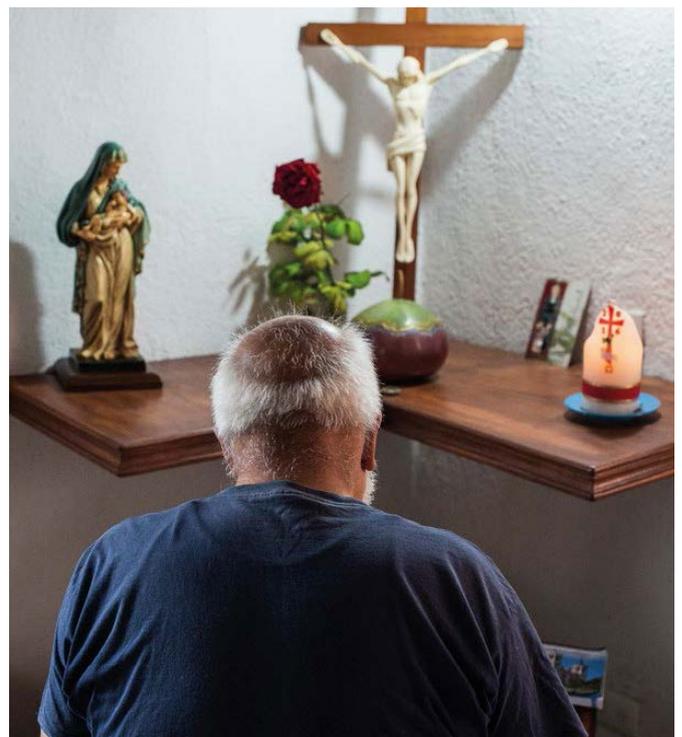
MÉXICO

RETREAT OF THE BROTHERS IN THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL MEXICO

From December 27 to January 2, the Brothers of the Province of Central Mexico, met in 'Quinta Soledad', for the annual Retreat, the objective of which was “to live our total surrender to God manifesting our love for Him and to others following the example of Jesus Christ; becoming aware of the personal, human, affective, community and mission implications, according to the framework of the XXII General Chapter and the XVII Provincial Chapter.

In particular, the participants focused this objective to reflect on the contexts, calls and personal and institutional dispositions, to make a reality the provincial policy “A secure world for children” and the processes of conversion that this implies.

At the end of the retreat, the Brothers lived the renewal of vows of the Assistant Brothers, particularly of the Brothers of temporary vows: René, José, Mario and Nicolas.



## MALAWI

# IT IS ALREADY A HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR STUDENTS OF TWO MARIST SCHOOLS IN LIKUNI

FMSI has visited the Champagnat Community Day Secondary School and Likuni Open Secondary School in Malawi, in 2019, as part of the initiatives in support of enhancing inclusive education in secondary schools in the whole Province of Southern Africa.

Access to education in Malawi is a huge challenge: according to the 2018 population and housing census, the total number of out of school children in both primary and secondary schools was 2.4 million representing 41 percent of the total children.

The establishment of open schools is an initiative to respond to the educational needs of girls and boys who are neither able to afford school fees nor attending morning classes.

Open school has already a huge impact in the schools of Malawi as both Champagnat Community Day Secondary School and Likuni Open Secondary School are welcoming a growing number of girls and boys of the surrounding communities who cannot afford the boarding school fees. The need for classroom



furniture and books in both institutions is critical in order to provide an appropriate learning environment for vulnerable children and teenagers.

In consultation with the management of both schools, FMSI has donated 12,986.46 Euros for the purchase of 820 textbooks, 60 desks and 25 benches that have been purchased and are now at disposal of the students.

## ENCOUNTER OF COMMUNITY ANIMATORS

From the 7 to the 31 of January, the Programs of qualification for community animators, of America and Africa, are being carried out, in Mexico and Rwanda respectively.



In Rwanda (Rwamagan), together with the team of Formation of Manziana and the Secretariat 'Brothers Today', 26 Brothers participate from. Angola, Cameroon, Republic of Central Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Ivory Coast, Kenya, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

In Mexico (Encarnación de Dios, la Chona, State of Jalisco) there are twenty participants, among them five Laity and the Coordination Team: Brothers Angel Medina, Joaquin Sperando



(Manziana) and Jesus Hernandez (Western Mexico). Eleven Laity will join the group beginning on the 19. The participants are from the Provinces of Canada, United States, Central Mexico, Western Mexico, Central America, (Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica) Norandina, (Ecuador, Venezuela, and Colombia), Cruz del Sur (Argentina) and Southern Central Brazil. Br. Ernesto, Superior General, was present in Rwanda during the first days of the Encounter, and in the next days, he will meet the group in Mexico. The General Councilors, Brothers Oscar Martin and Joao Carlos de Prado, will also accompany the groups some days.

SPAIN

# PABLO COBO, A MARIST VOLUNTEER IN THE FRATELLI PROJECT

Pablo is a Spanish Marist volunteer from Mediterránea province. He spent a year volunteering in Lebanon, working in the Fratelli Project.

His participation as a volunteer has been made through the mediation with the General Administration's Department Collaboration for Mission, International (Cmi).

The Fratelli project was created in 2016 by the congregations of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Marist Brothers to try to respond to the urgent, emerging needs of the most vulnerable children and young people in Lebanon.

Here below you have the testimony written by Pablo, where he tells us about his experience in Lebanon.

"I was lucky to go as a short-term volunteer (1 month) in the month of August 2018, and it was after that experience that I decided to volunteer for this same project, for a one-year period.

I feel very fortunate, to have had the opportunity to collaborate with the Fratelli project, and to have agreed and lived with people who are related to this: children, young people, adults, workers and educators, brothers and volunteers ... This is the most pleasant experience that I took from this year, the opportunity of having been able to share my life with people from different backgrounds, culture, religion, fates ...

About the usefulness of my work, I feel very satisfied to have opened up myself to share my life and have let the others to share their life with me, insofar as I was able.

To future volunteers, I tell them not to be afraid to receive and give in a context that is possibly very different from what we know. And have the courage, whenever possible, to try to do justice. We are not superior or better, we are not anyone's guides, just instruments and travel companions.

I thank all those who have somehow accompanied me in this period. To all those who have made me feel at home and those who have opened their arms from the beginning ...

I send them an infinite hug".



**Have you ever thought, as Brother, layperson, student, ex-student, of becoming a Marist volunteer? Listen to your inner voice and contact the Department of Collaboration for Mission, International (Cmi) – [cmi@fms.it](mailto:cmi@fms.it)**



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