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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

During the last week in January, the International Commission on the Protection of Child and Vulnerable Adults held its first meeting in Rome. The Commission was established by the Superior General and General Council and has representatives from all regions of the Institute, both lay and Brothers. The members bring a wealth of experience and knowledge in the dealing with these matters.

The meeting lasted four days and reflected on several important issues concerning safeguarding policy and practice throughout the Institute. The Institute first developed a set of safeguarding standards to be used by provinces and ministries in 2021. A major task of the Commission was to review these standards in light of current best practice in order to ensure that our ministries are safe places for children and vulnerable adults. During this January meeting, the Commission commenced this work, and it will take some time before the final revision of



the standards is completed.

The Commission was also tasked with writing a number of new protocols to be used by the General Administration. A draft of these protocols has been written and will be presented to the Superior General and General Council during its current plenary session. A

number of other relevant issues were also discussed during the meeting, such as how best to handle media enquires particularly when they are made to the General Administration, how best to ensure that our formation houses promote a culture of safeguarding among our young Brothers, and how best to provide appropriate

general administration

■ The General Council continues its plenary session, which ends on 28 February. During this week, the Council devoted time to the following topics: information and reflection on the visits made to the Administrative Units; reflection on the situations that need particular attention; finances of the Institute; continuation of the reflection on regionalization in the

Institute; preparation of a response to the Vatican in relation to the Constitutions.

■ From Sunday 23 to 1 March, Brothers Valdicer Fachi, Director of the WCC Department, and Jeff Crowe, responsible for the accompaniment of the communities of Lavalla200>, will visit the community of Holguín in Cuba.

formation in these matters for the General Council and the Provincials. While the work is challenging, the Commission felt it is on the right track in its efforts to promote and ensure a safe environment for all those entrusted to our care.

The members of the Commission are: Br. Ken McDonald, Chair – General Council; Br. Ben Consigli, General Council; Br. Oscar Martin Vicario, General Council; Br. Gabriel Villarea, Europe (L’Hermitage); Br. Rogerio Mateucci, America Sur (Brasil Cen-

tro-Sul); Br. Fortune Chakasara, Africa (Southern Africa); Ms. Deb Swain, Oceania (Australia); Ms Marcela Hormazabal, America Sur (Santa María de los Andes); Ms Nancy Camilleri, Europe (West Central Europe), Ms Qalista Sdohny, Asia (East Asia).

ARGENTINA

MEETING OF THE 2020 MANAGEMENT TEAMS OF CRUZ DEL SUR PROVINCE

More than 200 members of the Marist management teams of the Province of Cruz del Sur participated in the annual meeting of directors which took place on the 3rd and 7th February at the Marist College Manuel Belgrano in Buenos Aires.

From the 5th until the end of the meeting, the management teams of the schools joined the itinerary of transformation opened by the programme “Re-imagining Education”, which, under the same perspective, promotes a new Provincial project called “Embracing Children”.

Both initiatives of the Province aim to “encourage the development of the true individual potential of each child”.

” Re-imagining Education” is a project aimed at children, adolescents and young people, which seeks to “learn to learn”, through specific projects, work among students in a cooperative manner and construction of knowledge in educational areas re-dimensioned for that purpose.

On the other hand, ” Embracing Childhood “, directed at the initial level, proposes a pedagogy from the listening, in which the teacher participates in games, activities and interests suggested by the children. This programme also proposes to



reformulate the educational environment, transforming it into a context through which children can develop their individuality.

In the course of the days, the book “Guidelines for Infant Education”, a Spanish edition of a document for early child educators produced by the Sul-Amazônia Marist Communication Centre of Brazil, was also offered to those present.

This initiative seeks to consolidate a Marist Pedagogical Identity that calls for challenging current teaching methods, inviting them to evolve and to remain constantly dynamic. Simply because the world is changing, technology is advancing... the Marist Mission continues to evolve.

BRAZIL

VOCATIONAL ANIMATION IS A PROMINENT ASPECT IN THE PROVINCE OF BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

The Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul begins, in 2020 to highlight, until June, one of the priorities defined by the directives of the VI General Chapter celebrated in December 2017. A [video](#) has been made to animate and expand the theme. Brother Benê Oliveira, Provincial, goes on to highlight some aspects of this initiative.

Culture, vocational promotion and the consecrated life

We are pleased to launch this Campaign which highlights and emphasises one of the important priorities of the Province: “Culture, Promotion of Vocation and Consecrated Life”. The Chapter assembly of December 2017 called for the creation of a new culture of vocations in the religious communities and in the apostolic fraternities to reveal and communicate the beauty, the mission and the relevance of the Brothers’ vocation to the consecrated life and to the Marist laity.

It is always God who calls a person to a vocation of special consecration. He is the Divine Potter who is able to shape our hearts, our personal life story and our vocational journey. Marist Brothers of the Schools, we are called by God and chosen by Mary and in response we offer our lives with all the richness and fragility of our being.

Statistics, the change of era and the culture in which we live have increased the concern for the quantity and quality of vocations in the Church. Pope Francis reminds us that in many moments of history, God, who is infinitely generous, exceeds our expectations, makes the fruits of our work blossom beyond what can be expected from human efficiency and effectiveness. It is with this confidence that we must open our hearts to the action of the Spirit and, through a life of union with God through prayer, ask Him to continue to send us generous young people, passionate about the project of Jesus and his Gospel.

The vocation to the Marist consecrated life is a choice and a journey in the opposite direction in the world. No one commits himself to anything or anyone unless he has been drawn and touched in his heart first. All of us, brothers, lay people and partners in the apostolic fronts, are invited to foster and inspire



vocational fruitfulness in our religious family.

Marists of Champagnat, let us continue to believe in the Lord of the harvest who wishes to establish a deep covenant of love with the young and the adults of today. Together, let us continue to cultivate the vocational concern that we carry in our hearts. Let us support the emergence of a new culture of vocational animation and of Marist consecrated life, full of discoveries, learning and hopes for the construction of the life project and of the road to happiness of vocations to the consecrated and lay Marist life – the mystery, grace and gift of fraternity which we have received from God.

It is worth being a brother and a Marist of Champagnat, to follow Christ in the way of Mary and Marcellin who realised in their lives what God had dreamed for them. We are the vocation we embrace and the right vocation, a happy life!

Brother Benê Oliveira

marist world

MARIST POSTULANTS FROM BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA AND BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE, IN FORTALEZA

LEBANON: COMMUNITY OF THE FRATELLI PROJECT

SPAIN: ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION WORKSHOP IN BARCELONA



NEW ZEALAND: NEW TEACHERS TO CHAMPAGNAT MARIST SCHOOLS AUCKLAND & HAMILTON

KIRIBATI: BROTHERS TABUNGA ETUATI, TAINGA MOANRIBA AND AMBEROTTI NANTEI

EL SALVADOR: VOCATIONAL WEEK IN THE LICEO SAN LUIS, IN SANTA ANA

BRAZIL

THE BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL PROVINCE'S SOLIDARITY MISSION ENRICHES THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

About 450 people, working across five territories, participated in the Marist Solidarity Mission earlier this year. Sponsored by the Brazil Centro-Sul province, the volunteers who brought the initiative to life were associates of the province, of the schools and social centers and also Brothers.

From January 19 to 25, the focus of activity was in Curitiba, Paican-du and Sao Paulo. From January 26 to February 1, the youth offered their services in the cities of Sao Jose and Ponta Grossa.

Bruno Manoel Socher, member of the Identity, Mission and Vocation Board of the province, explains that the Mission



covers three main work fronts: activities with children, such as games and workshops; visits to community houses; and a concrete action such as, for example, a transformation in some community area or immersion in a recycling cooperative.

"I believe the initiative impacts the life projects of those who participate, whether they are volunteers or residents of the

community. We want to promote a culture of solidarity, of thinking about others. Little by little we can transform society," says Bruno. For more information visit [the following link](#).

FMSI

The Marist Foundation of the General Administration has obtained from the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) funding of 88,000 euros for the construction of an infrastructure with 10 classrooms at Marist Preparatory/Junior High School at Sabin-Akrofrom in Ghana.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On February 10-11, the principals of the country's Marist schools gathered at Forest Hills for their annual meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the most important features of Catholic education and the qualities that most characterise a Marist school.

PUCPR

The CUMBRE DE LA PUC, held on 12 February, was the first identity congress attended by more than 3000 participants, including teachers and collaborators, from the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, a Marist institution in Curitiba, Brazil. Brother Ernesto Sánchez took part by means of a video message: <https://youtu.be/QVX4xXQRegg>

PROVINCE OF NORANDINA

On the 7th and 8th of February, a course was held for animators of the Marist Youth and Children's Movements. During the meeting, which was attended by the leaders of the four Marist schools in the city of Bogotá, topics concerning Marist solidarity, the profile of the animator and the analysis of reality were discussed.

GENERAL HOUSE

THE ROMAN PROCESS OF THE CAUSE OF BROTHER BASILIO



On February 4, 2020, the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints delivered to me the 22 volumes that comprise the Public Copy of the Cause of Brother Basilio Rueda.

In my previous report I mentioned that I had already received the Decree by which the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints made official and public the validity of the steps taken by the diocesan tribunal of Guadalajara. This was an expected prerequisite in the procedures in use for withdrawing the Public Copy that had summarized all the documentation sent from Guadalajara on two different occasions. With the study and elaboration of this material, totaling 10,620 pages, we begin the work of the Roman Process of the Cause of Brother Basilio Rueda. The next step in the process is to ask the Prefect of the Congregation to appoint a Relator,

whose task will be to guide the work of elaboration of the Positio. This request is already in progress, the established fee having been paid.

The abundance of materials provided by the Guadalajara court and the wealth of its content promise much hard work ahead to read, study and summarize the excellent input from the testimony of the witnesses and the collection and sorting of the documents provided by theologians and historians.

Now it is up to the General Council to define and organize a methodology and to appoint the people who will carry it out so that this Cause can move forward quickly.

We place the fulfillment of this exciting task into the hands of the Lord and our Good Mother for the glory of God and for the good of the Institute.

Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún,
Postulator General

NIGERIA

CONFERENCE OF SUPERIORS OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT (CSAC)

CSAC had its first meeting of the year 2020, from 20th – 24th January at the Provincial house of Nigeria: Iva- Valley, Enugu. Brothers from the Provincial house welcomed us with an open heart and Marist spirit, in such a way that we all felt at home.

This was also felt as we visited different communities in the Province. Through this means, we want to thank Br Vincent Abadom and all the Brothers from the Province of Nigeria for the attentions given to us.

The purpose of having a meeting outside the regular venue, MIC-Nairobi, was to come to know the reality of other Administrative Units, in such a way that we can strengthen our working together as an African Region. In a concrete way, and beyond our common formation house of MIC, we want to continue the road of extending our collaboration at the Regional level, in four areas that we give priority:

– **FORMATION:** a regional commission set up to see to the formation needs of the region presented proposals including preparation courses for our Brothers for final vows.

In addition, they are preparing an encounter or colloquium that will gather all Brothers working in Vocation Ministry and Formation houses in the month of October, 2020.

Brothers participants in CSAC meeting at Enugu: Michel Mami, Ken McDonald G.C., Luis Carlos Gutiérrez V.G., Cyprian Gandebo, Vincent Abadom, Óscar Martín G.C., Albert Nzabonali-ba, Teo Grageda, Mark Anokwuru and Norbert Mwila.

– **MISSION:** This is a regional commission, working with the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization. This commission has created a network for our schools and invite us to give an impulse in Youth Ministry through the MYM within our Administrative Units.



– **SUSTAINABILITY AND FINANCES:** This commission is made up of bursars from all the five African AU's. They too gathered in Enugu at the same time that CSAC was meeting. The interactions with them, after their meeting, helped to see projects that could guide us towards a good development as a Region.

During the meeting, CSAC appointed Brothers Innocent Iloabueke and Pascal Funsu to visit and to take closer look at the accounts of MIC/MIUC.

– **COMMUNITY LIFE:** CSAC, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Brothers Today, organized a three-week course for community leaders in Rwanda, where 26 Brothers from the five Administrative Units participated.

A call to work in collaboration with the General Administration was received and left to the leaders to appoint the appropriate personnel in the specific areas.

In this way, we continue knitting the network of our Marist Institute, following the call of the General Chapter to be a Global Family.

Canonical visitation from the General Council to the African AU's

The Link General Councilors for Africa, Óscar Martín and Ken McDonald, will visit our regional Scholasticate in Nairobi (MIC), in the months of March-April 2020. The two Brothers from the General Council will visit all our Administrative Units (in the years 2021, 2022 and 2023).

This year, 2020, there will be an Assembly of Provincials/District Superior and their council members:
This assembly will take place at Roussel house in Nairobi, from

6th – 9th May. It will be followed by the CSAC meeting that will take place at MIC from 11th – 16th May, 2020.

CSAC Chairman

Br Michel Mami, Provincial from Madagascar, completed his two-year term as a chairman of CSAC. We thanked him for the work done, and we welcomed Br Cyprian Gandeebo, District Superior of the Marist District of West Africa, as the new chairman of CSAC (2020-2022). We put in God's hands all what he has to accomplish during his term of office.

H. Cyprian Gandeebo, FMS
CSAC Chairman

GUATEMALA

19 BROTHERS TAKE PART IN THE JOURNEY OF FORMATION IN PREPARATION FOR PERPETUAL VOWS

From 4 February to 14 May, the formation programme in preparation for perpetual vows will take place in Guatemala with the theme “To be a brother today: the face and hands of God’s tender mercy”. Nineteen brothers from the regions of South America and Arco Norte are participating in this initiative: 5 from the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul; 1 from the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia; 5 from Brasil Centro-Norte, 1 from the Province of Santa María de los Andes; 1 from the Province of Compostela; 1 from the Province of México Central; 2 from the Province of México Occidental; 1 from the Province of América Central; 2 from the Province of Norandina; 1 from the Province

of the United States.

The general purpose of the programme is to provide the Brothers with a significant period of post-novitiate formation through the deepening of their consecration in a “new way of being a Brother”, during their preparation for Perpetual Profession.

During the 4 months, the 19 young Brothers are accompanied by Brothers Luis Felipe González Ruiz (México Central), Anacleto Peruzzo (Brasil Centro-Sul) and Rodrigo Cuesta (América Central).



BRAZIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

MARIST VOLUNTEERS IN THE AMAZON WELCOME VENEZUELAN IMMIGRANTS AND OFFER FORMATION OF LEADERS

During January and February, the holiday period in Brazil, 14 volunteers from the Brazil Sul-Amazonia province committed themselves to projects working to defend human rights, the promotion of life and care of the Common House. Divided into four groups, the volunteers have been active in the cities of Boa Vista (Roraima), Rio Gregorio (Acre) and Labrea (Amazonas). In January, the work focused on Venezuelan immigrants in the city of Boa Vista. In February, attention is directed to indigenous and local communities in the towns of Labrea and Rio Gregorio.

Giving welcome and help to immigrants

According to UNICEF data, an estimated 32,000 Venezuelans live in Boa Vista and this figure increases every day. Marist volunteers in Boa Vista worked in organisations and projects offering welcome to Venezuelans and doing whatever possible to improve their social circumstances so they can start a new life in Brazil. Initiatives carried out in area are coordinat-

ed by different church and civil organisations. Marists are responsible for the development of the project “Human Rights and Children on the Move” which serves, on average, 40 Venezuelan children every day. The volunteers help to run workshops and recreational activities organized for the smallest among them. According to volunteer Olga Chelkanoff, the interaction that takes place during the activities demonstrates the significant impact that the migration crisis has caused.

People’s education and leadership training

In February, volunteers work with indigenous and local communities in Labrea and Río Gregorio. The main activities focus on popular education and the formation of pastoral leaders. All work is carried out in collaboration with the Church and the local community – in municipal schools and church communities.



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

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