



Year XII - Number 617 | 26 FEBRUARY 2020

MARIST NEWS

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

BRAZIL

THE MARISTS OF BRAZIL CELEBRATE 15 YEARS OF UMBRASIL



On the 18th and 19th February, at Brazlândia, the 16th Annual General Assembly of the Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL) took place, with the objective of discussing and deliberating on the projects of Marist Brazil and celebrating the 15th anni-

versary of UMBRASIL.

In the presence of seventeen representatives, distributed among the three Provinces of Marist Brazil and under the slogan: "Network launched, Marist mission strengthened", the opening

was welcomed by the co-ordinator of Consecrated Life and Laity of UMBRASIL, Ivonir Imperatori, who invited the group to watch a video commemorating the fifteen years of UMBRASIL.

Brother Inacio Etges was unanimously

general administration

■ The General Council holds its fourth week of plenary sessions. During this last week, it reflects on some topics such as leadership formation, Lavalla200> communities, child protection, progress on the strategic plan, legal and canonical structures. It also reached some conclusions and decisions regarding appointments and other topics and made progress in preparing for the meeting of Provincials, which will take place next week.

■ From 24 to 28 February, Brother Angel Diego Garcia Otaola, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, will be in Geneva to follow the progress of the Project for the Universal Periodic Review of the rights of the child in Papua New Guinea, and to participate in the Council of the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (CCIG). At the same time, he is seeking to take some steps to carry out the development of a training plan for the defence of human rights before the UN, at the regional and/or provincial level.

elected President of the Superior Council of UMBRASIL.

For the composition of the Superior Council of UMBRASIL, the names of Brothers Ataide José de Lima, Antonio Carlos Machado Ramalho de Azevedo, Onorino Moresco, Antônio Benedito de Oliveira and Rogério Renato Mateucci were chosen; and the delegates chosen were Brothers Renato Augusto da Silva

(Brasil Centro-Norte), Odilmar José Civa Fachi (Brasil Sul-Amazônia) and Délcio Afonso Balestrin (Brasil Centro-Sul), also unanimously elected.

Brother Alberto Aparicio, Executive Secretary of the Region of South America, also attended the meeting. Brother Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councillor for the



Region, was also present by way of a video message.

NIGERIA

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY EVALUATES MARIST COMMUNITY AND APOSTOLATE IN NIGERIA

The Marist Province of Nigeria had its 8th Provincial Assembly beginning from 17th to 19th February 2020, at Marist Formation Centre, Orlu, Imo State. The Theme of the Assembly was: "Evaluating Our Community and Apostolate." Below are the picture stories of the events.



SPAIN

THE PROVINCE OF L'HERMITAGE PROMOTES ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION FROM THE HEART



Agnes Reyes (Philippines), co-director of the Institute's Bureau of the Laity, facilitated a workshop on February 15th in Barcelona where we connected with personal experiences and delved into the meaning of ecological conversion. The thirty or so people who gathered there deepened their understanding of this very strong call in today's world, which was also echoed by the 22nd General Chapter of the Marist Brothers in 2017 in Colombia. The workshop guided us to the biblical sources and to Marist spirituality. And all this from the passionate testimony of Agnes, who immediately empowered the young people who attended the workshop, asking them to lead the work in small groups.

As Marists of Champagnat we are invited to move from ego to echo. To change the paradigm from being centred on the 'self' to being centred on what is common to us and the fact that in essence we are all interconnected. We must feel the urgency for a change in lifestyle, to reconnect with what we may have ignored or forgotten:

we are part of the earth, we are the earth and we cannot remain indifferent to what happens to the planet and what happens to our brothers and sisters anywhere in the world. Being connected to ourselves and to the source of life, God, must lead us to be sensitive, to become aware and to act now. It is urgent. For the planet and to humanise ourselves. The creation of the workshop is part of the initiatives promoted by the Bureau of the Laity of the Province of L'Hermitage through the Marist life animation teams of each country, in this case in Catalonia.

The participants in the workshop were very appreciative of the presence of Agnes Reyes for what she brought with her of originality and light, because she brought us closer through her emotions to a question that should be part of all formative experiences, of reflection and of action. And it meant one more step in our desire to strengthen the Marist community, offering spaces of growth for brothers and laypeople, young people and adults.

marist world

PHILIPPINES: LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT MAPAC

SPAIN: XIX MURCIA VOLUNTEER FAIRA

MEXICO: MEETING FORMARME 11



SPAIN: MEETING OF YOUNG BROTHERS FROM THE PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA, IN DUEÑAS

GUATEMALA: VOCATIONAL WEEK IN THE "LICEO GUATEMALA"

SPAIN: MARIST BROTHERS OF HUELVA: ANDRÉS, JOSÉ LUIS, FRANCISCO, JUAN MIGUEL AND MANUEL

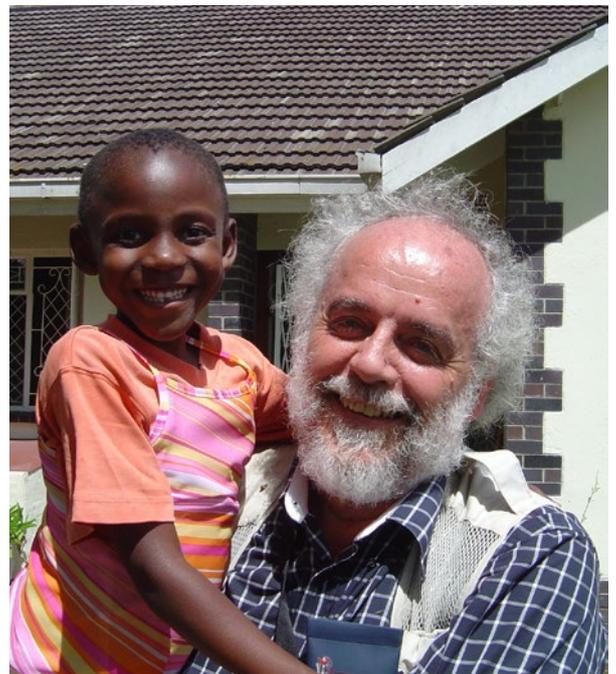
ITALY

CARLO SPAGNOLLI: A LAY MARIST DOCTOR COMMITTED TO CHAMPAGNAT'S IDEALS

Carlo Spagnolli was a lay Marist doctor who, after studying at the Lycée San Leone Magno dei Fratelli Maristi in Rome, dedicated his whole life to the humanitarian mission in Africa.

In 1975 he received his medical degree from the Università Cattolica di Roma and travelled to Uganda to work in the field of humanitarian aid, serving the most needy. From 1989 to 1996, inspired by Marist values of solidarity, he served the people of Eritrea, Ethiopia and Cameroon.

In 1996, he moved to Zimbabwe to work as a surgeon, and the fight against AIDS became his main commitment. In 2002, desiring to welcome and help orphaned children and HIV carriers, he opened a children's center, the St. Marcellin Children's Village Trust, which also provided education and medical assistance to children with disabilities. Carlo Spagnolli, former Marist student, died at the age of 70 on February 2nd in Rovereto. During his life he always stayed in touch with the Italian Marist world, and especially with his former teachers in San Leone Magno—Brothers Vasco Santi, Claudio Alberti, and Alberto Dalla Costa.



CENTRAL AND WESTERN MEXICO

On February 12, the Provincial Councils of Mexico met in Mexico City to share the road travelled, the work to be done and the actions to be taken to continue the cooperation between the two Provinces, through joint work and the sharing of best local practices, and so strengthen the presence of the Marist mission in the country.



MEXICO AND CANADA

The Marist Youth Ministry Week of the Americas project - a closer collaboration between the Marists of Mexico and Canada - is looking for animators interested in accompanying young people during the new version of Youth Ministry Week that will take place this year in Querétaro, Mexico from the 19th to the 27th June 2020.

MARISTS IN TARAWA

Marist Brothers Community in Tarawa, Kiribati, comprises two communities, one in Teoraereke and one in Bikenibeu. There are four Brothers: 2 from New Zealand, 1 from Samoa, 1 from Kiribati. Two of the Brothers work full-time running retreats and workshops for students, youth, adults and the Diocese, one Brother teaches full-time at St Louis High School and another teaches Religious Education part-time in years 4 and 5.

MARISTS ALEPPO

The Blue Marists (110 volunteers) had the honor to meet with President Bashar Al Assad and the first Lady Asma in Damascus Saturday February 15.

SOUTH AFRICA

LAVALLA200> ATLANTIS MARIST INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HOLIDAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Every year, the Marist International Community of Atlantis (South Africa) organizes two editions of a Holiday Program for children of Atlantis in social vulnerable situations. The program aims to offer them a safe space during the period they are not in the school. The first edition takes place in June and, the second one, in December (holiday time).

Between December 17th and 20th, the members of the LaValla200> community – in partnership with some volunteers from St. Joseph Marist College, St. John the Baptist Parish, the Walking Bus project, San Vincent de Paul and two young volunteers from Australia – prepared an intense four-day activities for these children.

The program, held at Rebecca Van Amsterdam Hall, started its first day (17/12) with free and recreational games, such as ping pong, football, board games and others. Then, the participants developed two activities: production of handmade sweets boxes (morning) and bracelets (afternoon).

On the second day (18/12), everyone was divided into two groups. The older ones had the opportunity to do an external activity in Sundowne – a place that offers an outdoor obstacle course race. The activity provided them fun and learning about collaborative work. The youngest children's group remained in the Hall, making Christmas cards and participating in a dance workshop.

The focus of the third day (19/12) was on visiting Atlantis institutions.

The participants were organized in three groups. The first went to an asylum; the second, to an elderly club; and the third to Orion – an institution destined to people with mental or physical disabilities. In all these places, the children had moments of sharing, they sang Christmas carols and gave the handmade boxes of sweets and Christmas cards produced by themselves. With this activity, they were able to learn about the importance of solidarity – specially in this Christmas time.

The last day of the Holiday Program (20/12) the participants had an art exhibition with Christmas theme and a talent show. All participants could present their skills in dance, theatre and music. There was, also, a presentation of Christmas songs and, finally, the distribution of Christmas kits with some sweets.

One action as Holiday Programs is connected to the call of the XXII General Chapter, to Marists of Champagnat to be with amongst children and young people in situations of social vulnerability.



GREECE

SPIRITUAL FORMATION DAY IN ATHENS

"Educating for love: it takes a whole village to raise a child" was the theme chosen for a day of spiritual formation held at Leonteios college, Athens on Saturday February 1, 2020.

The day was organized jointly by the two Marist schools – Leonteios Athens and Leonteios Nea Smyrni, and three establishments of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition – Joan of Arc franco-hellenic school, St Joseph franco-hellenic school and Saint Joseph primary school, Volos. "This endeavor was part of the shared and constant concern of our establishments to provide for the spiritual training of their staff. Our goal was to deepen the pedagogy of Christian love, based on the example of Jesus Christ as a traveling companion, teacher and father".



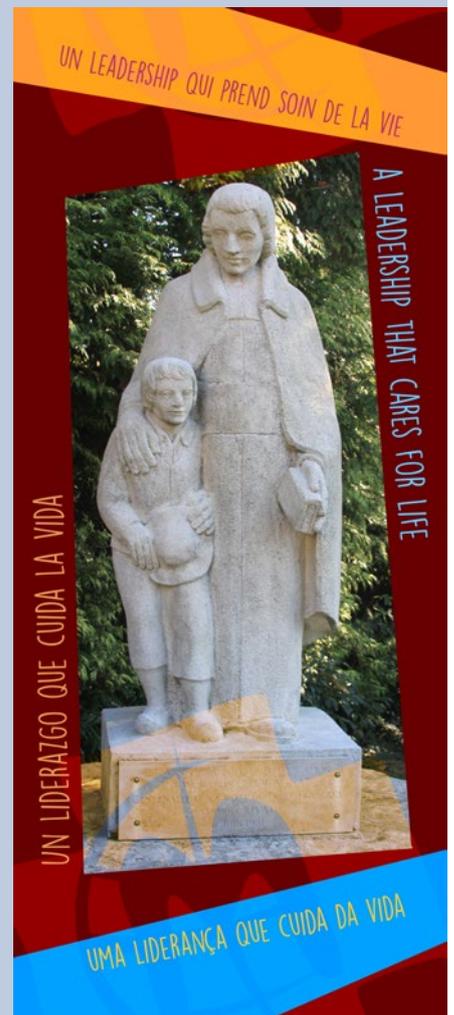
More than 550 participants were able to reflect, deepen and freely exchange opinions, concerns and suggestions on our Christian mission with children and young people. The proposals for discussion and reflection were nourished by the presentations of three eminent speakers:

His Eminence the Metropolitan Ignatios of Demetria and Almyros developed the theme: "The pedagogy of Christian love",
 Marist Brother Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat of the Marist Brothers in Rome presented on: "Marist education in a community",
 Mr. Kenneth Vella, director of the Saint Joseph Paola college for girls in Malta, spoke on "Spirituality and charism in the teachings of Saint Emilie De Vialar".
 After the presentations, participants were divided into small groups where they were able to discuss and express ideas and opinions on the central theme of the Conference. The day ended with a musical program by the school choirs.

By way of an epilogue, three students from the Leonteios College, Athens, closed the day with a short performance in which they expressed the meaning of Christian love, presenting in a theatrical way "The Hymn to Love", from the first letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians.

PROVINCIAL MEETING

Next week, the meeting of the Superiors of the Provinces and Districts will take place at the General House from the 2nd to the 7th March. The theme of the meeting is "A leadership that cares for life".



FRANCE

FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE EDUCATIONAL WORKS OF THE PROVINCE OF L'HERMITAGE



The 2020 Meeting of Educational Works (ROE) of the Province of L'Hermitage took place this year from the 4th to the 7th February at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, France. The educators were able to reflect on the following themes: the reality of young people, the Marist charism, a new European structure, the rights of children and young people, workshops on innovation and experiences of solidarity. The Provincial teams of the Mission Council, the Bureau of the Brothers, the Bureau of the Laity and a youth think tank (reflection based on the reality of young people) were present.

The Provincial Council welcomed the participants through a summary of the ideas that emerged during the Provincial Chapter held last summer at the Hermitage. According to the Provincial Council, the basic axes of our present and future involve reflecting on the reality of young people and on how we carry out the Marist charism in the European framework.

The awareness of the work that the Marist Institute is developing in the defence of the rights of children and young people was presented by Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of the Institute's Bureau of Education and Evangelisation, who appealed to the message of the General Chapter: "We want to walk with children and young people who are marginalized in life". During his address, Brother Beto presented a project of the Institute: Stand up, say what you

think and take part! through which he called on the children and young people of the Institute to contribute in the preparation of a document on how to encourage listening and participation by children and young people. A document with guidelines and criteria that will be presented to the General Council in November.

Brother Carlos Alberto presented another project that caused great expectation was the Network of Marist Schools of the World, an invitation to create working networks in order to guarantee the vitality and viability of the Marist school. A project of global innovation that connects schools around the world to better serve a common good. We are talking about some 500 schools in 81 countries around the world. The launch of this network is planned for April 2021.

The presentations of the meeting alternated with participatory workshops, exchange of good practices and innovation, presentation of various solidarity experiences that the province is carrying out, as well as moments of celebration and prayer.

At the conclusion of the ROE 2020, Brother Provincial, Pere Ferré, thanked all the participants for their presence (especially the young people), and highlighted the commitment to the mission and the importance of networking, and sharing the same vision on fundamental subjects, such as the defence of the rights of children.

REMEMBER

During this month we recall the episode that occurred in February 1823 when Saint Marcellin and Brother Stanislaus, who had just come from visiting Brother Jean-Baptiste who was ill in Bourg-Argental, were lost in a snow storm in the Graix area. They prayed and invoked the Virgin with the prayer “Remember, Virgin Mary...”, and were rescued by the Donnet family.

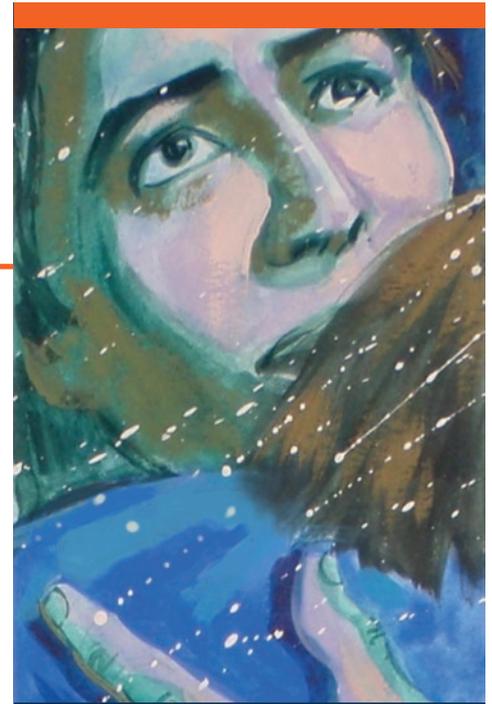
LENT BEGINS

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR LENT 2020



Ash Wednesday Celebration at the General House



MEMORARE

Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession
was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence,
I fly to thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;
to thee do I come;
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen

“Memorare in the Snow”,
February 1823



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube



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

Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

Twitter



https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat