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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION IN ITALY

Since early March, the Italian government has been putting initiatives into place to counteract the spread of the COVID-19 infection, as have many other countries. Many Marist centres are adapting to the restrictions of movement indicated by their respective governments. This has consequences for Marist life and mission, especially in how we work for the good of people and live in solidarity with the experience of the world today.

The General House is also responding to these government requirements. We also follow the instructions of the Pope and the Church to live this moment with prudence, solidarity and a spirit of faith.



From the 10th March, the laystaff who work in the offices of the General Administration have been working from home over the internet. Those who work in our reception, food and cleaning services have reduced hours. As of today, no member of the General Administration, brothers or laity, has been affected.

Several brothers, from the General Council or those in charge of departments and secretariats, who had planned trips for these days, have cancelled or are moving their scheduled appointments due to travel restrictions from Italy or other countries.

The meeting of the Brothers Provincial and District Superiors at the General House from the 2nd to the 7th March was very

positive. Four new leaders stayed on for one more day. The Provincials of the regions of America met from the 9th to the 12th. Fortunately, almost all have been able to return to their countries, although some had to reschedule their flights. Upon arrival in their countries, many of them have spent a few days in quarantine, voluntarily or following the directives of local authorities.

Some meetings and programs that would have taken place in Italy have been temporarily suspended: the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Laity, meeting of the International Commission of Brothers Today, the meeting of the regional representatives of Communication, the FMSI council. Those responsible for these meetings, in contact with the people involved, are organizing new dates.

Marcellin said to his brothers, "To educate children properly, you must love them first and love them all equally" (Life* II, Chapter XXIII). By doing so, you help them to become "good Christians and good citizens" (Letter to Mr Libersat, September 19, 1839).

Through your dedication, you try to respond to the needs and expectations of today's young people.

Role of Life 75

GENERAL HOUSE

THE GENERAL COUNCILS OF THE MARIST BROTHERS AND DE LA SALLE APPROVED THE OPENING OF THE FRATELLI PROJECT IN MAICAO, COLOMBIA

After a profound period of discernment, the General Councils of the Marist Brothers and De La Salle approved the opening of the Fratelli Project in Maicao, Colombia. The Superior General of the Marist Brothers, Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba, and the Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers, Robert Schieler, sent a shared letter to the Provincials and Visitors on March 4th, in which they officially announced their decision. This new action confirms the cooperation between the two Congregations, giving continuity to the initiative of 2015 which consisted in the creation of the Fratelli Project in Lebanon. The following is the letter from the Superiors General.



Dear Brothers Provincial and Visitor of the De La Salle and Marist Brothers,
We send you fraternal greeting at the beginning of our journey towards Easter.

As you will recall, since 2015 our two Institutes have been in dialog on how best to respond together to the calls of our General Chapters to go "...to new lands" (FMS) and "...beyond borders" (FSC): the result was the Fratelli Project.

This project was born as a joint resolution with a view to providing a prompt international response to crises related to displaced persons, especially children and youth, in cross-border situations in different parts of the world. The urgency was then, and unfortunately still is today, the drama of the Syrian refugees in the countries of the Middle East. With this initial concern we opened the first Fratelli community in Rmeilleh, Saidah (the biblical Sidon) in Lebanon. There we conduct several centers for displaced Syrian, Iraqi and Lebanese refugee children and young people. The experience has been successful from many points of view. In addition to effectively attending to the needs of these refugees, the initiative has attracted the cooperation and enthusiasm of both the FSC and FMS religious and educa-

tional communities in Lebanon. One local Brother calls the initiative "a blessing" for the country.

Yet since its very beginning, the vision of our two General Councils has been oriented to the global reality and not just to the Middle East refugee crisis. We could not stop there with the satisfaction of a job well done, closing our eyes to other realities. In fact, since the beginning of 2019 both General Councils have been studying the possibility of starting a second Fratelli Project in 2020. We studied 3 possible locations: the Venezuela-Colombia border, the USA-Mexico border and Nabawan on the island of Borneo, East Malaysia. We soon realized that in Nabawan there is already an effective response in a well-structured Marist-Lasallian collaboration that can continue without our intervention.

After several reports and visits to gather data and to know better the border situation between Venezuela and Colombia and between Mexico and the United States, carried out by Brothers and Partners of our two Institutes, as well as the exchanges with the Marists and the Lasallians in situ and inspired by the work that they are already doing at various

points on both borders, we are writing to you to inform you of a

new joint educational project. The project has been approved by the two General Councils under the following framework:

Open a new Fratelli Project in Maicao, Colombia. Once this process is initiated and attentive to ongoing discernment, we remain open to future Fratelli Projects, giving preference to the option of Ciudad Juárez in the border USA – Mexico.

We will soon give you more details about the project and the way in which Brothers and Partners can formally express their interest in being part of the next Fratelli community in Maicao, Colombia.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation and encouragement for other collaborative initiatives between our two Institutes as well as for projects that continue to emerge in various Provinces, Districts and Regions.

Let us place all these experiences, and especially this second Fratelli Project, into the hands of our Blessed Mother and our holy Founders.

Fraternally,
 Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, Brother Superior
 Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba, FMS, Brother Superior

ESTADOS UNIDOS

MARIST YOUTH ENCOUNTER CHRIST RETREAT IN ESOPUS

Students from four American Marist schools, Msgr Pace, Mount St Michael, St Joes Regional, and Marist Bayonne, gathered from 5 to 8 March 2020 at the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus, with the intention to pray for each other and know Jesus and Love him.

Adult and young adult Marist team helped made this encounter a success.

Through reflexions groups, prayers, music and liturgy the students had the opportunities to sharings, be in a relationship with Jesus and grow together, during 3 days.

For over 50 years the Encounter has been an innovative and creative retreat for young people throughout the Province of the USA. Through the Catholic Marist tradition of "Making Jesus

Known and Loved" the Encounter is an opportunity for young people to connect with each other and God.

Each year the Province sponsors 3 multi-school Encounters at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus where students from all Marist schools and ministries are invited to participate. Several of the Marist schools also offer the Encounter retreat locally.



marist world

BRASIL: SAGRADA FAMÍLIA FRATERNITY OF CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT IN CURITIBA



CLEANING THE GARDEN IN THE GENERAL HOUSE IN ROME



HUNGARY: SZENT PÁL MARIST PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEW ZEALAND: MEETING OF LEADERS OF MARIST SCHOOLS



URUGUAY: 2020 FAMILY CAMP OF MARISTAS SAN LUIS SCHOOL , PANDO



IRELAND: MARIST ATHLONE

BRAZIL

MEETING TO PROMOTE THE AWARENESS OF THE MARIST VOCATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

With the objective of promoting fraternity and the exchange of experiences between the different Marist realities that work with young people, the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul promoted the Meeting of Youth and Vocation. The event took place from the 3rd to the 5th March, at the Marist Champagnat Centre, Curitiba. The educators of the Happy Life Project, the coordinators of the Marist Youth Pastoral and the Life Project Circuit took part in the event. And also Brothers and Marist formators. In total, 80 people committed themselves to the cause of the young people .

“This meeting made it possible to bring these groups together for the first time,” said Bruno Manoel Socher, a collaborator on the Province’s Board of Directors for Identity, Mission and Vocation.

On the first day, the participants received psychological formation on the theme of vocation. On the second day, they took part in workshops on mosaic, meditation, life project, improvisation and



“Being a Marist Brother”.

Encouragement of the participation of young people in the realities of mission is one of the premises of the XXII General Chapter, since the celebrations of the bicentenary of the Marist Institute. For this reason, it is essential to train those who work directly with young people in order to strengthen their action.

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

The Province promotes a course of specialization in the pastoral area, through an adequate formation for educators and leaders. Registration for the course, which is held at the PUCRS, is [available until 20 March](#). With a total duration of 360 hours of classes, held online, the formation will begin on 30 March with the closing date expected for July 2021.

MARIST FORMATION IN ASIA

The community of the Postulancy of Davao Formation House in the Philippines welcome Br. Hoan as a new member of the Formation team. At the same time they expressed their gratitude to Br. Paco Garcia that has been Director of the Postulancy for the last six years and now has been appointed Master of Novices in Sri Lanka.



CHILE

The Marist School of Quillota Diego Echeverría de Quillota carried out an ecological project, whose objective was to promote the reuse of plastic bottles as “ecoblocks” with the aim of building benches for the community headquarters of the Hogar de Cristo. [Video](#)

MARISTS OF BOLIVIA

The Marist educational work in this country, as well as the people who make it possible, were the protagonists of the programme entitled “MARISTAS BOLIVIA, FROM EAST TO WEST” on 2 TVE. [Click here](#) to see the programme

MEXICO

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST CIUDAD NUEVA PASTORAL MOVEMENT



The movement Ciudad Nueva Marista, of the Province of México Central, took place from the 28th February to the 1st March at the Querétaro Institute.

Under the slogan “a project to be lived”, dozens of students from nine Marist schools – from the Blue and Yellow stages – participated together with the brothers and lay Marists (teachers, coordinators and parents) in the event which

has as its goal “to build a new city in the measure in which man and his relationships of brotherhood are constructed”. Through games, competitions, dances, performances and prayer, the adolescents from the Marist schools had the opportunity to reflect, share, be in solidarity and recognise themselves as Marists, capable of creating around them a New City, having as a model Jesus, the Virgin Mary and Marcellin Champagnat.

Ciudad Nueva is an initiative of the Province of México Central that promotes Marist solidarity among adolescents through different activities, such as formation sessions, camps, tours and the National Assembly.



GENERAL HOUSE

THE SUPERIORS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS MEET WITH THE GENERAL COUNCIL

March 2-7, the General Council and the Superiors of Administrative Units of the Institute met at the General House. The meeting covered a range of matters and the participants heard from the Marists leaders and their collaborators, both Brothers and Marist lay. The overall theme was “A Leadership That Cares for Life” and each day there was an elaboration on a specific aspect of the theme. Everything was presented within the context of the Institute’s Strategic Plan 2018-2025, which was introduced to the Superiors at last year’s meeting.



- We Care for New Marist Life, focussed on nurturing Marist Vocations: specifically, to the Brothers (the Institute currently has 119 Novices in various parts of the world) and also to Marist Lay life. There was sharing on different approaches and forms.
- We Care for People, was centred on the quality of care offered to the Brothers at various stages of life – youth, middle age, later age. A significant part of this was the issue of self-care: health, emotional, social and spiritual; issues which apply to Leaders and all Brothers.
- We Take Care of the Common Home, was presented by the newly appointed Director of Solidarity, Br Ángel Diego Otaola. He outlined a new project on ecology and invited comments about activities in Marist ministries and communities. In many parts of the Marist world it is an issue that has received significant attention.
- We Care for Minors, covered the area of child protection and rights, and Brothers Ken McDonald, Ben Consigli and Óscar Martín led the Provincials in reviewing the latest learnings and the developing processes and protocols.
- We Care for the Mission, outlined a variety of projects related to Education and Evangelisation of the young. Br Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede (Secretariat of Education and Evangelization) introduced the participants to the work being undertaken in developing an international network of Marist Schools. Also included in this was an update from Brothers Valdicer Fachí (Cmi) and Jeff Crowe on the Lavalla200> Project. A review conducted over the last year indicated significant success but also some issues. The project will continue and identified deficiencies will be addressed.
- We Care for our Regions, addressed the particular needs of the Institute’s six Regions. The Link Councillors and the Leaders of the Regions met to workshop these issues.

Some of the other issues covered and news items presented include:

- Br Antonio Estaún, Postulator General, updated the participants on the Marists causes of canonisation. Br. Antonio is currently focussing on Br Francois and has expended enormous time preparing the documents on Br Basilio’s cause.
- Raul Anaya (Director of the Secretariat of the Laity) and Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa (Secretariat of Brothers Today) outlined various formation programmes. This year there is to be a shared formation programme (Brothers and Lay) on Spirituality and it will be held in the Regions. Participants, venue and details are to be finalised.
- Councillor General, Br Josep Maria Soteras, gave to the Provincials an update on the Rule of Life and revised Constitutions. The Vatican’s review of the Constitutions has been a slow process, and recently the General Council have needed to respond to a list of 71 queries. Hopefully the revised Constitutions will be approved by the end of the year. After that, both Rule and Constitutions will be published and distributed to Brothers.

The Superiors of the Administrative Units also enjoyed a morning of silence and reflection, dialogue in smaller Fraternity groups, thoughtful and creative prayers and Eucharists, and social occasions.

On the last day, Archbishop Jorge Patrón, who works in the Roman Curia as Secretary for Seminaries of the Congregation for the Clergy, was with the provincials and presided over the Eucharistic celebration.

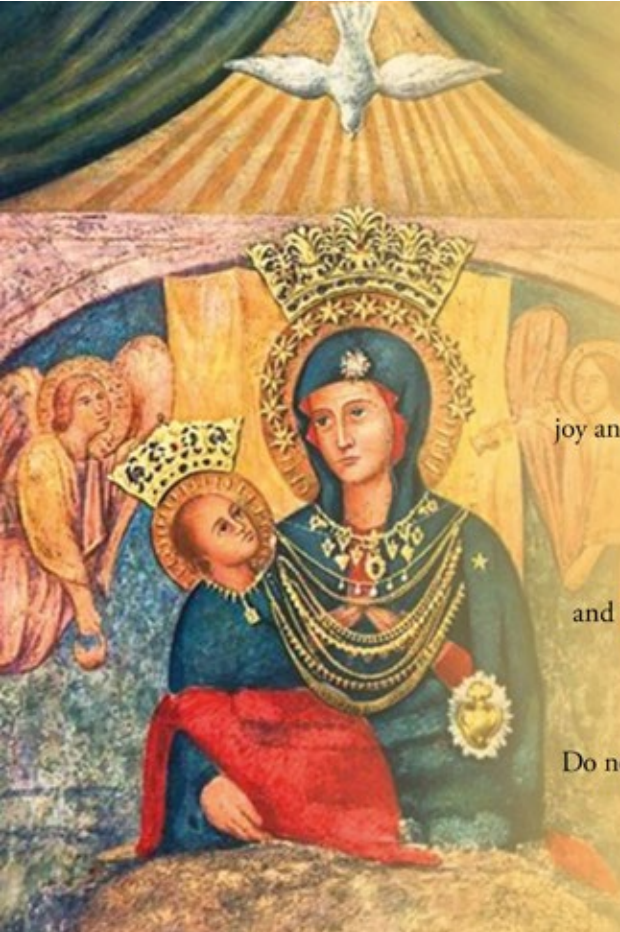
AN OVERVIEW OF THE INITIAL FORMATION IN THE INSTITUTE

During the meeting of Provincials and Superior of District, the Secretariat of Brothers Today presented an overview regarding initial formation throughout the Institute. A global view and a regional picture can be seen here down.

| | AFRICA | AMÉRICA SUR | ARCO NORTE | ASIA | EUROPE | OCEANIA | TOTAL |
|-------------|--------|-------------|------------|------|--------|---------|-------|
| ASPIRANTS | 29 | 17 | | 25 | | 14 | 85 |
| POSTULANTS | 23 | 25 | 20 | 27 | | 3 | 98 |
| NOVICES | 67 | 10 | 22 | 15 | | 5 | 119 |
| SCHOLASTICS | 74 | 12 | 28 | 26 | 3 | | 143 |
| ACTIVE | 34 | 24 | 7 | 21 | 2 | 7 | 95 |

Please note that the figures are the numbers as of March 4, 2020; they could be higher, and they could change in the next few days. Also, the numbers refer to where the formands are at the moment, not necessarily from which country or region they come. For example, the Province of Hermitage has 1 novice who is now in Medellin (Arco Norte); East Asia has 1 novice who is

now in Fiji (Oceania); and the scholastics of Oceania are in the Philippines (Asia). In addition, there are administrative units that do not have established houses for the aspirancy stage. There are aspirants who are attached to certain communities and some of them may not have been included in the count. Other details in [this link](#).



O Mary,
 You shine continuously on our journey
 as a sign of salvation and hope.
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
 At the foot of the Cross
 you participated in Jesus' pain,
 with steadfast faith.
 You, Salvation of the Roman People,
 know what we need.
 We are certain that you will provide,
 so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,
 joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.
 Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
 to conform ourselves to the Father's will
 and to do what Jesus tells us:
 He who took our sufferings upon Himself,
 and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross,
 to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.
 We seek refuge under your protection,
 O Holy Mother of God.
 Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –
 and deliver us from every danger,
 O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Prayer of Pope Francis to the Virgin of Divine Love
 in view of the emergence of the Coronavirus



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