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MARIST NEWS

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

GENERAL HOUSE

LETTER OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL TO THE BROTHERS AND LAY PEOPLE FROM VANUATU AND SOLOMON ISLANDS

Rome, 23rd April 2020

Dear Marists of Champagnat,

Receive my warm greetings and Easter blessings from the General House in Rome.

The members of the General Council and I have received word from the District Leader of the District of Melanesia, Brother Jean Marie Batick, of the various challenges you are facing during this

time, particularly following Cyclone Harold in Vanuatu. The cyclone has caused the vast destruction of homes and livelihoods on the Islands of Santo, Pentecost, Ambrym, and Malekula. Many homes which remain standing are beyond repair, and most of the local gardens, which provide food, have been destroyed. The physical damage

to property and the loss of life has been shocking. The tragic deaths of Mr. Abraham Hauasi's wife, three of his sons, and his brother, Godfrey, and so many others in the Solomon Islands have shaken us to the core.

Added to this humanitarian crisis is the global threat of the Covid-19 pandemic which has created complications in receiving aid and aid workers from New Caledonia, Australia, New

Zealand and China. The challenges seem at times overwhelming; they challenge us to see God amid all the fear, anxiety, and death that has gripped us. And yet, God is with us as we care for each other.

Please know that we are thinking of you and your families, as well as our students and their families. We are holding you close during these difficult times. We here in Rome are with you in spirit and have remembered you in our community prayer and

liturgy. We hope and pray that the resources needed to be rebuild the lives shattered by these events will come quickly and that you can build a future of hope. We will continue to be in touch with Bro. Jean Marie about how things evolve.

Have courage, Marists of Champagnat! With so many frightening situations constantly popping

up in our lives, I don't think it's any coincidence that during this Easter season we hear Jesus telling us, "Do not be afraid! I am with you!". Like Jesus, Mary, Our Good Mother, is close to each one of us when things are darkest. There are many rays of hope casting their light on our journey.

Fraternally,
Bro. Ernesto Sánchez Barba – Superior General



AUSTRALIA / VANUATU

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS TO REBUILD BADLY DAMAGED MARIST SCHOOL IN SANTO



The International development agency Australian Marist Solidarity has launched a charitable recovery appeal for St Michel Technical College, in Vanuatu, which has been devastated by Category 5 cyclone Harold raged in Melanesia during these past weeks.

“Supporting a remote community to recover from a cyclone like Harold is challenging at the best of times, but to do so in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic will require complex and sustained efforts”, said Australian Marist Solidarity CEO Rebecca Bromhead. She continued, “we need your support to be able to carry out vital rebuilding at the school as quickly as possible.”

Since General House, Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General said in his letter to the brothers and lay people from Vanuatu and Solomon Islands: “We hope and pray that the resources needed to be rebuild the lives shattered by these events will come quickly and that you can build a future of hope.”

Last week also Br. Jean-Marie, Superior of the District of Melanesia requested for help: “We will really need some support to rebuild the Brothers’ house as soon as we can. Apart from the Brothers house, the school buildings is also badly damaged. It will be months before the school is open again. We don’t know when or how the repairs can be done.”

St Michel’s provides critical skills development for Vanuatu with both mainstream and vocational education pathways and has been supported by the Marist Brothers for 26 years. The school has 320 enrolled students from grades 7 to 12 and a further 80

enrolled in the vocational stream of the school. It has been seen as a beacon of hope on Santo as it was one of the first school established on the island.

The Marist Brothers have been working in Vanuatu since 1991 and Australian Marist Solidarity has played a vital role in recovery and rebuilding in this region, including after Cyclone Pam which hit Vanuatu in March 2015. Australian Marist Solidarity’s work is focused on the education of children and young people, which is vital to securing the best possible future for vulnerable communities.

To support the re-build of St Michel Technical College visit www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au

[See here](#) the Media Release of the Australian marist Solidarity (PDF)



FRANCE

BR. PAUL SESTER (1926-2020) ARCHIVIST AND FOUNDER OF MARIST SCHOLARSHIP

We will not attempt to address every aspect of the rich personality of Brother Paul who left us on 5 April 2020. It is as a scholar concerned with establishing the sources of our historical and spiritual heritage that we will address here.

This vocation came to him very early on since he told me that during his novitiate and scholasticate at St Genis-Laval in 1942-45, he had one great regret: the letters of the Founder kept in the same house were inaccessible. During a period of retraining at Jesus Magister in 1966-67 in Rome, Brother Paul was finally able to become acquainted with Champagnat's letters and to begin copying them. But it was only with his appointment as Secretary General in 1976 that he had the opportunity to devote himself once again to these letters, with the help of a dedicated team who would also help him to reorganise the general archives and begin the transcription of the original sources of the congregation.

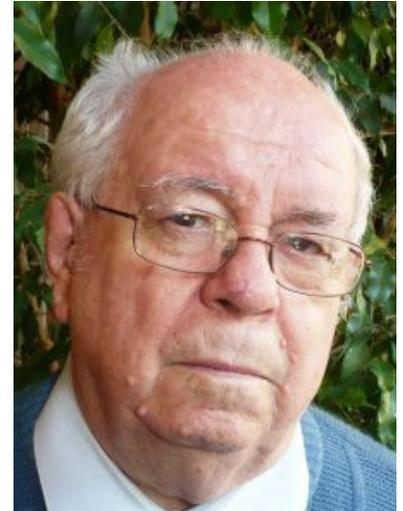
The first tangible result of this long-term undertaking would be the publication of the two volumes of Fr. Champagnat's Letters. The first, published in 1985, is a critical edition of the 339 letters that have been preserved. On becoming the archivist and with the collaboration of Jean Borne, Brother Paul published in 1987 a complementary volume of "repertoires" on his correspondence, the places and historical circumstances



of the production of this letters. Thanks to this scholarly work, the Congregation was no longer satisfied with texts and traditions about the Founder, but had its own writings at its disposal. In a way, his words are given back to him. But it is still necessary for researchers to study, spread and interpret this word which has benefited all of the Brothers....

That is why in 1991 n° 1 of the Cahiers

Maristes was published, in four languages, of which Brother Paul was practically the editor in chief while he resided in Rome, until 1998. He himself wrote about ten articles and presented important documents. It is in this review that in May 2017 (N° 35) he describes to us in detail "The computerization of our archives", presenting us on this occasion with the team of his collaborators.



The result of the work of this group of copyists equipped with new tools is impressive: publication of the Memoirs of Brother Sylvester in 1992 and the three volumes of the Annals of the Institute in 1993. Many other more complex or less important documents were duplicated in the form of A4 notebooks: in particular the 12 volumes of the Annals of the Houses, which provide a mine of information on the life of schools in France before 1880-90; or the numerous manuscripts of Brothers François and Jean-Baptiste. Towards 2000, there was no longer a lack of sources but rather of researchers capable of appreciating their importance, preparing critical editions and approaching them according to academic criteria.

On returning to France in 1998, Brother Paul naturally became Provincial Archivist. He would obviously be part of the international team of Marist spiritual patrimony created in 2004 by the General Administration. One of the tasks of this team will be to help with the publication in 2011 of the Origins of the Marist Brothers: three volumes into which Brother Paul collected all the sources emanating from Champagnat and the Institute up to 1840 and even beyond.

With the death of Br. Paul perhaps we are witnessing the era of great individuals such as Pierre Zind, Gabriel Michel, Alexandre Balko, Stephen Farrell... who, by their works of scholarship and history, and also their capacity to inspire helpers and disciples, laid the foundations of a serious knowledge of our Marist identity.

F. André Lanfrey, April 2020

marist world

GENERAL HOUSE: REGULAR GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING



LÍBANO: FRATELLI PROJECT – SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH HYGIENE ITEMS AND FOOD



MEXICO: MARIST COMUNITIY OF THE COLEGIO MÉXICO BACHILLERATO



AUSTRALIA: BR LUKE SMYTH CELEBRATED HIS 97TH BIRTHDAY WITH THE ST GREGORY'S COMMUNITY



SOUTH AFRICA: MARIST MERCY CARE – DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS



ROMANIA: CENTRUL DE ZI MARISTI – LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY IN MOINESTI

SPAIN

PROJECT QÉREB IN THE PROVINCE OF IBERIAN: LET'S CONTINUE TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER

The forced quarantine in Spain and other countries due to this extraordinary situation of COVID-19 contagion is undoubtedly a challenge at the educational, employment and family levels. In this context, the massive number of messages, resources and tasks to be carried out has become the daily norm.

The Interiority Team of the Province of Ibérica, QÉREB, shares some orientations that have been developing in the Marist centers for SELF-CARE. The objective of this Marist project is to help educators, families and students seek the center of their lives and develop their interior resources.

Today, more than ever, it is necessary to take care of and focus on the encounter with ourselves, living our interior world in depth.

At this website you will find various proposals that the team is developing daily in the educational ministries of the Iberian



Province, as well as articles of interest dealing with interiority education: to find serenity in the family, to practice yoga with toddlers, to calmly confront emotions... and many other useful ideas to take care of ourselves.

MARIST EDUCATIONAL MISSION IN FRANCE TODAY

It all started from here, from this little village of La Valla. More than two hundred years have passed since the foundation, the world has evolved considerably, but Champagnat's charism remains as relevant today as ever and its application has also taken many forms. In the country of its foundation, the Marist educational mission has remained mainly in the area of formal and school-based education and must be understood in the context of association with the State, the Congregation having only canonical authority over the schools, colleges and secondary schools of the Marist network.

Marist establishments, like almost all Catholic Education, participate in the public service of education in the sense that the teachers are contractual agents of the State and that the private associations which independently manage each establishment receive subsidies (called lump sums) for the material running of the establishment.

Meeting of Marist Activities

A dynamic and committed network that has undergone some recent developments. With the restructuring and the establishment of the Congregation in France, the network of Marist establishments has undergone notable changes over the last twenty years. Certain establishments have left the network and some have re-entered it, others still which had not been founded by the Marist Brothers have joined our network, proof of its dynamism and its popularity.

Today this network is united within an association called AMC, Association Marcellin Champagnat. This association, based on the principle of shared responsibility, brings together brothers and laypeople, and is responsible for animating and coordinating the network, which has 13 establishments spread throughout the country. These establishments accommodate more than 11,230 pupils and students from kindergarten to higher education. In addition,

there are nearly 1,100 collaborators (all lay), including more than 800 teachers and educators. Geographical diversity does not prevent the carrying out of common projects.

The AMC is also recognised as an Institute of Formation missioned by Catholic Teaching and as such it provides training in the Marist spirit or other modules in order to bring together professional commitment and charism.

Projects shared through a network...

Around the AMC's Director General, who is responsible for supervision, all of the network's heads of establishment have implemented a team-building approach by developing collective intelligence and thanks to the support of an external consultancy firm.

Obtaining ISO 9001 multi-site certification for the AMC and the establishments has made it possible to standardise and develop joint work. The themes of pastoral care, leadership and strategic planning are all subjects worked on together.

An association of young Marists has emerged in recent years to create links between the pupils and students of our establishments and to try to give a pastoral and vocational dimension to these links around the themes of service, solidarity and commitment.

... taking advantage of the internationality of the Province and the continent-wide dynamic

Beyond the national network, many initiatives have been developed by the Mission Council of the Hermitage Province to promote interaction between the networks of apostolates in Catalonia, France, Greece, and Hungary and to develop a sense of belonging to our international province. Thus, every year for the past 15 years a meeting of the educational works of the province (called ROE) has been organised



at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, our shared home, which brings together the directors and those responsible for the different educational school and social realities of our four countries. Other themes such as formation, communication, solidarity or the protection of minors are also worked on together at the provincial level by setting up networks that envision possible ways of working together in these different areas.

In the context of the regionalisation desired by the Marist Institute and through the Province, the Marist France network takes its full part in the dynamics proposed at the continental level such as the development of the annual pastoral theme for example.

The challenges

There are two kinds of challenges that face the Marist network in France. At the national level, to continue to strengthen itself by assuring its institutional presence within the framework of the organisation of National Catholic Education and by developing local and national partnerships with new partners.

To continue the development of the sense of belonging to the Marist family as a global body by taking advantage of the Provincial, continental and Institute dynamics and to allow a greater clarity between mission and Marist life for the spiritual and charismatic growth of the people who live and carry the Marist mission today and for those who will inherit it tomorrow.

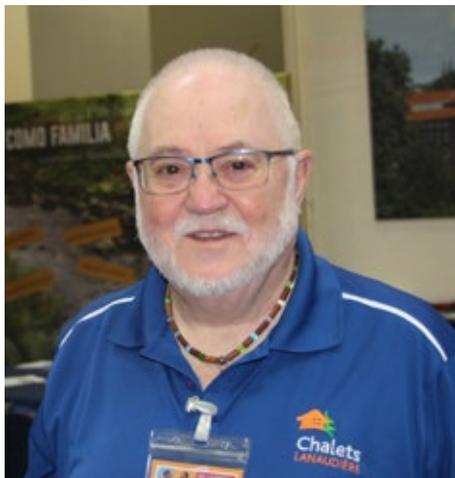
COVID-19: WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

We invited the superior of the Marist Administrative Units to share with us what they are learning with such a situation. [Read here more about the COVID-19](#)

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING FROM THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

Canada Br. Gérard Bachand, Provincial

We all ask ourselves, "What will our society be like after the storm?" We find a lot of reflective texts from all walks of life. Religious groups yes, but also philosophers, scientists, artists share their questions and reflections with us. Will we be able to put people first when the economy recovers? Should we think about "demon-globalization"? In order to rediscover the values of proximity.



Mediterranea Br. Juan Carlos Fuentes, Provincial

The first thing that this situation has demonstrated is the human and professional quality of the educators of our province, their commitment, their concern for our children and young people, their capacity to face difficult situations. Furthermore, the experience of this pandemic is helping us to be creative in developing our educational work to look



after our students and users of our social works, to be close to them and help them to continue learning but, above all, to live through this exceptional moment. If at this time you have helped us to be creative in our educational work,

, you will continue to help us to be in solidarity and to look for ways to help those who suffer most from the economic consequences of this pandemic. And this solidarity will be within our works and will also be dedicated to those outside.

Mexico Central Br. José Sánchez Bravo, Provincial

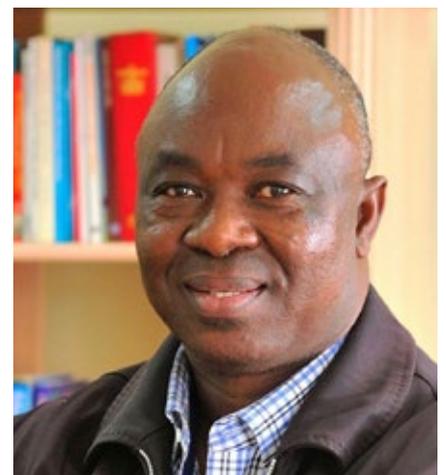
We have the opportunity to make contact again with a part of our lives that is usually absorbed by the avalanche of activities to which we are accustomed: RETURNING and BEING AT HOME, with our communities or families, to take up again the possibilities for silence and interiority; to value the importance of many of the daily relationships in our lives, to encounter more calm in the spaces of community prayer, at mealtimes...



We have the opportunity to experience essential aspects of our human life and our charisma. We hope that this will become a learning experience that will reconfigure our lifestyles and choices.

West Africa Br Cyprian Gandebo, Superior District

This story reminds me that COVID-19 is a storm which has brought untold fear, worry and uncertainty to





humanity. I am, therefore, encouraged to trust in Jesus even amidst a stormy COVID-19. Jesus will certainly take us through the stormy waters. It is also certain that the pandemic will come and pass like other plagues. More so, Jesus has encouraged us not to panic, for God is a faithful God. He will never abandon us to the epidemic. I am so certain of this because, as Don Moen sings, ‘God will prepare a way for us, where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see ...’.

Norandina Br. Diego Antón, Vice Provincial – Venezuela

As Marists and therefore as people in the midst of the world who follow God’s project offered by Jesus of Nazareth:

- We continue to trust in God. God is with everyone. We listen to God in this situation that tells us: will the values of the Gospel, the paradigms, looks, attitudes of the Gospel mark the actions taken?
 - We are men, limited and with the possibility of becoming ill.
 - Goods are for a dignified life for all, but few have many. Are those best served by the Coronavirus the richest, those who



hold power, the famous?

- We are a unity (global), we are part of the world, we are brothers of all, we are integral ecology.
- Each one is responsible for everyone and everything: universal fraternity and global communion.
- Global solidarity continues to call and to invite sharing, but... there are gestures that speak of it, but many that do not.
- It is possible to break down frontiers in order to think as one single land, where we are all brothers and sisters.
- The call to universal brotherhood and the sharing of goods (money, knowledge, research, help...)
- The good practices of some are copied by others. It is better to share, not to compete.

Australia Br. Peter Carroll, Provincial

Human compassion, dignity, freedom, respect and forgiveness

have even greater resonance today as we fight this terrible disease. How we care for and support the most vulnerable in our community is the test of our humanity in times of crisis.



CUBA

MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE IN THE LAVALLA COMMUNITY200> HOLGUÍN

The community of the Lavalla200> Project in Holguín, Cuba, was opened in 2019 and is located in the southeast of the country, a city situated about 700 km from Havana or 500 km from the nearest Marist presence in Cienfuegos. The community includes Brothers Jong Acosta (East Asia), Jorge Gaio (Brasil Centro-Sul), and the couple Ricardo Miño Barreno and Sylvia Margarita Pérez (Santa María de los Andes).

We quote from a letter recently sent by the members of the community.

Dear Marists of Champagnat

Receive from this beautiful Caribbean land, a warm greeting We are happy to be able to communicate with you during this Lenten season, a time of reflection, conversion and prayer. We find ourselves before the pandemic of the coronavirus, where we realize that, in the face of adversity, human beings recognize their insignificance and even their inability to “want and not be able to”. Perhaps it is an occasion to recognize the Lord inwardly and to convert ourselves more and more, and effectively, to Him. At this time we live it by “staying at home”. The “Montagne” community continues with the task of building community, that is, of becoming brothers and sisters in this setting, where we feel called to live together in respect, solidarity and freedom. Where the Spirit of Jesus animates us every day. We came here from different backgrounds, a Filipino, a Brazilian and two Ecuadorians with half a lifetime in Bolivia. Marists, brothers and laypeople, living interculturality and internationality for a new beginning, we see it as a beautiful opportunity and from there, as a gift and a task. At the beginning of the year, we carried out a community evaluation and re-established the Plan of Community Life, as well as adjusting the initiatives and mission objectives. We feel that our community is a mystery which we have to contemplate and welcome with a heart full of recognition and faith. It has much that is human and divine: weaknesses and strengths,



as well as joy, creativity and hope. As an open community, we commit ourselves to those who are on the periphery of life, to come back later and place them in our reflections and prayers. Personal and community prayer has always been an experience of being with and in the Lord, so that He may pray in us, and amidst distractions and fatigue, may invade our life, comfort it, guide it and make our whole existence belong to Him always. After the January holidays, we returned with renewed enthusiasm to continue with the mission. In the peripheral areas where we work: La Colorada, Cacocum, Cristino Naranjo, Las Juanitas and Limpio Chiquito, there are children, adolescents and young people at personal and social risk; for them, we promote socio-cultural activities: musical instruments, choir, dance and theatre, after school work.

We have already held small mission animation concerts in several parishes. It is an enriching experience for the children in the workshops. We also promote activities in sports, strengthening existing groups and generating new ones, whether or not linked to the ecclesial communities. We promote leadership, the use of free time, the prevention of vices, physical development and team work. We support the Diocesan Commission of Adolescents, Youth and Young People which is composed of young people and animators from different religious congregations who collaborate in the formation, animation and accompaniment of groups that strengthen human bonds, the development of the life project and the personal and community following of Jesus Christ, promoting areas of spirituality and communion, placing themselves at the

service and practicing the testimony in daily life, with the object of announcing the Gospel, through meetings, retreats, subsidies, vigils, walks and missions.

We also collaborate in the Diocesan Mission Commission, promoting missionary childhood and adolescence: formation of animators, aids and meetings. We also support the animation of the diocesan assemblies. We seek to promote over-all pastoral care, ecclesial dynamism, lay formation, spirituality, leadership and a commitment to evangelization in the Church and society.

In La Colorada, Cacocum, Cristino Naranjo, Las Juanitas and Limpio Chiquito, there are children, adolescents and young people at personal and social risk; for them, we promote socio-cultural activities: musical instruments, choir, dance and theatre, after school work. We have already held small mission anima-

tion concerts in several parishes. It is an enriching experience for the children in the workshops. We also promote activities in sports, strengthening existing groups and generating new ones, linked or not to the ecclesial communities. We promote protagonism, the use of free time, the prevention of vices, physical development and team work.

At the moment we are carrying out a focused diagnosis of the existing undertakings to carry out training and counselling services for economic initiatives in line with the programmes already existing in other dioceses. We are also developing a solidarity economy group for the elaboration and commercialization of handicrafts, composed of young adults. We had the opportunity to share time with Brothers Jeff and Fachi, who helped us to experience fraternity, building areas of communion. We became aware of

the project that we have to live in this historic moment, being resilient, promoting dialogue and good humour. We were also visited by Brother Manuel, Administrator of the Province of Central America. Thank you for your accompaniment and for being so approachable.

Br. Jong Acosta has finished his time in the Lavalla200> Programme and will soon return to his Province of origin, when this becomes possible. As a community we thank God and him for his presence among us. Sharing life all this time has enriched us all. We wish him all the best in the new phase which is beginning.

United in Jesus, Mary and Champagnat

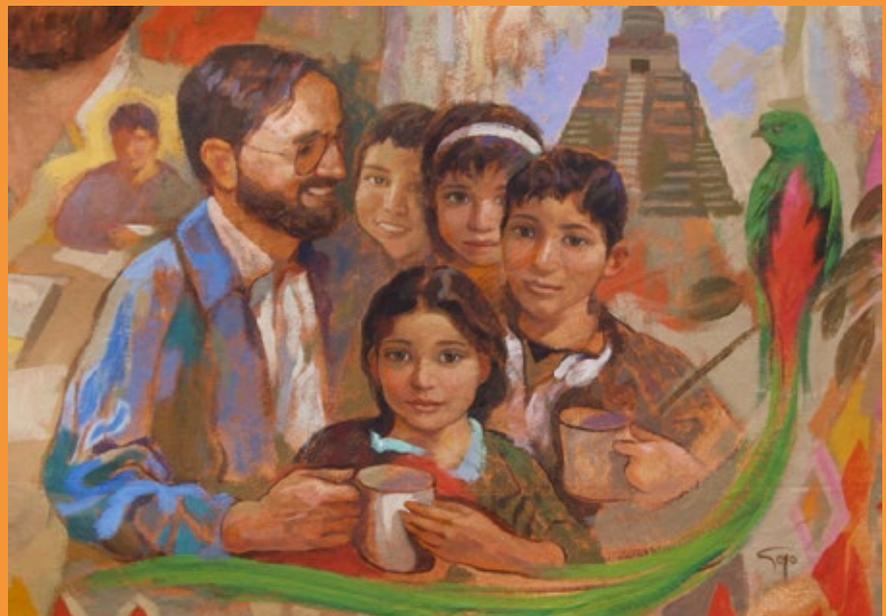
Jorge Gaio, Jong Acosta, Sylvia Pérez
and Ricardo Miño
Community "Montagne" Lavalla200>
Holguín, Cuba

29 APRIL: MEMORY OF BR. MOISÉS CISNEROS

Brother Moisés Cisneros was born on 12 August 1945 in Quintana de Raneros (León), Spain, to a family who knew how to instill in all of its children a deep sense of life and of the Catholic faith, a legacy that was already a family tradition and way of life. He began his apostolate in El Salvador at the San Alfonso School. During his time at the Liceo Salvadoreño, he made a beautiful projection in the community of Atehuán. He was founder of the community of Chichicastenango. Being director of the Marist School of Guatemala, in zone 6, he was assassinated in his office on 29 April 1991.

With his violent death he left the memory of his dedication and self giving to the simple people of Ateos, Chichi and Zone 6; memory of the intense concern for the young brothers of his community and of his 25 years as an apostle among Central American children and youth. From his faithfulness up to his death, he confirmed the Gospel verse: "If the grain of wheat does not fall to the ground and die, it is unfruitful, but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

15 May 2017: Beginning of the cause of beatification of Brother Moisés Cisneros



SYRIA

BLUE MARISTS ASSIST PEOPLE WHO ARE DEPRIVED OF ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19



Due to the measures implemented in Syria to limit the spread of the Coronavirus, many elderly, sick or poor people have been left alone and cannot afford their basic needs. Faced with this situation, the [Blue Marists](#) are providing assistance to a group of people living in difficult economic and social conditions.

“During this time of pandemic and confinement, we Blue Marists are sensitive to the situation of the elderly, most of whom are isolated, destitute, disabled or ill,” says the Marists on [their Facebook page](#).

In this period of health crisis, the programme funded by [Misean Cara](#), through the mediation of the [Institute's NGO, FMSI](#), is also helping vulnerable elderly people, by distributing food and other basic needs. Five vulnerable older women have been selected

to work in the kitchen and prepare meals. One man is in charge of the necessary supplies, while Marist volunteers are in charge of distributing the food. The staff work under the supervision of Ms. Leyla Ataki Moussalli, one of the leaders of the [Blue Marists](#).

MISEAN CARA

This is an Irish organization which, in collaboration with the Government Agency “Irish Aid”, finances solidarity and development projects of missionary congregations. The Marist Brothers, through [FMSI](#), also work in collaboration with [Misean Cara](#).



Fondazione Marista
per la Solidarietà
Internazionale Onlus
FMSI
Per il Bene dei Bambini



misean cara
Mission Support from Ireland

SOUTH AFRICA

BOOK RECOUNTS THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID ERA SEGREGATION IN EDUCATION

"The Open School Era (1976 – 1986)" is the title of a book published in recent days by Marist Brothers from the province of Southern Africa. The work deals with the fight against separate education during the South African apartheid era and the role that the Marists – along with other Catholic congregations – played in favor of race-neutral education.

The book was written by Brother Jude Peitense in collaboration with Mrs. Robyn Picas.

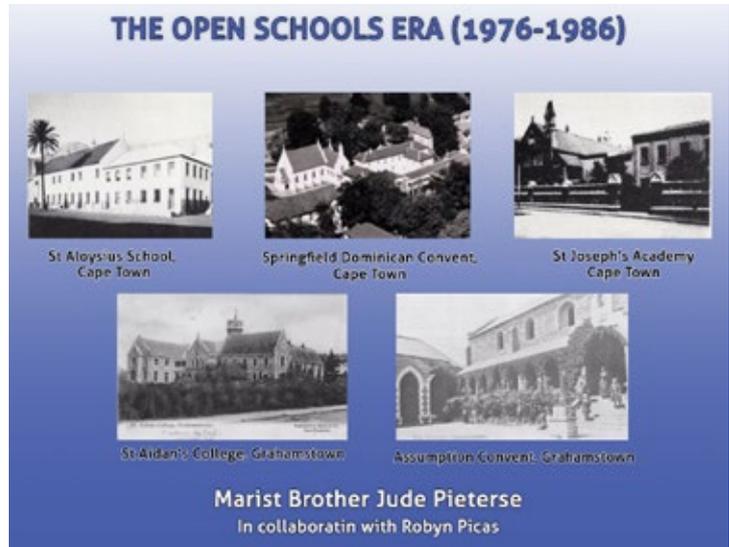
Brother Jude was a teacher and later Head at the former Marist Brothers College in Port Elizabeth in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At the end of 1974, he was appointed Provincial Superior of the then South African Province. In a decade-long collaborative process with leaders of other religious teaching congregations, he promoted the "opening" of segregated church schools to all "races". It was a turbulent period in the history of South Africa. The struggle involved countless meetings with political and church leaders until legislation was eventually altered to allow for "open" schooling. At the end of his term as Provincial Superior, the Catholic Bishops of Southern Africa initiated the Catholic Institute of Education, appointing Br Jude as its founding Director. Three years later, the same group of Bishops appointed Br Jude as their Secretary General, a key position during the final years of apartheid and the early years of a democratic South Africa.

In 2017, St Augustine College (a Catholic Tertiary Institution) recognised his achievements for the "common good" in South African society by conferring on him their "Bonum Comune" award, their equivalent of an honorary doctorate. Mrs. Robyn Picas, who collaborated for a full year in producing the publication, worked for many years as a teacher and later head of the Primary School at Sacred Heart Marist College in Johannesburg.

In a video presentation the book, Br Mario Colussi recalls how, in the late 1970s, Br Jude and his Council opened up senior administrative positions in our educational institutions to lay persons, thereby fostering the promotion of Champagnat's spirituality and eventually "Lay Marists". The presentation of the book can be found at the following video:

Marist schools in South Africa

The Brothers arrived in Cape Town in 1867 and founded the



first two schools there. Today there are five Marist schools: St Henry's in Durban; St Joseph's in Rondebosch, Cape Town; as well as St David's, Inanda, Sacred Heart, Observatory and Marian College, Linmeyer – all in Johannesburg.

In the 1990's, eight of Nelson Mandela's grandchildren studied at Sacred Heart College, one of the three Marist schools in Johannesburg. At that time, the college had a significant number of black students. When interviewed by Br Jude Peitense, Br Joseph Walton (director of the college during that period), recalled that Mandela came to school both before and after being elected president of South Africa.

Those interested in purchasing a copy of the book can contact Br Mario Colussi at the following address: mario.colussi@marist.org.za



MAY 1ST, RELIGIOUS BROTHER'S DAY



In conjunction with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, the Conference of Major Superiors of the United States has been celebrating the feast of the Religious Brother for some years now. Also in other countries, the Marist Brothers are promoting the celebration of this feast, together with other congregations of Brothers, and they take advantage of this date to recall the importance of this vocation within the Church, to pray for the Brothers and to spread this style of life.

On this day, we bring to mind the Church's document on the vocation of the Religious Brother (Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church – and you are all Brothers: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#) | [Italiano](#)) and also the [Rule of Life of the Marist Brothers](#).

Below are some resources prepared for that day by the Provinces of the United States and Australia.

United States

Religious brothers day guide – Celebrating the life and vocation of Religious Brothers: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Italiano](#)

Australia

Prayer for communities to use and adapt for this day ([Download PDF](#))

1st May: short video released on our Vocations Social Media platforms

- Facebook: Marist Brothers Life ([@MaristVocations](#))
- Instagram: Marist Brothers Life Aus ([@fmsbrothers](#))



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