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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

THE ROAD AHEAD FOR THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF MARIST SCHOOLS

The idea of launching the Global Network of Marist schools originates from the last General Chapter.

To kickstart the whole idea, the General council constituted an Ad hoc committee to brainstorm on how our schools globally can work in synergy and in net.

Results of a global consultation

The first meeting of the committee in May 2019 deliberated on the understanding of networking and how to go about the Global Network of Marist Schools. The committee came up with a consultation that would announce to the Marist world that something is about to start, and their contribution and acceptance would contribute to the definition of the final product. With the help of the technology centre (TECNO PUC Crialab) of the Marist University in Porto Alegre, Brazil, a Global survey on the network was designed having the entire Marist family as targeted audience (the education coordinators, school principals, teachers, Marist students and their families)

Focus groups also took part in the survey from the different regions of the Institute. The results of the survey were collated using statistical tools and the results were analysed. The result is here by presented as a feedback to your participation and collaboration toward the establishment of the Global Network of Marist Schools.

In all, 15.956 principals, teachers, administrators, students and families representing 58 countries took part in the survey while 205 directors and teachers in 26 groups, representing 14 provinces and 1 district serve as the focus groups.

The results were first shared with the leaders of the Administrative Units during their meeting with the General Council in the first week of March 2020. The comprehensive result of the survey can now be downloaded from the following links: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)



GLOBAL NETWORK OF MARIST SCHOOLS

Global Survey
September - November 2019



Preparations for the launching of the network

Other activities for the network are ongoing with the Ad hoc committee having

online meetings despite the pandemic. Preparations for the launching of the network is a continuous discussion into 2021.

The project of a Network of Marist Schools is an example of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration (2017-2025) and is in line with the call of the XXII General Chapter to set up mission networks at all levels that promote innovation and renewal in our education and evangelisation practices.

WEBINAR ON SCENARIOS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NETWORK OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To create synergy in this extraordinary moment of crisis caused by COVID-19, the International Marist Network of Institutions of Higher Education is promoting a Webinar in which specialists will present the scenarios and opportunities that the crisis represents for the Network. The focus will be on debate on the future of the pedagogical action of the Institutions of Higher Education and also on the proposals for collaborative actions between the Institutions of Higher Education of the Network.

“We are living, as a society, in an atypical moment which has challenged people and institutions,” said Br. Manuir Mentges, President of the Network’s Executive Committee. “The present moment calls us to a ‘new normality’, with greater integration, projects between universities, exchange of experiences, understanding our belonging to the Marist Network as a possibility of promoting Marist Higher Education”, underlined Brother Manuir.

Details concerning the Webinar

The Webinar will be held on 14 May at 14:00 (GMT-3). The event will be held via this link: <https://forms.gle/TVfts6VBX-J7H51yw7>.

The opening of the meeting will be carried out by Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General of the Institute, and will be attended by professors from the PUC of Rio Grande do Sul, the PUC of Paraná and the Marcellin Champagnat University of Peru.

1st Webinar of the Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education
Scenarios and opportunities for the Marist International Network of institutions of Higher Education.

Academic organization in times of pandemic: Building possibilities
Prof. Dr. Adriana Justin Carneiro Kampff
 Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS) - Brazil

Marist HEIs in the post-pandemic context: scenarios and perspectives
Prof. Dr. Bro. Marino Latorre Ariño
 Director of the Postgraduate School of Universidad Marcellino Champagnat (UMCP) - Peru

Online Graduation Pathways: sharing experiences
Prof. Dr. Vidal Martins
 Vice-Rector of the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR) - Brazil

Moderator
Bro. Manuir José Mentges
 President of the Executive Committee of Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education

May 14th at 2 pm (GMT-3)

On the Zoom platform, accessing this link.

Rede Marista Internacional
 de Instituições de Educação Superior

Higher Education with the charisma of Champagnat

The Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) encompasses all the works of Shared Mission of the brothers and laypeople of the different Provinces of the Marist Institute. The network is accompanied, on the part of the General Administration, by the Institute’s Secretariat for Education and Evangelization.

It was inaugurated in November 2004, when representatives of various institutions met in Curitiba to reflect on the role of Marist Institutions of Higher Education in the Marist Mission.

Appointed in 2019, the current Executive Committee comprises the following: Br. Manuir Mentges, Dean of Undergraduate and Continuing Education at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS) – President and member of the Committee – representing the Portuguese speakers; Br. David Hall, Dean of the Catholic University of Australia, representing the English speakers and Br. Roberto Méndez Lopés, Rector of the Marist University of Querétaro, representing the Spanish speakers.

CHILE

The Marist school of La Pintana has launched Radio Marcellin Champagnat. The objective is to reach all students equally during their confinement, especially those who have limited access to the internet or lack technological resources.

SOUTH AFRICA

Members of the LaValla200> community – in partnership with some volunteers from San Vincent de Paul are doing their best to support hungry people during the COVID19 lockdown. They deliver food parcels to Malawian nationals and they also support 3 neighborhood soup kitchens across Cape Town area.

BRAZIL: FAMILIES AT HOME

To help different families understand and overcome the challenges, the Marist Child Protection Centre launched a web series, with the support of the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul and Umbrasil. The first six videos are already available on [Youtube](#).

CENTRAL AMERICA

Every Saturday in May, the Province is organizing a virtual meeting with Mary. The initiative “A moment with our Good Mother”, begins at 6:00 p.m. (Guatemala), through the Maristas América Central Facebook page, and is a place for sharing with the Marist family.

GLOBAL FAMILY

“There will be days when we will not know what to do, but we must remember that we are here to be instruments of something greater”, were the words of Brother Ernesto Sánchez during a Webinar with the Province of Compostela on the theme of walking as a global Marist family in the times of [COVID-19](#).



MALAWI

PROMOTING THE EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS TO PREVENT SCHOOL DROPOUT



Worried for the girl situation in Malawi, the Marists of Champagnat are currently implementing two projects in Malawi that have as main objective the empowerment of girls through education to overcome gender-based violence and child marriage. The two Marist projects – “Girls’ empowerment Clubs at St Charles Lwanga Open School” and “Likuni Mothers’ Group” – aim at increasing school retention and completion rates among girls. According to the 2018 population and housing census in Malawi, nearly 4 out of 10 girls marry before the age of 18, while 3 out of 10 girls have their first child before the age of 18. The project Likuni Mothers’ Group provides trainings for women to help them to

develop skills. Part of the Mothers group is formed by women who when they were adolescents abandoned the school and who now have restarted their studies thanks for the Open School program. The Marists work in collaboration with other religious leaders and local institutions that promote the rights of children in Malawi, such as the Authority for Child Protection and the Youth Net Counselling, a local organization focused on advancing the welfare of the disadvantaged groups of society especially girls and women. For the first two months (January and February 2020), awareness campaigns have been conducted within the St Charles Lwanga Secondary School as part of the project Girls’ Empowerment Clubs. On the other hand, the Mothers’ Group at Likuni has conducted meetings to identify girls who have abandoned school or at risk of dropping out: the aim is to bring them back into the classroom and support them through a development plan. Both projects, “Girls’ empowerment Clubs at St Charles Lwanga Open School and Likuni Mothers’ Group”, were funded by [Misean Cara](#) with the support of [FMSI](#). Br. Francis Jumbwe runs them in synergy with New Horizons programme that involves the whole Province of Southern Africa.

marist world

PHILIPPINES: MAPAC GRADUTION WITH THE COVID-19

THAILAND: MARIST CENTRE FOR MIGRANTS, SAMUT SAKHON – VISITING TO THE STUDENTS

GENERAL HOUSE: CELEBRATION OF MOTHER'S DAY IN THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION



ECUADOR: COMMUNITY OF QUITO

PHILIPPINES: THE MARIST COMMUNITY OF DADIANGAS IN GENERAL SANTOS CITY

SRI LANKA: TUDELLA NOVITIATE

SPAIN

A SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS IN LOS MOLINOS

The hostel that the Marist Province of Ibérica has in the town of Los Molinos, in the northern mountains of Madrid, has been serving for a month and a half as a refuge for many people who do not have a home. Since 25 March, the building that usually hosts excursions and gatherings of young people from Marist schools has become the home of more than sixty users, as the Red Cross, the NGO in charge of the project, calls them.

In addition to the sad news of the deaths and infections of the COVID-19 virus in the last two months, the pandemic has generated an unprecedented economic crisis in Spain with the loss of almost one million jobs. The Red Cross centres have been overwhelmed and the Marist house of Los Molinos has been opened



as a support centre, at the request of the Community of Madrid, to welcome many people whom the crisis has left on the streets.

Once assisted by the Red Cross and referred to our centre, users have three meals, a bunk bed and a library (locat-

ed where the oratory used to be). "The maintenance is covered. Besides, there are some lockers and they are given new clothes which we have bought or that have been donated to us", explains Loizna El-Bohdidi, social worker and director of the project.

SOUTH AFRICA

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT DISTANCE LEARNING IN JOHANNESBURG

Sacred Heart College in Johannesburg is one of the five Marist Schools in South Africa, Province of Southern Africa. There are 660 students from Creche (6 months) to Grade 12. Around 123 people work in their formation. The school has been closed since 17 March 2020 and the students are learning away from school.

Distance learning

As soon as it became clear that the Covid-19 pandemic would affect schooling, we our College discussed how we would continue classes. In the high school and in grade 6 the teachers were familiar with Google Classroom and that's the technology they went with. In the preschool they had used a platform called Seesaw, but in the end mainly used WhatsApp. In the primary school, study packs and workbooks were sent home and teachers made use of email, the school's app, phone calls and WhatsApp. We decided from the outset that we would make it personal and include weekly phone calls to the parents, as well make the services of the school counsellor available.

Communicating with parents on WhatsApp was effective. In reviewing our programme one teacher said: "I really got to know our parents and our families... we have become so close." A parent said: "Thank you for handling the class's transition to online study so effectively. What could have easily been 'remote' schooling was a very connected and vibrant experience for Tim." Feedback from the children, parents and guardians during these three weeks was that many of the students missed the structure of school, as well as the sport and other activities they were used to.

While distance education, particularly online learning, was appropriate for older children, it wasn't always the best way for younger children to learn. Not all children have their parents at home throughout the day, which meant they didn't have regular adult supervision. Some people may argue that children might have better spent the day cooking, doing household chores, exploring nature and participating in meaningful play. But our grade 1 teachers were creative and even assessed the children's reading over the phone.

What we have learned at Sacred Heart College

The weeks of teaching from a distance has shown us what



works and what doesn't for both the children and parents. It has also allowed us to better understand the pace at which work gets done.

To summarise, over these weeks we have learned that: Personal contact is important to ensure that children feel connected to their teachers and classmates.

Most teachers are flexible and can learn new technologies and approaches quickly.

Teachers are able to do the best with the platforms they know. The familiarity and ease of WhatsApp groups worked well for quick, short communication between teachers and parents. Teachers must be empathetic and assign reasonable amounts of work and realise that children have other classes and other things to do at home.

Children of different ages and abilities participate differently. Children who struggle in class, have difficulty concentrating and don't submit work tend to do the same when learning online. Different approaches are needed with different age groups. Younger children appear to thrive more with more immediate contact (synchronous learning).

Getting feedback from students, staff and parents is important to understand what works and what needs to be changed. These are unprecedented times and we must respond as best we can. It is crucial that in addition to worrying about the effect on teaching and learning, we think about the psychosocial needs of children too.

Mark Potterton
Principal of the Primary School

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

SOLIDARITY SECRETARIAT WORKING ON PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REPORT

It was in January 2020, in a meeting between several organizations, we thought of jointly developing the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Christians Brothers, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, International Catholic Centre of Geneva and Marist Brothers – through the Secretariat of Solidarity – we started work on this new project.

In the course of these months we have held several meetings to create a draft of the project, as well as the budget needed to carry it out. At the same time, we have initiated contacts with various agencies in the country. In this way the work begins to develop in different areas: budget preparation, draft activities, contact with the different agencies, contact with other institutions that may join the project, proposals for dates... This is a project that wishes to work in a network, in coordination with different associations based in Geneva and with representation before the United Nations and those in the field. This type of project, in cooperation, when presented to the permanent missions of the different countries, is more relevant because it is a project supported and developed by several institutions. So, in this way, we Marists – through the advocacy work developed by the General Administration's Bureau of Solidarity – continue to take steps in the work of Human Rights in different parts of the world.

Another of the steps being taken in recent weeks is concerned with raising funds. To achieve this, FMSI is actively collaborating in the project. Likewise, there is communication with the District



of Melanesia, so that relationships and coordination can be as fluid as possible. In Papua New Guinea, contacts are also taking place with the various local organizations that wish to join the project, as well as between those who are leading the project in Geneva and who have a presence in the country.

In this way, the Bureau of Solidarity, [FMSI](#) and the Marist District of Melanesia are meeting for the development of the project. A work through networking, in synergy, between Marists of Champagne and in collaboration with other congregations and institutions. We go forward as a Global Family in the defence of the Rights of Children.

Br. Ángel Diego

Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity

Secretariat of Solidarity

The Secretariat is a structure created in 2019 by the Marist Institute to encourage, coordinate and strengthen solidarity throughout the Marist world. This Bureau works mainly in the areas of Education in Solidarity, Children's Rights and Ecology, not forgetting other fields such as Social Work, Project Development, Refugees, Immigrants, Indigenous Peoples..

The Secretariat for Solidarity works closely with other areas of the General Administration, particularly the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, the CMI and [FMSI](#). It also coordinates and works jointly with other Religious Congregations ([Franciscans](#), [Dominicans](#), [Christian Brothers](#), [La Salle](#), the 4 branches of the Marist Family...) as well as with other entities ([BICE](#), [CCIG](#), [CRC](#)...).

Universal Periodic Review – UPR

It is a process carried out by the [Human Rights Council \(HRC\)](#).

It consists of the periodic review of the fulfillment of human rights in each of the member states of the United Nations. This process consists of the following phases:

The State presents the report about human rights in the country;

Exam and Interactive Dialogue between the State under review and the States party to the CHR and the observer States.

Adoption of the HRC report – Non-Governmental Organisations can address the State and members of the HRC orally.

The last phase involves both the State and NGOs and National Human Rights Institutes interested in implementing the recommendations.

This process constitutes a cycle that lasts four and a half years, so when this period ends the State is again examined by those who make up the HRC.

FMSI has participated in the elaboration of 44 reports, with the cooperation of other NGOs or alone (13 in America, two in Europe, 13 in Africa, nine in Oceania and seven in Asia).

BRAZIL

HENRI VERGÈS, AN ENLIGHTENED AND ENLIGHTENING LIFE

To make the life and witness of the martyrdom of our Blessed Brother Henri Vergès better known, the Centre of Marist Studies of Belo Horizonte, Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, has proposed that his image be permanently displayed in the chapels of the ecclesial communities where the Marist Brothers carry out pastoral activities. In the canonical territory of the Province there is a parish and ten ecclesial communities where Saint Marcellin Champagnat or the Good Mother has been chosen by the people as their special protector.

For the occasion, prints (size 60×42) have been made to be exhibited in the chapels, and leaflets have also been prepared with the prayer and biography of Henri Vergès, to be distributed among the people.

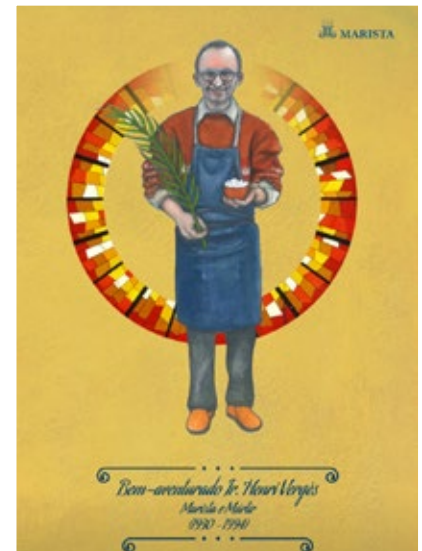
Confident that the life of our Brother Henri can be a beacon of hope for all those who approach him, it is our duty, as members of his religious family, to make him known beyond our Marist



spaces. It was Jesus himself who said: “No one lights a lamp and then puts it in a hidden place” (Luke 11:33

Br. Rafael Ferreira Júnior

[Br. Alain Delorme:](#)
[The life and martyrdom of Henri Vergès from the angle of vulnerability](#)



ARCO NORTE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING REGARDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On April 29th, 2020, the Arco Norte Regional Council took place. The main topic of the session was the impact that the region is facing due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

An important decision was made regarding all of the 2020 face-to-face meetings and reunions. All face-to-face meetings have been suspended and a new plan has to be created. Also, the conformation for the new 2021-2023 Regional Council has started to be visualized.

The Council and all the people working in its initiatives will continue working virtually, and the respective developments will be distributed throughout the region.



ECUADOR

“SHARING THE JOURNEY” IN QUITO HELPS MIGRANTS

The migratory exodus of Venezuelan citizens to almost all Latin American countries, especially to the closest ones, has been in the news for the last few years. According to INEC data, around 400,000 have settled in Ecuador. The working conditions of migrants are very precarious; they are engaged in informal trade, street sales and other unpaid activities that lend themselves to all kinds of exploitation.

The journey from Venezuela to Ecuador, by land, takes at least five days, with all the dangers that such a journey entails, especially for women and children.



Marist response

Faced with this reality, and responding to the calls of the XXII General Chapter to act audaciously in the face of emerging situations, the Marist solidarity of Ecuador has launched the programme SHARING THE JOURNEY, in the city of Quito, Ecuador.

Already more than 200 migrants, in a situation of vulnerability, have been assisted with food, spiritual-psychological accompaniment, training and legal counselling. Although the majority have been Venezuelan citizens, Colombians, Cubans, Haitians and other nationalities have also been welcomed.

On 6 June 2018, the feast of St. Marcellin, the solidarity project of the Province of Norandina was officially inaugurated.

In addition to the management team, the programme is supported by the community, volunteers, fraternities, youth groups, teachers, etc. The collaboration of national institutions committed to the vulnerable population is worth noting.

In times of COVID-19

In these days of pandemic caused by the coronavirus, which is somewhat disastrous for Ecuador, our 32 migrants are complying with the provisions and protective care implemented by the authorities. We have not had any health problems; time is dedicated to work in the gardens, sports, recreation and also to spiritual reflection, almost similar to the first Marist community.

Faced with the health problem that Ecuadorian society is experiencing and its economic consequences, a project called SOLIDARITY COVID has been implemented. With the support of the Marist community and the institutional solidarity teams, more than 300 families in a situation of vulnerability are being cared for with a basic food basket, for two months, which is the minimum time to “stay at home”.

Bro. Mariano Morante M. and the Solidarity Teams



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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

Facebook

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

Twitter

 https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat