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MARIST NEWS

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ROSEY, MAY 20, 1789

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

On May 20, 1789 – the year the French Revolution began – Marcellin Joseph Benito Champagnat was born. The place is a modest house built with stones, in the village of Rosey, which is now the property of the commune of Marlhes, 900 metres above sea level, located in the rural canton of Saint-Genest Malifaux. The largest urban centre is 23 km

away, in Saint-Etienne, on the south-eastern border of the Department of Loire. At that time, approximately 2,700 inhabitants lived in Marlhes. This was a region that was cold and not very fertile, and when Champagnat was born, there was a high rate of infant mortality (30% of annual deaths) and also a very high rate of youth mortality.

About 60% of the population were farmers. It is in this typical rural context that we find the family of Jean-Baptiste Champagnat, the father of Marcellin, a small merchant and farmer, who came to hold public office during the Revolution. His mother, Marie-Thérèse Chirat, was a housewife and took care of the couple's nine children. After Marcellin, the tenth child was born.

Years later, Father Marcellin Champagnat would recall his childhood in the request for recognition of the Institute sent to King Louis-Philippe. The letter reads as follows:

“Born in the canton of St. Genêt Malifaux, department of the Loire, it was only with infinite difficulty that I was able to read due to a lack of qualified teachers: from that moment I felt the



urgent need for an institution which could, with less expense, do in the rural areas what the Brothers of the Christian Schools do in the cities” (Letters, No. 34)

Virtual Pilgrimage

To celebrate the birth of the founder by making a pilgrimage to Rosey and Marlhes is a call to meet our origins. As we contemplate this land, its buildings and its meanings, we are invited to glimpse new dreams for the present day, just as Marcellin Champagnat did in his time.

Today and in the coming months, the Network of Marist Memory Centres invites the Marist family worldwide to make a pilgrimage to the places of the Institute's foundation. One might ask: how can this be, if the pandemic has made travel impossible? In reality, we will travel together through the Virtual Pilgrimage project, connecting our minds and hearts through the experience of a 360° virtual tour. The pilgrimage can be conducted using smart phones, tablets, virtual reality glasses or computers. In all the tours, the pilgrim will find historical information in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, as well

as environmental sounds (the murmur of the Gier, the birds, the bells...) and beautiful musical paths.

To celebrate Marcellin’s birth, the first virtual pilgrimage will be to the village of ROSEY and the church of MARLHES.

Follow the instructions:

1) To participate using smart phones and tablets: point the camera at the QR code that appears. Accept to open the link presented.

2) With the computer: click on the links below. Depending on the type of web browser, you will need to enable “play / allow sound automatically”.

Rosey



Marlhes



• ROSEY – <http://q-r.to/bak66P>

• IGREJA DE MARLHES – <http://l.ead.me/bak665>

These services are offered by the [Marist Memorial](#) of Curitiba.

ARGENTINA

PROVINCE OF CRUZ DEL SUR ACCOMPANIES FAMILIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Faced with the situation caused by the COVID-19, the Marist Community Education Centres (CECs) of the Province of Cruz del Sur (Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) are promoting works of care and co-responsibility in the different localities where they are present, with the firm and steadfast determination to work for the common good, where everyone is responsible for everyone else.

A vital and urgent task at this time is assistance with food and the distribution of basic hygiene products. The Centres are providing bags of goods, food, and working with state agencies to strengthen the aid network in the neighbourhoods.

With the measures of social isolation, the CECs are in permanent communication with the children, adolescents and their families, through their physical presence in the territory, and now also in a virtual way, through the different platforms, where they bring together recreational proposals, educational support, reflections and information on services and prevention, which seek to sustain the links in a creative, close and warm way.



The Marist Community Education Centres of the Province also continue to accompany closely those minors who are going through situations where their rights have been violated. Through social networks, each educational centre proposes different initiatives to be closer to those who need it most, with the commitment to be vital communities, and even more so, in times of pandemic.

GUATEMALA

19 BROTHERS COMPLETE THEIR JOURNEY TOWARDS PERPETUAL VOWS

At the end of the second stage of their post-novitiate, a group of nineteen brothers from the Provinces of America and Compostela were called, from the 4th February to the 13th May, to the Marist Centre of Formation in Guatemala City, in the Province of América Central, to follow a formation course in preparation for perpetual profession.

The participants are from a total of nine Provinces of the Institute: Brasil Centro-Norte (5), Brasil Centro-Sul (5), Brasil Sul-Amazônia (1), Santa María de los Andes (1 from Peru), Norandina (2 from Colombia), América Central (1), México Occidental (2), México Central (1), Compostela (1 from Portugal), and one from the United States who could not join the group because of the pandemic.

The coordinating team for the itinerary was made up of Brothers Luis Felipe González (México Central), Anacleto Peruzzo (Brasil Centro-Sul), Rodrigo Cuesta (América Central) and Gilles Lacasse (Canada).

The itinerary had as its main objective “to offer the Brothers a significant time of formation in this second stage of the Post-Novitiate, as an opportunity to refine their response according to the “new way of being Brothers” (XXI General Chapter) and to deepen and reaffirm their option of Perpetual Profession.

The course, initially programmed to take place from the 4th February to the 13th May 2020, ended on the 10th April due to the covid-19, with the mission experience and the pilgrimage to the Marist places in France being postponed.

All the Brothers were housed in the Marist Formation Centre in Guatemala City and the most important activities carried out were the following:

- A week of learning, community integration and re-organisation of daily life in the context of Guatemala. Workshops on “Personal Growth”, “Affectivity and Sexuality”.
- Workshops on “Religious Life in Latin America”, “The New Face of the Brother from the Rule of Life”, and “Protection



and Defence of the Rights of Children”.

- Two weeks of retreat: the first with the theme of the Vows in the light of the Rule of Life, and the second around Marist Apostolic Spirituality.
- Celebration of Holy Week.
- Visit to the Marist apostolates in Guatemala and to the older brothers of Champagnat House in Guatemala.

Some workshops were given by Brothers João Gutemberg (Brasil Sul-Amazônia), Sebastian Ferrarini (Brasil Sul-Amazônia), Santiago Otero (América Central). And for reasons already mentioned, Brother Patricio Pino (Santa María de los Andes) could not attend. On the other hand, the following lay Marists also supported the workshops: Leandro Miranda, Gema Ortíz, Eusebio Rubo, Gustavo Balbinot, Vicky Racancoj, and Sister Rutilla Hernández of the Saint Boniface Secular Institute.

Returning to the provinces

Given the policies adopted to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided to complete the Itinerary in advance and the Brothers were invited to take advantage of the opportunities to return to their provinces. Up until now: 11 Brothers from Brazil returned to their country on 10 April, on a humanitarian flight. Three brothers from Mexico returned to their country on 24 April on a repatriation flight. They are still in Guatemala, waiting for possibilities of returning to their respective countries: 1 Brother from El Salvador, 1 Brother from Mexico, 1 Brother from Brazil, 1 Brother from Canada, 1 Brother from Portugal, 1 Brother from Peru, 2 Brothers from Colombia.

marist world

GERMANY: ONLINE CONFERENCE WITH THE ENTIRE MARISTEN-GYMNASIUM FURTH COLLEGE



BRAZIL: MARIST SOCIAL CENTER GESMAR IN PORTO ALEGRE



AMERICAN SAMOA: FAREWELL OF BROTHERS DONALD TEIXEIRA AND KEVIN O'MALLEY



BRAZIL: DELIVERY OF DONATIONS TO STUDENTS OF THE MARIST SOCIAL CENTER APARECIDA DAS ÁGUAS



UNITED STATES: CHICAGO, NEW STUDENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SARAH HUGHES AND PRESIDENT JACK HARMON



COLOMBIA: NOVITIATE OF "LA VALLA" IN MEDELLÍN

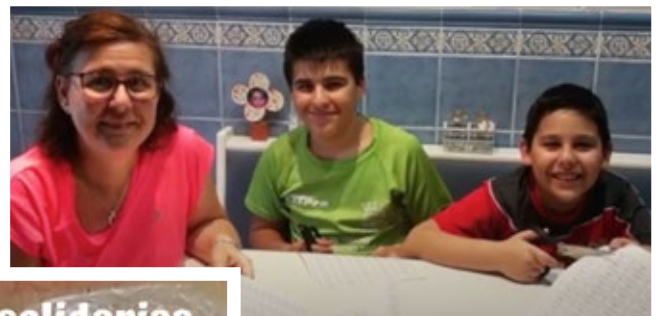
SPAIN

SOLIDARITY MASKS IN THE IBERICA PROVINCE

A few weeks ago, the Iberica office of the Marist development agency SED initiated a new project with the “Mothers in Solidarity” network operating in the Iberica Province schools. The project aimed to produce masks and distribute them in the most needy localities. Other groups have since joined the initiative: the “Families in Solidarity” group from Marist College, Villalba; the PASOS group from San José del Parque school, Madrid; and the “Mothers in Solidarity” groups from the Marist schools in Guadalajara and Talavera de la Reina.

In Villalba, masks have already been made and delivered to “Caritas de la Sierra”. They share their solidarity experience through [this video](#).

As for the PASOS group in San José del Parque, they are collaborating with the Canillejas Health Centre and,



in addition to masks, they are producing protective aprons. The fabric and material used (TNT in technical terms) is specifically designed for the healthcare field:

With the support of the Edelvives Foundation, SED Ibérica is covering the cost of all materials purchased to carry out this admirable initiative.

PORTUGAL

“CASA DA CRIANÇA OF TIRES”: EDUCATING TOWARDS FREEDOM



At the “Casa da Criança” (Children's Home) in Tires, Cascais, Portugal, there are children of prisoners or children who are victims of neglect, abuse and maltreatment. In this temporary home, professionals and volunteers are a sort of second family: they protect, educate and take care of their needs, providing conditions that promote children's rights, especially the right to have a home and a family.

At present, in overcrowded conditions, the House accommodates 13 children, who are looked after by 12 volunteers, who work on a rotational basis.

Up to the age of three, the children live with their mothers in the Prison of Neumáticos, a few metres from the Casa da Criança, and although they are adequately protected, they grow up in a prison atmosphere. At the age of three, due to the lack of a family background, they move into the Marist Centre of Social Inclusion.

Based on multidisciplinary intervention, the mission of the Home is to repair and rehabilitate in a welcoming and safe environment, which provides a therapeutic approach and focuses on the socialization, education, training and development of the children. At the same time, it promotes intervention in the prison environment, with the family of these children, providing the inmates, mothers and fathers, with personal, social and parental skills with the ultimate goal of reversing the destructive trend of their life path, the cycle and repetition of crime.

Since its inauguration in 2001, the institution, which is part of the Champagnat Foundation of the Marist Province of Compostela, has accommodated more than 120 children. Some stay longer than others, depending on the penal situation of their parents.

During the period of Coronavirus

Since March 16th we have been forced to remain in the home.

The way these children received this news increased our responsibility and commitment, highlighting our family spirit and sense of presence with those who are, more than our work, our purpose in life. We had a fantastic team that mobilized quickly

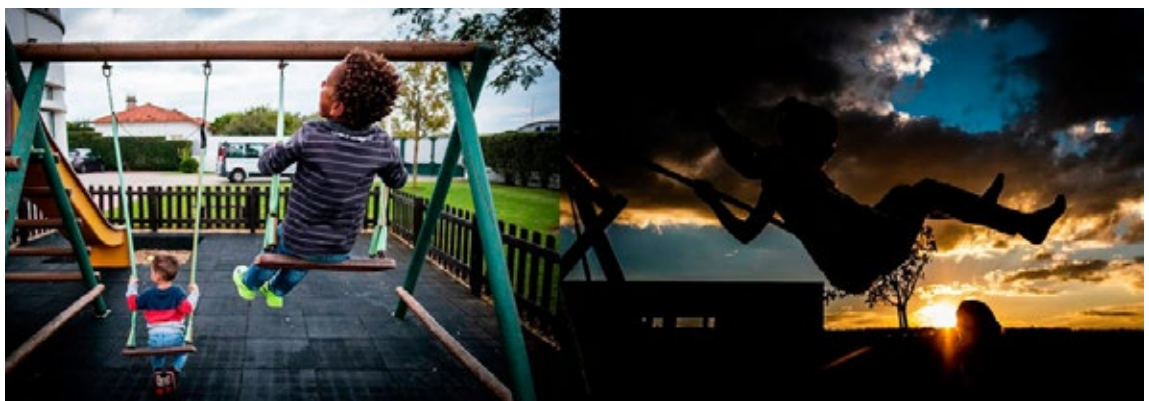
to ensure that the children's passage through this new situation was serene and safe and that the memory of this period of their lives was therefore be the best possible, although with some detriment to their personal lives. So we lived every day in this house made of love that characterizes a FAMILY.

Our routines were reorganized, taking into account the need to maintain the carrying out of schoolwork, physical activity, games and the emotional bond with our family, ensuring the greatest possible normality and safeguarding the emotional stability of everyone: the children and the adults who care for them. We are separated from the world but not from what characterizes us. We continue to play, share smiles and laughter, roll on the grass, watch the shape of the clouds and end our day with the best sunset in the world. And every day we start again! The biggest difficulty for children at this stage is not being with their family, but we manage to ensure that all families have the opportunity to talk to their children, by video link, providing them with the necessary resources. Today and always, the children accommodated in the “Casa da Criança de Tires” can count on this “imaginary” family, this “storytelling” family which, as in fables and the most beautiful stories, will make the end of their story the traditional “and they lived happily ever after”. We always have a smile on our lips, exchanging looks, with a big hug, a thanks and an “I love you very much”! The truth is simple: what remains every day is the love that we have here among us; it is having a refuge where we can rest our souls while we wait for “the corona to disappear”, as they say! When we are asked for social isolation, we are closer than ever! And that is one of the happiest paradoxes of all time! And it is so essential and can be so visible!

Carla Nunes Semedo, Technical Director of the “Casa da Criança de Tires”

Carla Nunes Semedo

Directora técnica de la “Casa da Criança de Tires”



GENERAL HOUSE

REPRESENTATIVES OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS REFLECTED ON THE CHALLENGE OF EDUCATING DURING THE COVID-19 PERIOD

From May 4 to 6, the International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC) that groups Catholic education throughout the world held online interactive sessions on Covid-19. During the videoconference Br. Mark Omede, Co-Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, and Diugar Matera, secretary of the Secretariat, represented the Marist Institute, which is associated member of the OIEC.

The meeting led by Philippe Richard, Secretary General of the OIEC was convoked to listen to the experiences of members on the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on the catholic education and mission

An overview of the events around the world was shared by Quentin Wodon, Lead Economist with the Education Global Practice at the World Bank, who work voluntarily with the OIEC office. He talked about the coronavirus crisis and



the challenges faced by the catholic schools in many countries.

Mr. Wodon analyzed the results of the online survey (carried out by members of the OIEC) on how the pandemic is affecting the catholic education. Results were derived from 30 countries. 78% are reaching out to the pupils and students through distance learning by internet. However, Africa is slower; some are using the radio, mobile phones and other means. Some countries are adapting the curriculum for September.

Some countries are not specific about the re-opening dates but hope to do so before the end of the year. Some countries are also expressing concern on the impact on enrolments. Many are worried that enrolments will drop by 30%. To give more information about how to manage the situation there are some writings to be shared in the next days, he announced.

The representatives spoke about the challenges they have in responding during the health emergency, developing new online study projects, difficulties of parents in paying pensions, lack of access to Internet and technological resources by some students, expectations about the success of the virtual learning on the part of the parents, and etcetera.



GENERAL HOUSE

2020 LAVALLA200> CANDIDATES

We have begun our preparation and discernment program for 8 new candidates: Denise Hernández Sánchez, Esmeralda Caudel, Mariana Moroñes and Mayra Ileana Gutiérrez Márquez (Mexico); Ruben Galego Montero and Silvia Ines Martinez Garcia (a couple – Spain); Maria Liezel Igoy (Philippines); Br Luis Sanz de Diego (Chile). Despite the limitations of the new world we are entering, they are all keen to make a commitment to join an international community from later this year.

Since we are unable this year to gather in one place, we have group meetings on Zoom, with translation into Spanish and English and with the possibility of going into small groups. The team, the candidates and the translators are learning how to manage the technology along the way.

There is a 13 hour time difference between Manila and Guadalajara, so we are limited in the hours available when everyone is awake! We also have personal accompaniment with each one. At the beginning of this orientation week, Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, joined us, from his office, to welcome and encourage the group who spoke afterwards of their appreciation for his words. Also, all six existing communities joined the group on one day to greet the candidates and to share a little of their experience. Amazingly, we had visual contact except for



Holguín (Cuba) and Tabatinga (Brazil) where the internet is too slow and had to use Whatsapp voice calls.

Our regular presenters have made themselves available to conduct their 3-day workshops online over the coming two months of the program— a novel experience for some of them.

All going well, Br Ernesto will be able to determine their appointments and commission them by late July, knowing that they will have to wait until much later in the year to get visas and travel.

We feel really privileged to be in touch with the enthusiasm and delight of these intending Marist missionaries for our times.

Lavalla200> team

Brothers Valdicer Fachi, Ángel Medina and Jeff Crowe



VATICAN

LAUDATO SI' WEEK, 16-24 MAY:
EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED

Versary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home. The theme of the week is "everything is connected."

Following Pope Francis' invitation to join Laudato Si' Week, Catholics everywhere will reflect and prepare for action 16-24 May.

Videos:

[Pope Francis' invitation](#)

[Laudato Si' Week: Build a better world together](#)

This week launches a year-long journey of transformation, as we grow through the crisis of the current moment by praying, reflecting, and preparing together for a better world to come tomorrow.



SOUTH AFRICA

MARIST MERCY CARE DISTRIBUTES FOOD TO NEEDY FAMILIES STRICKEN BY COVID-19

Marist Mercy Care's [The Place of Mercy and Hope](#), located in a rural town in Addo, Eastern Cape, South Africa, took the initiative to provide food parcels and essentials to the surrounding formal and informal settlements to help thousands of poor people stricken by the coronavirus lockdown.

Until 4 May, they have provided 42,000 meals to the families who since the beginning of restrictions have suffered more than ever before.

In just over fourteen years, The Place of Mercy and Hope, under the banner Marist Mercy Care, have done the impossible in this dusty dry rural area. They have established Early Childhood Development Centres for vulnerable children, provided guidance to primary and high schools in the Valley, built and provided computer literacy programs, established a health clinic, mobilized a group of home-based carers to care for the extremely sick in the communities, provide food to hundreds of people weekly.

Marist Mercè Care

Marist Mercy Care is a collaborative effort between the Marist Brothers, Sisters of Mercy and Lay Persons in the Sundays



River Valley, Addo, Eastern Cape, South Africa. The project assists families who are from disadvantaged communities, with a specific focus on children. Programs include a Crèche and Pre-School, Clinic, Soup Kitchens and Adult Learning programs as well as the Summer Camp.

COVID-19 Marist Mercy Care South Africa Appeal

The center is continuing its mission during the COVID-19 lockdown by alleviating the poverty of the disadvantaged communities by providing essential items such as food parcels and sanitary items utilising structures, support bases and community involvement it have built and have had in place for over 14 years. [Whatch her](#) the Covid-19 special appeal.



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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