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MARIST NEWS

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

GENERAL HOUSE

FMSI PUBLISHES ITS 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) has just published its annual report on the projects carried out, during 2019, in different countries around the world.

The report gives an overview of the main initiatives promoted by FMSI last year, such as advocacy work at the United Nations (UN), the defence of children's rights and the most important projects developed in 2019 in more than 20 countries, on 4 continents.

Throughout 2019, FMSI has worked with different countries in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. It has also focused its work on initiatives and programmes that improve the quality of life and development of children living in the margins of society, in the areas of nutrition, health and education.

Despite the global challenges, FMSI continues with its agenda and will continue to monitor and report annually on the 318 projects it carries out in a total of 60 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Americas and Europe.

The work of FMSI is based on two fundamental pillars: the first



is advocacy and training in the protection and safeguarding of children and minors; and the second, solidarity projects, which support the most disadvantaged children in their communities, ensuring them a better future. Also worthy of note is the work done on behalf of immigrant and refugee children in transit, resilience training to help young people overcome the traumatic situations they have experienced, and advocacy for children who suffer violence.

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[FMSI](#) is the foundation created by the Institute to promote and protect the rights of children. FMSI carries on its mission through activities of advocacy, lobbying with solidarity projects in the countries in which Marists are present.

FMSI was constituted in 2007 in Italy as a non-profit organization with social purpose (ONLUS).



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

It has had the special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations since 2011.

FMSI is member of: Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE), Centre Catholique International de Genève (CCIG), Child Rights Connect, Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia de Latinoamérica y El Caribe, FOCSIV (Federazione degli Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario), Observatorio Niñez y Adolescencia (ONA), Santiago de Chile.

BEATIFICATION OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

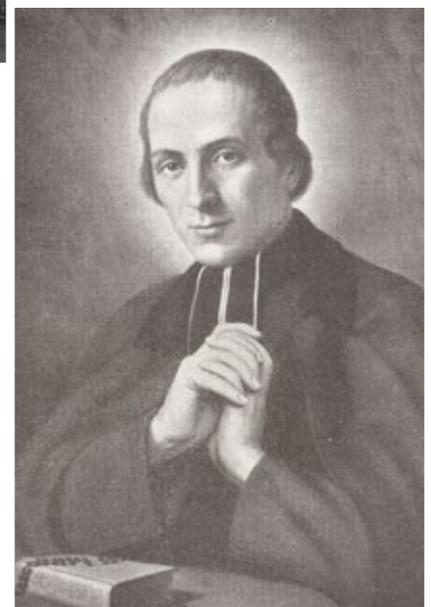
Marcellin Champagnat, our founder, was beatified in St Peter's Square on 29 May 1955. The course which led to his beatification and then to his canonisation (18 April 1999) started forty-six years after his death. The diocesan process lasted five years, then in 1896, Pope Leo XIII signed the decree for introducing his cause; it was then that Champagnat became « venerable ». Fifty-nine years later, on the solemnity of Pentecost, he was beatified at a ceremony presided over by Cardinal Tedeschini.



29 MAY 1955

"On this warm Pentecost morning, 29 May 1955, while the air is not yet heavy with the crippling heat of the Roman summer, groups of Marist Brothers, from all the provinces of the Institute, coming from 35 countries and representing as many nationalities, have been converging from all parts of the city on the basilica of Saint Peter. They are going to assist at the beatification of their Father, the Venerable Marcellin Champagnat. They number 600 chosen to represent their confrères at these grandiose ceremonies, 600 privileged ones, designated by lot or chosen by office because of their functions, or for other reasons which make it a bit confusing for them to find themselves there, in preference to so many others of equal merit. But in the end, someone has designated them and they have come.

For once, obedience will have come very easily for them. Since the evening before, one has had the impression that there are Marist Brothers all over the Eternal City, for their white rabat and black habit make them recognizable from afar and, since they



have so little time, they have been making the best of their opportunity to see the beautiful monuments of Rome.



So they are hurrying towards the basilica, happy and excited. And why shouldn't they be? It is for their beloved Father, all this display, those grand banners hung at the entrance to the basilica or in the glory of Bernini, those sumptuous decorations inside Saint Peter's; for him all the homage paid at the centre of Catholicism. The pilgrims by chance, going to Saint Peter's to take advantage of a beatification, look on them with gazes of admiration little short of envy".

BEACON OF HOPE

On Thursday 28 May, Brother João Carlos do Prado, General Councilor, will take part in a conversation on YouTube about the religious vocation. "Vocation Animation and New Horizons for Consecrated and Priestly Life" is the title of the discussion, which will take place at 17:00, Brazil time (UTC -3), promoted by the Province of Brazil. More details on the initiative can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3d6v5MP>

UNITED STATES

Last weekend, the Marist Youth 2020 weekend took place on social media. Brother Luis Ramos made a presentation on Marist identity: To Jesus through Mary. More than 60 members of the Marist family joined the presentation. Watch the full video here: <https://youtu.be/18yf-G1gPtSU>

AFRICA DAY

The Marist NGO of Spain SED dedicated a special bulletin to commemorate the feast, celebrated on Monday 25 May: "It's Africa's time. The strength of its humanity, the freshness of its culture and the energy and enthusiasm of its youth assure a future of fulfilment. Let us all work alongside them so that Africa can write its history on the very first page of our world. Read the full article here: <https://www.sed-ongd.org/diadeafrica2020/>

**SPAIN****CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF THE MARIST MISSION IN CATALONIA**

The "Rights of the Child" section of the Hermitage Province's Maristes.cat site is growing in size and content. The team working to promote the rights of the child has given a larger space to a page that already existed and has given it a more complete structure, where the project in favour of the defence of the rights of the child takes on a dimension that is coherent with the Marist educational project.

This new section, among others, presents the Marist institutional policy in this framework, the account of how rights function in educational works, the formation that is carried out in various domains, the processes of certification in which the Marists of Catalonia are immersed or the external distribution that the work in the defence of the rights of children has. It maintains other existing points, among others, the channel of contact with the Child Protection Team.

The rights of children in schools and in social works in the Province of L'Hermitage

Catalonia is part of the Hermitage Province, which includes Catalonia, France, Hungary, Greece and Algeria. The Province works in a coordinated manner in the area of protection and since 2013

has had a policy of action aimed, in a decisive and committed manner, at promoting and protecting the rights of children and young people. Always from a change of perspective that considers children as subjects of their own rights.

The professionals of the Marist educational works in the province are in constant formation and work because both in schools and in social services children and young people can find an atmosphere of sufficient confidence so that they can tell openly if they perceive or realise that they may be victims of abuse. In order for them to be able to perceive it, in the schools and social services there are sessions adapted to each age group (from 3 to 18 years of age) that permit, on the one hand, to make children and young people aware of the subject of sexual abuse, and on the other hand, to put within their grasp the tools that have been developed from the school to inform and report any situation of sexual abuse in which they may find themselves.

This intense experience in favour of children's rights in schools and social work is on the way to being officially certified by two international institutions of special solvency in this field, such as UNICEF and Keeping Children Safe.

LEBANON

FRATELLI 2020 COVID-19
HUMANITARIAN AID PROJECTwww.lasalle.org

“We haven’t been able to leave our home for a few weeks now, except to go to the grocery store and pharmacy. And now the money is just running out.”



These were a few of the words that greeted the Fratelli staff in March when staff members came to collect their salaries. Already an entire month had passed without any Fratelli programs and for our staff without work. Deciding to continue paying Fratelli’s non-contracted employees came without question but after hearing the situations in real-time as staff members came in one by one it became clear that more needed to be done.

Thus launched the start of the Fratelli 2020 COVID-19 Humanitarian Aid Project an initiative aimed at responding immediately to the unfolding COVID-19 crisis that was not only devastating the country of Lebanon but in particular the communities at the margins -mainly refugees.

Created in 2015, Fratelli is a co-sponsored collaborative project launched by the Marist and Lasallian Brothers. Seeking to serve those at the margins the project primarily focuses on serving the refugee populations here in Lebanon mainly Syrian and Iraqi as well as impoverished Lebanese families. For both religious orders, education is at the heart of their missions both as a tool to dismantle generational poverty and a path to creating positive and sustainable changes within poorer communities. The Brothers quickly realized that to educate the hearts and minds of young people bellies needed to be full and hands needed to be washed. One cannot teach an empty stomach. From this emerged an annual Humanitarian Aid project in which every spring Fratelli would offer assistance in the form of basic needs; food, access to clean water, clothes, and shelter to its families.

This year the challenge was monumental. With a pandemic sweeping the globe the Lebanese country, already crippled by a collapsing financial system, political revolutions, and crumbling infrastructure, was tittering on the brink of collapse. To prevent widespread chaos the government quickly sealed the country off and shut everything down, implemented curfew, the wearing of a facemask, and limited the movement of people across the entire country. The goal was to control the spread of the virus and prevent it from reaching the shelters the refugees lived in which would have created an explosion of cases. Currently, Lebanon has the highest refugee to citizen population in the world with “...156 per 1,000 of its inhabitants... [followed by] Jordan... with 72 per 1,000 of its population... [and] Turkey rounds off the top three with 45 per 1,000 of its people.”[1] a number that has only increased since the onset of the Syrian war which according to the World Bank in 2018, Lebanon was home to over 1,424,592 refugees, the majority of which Syrian. [2]

It is undeniable that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected refugee populations. By restricting movement and shutting down work sites refugees that rely upon and participate in a cash-based economy are cut off entirely from their source of income. By not being able to use the banking system in Lebanon refugees use cash to pay rent, purchase food and other supplies include medication. Fratelli works with just shy of 1,000 families each of which has clearly expressed the growing severity of the situation. For the world, COVID-19 will be a crisis based of health, hygiene, and medical/government infrastruc-

marist world

INDIA: SOCIAL WORK OF OUR MARIST BROTHERS IN WEST BENGAL



EAST TIMOR: MARIST FORMATION HOUSE IN BAUCAU



PHILIPPINES: BROTHERS RENEWING THEIR VOWS AT THE MAPAC



ITALY: MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY OF MANZIANA WITH THE SECRETARIAT BROTHERS TODAY



UNITED STATES: ARCHBISHOP MOLLOY HIGH SCHOOL



AUSTRALIA: DACEYVILLE COMMUNITY

tures. But for poorer populations and refugees the crisis will be one of hunger rather than COVID-19.

This year Humanitarian Aid Project is easily the largest and most quickly formed project in Fratelli's history due to the immediate needs of our families. It is composed of four parts:

- Hygiene Boxes – are filled with cleaning supplies for personal hygiene and overall home health, each box will last a family for a month, and comes with a pamphlet on how to practice good hygiene and health to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Food Parcels – contain anywhere from two to four weeks' worth of non-perishable essential foods depending on the size of the family. Essentials include salt, oil, lentils, flour, pasta, canned tuna, and more.
- Confinement Bags – come with educational and recreational activities for our students as all are confined to their homes during this period. Coloring books, small toys, balloons, and stuffed animals are provided to give students



- activities to do and parents a sense of peace.
- Educational Videos – Fratelli offers a variety of programs to its students and has transitioned all classes/programs to online platforms. Teaching teams are creating weekly videos filled with activities and educational material to keep students on track for academic success. In addition, English Classes are being taught via WhatsApp and Fratelli's Youth Programs are receiving online formation as well.

By continuing to walk alongside its families Fratelli is animating its mission of working with populations on the margins by refusing to allow the difficult moments of today from preventing pastoral care and support. To engage the hearts and minds of its students

Fratelli understands that safety, comfort, and necessities such as food must be considered priority number one. Live Jesus in Our Hearts! Forever!

This article was written by Emily Redfern, a long-term volunteer from the U.S. who is currently serving at the Fratelli Project.

CANADA

BROTHER POWELL PRIEUR (CHARLES BERNARD) – 1929-2020

Brother Powell died on 30 March 2020, at Mont Champagnat, Château-Richer, Canada. He spent a large part of his Marist life as a missionary in Africa and gave his contribution to the animation of the Institute also from Rome. Here below, Brother Jacques Langlois speaks of his life, a beacon of hope for the whole Marist family.

“A MAN GIVEN TO HIS MISSION”: this could be the title of a long biography that would follow in the footsteps of this untiring Marist so devoted to the service of education and the institute.

He was born in Saint Vincent de Paul, near Montreal, on April 13, 1929, into a family of seven boys and three girls. English was the language spoken at home. He did not learn French until he entered primary school.

He made his first vows on August 15, 1947. After a year at the scholasticate in Iberville, he was invited to continue his studies at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, where he received his B.A. with a major in science in 1952. A year of teaching followed in La Tuque. He made perpetual profession in July 1953, and a few weeks later he left Canada for Africa.

Zimbabwe (Rhodesia): a successful career

From 1953 to 1967 he was a teacher in various schools in Zimbabwe and Zambia. He made his mark at Kwekwe, a multi-racial school, where he taught for twelve years, the last two while being headmaster. His former students remember him with nostalgia both in the classroom and on the sports fields.

In November 1967 he was appointed Superior of the District of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). Quite a challenge because the adaptation after Vatican II had begun. Besides, the country had declared itself independent from Britain two years earlier, which led to the closure of the borders with Zambia. With his leadership qualities, he was the man of the hour. He negotiated the transfer of Kabwe, Zambia, to the Castile Province. In exchange, the District took over responsibility for the foundation of Dete Secondary School. Powell obtained significant grants from Misereor for this project, which would offer academic and



practical subjects.

During his third term in office Powell and his council decided to close the multi-racial school of Kwekwe for one year. The number of students of various races had dropped from 150 to 75 because of unrest in the country. The plan was to add more buildings in '76 in order to be able to accept about 300 African pupils in '77. This caused quite a controversy. A Brother criticized him in the newspapers, insisting that we should continue to witness against the white government's racial policies. Powell, already tired in his ninth year at the helm of the District, was greatly affected. Brother Basilio Rueda then asked him to go to Rome to recover.

Rome: a new horizon

God's ways are unfathomable. Powell thus found himself in Rome, where he had the opportunity to take courses in 1977. From 1978 to 1982 he worked

with Bro. Charles Howard to lay the foundations for the Social Secretariat. This was in response to the Church's call for a preferential option for the poorest. This office was looking for ways to financially support solidarity projects in developing countries. Over the years the Secretariat became the International Solidarity Office, and eventually the FMSI (Fundazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale.)

His talents were surely noticed. He was appointed General Councilor in October 1982 in order to fill a void. In the 1985 Chapter he was elected to the General Council while Bro. Charles Howard became Superior General. Brother Richard Dunleavy, also elected, said of this period: "We formed strong bonds of brotherly love and respect. Powell was a man with men, and always a brother with his brothers. He was a born leader, always seeing clearly the decisions to be made, but at the same time, always willing to listen to others for how

to achieve the goal in sight.” Speaking of their experiences together in Rome and in his travels with him to Africa and elsewhere as councilors, he notes: “I learned to appreciate and admire his strong Marist spirituality, his simple lifestyle, and his commitment to what Pope Francis calls today, those who live on the periphery.”

It was during his term as General Councilor, that he and Bro. Charles Howard became involved in a project of great importance to Marist Africa. Looking at the statistics of this continent, he found that, although there were a number of first professions each year, the total number of Brothers remained roughly the same. He concluded that post-novitiate studies in secular institutions were the cause of multiple departures. The solution envisaged: to create a common marist study centre for the whole continent, both French and English. With good training teams we could help the young Brothers to strengthen their religious spirit. He gave his heart and soul to this project, which was born in Nairobi in late 1986, with Bro. Luis Sobrado as first superior.

A parenthesis on Powell’s health. During a stay in Zimbabwe in ’85 or ’86, he visited possible sites in Harare for this international centre. One evening, after visiting a suitable place, he returned to Kutama. After retiring to his room he felt very unwell and asked for the help of F. Emmanuel Lapointe. The local hospital was consulted and recommended that he be rushed to the Trauma Centre in Harare. It’s when they got there that he suffered a massive heart attack. The entire medical team worked hard on him and managed to save his life. He was hospitalized and recovered, but some of the muscles in his heart were no longer working. He had to live with this handicap for the rest of his life, which unfortunately slowed him down.

After completing his task in Rome in 1993, he moved to the MIC (Marist International Centre), as a member of the team as well as Vice-Rector, to contribute to the training of these young Brothers. Brother Eugene Kabanguka, Rector at the time, said of him, “We owe a huge debt to our Brother Powell. He assisted me with great tact and prayer in the administration of the scholasticate. He added: “The poor people of Nairobi admired his attention and patience in listening to them when he did not know their language (Kiswahili) to help them. »

Retirement: The peaceful decline of a busy life

This period of Powell’s life began in Zimbabwe, the country

where he had invested so much effort. At first it was in Kutama from 1996 to 1999. He helped, according to local needs, being the superior of the community. From ’97, he was Deputy Superior of the District. Here, too, he found a way to reach the poor. Then in 2000 he was transferred to the provincial house on Bedford Road in Harare, providing multiple services. This was where Bro. Jude Peterse, head of the new province of Southern Africa, resided. When Powell went to the nearby mall to do errands, he no longer walked like the athlete of yesteryear.

After discernment it became clear that he needed medical follow-up, hence the need of returning to his native land. In Laval he was able to adapt with his customary discipline within the limits of his physical strength. His former comrade-in-arms, Bro. Richard Dunleavy, visited him with Bro. Philip Ouellette, and remarked, “It was great to see him doing the carpentry work on old furniture to give to the needy.” He also got involved in book binding and was the master of a novice.



When the St. Joseph’s Pavilion in Laval closed in 2013, Powell accompanied the community that moved to Trois Violettes, a new residence for the elderly, opened in Saint Jean sur Richelieu. He was busy reading, religiously doing the Gazette’s crossword puzzles, and taking walks around the house. He was hospitalized after a few falls in January 2019. It was then considered prudent to transfer him to Château-Richer where he received the care required by his condition. Remarkably, two of his former students of the 1960s went to visit him. Towards the end, the state of his heart was such that he was bedridden, “waiting,” as he said. He was ready when the end came, March 30, 2020, to join Champagnat in heaven.

Allan Robertson, one of Powell’s alumni, who had kept in touch with him until recently summed up the thoughts of all who knew him: “His death should be a celebration of his life because it has so significantly enriched the lives of many, including our own.”

Br. Jacques Langlois

SPAIN

HOGAR CHAMPAGNAT IN TORRENTE WELCOMES CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS INTO FOSTER CARE OR GUARDIANSHIP

It has been eleven years since the Province of Mediterránea opened Hogar Champagnat, which accommodates twelve children between the ages of six and eighteen. Its mission is the integral and educational care of children and adolescents in a situation of care or guardianship when they are deprived of a suitable family environment.

The team working on this project is made up of seventeen people, including the director, social worker, coordinator of educators, psychologist, educators and social integrators. In addition to cooking, cleaning, maintenance and administration.

COVID-19

In the first days of the crisis, all the professionals of the Champagnat Home found themselves in an unprecedented situation, with a lot of confused information and a group of children and adolescents with many questions with plans for the immediate future blocked by the pandemic. Many frustrations arose from the uncertainty of not knowing when they would see their friends and family again.

Already these boys and girls come with baggage loaded by different difficult circumstances, to which is added this new situation, which makes them carry an overload. At this moment, we are forced to be making sure that their baggage does not break or overflow, and we are trying to channel, as easily as possible, fun and enjoyment into their lives.

Now that the first few weeks have passed, the girls have drawn on their strength and ability to adapt to this new situation. As for the educational and auxiliary services team, it has also been a great challenge and a great responsibility, since we are the means of contact with the outside world and it is a priority to



maintain the Home as a place for protection and reduction of risks of contagion.

The future with a great deal of anticipation

Today, we look forward to the future. Our priority as an educational team these days is to manage the de-escalation of

confinement, being an example of civic responsibility, accompanying and showing preventive safety measures. Without neglecting their leisure and free time, the contact with their families through video links, their participation in the decision making of the daily operation through assemblies, etc.

Undoubtedly, this situation has strengthened our qualities as educators, forcing us to be more creative and to devise new strategies to accompany them in the daily uncertainty of how long this will last and when they will finally be able to meet with their families and friends. And without any doubt it has brought out the potential of our children more than ever, infinite fighters, capable of adapting to new situations and giving an example to adults.

Hogar Champagnat Team

CANADA

TRIBUTE TO MRS ADRIENNE RAINVILLE, A LAY MARIST AFFILIATED TO THE INSTITUTE

Last May 5th a great lady of the Marist world in the Province of Canada passed away: Mrs Adrienne Rainville, a very committed lay Marist, was made an Affiliate of the Institute in 1999.

Among other things, she was involved as a volunteer with her husband at Camp Marist of Rawdon during the summer holidays over a period of almost 20 years. Her four children attended the Camp either as campers (boys) or as monitors (girls). She was particularly concerned with the children who were most deprived materially or emotionally.

Since her daughter Brigitte had spent a year as a volunteer worker in Haiti, she and her family were actively involved in supporting the mission in this impoverished country by assisting in the preparation of future volunteers.

The members of the family (François, Bernard, Brigitte and Martine) organised



a meeting by Zoom for the alumni of Camp Marist (see the photo) in order to give her fitting testimony in the absence of a funeral. It was a moment of recognition, gratitude and joy for the gift of her life for all of us.

Brother Gerard Bachand
Provincial Animator



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