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MARIST NEWS

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NETWORK OF BURSARS PROMOTES DEBATE ON THE ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN REGION

On May 27, the forum In Times of Crisis, Let's Walk as a Global Family – Analysis of the Scenario and Management Paths, promoted by the South American Region Economy Network, was held. The event, which was held through the Teams platform, brought together about 35 participants from the Administrative Units responsible for the Marist mission in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

The afternoon of debate started with the presentation of the Econome General of the Marist Institute, Brother Libardo Garzón, who opened the theme Marists, a global family. In the sequence, the co-ordinator of the course of Economic Sciences of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), Gustavo de Moraes presented a picture of the roads travelled by the economy in Latin America up to the present time. "What were processes became abrupt and urgent movements," he said. The professor showed that, according to the latest studies and the alterations in the global market in all sectors, the concentration of economic growth is located in the Pacific Rim, which will bring consequences and a challenge for Latin America. "The current scenario shows us that we have to



be more dynamic and more creative than other places in the world".

The closing of the online event was attended by the executive director of the Marist Province of Central-South (PMBCS), June Cruz. With the panel A study of Marist management, June recalled the calls of Pope Francis for urgent situations of global crisis from the publications "Gaudete et Ensulate", "Amoris Laetitia" and "Laudato Si". He also stressed that, in the current context, it is necessary to respond to a human need based on the joint movements between management and mission. "To care for people is to respect the past and the present," he said. "It is time for the intensification of the charism, taking care of people and the sustainability of the mission".

general administration

■ The General Council has appointed Br. Guillermo Villarreal (México Occidental) as the new Postulator General, as from 1 October. Brother Antonio Estaún will continue to help with the transition until June 2021.

■ Br. Francis Lukong (District of West Africa) has been appointed assistant director of the Bureau of Solidarity. From September he will join Br. Ángel Diego in promoting solidarity in the Institute.

■ In this second week of the Plenary Session, the General Council is discussing the accompaniment of the Provinces and Districts, as well as the Regions, that it is carrying out during these months during the pandemic. This accompaniment is taking advantage of the online format. It continues the reflection begun the previous week on animation and government in the context of the world today.

GENERAL HOUSE

EDUCATORS' FORMATION IN THE PROTECTION OF MINORS

The Marist Institute is continuing the formation of its educators in the protection of minors. To do this, it has different initiatives that are being developed in various parts of the Marist world.

One of these initiatives is being developed in collaboration with the Pontifical Gregorian University (Center for Child Protection -CCP) and the "Cardenal Cisneros" University Center. The collaboration between different Provinces of the Institute for the carrying out of these courses is a great resource. It is also a luxury to be able to work in a network with other institutions, in this case, with the Gregorian University, so directly linked to the Holy See.

And the fact is that child abuse is a problem, a violation of the rights of thousands of boys and girls throughout the world. This is attested to by the data that we can periodically view. We all know it, we are all aware of this scourge in our societies, and we all have to join in the effort to eradicate it and be at the side of those who suffer it.

This course presents an approach as to what child abuse is, defining and specifying its types. Throughout the course, it focuses more particularly on sexual abuse and on "new" situations of abuse, potentially produced through new technologies.

The Marist mission: working for the defence, protection and well-being of children and young people. Those of us who work vocationally in the integral education of underage children have the duty to protect and care for them, and from there offer them all possible educational resources so that they may grow up in an integral manner in all areas of their lives. For this reason, and in order to do so, we also need to be trained in the threats they may be suffering from and how to combat them.

In this sense, the XXII General Chapter of the Marist Brothers made a declaration to work, even more, for the defence, protection and well-being of the children and young people who are entrusted to us.



Gregorian University and Marist Centres

In 2017 an agreement was signed between the Gregorian University in Rome and some Marist universities. The Cardinal Cisneros University Centre was one of them, which, through five teachers, designed and implemented this formation. In these three years, more than 230 educators have participated in these courses through the CUCC. Educators from Spain, Romania, Portugal, Greece, Hungary, France, Lebanon, China, Bangladesh and Vietnam.

During 7 months the objectives and contents are being developed. All this following an on-line methodology, in which theory is combined with practical elements, as well as an invitation to reflection on our concrete reality. This year, due to the situation caused by the Covid-19, it was not possible to hold the weekend in March.

As a personal experience, I would like to emphasize that it is a commitment that is fully in line with the Marist charism, which seeks to protect the children with whom we work, as well as to offer them the best of treatment, and the best opportunities to grow in an integral way.

We are grateful to the people who have made this course possible. Particularly, thanks to Inmaculada Maíllo and her team for the work well done.

Br. Ángel Diego, Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity

INDIA

HANDS REACH OUT, HOPE REASSURED IN TALIT

The Marist Community in Talit, West Bengal, India, has brought life and hope to more than 500 families by distributing rations in about ten villages in the midst of ongoing national lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, adhering to safety norms given by the Government.

Brothers carried out this relief activity in partnership with SED in Spain to support families of our students in Chetana Tribal Boys Hostel as well as the families in the neighborhood who are daily wage earners and were struggling to feed their children without job. Along with our lay partners we planned to give out a meal kit which would feed a family of five people for more than two weeks. A meal kit contains 5 kilograms of rice, 1 kilogram of soya beans, salt, Dal, wheat flour and Chana dal.

We visited two to three villages every day as a community and met more than thousand people and provided them the food items. The villages include Talit, Kamarpara, Jhinguti, Bora, Guskara and villages of our hostel boys. Though it is only an immediate relief, the people are very thankful and appreciative of the gesture of our solidarity that would help them to manage and cope with the challenges which they are facing right now.

This entire project was generously funded by the non-profit



organization SED in Spain and it has become a timely intervention while people are experiencing unpredictable lockdown and are overwhelmed with daily breaking news on the statistics of Corona cases in the country and around the world.

The Brothers and our lay partners effectively carried out this work of purchasing, packing and distributing the food items to the people in need in a short period of time.

The Marist Community thanks SED for contributing generously to the immediate relief of hundreds of families in Talit, Burdwan and for reaching out to them and reassuring their hope for life.

COLOMBIA

LA VALLA INTER-PROVINCIAL NOVITIATE IN MEDELLÍN

The La Valla Inter-Provincial Novitiate is situated in Medellín, Province of Antioquia, Colombia. It is the novitiate for the Provinces of Norandina, America Central and Mexico Central. The present community is composed of brothers and novices from Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salvador, Spain, Mexico and Greece.

[Video](#)



Feast of St. Marcellin in the World



INDIA, TRICHY



VANUATU – SANTO



FRANCE – HERMITAGE



HUNGARY – KARCAG



MADAGASCAR – ANTSIRANANA



GUATEMALA



TIMOR LESTE



SRI LANKA, HALDANDUWANA



ECUADOR



AUSTRALIA, MOUNT DRUITT



BANGLADESH, GIASHNOGOR



BRAZIL, BELO HORIZONTE

GENERAL HOUSE

THE SPIRITUAL TESTAMENT OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT AND THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART

What does his testament tell us? It is an invitation to deepen a true spirituality of the heart. It is the synthesis of a life rooted in the experience of God. It reveals the legacy of a man who knew how to live an incarnational, integrated and therefore compassionate spirituality. His teachings are perennial because they can be lived by everyone, regardless of time or place.

Let us accompany our founder: “I also urge you, my very dear brothers, with all the affection of my soul and for which you profess me, to behave in such a way that charity always reigns among you. Love one another as Christ has loved you. Let there be among you but one heart and one mind. I hope that we can say of the Little Brothers of Mary what was said of the first Christians: See how they love one other... This is the most vivid desire of my heart in these last moments of my life. Yes, my dear brothers, listen to the last words of your Father, which are those of our beloved Saviour: Love one another.”

The words of our Founder are words that come from his heart and are destined for the hearts of all the Brothers, and today for all “Marists of Champagnat”. The core of his message is love. The love of God experienced in his life, in his relationship with the Brothers and with the whole Marist mission. The image that motivates him is that of the first Christians. They are not recognized by their doctrines or teachings, but by their testimonies. Love lived out in practice is the distinctive mark of this community, and the desire of our founding father, for all of us Marists.

“I also ask the Lord and desire with all my heart that you will faithfully perceive the holy exercise of the presence of God, the soul of prayer, meditation and all the virtues”.

Marcellin lived the presence of God deeply in his life. He understood that the relationship with God begins with the recognition that he lives in the heart of every human being. This presence is lived in the fervour of the heart, because the heart is the place where the human being deeply experiences unity with God, starting from himself and from others. This incarnate presence of God in his life and actions reveals to us a man inte-



grated with himself and, therefore, marked by compassion.

“May a tender and filial devotion to our good Mother animate you at all times and in all circumstances. Make her loved everywhere you can. She is the first Superior of the whole Society”.

At the end of his Spiritual Testament, Marcellin contemplates Mary. She is the model of the one who, after Jesus, experienced in a profound way the unification of the heart in a spirituality of compassion and mercy. For Marcellin, Mary is a life project. She is the concrete inspiration for following Jesus.

It was the fourth Superior General, Brother Théophane, who announced to the Marist Brothers his intention of presenting the Cause of Beatification of Marcellin Champagnat in the Circular of February 1886. The Institute proceeded with the official opening of the Process of Beatification and Canonization of Marcellin Champagnat at the Holy See on January 2, 1892. (Chronologie 2010, p. 267). The process took 107 years. His Holiness Pope John Paul II canonized Marcellin Champagnat (Marcellin Joseph Benoît Champagnat) on 18 April 1999 in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, recognizing him as a saint in the Catholic Church: “Apostle of youth” – in the words of John Paul II.

Memorial Marista

Download the Testament in PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#) – [PDF manuscrito](#)

GENERAL HOUSE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE A PROTAGONIST IN ACTING OUT CHAMPAGNAT’S DREAM?

América Sur

“Champagnat’s dream is a bet on collective strength and not on the brilliance of someone special. The protagonism, as I perceive it in Champagnat’s dream, does not value personal choices and paths. It points to categories of protagonism: the young, the impoverished, the students. To be a protagonist, in this sense, is to update and to make the dream of Champagnat collectively valid.”

Ricardo Spindola Mariz, coordinator of the Mission and Management Area of UMBRASIL (South America)

Asia

“To be a protagonist in acting out Champagnat’s dream is to be optimistic, proactive and positive gift to others who gives hope and enlightenment in the midst of challenging and changing time to time like today’s global crisis. One can be an agent of social transformation and a creative bridge builder like an internet connector who ignites light, brings hope and strengthens faith to those suffering and in need, utilizing responsibly the possible resources like social media to communicate and keep in touch with the young in touching their lives and saying hello and how are they are in the midst of turbulent world. Like Saint Marcellin Champagnat, a simple teacher, who immediately responds anytime to those in need. Likewise, he or she is a person of faith in a time of crisis, who sincerely prays and exemplifies one’s faith in action. Moreover, one can be a man (brother) or a woman (sister) of Mary, who loves and cares for others being a face, hands and mercy to others whom you can count on and who support and never leave his/her brothers or sisters in need despite the challenges and tests of time.

Let us be a Marist protagonist, who carries on Champagnat’s mission and makes a good difference in this world in big things or small, touching lives of others wherever God leads us in our encounter and journey of life.”

Ivy B. Yecyec – Notre Dame of Kidapawan College – Kidapawan City, Philippines

Africa

“I see individual child in my care with unique abilities and gifts, and encourages development in his/her academic, personal and social (inter personal skills) growth. My natural curiosity and love for learning are natured in each child I encounter in my classroom. My very use of current methods of teaching shall promote active learning on the part of my students and personal achievement.

We asked some Marists who work in Marist works with the education of children and young people what it means to be a protagonist in the realisation of the dream of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. Here are some answers.

Each child in my classroom or in school, is special and as a protagonist pursuing Champagnat’s dream is treated with respect, dignity and the right of the child strictly observed.

In acting out Champagnat’s dream in the field of education, my students shall

be taught to set goals, and work towards them for personal advancement, and most importantly develop greater awareness of the world, cultures and knowledge of their creator. They shall be empowered to help others and make positive changes in the environment they find themselves.”

Julie Agbazue – Marist Comprehensive Academy, Uturu-Nigeria.

Arco Norte

“Watching the Brothers and learning from them, I began to understand what Champagnat had told his brothers two hundred years before of the importance of loving the students, the good and not good yet, before you can teach them. This message has become the cornerstone of my work. It has bolstered me up when I am feeling defeated and fills me with joy when I encounter young men and women years after they have graduated and fondly remember the kindness they knew at Marist.” (Patrick Hennessy, Marist High School – Chicago, USA).

“When I was a Marist student, my teachers and the Marist brothers worked every day to inspire, to guide, to protect, to nurture, and more. As a teacher, it is my turn to do my part to act out Champagnat’s dream by being the person my teachers and the brothers were for me” (Patrick Meyer, Marist High School – Chicago, USA).

“As a Marist, I witness the love of Jesus Christ and make Him known by ensuring that every student I interact with is seen,



known, and loved. I emphasize the skills of action, contemplation, and animation needed to live lives full of simplicity, love, gratitude, and care for one another, themselves, and all of creation” (Brigid Wolff, Marist High School – Chicago, USA).

“It is an honor to be able to guide students in the likeness of St. Marcellin Champagnat. Every child has the desire to be successful and the yearning to be loved. To help students recognize their potential with love in our eyes and pride in our heart, we can enhance them to be the best of themselves, educationally, emotionally, and spiritually” (Margie Sweeney, Marist High School – Chicago, USA).

“On one level, I find myself prodding and poking students to not be afraid to share themselves with each other. On another, through literature, I find great joy in making students aware of their blessings and how so many do not have the rich life experiences or resources as they do.” (Mary Cozzie, Marist High School – Chicago, USA).

“We, as lay Marists, like the brothers before us, must find a way to ignite our students to not only live lives of faith, but to SPREAD the Good News of Jesus Christ just as Marcellin Champagnat did when he began this mission two centuries ago” (Sean Maxwell, Marist High School – Chicago, USA).

BRASIL

SOLIDARITY ACTIONS DRIVE THE MARISTS

Solidarity actions have always been part of the Marist world. In times of pandemic, this has intensified and assumed even greater proportions. Many initiatives have marked this typically Marist characteristic. Through the Institute’s web site, we have spoken about some of them, which appear as a sign, but there are many others scattered throughout the world, which discreetly give witness to the charism of Champagnat, giving practical responses to the needs of the most vulnerable groups, who in this period, have suffered the social impacts caused by the new pandemic of coronavirus.

Today we highlight the activities and solidarity campaigns carried out by the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte.

Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Norte

The Province, through partnerships with national and international entities, has dedicated itself to carrying out activities that promote the well-being and comfort of the most needy. Among the associated organizations in the projects, we highlight the German Catholic institution, Adveniat, the Conference of Religious of Brazil, *Cáritas Brasileira*, in addition to hospitals, parishes and religious communities.

Among the actions carried out, the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Norte has donated 1,000 cloth masks to the University Hospital of Brasília, of the University of Brasília, as well as strengthening the organisation of the Seamstresses of the Federal District, with financial transfers for this co-operative. The institution has also distributed basic food baskets to the Sol Nascente Community in Ceilândia and to workers and families in Recife.

For Brother José Augusto Júnior, participating at this time is much more than helping the most needy, since solidarity, besides being an area of the Institution, is a mission. “We cannot ignore all of this, since Champagnat has left us the legacy of protecting, helping and assisting the most disadvantaged. The actions that we promote are practical responses now that the economy, health, citizenship and dignity are weakened in the face of the pandemic. We assume this role as a mission, as an institution, and mainly because we are Champagnat’s Marists. Besides these initiatives at the provincial level, the socio-educational units have carried out several activities in this regard.



One of these is Drive-thru Solidarity, which collected numerous products, such as non-perishable foodstuffs, basic food baskets, clothing and other goods, which were destined for needy institutions, in several states of Brazil.

While the private schools in the Province promote actions to make donations to the most needy, the Institution’s public schools, which serve 5,375 students for free in several Brazilian states, receive help to support the families of these students, since many of them depend, exclusively, on the assistance offered by the school. Mainly food donations: basic baskets and vegetable and farm products. Social schools also play a part favouring citizenship, by giving up their premises for families to register and receive urgent assistance from the Federal Government.

MEXICO

ASSEMBLY OF MARIST LEADERS OF MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL



On the 21st, 22nd and 23rd May, the 3rd Assembly of Marist Leaders took place, with the aim of considering the near future in the face of social and structural changes that will accompany this new beginning.

The Assembly started on Thursday 21st May at 9.00 a.m. by video-conference. After an introduction and setting out of objectives by Brother Agustín Acevedo, the groups were sent out to reflect on the changes perceived in the social reality and how we are going to respond to all these new developments as a group of educational works. A vision of the Province was provided and a call to work together as a great Marist network was reinforced.

On the second day, the structural innovations with which the Province of México Occidental seeks to give swift and flexible responses to current and future social realities were presented,

thus implementing a part of the Provincial Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025. A Marist Mission Council, the Network of Directors and the Development Groups were created.

The Council for the Marist Mission is the guarantor of the processes of the works and of giving direction for the best fulfilment of the mission. It is supported by the Network of Directors where information is shared, knowledge is generated and it is accompanied as a great work; and the groups accompany and systematize, with flexible processes, so that each work develops in the best possible way.

The province of México Occidental is present in 11 states of the Mexican Republic, with more than 29 educational centres covering all levels, from pre-school to university, as well as different social programmes.



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