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# MARIST NEWS

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## ARCO NORTE

# THE REGION CONTINUES TO BUILD BRIDGES DURING COVID-19

The Provincials of Arco Norte got together using a video conference on 29 May last. Brothers Gérard Bachand, Patrick McNamara, José Sánchez, César Augusto Rojas, Miguel Ángel Santos and Hipólito Pérez took part.

Also taking part were the General Councillors João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald as liaisons for the Region and Brother Tomás Briongos, Provincial of Compostela, on behalf of the Marist mission in Honduras.

### The objectives of the meeting were the following:

- To meet as leaders of the Arco Norte to share our journey and to seek together ways of life in this time of Covid-19.
- To follow up the regional and continental teams, processes and initiatives, emanating from their strategic planning.
- To accompany the processes of change in the Marist life and mission of Canada and Honduras.
- To study in depth several organisms of Arco Norte and



to make the necessary appointments of the Regional Coordinator and Master of Novices of the inter-provincial novitiate.

The meeting was attended by Brother Gregorio Linacero, coordinator of the Regional Committee, who followed the initiatives

## general administration

■ During the last two weeks of plenary sessions, the General Council met with the various Secretariats to discuss current and future plans based on the current context in which the Institute is living. It also discussed some Marist documents that will be updated in the coming years (Formation Guide, Marist Mission, Vademecum), after the renewed Constitutions have been approved. It studied other specific topics such as legal and canonical structures, financial

reports, arrangements at the General House and appointments. The plenary sessions will end on Friday 26th June with a regular Council meeting and revision of the calendar.

■ On day 26, Bro. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, will participate in the first Forum on Communication of the South American Region, at 14:00, Brasília time. It is possible to participate through this link: <https://bityli.com/40hK>

and plans of the various teams and reported on the meeting of the Permanent Council of CAP (American Conference of Provincials) with the networks of Marist Spirituality and Heart in Solidarity in America.

Brother Albert Rivera, coordinator of the Marist Laity and Initial Formation Teams, also participated and reported on the processes being developed in these areas.

**Other aspects addressed at the meeting were:**

- Sharing experiences and learning in each province from the crisis of the COVID-19.
- The final report of the formation itinerary for perpetual vows carried out in Guatemala, February 4 – May 19, was

received. Deep gratitude is expressed to the team formed by Brothers Luis Felipe González (México Central), Anacleto Peruzzo (Brasil Centro-Sul), Rodrigo Cuesta (América Central) and Gilles Lacasse (Canada). This will be further developed at the next meeting.

- We analyzed the document of “regional organizations” and the appointment of the new coordinator of the Regional Committee of Arco Norte was decided.
- It reports on the processes which the Marist life and mission are going through in the Province of Canada and in Honduras.

The next meeting will be held on June 29th.

Br. Hipólito Pérez – Provincial of Central America

SPAIN

# MASTER’S DEGREE IN ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION WITH ADOLESCENTS IN CONFLICT

In September 2020, the [Cardinal Cisneros University Centre](#) of the Province of Ibérica will begin the University Master’s Degree in Evaluation and Intervention with adolescents in conflict, aimed at all of those who work with these profiles in Marist social and educational projects, such as social educators, social workers, psychologists and teachers.

The [Master’s Degree](#) in the semi-attendance mode, which lasts one year (2020 – 2021), is in Spanish, has 60 ECTS credits, and is an official postgraduate course, one of the first offered in Spain, on a subject so necessary and interesting, which forms part of the Marist mission. The degree is awarded by the University of Alcalá.

The general objective of the Master’s in Evaluation and Intervention with Adolescents in Conflict is to form professionals who can work with adolescents in conflict. To this end, the aim is for students to acquire the knowledge, attitudes, skills and competences necessary to diagnose, evaluate, intervene and monitor these young people. The fulfilment of the objectives implies the acquisition of competences in the student that must

be coherent with regard to the fundamental rights and equality between men and women, with the principles of equal opportunities and universal accessibility for people with disabilities and with the values of a culture of peace and democratic values.

The pre-registration period is now open and ends in September.

For more details, [you can see that brochure](#), and if you need more information you can contact the directors of the Master, Marta González de la Cámara and Andrés Sánchez Suricalday ([direccionmastermeiac@cardenalcisneros.es](mailto:direccionmastermeiac@cardenalcisneros.es)).



## HAITI

# FIRST PROFESSIONS, RENEWAL OF VOWS AND PERPETUAL VOWS AT JÉRÉMIE

On June 6th, St. Marcellin Champagnat Day, eight novices made their first vows in Jérémie, Haiti. Brother Junel Pierre also made his perpetual vows in the Institute and Brother Ernesto Vital renewed his temporary vows.

Brother Jean Mance Louis Jeune, Superior of the Marist Sector of Haiti, of the Province of México Occidental, received the vows of the brothers, in the name of the Superior General.

The eight new brothers making their first profession are Roubens Andris, Tourentingue Juste, Acluche Thomas, Clébert Boyer, Ario Claudel Laguerre, Saint Paul Lyncée, Valentin Wood Sharly, Vital Jean Rony.

The ceremony was presided over by the Bishop of Jérémie, Mgr. Joseph Gontrand Decoste S.J. Due to the social distancing measures adopted in the country against the coronavirus, the relatives of the novices were unable to attend. Among those present, taking part in the ceremony, were the three brothers of the novitiate formation team and the first year novices (five).

## The Marist Novitiate of Jérémie

The novitiate is located in the south of Haiti, lasts two years and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary in the invocation of Perpetual Succour, Patroness of the country.

In this school year of 2019-2020 there were 8 2nd year Novices and 5 1st year Novices.

For the school year beginning in August, it is planned to have 10 novices: 5 2nd year novices and 5 1st year novices.

The formation team is made up of Brothers José Contreras



Landeros, Brother Rafael Alvarez Santana (Mexican, 62 years of Marist life and 80 years of age) and Brother Antonio Cavazos Bueno (Mexican, 60 years of Marist life and 79 years of age).

## Postulancy

It is located in the Marist house in the city of Cayes, lasting for two years. It is there that the Marist adventure of formation begins, in order to arrive at a knowledge of oneself, of one's personality and to make a discernment of one's vocation. The formation team of the Postulancy this school year 2019-2020 is made up of Brothers Wilguins Francois (Director of Postulancy), Gustavo Cerda and Oscar Paul-Louis. This year there have been 12 postulants. The Marist community of Haiti is part of the Province of México Occidental.

## SRI LANKA

# MARIST INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE – TUDELLA

The Marist International Novitiate – Tudella is located in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. It receives novices from the Province of South Asia, the Province of Australia and the Marist District of Asia. The present community is composed of brothers from Sri Lanka, Canada, Spain, Australia, Vietnam and Timor-Leste. Just recently, 6 Vietnamese brothers completed their formation and made their first vows.



MEXICO

# CAMPAIGN OF THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL MEXICO AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY



Faced with the untimely appearance of the Coronavirus Covid-19 in Mexico, a group made up of young workers (long-stay volunteers) who were forced to return to their homes because of the emergency, school teachers and members of the Provincial Mission Team, asked ourselves some questions:

- How can we promote fraternity and solidarity in this time of health emergency in a context that forces us to stay at home?
- How can we show solidarity with those whose needs for family subsistence are inevitably affected or how support populations in situations of greater vulnerability?

With these concerns, starting from observation and listening to different contexts, we locate experiences, contact institutions and imagine possible actions around which we can invite the works of the Province to make progress. This is how the provincial campaign came about, which proposes 7 ways of promoting solidarity in this time of pandemic, called "SOLIDARITY WITHOUT QUARANTINE": protect them, take care of them, help them, support them, inform them, be creative, join them. The objective of the campaign is to promote and articulate with them pertinent actions of fraternity and solidarity, inside and outside the Marist works, in this time of medical contiguity with the COVID-19, as much for the stage of quarantine as for the post-quarantine. In the same way, it seeks to pay for and add to the proposals carried out individually, as a family and as Marist works.

On the web site Solidarity without quarantine, initiatives are proposed for each of the 7 areas. Some of these are:

- Dissemination of infographics and videos that help prevent the spread of the virus.
- Collaboration with institutions that work with populations in a situation of vulnerability, in order to channel support to satisfy immediate needs. Priority groups: indigenous boys and girls; abused children living in homes; girls at risk on the streets, shelters for migrant and refugee populations; homes for the elderly; families in marginal areas.
- Support for the health system, channelling protective materials for health professionals; promotion of a culture of greater self-care, through food and exercise. The coronavirus in Mexico has made more evident the fragility of the population to get sick from it, as well as from other diseases, given the high rate of obesity at all ages.
- Creation and adherence to the Marist Network of Family Commerce in a rationale of mutual support, some offering services of quality and fair price, others consuming them; diffusion of local networks of businesses and services.
- Making available resources for emotional care and spiritual nutrition.

The campaign is dynamic in so far as it is open to the works being able to continue to add initiatives and propose the articulation of efforts.

In the month of the feast of the feast of Marcellin Champagnat and wanting to be faithful heirs of his charism, we ask our Good Father to allow us as a Marist community to be beacons of hope and to live in solidarity without quarantine.

María Del Socorro Álvarez Noriega – Provincial Solidarity Team

marist world

MEXICO: RENEWAL OF VOWS

PHILIPPINES: NOTRE DAME OF DADIANGAS UNIVERSITY, GENERAL SANTOS CITY

ITALY: LAVALLA200> SIRACUSA



BELGIUM: SHARING MEETING ON THE RULE OF LIFE IN GENVAL

SPAIN: EL PILAR MARISTAS SCHOOL

BRAZIL: DISTRIBUTION OF HYGIENE BASKETS – ESCOLA MARISTA DE EDUCAÇÃO INFANTIL RENASCER

UNITED STATES  
THE COUNCIL FOR USA LAY MARISTS

The Provincial Council of United States of America has approved the plans for a new Council for [USA Lay Marists](#) to be established. This council has been appointed by Br. Patrick McNamara, Provincial, with input from the steering committee, and then was approved by the Provincial Council. Members will serve one, two, or three year terms, so as to stagger the leadership.

Brothers Owen Ormsby and Ken Hogan will serve on the Council, as well as the following Lay people: Lindsay Irwin, Brownsville, Adam Wouk, Chicago, Ellen Salmi vanCleeef, Jackson, Earline Tweedie, Lawrence, Richard Karsten.

In order to facilitate a smooth transition, Maureen Hagan will

serve as Director of USA Lay Marists. The first responsibilities of Maureen and the Lay Council will be (among other things):

- organizing the recruitment and initiation of members
- creating initial and ongoing formation experiences
- recruiting local leaders and helping to facilitate the organization of local groups
- providing these local group leaders with resources and support
- communicating with members,

the Provincial Council, the Arco Norte region, and with the Institute.

In the future, members of the Council will be elected by Lay Marists USA.



LayUp  
Lay Marists USA



TAILAND

# BUILDING BRIDGES IN TIME OF PANDEMIC IN THE MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA

**M**arist District of Asia (MDA) is a young district which started as the Marist Ad Gentes Program in Asia, 14 years ago. Over the time many young people joined our congregation.

- We are 46 brothers: 19 MDA professed brothers (temporary vows) and 27 brothers from other Administrative Unites.
- 10 Marist communities in 7 countries.
- Formation houses in China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Philippines. There are some candidates: 3 aspirants, 11 postulants and 7 novices.
- 19 Student brothers: 11 in the scholasticate in MAPAC, 8 in apostolic communities
- One school in Bangladesh; hostels in Giasnogor, Talit and Pailin.
- Projects in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh and India.
- We also have an ongoing local laity program (MCFM), some people sharing common activities in the community, others living outside.

As you can see, our District is young and more and more becoming with an Asian face. It is very important for us to accompany our young people; therefore, we appointed a mentor brother and a coordinator of the young professed brothers of the District.

We organized young brothers' gatherings within the countries or cluster countries, and once a year a general gathering. Beside that the mentor and the district leader have regular contact with them through visits or social media.

### A meeting with the Brothers

On June 10, 2020 we had the opportunity to have a video chat with all the professed brothers in MDA with Br. Ernesto Sán-



chez, Superior General, and Brothers Josep Maria Soterias and Sylvain (link councilors for Region), Br. Ismael (mentor brother), and Br. Canísio, District Leader, who remains in the General House due restrictions of the pandemic.

It was a time to strengthen brotherhood, sharing life experiences in this time of pandemic, listening to our leaders, ask questions and pray together. It was a joyful moment of connecting hearts in new ways, brothers gathered in groups and all connected around a virtual table.

The young brothers appreciate the care of the Institute for them and are enthusiastic in being brother and serve those little ones in need.

Some of the young brothers are following university studies in order to get a degree; a qualification that will help them in their ministries.

With your support to our young people in MDA, and with Our Good Mother and Champagnat's blessings we will continue building bridges in the Institute.

Br. Canísio Willrich – Leader of MDA  
General House, 11 June 2020

SPAIN

## EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY TEAM



On 9 June, the European Solidarity Team met in a video conference. Brother Ángel Diego García, Director of the Solidarity Secretariat of the General Administration, participated in the conference.

This is a recently created team, and it is beginning its journey. In this beginning of the mission, a series of objectives have been established:

- To energize and encourage solidarity within the Marist European Region through the development of the European Framework of Solidarity and a Strategic Plan that will mark the way forward for the coming years.
- To incorporate the perspective of the Rights of the Child in the Marist Mission through formation activities and the curriculum.
- To promote and coordinate voluntary work by creating a catalogue for this area (protocols, processes, experiences)
- Promote networking by sharing good practices and resources, joint training programmes or courses and by carrying out common projects.
- To facilitate research and training by establishing an Observatory on Children's Rights and Solidarity.
- To look after institutional relationships and social awareness by articulating the presence in Marist networks (RISM, FMSI, CMI) and in Children's, civil and ecclesial platforms and by developing a plan of communication and social promotion.

The initiatives of SOLIDARITY of Marist Europe are organized in five fields of action or areas that are interrelated:

- Social works and projects
- Education in solidarity in schools
- International cooperation

- Children's rights
- Volunteering

### The members of the team

The European Solidarity Team consists of 8 people:

- Inmaculada Maíllo from the Iberian Province. She is a member of the Council of Educational Works and coordinator of the Social Pastoral Team. She is also president of all the social works of the province.
- Brother Pau Tristany from the Province of L'Hermitage. He is co-ordinator of the Marist Mission in Hungary, member of the Mission Council, member of the Province's Solidarity Network.
- Brother Juan Pablo Hernández of the Province of Mediterránea. He is the Provincial delegate for Solidarity, Provincial co-ordinator of voluntary work and co-ordinator of voluntary work for the Region of Europe. In addition, he presides over the Marcellin Champagnat Foundation.
- Jasmin Nimar of the Province of West Central Europe. She is the coordinator of youth volunteer groups in Mindelheim (Germany).
- Br. P. J. McGowan of the Province of West Central Europe. From Ireland he is President of the Mission Council of Central-West Europe.
- Belén Salas of the Marist Province of Compostela. She is a member of the Social Mission Team, Provincial Coordinator of Volunteers in Cmi, Coordinator of the Provincial Team of Collegial Solidarity, Member of the Montagne Foundation and, at present, she is the coordinator of this team.

Also supporting the work of the Team are Angela Sestrini, from the Marist Europe Conference, and Angel Prieto, from the Spanish Marist Conference, as liaisons for both.



GENERAL HOUSE

# TOGETHER WITH THE REFUGEES, BUILDING BRIDGES

The migration phenomenon is not a new phenomenon. It has existed since the beginning. Among so many migrants there are refugees who leave their countries because of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or violation of human rights. They are looking for a safe place, they want to be welcomed, recognized and accepted in the reality and life of another country.

Refugees are among the most vulnerable people in the world and face all kinds of difficulties and discrimination. As Marists, we are on their side and we extend to them the hand of solidarity and education, especially to children and young people, helping them to integrate into society and helping them to satisfy their basic needs, such as housing, food, health, education, leisure, among others.

We count on brothers, lay people and committed volunteers in different parts of the world, where the situation and the clamour of the refugees are decisive. Among other activities, the following projects stand out: Three2Six, in South Africa; Fratelli, in



Lebanon; CIAO, in Syracuse; Corazón Sin Fronteras, in Colombia; Encuentro Project, on the border between Mexico (Ciudad Juárez) and the United States (El Paso). In addition to these projects, there are other initiatives in the Administrative Units, which eagerly welcome those who seek a safe life outside their own country.

During the celebration of World Refugee Day on 20 June, we became aware that we still have much to do. Together with our refugee brothers and sisters, let us be builders of bridges and beacons of hope.



### World Refugee Day 20 June

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) recalls that every minute 20 people leave everything behind to escape war, persecution or terror.

During the celebration of World Refugee Day on 20 June, we became aware that we still have much to do. Together with our refugee brothers and sisters, let us be builders of bridges and beacons of hope.

[Enter here the UN site for the World Refugee Day.](#)



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

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