



Year XIII - Number 635 | 1 JULY 2020

MARIST NEWS

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

IN AUGUST 2021, THE PROVINCE OF CANADA WILL BECOME A DISTRICT

After consulting the Provincials and Provincial Councils of the Provinces of Canada, Mexico Central, Mexico Occidental and the United States, the General Council on the 12th June 2020 took the decision that the Province of CANADA, from the 15th of August 2021, will become a dependent District.

In a letter sent on June 24th, in which he communicated this decision, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, said that “The trust and confidence shown by the Marists of Canada and the three other Provinces committed to this new vision respond to the 22nd General Chapter call to promote and nourish Marist life in all its diversity, working towards our deeply-felt desire to act as ‘one global body’”.

During the past two years, the Province of Canada has been engaged in a discernment process reflecting on the future of the Marist charism in the country. This discernment process has given the Brothers and their lay partners the opportunity to enter into a dialogue, listening to each other and to develop a common vision for the viability and vitality for Marist life and mission in Canada. The region of Arco Norte, as well as the General Council, has also been involved in this discernment process.

“Following the announcement made by Brother Superior General, we are already in action mode,” said Brother Gérard Bachand, Provincial Animator of Canada. “Now brothers and laypeople of the Province are looking resolutely towards the future. A future to build within the Institute and the Region of

Arco. After a glorious era in Canada, we are entering a world that is more humble but no less significant for the world”.

The decision of the General Council comprises 5 topics:

- From the 15th of August 2021, the Province of CANADA, will become a dependent District of the Provinces of the United States, México Central and México Occidental.



- The District Board of Governance will be made up of the three Provincials together with the District Superior of Canada.
- The four current Provinces with the support of the link General Councilors will draw up the Statutes for the matters of governance and management related to the new District. These will be studied and approved by the General Council.
- For canonical matters, the District of Canada will depend on the Province of the United States.
- The transition process will be developed and accompanied by a team made up of the representatives of the four current Provinces with the support of the link General Councilors.

1ST JULY

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATHS OF BROTHERS CHRIS MANNION AND JOSEPH RUSHIGAJIKI

On the first of July we recall the anniversary of the deaths of Brothers Chris Mannion and Joseph Rushigajiki (1994). To take a moment to remember them and to turn our attention to their friendship and their martyrdom is a fraternal duty. They will be, at the same time, a source of generosity for us.

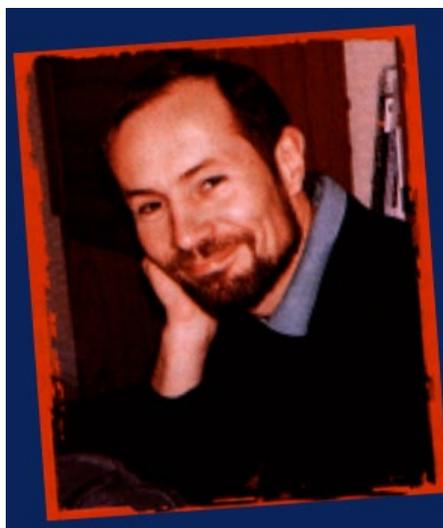
Brother Chris Mannion had been a General Councillor only a few months when, in June 1994, he went on a mission to Ruanda to attempt to rescue the Brothers under threat in Save. He was 43 years old and the youngest member of the Council. He found his death in front of the novitiate and school of Save where the Brothers were. Like Christ, he paid with his life while his Brothers recovered their freedom.

Brother Joseph Rushigajiki had offered to accompany Chris on this dangerous mission and was even more aware of the risk, since he belonged to the country. He set his life at stake for his Rwandan Brothers and for his superior, Chris Mannion. He was only 41. Thus are woven together two lives given, that of the Brother welcoming into the drama his country is living through, and that of the other come from Rome, witness of the interest of the whole Marist family in the Brothers of Ruanda. [Read more](#)

Br. Chris Mannion

The following thoughts tell us something of the quality of soul of Br. Chris Mannion

“More and more I’m convinced that it isn’t the length of life which is important but the passion and commitment with which you live it. This life is a gift to be enjoyed, to be used to the full precisely because it will end in death (MY DEATH) one unforeseen day... I must live this gift of life now without worrying about what will be afterwards. If I don’t, then what is the purpose of the Incarnation?” (Chris Mannion, 12 May 1994).

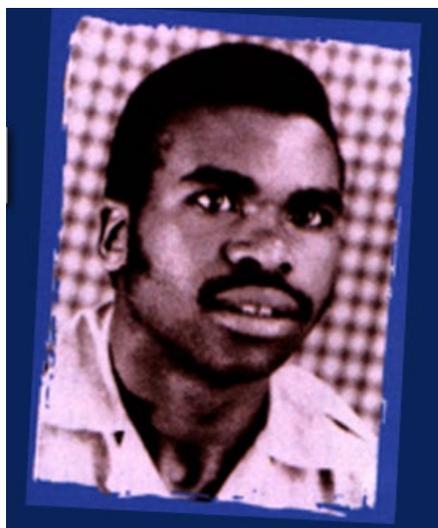


“Yesterday, during meditation, for a brief while and for the first time in ages, I had a sense of the presence of Christ, of the Lord, here with me, speaking to me, inviting me to ‘to remain in His love and keep His commandments.’ There was a strong sense of my need to respond to the call to conversion... I need and want to come closer to Jesus; otherwise, this life is one of meaninglessness and of sterile protection from the world. To live life fully, Jesus must be at the centre. Otherwis, why be FMS?” (6 May 1994)

Br. Joseph Rushigajiki

We do not have the thoughts of Br. Joseph, but in the booklet *Walking to the end of love, on the martyrs of the Great Lakes*, the last paragraphs say:

“He, more than Chris, was aware of the danger; he was from the country and knew that the service that he was rendering Brother Chris was full of risks. He had thrown in his life totally to help his superior in mission and to try to save his Tutsi brothers, he who was Hutu... We should also add that in the morning, Broth-



er Joseph had also risked saving a religious sister and had snatched her from the jaws of death. He had hardly achieved that before he set out again, towards three o’clock in the afternoon, with Brother Chris for his final adventure dictated by love.”

The FMS-Message of July 1994 offers this testimony:

“Very practical and with a remarkable capacity for work, he was always an obliging confrère, attentive to the weak and the little ones; a man for difficult missions...”

BELGIUM

EXPERIENCE OF THE RULE OF LIFE IN THE WEST CENTRAL EUROPE PROVINCE

The Province of West Central Europe began, on June 6th, the feast of Saint Marcellin, a journey of experience with the Rule of Life of the Marist Brothers, which will end on the next anniversary of the foundation of the Institute, January 2nd 2021. The three chapters were divided into 30 texts to be reflected upon during the next 30 weeks.

Some communities of the Province meet periodically to share the reflections and the experience made during the reading of the suggested texts.

The [Rule of Life of the Marist Brothers, "Wherever you go"](#), was presented to the Institute on 7 October 2019 and has as its official date of approval 2 January 2020. Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General of the Marist Brothers, underlined in his presentation that the Rule of Life "is a text which allows us to deepen the meaning of our consecration, fraternity and mission, and which inspires our spiritual journey in an integrated way. A text which is part of our own right, and which



is meant to be read, meditated upon, prayed over, personally and in community".

Download Rule of Life – PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#) | [Italiano](#) | [Català](#) | [Deutsch](#)

CAMBODIA

MARIST SOLIDARITY CAMBODIA ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC) is an international non-government organization, an integral part of the mission of the Marist Brothers, which promotes empowerment and advocacy, and provides education and referral for children and young people with disabilities in Cambodia. MSC encompasses LaValla School, Villa Maria Hostel, LaValla Village and an Outreach Programme.

The last board meeting approved the distribution of its Annual Report for 2019, that can be read [here](#).

In the report we note the following as underpinning Marist values for MSC: "All students that are welcomed to Marist Solidarity Cambodia have disabilities, here they find that their lives are not defined by their disabilities and so can live as normal young people and develop their individual talents and personalities. They are also able to build up a resilience to cope with being disabled in the wider society."

Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC) is committed to increasing Cambodians' educational opportunities and consequently their integration into the education system. To achieve this, MSC has developed and operates La Valla School in Takhmao. It is the only school in Cambodia offering a full primary education to children and young

people with a physical disability (102 students in 2016). Most students attending La Valla are years behind in their education due to neglect in their villages and denied access to education. 73% of these students are aged 13 and over.

Graduates then transition to Marist Solidarity Cambodia's inclusive education program whereby they live in support accommodation whilst they attend mainstream secondary schools and tertiary institutions. Students are provided with educational mentors and receive thorough medical care including personalized physiotherapy specific to their disability.



HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS IMPACTED ON MARIST EDUCATION IN THE REGION OF ARCO NORTE

On June 1st, the Education areas of the Provinces of the Arco Norte Region met to reflect and review how the COVID-19 crisis has been managed in the field of education.

During this meeting, the provinces shared how the educational processes have been affected by the pandemic. The common factor is that all have had to make the transition from distance learning, using different platforms, predominantly Google CLASSROOM and ZOOM; in many cases also limited by resources and internet access.

Also, the challenges of conducting academic activities from home were discussed, along with other issues related to education:

- Taking advantage of this experience and learning distance learning methodologies.
- Preparation of protocols and back-to-school guidelines.
- Re-conversion of spaces and logistics for student attention regarding the recommended distances.
- New forms of promotion: virtual open house, educational

marketing, flexible and remote registration processes, among others.

- Different actions towards transforming Marist solidarity.
- Inclusion of social works in this context.
- Taking advantage of the self-management acquired by the students during this time.

As a region, different proposals were also presented that are directed towards collaborative work and support between the Provinces that form part of Arco Norte:

- sharing strategies, or building them together, for the training of Directors and Teachers in the use of technological tools;
- sharing digital resources developed within the provinces;
- reflecting on and constructing a hybrid model from the Marist pedagogy, in the perspective that the educational presence can be affected for a considerable time.

Our regional work generated from the pandemic is directed towards reflection and the recovery of learning for a greater innovation from the Marist pedagogical proposal, and based on monitoring, support, guidance and assistance.



marist world

AUSTRALIA: LAVALLA200> MOUNT DRUITT

PERU: MARIST MISSIONARIES OF CHAMPAGNAT

BANGLADESH: BR. CÉSAR BARBA, MISSIONARY IN THE MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA



AUSTRALIA: MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY – SYDNEY

RUMANIA: CENTRUL DE ZI MARI TI – IN LUCACESTI, BACAU

SOUTH AFRICA: ATLANTIS LAVALLA200>COMMUNITY – LESSON AT RADIO ATLANTIS

FIJI

FIRST PROFESSION AT MARIST BROTHERS PACIFIC NOVITIATE IN LOMERI

On Saturday, June 20th, Brothers Ienraku Temoai and Ieremia Karekennatu made their first Profession of Vows as Marist Brothers of Champagnat. Br. Kees van der Weert, Country Coordinator of the Marist Brothers in Fiji, received their vows on behalf of the Superior General. The Mass of Profession was celebrated by the Parish Priest of Lomeri, Fr. Beniata Korintetaake (MSC). Like Ienraku and Ieremia, Fr. Beniata is also an I-Kiribati national.

Government Covid-19 restrictions meant that numbers at each on site venue were limited to 20 people, so the normally overflowing chapel looked decidedly empty. Br. Jone Seduadua, the Novice Master, was well supported by the Champagnat Marist group in the Lomeri Parish. They attended to the preparations and decorations, the choir, the cultural ceremonies, as well as the luncheon feast. The numbers may not have been there, but the Marist Spirit certainly was.

Now Br. Ienraku and Br. Ieremia move to their Post Novitiate



studies in Suva.

Pictured from Left to Right: Br. Fergus Garrett, Br. Jone Seduadua, Br. Ieremia Karekennatu, Fr Beniata Korintetaake, Br. Ienraku Temoai, Br. Kees van der Weert.



GENERAL HOUSE

BR. KEN MCDONALD, COUNCILLOR GENERAL, SPEAKS ABOUT CHILD PROTECTION STANDARDS OF THE INSTITUTE

Marists' first responsibility is to create safe environments for children and young people and to protect them from any form of harm or abuse. "Marcellin loved children and was fierce in his protection of them. We can do no less." (Br. Seán Sammon, Superior General, 2001-2009)

Our understanding of the impact of the abuse of children and young people has deepened in recent times. We have learned from the difficult lessons of the past that we have a paramount responsibility to ensure that all our ministries are safe for children. These lessons have been reinforced by listening to the victims of abuse. When our ministries don't prioritize the protection of children and young people and we do not provide them with a safe environment, the impact on their lives can be devastating. Our better understanding also includes the need to protect the community as a whole because every case of abuse can have a profound impact on the whole community.

As Marists we believe the protection of children is a crucial part of our mission. In our efforts to ensure that all our ministries provide a safe environment, the Institute developed Child Protection Standards in 2011. These standards continue to provide guidance for the development of policies by all the administrative units and ministries of the Institute. To ensure that the Institute continues to implement policies that take into account best practices from around the world the Commission for the Protection of Children and Venerable Adults has been working to revise these standards.

The Standards use a Child rights-based approach to ensure that children have a safe environment in Marist ministries. These Standards guarantee that the rights of children are understood and respected. The Standards also take into account that the Institute is present in and ministers to children in over 80 countries with many different cultural contexts.

The Children and young people we work with are at the centre of every policy. To provide children with an understanding of



their rights, to ensure they are listened to and believed, and to guarantee their safety and well-being are fundamental to the Institute's Standards.

Another priority in ensuring that all our ministries are safe for children is the formation of those who work with them. It is important that all the staff in our ministries have an understanding of the rights of the children they work with. They

need to respect these rights and ensure that their efforts to educate children also promote the rights of children and ensure their safety and well-being. Children are to be treated with dignity at all times and when with us they should feel secure and cared for.

As all of us are aware we don't get it right all the time. Even with our best efforts to protect children, sometimes bad things happen. Dealing appropriately with victims of historical or current abuse, is vital in the work of the Commission. That there are victims of abuse is a shameful part of our history. The Standards commit the Institute to continue working for the healing of these victims. Our desire is to work with victims in a way that helps them to recover and live full, satisfying lives.

The Institute has worked hard to develop and review its Child Protection Standards. However, having this policy is not enough. The policy must be followed up with concrete actions that ensure that all children in our care feel safe and are protected.

Br. Ken McDonald, Councillor General

GENERAL HOUSE

BR. FRANCIS LUKONG: NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY

The General Council has appointed Brother Francis Lukong of the District of West Africa as Assistant Director of the [Secretariat of Solidarity](#) starting September 1st for a period of three years. He will join Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola in the promotion of solidarity in the Institute.

Br. Francis was born on 2 April 1963 in Meluf-Kumbo, Nso, Cameroon. He did his primary schooling in his home village and the first cycle of secondary education at Sacred Heart College, Mankon-Bamenda run by the Marist Brothers, and the second cycle at Government High School, Kumbo and Bishop Rogan College, Soppo-Buea, Cameroon.

At MIC (Marist International Centre), Nairobi, Kenya, he obtained the Diploma in Educational Sciences and the Bachelor of Religious Studies with Education.

Subsequently (1994-98), he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in French with History at the University of Wolverhampton, in the United Kingdom. During this period, he took a course at the Jean Moulin Lyon II University in France, obtaining the Diploma of French University Studies (DEUF).

In 2006 he gained a Master degree and in 2013 a Ph.D in Education at the Commonwealth Open University United Kingdom

He has been engaged in teaching in the Marist Colleges of



Cameroon, and from 1999-2012 has been Director, first at Saint Joseph's Catholic Comprehensive College in Mbengwi and then at Saint Albert's Comprehensive College in Bafut.

Since 2000 he has been District Councillor and then vice Superior of the District. From August 2012 till 2018 he was Superior of the District.

From September 2018 to June 2020, he lived at Marist community Malaga to learn some Spanish and later at communauté mariste de Paris during which he participated in the FFR program at Centre Sevres, Facultés jésuites de Paris.

MOZAMBIQUE

MARIST NOVITIATE OF MATOLA

The Marist Novitiate of Matola is located in the municipality of Matola in Maputo Province, Mozambique. It is the novitiate of the Province of Southern Africa. The novices who come to do their formation here are from countries like Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. As of the latest survey, the community is composed of 17 novices and 3 brothers in the formation staff.



BRAZIL

MARIST BRAZIL YOUTH MINISTRY CELEBRATES 15 YEARS AND LAUNCHES NATIONAL GUIDELINES



In 2020, Brazil will celebrate 15 years of the history of Marist Youth Ministry (MYM). The date is a reason for pride and celebration.

Marist Youth Ministry promotes the formation of adolescents and young people with ethical, just and supportive values, inspired by a Christian spirituality, so that they can exercise their leadership and transform society. This process is developed through community experience, the cultivation of spirituality, the strengthening of autonomy and the deepening of the Marist charism.

In celebrating the journey of the MYM in Brazil, we recognise the presence of diversity, which is experienced through the reality present in each of the three Provinces of the country and the different social contexts. And considering this plurality, UMBRASIL, together with the three Provinces, prepared the National Guidelines for Marist Youth Ministry.

During the reflections carried out with the Work Group, the team

understood that it was important to produce a document directed as much to the adolescents as to the young people of the MYM, and their accompaniers (animators, articulators, advisers, co-ordinators and ministers). For this reason, the use of an accessible, simple and communicative language was chosen, which takes into account the realities of young people.

To promote its dissemination, an extensive and formative programme was designed to make young people connected through social networks.

For the MYM the time has come to focus on the Guidelines, to recall the roads travelled and to outline new routes, so that more and more adolescents and young people can have their hearts transformed and touched by the love of the Gospel of Christ and the charism left by Saint Marcellin. Champagnat.

In [this link it is possible to download](#) the National Guidelines of the MYM.



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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