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MARIST NEWS

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23 DE JULIO

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOURVIÈRE PROMISE VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGES A LYON

On July 23, 1816, the day after their ordination, a group of young priests went to the Shrine of Fourvière, in Lyon, France, and at the feet of Our Lady, promised to found the Society of Mary. On the occasion of the anniversary of this Promise, the Network of Centres of Remembrance of the Region of South America invites the whole Marist family to another virtual Pilgrimage to visit the Marist places of our foundation.

Through this pilgrimage, it is possible to visit the Notre-Dame de Fourvière Basilica and the emblematic Saint-Jean Baptiste Cathedral, both in Lyon, France.

For the virtual visits, follow the instructions:

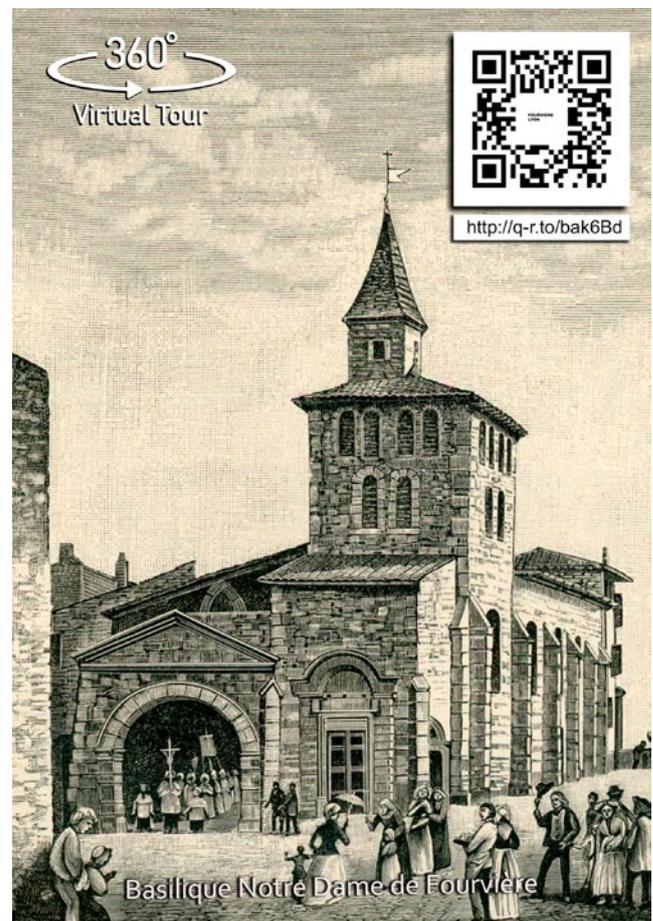
To take part using smartphones, tablets, VR glasses: point the camera at the QR code below and agree to open the link presented. You can also participate through your browser, enabling the possibility of playing sound. Click on these links:

- Basilica Notre-Dame de Fourvière - <http://q-r.to/bak6Bd>
- Saint-Jean Baptiste Cathedral - <http://q-r.to/bak67H>

Fourvière

The name derives from the Latin expression forum vetus (old forum), due to the remains of the ancient Roman settlement founded under the hill in 70 BC, considered to be ground zero in the city of Lyon. In the 9th century, a Catholic chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel was built on the site. Destroyed in successive wars and rebuilt in 1596, it became a place of miraculous healing and constant pilgrimage. In this ancient chapel, on July 23, 1816, twelve young newly ordained priests committed themselves before the image of the black Virgin, to the profession historically known as the Fourvière Promise, a fundamental event of the Society of Mary. Among them were Marcellin Champagnat, Jean-Claude Colin, Etienne Déclas and Etienne Terrailon. The promise was solemnly repeated by them in 1836 in gratitude for the pontifical approval of the Society of Mary. Today, next to the old church, we find the majestic Minor Basilica of Fourvière, completed in 1896. The frontispiece highlights in high relief some well-known personalities and saints of the Diocese of Lyon, among whom we see Fr Champagnat and Fr Colin. A monumental centre of pilgrimage, the complex stands out in the landscape of Lyon, demonstrating the strength of Marial spirituality. From the top of the hill one can easily see the plain where the Cathedral of Lyon is built.

For the Marist Family, this event marks a creative project of apostolic renewal of the Church, expressed in the creation of the different branches that make up the Society of Mary.



At the same time, it is a very important place for the Marists of Champagnat: in this same sanctuary, Marcellin would be consecrated before leaving for the parish of La Valla. And later,

he will thank the Virgin here for the appointment of Don Gaston de Pins, administrator of the Archdiocese of Lyons and supporter of the Marist Institute.

Saint-Jean Baptiste Cathedral, Lyon

The Saint-Jean Baptiste cathedral, or simply the cathedral of Lyon, is the Episcopal see of the archdiocese of Lyon. The Archbishop of Lyon has been given the title of Primate of the Gauls. It was built on the banks of the Saône River in the medieval quarter of Vieux Lyon. The Cathedral was built between 1180 and 1480, and on several occasions it was damaged and repaired, as, for example during the French Revolution. Its architecture combines Romanesque and Gothic styles. Among the countless historical events, the church was the scene of the Second Council of Lyon and the



marriage between Henry IV and Maria de Medici. From the courtyard in front of the cathedral, you can see the hill and the dome of the Basilica of Fourvière. At the top of the dome, we see the golden image of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, presented in 1852.

Fourvière Pledge

23 July 1816

All for the greater glory of God and the greater honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus.

We the undersigned, striving to work together for the greater glory of God and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus, assert and declare our sincere intention and firm will of consecrating ourselves at the first opportunity to founding the pious congregation of Mary-ists. That is why by the present act and our signatures, in so far as we can, we irrevocably dedicate ourselves and all our goods to the Society of the blessed Virgin.

We do this not childishly or lightly or for some human motive or the hope of material benefit, but seriously, maturely, having taken advice, having weighed everything before God, solely for the greater Glory of God and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus.

We pledge ourselves to accept all sufferings, trials, inconveniences, and if needs be, torture, because we can do all things in Christ Jesus who strengthens us and to whom we hereby promise fidelity in the bosom of our holy mother the Roman Catholic Church, cleaving with all our strength to its supreme head the Roman Pontiff and to our most reverend bishop, the ordinary, that we may be good ministers of Jesus Christ, nourished by the words of faith and by the wholesome teaching which by his grace we have received.

We trust that under the reign of our most Christian kind, the friend of peace and religion, this institute will shortly come to light and we solemnly promise that we shall spend ourselves and all we have in saving souls in every way under the very august name of the Virgin Mary and with her help.

And may the holy and immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary be praised.

Amen



PHILIPPINES

BROTHERS OF MAPAC TAKE PART IN AN ECOLOGICAL AND COSMIC EXPERIENCE

On July, 12th the second year student Brothers and some formators of the Marist Asia Pacific Center, in Philippines, attended a three days input exposure at the CARES Eco-Spirituality Center at Sitio, Sibol Bulacan. It is a place for: Laudato Si recollection, Eco-Spiritual formation, interfaith dialogue, Meetings, seminars, recollections, retreat camps and Just "BE".

The Mercedarian Missionaries Sisters of Berriz run the place.

Before the program began we were all asked to surrender all different types of gadgets and to just be aware by using our five senses during the journey into the Ecological and Cosmic experience.

Most of the reflections from the Brothers after the journey were very interesting.

- "What was fascinating to me was the contribution of sci-



ence to explain or to fill in the gaps to our understanding in the scripture and particularly the creation Story."

- "The experience somehow challenges my Christological understanding."
- "We have to shift from being Ego centric to Eco-centric".

GENERAL HOUSE

BR. ÓSCAR MARTÍN: "WON'T WE HAVE TO UNLEARN SOME OF OUR REASSURANCES?"

Brother Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councillor, shares with the Marist family [some reflections in relation to this time of Pandemic](#).

His reflection is based above all on the need to take advantage of the situation caused by the COVID-19 to unlearn, given that unlearning allows us to make changes: "I would like us to at least unlearn some things (...) Will we be able to unlearn individualism? To unlearn something of our activism", he asks us.

Brother Óscar also invites us to use this moment of pandemics to reflect on the journey of the Marist Institute: "We also think: and so now the Institute, what? (?) Something that comes to mind is the experience that we have all felt, me at least, of fear, of vulnerability of fragility Don't we as an institute also have to unlearn some of our certainties, our untouchable plans, our business formats and recover the vulnerable?"

You can see here the video in Spanish ([Youtube](#) | [Facebook](#)), with the subtitles available in the other 3 languages of the Institute.



ARCO NORTE REGION

MARIST LAITY AND INITIAL FORMATION TEAM



The areas of Marist Laity and Initial Formation of the Brothers of the Provinces of the Arco Norte Region (Canada, United States, México Central, México Occidental, América Central and Norandina) met during the first week of June to analyse the current situation in the area and to reflect on how to continue the projects in the face of the crisis of COVID-19.

Those responsible for the area have taken the following initiatives:

- To hold video conferences with the brothers in formation to exchange opinions and make decisions together.
- Collect the best practices of initial formation, by stage, and put them in a common folder for all to have access to.
- Connect, in a virtual way, all of those involved in initial formation. Within each stage of formation, young people were chosen to be responsible for the group, to organize and facilitate the meeting. To date, a virtual meeting has been held for each stage of formation: postulants, novices and scholastics/temporary vows.

The Region seeks to promote networking (at Institute, Regional and inter-congregational levels) to continue formation, facilitate communication and share resources. And it has planned to hold, every two years, a meeting of formators of Arco Norte of a formative nature, for exchange and evaluation.

During the meeting of Formators, which took place in 2019, in Colombia, the brothers responsible for initial formation discussed Marist formation, and after sharing ideas, the team began to get to know the reality and the formation plan of each province.

Faced to the call to live charism and shared mission between brothers and laity, two initiatives stand out in this meeting:

- Create gathering spaces, dialogue, and joint reflection between Brothers, young men in formation and lay people to value and discern our vocation as Marists of Champagnat.
- Promote experiences of spirituality and shared mission among Brothers, young men in formation and lay people

At the end of the meeting, the group prepared a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), where the common lines existing at the regional level were highlighted. See here the [final report 2019](#) (PDF).

Following the calls of the XXII General Chapter, the region is working to create paths and processes that will unite the region more as a global family and as Marists, recognizing the diversity and richness that exists in the Marist Institute.

marist world

INDIA: RAINBOW FAMILIES

MELANESIA AND AUSTRALIA BECOME ONE MARIST ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

SPAIN: COMMUNITY OF CHAMPAGNAT MARIST COLLEGE, SALAMANCA



AUSTRALIA: LAVALLA200> MOUNT DRUITT COMMUNITY

SRILANKA: 98TH BIRTHDAY OF BR. GERAD – NEGOMBO, SRI LANKA

GENERAL HOUSE: FAREWELL TO BR. FABIEN BULAIMU

GENERAL HOUSE

FMSI COLLABORATES WITH SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN PROMOTED BY FOCSIV AND CARITAS ITALIANA

In order to help those most in need, affected by the Covid-19 in different countries, the Federation of Christian Organisations International Voluntary Service (FOCSIV), to which FMSI belongs, and Caritas Italiana have launched the campaign "Dacci il nostro pane quotidiano" (Give us this day our daily bread).

As part of the campaign, FMSI collaborates through its communication channels and promotes two projects:

In Syria (Aleppo), it helps the oldest and most fragile people, through the daily distribution of meals and assistance to the most needy.

In Malawi, it promotes different campaigns: a preventive campaign against the coronavirus. Another, against gender violence, and also another to encourage the purchase of equipment and educational materials for open schools

(free schools for young victims of school dropouts). The campaign aims to promote solidarity in the areas

most affected by the pandemic – in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Central America, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Balkans – where Caritas and FOCSIV are present.



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



UNITED NATIONS

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW: AN UN TOOL FOR MARISTS TO PROMOTE THE HUMAN RIGHTS

To break-open and understand the system United Nations [Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#) we find that the review of a Nation States record of Human Rights activity is not a linear process. Step 1 ... Step 2 ... Step 3 ... end! It is more like a tapestry and NGOs such as [FMSI](#) need to weave themselves in and out of the process in collaboration with their Marist network partners located in the eighty countries that make up the twenty seven administrative units of the Marist

Global Family. So, when you read this you need to be prepared to travel backwards and forwards through the various activities that form the whole canvas or picture.

The UPR is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. Each Member State is reviewed in cycles with a four-and-half year period.

Who conducts the review?

The reviews are conducted by the UPR Working Group which consists of the 47 members of the Council. Each State review is assisted by groups of three States, known as a Troika, serving as rapporteurs.

What are the reviews based on?

The reviews are based three sets of documents presented by:

1. A Nation State: information provided by the State under Review ... a national report.
2. United Nations bodies: information contained in the



reports of independent human rights experts and groups, known as the Special Procedures, human rights treaty bodies, and other UN entities.

3. Civil Society Organisations (CSO): information from other stakeholders including national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations such as FMSI and its partners (principally Franciscans International and Edmund Rice International with whom we share an office in Geneva.)

The UPR is a process rather than a single event. It is often misunderstood that the public session of the UPR Working Group on the State under Review, which is scheduled towards the end of the process, is the actual UPR. This meeting is known as an Interactive Dialogue, and is a time when all Nation States can offer statements and make recommendations to the State under Review. The State under Review is obliged, by a resolution of the Human Rights Council, to respond to these recommendations. They can only support or note the recommendations, they may NOT

reject them, and they must respond to each recommendation clearly in their addendum which is submitted to the Human Rights Council before the Human Rights Council adopts a final report.

Civil Society Organisations are encouraged to monitor but are not permitted to speak at the Interactive Dialogue (only Nation States).

CSOs must endeavour to have the voice of their communities heard (advocacy) by Nation States and UN bodies beforehand so that their recommendations may be included in the formal dialogue and thus generate the legal need for the State under Review to respond.

What follows the Interactive Dialogue?

- The State under Review is given the chance to respond to some of the concerns raised.
- A report on the UPR Working Group session of the State under Review is adopted a couple of days after the review.

How does FMSI participate in this ministry of advocacy?

FMSI, which has consultative status at the UN, and other stakeholders (individually or in partnership) can influence the recommendations made to the State under Review through their engagement in several activities.

Before the Interactive Dialogue

1. Making Individual or Joint Submissions to the UPR Working Group. These submissions may also be included by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in its Stakeholder Summary, which is made available to the Member States of the UN.
2. [Timeframe: 7 months before Interactive Dialogue]
3. FMSI relies on a network of ground-based Marists to provide research information on human rights issues that are of concern to them so that the submissions can be written collaboratively.
4. Lobbying Member States by arranging meetings with delegates and members of their Permanent Missions requesting that they include some recommendations proposed by FMSI when they speak during the interactive dialogue and at other diplomatic meetings.
5. [Timeframe: 1 month before Interactive Dialogue]
6. Lobbying is sometimes supported by the presence of representatives from the State under Review who are sponsored to be in Geneva or by virtual appearances. The country representative personally makes representations to Permanent Missions, accompanied by their sponsoring NGO.

7. Participating in the UPR-Info pre-session. UPR-Info is an NGO which collates and monitors submissions and recommendations of the UPR. Participation in this meeting allows FMSI to speak to their submission in front of an audience containing other NGO's, and many delegates from Permanent Missions. [Time-frame: 3 months call; 1 month meeting before Interactive Dialogue]
8. Country representatives often participate in these meetings.

During and immediately after the Interactive Dialogue and the Responses

1. Monitoring the comments and recommendations of the Nation States and the UPR Working Party checking to see how many FMSI recommendations had been included in their interventions.
2. Scrutinising the responses (addendum) of the State under Review.
3. Evaluating the first report of the UPR Working group.
4. Participating in Side Meetings which evaluate and reinforce the recommendations.

The Final Report

After the first report is adopted, the State Under Review has several months to formulate its responses to all the recommendations made to it.

The final report of the Working Group and Addendum is then again debated and adopted by a consensus at a plenary session of the Human Rights Council. [Timeframe: several months]

FMSI and members of the Marist Network will then monitor, and feedback results and activities prompted by the UPR. [Timeframe: a 4 year process until the next UPR for that country]

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – 37th Session 9 -12 November 2020

THE RIGHT TO SEEK ASYLUM – Unaccompanied Minors in Australia who are 'Legacy Caseload' Asylum Seekers LCAS

[Document submitted by Foundation for Marist Solidarity, International](#)

SOLIDARITY SECRETARIAT

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: “THE RIGHT TO HAVE A FAMILY”

The Convention on the Rights of the Child speaks, as one of the main rights of children and adolescents, of the right to life and to have a family. Today, we are going to focus, as Marists, on this essential section for our way of being and living, the right to have a family.

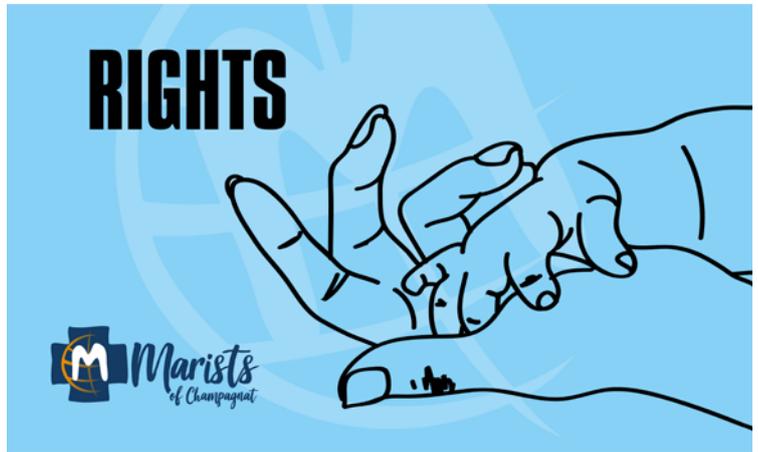
Yes, we already know that children are subjects of rights, and it is considered that they need these rights to be able to develop in an integral way, and that is why we consider them as such.

Children, in order to grow up healthy and develop their full potential, need the care of adults who love them, understand them, guide them and offer them security during the different stages of their growth.

Most children have parents who fulfill this role and an extended family that provides them with the necessary opportunities for balanced development. But, sadly, not all children have a human group at their side. Orphans, migrant children separated from their parents, “toxic” parents and families that prevent children from living with them, abandoned children, street children... are a reality also in this 21st century.

Therefore, the States have the duty to commit themselves to the fulfilment of this right and to reach the life of these children without a biological family that loves and protects them. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the international treaty most widely ratified by States. Even so, it is something that must be improved, a right that we must continue to fight for, as Marists of Champagnat, in our globalized world.

The Marist presence with children in a situation of vulnerability and without family (centres for minors, unaccompanied migrant children, street children?) is part of our way



of responding in accordance with the Marist charism. They represent a daily way of “being the face and hands of your tender mercy” for them.

Likewise, the message of the XXII General Chapter reminds us of our commitment to “walk with children and young people who are marginalized from life”, and these children who do not have a family in which to grow up, in a healthy way, are a clear example. We are called to listen to their “crying”, fleeing from “paternalistic approaches”.

This right to have a family does not only mean a blood relationship, but goes beyond it. We find wonderful examples of non-biological parents who have provided a home of light for hundreds of children, through temporary or permanent foster care or adoption; and childcare centres, whatever their situation, that try to offer them love, security and trust.

Yes, friends, children have the RIGHT to a family. It is up to us to continue working to make this happen.

Br. Ángel Diego – Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity



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