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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

2020 LAVALLA200>

Eight generous Marists have just completed 10 weeks of online preparation and discernment to join the [Lavalla200> program](#): María Liezel N. Igoy (East Asia), Rubén Galego Montero and Silvia Martínez García (Compostela), Mayra Ileana Gutiérrez Márquez, Mariana Elisa Morones Muñoz, Esmeralda Caudel Medrano and Denise Hernández Sánchez (México Occidental), and Br. Luis Sanz de Diego (Santa María de los Andes).

Just the one Brother and one English-speaker this time. Each day we had two translators from our competent Marists in Spain.



The training involved three 3-hour sessions each week plus multiple sessions on the Enneagram, weekly personal accompaniment and time together in virtual fraternities. We were very fortunate that our usual workshop presenters mastered the art of presenting online. The overall experience was rated very positively by the candidates, some of whom had to balance their participation with work commitments. Nothing replaces rubbing shoulders on a daily basis when it comes to preparing for intercultural community life and mission, but a real sense of connection, trust and belonging developed even across the oceans that separated us. Maybe one day they can meet face to face ... At the end of their time, they prepared a Pact that captures their experience and commitment ([English](#) | [Español](#)).

Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Óscar Martín, General Councillor, interviewed the candidates and will now work with Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, to determine placements. Then we will have an online commissioning ceremony and party! Of course, travel and visas will be more of a challenge this year than normal. The new 'graduates' will not

be leaving their current employments for the time being.

Br. Ernesto also recently thanked those who are concluding their presence and service in these communities around this time, July-August (another group will end in December):

- In Moinesti, Romania: Francisco Decesaro and Nancy Alexandra Prochnow (Brazil Centro-Sul) and Br. Barsén García Alonso have completed three years.
- In Atlantis (South Africa): María Bobillo (Compostela) and Br. Pietro Bettin (Mediterránea) have completed three years.
- In Holguín, Cuba, Br. Jong Acosta (East Asia), completed one and a half years.
- In Syracuse, Rosa Schiaffino (Mediterránea) has completed two years and is ready to continue in another community of Lavalla200>.
- In Mount Druitt, Australia, Argelia Hernández Mendoza and Rodrigo Gris Castro (México Occidental) have completed three and a half years.

MARIST SAINTS

BR. LICARION, MURDERED ON JULY 27, 1909**Who was Brother Lycarion?**

He was a Marist Brother, born in Switzerland, in the small village of Bagnes, Canton of Valais, on July 21, 1870; his parents were: Mauricio Eugenio and Maria Virginia, and they formed a small family among small agricultural or farming proprietors who lived as excellent Christians.

He lived in this rural environment, where he is formed and where Benjamin works until the age of 18 years old.

His youth goes by in a normal ordinary way, until he decides to ask to enter the Marist Congregation, moved by the concern that he has for the education of young people and children in need. When he entered the Marist Institute he received the name of Lycarion, this was August 15, 1888. After a long time of religious and profane studies, his idea to consecrate all his force to Christian education of youth and children in need became mature.



But very soon this life, so full of illusions given by professors and relatives was cut short.

The Tragic Week

In this brief biographical synthesis of Brother Lycarion we avoid the socio-political-religious aspects of the Tragic Week, but only mention them, as a frame for his death.

From day-break on July 26, there is a general strike, the object of which is "to protest against the war and the abuses of the Government.

At 9 o'clock in the morning the strike is general in Pueblo Nuevo and other neighborhoods. At 11.30 at night a group of men and women station themselves before the Patronato Obrero of Saint Joseph on Wad-Rass Street and break everything within reach. The police was called but when it arrived it was too late the building was burning on the four sides. The forces of law and order could only protect the Marists to take them to their near-by residence.

In Spain

Having finished the first stage of his formation, he formalizes his consecration to God in the Institute of the Marist Brothers; Brother Lycarion was sent to Spain. In Mataró (Barcelona) he continues his formation and perfects himself in the Spanish language. At the same time that he is studying he carries out the teaching practice in Gerona and Torelló (Barcelona).

In Canet de Mar (Barcelona) during five years he carries out great work as educator and director.

From here the Superiors sent him to Arceniega ((Álava), where he directs the school that the Brothers have in that city.

His personal qualities and the extraordinary fruits that he is harvesting as educator and director lead the Superiors to think of him to direct the School that the Patronato Obrero – Workers Association – of Saint Joseph in the neighborhood of Barcelona of Pueblo Nuevo offers to the Marist Brothers.

Brother, in spite that the mission was difficult and complicated, accepted and without sparing any efforts he set down to work and opened the door of the school on October 1, 1906. The beginning was very hard: the house of the Brothers is stoned on several occasions; the insults on the public street are frequent. During some time the Brothers were not even able to go out on the street.

The pedagogy of Brother Lycarion is based on practice, order and good taste. The parents very soon appreciated the progress of their sons and the dedication of the religious, and end by being at the side of and in favor of the Brothers and of the director.

The martyrdom

On the 27th the day begins with expectation. In Pueblo Nuevo the masses are mobilized with the intention of prolonging what was begun in the Patronato of Saint Joseph, and the Brothers are invited to go out from their residence by a known person, he convinces them to follow him without any fear, that it was the right moment to go out of the house and to walk without any danger, in spite of the frequent shooting on the streets of Pueblo Nuevo, and they believe his words and go down wearing the cassock following the false friend. As soon as the first one of the line – the director – arrives to the street, the deceitful friend shouts out to the revolutionary men, who were dispersed. Here you have them! at the same time that a shot is heard; the terrified Brothers seek refuge where and how they can, rapidly hiding themselves inside where there were some open doors... Brother Lycarion who was in front was shot and wounded; he walks to the wall in front. There he falls on his knees deadly wounded, and where he is finished by the revolutionaries, he joins his hands together and prays recommending his soul to Jesus and Mary and he forgives his murderers.

His body was taken to the Clinic Hospital where he remained several days; from there he is taken to the southeastern cemetery (Montjuich) and buried in the common or mass grave as someone unknown. He is the first Marist martyr in Spain and as such, very humble even in his death and burial.

How was the Brother

- As professor, he was admirable, sacrificed, zealous for the good of his pupils. He prepared the classes with great care both pedagogically as well as literally. He had the gift of a beautiful handwriting. Daily he wrote with a red letter in the notebook of each pupil the phrase or the model letters that the pupils had to copy, during the corresponding class.
- He explained the readings with great interest and clarity according to the Marist pedagogical canons, but he made a very particular effort in the explanation of the Catechism of Christian Doctrine, and even with greater care, if possible, in the catechesis on Saturday; and did everything in honor of the most Holy Virgin Mary to whom Brother Lycarion had great devotion.
- He knew how to stimulate and encourage the pupils giving them small rewards, praising them or with paternal reprimands always given at the due time and in class he had established two bands called the "Roman camp" and the "Carthaginian". Every month the camps were changed and the pupils from the winning camp would go for an outing one afternoon while the others would stay in the class working.
- He enjoyed the appreciation of the people of the town and

he was known as the Brother Saint.

- He distinguished himself especially because of his social dealings in such a way that after one year he had already gained the trust of everyone because of his work and his affection.
- He was persecuted and murdered for having kept his faith and the religion of Christ, for having practiced the work of mercy teaching the ignorant those who do not know and for having followed religious life as the sure path of giving himself to others.
- He was a martyr who knew how to shed his blood between the smiles on his lips and the prayers in his heart.
- He was a simple school teacher and of a poor school, and among the boys who went to his school he diffused the love of Jesus by his life of love and sacrifice.

By the path of the Saints

In January 1967 the Archbishop of Barcelona. Don Marcelo González Martín, named a tribunal to begin the Diocesan Process of canonization of Brother Lycarion.

In November 1967 the tribunal handed in all the documentation of the process to be deposited in the Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

BRAZIL

MARIST UNIVERSITY STANDS OUT AMONG THE BEST UNIVERSITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

The Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), of the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, is among the 20 best universities in Latin America, according to the international ranking published on July 7 by the Times Higher Education (THE) Latin America 2020. PUCRS appears as the best private institution in the southern region of Brazil and ranks second among all Brazilian private universities. In the assessment made by the Times Higher Education – which this year included 1,400 universities from 92 countries – PUCRS stands out especially in the areas of citation, research, teaching and international perspective. The recognition rewards the effort of the Marist institution to improve the educational level in its different areas and reinforces the commitment of the institution to the production of knowledge and international cooperation. Since 1994, PUCRS has been supported by the Brazilian Union of Education and Assistance (UBEA), a civil entity of the Marist Network.

Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS)
The Rector of PUCRS is Br. Evilázio Teixeira. The university was founded in 1931, when the Higher Course in Administration



and Finance was launched. It was recognized as a university on November 9, 1948. Today, it has about 30 thousand students, more than 140 thousand graduates, 63 options for undergraduate courses, 23 options for master's degrees, 21 for doctorates and more than 100 specializations. At its 63rd anniversary, the Institution consolidated itself as one of the best in the country, with 89% of its professors holding a master's or doctoral degree. It has more than 200 laboratories for its teaching and research activities, in addition to a University Hospital, a Science and Technology Park (Tecnopuc), a Science and Technology Museum (MCT), a Sports Park, a Theatre and an Events Centre.

NIGERIA

KEY STAKEHOLDERS OF MARIST SCHOOLS GATHER TO REVIEW “MARIST HANDBOOK OF SERVICE”

The key stakeholders of Marist schools in Nigeria held a meeting with the Provincial Superior on 18th July 2020 at Marist Polytechnic Umuchigbo-Iji Nike, Enugu.

These key stakeholders included some members of the Marist Schools Management Board, members of the Finance Commission and School Heads and Deputies.

The purpose of the meeting was to have a final review of Province’s Handbook of Service for Marist Schools and other related documents. The occasion was also used to give progress reports on the online lessons that have been going on in Marist Schools since the closure of schools by the Federal Government of Nigeria as a result of the corona virus Pandemic.

In his welcome address, the Provincial Superior, Br. Vincent Abadom, welcomed all the participants and thanked them for coming despite the covid-19 pandemic. The participants were drawn from all Marist schools in Nigeria.

Highlights of the event included group discussions, groups’ reports presentations, free interactions among the participants, refreshments, tour of the Marist Polytechnic facilities, among others.

In his closing remarks, the Provincial thanked all for their contributions and their active participation in the meeting. In a special way, he thanked the lay colleagues for being part of the meeting.



marist world

SYRIA: FORMATION OF THE BLUE MARISTS

SPAIN: MARIST HOUSE EL ESCORIAL – PLAQUE FOR WELCOMING HEALTH PERSONNEL DURING CONFINEMENT

SPAIN: NAVALGUIJO, ÁVILA



MEXICO: MARIST BROTHERS IN THE "CASA DE CHAMPAGNAT"

PHILIPPINES - LEBAK, SULTAN KUDARAT

GERMANY: MARISTEN-GYMNASIUM FURTH

GENERAL HOUSE

BR. KEN MCDONALD TALKS ABOUT LEARNINGS AND CHALLENGES DURING COVID-19

What does it mean to be Marist in this new reality? That is the question Br. Ken McDonald, General Councilor, answers, as he talks about learning and challenges brought about by the crisis caused by COVID-19.

"I think that one of the priorities will be that of being in communion", mentions Brother Ken in the video that we share here below. "It is very important for the Institute to reprioritize what we do (...) Our priorities will need to change", he indicates.



EAST TIMOR

A NEW MARIST COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED IN LAUTÉM

The Marist Brothers have been present in East Timor since 2000. In 2013, the Province of Australia suggested to UMBRA-SIL that they send Educators (Brothers and Lay Marists), with the intention of opening a new Marist school in East Timor, an initiative supported by the Government of this country. In 2018, Brothers Manoel Soares (Brasil Centro-Norte) and João Batista Pereira (Brasil Centro-Sul) arrived. While the project was being planned, the two brothers joined the other Marists to help in education, in the Catholic Institute (Brother Manoel) and in the formation of candidates for religious life (Brother João Batista). Finally, on the 4th July, the two Brothers were able to launch the new community in Lautém, where the new school will be built, on a piece of land donated to the Marist some time ago. Brother Manoel tells us what the first community experience in Lautém was like.

One of the initial proposals that formed part of the project to build a school in East Timor by the Province of Australia was that the missionary Brothers would live in Lautém, in the parish house, together with Father Joaquim, who played an important role in the search for a site for the construction of the school. However, the parish house did not have enough rooms to accommodate two or three brothers on a permanent basis.

Next to the parish house there was another building, but in very unsatisfactory conditions. When the Provincial of Australia, Brother Peter Carroll, visited Lautém, he saw the inadequate conditions of this construction, and he authorized a general renovation to welcome the future Marist community. The new structure has 6 rooms, a large living room, a dining room and a kitchen.

On the 4th July this year, Brothers João Batista and Manoel Soares were able to have their first community experience in this new residence, which belongs to the parish of Lautém, but which has been loaned to the Province of Australia for a period of seven years.



It is not yet a definitive community, since both brothers will continue their activities in Baucau during the second half of 2020. Brother João will continue to work in the house of formation, with the aspirants, and Brother Manoel will continue to give Portuguese classes in the Institute for Teacher Formation, at least until December of this year. However, the new house will allow both the brothers and the aspirants to have a place to go, during the weekends, to do pastoral work with the young people of this community.



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