



Year XIII - Number 640 | 5 AUGUST 2020

# MARIST NEWS

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

## GENERAL HOUSE

# APPOINTMENTS OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND HIS COUNCIL

**B**rother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, presented the appointments made by the General Council from November 2019, in his letter to the Brothers Provincial, District Superiors and their Councils, dated 7 July 2020. Some appointments have already been published on our website, a few days ago. Here is the complete list of the appointments made.



### Provincials

- Br. Pablo González Franco as Provincial of the Province of Santa María de los Andes, for three years, beginning in December 2020. (The Provincial Chapter has been postponed from July to December, hence he will begin in December). I thank Br. Saturnino Alonso for his six years of devoted service and his willingness to continue until December.
- Br. Antonio Benedito de Oliveira (Benê), as Provincial of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, for a second three-year term, starting in December 2020.
- Br. Orlando Escobar, as Provincial of the Province of Norandina, for three years, starting in December 2020. Thanks to Br. César Augusto Rojas Carvajal for generously serving as Provincial during these past six years.
- Br. Hipólito Pérez Gómez, as Provincial of the Province of Central America, for a second three-year term, beginning in December 2020.

### General Administration

- Br. José Libardo Garzón Duque (Norandina), extension of his mandate as Bursar General for one year, starting on 01/01/2021.
- Br. Luis Daniel Herrera Meza (Mexico Central), as Secretary General for 3 years, starting on 01/10/2020.
- Br. Antoni Martínez Frigola (Province of L'Hermitage), Legal Representative, for 3 years, starting on 1/10/2020, bursar of

- the GH communities (starting on 01/09/2020) and continuing as the Institute's official representative to the Holy See.
- Br. Carlos Alberto Huidobro (Cruz del Sur), extension of his mandate as Secretary General, from 01/07/2020 to 1/11/2020, to support the induction of the new Secretary General and the new Legal Representative.
- Br. Jesús Alberto Rodríguez (Compostela), as representative agent to the Vatican, from 01/04/2020.
- Guillermo José Villarreal Cavazos (México Occidental), as Postulator General, for three years, starting on 01/09/2020.
- Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún (L'Hermitage), to support the transition to the new Postulator General, until 01/06/2021.
- Mr. Raúl Amaya (Santa María de los Andes), Director of the Secretariat of the Laity, for a second period of three years, starting on 01/01/2021.
- We are grateful to Mr. Pep Buetas (L'Hermitage) for the seven years of service he has given to the Secretariat of the Laity, first as Co-Director and then as Assistant Director. Mr. Manuel Jesús Gómez Cid (Mediterránea), who has been a member of the team since January, will begin as Assistant Director on 01/09/2020.
- Br. Francis-Yufenyuy Lukong (District of West Africa) as

**Due to the holiday period in the northern hemisphere, the next newsletter will be sent on August 26th**

Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, for three years, starting on 01/09/2020.

- Br. Angel Diego García Otaola (Mediterránea), as acting Director of FMSI-ONLUS, from 1/06/2020. We thank Rick Carey (USA) for his service as Director of FMSI, until June 2020.
- The Management Board of the Bedford Fund: Br. Libardo José Garzón Duque (Norandina) and Br. Francisco Baeza (PACE), for three years, from 1/01/2021, Br. Gregorio Linacero Melón (Central America), for three years, from 01/09/2020 to 31/08/2023 and Mr. Luiz Carlos Pilotto (Brasil Sul-Amazônia), for one year from 01/09/2020 to 31/08/2021.
- Mr. Luca Piagnerelli, as Operational Manager in the new structure of the General House, from 01/11/2019.
- Br. Bryan Davis (Australia), as Director of the English language third age course, for three years, from 02/06/2020 to 01/06/2023.
- The extension of the mandate of the Committee of the Marist Schools Network until 30/04/2021: Brs. Ador Santiago (East Asia), Natalino De Souza (Brasil Centro-Norte),

Nicéforo Garrán (Central America), Henry Uzor (Nigeria), and Mr. Llorenç Claramunt (L'Hermitage), Mr. Frank Malloy (Australia), Mrs. Montserrat Giménez Hernández (Ibérica), for a period of six months, until 30/04/2021. The team is supported by the facilitator, Mrs. Ana Von Frankenberg Berger (Laboratório de Criatividade do TECNOPUC, Porto Alegre, Brasil Sul-Amazônia).

- Mrs. Nazarena Palmieri to work in the Reception of the General House, from 01/04/2020

#### Community of N.D. de l'Hermitage

- Brother Rafael Ferreira (Brasil Centro Norte), as a member of the community of N.D. de l'Hermitage, for three years, from 1/01/2021.
- We are grateful to Ms. Heloisa Afonso de Almeida Sousa (Brasil Centro-Norte) for her four years of presence and service in the community of N.D. de l'Hermitage.
- We are grateful to Br. Diogène Musine (PACE) for his ten years of presence and service in the community of N.D. de l'Hermitage.

## GENERAL HOUSE

# GUILLERMO JOSÉ VILLARREAL CAVAZOS APPOINTED NEW POSTULATOR GENERAL

The Superior General with his Council has appointed, on 23 April 2020, Brother Guillermo José Villarreal Cavazos, of the Province of México Occidental, as Postulator General, for three years, beginning on 1 September 2020. Brother Guillermo will replace Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún, who has been in this service since 2016. Br. Estaún will continue at the General House until 1st June 2021, to support the transition to the new Postulator General.

Brother Guillermo Villarreal was born in August 1977 in Mexico City. He is a former student of the Marist schools of Monterrey, Mexico. He made his Novitiate in Morelia. He professed his first vows in 1998 and his perpetual vows in 2004. He obtained a doctorate in Education at the Marist University of Guadalajara (UMG)

and completed a specialization in Marist Charism and Educational Principles at PUCPR (Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná).



He has been a teacher in various works of his province and at various academic levels, a pastoral agent, a formator of brothers and a collaborator in various

services in the Province of México Occidental. At the same time, he has participated in the spiritual and pedagogical formation of lay Marists and forms part of a fraternity of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family.

During the last year he has been director of both the scholasticate and the postulancy of his province. He also teaches some subjects at UMG and at

the Interreligious of Guadalajara. He also collaborated as a spiritual accompanier in the Ignatian Centre of Spirituality - Loyola House.

## AUSTRALIA

# DISTRICT OF MELANESIA FORMALLY JOINS AUSTRALIAN PROVINCE

On Monday 20 July an online celebration was held to mark the occasion of the District of Melanesia formally joining the Province of Australia, now formed by communities, schools and ministries in seven countries: Australia, Cambodia, East Timor, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu. Br. Peter Carroll, Provincial of Australia, says the bonds between Melanesia and Australia have always been close, and here below he tells us more about this formal union.

In January this year the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, announced that the District of Melanesia would be dissolved as a separate administrative unit within the Institute, and be joined to the Province of Australia. This took effect on Monday, 20 July.

It was formalised by means of an 'online' prayer and ceremony; a mix of live and recorded pieces. Br Ernesto gave an address, former Provincials and Leaders of the District offered reflections and prayers. The outgoing leader, Br Jean Marie Batick and the incoming leader spoke at the end. The whole commemoration was beautifully crafted around the theme of growing in communion with the Emmaus story threaded throughout. I am most grateful to Tony Leon, Darren Burge and Graham Neist for their careful and creative work for the occasion.

No Marist entity, whether it's a District or Province, Association or Fraternity, School or social work, lives in a "silo" or a "bubble" as we so often say now. All have a common faith, the same founder, a shared spirituality, tradition and mission. We are all part of the Marist Family of Marcellin Champagnat. The joining together of the District and the Province gives greater clarity and definition to the unity that already exists.

In fact, the bonds between Australia and Melanesia have always been close – from the very beginning of Marist ministry there. While there were Marist Brothers in the Solomon Islands for a short, tragic period from 1847-1852, it was in 1938 that the first Australian Brothers started ministry there. Many Australian Brothers have worked in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon



Islands since then. Some have served as leaders of the District of Papua New Guinea-Solomon Islands or, District of Melanesia, as it became more recently. Some have died there – such as Brothers John-William, Justin and Donatus who were executed by the Japanese during World War II.

Brothers from Melanesia have trained and studied in Australia. Brothers have laboured together; taught together, lived and prayed together and made deep and lasting friendships. In more recent years, this has extended to Marist lay women and men.

Since 2003, the District has included New Caledonia and Vanuatu. While the connection between Australia and these countries has not been as direct, our Marist relations are still strong. Interestingly, in early years the Marist Brothers and their works in New Caledonia came under the administration of the Provincial of Australia, until 1899. Our historical ties are close.

This merger means that the Province is one of the most international and intercultural in the Institute. It now includes Brothers, Marists and ministries in Papua New Guinea, the autonomous District of Bougainville, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, as well as Australia, East Timor and the community and school in Cambodia. We have been blessed and enriched throughout our history, and we are again now at this historic moment.

Change can occur quickly and suddenly, but effective transitions take time. Marists in Australia and Melanesia are entering a new phase of our relationship. It is a journey we will travel together over years. We will learn and grow together. We will continue to walk together in Christ.

Br. Peter Carroll – Provincial of Australia

ECUADOR

# THE “SHARING THE JOURNEY” PROJECT IN QUITO HAS BEEN HELPING IMMIGRANTS FOR TWO YEARS

Two years and two months after its inauguration (June 6, 2018), 209 migrants have been helped by the Marist project “Sharing the Journey”, of the Province of Norandina, which is taking place in the San José retreat



house in El Inca, in the city of Quito, Ecuador. The majority of the immigrants have been Venezuelans, some Colombians, Cubans, Haitians, a Peruvian, a Ugandan, a Portuguese, a Nicaraguan, among others.

“In these months of the coronavirus pandemic, which is somewhat disastrous for Ecuador, the 28 migrants we are currently helping are complying with the provisions and protective care implemented by the authorities. We have not had any health problems; our time is dedicated to work in the gardens, sports, recreation and also to spiritual reflection, almost, as in the first Marist community”, explained Brother Mariano Morante.

As part of the internal organization, the migrants help with the house’s chores, since there is only one coordinator. The cleaning, both personal and community, is done by the life groups, as well as the preparation of food, the washing of dishes, clothes and other collaborations that have allowed the

creation of a family atmosphere, typical of the Marists.

“Besides the management team, the programme is supported by the community, some volunteers, the fraternities, teachers, etc. The actions carried out with national institutions committed to the protection of vulnerable populations, as much in food as in equipment for cleaning and health protection, have allowed a highly significant economic saving”, concluded Brother Mariano and the Solidarity Team.

### The “Sharing the Journey” project

Sensitive to the calls of the XXII General Chapter, to respond audaciously to the emerging situations of our reality, the Province of Norandina, through the Marist Ecuadorian Grouping, inaugurated on 6 June 2018 the Programme “Sharing the Journey” to support migrants in vulnerable situations, which provides first aid, food, spiritual accompaniment, training and legal assistance.

## Thanks to the translators

Our Bulletin is an instrument that promotes the unity of the Marist family, fostering awareness of its global identity, as requested by the last General Chapter. It gathers the news published on champagnat.org, in the 4 official languages of the Institute, and is sent weekly to more than 2,000 subscribers to our mailing list. This mission is only possible thanks to the effort and generosity of the translators who dedicate a few hours of their time each day, free of charge, to contribute to the Department of Communications of the General Administration. We are grateful to Brothers Jean-Pierre Cotnoir and Gilles Hogue (French translators); Brother Douglas Welsh (daily) and, occasionally, Brothers Jeff Crowe, Michael Sexton and John Allen (English translators); Heloisa Afonso de Almeida Sousa and Brother Manoel Soares (Portuguese translators). Thank you very much!

## MEXIQUE

# MARISTS CONNECTED: VIRTUAL SPACE OF MEETING BETWEEN MARIST YOUTH OF AMERICA

## An opportunity to be a global family in times of COVID-19

“MARIST CONNECTIONS” is a virtual meeting place for the Marist youth of America, which has been occurring by video call every two weeks since 23 April 2020. It is a place for sharing our daily lives, our anxieties and our joys, bad and good things that are happening in these turbulent times that allow us to see that, in spite of being isolated, we are together as a Marist family carrying the same values and dreams, even when

we are in different countries and situations. A place that allows us to look at things differently, to reflect on what we are going through. It arose from a connection of the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul with that of México Central and it expanded to the eleven provinces of America.

The following lines express the experience of those who have been connected:

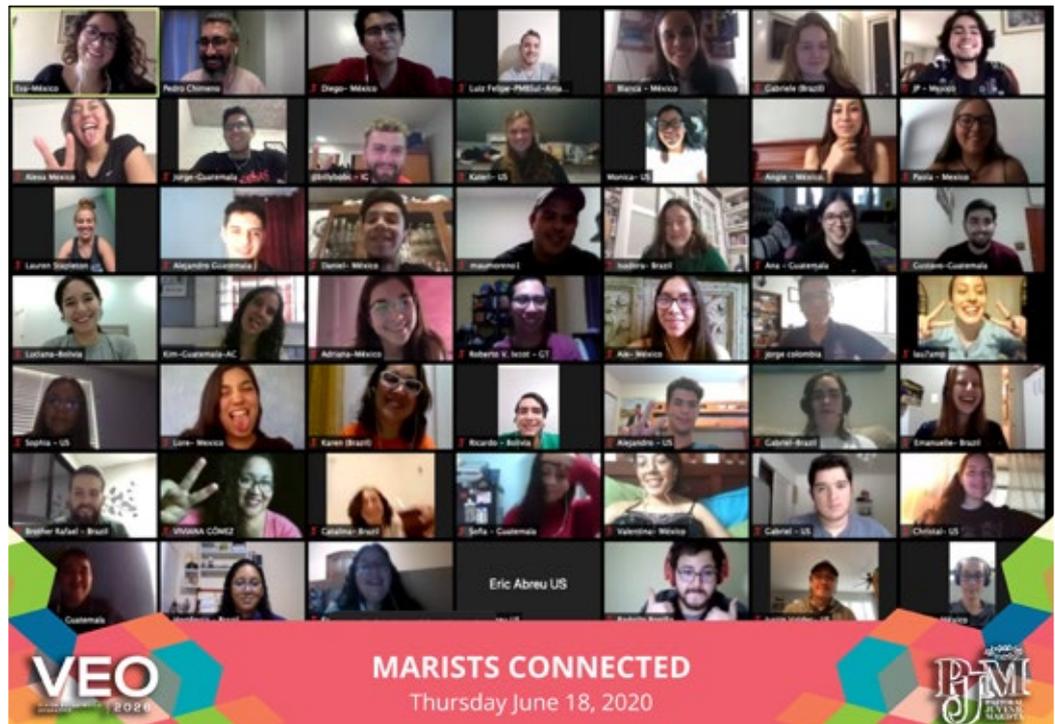
“I got up, with a bit of difficulty, it was another day, an unhappy one because I was still in the same situation; in quarantine! How horrible it was just to think about it, and writing it down just makes it all the more remarkable; I’m in a situation that I can’t control and I certainly don’t know how it’s going to end, but there was something different. Today it was that call which I had waited for so long and which made me so nervous; the Marist connection where I would meet young people from other parts of the world who like me... did not know what would happen.

The time had come, I was very anxious, since I did not know what to expect, I wanted very much to meet new people, to see what they were like, but at the same time I was uncertain if my participation would be useful, if they would understand me, because they did not all speak the same language as me, or if I would simply freeze up and not be able to say anything. I entered the link, I saw how they accepted me in the meeting, how the young people were joining in and the screen was full of new, happy and completely different faces; the organizer

greeted me and started the meeting.

At that moment all those nerves disappeared almost instantly. The language barrier disappeared and an atmosphere of joy and celebration began to be felt. We were separated into smaller groups and although we had never seen each other before, it felt as if we had known each other all our lives, we felt that Marist charism that so characterises us and I realised that in other corners of the planet there are people who share a marvellous way of facing different realities.

We started to work on solidarity and we arrived at the same conclusion: the need to make ourselves heard and to contribute what is necessary so that those sad smiles can once again illuminate the desolate streets. We hope that a new world has emerged with much more empathy and compassion. We visualize the existence of several hearts fighting for the same cause and speaking one language: Love. Sharing our world views and the challenges we face every day, I found in others people who, like me, were experiencing their difficulties. In addition to awakening empathy within me,



marist world

SPAIN: COLEGIO SANTA MARÍA DE OURENSE

GHANA: SCHOOL RESUMPTION FOR THE JHS-3 MARIST SCHOOL

AUSTRALIA: THE BURWOOD COMMUNITY: BROTHERS TONY LEON, JAMES HODGE, JOACHIM FABBRO AND ANDREW MORAGHAN



UNITED STATES: BR. LUIS, IN BLUE ISLAND, ILLINOIS

SPAIN: FUNDACIÓN MARCELINO CHAMPAGNAT

HUNGARY: HEART WITHOUT FRONTIERS FOUNDATION

that dialogue helped me realize that, despite social isolation, no one is alone. We are all going through difficult times, and that more than ever means that we must be more humane and offer help to others. Knowing that I have such welcoming people gives me new courage to move forward and see a brighter future.

The fact of hearing so many voices and feeling that they were listening to me awakened in me a feeling of hope, the

will to do something different, a feeling of positivity and joy, in knowing that our Marist spirit is reflected, even though we are in different countries. The voice of a young man from Brazil resounds in me, who said: “solidarity and empathy always find the way, there are no excuses for not putting them into practice”; that made me think about what I can do to help and to continue to share this Marist charism that distinguishes us”.

All the above is our voice; we are Marist Youth of America; this is what we experience when we connect and weave networks. In spite of the difficulties through which our world passes, we are ready to dream and to transcend from faith, solidarity, hope and patience. In today’s situation, each of our lives and stories can imbue society with a creative and transformative spirit, providing us with the possibility of bringing light to every corner of the world. The opportunity to connect allows us to make a believable reading of our situations, concerned and occupied with what is happening; attentive to the needs in each context.

And so, with our Marist spirituality and leadership, we want to respond creatively, to be agents of change through transforming solidarity. Through a hopeful outlook we glimpse a resurgence of humanity to the new normality.

Champagnat’s dream is still alive and well, and Marist DNA is running through the hearts of all the Provinces of Marist America, touching, connecting and transforming our lives.

**With love and appreciation, for the Marist Youth of America**

- Irene Rodas M. - Central America
- Catalina Maria Dankert - Brasil Centro-Sul
- Emnuelle Baldassari - Brazil South-Amazon

- M. Pierina Tramontina Carles - Cruz del Sur
- Eva Moncluth - Roberto Sánchez - Central Mexico
- Sergio Hernandez - Mexico Occidental
- Angel Fajardo - Norandina
- Luciana Landivar Uriona - Santa Maria de Los Andes

## NIGERIA - MARIST SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION (MASOF)

## REACH OUT FOR CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION

The five enemies of humanity which include ignorance, poverty, disease, immorality, and atheism have been factors in determining change in behaviour of persons on the margins and the transformation of the society. Sociocultural and psycho-spiritual slavery has been on the increase among the youth in Nigeria. Hence, the need for their mental, affective, and skills emancipation.

Marist Brothers of the Schools, Province of Nigeria has been involved in youth empowerment programmes through education. The Province has also been at the forefront of the upliftment of the poor and oppressed, pastoral care for children, youth and adults, and advocacy for the marginalised. Against this backdrop therefore, she deemed it fit to harmonise these solidarity ventures under one umbrella: Marist Solidarity Foundation (MaSoF).

MaSoF is a solidarity foundation established in 2018 by the Br. Vincent Uchenna Abadam's led administration. It is a committee under the Finance Commission of the Marist Brothers of Nigeria. It is a four-member committee comprising of Br. Henry Uzor (Chairman), Br. Osuji, Gregory Ekene (Secretary), Br. Innocent Iloabueke (Provincial Econome), and Br. Christian Onukwufor (Link Councillor). MaSoF's main mission is to: Fight ignorance among the youth on the margins, reduce poverty, empower children and youth, provide pastoral care to children and young people, and transform lives and society. Its main vision is to empower the youth with skills, knowledge, positive attitudes and values in order to bring them out from the margins through education for the sustainable development of the society.

The overall aim/goal of MaSoF is to provide education and pastoral care for the children and youth on the margins. It has the following specific objectives:

- To promote education, solidarity justice and peace.
- To identify with the poor and oppressed in the society.
- To support the spiritual and cultural empowerment of the youth and act in solidarity with the oppressed.
- To promote human right and self-determination.
- To develop and coordinate fund raising strategies that will



respond to the solidarity needs of the Marist Province of Nigeria.

- To cooperate and collaborate with other solidarity groups and organisations towards the development of solidarity culture that responds to the people on the margins.

MaSoF started its solidarity venture in May, 2018. For the first phase, it focused mainly on scholarship scheme for the less privileged learners.

Presently, there are two hundred and sixty (260) learners enjoying Marist scholarship. Two hundred and fifty seven (257) are in Marist schools, and three (3) are in non-Marist schools. Among these learners, twenty six (26) are in primary schools and two hundred and thirty four (234) are in secondary schools. These learners are either on comprehensive, full, or partial scholarship. These are the categories of MaSoF's scholarship scheme.

In Comprehensive scholarship category, MaSoF takes care of the boarding and tuition fees of the learners and their educational materials. In Full scholarship category, MaSoF takes the responsibility of boarding and tuition fees only. Then in Partial scholarship category, MaSoF takes care of only the tuition fees of the learners. These categories are always by merit. MaSoF through the Education Secretariat organises scholarship examinations for the learners. Therefore, their grades determine their placement in any of these categories. Another determinant of their placement is their direct beneficiaries; Marist Brothers, members of staff, and others outside Marist establishments. The Brothers are also involved in the rehabilitation of the physically challenged people, and creation of artificial limbs at the Hopeville Rehabilitation Centre, Uturu Abia State and Merryville Rehabilitation Centre, Eneme, Enugu State.

MaSoF is a welcome development in the Marist Province of Nigeria. It has helped Marist Nigeria to re-strategize on the best way to help the young people on the margins bearing in mind the tenets of the Gospel. It has also challenged the Marist Province of Nigeria on the need to remain closer to the poor and the marginalised while expressing the brotherhood of Christ.

Br. Osuji, Gregory Ekene, fms, Ph.D. Secretary - MaSoF



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