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MARIST NEWS

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

BR. ORLANDO ESCOBAR

NEW PROVINCIAL OF NORANDINA

On June 29, the General Council appointed Brother Orlando Escobar as Provincial of Norandina for a first term of three years.

Brother Orlando – who will replace Brother César Augusto Rojas Carvajal, will commence his mandate with the celebration of the Provincial Chapter, which will take place from 10 to 13 December this year.

In his letter to the Brothers of Norandina, Brother Ernesto, Superior General, thanked Brother César Augusto for his service as Provincial and welcomed Brother Orlando.

For his part, Brother César, Provincial since 2014, said that this new service “which the Institute has asked of Brother Orlando, should be accompanied by our welcome and total availability to continue building together the sense of unity and provincial mission in Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela”.



Br. Orlando Escobar

Br. Orlando was born on 1 May 1968 in the municipality of Timbío, in the department of Cauca, Colombia. He finished his primary studies in the rural mixed school San Cayetano and his secondary studies in the mixed school Carlos Alban, and graduated in June 1986. A year later, he did his military service from August 3, 1986 to July 28, 1987.

Brother Orlando entered the Marist Postulancy on July 14, 1989, and entered the Novitiate on January 10, 1990. Brother made his first religious profession on December 8, 1991 at Medellín, when Brother Néstor Quiceno Escobar was Provincial. Five years later, on January 10, 1996, he made his perpetual profession in Cali, at the Villa Rosey Estate, when Brother Eduardo Botero Arango was Provincial. And in 2002 he made his second novitiate in El Escorial, Spain.



Orlando is a graduate of the Pontifical Bolivarian University of Medellín (December 1996).

As part of the Norandina Province, Brother Orlando has been Provincial Councillor and Provincial Delegate for Colombia for two terms: from 2015 to 2017 and from 2018 to 2020.

Appointed Provincial of Norandina on June 29, 2020, Br. Orlando will begin his term in December 2020.

EXPLOSION IN BEIRUT

THE DRAMA CONTINUES BUT HOPE NEVER DIES



The explosion in Beirut on 4 August, which left dozens dead and hundreds injured, has shaken the country and crippled the already difficult health, education and social system. Lebanon has about 6 million inhabitants, of which more than 1.5 million are displaced from Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Ethiopia. In this context, this Tuesday's tragedy worsens the dramatic situation, since the country, for some time, has been fighting against an economic crisis, social riots, and for some months, also the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Marist Brothers have two schools in the country, "Marist College Champville" and "Our Lady of Lourdes", in Jbail. Also, we are present in the Fratelli Project, in collaboration with the De LaSalle Brothers. Following the explosion, Marist works have not suffered serious damage or loss in general.

We feel solidarity with our De La Salle Brothers in Beirut, whose schools have suffered serious damage (doors, glass, windows, furniture destroyed) due to the heavy explosion, especially the Collège Sacré-Coeur – Frères Gemmayzé.

What are the prospects for Lebanon now?

The social and economic crisis: According to statistics, almost half of the four million Lebanese live in poverty and 35% of the working population is unemployed. From October 17, 2019, there were social uprisings and demonstrations in the

country, and as a result there was a change of government, amidst instability and increasing poverty. According to the local press, in recent months, thousands of Lebanese have lost their jobs or had their salaries cut. The Lebanese currency has been devalued and the purchasing power of the population has been reduced. Account-holders do not have free access to their money, as banks have imposed restrictions on withdrawals and transfers abroad due to the scarcity of the dollar.

The COVID-19 pandemic: Since March, the coronavirus 19 has compounded the difficult socio-economic situation. As in most countries, the government required the lockdown of citizens to prevent and contain the pandemic. Various activities were suspended, including schools and socio-educational activities. In this context, the Fratelli Project complied with the measures proposed by the government and put in place the means necessary to continue its activity and contact with displaced / refugee children and youth. In addition to these online activities, it has also set up humanitarian aid programmes.

Fratelli Project

The Fratelli Project itself has not suffered serious damage or loss in general. Only "Fratelli Bourj Hammoud", located a few kilometres from the site of the explosion, has suffered minor material damage. According to Br Miquel Cubeles, "These days we are running summer camps with the children and, luckily,

yesterday, when the explosion took place, nobody was around. Glass, windows and doors were blown out and the centre is very badly damaged. We have not been able to resume our activities today. As a result, activities have also been suspended in Fratelli Rmeileh, Sidon. Three days of official mourning have been decreed and we are also in a period of return to lockdown because the cases of coronavirus continue to increase.”

Hope never dies: despite the difficult situation, we remain in solidarity with the Lebanese people and the displaced people who have come to this country. It is time to be resilient and to start reconstruction.

The Fratelli Project, established in Lebanon 5 years ago, works every day to help people in vulnerable situations and tries to give fresh answers to the new challenges of these times. Soon, Project Fratelli hopes to pass the one thousand mark in the children and adolescents being served in Bourj-Hammud and Rmeileh.

In their communiqué, the Marists of Lebanon (Province of Méditerranée) said that, in solidarity with those most affected by the explosion in the port of Beirut, they have put the classrooms of their schools at the service of families who have lost their homes and need a place to stay.

MESSAGE OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

TO THE MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT IN LEBANON

Communities and Educational Centres in Champville, Jbail and the Fratelli Project in Rmeileh

Dear Marists of Champagnat:

The Brothers of the General Council wish to express our solidarity and communion with the esteemed Lebanese people and with all of you, on learning the terrible news of the explosion in the port of Beirut, which has deeply shocked us. We raise our heartfelt prayer for the dead, for all the injured, and for those who have lost their homes.

We also wish to express our solidarity with the De La Salle community in Beirut, whose schools have suffered serious damage to their buildings and facilities, due to the heavy explosion, especially the Brothers' Collège Sacré-Coeur in Gemmayzé.

We know that the impact and consequences of this explosion have added to the difficult social and economic situation the country is going through, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which is sowing so much pain and suffering in the world.

We are pleased to see the compassionate way you have been assisting people who have lost their homes. You have made the classrooms of the Marist Schools of Champville in Deek-EI-Mehdi and Our Lady of Lourdes in Jbeil available to families in need of a roof over their heads. We are also aware of the social and support work carried out by the Scout and Rover leaders,

collaborating in cleaning up the neighbourhoods around the port of Beirut. The Christian Life Groups (GVX), the Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM) and other groups of young people and former students, are collaborating in collecting donations and supplies for the people affected by the explosion. We are grateful for these concrete gestures of support for people in need.



As a global Marist family, we want to show our unity with all the brothers, lay Marists, educators, students and parents in Lebanon and with the entire Marist Province of Méditerranée. We join in the prayers of mourning that the country is undertaking because of what has happened.

We ask Mary, our Good Mother, to accompany and encourage you in these times of difficulty and uncertainty. She will always be a source of protection for you and will encourage you in hope.

Faternally,

Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba,
Superior General and General Council

23 AUGUST

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION

On August 23 each year, the world remembers the reality of slavery. Some might think it no longer necessary to commemorate, that there are no more slaves. We all have a very cinematic idea of slavery, taken from the many films and documentaries that have focussed on this reality in history. We especially think of the transfer of people between continents, to work as slaves in the service of Lords eager to increase their wealth, even at the cost of exploiting the lives of other human beings whom they considered inferior.

As citizens, as Christians, as Marists of Champagnat, we are called to be attentive to the condition of our brothers and sisters most in need. Fortunately, positive steps have been taken in many parts of the world. The abolition of slavery, at least in the most conspicuous forms, seems to be a reality. But we cannot slacken, there is still a long way to go.

These days we can find several situations that remind us of the presence of slavery: women forced into prostitution, boys and girls who spend their childhood in work, people deprived of their freedom because of their opinions and beliefs ...

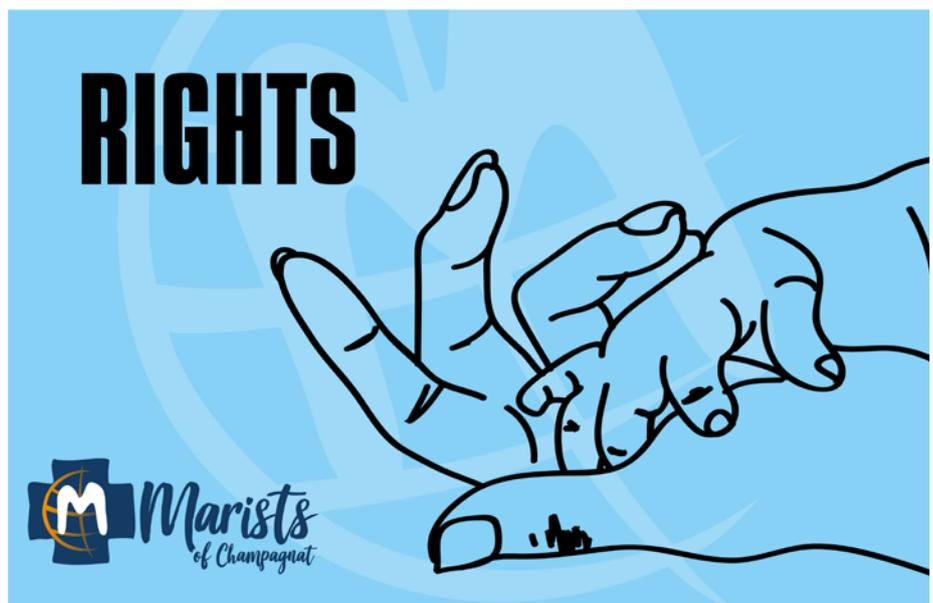
How is it possible that, in many of our countries, women and children continue to be forced into prostitution in exchange for money? Women and young people who are misled and transported to other countries to engage in prostitution.

How is it possible that, in our “educated” world, thousands of boys and girls are still forced to work from an early age? Why do countries seem to be doing nothing? We all know cases of children who do not go to school because they cannot, because they have to work.

How is it possible that, in a world where freedom of opinion is proclaimed, hundreds of people are deprived of their freedom because of their beliefs, because of their race, because of their religion, because of their sexual orientation...? Yes, we know that this is also a reality.

Perhaps some of us are tempted to excuse our inaction by saying that slavery does not exist in our immediate environment. We know that it is not easy to help solve these situations but that does not mean that we cannot do anything.

And yes, even in this 21st century, there are Marists who continue working to eliminate all forms of slavery. Many do it through their daily, direct and concrete work in the field. Others of us devote our efforts to persuading countries to take real steps towards the abolition of slavery through advocacy with governments and the United Nations.



The XXII General Chapter reminds us that we must be a “prophetic reminder of dignity and equality”. We know this well, we work and struggle to make this a reality in our societies. We are also invited to find creative answers to the needs of so many people who, even today, continue to suffer some form of slavery.

We are privileged to be able to dedicate our lives to the education of children and young people. It is thus that we can address and transform the injustices of our world. Yes, we can.

Br Angel Diego, Director of the Solidarity Secretariat

marist world

UNITED STATES: MARIST BROTHERS CENTER ESOPUS

SAMOA: BROTHERS' COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ASSUMPTION DAY

LEBANON: FRATELLI PROJECT



FRANCE: VISIT OF BR. ERNESTO, SUPERIOR GENERAL, TO THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE OF LYON

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, MABIRI – BOUGAINVILLE

RWANDA: NOVITIATE OF SAVE

BR. JOÃO CARLOS DO PRADO
LESSONS AND CHALLENGES DURING THE PANDEMIC

The General Councillor, Brother João Carlos do Prado, shares with the whole Institute some reflections that have led him to this period of time characterised by the presence of COVID-19. Among the lessons learned, he emphasizes that it has been an opportunity to discover the need to “take care of life in all its dimensions. For him this means “being able to let go of many things, which were previously priorities, in order to focus on what is essential”.

For Marist life, Brother João, in the animation of the Institute since 2017, underlines that this has been an opportune moment to reflect on “what



is the meaning of our existence as a Marist Institute”. Taking advantage of the situation in ancient Rome, he says that if “we are not creative enough to be connected and sensitive to the reality of today’s world, especially the reality of children and young people, especially in

the contexts of greatest vulnerability to poverty, we are destined to become a museum like the Appian Way.

[Watch the video.](#) Choose, from the YouTube settings, the subtitle you prefer, in one of the 4 languages of the Institute.

MARIST VOLUNTEERING DOES NOT STOP IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

In this time of pandemic, Marist volunteering, both at the provincial and inter provincial levels, has suffered a great impact. Many volunteers had to interrupt their mission and several of them had to return to their countries of origin. Others will continue volunteering in spite of the Coronavirus. On the other hand, in response to the social and humanitarian crisis caused by the pandemic, many Marists, with creativity

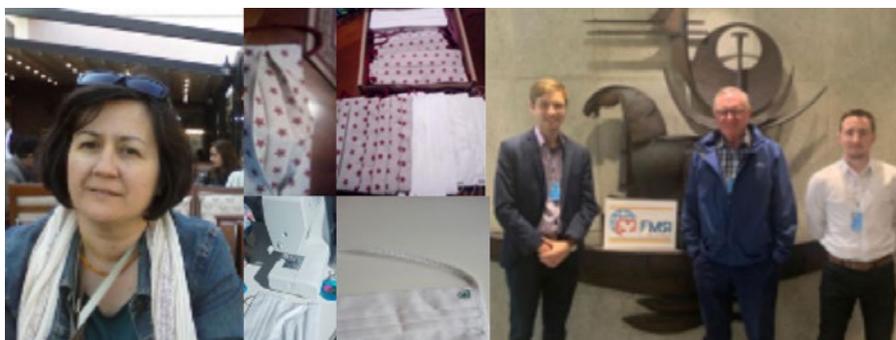
and motivation, will not let the spirit of solidarity die by developing in an innovative way the voluntary service, being attentive to the most needy. In these next few days, we will present some initiatives that have been carried out in different parts of the world, aware that these are only some of the many activities that have been carried out.

AUSTRALIA

Patrick Cooke and Brad Murphy, international volunteers from the Province of Australia, have been involved in a volunteer work as an intern in Geneva for three months in until late November 2019. As lawyers, the focus of their work has been the collaboration in writing a submission to the UN Human Rights Council for the four-yearly (3rd Cycle) Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Australia's human rights record. The Marist submission focuses on Asylum Seekers in Australia, particularly those that arrived as unaccompanied minors.

Working together with Br. Angel Diego Garcia, Director of the Secretariat for Solidarity of the General Administration, they have been able to successfully submit, some weeks ago, the UPR to the UN

Human Rights Council and now the actual review will take place in January 2021. This is the result of a long and constant work that has not been hindered nor stopped by the Pandemic.



COMPOSTELA

This testimony comes from María José Rodríguez, a volunteer from SED León, Province of Compostela. During the Pandemic, María José has supported the realization of solidarity masks for the

ASPACE association (Association for the Attention of People Affected by Cerebral Palsy and Related Encephalitis). "During these days of pandemic my volunteering has been more motivated, doing it in an adapted way, not only

to achieve the objectives designed for this course but also to bring our help to those who may need it. Now our collaboration is more necessary. We cannot stop when we can do something for someone."

REGINA, A MEXICAN VOLUNTEER IN RWANDA

Regina Guerrero Godínez, 19, from Mexico, Western Mexico Province, has been a volunteer in Rwanda, PACE Province, for 10 months. She has developed her volunteer experience in the Bukomero School Group, a primary and secondary school whose students come from the Byimana sector, in the District of Ruhango. In her testimony below, she talks about her work in the school and her experience in the Byimana Community, before and during the COVID pandemic19.

My experience as a volunteer

On September 1st, I arrived at the community where I would spend the next 10 and a half months. The beginning and the transition were difficult for me because of the culture shock and missing my family and friends, but after a few weeks everything was taking shape for me and at the beginning I spent quite a lot of time with another volunteer who was only spending two months in Rwanda and with two novices who were going through their

community experience, which helped a great deal to adapt to my new rhythm of life more quickly. My experience in the school was a little or very different from what I expected. The language was the biggest obstacle during my whole stay and above all in the work in the school. But in spite of that, living together with the students and the service that I could share in the school was and is very helpful for me and I hope it will be for the students too.

In general, before the beginning of the pandemic, I think I achieved many things and I also had many things to do. The greatest achievement, personally, I think, was that I grew in my way of being and was aware of many attitudes and actions that I would like to implement in my life and others that I would like to change and all this inner work would not have been possible without this experience that gave me knowledge, values and people that I will never forget.

My experience during the pandemic

The beginning of COVID19 took us all by surprise and I think that personally it is something that affected me because I did not think about the consequences that being abroad would have and I did not give it the seriousness that I should have. But also being in quarantine helped me to work a lot on something that I had not been able to do before, life in community. It had been difficult to live in the community because of everyone's work in the schools, but quarantine helped me to become more involved in everything related to the community and the brothers. So, for good or evil, the pandemic helped me to the last great experience I had as a volunteer and even though I had to extend my stay because

of the restrictions about the COVID19 it was worth the extra time I had left. Personally it was something that at the beginning, like everything else, was difficult, but after a while I was able to get used to the new normality as much as I could and do what I could with it.

Conclusion

From everything you can get the good or positive, and I personally like to remember the good moments and not the bad



ones, but I think we also have to learn from the bad moments because from many lessons come good things in the future.

My experience was full of good moments and learning, and the biggest lesson was the pandemic, because that was not personal and it is not yet over.

ARCO NORTE

REGION INVITED TO "BE WHAT IT IS CALLED TO BE" IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS

On the 29th June, the Provincials of Arco Norte met by video conference: Brothers Gérard Bachand, Patrick McNamara, José Sánchez, César Augusto Rojas, Miguel Ángel Santos and Hipólito Pérez; joined by the Brothers of the General Council João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, as links of the Region, and Brother Tomás Briongos, Provincial of Compostela, for the Marist mission in Honduras.

At the time of the meeting, Brothers Gregorio Linacero, Coordinator of the Regional Committee and Rodrigo Espinosa, Coordinator of the Regional Committee "in fieri", were present and accompanied us, following up the teams, the regional and the continental processes.

Nice Garrán and Jorge Sánchez, as coordinators of the Regional Teams of Education and Evangelization, also took part, sharing with us the progress of both teams and their concerns. We felt inspired and challenged by the following reflection: "The best contribution we can make to the dawning of this new era, I believe, is to be consistent like the first Christians. To be what we are called to be. I believe that Religious Life has a great relevance at the present time, in this moment of crisis, even though appearances seem to indicate that we have nothing to say, because in the essence of what we are called to be is found exactly what the men and women of today need" (Br. Emili Turú, fms. What does the pandemic of the covid-19 say about Consecrated Life?)



Throughout the session the following objectives were discussed:

To share the development of our provinces from the most significant aspects, in this time of COVID-19.

To follow up the processes of regional and continental initiatives, especially the teams of Education and Evangelization.

To accompany the processes that are taking place in the Marist life and mission in Canada and Honduras, also in the Montagne community of Holguín.

To resume the evaluation of the Brothers' programme of Perpetual Profession.

To confirm and make official the appointments of the Regional Coordinator and of the Team of Formators in the Inter-provincial Novitiate La Valla (Medellín) for 2021.

Hipólito Perez, fms

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

120 YEARS OF MARIST PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

“The seeds sown in these lands since 1900 continue to germinate, flourish and bear much fruit,” said Brother Inacio Nestor Etges, Provincial of Brazil Sul-Amazônia, as he celebrated 120 years of Marist presence in southern Brazil.

“On a day like today – 2 August – 1900, Brothers Weibert, Jean Dominici and Marie-Berthaire were welcomed with great rejoicing and stayed in these lands of Bom Princípio – RS. They came from the province of Beaucamps in France. It originated here, in Bom Princípio, in the small parish school, under the old tower of this church, the mission grew and spread”, recalled the provincial, in his message during the Eucharist in the Parish Church of Bom Princípio, which was attended by the bishop of the diocese of Montenegro, Don Carlos Gonçalves e Silva, and the local parish priest, Father Rogério Schindwein.

Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General of the Marist Institute, and the brothers of the General Council were present virtually from Rome. Also participating in this celebration were the Brothers of the local Marist community, the Brothers Provincial Councillors; the Brothers of the Marist Province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia and other Marist Provinces of Brazil and of the Region of South America. And also, the community of the

Parish of Nossa Senhora da Purificação, young people from the Marist Youth Ministry and from the Lighthouse Movement; members of the ChMMF Movement and Marists from very many communities and mission areas.

During his intervention, Brother Inácio described the trajectory of the Marists in the south of Brazil, from the beginning

university, PUCRS, which has more than 16 thousand students in attendance and more than 30 thousand under the EAD (distance education) scheme; the São Lucas Hospital and the Instituto do Cérebro do RS, where thousands of people pass through every day for health consultations and treatment; Likewise, the pastoral and missionary work, which is offered in all our places, in a spe-



until the present day, when the Marist Province is embraced by the Province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia. And he highlighted, in a special way, the work that the Marists of Champagnat are developing today in this Province:

“ Currently, the Marist Province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia has 24 religious communities; 26 schools in Rio Grande do Sul, Federal District and Mato Grosso, of which 19 are paid and 7 are social, with more than 22 thousand students; nine social units, which serve more than two thousand students; a uni-

cial way, the presence in the Amazon region, the work with the indigenous and riverside peoples, and also the initiatives linked to the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM). We are 112 brothers, more than 10 thousand partners, 420 laypeople from the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, 1950 young people from the Marist Youth Ministry and innumerable people and families committed to our work”.

SCOTLAND

MARISTS OF GLASGOW SUPPORTING MARIST MISSION IN INDIA

Last 29 July, took place in Glasgow, Scotland, the Trustees meeting for the India Village Project. One of the year groups of the St. John's High School is tasked with raising funds for the India Village Project. The money raised through various school events is used in such projects as the Rainbow Project, the schools run by the Brothers and the project to educate children in outlying villages. Here below we reproduce the Trustees' Report – July 2020.



We last had information from our friends in India at the end of April. Brother Saul issued us with the Rainbow Annual Activity Report for March 2019 to 2020. He stresses that “the current situation with COVID 19 cannot stop us from hoping and sharing the vision for a new life, new sunshine and new rainbow”.

The report highlights the various activities carried out monthly and on a regular basis. The academic achievements of their children and their ability to find a job with a good salary are a credit to Operation Rainbow.

Br Saul gratefully acknowledges the contributions of so many people working tirelessly behind the scenes: The Australian Marist Solidarity which funds the overall project costs, the Sacred Heart College, Adelaide, St. Patrick's

Catholic College, Dundas, and other Marist colleges in Australia. The India Village Project, Scotland and FMSI. He also gives a special mention to Rome for



their valuable support.

The Brothers, like the rest of the world, went into lockdown as their numbers of COVID-19 infected cases increased in the State of Tamil Nadu as well as across India.

This caused us to be concerned not

only for their well being but also for the people in the projects who are supported by the Brothers.

The update given to us is that, while like everyone else, they are not allowed to move freely about the city, or go out to any of their projects, the Brothers have put in place a support mechanism for individuals or families who may need help. All people in the projects have contact numbers for people in their area who they can contact if they need help. We also informed the Brothers that we have, and can send cash, at short notice if required.

The Brothers thanked us and are extremely grateful for our continued support. They send us their best wishes and all they ask now is that we continue to pray for them and all of the people in all of the countries affected by COVID-19.

MEDITERRANEAN PROVINCE

RETREAT “AT HOME” FOR LAY PEOPLE AND BROTHERS

Last May, the Mediterranean Province began to realise that it would be impossible for the projects planned for this summer to go ahead as in other years. One example was the retreats that, for brothers, or for brothers and laity, are usually held in July and August. Reflection began about whether an alternative might be possible so that we could still have a few days specially devoted to silence, prayer and the encounter with the God of Life despite the covid-19 pandemic. And so was forged the initiative to offer a retreat “at home”, taking advantage of the possibilities offered by the new communication platforms.

First contact was made through the email and social networks for laity and brothers of our Mediterranean Province. The invitation was made to: “to read with the eyes of faith the reality in which we are immersed, to listen to the voice of God deep down, and to develop an attitude of intuitive discernment in response to the challenges that we face as Marists of Champagnat”. 50 people signed up for the retreat held on July 10, 11 and 12.

Participants began the day with a half an hour input, animated by a different person each day and broadcast live via MS Teams. Later, a reading and support document was distributed by email and by WhatsApp. These were to nurture a personal time of silence and prayer that each person had to manage according to their life context. The themes for each day were: The Power of Hope, The Sign of Empty Churches and A Plan to Rise Again (from Pope Francis).

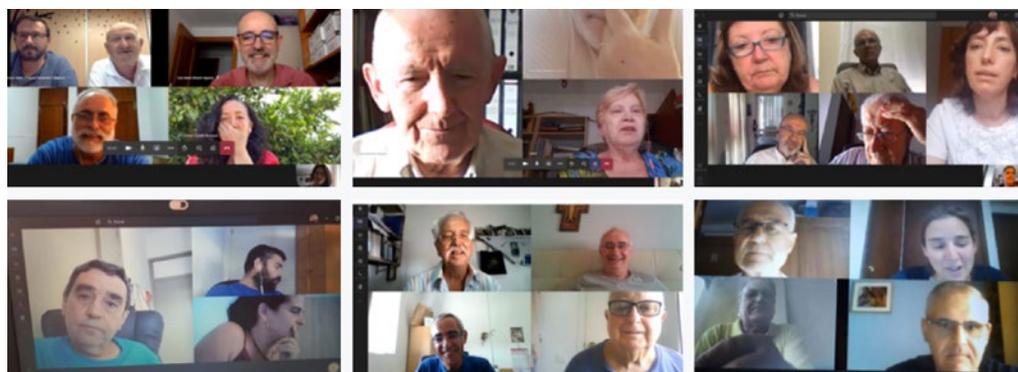
In the afternoon, opportunity was given

for a time of small group sharing, organized using different Teams’ “rooms”. Then, at the end of the day, we shared a time of community prayer that different lay people animated from their own homes, with the possibility of participating through the Teams “chat”.

At the end of the experience, all the participants had the opportunity to make

was a success, it gave us time to speak calmly and to be able to listen. I also very much liked the evening prayers, being able to share and the reflection helped to close the day as well as link to the next day.”

“The structure that was suggested is ideal so that each one can decide their personal rhythm of retreat at home. The



a simple evaluation of the “at home” retreat. Here are some of the aspects they valued:

“I would like to highlight the quality of the online moments, the effort and work of the people who have prepared it. I think that despite the difficulty of doing this, the result has been great. It has allowed me to pray, reflect, share with my group (exceptional, by the way). Thank you so much. The chosen texts, marvelous and the presentations of each day not only put you in tune, but also opened horizons to go further.”

“All three of the morning presentations seemed to me to hit the right note: very rich, juicy, there was something to draw from and moments to reflect on later. The afternoon group work has been very good. The texts helped a lot, as well as the final questions, they made you dig within. Having 6 participants in a group

moments of sharing, from my experience, have been very enriching. The timing, at the end of the academic year, has given a perfect opportunity to ensure we don’t miss the moments of reflection on what has been lived. Despite the confinement, they have been months of hard work, a lot to do and little reflection. THANK YOU.

“Managing to carry out the proposal is, in itself, an aspect worth underlining. There were enough reasons to “bypass” but you took up the task of making the project work. It is a way of generating synergies at the level of the entire Province. The quality of each of the moments. Care, prepared with care, with depth ... The sense of REALITY, putting the focus on the experiential. The benefit of each moment through the videos sent gives an added value to the experience, which can be taken up again. ”

BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL

“SOLIDARITY THAT ENCOURAGES”: A WEBSITE THAT HELPS TO MULTIPLY GOOD WORKS

Desde el comienzo de la pandemia de Covid-19, empresas, instituciones y personas de todo el mundo se han movilizado mediante una red de solidaridad para ayudar a quienes más lo necesitan. Son acciones que van desde donar el tiempo para ayudar al vecino con las compras del mercado hasta el abastecimiento gratuito de equipamientos para hospitales.

En el ámbito financiero, considerando los casi cuatro meses de aislamiento social, las donaciones casi han alcanzado R\$ 6 mil millones en todo Brasil, de acuerdo con la contabilidad del Monitor de Donaciones.

Cadena de solidaridad

En este contexto, surgió la Solidariedade que aquece, (Solidaridad que reconforta) un espacio construido para reunir buenas acciones e ideas capaces de incentivar a otras personas a hacer el bien, y ser así un medio de educación para la solidaridad. El portal se creó al comienzo de la cuarentena, pero ahora se está relanzando con un rostro nuevo e iniciativas más inspiradoras.

“Actuar en favor del bien común y crear oportunidades para todos forma parte de nuestra forma de ser Marista. Queremos inspirar a las personas y a las empresas a mantener esta cadena de solidaridad”, explica June Cruz, director ejecutivo de la Provincia Marista Brasil Centro-Sul (PMBCS).

Plataforma virtual

El portal está dividido en secciones, para facilitar la búsqueda de información desde diferentes perspectivas. La sección “Boas Notícias” (Buenas Noticias), por ejemplo, incluye acciones realizadas por la comunidad y por el empresariado para

amparar y proteger a las personas en situaciones de riesgo. La Playlist Solidaria presenta una serie de videos, entrevistas y paneles de debate, que construyen un espacio educativo para la solidaridad.

La editorial Caminho Pastoral, a su vez, promueve y comparte acciones de recaudación y movilización realizadas por la Iglesia Católica en Brasil y todo el mundo. Además, algunas campañas vinculadas a la Missão Marista también pueden ser conocidas por los visitantes del portal, incluyendo SOS Vila Torres, que ya ha logrado recolectar 10,000 canastas de alimentos básicos y atender a 2,000 familias en Curitiba.

Conocimiento

La Solidariedade que aquece (Solidaridad que reconforta) presenta asimismo investigaciones e informes, en un espacio creado para construir conocimiento. Son análisis de contextos, hábitos, salud mental e impactos que la pandemia está causando en todo el mundo. De hecho, son informaciones que pueden ser útil para la toma de decisiones y ayudar a los profesionales de la salud, la economía local y la sociedad en general.

“Lo que tenemos mapeado es solo una parte de todas las acciones que se están llevando a cabo en todo el mundo. A partir de estos ejemplos, nuestra intención es que más personas e instituciones se sientan alentadas a ayudar a quienes más lo necesitan en este momento”, destaca June Cruz.

Este espacio virtual es una iniciativa conjunta de PMBCS, del Grupo Marista y de la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Paraná (PUCPR). Conócela y forma parte de la iniciativa: www.solidariedadequeaquece.com.br.

SOLIDARIEDADE QUE AQUECE!

A solidariedade pode transformar nossa comunidade e o mundo em um lugar mais humano.

Conheça e faça parte dessa iniciativa!

SAIBA MAIS

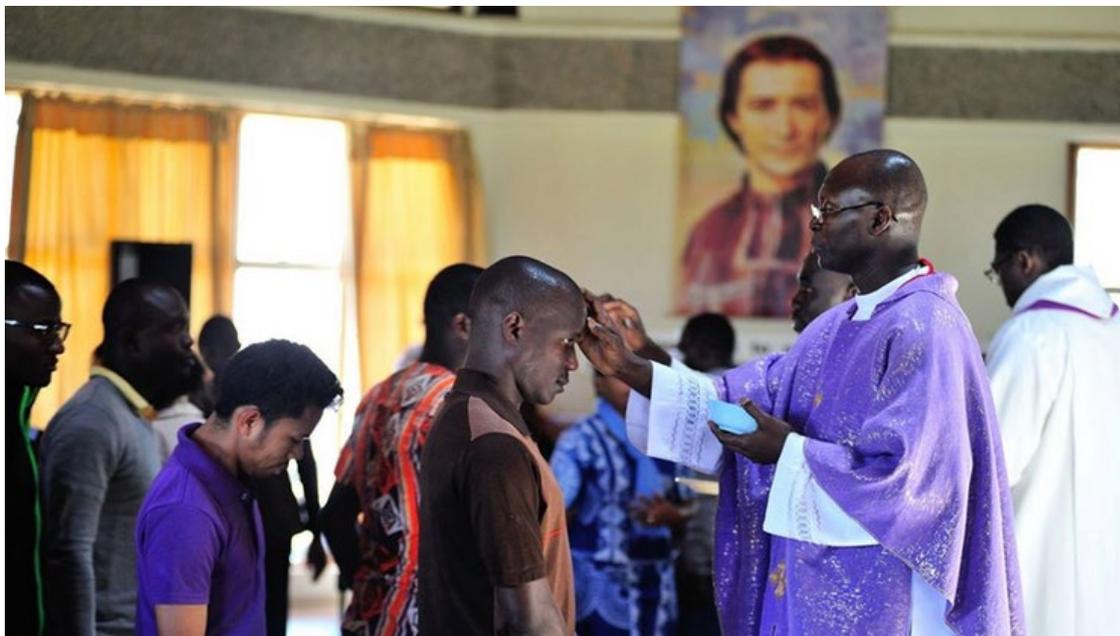
PROVINCIA MARISTA BRASIL CENTRO-SUL | GRUPO MARISTA | PUCPR CENTRO MARISTA

YOUNG BROTHERS OF AFRICA

LIFE AT MIC AND MIUC AMIDST COVID-19

Covid-19 pandemic has affected every sector of life in the world including the education systems. Marist Brothers at Marist International Centre (MIC, Nairobi, Kenya) have had challenging and frustrating experiences due to this pandemic. For example, student Brothers in the final year (fourth year) at Marist International University College (MIUC) were unable to sit for their final examination and have not taken part in the Teaching practice experience as well.

Despite the difficulties posed by Covid-19, Brothers at MIC are not idle. The formation team has organized courses for fourth year student Brothers pending the writing of their final examinations and teaching practice which for now is not feasible in the context of the present dispensation. These courses include spiritual leadership and retreat animation, accounting and acquisition of online teaching and learning skills.



On the other hand, the trimester programme at Marist International University College (MIUC) which usually runs from May to July of each year was shifted to run from June to August in this year. It is during this trimester that student Brothers in third year, second year and first year undertake study of the programme for Diploma in Religious Studies. Following the directives from the Ministry of Education in Kenya on teaching and learning, MIUC administration together with students have embraced online learning. Teaching and learning processes are done through digital learning platforms

where lectures, assignments, assessments and examinations are administered.

MIC is the post-novitiate formation center for Marist Brothers from Africa and Madagascar. Brothers in MIC Community come from five administrative units of the African continent. The community currently has seventy-four (74) Brothers in initial formation and ten (10) brothers as formation team members. All brothers in initial formation undergo professional and religious formation at Marist International University College (MIUC).



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