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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

THE SECRETARIAT OF LAITY TALKS ABOUT THE LESSONS AND CHALLENGES OF THE HEALTH CRISIS

In the [following video](#), the members of the Secretariat of Laity tell us how they are living the experience of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19. "A lesson that I have felt has to do with realizing how fragile we are as persons. A fragility that Champagnat himself experienced. And the relevance that others have, the family, the friends who are capable of accompanying you", expresses Raúl Amaya, Director of the Secretariat.

Ana Saborío, from Central America, says in relation to the challenge, that at this "crucial moment we must provide, as Marists, networks, global interconnections between all the Marists of the world so that they can take care of one another".



All the members of the Secretariat, the directors (Raúl Amaya – Santa María de los Andes, Agnes Reyes – East Asia, Pep Buetas – L'Hermitage, Manuel Gómez Cid – Mediterránea) and the

members of the Extended Secretariat (João Luis Fedel – Brasil Centro-Sul, Carole Wark – Australia, Ana Saborío – América Central and Br. Elias Iwu – Nigeria) took part in the video.

general administration

■ On 31 August, the General Council began its traditional September Plenary Session reflecting and discussing the accompaniment of the Administrative Units and Regions in the face of the current situation in the world. It also reviewed the translations of the Constitutions, in view of their approval and publication in the near future. It is also holding a Regular Council meeting.

■ Brother Francis Lukong, from the District of West Africa, arrived at the General House a few days ago. He has taken up the post of assistant director of the Secretariat of Solidarity on the 1st September.

■ Last week Fr. Renzo Arevalo, chaplain of the General Administration, returned to the diocese of Tabasco, Mexico.

He will be replaced by Fr. Ananda Raj from the diocese of Asansol, India, from 22 September. Fr. Ricardo Morales, also from the Diocese of Tabasco, continues as chaplain. These priests offer their services as chaplains while they study in the Pontifical Universities in Rome, and are members of the community of the General House.

■ In August, Pep Buetas, from the Province of L'Hermitage, finished his service as assistant director at the Secretariat for the Laity, a position he has held since 2013. From 1 September, Manu Gómez Cid, from the Province of Mediterránea, takes up the post, together with Raúl Amaya (director of the secretariat) and Agnes Reyes (assistant director).

BRASIL

SOLIDARITY RESPONSE OF THE PROVINCE OF BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA TO THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic has shown how much the world still suffers from social inequalities. In Brazil many families have lost their sources of income and are living in a vulnerable situation. In the Marist Province of Brazil-Sul Amazônia, as in other Administrative Units of the Institute, a great current of solidarity was formed during the first days of social isolation, which became stronger as the months went by. There were several action fronts that were carried out in the mission places

to benefit thousands of people in the different cities of Rio Grande do Sul, in Brasília and in the Amazonian region, territories that have projects in the Province.

The schools organised campaigns to collect food, the social centres made masks and also bread to be distributed to the local communities, and the fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family instituted social campaigns in their parishes. These are some of the initiatives that we can highlight among many other voluntary actions that emerged among collaborators, educators, students, families and lay Marists.

“Ação comunidades” (action for communities)

This initiative, organised by the social direction of the schools and social units of the Province, aims to collect donations to benefit more than five thousand families helped by the Marists. Donations of food, hygiene materials, blankets and coats are made at the collection points distributed in all the Units. In addition to food, money donations made to the “Ação Comunidades” account there are investments in mobile phone chips to provide Internet access to students in the Province’s social schools.

Solidarity Art

The campaigns also relied on the artistic talent of collaborators, students and partners. During this period, several live artistic transmissions with musical presentations were



made, with the aim of collecting donations for the most needy. The “Solidarity Art” campaign, at the Mário Quintana Marist Social Centre, found a way to help the families assisted at the Unit through the sale of the artistic works. In total, 95 paintings made by the students with recycled material were sold. The money collected has been donated to the families without resources.

PUCRS

At the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, in addition to promoting various solidarity campaigns, individual protection equipment was also produced in Tecnopuc’s laboratories. These were intended for health professionals and educators who work in the field during the pandemic period.

Amazon

In the Amazon region, among many other initiatives, we have sent protective materials by waterway to the community of Foz do Tapauá, following up the situations of indigenous peoples in urban areas in Manaus and making masks for groups at risk. In addition, the Province has joined the campaign “Amazônia Precisa de Você” (The Amazon Needs You), coordinated by the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM) and the Pontifical Missionary Works.

Find more information at this link: <https://redemarista.org.br/noticias/uma-corrente-de-solidariedade>

CENTRAL MEXICO

Professor Ana Gabriela Aguirre Franco took over as the new Rector of the Marist University in Mexico City. Brother Provincial, José Sánchez, who was present at the event, thanked Br. Aldape for his testimony about the valuable work as head of this Institution.

ARCO NORTE

The Brothers in temporary vows of the Arco Norte Region of the Institute held a virtual meeting where they shared their current formation and mission experiences. Currently, in the Arco Norte Region there are more than 30 Brothers in temporary vows, some living in formation houses or scholasticates, and others in apostolic communities.

HAITI

On Sunday, August 15, the patronal feast of the Institute, five novices of the Province of México Occidental began their novitiate in Jérémie, Haiti: Fredlet Nicolas Jean, Ismick Louis, Pierre Bealy Jean, Johnson Louis and Claudel Faustin. They will be accompanied in the novitiate by Brothers Antonio Cavazos, master of novices, and Rafael Alvarez and José Contreras Landeros.

AUSTRALIA

The Marist Formation team, which provides Mission and Life Formation to the Australian Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat, inaugurated a new Marist Podcast series 'Journeying towards freedom: a desire for God and wholeness in our lives' and invites to join them as they engage in conversation with Marists around Australia. You can access the series through this link <https://buff.ly/3gqV0je>

KIRIBATI STEWARDSHIP TEAM



The Kiribati's Stewardship Team is setting out on its next two-year mandate of taking co-responsibility for the future Champagnat Marist Mission in Kiribati. Last 15th August, during the Assumption Day Gathering, the Team received a blessing from the gathered Champagnat Marists.

During the gathering the Stewardship Team shared its more immediate priorities for action which include planning an Ecological Retreat in mid-September for the Team itself and invited key teachers from St Louis and the pre-schools.

Another priority is an urgently needed response to a growing number of youth affected by substance abuse issues arising from local drugs and alcohol. Fortunately, for both priorities, the group have the willing availability of some local competent and professionally trained people.

The second retreat for St Louis Students affected by substance abuse issues was held at La Valla over the weekend 22-23 August: Brother Tainga, with the St Louis Principal and other invited presenters, organized this retreat. Plans for a Child Safeguarding Workshop are also underway.



On 8 September, feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, Br. Ernesto, Superior General, will give his first Circular to the whole Institute.

AUSTRALIA

STUDENTS FROM AUSTRALIA HELP NOVICES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

Through Bridge Builders, an Australian program supporting marist collaboration and volunteering, was developed a collaboration between the Year 11 students of Parramatta Marist High of Australia and the Marist Novices at the international Novitiate at Tudella, Sri Lanka, whereby students accompany Novices, assisting them in the development of their formal and informal English language competencies.

Mark and Samuel, from Parramatta Marist High, are piloting the English language program via ZOOM. They earn credits in a program named Marist Mission/Active Volunteering. The program has two aligned streams: an innovative Faith in Action RE course (Marist Mission); a Vocational Educational Training (VET) certificate course which qualifies students for nationally recognised credentials at Certificate level.

Physical volunteering is not so possible in these Covid times, hence the development of this Virtual Volunteering program. Novices at Tudella come from the Province of Australia (Timor



Leste and Melanesia), the Province of South Asia (Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka), and the District of Asia (Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia and China). All need to develop their English skills at the formal level by achieving a good score in IELTS, the International English Language Testing System, so that they can later complete tertiary courses in the Philippines. They also need to be comfortable with conversational English, as they have different mother tongues and need a common language in Community. Br Nghi is from Vietnam and has agreed to be in the vanguard of this pilot program.

NEW ZEALAND

ANNUAL STAFF FORMATION PROGRAMME “CHAMPAGNAT-IN-THE-PACIFIC”

The 2020 Champagnat-in-the-Pacific, a live-in formation programme for those who work in Champagnat Marist schools or ministries of New Zealand, took place last week at Long Bay from 9-12 August.

There were 17 participants from 11 of our schools or ministries. The course was facilitated by Mr Dan Dungey (Lay Partnership Coordinator) and Br Doug Dawick.

The three-day retreat programme explored the spirituality and pedagogy of Marist education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat.

The presence of a large group of Auckland based Brothers was warmly felt by all participants. To have Brother Terence in attendance from Fiji was very fitting considering he was instrumental

in getting this programme off the ground over a decade ago. Unfortunately, the final day was called short due to the overnight announcement that Auckland would be moving into Alert Level 3 by midday the following day

because COVID-19. There has been a lot of positive feedback shared. The journey is only just beginning as collectively the participants look at new ways to keep the founder’s dream alive in the 21st century.



marist world

MEXICO: MARISTS OF GUADALAJARA

PORTUGAL: MARCHA – VOUZELA

SRI LANKA: LAST DAY SCHOOL IN THE MARIS STELLA COLLEGE



AUSTRALIA: FORBES MARIST ASSOCIATION LOCAL GROUP

GENERAL HOUSE: SUPERIOR GENERAL AND SECRETARY OF THE INSTITUTE, BROTHERS ERNESTO AND CARLOS

HAITI: BEGINNING OF THE NOVITIATE IN JÉRÉMIE

UNITED STATES
COUNCIL FOR USA LAY MARISTS

The Council for [USA Lay Marists](#) has been meeting regularly since May 19th via zoom. Members have split into committees and have been working hard on various tasks, hoping to have some concrete initiatives ready to begin in the Fall. Lindsay Irwin is the chair of the Membership committee, helped by Richard Karsten and Maureen Hagan. The number of Expression of Interest forms completed has increased by 15 members since early Summer.

Adam Wouk is chairing the Communications committee. Along with Matt Fallon, Earline Tweedie and Richard, the committee is looking at various ways to reach out to members and prospective members, to stay in touch regarding activities and programs, and to keep everyone connected and informed.

Ellen Salmi VanCleaf is chairing the Formation committee,

which also includes Earline Tweedie, Br. Ken Hogan and Br. Owen Ormsby. They have been working hard on program content for upcoming formation experiences. In all, it's a hard-working group, with exciting ideas and creative vision for how we can move forward, and to "make Jesus known and loved."



BRAZIL

POPE FRANCIS DONATES VENTILATORS TO A HOSPITAL OF THE PROVINCE OF BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

The [St. Luke's Hospital](#) of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), in the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, received support from the Vatican for the fight against Covid-19.

On August 27, Antonio Guizzetti, a representative sent by Pope Francis, was present at the hospital complex to formalize the donation of four respirators and an ultrasound device used for imaging tests of tissues or blood flows.

Antonio Guizzetti was received, in Porto Alegre, by the metropolitan archbishop, Monsignor Jaime Spengler, the rector of PUCRS, Brother Evilázio Teixeira, and the general director of the hospital, Leandro Firme. During the visit, the group visited the facilities of the Hospital,

where the study of the test of the coronavirus vaccine is being carried out.

The equipment donated will form part of the Intensive Care Centre which receives exclusively patients with Covid-19. To assist in the care of the disease in the Porto Alegre region, the Hospital has gradually expanded its offer of beds for patients affected by the coronavirus. Currently, there are 46 beds available in the Covid-19 ICU and another 104 units in the infirmary.

According to the Rector of PUCR, Br. Evilázio Teixeira "this act of solidarity from the Church, as well as all the support received from our Archbishop and Chancellor of our University, Dom Jaime Spengler, is fundamental for us to

continue to be strengthened and active in our mission of care and promotion of life. For the Hospital's General Director, Leandro Firme, the donation is an important addition to the institution's efforts.

According to a statement sent by the Vatican, the Pontiff's reason for the aid programme is to "find the necessary means to save and cure many human lives," especially in countries such as Brazil, which is suffering particularly from the Covid-19 epidemiological emergency.

The hospital also received 18 Draeger intensive care ventilators and 6 Fuji portable ultrasound machines were sent to Brazil thanks to the commitment of the [Hope Onlus Association](#).



AUSTRALIA

A LAY MARIST JOINED FOR 3 MONTHS THE LA VALLA HERMITAGE COMMUNITY AT MITTAGONG

One of the dreams for the La Valla Hermitage Community at Mittagong, Australia, is for lay Marists to join the Brothers in residence and engage in the life of the community. A person may choose to join the community for as little as a week or for up to three months. The time spent in the house may be an opportunity for enrichment, a way to use some sabbatical time, some time away for prayer and reflection, a period of discernment or maybe they just want to experience some time living in a Marist community. Over the last three months young Marist, Filipe Gama e Silva, has done this very thing. In the pictures, Filipe is with Brothers of the community: Ian McCombie, Robert O'Connor and Bill Sullivan.

What follows is a reflection from him on his three-month stay with the Brothers of the La Valla community, with questions by Br. Bill Sullivan.

What prompted you to enquire about to stay with the Brothers in the LaValla community?

Filipe: For me there was always a sense of wanting to explore what life was like living in community with the Brothers. For some time Br Bill and I had spoken about this option, but I was not ready to make the leap. Perhaps it was the spirit working, but with the onset of COVID-19 combined with starting to 'work from home', I felt the time was right.

What have you enjoyed about your stay with the Brothers?

Filipe: The thing I enjoyed the most was simply sharing community life with Br Bill, Br Ian and Br Bob. At the end of a long work day, sharing dinner and banter with the Brothers was always the highlight of my day. They say to be a Brother means to be 'brother' to one another. While I've heard this countless times I don't think I truly understood the meaning of it until my time here. I truly loved the welcoming nature of the community and the fact that they made me feel as though I was a 'brother' to them.

The other thing that I honestly valued and enjoyed was the community prayer each day. For me, there was just something different & special about gathering in community for prayer. Whilst I may have always been the last one to arrive, the Brothers never gave me too much



grief for it! I suspect they were secretly chuckling as they heard me running towards the chapel hoping to shave a few seconds off my lateness.

What have you found challenging?

Filipe: Whilst I truly enjoyed the brother's companionship, the remoteness of Mittagong (because of the COVID-19 lockdown) meant that at times I missed being around people closer to my age. At times I found it challenging to find the balance between my work commitments and fully engaging in community, while also utilising the time and space for reflection, discernment and prayer.

What would you have done differently?

Filipe: I'm not sure as I haven't had the time to reflect on my experience fully.

One thing I do know though is that balancing work commitments along with trying to be fully committed to the community, my own spiritual time and the ministry here was challenging. I think if I were to do it again, in an ideal world, I would not be working Monday to Friday.

How did you find the time prayer with the community?

Filipe: The prayer time with the community was one of my highlights. I don't exactly know what it was but there was something different about joining together in prayer.

What three words would you use to summarise your stay with the La Valla community?

Filipe: Welcoming, awakening and fun.

GENERAL HOUSE

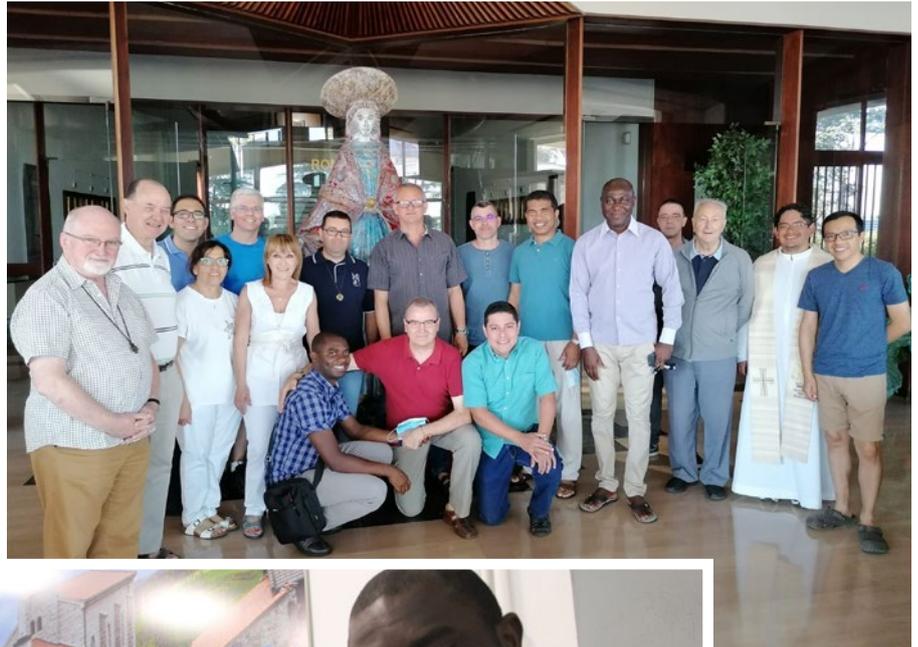
BR. FABIEN: FOUR YEARS OF STUDY AND COMMUNITY LIFE AT THE GENERAL HOUSE

Brother Fabien Bulaimu Poyo, from the Province of East Central Africa, returned to his Province in mid-July after having studied psychology at the Gregorian University for four years. He will be have the role of formator at the Novitiate of Save, in Rwanda. Brother shares his testimony of life in the community of the General House.

I arrived in Italy, in June 2016, to study psychology (to obtain the licentiate) at the Gregorian University. Now, in July 2020, as I leave the community, I am overcome by a mixture of emotions. I am very grateful to have found a home here, a space where I have felt free to share my abilities and my weaknesses; where I have lived as a brother among the brothers.

This experience, with its beauties and challenges, has helped me to broaden my vision and Marist experience. I return (to my province) with a wider perspective and a new way of living as “Brother”. I have learnt a lot about interculturality, brotherhood and the challenges lived in this house. I have created many links and gained friends. I have been in contact with many brothers, lay people and collaborators from different parts of the Marist world. In addition, the community has been a great support in my academic journey, which was a challenge. About living as a Marist, this community has been a second university for me.

I am grateful to my province and to the General House for having given me this very special opportunity in my formative journey as a brother. I also wish to share my joy at having successfully completed my studies,



hand, I am sad to have to leave this place that has truly been a home for me; but, on the other hand, I feel happy and enthusiastic about the mission that

awaits me in my province. I hope that other young brothers will also have the opportunity to experience what I have experienced in this house. I remain united to this community, from the heart and by brotherhood. Thank you very much to all and goodbye!

H. Fabien Bulaimu Poyo, fms

since this academic experience has enriched my personal, professional, interpersonal and spiritual growth. I am very happy and grateful. My stay here in the city of St. Peter and Paul has been an experience of openness to universality and ecclesiality. These four years at the General House have been four years of study and four years of community life. Now that I am leaving, on the one

awaits me in my province.

I hope that other young brothers will also have the opportunity to experience what I have experienced in this house. I remain united to this community, from the heart and by brotherhood. Thank you very much to all and goodbye!

H. Fabien Bulaimu Poyo, fms

PERU

MARIST VOLUNTEERS AT THE MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT HOME IN PUERTO MALDONADO

This is the testimony of Zoila Flor De la Roca Prado, local Peruvian volunteer, Santa Maria de Los Andes Province. She is at the Marcellin Champagnat Home in Puerto Maldonado, Peru, living in community with brothers and lay volunteers and missionaries. The home welcomes young native people from different ethnic backgrounds who are studying at the secondary school in the city. Zoila



describes her experience during the COVID19 Pandemic, some projects that the Marists developed with the young people, community life and Holy Week.

My name is Zoila, I am at the home of the Marist Brothers in Tambopata, Madre de Dios, Peruvian jungle.

Here, they give shelter to young native people from different ethnic groups who come to the city to study high school. This year, I joined this mission and I share my community life with Brother Jesús, Doris (who is here for a while) and two Spanish missionaries, Isidoro and Ángel.

This year, I had almost everything ready to receive the children who were coming from their community to begin their studies, when we heard the news: “quarantine, nobody can leave their house because of the appearance of a very contagious virus...?”

Everything changed, plans, everything. Uncertainty took over. The boys would no longer be coming, they could not travel, leave or enter their community. What was to be done?

They had to change their mentality, learn to work in community on the different tasks they were assigned, discover that there was so much to do! And the nice things, to give importance, to rediscover, to value the small things, the big things that one does: cleaning, cutting, buying, paying, singing, setting the table, cooking...

And the coronavirus gives me a lesson, since, with everything we did, I had to make quarantine. Fifteen days in my room, alone and how not to learn in these circumstances the value of community. Brother Jesus and Doris, helping me in everything, with the risk of contagion (it should be noted that they are elderly people) and how they shared out the tasks. It reminded

me of our Lord who said: MY FAMILY IS THAT WHICH DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER. Lessons learned at home that make you rediscover the value of whoever is by your side.

In this time, it has been and is the value of availability which is the most important thing I have discovered, the service of each of the members of the community in order to move forward. The concern of Brother Jesus, supporting all of us in carrying out and completing different projects.

Although our young people are in their communities, they have been supported by continuous communication with their teachers and parents. They have been sent data, homework. Also, food, books and materials. We have been looking after them so that they can carry out their work from a distance and not lose the year.

The whole community participated actively in the prayer of the rosary, in the Vicariate, which we transmitted via Facebook. This year, we experienced Holy Week in a different way, living it with other people, without leaving home, building murals relating to each of the days of the triduum (Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday) on the doors of the house, in order to help people see and experience it.

Searching for people with financial difficulties in order to support them emotionally and materially.

Sending small cakes and sharing the fruits of the house with a shelter for abandoned children.

All this time that we continue to spend, the uncertainty, the contagion, the deaths continue, but also the joy, the hope that by working together (at home) we can do many things for others.

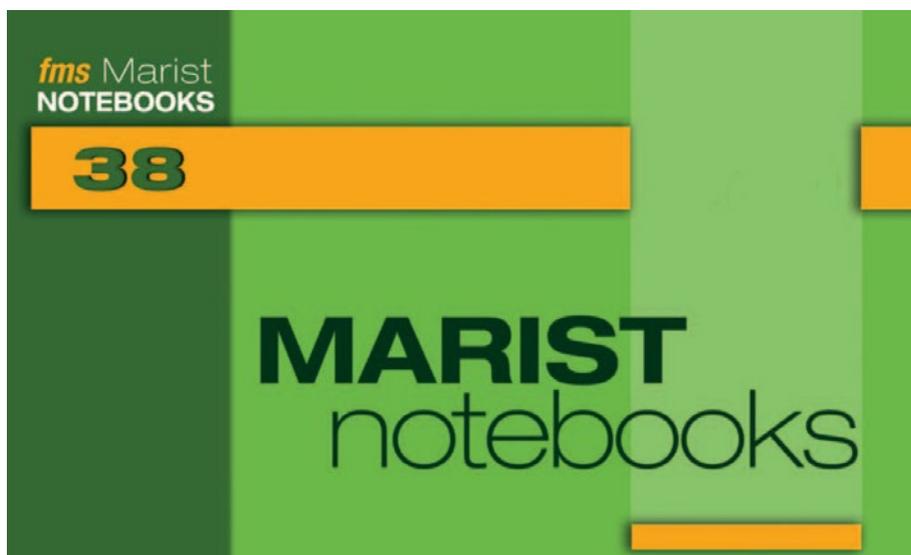
Zoila Flor De La Roca Puerto Maldonado, Peru

GENERAL HOUSE

MARIST NOTEBOOKS 38

This issue No.30 of Marist Notebooks is the work of a new Patrimony Commission appointed by the General Council for the period 2019-2021. Its leader is now Br Antonio Ramalho. It includes former members (Brs André Lanfrey, Michael Green, Patricio Pino, Colin Chalmers, and Allan De Castro) and new members (Br Vincent de Paul Kouassi – West Africa, Mr Dyogenes P. Araujo – Brazil, and Br Omar Peña – Guatemala). In the production of Marist Notebooks, the team works closely with the Communications Office, headed by Mr Luiz Da Rosa, which provides translations and all the technical work associated with layout and publication.

In publishing issue No.38, the Commission is seeking to continue established practice. At the same time, it directs readers to the other means that exist for dissemination of research and articles. For example, the majority of previous issues of Marist Notebooks can be accessed digitally on the champagnat.org website. Additionally, while this four-language journal is published only once a year, and limits itself necessarily to relatively short articles, the champagnat.org website can host longer works as well as research that has not yet been published or translated. This is already the case for a number of contributions, notably by Brs Antonio Martínez Estaún and André Lanfrey.



PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

While such work has the disadvantage of being only in the language of its author, sites offering online translation now allow those who are not fluent in that language to get a basic understanding of the text. These sites are continually getting better. It seems to us, therefore, that this complementarity of modes of dissemination, while still in its infancy, can be refined in the years ahead. The website could serve as a something of a resource bank of research from which Marist Notebooks could publish the contributions deemed to be the most interesting, possibly after some further editing by their authors.

Marist Notebooks No.38 may be seen, therefore, as a transition issue: it marks the transition from one editorial team to another, and foreshadows an expansion of means of dissemination. Unlike some previous issues, it does not focus on a particular theme, even though there is an indirect connection between two articles on the history of the Constitutions. We believe that the major contribution of this issue is the discovery by Mr Eric Perrin of a new letter from Fr Champagnat. This sheds particular light on the environment and the atmosphere in which his work at the Hermitage unfolded in the years 1825-27.



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