



GENERAL HOUSE

COMMITMENT OF THE NEW LAVALLA200> MEMBERS

Saturday 12th September was a fitting day for the on-line ceremony in which the [8 new Lavalla200>](#) members made their commitment and Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, formally sent them on mission by presenting them with mission crosses.

About fifty people attended the Zoom session, including Brothers in Rome, Lavalla200> members past and present, family and friends of the new members, our regular translators. We had participants from Mexico, Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, Portugal,

Spain, Italy, Germany, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Philippines and Australia.

The ceremony itself focussed on the La Valla table, the reliquary at the Hermitage, the message of the Superior General, and the reading of the Pact prepared by the group. The 5 different [Lavalla200>](#) groups had the chance to meet briefly and then a toast was proposed. It was time to finish – 1am already in Australia and 10am in Mexico, a good time for brunch.



general administration

- The General Council ends the September plenary sessions this week. During this time it studies some topics: updating of policies for the protection of children in the Institute, report on expenses and budget, calendar for the coming months, final revision of the translation of the text of the approved Constitutions and other topics concerning requests from the Administrative Units.
- On Thursday, Brother Guillermo José Villarreal Cavazos, of the Province of México Occidental, arrives at the General House. He is the new Postulator General and will replace Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún.
- Br. Luis Daniel Herrera Meza, of the Province of México Central, the new Secretary General, arrives at the General House on Saturday. He will replace Br. Carlos Huidobro.

- Br. Jeff Crowe, responsible for the accompaniment of the LaValla200> Communities, visits the community of Syracuse, from Tuesday to Friday.
- On Monday, the liaison Councillors of the Europe Region, Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ben Consigli, met with the Provincials of the Region of European Marists (REM).
- On Wednesday, Br. Libardo Garzón, Econome General, met on-line with the members of the International Council for Economic Affairs (ICEA).
- On the 15th, Br. Ben Consigli participated through the web, in the meeting of the Oceania Leaders.
- On the 17th, the General Councillors João Carlos, Ken and Ben participated in a meeting with the Provincials of Compostela and Central America on the Marist mission in Honduras.

BRAZIL

YOUTH PASTORAL IN BRAZIL CELEBRATES 15 YEARS AND LAUNCHES NATIONAL GUIDELINES

The Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) – one of the initiatives of evangelisation of Marist youth in Brazil, officially started on the 25th August 2005 – is celebrating this year fifteen years of history and is launching the National Guidelines.

Inspired by other initiatives of evangelisation of young people, such as the REMAR Movement and the Gamar Project, Marist Youth Ministry promotes the formation of ethical, just and supportive adolescents and young people, inspired by Christian spirituality, to exercise their role in the transformation of society. This process is developed through community life, the cultivation of spirituality, the strengthening of autonomy and the deepening of the Marist charism.

Thinking of the plurality built up in the three Provinces of Brazil, UMBRASIL has drawn up the National Guidelines for Marist Youth Ministry. After the work carried out with the group of Provinces, it was possible to highlight the importance of the creation of a document that would speak to the adolescents and young people of the MYM as well as to those who accompany them (animators, articulators, counsellors, co-ordinators and pastors).

This document recalls the roads travelled and outlines new routes so that more and more adolescents and young people can see their hearts transformed and touched by the love of the Gospel of Christ and the charism bequeathed by Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

See some testimonies of representatives of the Marist Institute on the importance of the Guidelines for Marist Youth Ministry for Brazil.

Br. Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councillor: “Thank you very much for having completed the document with such a participative process and for having these renewed Guidelines that will surely help the development, growth and future of Marist Youth Ministry in Brazil that has given and will continue to give so much fruit”.

Br. Valdicer Fachi, WCC Director – Collaboration for International Mission: “Here we have the result of the collaborative work. Undoubtedly, it is our MYM groups that will benefit from this. Now, get to work and bring to life what is on paper. Congratulations on the work done. It is certainly inspiring for Marist Brazil and why not say that it could be inspiring for the Marist world”.

Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of the Office of Education and Evangelisation: “Thank you very much for the document and congratulations on your journey. It is truly an exercise in updating and contextualising the proposal of MYM in Brazil. I believe that this document will be very interesting and also the very significant process of sharing with other administrative units and regions”.

[You can download the document from this link.](#)



UNITED STATES

On the feast of the Nativity of Mary, 8th September, Rob Dittus and Ryan Richter officially began their postulant year at St. Barnabas during a prayer service.

AUSTRALIA

The 10th September, Mascot hosted the official launch of 'Marist Memories', a pictorial history, or as the sub-title explains: "a photo story of Father Champagnat's Australian Marist Brothers" prepared by Br. Brian Etherington. COVID-19 guidelines restricted the participation to just 20 attendees.

EAST ASIA

Last September 6, the temporary professed Brothers in active ministry held an online meeting. Presided by Br. Aljon Yonder, the meeting started with a prayer, followed by a sharing of experiences in the community, an update by the Provincial, Br Ador regarding the present situation in the province, and the talks of Brothers General Councillors Josep Maria Soteras and Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa on the New Rule of Life and the Constitutions.

FRATELLI PROJECT

Thanks to the intervention of FMSI, last week the Italian army donated a significant amount of materials and medicines to the joint mission of Marists and Lasallians in Lebanon.



GUATEMALA

MEETING OF THE ARCO NORTE REGIONAL COUNCIL



On 22 August the Arco Norte Regional Council met in video conference, in the presence of Provincials Gérard Bachand (Canada), Patrick McNamara (United States), José Sánchez (México Central), César Augusto Rojas and Orlando Escobar (Norandina), Miguel Ángel Santos (México Occidental) and Hipólito Pérez (América Central). Brothers João Carlos do Prado, General Councillor and liaison for the Region and Gregorio Linacero and Rodrigo Espinosa, as Coordinators of the Regional Committee, also took part. Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor, and responsible for the animation of the La Valla 200 Project, intervened during the session to share the progress of this project of the Institute and in particular the vision of the Montagne community of Holguín (Cuba), which belongs to the region. Brother Tomás Briongos, Provincial of Compostela, who always accompanies us because of our links with the Marist life and mission in Honduras, could not participate on this occasion for personal reasons.

This intuition of the author Francesc Torralba, motivated our reflection, sharing and research: "Uncertainty is a fundamental feature of our time. We do not know what is the meaning of what we call the new normality. There is fear, dread and trembling. It is easy to fall into despair and

nihilism. What is difficult is to imagine new scenarios.

The crisis has accelerated the digital transition and this has pros and cons, but it has also accelerated the ecological transition. This could inaugurate a new way of producing, consuming and relating to each other." (Francesc Torralba, Living the Essential)

Throughout the session we developed the following objectives:

- To share significant aspects experienced in our provinces of Arco Norte as a result of the experience of the pandemic caused by the COVID-19 disease.
- To follow up the initiatives in the Region and the Continent, particularly the Communications process.
- To accompany the journey of Marist life and mission in the Montagne community (Holguín, Cuba) and the Province of Canada.
- To define the itinerary of the Regional Forum: "A new present, a better future", 26 and 27 October 2020.
- To approve the document: Organisations and functions of the Arco Norte Region, the members of the Arco Norte Regional Committee (CRAN) 2021-2023 and the "Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council CAP".

H. Hipólito Pérez
Provincial of Central America



SOUTH AFRICA

EFFECTS OF THE EPIDEMIC IN SOUTHERN AFRICA PROVINCE

The Covid-19 pandemic has had significant impact on community life of the countries that make up the Province of Southern Africa (Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe). Here we share an overview of how Marist communities are coping with the pandemic. You can read a complete report in the latest Province’s Bulletin.

South Africa

The Community in Johannesburg was in complete lockdown for a very long time as most of the Brothers there are vulnerable. They have had to adjust to attending Masses online, and mostly on Sundays. Since July, however, the Jo’burg community has celebrated the Sunday liturgy on Saturday evenings.

In relation to the apostolate, the Marist School Council (MSC) and Custodians have been working together to ensure that schools continue to run online learning programs. Parents were given an option of either bringing their child to school or allowing the child to follow the same classes online live as they are taught.

Teachers and pupils are screened daily as they enter their school. Teachers, support staff and pupils have received COVID19 protocol training before the resumption of school.

The financial impact has been huge. The Marist’s schools rely on the regular payment of school fees by parents, many of whom have lost income during lockdown. Schools have had to redo their budgets.

Two schools have been exempted from paying the levies to the Brothers: Sacred Heart and St. Henrys. Loan repayments have been suspended as well. The journey has not been an easy ride as staff are now doing more work than before.

Mozambique

All the Brothers in the communities (Nivava, Bilene, Manhiça and Matola Novitiate) are well.

In the first State of Emergency (beginning in March) public and private learning institutions at all levels were closed. Where possible, mostly in urban areas, learning is done using online platforms such as WhatsApp and Zoom. These means reach only a tiny percentage of students. In rural areas, online learning was unthinkable. In Bilene and Manhiça schools a



few teachers used WhatsApp platform to reach students. Nivava did not have any online means for learning.

Since 1 September, all Technical and Professional Training Institutions reopened. Pre-school, primary and secondary school learners will return to school depending on the approval of the Health Authority and the Ministry of Education. All Marist schools are ready to reopen although many students cannot even afford hand-outs because their parents have been unable to pay fees and full salaries cannot be paid due to the crisis.

Zimbabwe

The epidemic has forced the communities’ brothers to remain confined in their houses. Two of their communities are limited only to community services and they cannot celebrate the Holy Mass.

Regarding the apostolate, Schools in Zimbabwe were shut down on the 24 March 2020. Two of the three schools that they run are only able to assist exam classes via online platform while the rest of the learners – who do not have internet

access – are left unattended. Furthermore, Brothers feel left helpless as they cannot assist their badly hit non-teaching staff in their schools due to financial problems.

Angola

Despite lockdown, the community at Kuito has been able to have Daily Mass.

In relation to schools, these have been only partially open during this time. Teachers, either in small groups and at school, continue to evaluate the knowledge and pedagogical skills of the students.

Regarding the juniorate at Kuito, it remains open. There are nine candidates in residence. In the absence of ordinary classes at the school, the community strives to develop in the “juniors” a greater appreciation of the Marist spirit, and provides more instruction both in IT and in music.

Malawi

The Covid-19 pandemic has had significant impact on community life. However, Brothers have been able to take part in Holy Mass.

The closure of schools has significantly reduced available income, forcing communities to cut down on expenditure and suspend all projects for the time being.

Schools have remained closed since 23rd March 2020. With the high cost of internet bundles, many schools have not been able to reach out to their students through online lessons. Marist Secondary School has been offering some online lessons to its

learners although only a handful attend such classes. The government plans to reopen schools in phases from 7th September.

“There are three interesting steps that perhaps may encourage us to respond to the crisis in the way of Mary. At first, like Mary, we sense the doubt, the uncertainty, and feel the fear, and we ask God, “How? Why all this?” Then, we recognize that we are small in God’s hands and we trust in Him. Let it be done! And finally, we get down to work collaborating where we can, serving others”.
 (H. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General)

GUATEMALA
**ST. JOSEPH’S
 FORMATION HOUSE**

St. Joseph’s Formation House is the Postulancy of the Central American Province. It is located in Chinautla, Guatemala City. In this house, there are three brothers, three postulants and one scholastic.

Upon the invitation of the Secretariat of Brothers today, they produced a video about their life during this time of the pandemic, that we share to the rest of the Marist world.



PHILIPPINES

YOUNG BROTHERS FROM MAPAC SPEAK ABOUT THE PANDEMIC

Since the pandemic began, the brothers of the Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) in Manila, Philippines, have tried to continue with their mission and apostolate – beside the children, Youngs, and people in need – despite existing restrictions and limitations. MAPAC is the Post-Novitiate House of Formation for the Provinces and Districts of Asia and the Pacific. It is made up of 7 Brother Formators, 17 student brothers, and now 10 postulants from Timor Leste. They are from 13 countries. Here below MAPAC Brothers share some reflections based on the question: How is this virus affecting their lives and mission of the Marist brothers?



- “After one and a half months, when the pandemic spread to all over the world, especially to the Philippines, our daily life at MAPAC was totally changed. Seeing so many people are suffering in the world, it evokes a lot of feelings in me. At the same time, I pray a lot for those who are affected and their families. I hope the world can get rid of the pandemic and go back normal soon” (Br Joseph).
- “The virus is causing us to return to our true vocation. We are called to grow with each other and take what we have and give to those we are working with. We have, for a long time, given up on getting to know ourselves and our Brothers. The virus, also known as lockdown, has forced us to return to each other in getting to know ourselves and therefore is a blessing for our ministry.” (Br Larry Lavallee)
- “The pandemic has affected the mission of the Marist brothers in such a way that we Find new ways of pro-claiming the Word through the use of the Internet and social media platforms.” (Br Karl Angelo Labio)
- “The covid19 is affecting our charism towards the marginalized. We Marist Brothers who are always sensitive and ready for marginalized are unable to approach them. Yet we believe there is always light after dark. We all have a beacon of hope and pray that our Good God will bring good days to us we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen” (Br Anthony Qummar).
- “It affects how we treat others. There is already a boundary when we approach other people, especially the poor people, because we first look for our own health over others” (Br Engel Freed Java).
- “I saw the virus is affecting our lives as Marist Brothers really much, but in both sides negative and positive. For example: we can’t go out so we spend more time with one another, we can’t see face to face during study class but we can learn how to use the social media, we can’t

marist world

AUSTRALIA: PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK "MARIST MEMORIES" IN MASCOT



BROTHERS TODAY MEETING WITH THE MANZIANA TEAM



SPAIN: ANNUAL PLANNING MEETINGS OF COMPOSTELA PROVINCE – VALLADOLID



UNITED STATES: NEW POSTULANTS



CUBA: HOLGUÍN, LAVALLA200>



BRAZIL: COLÉGIO MARISTA CHAMPAGNAT – TAGUATINGA

do what we want like before but it helps us to be flexible in so many situations” (Br Anh Hoang).

- “We see and experience so much suffering on many levels for so many people. As I look at in another hand, I think this is a good time for me as Religious Brother to do something, not only pray but to act and help those people that are affected by this virus” (Br Melquiano Obe).
- “As I reflect on this, it is also a nice moment for us to think in a different way for our mission and also, it’s good time to have new activities aside of our apostolic work; Like alms giving, etc.” (Br Benjamin Corbafo).
- “As for me, the Corona Virus was affecting me and blocking me in the relationship with my student children in my apostolate and the

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 (Br. Larry Lavallee)

dialogue with people. However, this is happening and is also an opportunity for me to see how God is testing my faith and how much I believe in God” (Br Tran Dinh Luan).

- “We see and feel this virus brings harm to our world and has changed so many things in our lives. The truth is that since the time this virus started, many people in the world have sacrificed their lives and bring out their goodness to help others, especially strangers. It also brings the world together as one to look for the solution of this pandemic” (Br Steve Vaea).
- “It helps me to take care of our common home, planting some plants around our property. I pray to the Lord to heal our world, because the world has so much suffering from this pandemic crisis Amen” (Br Jacinto Anacletho).

SPAIN

“DESPIERTA” IS THE NEW EDUCATIONAL SLOGAN OF THE FOUR MARIST PROVINCES WITH ESTABLISHMENTS IN SPAIN

“Wake up” is the motivational motto for the 2020-2021 academic year, developed by the Spanish Marist Conference (CME) for the four Provinces with establishments in Spain: Compostela, Ibérica, L’Hermitage and Mediterránea. The motto has as its central theme the promotion of ecology in Marist educational institutions.

The initiative is in keeping with Pope Francis’ ‘Laudato Si’ which calls for “protecting our common home (...) uniting the whole human family in pursuit of sustainable and integral development”. The proposal also includes the fifth call of the XXII General Chapter which asks us to respond boldly to emerging needs: “to awaken in us and around us an ecological awareness that commits us to the care of our common home”.

Through the slogan “Wake up” the Institute of the Marist Brothers in Spain seeks to create ecological awareness throughout the academic year 2020-2021 and to contribute to the care of the planet, the environment, sustainability, the fight against pollution, desertification, recycling, monitoring our seas, and other ecological issues.

CME has provided classrooms with various teaching materials and resources around the theme. You can find more information about the theme and availability of materials (poster, motivation, videos and music), at this link.

The CME’s explanatory document on the subject reads as follows:

“AWAKE is an important imperative, an SOS message to a Planet that is dying if we do not take care of it. We don’t want to be alarmist, so the other suggestions that we are going to explain below send us a message of hope. It is still in our hands to wake up and get “down to business” with the great gift of creation”. https://maristas.es/sites/maristas.es/files/archivos/obras_sociales_castellano.pdf



“To our concern for sustainability and the

environment, we will add our commitment to all the inhabitants of the planet, starting with those who are most in need,” said the Brother Provincial of Compostela, Tomás Briongos during the meeting of the principals of schools, social works and colleges, coordinators of the Local Animation Team (EAL) and of projects held at the Champagnat Marist Residence of Valladolid.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat