



## PHILIPPINES

# NEW NOVITIATE FOR THE REGIONS OF ASIA AND OCEANIA, FROM MAY 2021

The College of Leaders Asia and Oceania, formed by the superiors of the Administrative Units of these two regions of the Institute, announced the creation of a new novitiate in Tamontaka, Philippines, which will receive the new novices from both regions in May 2021. We reproduce the entire announce here below.

### Interregional Novitiates 2021-2022

The Administrative Units of Asia and Oceania have a long history of collaboration in Formation. MAPAC and the Inter-Regional Novitiate at Tudella in Sri Lanka are the best examples of this.

In May 2019, the Leaders of the two Regions started to discuss

how to cater for the anticipated increased number of candidates from 2021-22. The numbers will be more than can be accommodated at Tudella. As a result of these discussions, which also involved the General Councillors linked to both Regions, we have decided to establish a second Inter-regional Novitiate at Tamontaka, which is located at South Cotabato, Mindanao in the Philippines.

### In making this decision, we adopted the following principles:

- Having suitable Formators is the priority. We have sufficient for two Novitiates now and need to continue to prepare Brothers for this important ministry.
  - There needs to be consistency and continuity of formation across the two regions.
  - To ensure this is the case, we need to continue dialogue and collaboration; events such as the annual Formation Colloquiums help facilitate this.
  - That we do not expend additional funds on construction of new facilities.
  - That we review the need for two Novitiates in two years' time.
- What this means for the intake of Novices is:



## general administration

■ This week, the General Council will have a few days of retreat at Subiaco, where St. Benedict and his sister St. Scholastica lived.

■ On Monday, Brother Ernesto, Superior General, was at the Mexican Embassy to the Holy See to participate in the presentation of the "Ohtli Recognition" to Archbishop Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong, secretary of the seminaries of the Congregation

for the Clergy and a former Marist student in Mérida, Mexico. Archbishop Jorge expressed, among other things, a recognition of the Marist Brothers, and in the person of Brother Ernesto, of all the Mexican religious and lay Catholics who, with their selfless service, communicate by their lives the joy of knowing Christ, loving him, following him and celebrating him.

**MAY 2021:**

Tudella: The Novices there will continue their novitiate until First Vows in 2022.

Tamontaka: All new Novices will start their Novitiate at Tamontaka for a two-year period.

**MAY 2022:**

Tudella: All new Novices will start their Novitiate at Tudella and remain there until vows.

Tamontaka: The Novices who started in 2021 will continue until profession in 2023.

The Tudella Formation team will remain as it is. The team for

Tamontaka is yet to be finalised.

Brothers, this is our plan at the moment. However, with the COVID situation as it is, there may need to be alterations. We will adapt as required.

Please continue to pray for our men in Formation and those working with them.

Fraternally

Br Canisio Willrich, Br Dominador Santiago, Br John Hazelman,  
Br Mervyn Perera, Br Peter Carroll  
College of Leaders Asia and Oceania

BRAZIL

# SOLIDARITY: HOW TO SOW HOPE IN OUR HEARTS IN A SIMPLE WAY

For us Marists, solidarity is seen as the will to serve, to act for the common good, to promote ethical relationships and to generate opportunities for all. More than a fine word standing out in difficult times, it is an essential value in our daily lives. Solidarity is part of the Marist way of being.

During the pandemic, it was necessary to reinvent forms of activity, actions and projects.

**An initiative of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul**

The Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul found a way to propagate solidarity actions and addressed the issue through a presentation panel and an electronic book.

“A more fraternal and supportive world”: this is the expectation after the pandemic, according to a survey carried out by the Sivis Institute in collaboration with the Cidade da Gente programme, in Curitiba. The project interviewed more than 500 people. The research, which took the form of an electronic book, with

simple and accessible language, shows how simple initiatives can make a difference in the world.

The e-book entitled ‘Solidarity: what to expect from the future? – How knowledge about our situation can help us to make the world a more fraternal place’ is available free of charge. Click here to download it.

Produced by the Province’s Communication and Marketing team, in collaboration with the Sivis Institute, the e-book was launched on 27 August at the Farol de Esperança panel, which raised the issue of Solidarity: what to expect in the future?

The debate was attended by representatives of the PUCPR’s Education for Solidarity Observatory, the Sivis Institute and UMBRASIL, who discussed the power of solidarity in a difficult time like the one we are currently experiencing. The participants analysed the role of solidarity actions in the construction of a post-pandemic future and spoke about how compassion and empathy will be part of our daily life after the crisis.



**NEW ZEALAND**

A small assembly of Brothers celebrated with a family Mass the 70th Jubilee of Brothers Michael Dunleavy and Richard. After the ceremony they had dinner together and cut the cake.

**BRAZIL**

256 educators in the province of Brasil Centro-Norte have received the international certification of the Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIE - Expert) programme. There are currently 17,738 teachers in the world with a MIE Expert certification, of whom 2,093 are from Brazil, and of that number, 1,223 are Marist educators.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, Marist Mercy Care's adult education courses resumed and five people completed their computer studies. A new group will be welcomed next week to begin a six-week course.

**CRUZ DEL SUR**

Brother Demetrio Espinosa, coordinator of the Management Team of School Education Centres, sent a few words to the management and education teams of the three countries that make up the Province: Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. You can assist in this link: <https://bit.ly/2ZKxXu1>

**MEXICO**

On September 21, with a Eucharistic celebration at Guadalajara, broadcast live on Facebook, the Province of Western Mexico celebrated the 100th birthday of Br. Amancio Rodriguez Pastrana

**BRAZIL****VIRTUAL MEETINGS TO GATHER MARIST VOCATION ANIMATORS IN BRAZIL**

Vocation Animators in Brazil will be able to participate in a series of videoconferences to reflect on and study practices in Vocation Animation. The experiential training is being organised by the Vocations Forum of the Province of Brazil Centro-Norte.

Organised in collaboration with the Conference of Religious of Brazil (CRB) and the Catholic University of Brasilia (UCB), the forum aims to provide theoretical and experiential training to vocation animators, in order to contribute to building a culture of vocations in congregations, in institutions and in the Church.

The virtual meetings will begin on September 23, with a presentation from Sr. Maristela Ganassini, on "Virtual accompaniment and new contexts". Br. Márcio Costa, coordinator of the Teachers' College will be the panel moderator. In the second meeting, Sara Guerra will look at issue of care, with the theme "Self-care: Taking care of

those who care for others!". The last presentation will be made by Carmem Lúcia, who will talk about "Designing a Life Project: essential elements". The virtual meetings will be broadcast live using the Teams platform, from 15:00 p.m. to 17:00 p.m.

Registration is open and there are already 228 registered from all over Brazil and different congregations. Participants will be able to interact during the conference transmissions and at the end of the training they will receive a certificate of participation. Registration ends on Monday, September 21. [To register, click here.](#)

Regarding the forum, Brother Márcio said: "The Vocational forum is meant to generate ideas, and in using this platform, despite the pandemic, we will be able to reflect with vocation animators and enrich our vocations practices, thus keeping up the tradition of holding the event every year".

BANGLADESH

# ST MARCELINE'S ENDURING PRESENCE IN THE "TEA GARDENS"

"In Giasnogor community (Bangladesh) Marcellin's enduring presence is alive in our work in the school, in feeding poor children and in manual work", mentions Br. Virgilio Bwalya (from Zambia), when speaking about the Marist presence in the "tea gardens" where People's living conditions here are outrageously poor.

Brother Virgilio who works in Bangladesh since March 2008, share with us his experience of missionary work in the Giasnogor Community together with the Marist Brothers: Cesar Barba (Mexico), Marti Enrich (Spain), Eugenio Sanz (Spain). Another Bangladesh Brother, Rubel Nokrek, will join them as soon as the aviation sector opens.

"This year, on the 25th of July, I turned fifty, and yet feeling overwhelmingly young. Our being chronologically advanced notwithstanding, St Marcellin's enduring presence is kept alive by our active presence in teaching in the school, looking after hostel boys, in feeding programs and in doing manual work.

Our community, one of the visible signs of an enduring presence of St Marcellin, is surrounded by the tea garden communities with deplorable housing, meagre salaries, poor nutrition and with the unmatched illiteracy. People's living conditions here are outrageously poor, and sadly to mention that it is not uncommon to find a single room crowded with family members of different ages. The salaries they get are miserably low; as low as 1\$ pay day (Gain, 2016). With this kind of salary, they hardly have decent meals; much of them often of poor quality, lacking in protein for example. Literacy levels are not different either. Most of the tea garden workers (our workers included), are illiterate; and only a few of their children can read and write.

We found ourselves in this place mainly to help reduce malnutrition levels and to alleviate the unmatched levels of illiteracy among children through feeding programs and by opening up a secondary school in 2017. In a way, our two main apostolates are communal and school based. We did well in feeding programs, but like many Brothers in the world, we have done little in the school in ensuring Marcellin's presence among children since the onset of Covid-19 and the eventual lockdown. How-

ever, and on the positive side, Marcellin's enduring presence in manual work has resurfaced in most of our Brothers. As the educational and transport/aviation sectors got shut worldwide, we found ourselves stranded in the community doing most of the works that workers and students do; continuously cleaning the surroundings, planting and watering grass and flowers, digging

trenches, clearing footpaths etc. I find this experience of Marcellin's presence through manual work satisfying and with much edification.

It is the same experience I had during my visit to the Hermitage in 2016 in France. I was shown Marcellin's bed on which I sat in contemplation, but I didn't feel his presence there; I was also shown the golden box presumed to contain his remains and before which we had some prayers, yet I didn't feel his presence there; I was later taken to his birthplace, but he was not there either; they even took me to the place where he was lost in the snow, but nothing happened

inside me. When on a Saturday morning they asked me to go and clear outgrowing bushes along the banks of the stream, that is where I felt something inside me, his presence. I sighed peacefully and whispered to myself, as if talking to him, "So, you want us to do this too... to dirty our hands". In Giasnogor community Marcellin's enduring presence is alive in our work in the school, in feeding poor children and in manual work."



Br. Virgilio Bwalya  
Zambia – Province of Southern Africa

## GENERAL HOUSE

## FROM 1 SEPTEMBER TO 4 OCTOBER IS THE SEASON OF CREATION

From September 1 to October 4, Christians around the world are praying and caring for creation. It's the "Season of Creation". The beginning and the end date of Season of Creation are linked with the concern for creation in the Eastern and the Western traditions of Christianity, respectively.

September 1st was proclaimed as a day of prayer for the environment by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. The Orthodox church year starts that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. On 4 October, Roman Catholics and other churches from the Western traditions commemorate Francis of Assisi, known to many as the author of the [Canticle of the Creatures](#).

The proposal to celebrate a "Time for Creation" during these five weeks was made by the [Third European Ecumenical Assembly](#) of the World Council of Churches in Sibiu in 2007. The following year, the [WCC Central Committee](#) invited churches to observe

"Time for Creation" through prayers and actions. In 2015, Pope Francis has designated September 1st as a World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation for the worldwide Roman Catholic Church as well.

Throughout the years, major Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Anglican organizations have joined to encourage the 2.2 billion Christians worldwide to pray and act on ecological issues.

In 2016, Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew I released their special messages for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Cre-

ation, kicking off the month-long [Season of Creation](#) celebrations. Both leaders used strong language to stress the urgency of the ecological crisis and the need to take action on climate change. Their special messages are available [here](#).

This year, the global reach of the novel coronavirus revealed our shared human nature and the inter-connectivity of our economies, political structures, health care systems, food production chains, energy and transportation systems in devastating ways. The pandemic also demonstrated that the entire web is rooted in the earth and limited by the earth's capacity to sustain our economic and ecological demands. The unjust effects of climate change are a consequence of our inability to find a sustainable balance of this web.

Each year, the ecumenical steering committee that provides this Season of Creation Celebration Guide suggests a theme. The 2020 theme is Jubilee for the Earth.

The Season of Creation is facilitated by the World Council of Churches, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, ACT Alliance, World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, A Rocha, the Lutheran World Federation, Christian Aid, Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network, European Christian Environmental Network.

[Source: World Council of Churches](#)

[Download the 2020 celebration guide](#)

[See different resources in the site of the World Council of Churches](#)



## SEASON OF CREATION

### EAST TIMOR

In parallel with the 15 years of Marist Youth Ministry in Brazil, almost 90 young people from East Timor gathered to celebrate the 1st year of MYM in this country. The event was a day of formation and Brother João Batista was invited to speak to the young people about the Marist mission, the history and what the MYM represents for the young people and the Marist world.



NIGERIA

# UNVEILED IN THE MIC A BOOK OF BR. FRANCIS VERYE ABOUT PSYCHODYNAMICS IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

The day was Sunday, the 23rd of August 2020. The venue was the Marist International Centre Chapel. The occasion was the book launch of Br. Francis Verve: "Psychodynamics in School Leadership: Challenges and Opportunities".

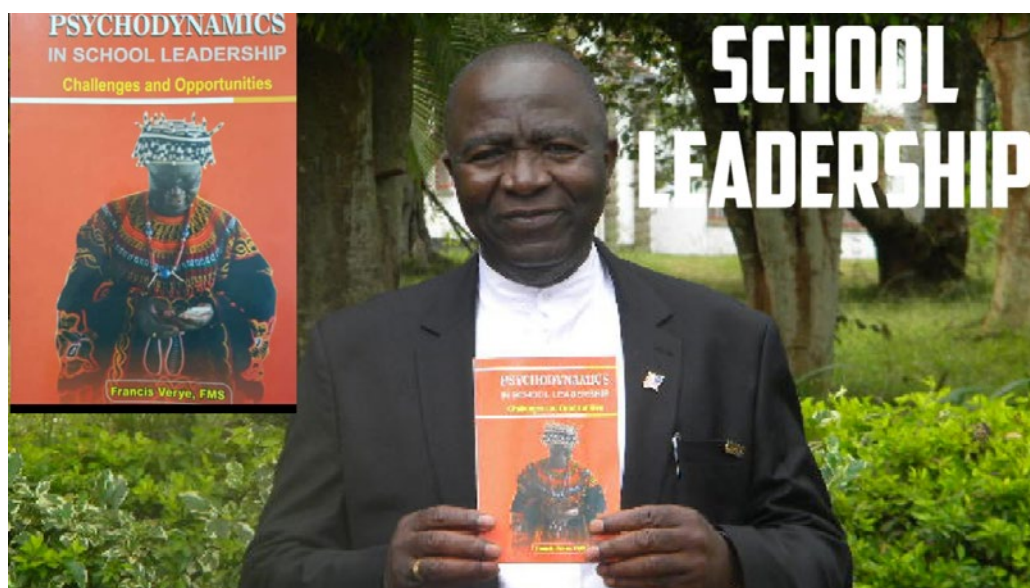
The book was highly recommended for those who were present, those in any form of leadership as a problem-solving tool and the recommendation is also extended to those who were not present to grab a copy of the book.

Br. Francis Verve, From West Africa District, has received education in Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Great Britain and the United States of America. He spend almost ten years at MIC, during last period and when it will be possible, he is supposed to move to Ghana, where he will work in the Marist Education.

The unveiling of a new book: Psychodynamics in School Leadership Challenges and Opportunities.

The day was Sunday, the 23rd of August 2020.

The venue was the Marist International Centre Chapel. The occasion was the book launch. The Master of Ceremony, Brother Phillip Okoliko (fms) welcomed the participants present before ushering in Br. Francis Verve.



Br. Francis Verve (fms) heartily welcomed the Superior of Marist International Centre, Br Mark Anokwuru (fms), the Principal of Marist International University College, Br Albert Nzabonaliba (fms) and the guest speaker, Prof. Majawa Clement of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, (CUEA). In praise of the work and contribution of Prof. Majawa, Francis intimated that whenever he encountered hurdles in the course of his PhD studies, he readily sought solace in the academic sanctuary of Prof. Majawa. Prof. Majawa was essentially the anchor on which to rest who accompanied him throughout the process for no one works along this academic journey alone.

In his characteristic style, Br. Verve described the research as borrowing many ideas of those who know better and acknowledging them. The myriad of definitions of leadership in his book were highlighted by alluding to the contributions of some prominent authors to buttress the point of research, giving a flare of what he was talking about. Taking Augustine Comte's division of history from the metaphysical, superstitious and scientific epochs as a springboard, he highlighted the role of religion in

schools and the religious orders in education.

Br. Mark Anokwuru welcome the guest speaker Prof. Majawa, thanking God that the day indeed has come, highlighting the sacrifices of the author, Br Verve, and thank Prof. Majawa the main guest for his availability.

Br. Francis presented Prof. Majawa to the audience, who began by thanking God for the day and for the invitation extended to him by giving the synthesis of the book. Making an analogy with the confession of Peter in the Gospel of the day (Matthew 16:13-20), he highlighted main thrust of the book which is holistic leadership.

The book has highlighted, filled and addressed nine gaps in the current literature on leadership, namely: materialism vs religion, vocation vs profession, divine vs human, spiritual values vs exterior framework, common good vs individual rights, integrity vs corruption, loving care vs positional rules, rhetoric vs reality, shepherding vs economic prosperity, witness vs structure.

marist world

SPAIN: COLEGIO MARISTA SAN JOSÉ · LEÓN

EAST TIMOR: CELEBRATION OF THE 1ST YEAR OF MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY (YMW)

SOUTH AFRICA: MARIST MERCY CARE



ITALY: LAVALLA200> SIRACUSA

BRAZIL: BR. ROQUE PLINIO LOSS, BELO HORIZONTE

INDIA: ST. MARCELLIN COMMUNITY HALL IN TRICHY – OPERATION RAINBOW

The following of the book is essentially as follows: Chapter 2 of the book essentially a philosophical review of literature on leadership through the ages. Chapter 3 examines evolution of leadership. Chapter 4 talks about leaders as communality, Chapter 5 dwells on challenges and controversies around leadership today notably relativism versus absolutism. Chapter 6 posits leadership as steward of the himself and of the environment, Chapter 7 highlights the contextualization of leadership. Chapter 8 extends leadership in the context of globalization and Chapter 9 concludes the book with 12 practical recommendations

Br. Albert Nzabonaliba, thanked Prof. Majawa, firstly, as a friend of the Marists for the last two decades, secondly, for the encouragement he gave to Br. Francis Verve. Lastly, he paid glowing tribute to Br. Francis as a beacon of hope, and encouragement for others while presenting him as an example to be emulated for his courage to put ideas into writing. He highlighted one aspect of leadership culled from the book, i.e. taking people where they want to be and not knowing how to be, the need to refrain from the temptation of outsourcing solution rather than looking for solutions within. Lastly, he saw Br. Francis as one who chose to go far by going with others. The book was highly recommended for those who were present,

those in any form of leadership as a problem-solving tool and the recommendation is also extended to those who were not present to grab a copy of the book. It is indeed a book to have, he concluded.

The occasion ended with the unveiling of the book, when Br. Verve joyously announced to the audience, “Habemus Librum”, (we have a book), which was happily welcomed with great acclamation of joy in approval by everyone present. Br. Verve offered a copy of the Book to the Community Superior, Br. Mark Anokwuru, who received it graciously.

Br. Dr. Francis Verve has received education in Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Great Britain and the United States of America. Francis believes in creating and sharing knowledge. Among his writings which are available in the Marist International University Library are Leadership and Participation in the Management of Scottish Secondary Schools; Creativity and Innovation, Group dynamics; Counseling Skills; Project Management skills; Critical Thinking; leadership and direction; Personal Management, Effective communication skills, a Compendium on Educational Management and Administration.

Br. Peter Awoh, fms

## BRAZIL

# BR. JOÃO GUTEMBERG IS THE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF REPAM

At a press conference held on September 14, Cardinal Claudio Hummes, president of the [Pan-Amazon Church Network](#), presented Brother João Gutemberg, of the Province of Brazil Sul-Amazon, as the new executive director of the Network founded by Catholic organizations in September 2014, at the service of life in the Amazon, in defence of our Common Home. Br. João replaces Mauricio López. REPAM, like the Rivers of the Amazon, is formed by the convergence of the nine countries that form the Amazon territory, a region of 7.8 million square kilometres where 33 million inhabitants live, including 1.5 million indigenous people from 385 villages. It is an organisation that is committed to the participation of the Amazonian peoples in the defence and care of the common home through a service of interconnection and articulation of actions. It seeks to listen, accompany, support, encourage, train, serve, stimulate, communicate and join forces to respond to the great socio-environmental challenges. An evaluation of the role of the Pan-Amazon Network over the last 6 years. The Vice President, Cardinal Pedro Barreto, presented the Network's path of discernment and the horizons for the coming years. [Watch the video of the press conference here.](#)

At the press conference, together with the presentation of Br. João Gutemberg, Cardinal Cláudio Hummes took stock of the role of the Network for Pan-Amazon in the last 6 years. The vice-president, Cardinal Pedro Barreto, presented the path of discernment of the Network that is being carried out and the horizons for the coming years.

More information:

- [Inteview Religi3n Digital – 18 September 2020](#)
- [Marist presence in the Amazon](#)
- [Brother João's expectations of the Synod](#)
- [SED interview with Br. João](#)
- [Marists in the Amazon \(Interview 2003\)](#)



## João Gutemberg Mariano Coelho Sampaio

He was born in Cruzeiro de Sul, in the state of Acre, in the Amazonian interior, the border region between Brazil, Peru and Bolivia. He studied there and was accompanied in his vocation and formation by the Marist missionaries who arrived in the area in 1968 and by other local congregations. He continued his studies in southern Brazil and Europe. In his apostolic mission, he has worked almost always in the Amazon context: education, youth ministry and formation.

At present he is a member of and contributes to the Ecclesial Network Panamaz3nica – REPAM, in the coordination of the bureau of Formation and methods of pastoral accompaniment in the perspective of Integral Ecology, which connects the 9 Amazonian countries. He is also a member of the Committee on Consecrated Life for the Amazon of the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious, CLAR.

Br. Joao Gutemberg was one of 55 observers invited to participate in the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region, which took place in the Vatican, from October 6 to 27 2019.



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YouTube

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

Facebook

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

Twitter

[https://twitter.com/fms\\_champagnat](https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat)