



GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMISSION FOR SETTING UP THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF MARIST SCHOOLS

The Ad Hoc Commission for setting up the Global Network of Marist Schools met on September 17 via Zoom. Its main objective was to determine the next steps in implementing the network, adjusting plans to the current global situation.

The creation of this network is a project included in the Strategic Plan of the General Administration (2017-2025), in line with the call of the XXII General Chapter to build mission networks at all levels to foster innovation and the renewal of Marist education and evangelisation.

Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Ben Consigli,

General Councillor worked with the team, which was meeting for the third time. The Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation is responsible for coordinating the work.

Its first meeting was in May 2019. During the second meeting, held in December 2019, the responses obtained in a global survey were analysed. More than sixteen thousand people participated and showed great interest in setting up this network of Marist schools.

Charting new horizons

There were 4 sections in the meeting. In the first one, the participants gathered in virtual breakout rooms, to speak about the



general administration

- On Monday, Br. Libardo, Econome General, met with the Executive Committee of the Bedford Fund. On Tuesday, he met - always via the Internet - with the network of bursars of the Arco Norte Region.
- On Wednesday, Br. Fachi, director of the WCC, took part in the Council meeting of the Network of Provincial Volunteer Coordinators (PCVs).
- Brother Angel, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, joined the community of Manziana on Wednesday to take part in a live meeting with the novices of Cochabamba, in the

Region of South America.

- On the first of October, the members of the Bureau of the Laity met with the liaison counsellors, Brothers Sylvain and João Carlos.
- On Friday, the General Councillors João Carlos and Ben will attend the meeting of the Provincial Council of Mediterránea.
- From Friday to Sunday, the Brothers of the General Administration will be in Manziana, where they will prepare the Community Life Project for 2020-21.

progress being made, and especially the “particular moment” that mission is going through at this time of pandemic which is affecting all areas of Marist life.

In the second section, Br Luis Carlos invited the group to work to fulfil the desire of the General Government of the Institute, that of “accompanying the life” of those who have been entrusted to the Marists. “When there is a crisis, such as the present one, we need to act in concrete ways to get through this moment with hope”, the Vicar General underlined. And he spoke of the key idea behind the project of the Network of Schools at this historical moment of the Institute, forging a link between all areas of Marist ministry.

Then, in the third section, Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation, presented a proposal for work in coming months. The commission will be divided into four groups which will focus on specific aspects, under the coordination of the Secretariat:

- Digital platform of the Global Network of Marist Schools: Br Ador Santiago, Provincial of East Asia; Br Natalino de Souza, Executive Director of UMBRASIL; Br Andreu Sánchez, Spanish Marist Conference.
- Marist Global Citizenship Project: Llorenç Claramunt, director of the Champagnat Foundation of the Province of L’Hermitage; Frank Malloy, national director of the Marist Schools of Australia; Br. Nicéforo Garrán, provincial coordinator of education of the Province of Central America; Ana Von Frankenberg Berger, specialist in Creativity and Innovation and member of Crialab, the laboratory of

Creativity of TECNOPUC, of the Province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia.

- The description of the World Network of Schools: Montserrat Giménez, administrative director of the University School Cardenal Cisneros de Alcalá de Henares, of the Iberian Province; Br. Henry Uzor, member of the Commission of Marist Schools of the Province of Nigeria; Br. Chano Guzmán, coordinator of the Council of Marist Educational Works (COEM) of the Province of Mediterránea; Luiz Da Rosa, director of the Department of Communications of the General Administration.
- Launch of the Network: other mission networks of the Institute.

The four groups mentioned will work in direct contact with the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, which will co-ordinate between them. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and Ben Consigli will keep in touch with the different activities of the working groups.

Br Carlos Alberto Rojas stressed the need to keep the project moving ahead, in spite of the current situation caused by the COVID-19. He reminded everyone of the commitment to make concrete progress on this project through holding an online event, in the first half of next year, to be followed by a live event during the first half of 2022.

The meeting concluded – the fourth section – with time for answering questions and clarifying ideas among the participants. The group ended the meeting convinced of the importance of this project and eager to contribute to its realization.

PHILIPPINES

MARIST ASIA PACIFIC CENTER (MAPAC)

The Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) is the inter-regional post novitiate of Asia and Oceania. It is located in the same campus as the Marist School in Marikina City, Philippines.

MAPAC receives scholastics from the Provinces of Australia, South Asia and East Asia and the Districts of Asia and Pacific.

At the moment, there are 7 Brother Formators, 17 student brothers, and, extraordinary, 10 postulants from Timor Leste. It is a diverse community, with the members coming from 13 countries.

Upon the invitation of the Secretariat Brothers today, they produced a video about their life during this time of the pandemic.



KOREA AND JAPAN

Thirteen Brothers took part in the assembly of the sector of the East Asia Province from 18 to 20 September. During the meeting, each mission area presented its activities. It was also a time to read the Rule of Life and to learn more about Marist life in the world.

ECUADOR

Agrupación Marista and the Marist Communities of Ecuador together with the Solidarity Team, teachers involved, families, volunteers and donors, have supported 14 social aid institutions, through the Project EL COVID SOLIDARIO, which has delivered 2,346 food kits to needy families and has invested a total of 45,504.45 dollars in the project.

ARGENTINA

In the face of the pandemic, which prevents them from living out their mission by performing solidarity services to children in schools, the young people of the Marist Community of Fraile Pintado, in Jujuy, have decided to live out their mission by cleaning public places and recycling the rubbish and usable cardboard waste.

PRAYERS DURING COVID-19

The Marist Association of St. Marcellin Champagnat, Australia, offers weekly resources for prayer during this time of pandemic. The proposals, in English, are available at this link: <https://bit.ly/33beAMQ>

GERMANY

A RESPONSE TO COVID-19 FROM CMI GERMANY



Since 2015, [CMI Germany](#) has been involved in sending interprovincial volunteers all over the Marist world, with the sponsorship of the German National Volunteer Service. Even during the Pandemic, Cmi Germany developed and promoted the initiatives that are described in this testimony. Among these, sewing masks, organizing meetings between households as soon as it became possible and sensitization about racism promoting a theme week.

COVID-19 challenges us, and Corona pushes us to re-orient ourselves.

March 2020: Sewing masks

Volunteers and Cmi-staff were sewing masks at home. Some masks were given to the local senior home as a practical help- others were sold for a donation. The earned money was transferred to the Project Marist Mercy Care, Place of Mercy and Hope, Addo, South Africa to support providing necessary food parcel for children and their families.

Marist Mercy Care is one of our wonderful places, were German Cmi Volunteers are welcomed since years and guided with caring love. Knowing from Lea, the last volunteer in Addo about the needs of the people and "Covid-19 response" of Addo, many of the past volunteers, but also new candidates, were involved in sewing masks.

June 2020: MarisTisch – #2householdchallenges – an initiative against social distancing

Cmi organized a so called #2household

challenge. At this time, two households could meet again in Germany. Jasmin invited all known Marists in Mindelheim to participate in this idea. At the end Two were always drawn to meet each other. Some Marists meet in presence, some in Zoom because of the geographical distance.

July 2020: Racism Theme Week

Jasmin motivated a group of young people to organize a week about racism. Starting with a prayer on Sunday the anti-racism week was from 5th July until Friday 11th July. Context of the week were presentations on the topic racism. Proposal of films, two online presentations, literature, artists, challenge #runagainstracism, local Movie evening with the film "Green Book".

You can see details about that initiative in <https://cmi-maristen.de/>

29 SEPTEMBER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS OF FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

Reading the title of this International Day, we might well think that it is a commemoration with not much importance. Where is the problem when food is wasted? Or again when “leftover” food cannot be taken to other places to feed the population there?

FAO, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, reminds us that if we cannot reduce food loss and waste, it will be difficult for us to reduce malnutrition or hunger globally. By not wasting food, we can produce less which means less water is wasted and less pollution from the production process. This international day needs to be linked with other initiatives such as local production (support for small-scale farmers), more eco-friendly food production, a more responsible and measured consumption,...

There are many documents, articles, web pages, ... that inform us of this reality and the problems brought about by food loss and waste. We find actions we can take to avoid it, practical advice that we can apply in our homes. There are resources already created to raise awareness, to implement in our workplaces, to practice in our homes and communities. A wealth of resources along these lines can be found on the FAO website.

The data reveals thousands of tons of food that are thrown away each year. A very high percentage – between 15% and 30%, according to the study – of the food produced annually is finally discarded. It is cheaper to dispose of it than to use it to feed the

millions of hungry people. And this does not take into account the land, water, energy and other resources wasted to produce them.

As a “global” Institute, we Marists can also learn from each other. In many places in the Marist world, food is considered a blessing and a privilege. It is a reason to give thanks. In other places, sadly, we have lost this sense of food as blessing. Let’s support each other and allow ourselves to be helped by those who have greater sensitivity on this issue.

We need to become aware of the problem. We need to move towards a food production system that better distributes products so that they reach everyone, a system that is more eco-friendly and that gives greater attention to the care of our “common

home”, a system that promotes the development of small-scale production and local consumption.

In some areas of the Marist world, children and adults are working on awareness of this topic. To them we say, well done! To those of us who still have a way to go in terms of this awareness, let’s have the courage to take small steps

in the right direction. The XXII General Chapter, in its document to the Institute, reminded us: “Move away from a culture shaped by ego-s and adopt that of the eco-s ... to reduce the scandal of indifference and inequality.” Let’s try to take on and promote concrete actions in our daily life.

Br. Ángel Diego – Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity



PROVINCIA NORANDINA

On Saturday, the Marists of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador had a virtual meeting with Brother Luiz Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, who gave a description of Marist current affairs. He also called to mind the calls of the last General Chapter and highlighted three fundamental attitudes for today’s Marists: Going to what is fundamental, going out to others and living the future with hope. And he invited everyone to reflect. You can see the meeting at this link: <https://bit.ly/3kJoqww>



GUATEMALA

RENEWING THE MISSION IN THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

The Marists of Central America participated in the Provincial Mission Assembly which was held virtually on the 4th and 5th September. Present at the event were Brother Hipólito Pérez, Provincial, Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, the Brothers of the Province and nearly 180 lay people (from the six countries of Central America and the Caribbean): representatives of fraternities, members of the Remar Communities, pastoral coordinators, animators of youth groups and catechists.

The central theme was the development of the Marist mission in the Province, the need to renew the mission and the interior conversion that the times require. In his talk, Brother Luis Carlos reflected on the current challenges arising in the new context. He also spoke about the challenges and the positions that must be taken into account in this mission. Referring to the Marist mission in the Province, Brother Juan Antonio Sandoval pointed out that “For three years now, in the Province of América Central, we have been committed to the process of renewal based on our mission. Since 2018, our provincial pastoral team has had the perception that we need a different



approach in order to respond better to the emerging challenges that the mission presents to us. A new way of being a community, as Marists of Champagnat committed to their vocation, responding to new contexts, from renewed leadership are some of the intuitions that accompany us”.

“ At this time we focus on the new shoots of life that we perceive in our mission. We seek to continue to identify them, to continue to care for them, to irrigate them and to help them flourish. Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, encouraged us in one of the sessions, presenting the challenges he perceives in our Institute”, concluded Brother Juan Antonio.

COLOMBIA

NORANDINA PROVINCE PROMOTES A VOCATIONAL FORUM WITH INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL PRESENCE

On Tuesday, September 15, 2020, Brothers from the two regions of the Americas, South America and Arco Norte, took part in the Marist International Vocation Forum #ConectadoConLaVocación, held by the Champagnat Institute of Colombia (Province of Norandina) through its YouTube channel.

The Brothers taking part were: Danilo Ferreira (Brasil Centro-Norte), Luis Ernesto Guardado (América Central), René Reynoso (México Central), Brian Poulin (United States), Rui Pires (Compostela) and Juan Sebastián Herrera (Norandina) who was the moderator. Br. César Rojas (Provincial of Norandina) welcomed the audience and the panelists during the broadcast. At the beginning, Brother Rector Antidio Enriquez, shared a Marist vocational reflection.



This event was organized by the Council of Evangelization of the Champagnat Institute – a Marist school with about 1800 students.

The purpose of the forum was to share the daily life of some young brothers from various parts of the world through a quiet, lively conversation, full of anecdotes and words of encouragement, thus demonstrating the wealth of being Marist today through simplicity.

The broadcast was watched live by many people, mostly students from the Champagnat Institute and other Marist schools in Colombia; teachers, parents, laypeople and brothers were also present. They actively participated in the live chat with greetings, questions and comments.

ITALY

LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY OF SYRACUSE WORKING FOR THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

Along with other Sicilian and Italian groups working for the welcome and integration of migrants, the Solidarity Foundation of Italian Champagnat Marists is backing a project called “Comune dei Popoli”, aimed at working with migrants to independently access social services that are unfamiliar to them or hard to contact.



The Comune dei Popoli Project – co-financed by the European Union and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (FAMI) – aims to train public servants and private business people to improve the quality of their assistance and mentoring, and, at the same time, to guide foreign citizens present in the Syracuse area to take full advantage of existing social services.

C.I.A.O. is an intercultural space of assistance and guidance designed especially for young immigrants and refugees living in Syracuse and its surrounding areas. It is aimed in particular at minors in first and second stage reception centres and at newcomers who want to integrate into the country. The centre offers services to help them in their process of adaptation and integration into Italian society.

The training will offer courses for public servants and private individuals, grouping together people with similar skills, experiences and working methods into teams of equals, capable of defining common goals and generating options.



International Community of Syracuse
The community of the LaValla200> initiative has been in Syracuse since late 2016. Under the umbrella of the Solidarity Foundation of Italian Champagnat Marists, the community of brothers and lay Marists work in behalf of immigrants and conduct the C.I.A.O. centre, inaugurated in January 2019.

ITALY

“OHTLI RECOGNITION” TO ARCHBISHOP JORGE CARLOS PATRÓN WONG

On Monday, 21st September, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, 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.

marist world

SOUTH AFRICA: MARIST MERCY CARE

SPAIN: CHAMBERÍ SCHOOL: THEY SAY GOODBYE TO BR. ANTONIO GARCÍA

SOUTH COREA: KOREA-JAPAN SECTORAL ASSEMBLY (PROVINCE EAST ASIA)



AUSTRALIA: MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY – SYDNEY

BRAZIL: MARISTS IN ILHA GRANDE DOS MARINHEIROS: HELP TO THE FAMILIES OF THE SOCIAL CENTER AND THE SCHOOL

URUGUAY: MARISTAS SAN LUIS (PANDO)

SPAIN

PROVINCE OF IBÉRIA: SCHOOL IS BACK, LET'S GO!

Vuelve el cole, vuelve Avanza

The [Marist Province of Ibérica](#) begins the academic year 2020-2021 with the "Vuelve Avanza" campaign. The initiative is promoted by the Todo Avanza Association, one of the Province's social works which aims to provide different resources to the children and young people with whom it works, whose parents cannot cover their school fees.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the "Vuelve Avanza" campaign is also collecting technological material. Confinement has left many children unable to attend school because they do not have a computer at home.

The Marist association aims to improve and ensure the service and school support for the most vulnerable people. It can collaborate with the campaign through 4 types of scholarships: school

material scholarship (10 euros), socio-educational scholarship (10 euros), COVID-19 scholarship (6 euros) and snack scholarship (3 euros). And you can also contribute through an annual fee of 50 euros for the participation of a child in all of the activities that the association carries out during the school year. More information [at this link](#).

The Marist association Todo Avanza was established at the Cardenal Cisneros University Centre (CUCC), thanks to the work of some volunteers together with the support of the Pastoral Ministry of the CUCC.

Vuelve el cole, vuelve Avanza



#AvanzaVuelve
#VuelveElCole
#VuelveAvanza
#ViveLoSocial

REGION OF ARCO NORTE

LAY MARIST FORMATION TEAM POINT OUT THE GOALS

The regional planning committee of the region of Arco Norte have identified seven objectives to look at the theme of Lay Marist Formation in the region. The goals were developed after the meeting held on June 30, in which more than 30 lay Marists and Brothers gathered from the six Provinces of Arco Norte, through videoconferencing.

In a letter sent to all the Marists of Champagnat, Br. Albert M. Rivera (USA) describe the process that Region Arco Norte have undertaken in the area of Lay Marist formation.

- To strengthen our identity as a region through collaborative efforts in the area of lay formation that solidifies the vocational call of men and women to live the Marist Charism and Spirit.
- To recognize ourselves as mentors of this vocational path for Lay Marists within each province and the region.
- To understand the Plan of Action as developed by Secretariat of Laity that is in connection with the strategic plan of the General Administration as well as understand the strategic plan for the region and the steps that have been taken as a region.

- To understand the reality of each province regarding the formation of Marist laity. (Sharing of best practices and resources) and to gain a better understanding of the Champagnat Family Movement, the Association of Laity of Canada and other lay formation programs around the institute.
- To reflect and identify strategies for promoting, training,

and accompanying the region through a S.W.O.T analysis

- To develop a simple plan of action for the region, or at least a plan for the next two-years to be presented to the Provincials of the Region.

- To name and establish a committee that can follow up on the proposed action plan.

The Gathering of Regional Formators takes place every three weeks and is led by members of the planning team. A Directory, by Province, has been put together so that the region can meet the delegates and get a sense of who they are and the skills they bring to this important task of lay formation and strengthen our understanding of being in communion as Marists of Champagnat (see it here: <https://bit.ly/3iVEFFr>).



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