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MARIST NEWS

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

GENERAL HOUSE

CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF THE MARIST BROTHERS

Today, 7 October, on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Brother Superior General presents to the Institute the text of the Constitutions and Statutes, approved by the Holy See and which will come into force on 1 November 2020. The printed text will be sent out at the beginning of January 2021. Below is Br. Ernesto's presentation of these documents.

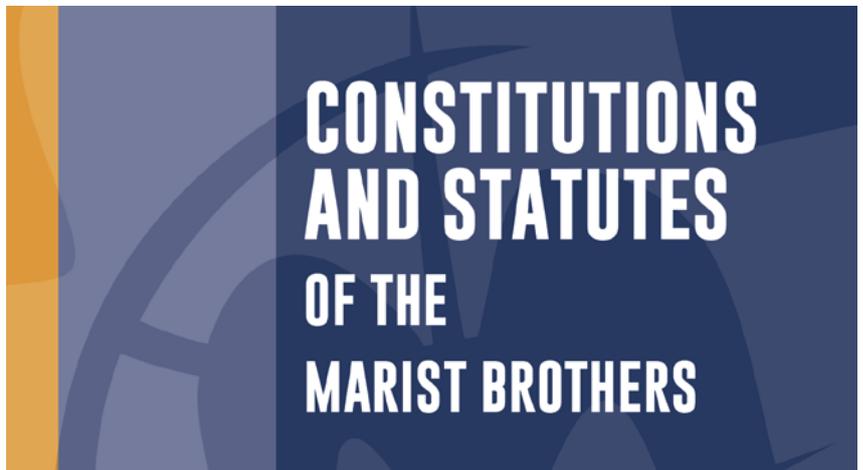
Dear brothers,

I am very pleased to present to you the text of our Constitutions, approved by the Holy See on June 6, 2020, the feast of our Founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat.

Together, we have made an important and decisive journey to arrive at the present text. In 2009, the XXI General Chapter invited us to carry out a profound revision of our Constitutions and Statutes, with the intention of achieving the conversion of heart needed to be of service in a new world and of facilitating the revitalizing of our vocation as brothers.

From 2013 onwards, we held conversations using the study guide, "Stories of the Journey, Told Around the Fire", and

made proposals for modifications to the text. In 2017, the XXII General Chapter dedicated several days to the study and approval of the proposal presented by the previously appointed commission.



general administration

- Angel Diego, from the Bureau of Solidarity, will participate this Friday in the launch of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Papua New Guinea, together with the Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Edmund Rice International, the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (ICCG) and Marists-FMSI.
- On Thursday, the online meeting of the International Heritage Commission, coordinated by Br. Antonio Ramalho, will take place and will also be attended by Br. Óscar.
- On Thursday, Br. Ben will participate in the Oceania leaders' meeting to continue the conversation on the restructuring of the Region into 1 Province.
- Today, the meeting of the directors of the Secretariats and

Departments of the General Administration, coordinated by Br. Luis Carlos

- On Tuesday, the first meeting of the International Commission for the revision of the Formation Guide took place. Brothers Ernesto, Óscar, João Carlos, Ángel Medina and Lindley were present.
- On Tuesday, the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Laity also took place, with the participation of Brothers Sylvain and João Carlos.
- On Monday, Brothers Sylvain and Oscar participated in a meeting with Brasil Centro-Sul to organize the December provincial retreat.

Along the way, the idea emerged of having the document *Wherever you go: Rule of Life of the Marist Brothers*. This was accepted and approved by the same General Chapter as a text that blends with and complements the Constitutions and Statutes.

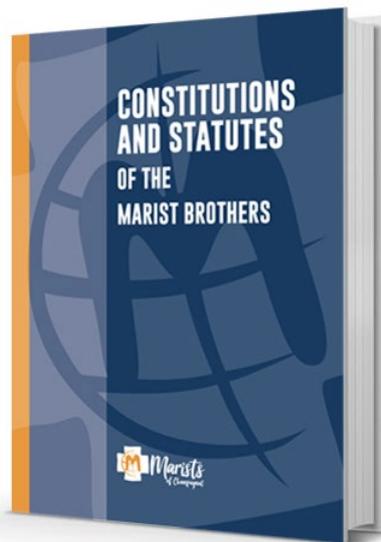
Article 12 defines the sense of this vital document for us in a clear and motivating way:

Our Constitutions, approved by the Holy See, guide us in our way of living as brothers in the Church, and in carrying out the mind and heart of our Founder. We look upon them as the Gospel interpreted for us, and a sure guide in accomplishing God’s will. By our religious profession, we have committed ourselves to live by them. Attentive to the richness and the calls that lie within, we frequently read them in a spirit of prayer and discernment. Approved by the Holy See, their authentic interpreter, the Constitutions can only be modified with its authorization.

It is clear that it is important to read and meditate on them frequently, to allow ourselves to be confronted by them with an open and well-disposed heart and to strive daily to make them alive in each of us, each community and Marist work. We are heirs and bearers of a valuable charism which we wish to live in a

meaningful way in today’s world, making our way together with lay Marists and with so many other people committed to our life and mission.

Today, we present the approved text in a digital format, in the four official languages of the Institute. I indicated in my letter of July 3 that we would speak of the next steps in the text’s application once we were able to get it published for all. The new Constitutions and Statutes will officially come into force on November 1, 2020. The printed version will be sent in early 2021 and will include references and notes.



I again express my gratitude to all of you for your involvement in the process and to all the teams that have worked on the revision and renewal of our Constitutions, Statutes and Rule of Life over the past few years.

May Mary, our Good Mother, be our constant source of inspiration. May we live as her children, bearers of her name. By her side, let’s continue on our way towards Jesus.

Fraternally,

Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General
Rome, October 7, 2020

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SPAIN

CHAMPAGNAT POST NOVITIATE IN MADRID

The [Champagnat Post Novitiate in Madrid](#), Spain, is the regional scholasticate of Europe. Here you can meet meet the two scholastics and the three brothers who are journeying with them in the community.

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



MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

In Brazil, on the 1st October 2020, the Working Group that is organising the activities to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family met to continue its planning and to finalise and organise the proposals for actions.

INTEGRATION IN BOGOTA

The Marist communities of the city (Provincial House and Scholasticate), on the 27th September, experienced a day of integration and celebration in the Sports Field of Champagnat College in Bogota, with a shared lunch and a walk with the brothers.

LAUDATO SI'

The aspirants and brothers of East Timor launched an ecological campaign in the neighbourhoods of Baucau, cleaning the main roads of the neighbourhood. The next step will be to extend this participation to the youth and the whole Christian community. Watch the video on the country's Marist FaceBook: <https://bit.ly/3nbpdal>



GENERAL HOUSE

BR. GREGORIO LINACERO NEW ASSISTANT TO THE ECONOME GENERAL AND STRATEGIC PLAN MANAGER



Brother Gregorio Linacero Melón, from the Province of Central America, has been appointed by the General Council as Assistant to the Econome General and Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, for three years, starting on 1 January 2021.

As Assistant to the Econome, his mission will be to work closely with the Econome General on various projects of the Institute. At the same time, as project manager of the Strategic Plan, he will collaborate with the Brother Vicar General in the accompaniment and implementation of various projects on a regional or global level.

Brother Goyo, as he is known, will join the community of the General Administration in January.

Bro. Gregorio Linacero Melon

Brother Gregorio was born in La Robla (León), Spain on 16 March 1965. He completed his Marist formation in the Juniorates of Carrión de los Condes and Miranda de Ebro. After his novitiate in Venta de Baños (Palencia) in 1984, he

was assigned to Guatemala where he completed his Scholasticate and made his Perpetual Profession in 1990.

His apostolic mission was carried out in Guatemala (Escuela Marista and Liceo Guatemala) and Puerto Rico (Colegio Marista de Guaynabo).

He has performed the functions of teacher, superior, school coordinator, technical director, school administrator, provincial administrator, vice-provincial and member of the Provincial Council.

At present he supports the Foundation of the Province of Central America, as well as being the Provincial Delegate for the Protection of Children, Adolescents and Young People.

He has supported the development of the Arco Norte Region as Coordinator of the Regional Committee and has been a member of the Permanent Council of CAP. He is also a member of the Board of the Bedford Fund and of International Missionary Aid.

VATICAN

ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP



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

On October 3, day of the “Transitus” of St. Francis, the Holy father signed at the Tomb of the saint of Assisi his third encyclical entitled “All Brothers”, where he proposes a new world order, with the poor at the center.

It is a text that challenges all Christians. In that document there are several elements that we could relate specifically to the journey of the Marist Institute. Immediately, we identify two:

1) The [Rule of life](#) published last year, begins with the phrase “There is great value in being a BROTHER today!” This Marist conviction is also reflected in the encyclical. To highlight the Pope’s reflection, we could, for example, quote the question that he asks in number 103:

“What happens when fraternity is not consciously cultivated, when there is a lack of political will to promote it through education in fraternity, through dialogue and through the recognition of

the values of reciprocity and mutual enrichment?”.

2) [The last General Chapter](#) called us to walk as a Global Family. In this regard, the Pope, meditating on the parable of the Good Samaritan, invites us to reflection (102):

“Let us admit that, for all the progress we have made, we are still “illiterate” when it comes to accompanying, caring for and supporting the most frail and vulnerable members of our developed societies. We have become accustomed to looking the other way, passing by, ignoring situations until they affect us directly” (64)

“What would be the reaction to that same story nowadays, in a world that constantly witnesses the emergence and growth of social groups clinging to an identity that separates them from others? How would it affect those who organize themselves in a

way that prevents any foreign presence that might threaten their identity and their closed and self-referential structures?”. You can read here the encyclical letter in our 4 languages ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)). Other languages are available on the Vatican website.

GENERAL HOUSE

FMSI AND SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY: A NEW INITIATIVE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

FMSI and the [Secretariat of Solidarity](#) joined the forces and submitted a new project proposal to [Misean Cara](#) in Papua New Guinea, which has now been approved.

The project will start in December 2020 in cooperation with:

- [International Catholic Centre of Geneva](#) (CCIG)
- [Edmund Rice International](#) (ERI)
- [Dominicans for Justice and Peace](#)

This new project in Papua New Guinea will help civil society actors to acquire a methodology for reporting, monitoring and following up the most pressing issues affecting human rights in the country through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. By doing this, it will enable local

NGOs to be more effective in their advocacy activities, will improve their collaboration with the Papua New Guinea government and, in the end, will improve the situation of those who are at risk of human rights violations. The project will achieve its goal and objectives by organising in-country and international activities aiming at:

1. Supporting its members and partners – and civil society at large – to build or reinforce the capacities of local human rights defenders to advocate for the respect and protection

2. b. Contributing to the strengthening of the human rights defenders' network in the region in liaison with the international Geneva for advocacy purposes;
3. c. Giving visibility to local human rights challenges in order to improve compliance of national decision makers with PNG human rights obligations and to develop more effective implementation strategies.

FMSI's partnership

FMSI's CCIG membership dates to 2010 with practical collaboration between the two organizations to implement in-country projects. The CCIG, ERI and FMSI implemented a year-long project to ensure that key human rights issues in Bolivia were brought to the attention of the international community during the UPR. As a result, a coalition of 18 civil society actors in Bolivia was empowered to advocate for children and women's rights.

Given their competencies and experience, FMSI, CCIG, ERI, and the Dominicans found themselves in a unique position to bring national and international attention to the most vulnerable people in Papua New Guinea – and the PNG society at large – by equipping them with the tools to advocate for their rights.



GENERAL HOUSE

THE GLOBAL MARIST FAMILY FUND FOR HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

GLOBAL MARIST FAMILY FUND



Receive fraternal greetings from us here in the General House, Rome. We write from the Secretariat of Solidarity, as coordinators, to recommend and encourage you to adopt [“The Global Marist Family Fund for Humanitarian Emergencies”](#) project of the General Administration. The General Council approved it, during its June 2020 plenary session, to respond to emerging humanitarian needs in the Marist world.

Through this project, the General Administration is answering to the call of the of the XXII General Chapter by asking us, Marists of Champagnat:

- to grow in solidarity awareness as a Global Family, and
- to be involved in humanitarian projects, by means of fundraising for humanitarian emergencies of our time for basic needs including food, potable water, health/sanitation, and shelter.

We are invited at individual, community, educational work, and family levels etc., to do something in this regard. For necessary and practical information and materials for your participation in this humanitarian project, contact your Provincial and District leaders as well as the web page of the Institute.

We know that many projects are already being carried out to respond to various emergency needs including those from wars, natural disasters and now from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The XXII General Chapter, celebrated in Colombia in 2017, in the first call, encouraged us to grow as a “global charismatic family,” with a specific invitation to “act as a global body”. Also, the last call invites us to participate and to respond “boldly to emerging needs. This is an initiative that each one of us can develop in a creative way, as the Message of the Chapter reminds us. From the Secretariat of Solidarity, we encourage you to be concrete in your participation wherever you are; situations differ greatly. Things to do will range from awareness raising, fundraising to distribution of basic human needs including food, potable water, health/sanitation, and shelter; whatever the case, we are encouraging creativity as we participate in this project of the General Administration.

Thank you all, Marists of Champagnat, in advance for welcoming this project designed to respond to the humanitarian emergencies that are arising in our world. Thank you for being there for those in need. **“We bend our shoulders to the task and play our part to the best of our ability in serving others”**, Brother Ernesto told us in Homes of Light.

Receive our fraternal greetings in Jesus, Mary and Champagnat.

Fraternally,
Brothers Francis Lukong and Angel Diego García Otaola – Directors Secretariat of Solidarity

marist world

SPAIN: BR. ALBERTO VIZCAYA RENEWS HIS VOWS IN BONANZA

RWANDA: NOVITIATE IN SAVE

SPAIN: CHAMPAGNAT SCHOOL – GUADALAJARA



EAST TIMOR: BROTHERS WITH MARIST ASPIRANTS

BOLIVIA: NOVICIATE OF COCHABAMBA

BANGLADESH: FEEDING PROGRAM FOR 25 FAMILIES IN GIASNOGOR

BR. ALBERTO APARICIO CONFIRMED AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE AMÉRIC SUR REGION

Acting as Executive Secretary of the South American Region since 2018, Br. Alberto Aparicio, of the Province of Cruz del Sur, was appointed to monitor activities until September 2021. He was reappointed at the online held on the 27 August by the Regional Council. He will follow the regional initiatives until September 2021, seeking to support the development of the projects being worked on by the five Provinces of the Region, present in 7 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

For Brother Alberto, today more than ever, the Region applies the concept of the Global Family. “This is a path that we must work on,” he said. “Throughout these five years, I have been part of this family that continues

to dream and develop its projects that seek to respond to the emerging calls of today’s world,” he concluded.

In the region, the different teams interact by leading common initiatives that strengthen the Marist evangelizing charism through education, health, social work and missionary activity throughout the continent.



BRAZIL

THE MARIST MISSION IS ALSO DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING HEALTH IN HOSPITALS

The Marist Institute is recognized worldwide for its work in defence of education and the rights of children and adolescents. But did you know that in Brazil the mission of being a beacon of hope in a turbulent world also includes the field of healthcare?

In Curitiba there are two medical institutions that are part of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul. [The Marcelino Champagnat Hospital](#) and the [Cajuru University Hospital](#), which are focused on humanitarian care and the constant search for the well-being of patients. In Porto Alegre, Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province, the [São Lucas Hospital](#), linked to PUCRS, carries out the same mission in the province.

In these hospitals, Health joins Education in collaboration with academic training, since the hospitals offer the infrastructure and adequate accompaniment for practices in health areas.

The two hospitals in the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul

Cajuru University Hospital

The University Hospital of Cajuru (HUC) has many specialties, and is recognised by the Trauma, Emergency and Surgical Emergency Service. It is the leading hospital and the largest first aid hospital in Paraná. It specializes in surgical procedures in the areas of general and traumatological surgery, orthopaedic and neurological surgery, as well as being a training centre for courses of the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Health and Biosciences of PUCPR.

The Institution provides approximately 13,500 services per month, 100% through the Unified Health System (SUS). It is also recognized for its kidney transplants, of which it performs an average of 80 transplants each year. The Hospital has a success rate of more than 90% in renal grafting and patient



survival. These are the best results in Paraná, according to the State Transplant Centre.

HUC was inaugurated in 1958 and belonged to the “União dos Ferroviários” (Railway Union) until 1977, when it was acquired by the Associação Paranaense de Cultura (APC). Since then, it continues to be modernised. For example, during the celebration of its 62nd anniversary, it inaugurated a new Diagnostic Centre. [More information.](#)

Marcellin Champagnat Hospital

Marcelino Champagnat Hospital (HMC) was created with a commitment to providing comprehensive care to its patients, based on medical principles of quality and patient safety. It is renowned for its medium and high complexity surgical procedures. Among its specialties are: cardiology, neurosurgery, orthopaedics and general and bariatric surgery, as well as different medical check-up services.

The HMC, opened in 2011, has an area of 28 thousand square meters, 116 hospital beds, 72 offices and more than 750 accredited doctors. [More information.](#)

Working together in times of pandemic

During the pandemic, cooperation between Marist institu-

tions was further strengthened. [Academics from PUCPR](#) – from the courses of Medicine, Nursing, Computer Engineering, among others – also made their knowledge available, to care for the patients in the two hospitals of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul. In addition, to study the new coronavirus on a daily basis and exchange information, PUCPR has a research group made up of professors, researchers, students and health professionals. Look at some of the findings of this joint work.

In times of confinement, the use of technology to reduce stress among patients admitted with Covid-19 and their families was highlighted in the press. The Human Robotics initiative, promoted by PUCPR, developed [physical robots](#) for care and even face-to-face interaction in hospitals.

Another initiative that had great impact was the tribute to the International Day of Nursing, where the Marists sent words of encouragement and thanks to the health professionals.

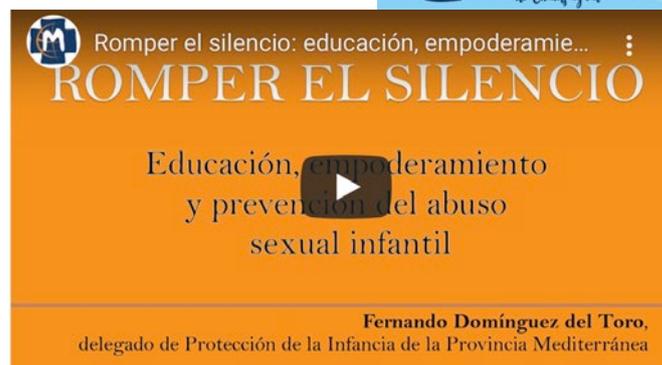
SPAIN

PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE PROVINCE OF MEDITERRÁNEA

The Marist Province of Mediterránea has presented a paper on the prevention of child sexual abuse at the 1st Virtual Congress of Catholic Educators organised by the University Francisco de Victoria from the 24th September to the 1st October 2020 with the theme of “Affectivity and sexuality in the 21st century: education of the heart”. The Marist presentation is entitled “Breaking the silence: education, empowerment and prevention of child sexual abuse”, and is an introduction to the Campaign “We walk beside you” which is being carried out in the schools of the Mediterranean as part of the tutorial action plans to promote a culture of self-protection against abuse in students. It also reflects on the need to train teachers and inform families adequately to complement the prevention plan to be addressed in schools.

The presentation aims to give visibility in ecclesial environments to the Marist commitment in the prevention of child sexual abuse, in line with one of the challenges of the XXII General Chapter: called to “implement in a decisive and proactive way policies of protection of children against all types of abuse, in accordance with the international agreements that defend the rights of children and young people”.

Below you can follow the presentation of Fernando Domín-



guez del Toro, Child Protection Delegate of the Mediterranean Province:

Child protection policies

Although socially there is some reluctance to address sexual abuse issues in school settings, experts agree that

one of the most important barriers to stopping abuse depends on the children themselves. Currently, several provinces in Europe are working together to review prevention plans that will ensure the formation and development of self-protection skills for all children in Marist ministries, from early ages to coming of age.

22nd General Chapter: A Message to the Marist Brothers of the Schools from the Marist Youth around the World: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#) | [Deutsch](#) | [Dutch](#)

GENERAL HOUSE

INTERVIEW WITH BR. CANÍSIO JOSÉ WILLRICH, SUPERIOR OF THE DISTRICT OF ASIA

Brother Canísio is originally from Brazil and comes from the province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia. In 2007, he accepted the invitation to be part of the General Government's "Missio Ad Gentes" programme. In 2008 he travelled to Vietnam, where he stayed until 2012 and from 2016 until August 2019, when he took up the position of District Superior. During these years he was formator in the novitiates of Cotabato in the Philippines (2012-14) and Tudella in Sri Lanka (2014-16).

In February of this year, Br. Canísio arrived at the General House to participate in the annual meeting of the Superiors of the Administrative Unit with the General Council. Because of COVID-19, he is still in Rome, being unable to return to the District.

How was the change from Brazil to Asia?

It was just like the long journey from Brazil to Asia, with surprises and expectations of how to relate to people of another language and culture, and to eat things I had never seen before. The trip was exhausting, but after a while I got my strength back and started making new friends – what seemed so far away is now part of my daily life!



The important thing is to strengthen the local leaders, good community animators, and little by little, give more responsibility to the young indigenous Brothers. The community is the cell that generates life and light, and so, together with the District Council, we seek to accompany the local animators and leaders.

What are the main challenges and strengths of MDA?

It is comforting to feel at home with other Marist Brothers from other countries and to feel the vitality of the local Catholic community. I felt that our Good Mother and Champagnat were already there, welcoming me to strengthen my missionary spirit.

Without forgetting my origins, I entered into this new world full of marvels that are revealed every day, and conscious that God had prepared me as his instrument in this new mission.

What does it mean to be the Superior of an Administrative Unit made up of 6 countries?

There are 10 Marist communities in 6 different countries and cultures, and in addition to that, I also visit the young people in formation and the brothers in 2 other countries. This cultural variety enriches the District and gives it vitality. Of course it is not easy to follow everything, it is complex and requires a lot of dialogue, understanding of people and of the reality of each community.

Challenges:

- Geographical distance, isolated communities and some with few Brothers.
- Sustainability, both financially and in terms of people.
- Accompaniment and qualified education of young Brothers.
- Obtaining visas for foreign missionary Brothers in some Asian countries.
- Having Brothers for vocation promotion and initial formation. We have vocations in some countries, but we lack formators
- Encourage the movement of lay Marists
- To accompany the Brothers, communities and works at a distance (especially in this time of pandemic).

Strengths:

- The Marist charism speaks for itself. People like and appreciate our way of being Marist and living.
- The presence of young indigenous brothers.
- The collaboration and support between religious congregations and the local church.

- The vigorous missionary spirit of the Brothers; even some of the older ones are enthusiastically collaborating.
- The support of the Marist General Council; participation in some meetings and visits to the District.
- The fragility: we have scarce economic resources and we have a small number of Brothers and lay people, but God has provided what we need, strengthening our life and mission.

How do you visualise Marist life in Asia in the future?

In Asia we have two Provinces and a District. I believe that the District is taking its steps; it is young and willing to walk as a global family with the other administrative units of the region and the world.

The Marist presence and charism is taking root in these new cultures and is already flourishing, bearing fruit. The District has great youth potential, vitality and enthusiasm which, with God’s grace, is transforming and making a difference in the lives of many poor children and young people.

What is the current situation of Marist life in the District in the face of the Pandemic?

The situation changes according to the country; the Brothers, formators and collaborators are all well, thank God!

Our works follow the guidelines of the local authorities. As in many parts of the world, we have difficulty in maintaining the works financially. Some are closed and others are only partially functioning. We are trying to continue to support the educators and to continue some solidarity activities for those most affected by the pandemic.

So far it is almost impossible to make international trips, so there are Brothers and formators who cannot travel to continue their formation and studies in the proper formation houses. We are adapting to this difficult reality, learning new ways of acting and organizing ourselves with the resources we have.

What have you learned from these months of forced quarantine in Rome?

I have been in Italy for almost 7 months now, but I feel at home, brothers among brothers. Of course I would like to be physically closer to the communities in Asia, but this is not possible at the moment because of the restrictions that exist for those who wish to travel to Asia.

I have tried to find new creative ways to be united with the Brothers, the communities, the people in formation and the works. It is a great challenge to work at a distance, on line, virtually..., it is an alternative, it is a means..., but it seems that



something is missing... and it is true, I believe that as Nuno Crato, the former Minister of Education of Brazil said: “The great lesson of the pandemic is this: nothing replaces face-to-face teaching”.

I feel that we are all learning and as we walk together we can find some signs of what God is teaching us, and to what and to whom we should give more attention.

I thank the General Council and the Provinces for the human, spiritual, pastoral and financial support they are giving to the District. I take this opportunity to ask you to continue sending Brothers, lay people and financial support to the Marist work “ad gentes” in the Marist District of Asia.

2 OCTOBER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

Talk of violence has a stirring effect on all of us. Any kind of violence presumes a rupture in human relationships. It fractures our way of understanding life. Clearly, all of us want non-violence to hold sway in our world, in our country, in our environment, in our relationships and in ourselves.



We know well that this international day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a world leader in the defence of life, freedom, rights, ... from the position of “non-violence”. There can be no doubt that he offers an example to follow, someone to learn from.

Non-violence is a value shared throughout humanity. A value assumed by all of us who are Christian, since it is fully in tune with the life and preaching of Jesus of Nazareth. We join Gandhi when he says that “non-violence is the greatest force available to humanity. It is more powerful than the most powerful weapon of destruction. . . .”

As Marists, as Christian educators, we are called to avoid any type of violence. Our responsibility in this area is significant. There are many ways in which violence creates suffering in our lives ... physical, psychological, verbal, sexual, intra-family, gender violence. There are many types of violence to which our children and young people can be subjected. It is up to us to prevent it occurring within our educational settings. We have the necessary tools to educate and we can pass on these tools to children and young people so that they can avoid violence in their lives and surroundings.

Thousands of people lose their lives each year due to violence. We don't need to detail the main reasons because without a

doubt we all know them. Violence though not only kills, it also affects the daily lives of many people, especially those who are weaker and who lack protection. Children, women and the elderly are among the most vulnerable. Raising awareness and educating, educating and raising awareness – that is our task. In addition, we are called to stand on the side of those who suffer and listen to their cry.

The XXII General Chapter reminded us that, as Marists of Champagnat, we need to be “prophetic reminder of the common dignity and fundamental equality of all the people of God.” We can hardly promote dignity and equality if we do not eliminate all types of violence from our societies, from our close surroundings. For this reason, the last General Chapter also reminds us, “we are firmly committed to promoting and defending the rights of children.”

We are called, as we always have been, to ensure that our educational works, our families and communities, be spaces of “non-violence.” We are called to “be agents of change, builders of bridges, messengers of peace, committed to transforming the lives of young people . . .”. As Marists of Champagnat, that is where we find our personal, community and institutional challenge.

Br Angel Diego, Director of the Solidarity Secretariat



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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