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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE REVISION OF THE FORMATION GUIDE

Concerning the initial and on-going formation, the [22nd General Chapter](#) gave to the Institute a mandate:

“For a new beginning, we believe that we need new structures and processes that recognize and support our distinctive vocational paths as Marists. Therefore we suggest that (we) reform our processes of initial and on-going formation and offer new paths at the level of the Institute and Administrative Units to care for our vocation as brothers, accompaniment, attention to each brother’s situation and stage in life.”

In turn, the General Administration, in its [Strategic Plan](#), indicated, in Project 3 (Lighthouses of Hope: Structures for Initial Formation) to “revise both the current plans and structures of the initial formation for Brothers and the [Formation Guide](#).”

To realize this objective, the General Council recently appointed the International Commission for the Revision of the Formation Guide. It is composed of Brothers:



- Ángel Medina, Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today
- César A. Rojas, Province of Norandina
- Fabien Bulaimu, Province of Africa Central East
- Francisco García Ruíz, Marist District of Asia
- Graham Neist, Province of Australia
- João Carlos do Prado, General Councillor
- Lindley Sionosa, Co-Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today
- Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councillor
- Pere Ferre, Province of L'Hermitage
- Rubens Falqueto, Province of Brasil Centro Norte

general administration

■ On Tuesday, General Councillors, Brothers John and Ken, with the Econome General, Br. Libardo, attended the meeting of the Economic Affairs Council of Central Mexico. On Thursday they will have a meeting with the Mission Council of the same Province.

■ The “Marist Life Area” of the General Administration met via Zoom on October 7. Present were representatives of the Brothers Today Secretariat and the Bureau of the Laity, Cmi

and LaValla200>, and also the General Councillors Óscar, Sylvain and João.

■ On Wednesday, General Councillors, Brothers John and Ken met with the Provincial Council of Norandina.

■ On Thursday, the General Councillors, Ben and João, will meet with the Provincial Council of the Hermitage, while on Saturday they will meet with the Provincial Council of Compostela.

Last October 6, the Commission met for the first time, online, as during this time of the pandemic it is impossible to have a face-to-face encounter. The first moment was spent in greeting and welcoming and for the members to get to know each other. A time was also given to Br. Ernesto to deliver a brief message.

The Secretariat of Brothers Today explained the rationale

of the commission, referring to the Message of the 22nd General Chapter and the Strategic Plan. Afterwards, the members went into a time of reflection and sharing of thoughts, experiences, and the like, in relation to the task of the commission.

The meeting concluded with defining the way forward. A second online meeting was set to take place in two months' time.

VATICAN

THE INITIATIVES OF THE “GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION” RESTART

As you may be aware, among the many lines of renewal in Catholic education over the past few years, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has challenged the entire education community of the Church to respond to his call to reimagine and reconstruct education as a means of bridging divisions in the world through a Culture of Encounter. Last year, the call focussed on “Reinventing the Global Compact on Education”.

The Global Compact on Education is an event promoted by Pope Francis to rekindle our dedication for and with young people, renewing our passion for a more open and inclusive education. The event is not limited to educational and academic institutions but rather, in the belief that commitment to education must be shared by all, involves representatives of religions, international bodies and the various humanitarian institutions, of the academic, economic, political and cultural world.

The whole idea is inspired by an African proverb that “It takes a village to raise a child”. The Pope, however, goes further saying that in our days, “We have to create such a village before we can educate. In the first place, the ground must be cleared of discrimination and fraternity must be allowed to flourish”. It is about educating young people in fraternity, learning to overcome divisions and conflicts, promoting hospitality, justice and peace.

Meeting 15 October

In his instruction to the Congregation for Catholic Education, the Holy Father appeals all who care about the education of the young generation to get involved in and sign a Global Pact to create a global change of mentality. In line with this call, a virtual meeting will be held on 15 October 2020 at 2.30 pm (GMT+2), open to all and broadcast live on the [Vatican Media YouTube channel](#). The Pact will be presented through



the words of Pope Francis and some international educational experiences.

Marist participation

We, Marists of Champagnat, have been part of the event through the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization of the Institute playing an active role in its preparation. We have also contributed experiences through a publication of the International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC) and the Education Commission of the Union of Superiors General of both male and female congregations (USG/UISG) in Rome. In addition, the Secretariat, the General Council and some members of the General Administration will be taking part in the follow-up virtual seminar on the same topic from the 12th to 14th November 2020.

A book has been put together as mentioned above by the International Organisation for Catholic Education and in it you will find four Marist projects and the writing from the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sanchez.

We invite all involved in Marist Education and most importantly system leaders and Coordinators to avail themselves of this opportunity to keep in touch with developments in Catholic Education at the invitation of the Holy Father.

PACIFIC

The Brothers of the District held a celebration last week in Auckland to thank - for their generous service - the Brothers who are celebrating their jubilee of religious life this year: Bryan Vincent Stanaway, and Donald Alexander Teixeira (60 years); Michael Taylor and Richard Dunleavy (70 years) and Fidelis Kevin Kiely (75 years).

WESTERN MEXICO

On October 8, the Province organised a virtual meeting with the Superior General and the liaison Councillors, Brothers João and Ken. The community animators, school directors and the Provincial Council were present virtually. Brother Ernesto presented his circular and there was also a discussion on the new provincial structure and on the reality of the Haiti Sector.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The 4 partners of the Project "UPR in Papua New Guinea" met on October 9th to finish the final details of the training course on the basic processes of the UN participation mechanisms. Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Edmund Rice International, CCIIG and the Solidarity Secretariat are working together on this human rights advocacy project.



ARGENTINA

THE CRUZ DEL SUR PROVINCE THANKS OUR EDUCATIONAL STAFF FOR THEIR EFFORTS DURING THE PANDEMIC



Through its social networks, the Marist Province of Cruz del Sur thanked all the Marist educational staff of Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay for having continued to educate with dedication despite the pandemic and for having reinvented themselves and acquired new technological skills to continue their tireless work of educating the children and young people of the Province.

In many cases, the work of the educational staff was not only limited to continuing to teach, but also to providing emotional support and even social assistance. In several "school and community" education centres, educators organised themselves to bring bags of food, clothes, texts and school materials to families in the less fortunate sectors.

In an effort to reach all students, Marist educators have made use of both new and old technologies. They have used the Internet (and its digital platforms), but they have also used radio to reach those students who do

not have the Internet and new technologies in their homes.

In Argentina, the Community of the bilingual school Cacique Francisco Supaz, in Misión Nueva Pompeya, in Chaco, has created the Radio "Totnaj Pek" FM 94.9, to provide classes and to continue staying in contact with the students. And in the same way, the Marcellin Champagnat School, located in the heart of Villa Banana de Rosario, has created the programme "Recreo: la voz de la Champa" (Recreation: the voice of Champa), through which educators (teachers and professors) are transformed into journalists, announcers and reporters, and deal with different types of problems.

The testimonies of the educators in the province were published on social networks during September. You can read the comments and opinions of the educators from the three countries that make up the province through the hashtag #GraciasEducadoresMaristas, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

PHILIPPINES

NOTRE DAME OF MARBEL UNIVERSITY SHIFTS TO VIRTUAL LEARNING



From the traditional face-to-face mode of education, [Notre Dame of Marbel University](#) (NDMU), in Philippines, took a leap of change by embracing the new normal through online distance learning, for the Academic Year 2020-2021.

To ensure continuity of quality education, the school has adapted “Schoology platform” as its Learning Management System (LMS); it will serve as the virtual school for the learners from their homes through distance learning.

According to Mr. Allan C. Sumadic, elementary and Junior High School Principal of NDMU, the Integrated Basic Education (IBED) of the Marist university prepares itself for the paradigm shift that aims to cater the needs of the learners.

Administrators and teachers had to attend numerous trainings and seminars to be adept at in the said platform.

The virtual learning

For this academic year, there are 489 Elementary pupils enrolled, while Junior High School has 948 enrollees. For the

Senior High School, there are 644 students for Grade 11, and 815 for Grade 12. A total of 2,896 students are on the list. Up to now, the school still caters to late enrollees to adhere to the “DepEd” (Philippine Education Department) “No children left behind” initiative.

The school’s learning system will include both Synchronous and Asynchronous sessions. For the synchronous session, teachers and learners meet through the Big Blue Button feature of Schoology which is held in real-time for teachers and learners to have an interactive conversation. As for the asynchronous session, learners study the learning materials and complete tasks or activities independently. With the help of school’s LMS features, parents can get more involved in their children’s education because they can access their children’s grades, assignments, and attendance through their parent’s account. Despite the challenges brought about by the current pandemic, NDMU-IBED still ensures quality education and guarantees success. Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU) is a Marist institution in South Cotabato, in the island of Mindanao, Philippines. [Here you can read about its history](#)

COMMUNITY OF MANZIANA

HOLDS A FORMATION MEETING WITH THE NOVITIATE OF COCHABAMBA

The community of Manziana, an ongoing formation community of the Institute, held a virtual formation meeting with the Champagnat Novitiate of the South American Region in Cochabamba, Bolivia, on September 30, as part of the month of the Bible.

The theme of the meeting, entitled “Mary in the Gospels”, was presented by Br. Antonio Peralta, who discussed the different dimensions of Mary in the Gospels, in the Letters of Paul and the Book of Revelation. The novices and formators took part in the meeting.



From the community of Manziana, Brothers Joaquim Sperandio and Joe Walton also took part, as well as the Brother Directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today, Angel Medina and Lindley Halago.

The virtual meeting had as its purpose to nourish the motives and reflection for discernment during this time of the novitiate, given that during these weeks the novices must meditate and decide on their passage to the profession of religious vows.

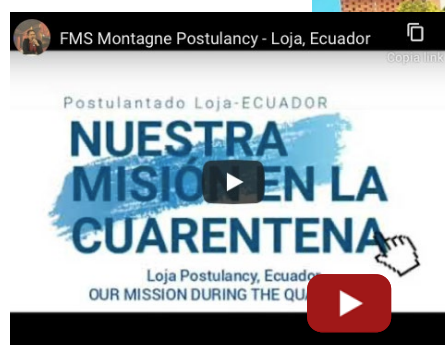
There is currently 1 first year novice (Gustavo Vieira Leocádio – Brasil Centro-Norte) and 6 second year novices: Jefferson Bonomo (Brasil Centro-Norte) Bruno Marcondes, Carlos Henrique de Oliveira and Nathan da Costa (Brasil Centro-Sul), Donovan Farias (Brasil Sul-Amazônia), and Gilber Galarza (Santa Maria de los Andes). The Brothers in charge of formation are: Isidro Azpeleta (Master of Novices, Santa María de los Andes), Rubens José Falqueto (Brasil Centro-Norte) and Otalivio Sarturi (Brasil Centro-Sul).

ECUADOR

MONTAGNE POSTULANCY – PROVINCE OF NORANDINA

The Montagne Postulancy is the Postulancy of the Province of Norandina. It is located in Loja, Ecuador. In this house, there are two brother formators (Geovanni y Saturnino) and three postulants, two Ecuadorians (Saúl Isaías and Xavier Sebastián) and one Colombian (Jhonathan Alexander).

Upon the invitation of the Secretariat Brothers today, they produced a video about their life during this time of the pandemic. We are now sharing this video to the rest of the Marist world.



BRAZIL

VOLUNTEERING IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC IN THE PROVINCE OF BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

At the beginning of the pandemic caused by Covid-19, the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia launched the project “Ação comunidades” (community action) with the aim of collecting donations of food, hygiene materials, clothes, money and masks for the most needy people cared for in the Social Units. Brothers, young people from the PJM, lay people, educators, students, fraternities of the MChFM, families and Marist volunteers from the different Social Units of the Province (Schools and Social Units, PUCRS, HSL) were involved. Below, we present a report of the main actions and campaigns of voluntary work carried out in the Units.

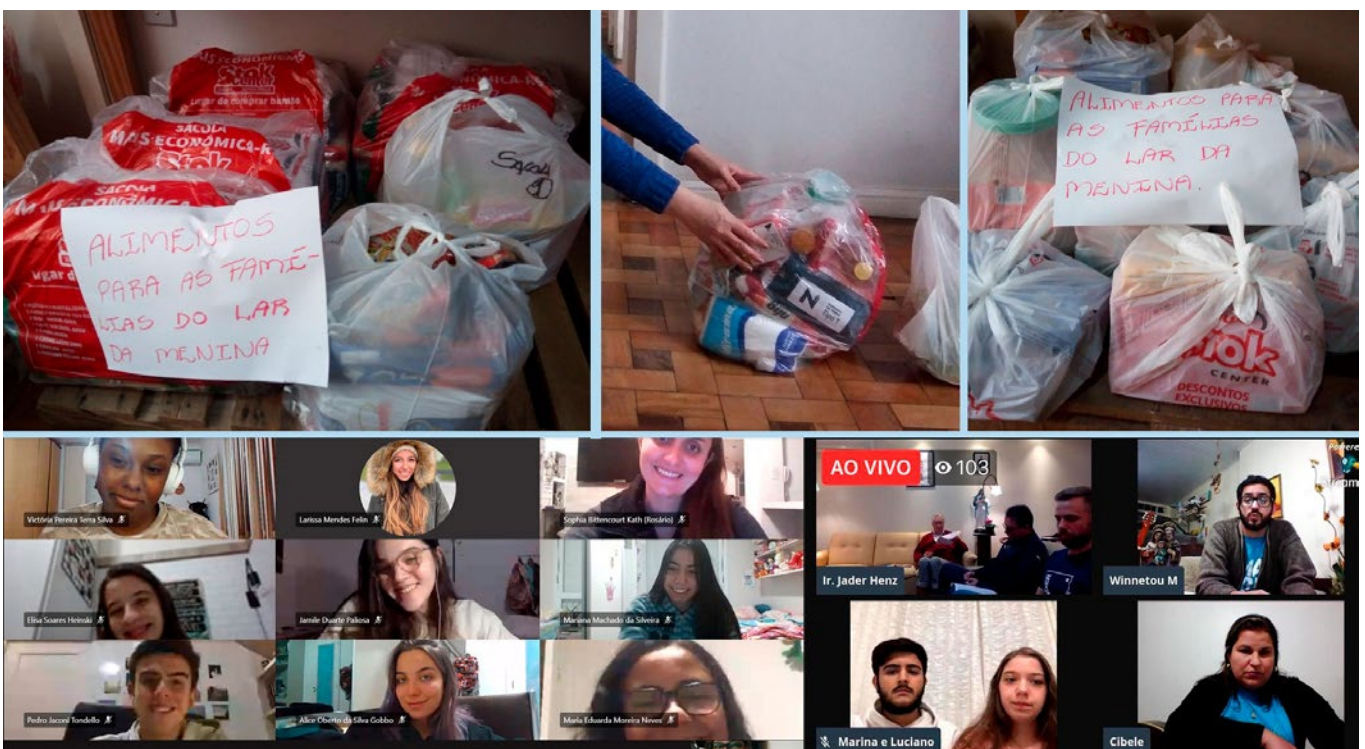
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande Do Sul

At the university, an adaptation of face-to-face volunteering was carried out for online volunteering experience, with 70 volunteers participating in a virtual meeting, to work at 3 institutions. They also donated 2,740 articles of clothing in good condition to 3 institutions. Also, 160 bottles of alcohol gel were donated. The #JuntosPodemos Campaign was developed, designed in accordance with the reality of the institutions in the context of the pandemic. Similarly, in partnership with São Lucas Hospital (HSL), raw material was donated to make 12,000 masks for patients, families and hospital staff.

São Lucas Hospital

Solidarity work for the production of masks: a group of 43 volunteers formed by the volunteers of HSL, Association of Volunteers and Solidarity (AVESOL) and people from the community in general joined together to make masks for the hospital staff. As of 31/08/2020, more than 20,000 masks had been delivered.

Donations of clothing for babies – Ilha Grande dos Marinheiros Marist Education Centre: 38 different sets of outfits for babies were donated. Donations for the Health Unit of the “Centro de Extensão Vila Fátima”. Delivery of 1,440 nappies and 75 pyjamas. Delivery of materials to patients of Presidente Vargas Hospital: 460 pieces of clothing were delivered. Campaign “É Tempo de Ser Presença Solidária”: basic food baskets, sanitary and cleaning products were collected. The Pastoral and Solidarity Service also allocated 208 items of clothing and shoes. Marist Day action: the Pastoral and Solidarity Service together with the Viver Bem Programme offered a moment of reflection to all HSL employees. The letter from the Provincial, Brother Inácio Nestor Etges, was also read and the gifts received from external donations were presented.



marist world

BRAZIL: COLÉGIO MARISTA DE NATAL

NEW ZEALAND: JUBILARIANS CELEBRATION HELD AT THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY IN AUCKLAND

GENERAL HOUSE: MEETING OF THE SECRETARIATS AND SERVICES OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION



GENERAL HOUSE: BROTHERS ANTONIO ESTAÚN AND GUILLERMO VILLARREAL – GENERAL POSTULATORS

BRAZIL: COLÉGIO MARISTA SANTO ANTÔNIO, SINOP

PHILIPPINES - POSTULANCY DAVAO

Social Units

Solidarity Art Project – Centro Social Marista Mário Quintana: the project was part of the movement called “Ação comunidades”. Between the 6th and 17th of July, more than 100 works of art were exchanged for gasoline vouchers.

Tia Jussara Marist Children’s School and Aparecida das Águas Marist Social Centre – Ilha grande dos Marinheiros delivered basic food baskets, sanitary and cleaning products and books, as well as clothes and a collection of cloth masks, distributed to the families served by the Social Unit.

Schools

Colégio Marista Conceição – Passo Fundo: collected basic baskets to help the families of the Lucas Araújo-Lar da Menina Charitable Foundation.

Colégio Marista Rosário – Porto Alegre: supplied two projects carried out by the volunteer group of Colégio Marista Rosário. The first was a collection of food for the inhabitants of the islands, a place of extreme social vulnerability where the Marists work. The second was the development of the project Ação Comunidades: Internet for transformation.

Colégio Marista São Francisco – Rio Grande: participated in three areas: Perseverance in prayer, breaking of the Bread, making of masks.

Other actions

Anonymous donors should also be mentioned. Some collaborations such as the NGO Cirandar that help in the community and have promoted a new collection of donations for the month of September. We also mention other collaborators such as the Chaco Forever football team, Boy Scouts Tupã-Ci, Leonel Carvalho and the “Central Única dos Trabalhadores” (CUT).

Currently, donations of food, sanitary products, blankets and clothes continue to be gathered at the collection points distributed in the Marist Units. In addition to storage, cash donations made to the “Ação Comunidades” project account are being turned into mobile phone chips so that students in social schools have access to the Internet.

[Link to the testimonies of the volunteers of the Colégio Media-neira de Erechim.](#)

PHILIPPINES

MARCELLIN FOUNDATION CENTER: A SHELTER FOR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

Almost every year, the [Marcellin Foundation Center](#) in General Santos (Philippines), hosts an average of sixty youth, transferred to the center from the government institution because Marcellin Home has become an alternative to a detention center and a formation place for youth on suspended sentence.

Although Marcellin Foundation Center (founded in 1991 by the Marist Brothers) started with street children as its original clients, they could not close their eyes to other groups of children at risk. The program has accepted, into its residential care, abandoned, neglected, and abused children, and also Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).

By the year, the children/youth who have been trained at the Center have reported a success rate of 65% in terms of job placement as employed, self-employed and working overseas. Thanks to the activities of the center, many young people were able to get out of the illegal turns and violence and build a future for themselves.

Taking care of children in conflict with the law

Marcellin Foundation Center is the only NGO addressing the problems of Children in Conflict with the Law in General Santos City and suburban areas. The government has a center, the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth (RRCY) which can accommodate only 20 CICL, and only those who have been sentenced by the courts. Sad to say, most CICLs if given a choice have expressed that they prefer to come to Marcellin.



Br. Crispin Betita, head of Marcellin Foundation, and his collaborators take charge of the youth recovery process through different phases: knowledge through dialogue in the street or in the places where the children are, reception in the foster homes of the center, psychological support, schooling for those who dropped out of school, professional training course and internship support. The center also offers a scholarship program so that students can continue their training and be in contact with a network of local companies that welcome children in internships.

Partnership

The Marist Province of East Asia, [FMSI](#) (Marist Foundation for International Solidarity), [Misean Cara](#) (Irish organization) and the Marist Brothers of Germany support the activities of the Marist Center.



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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