



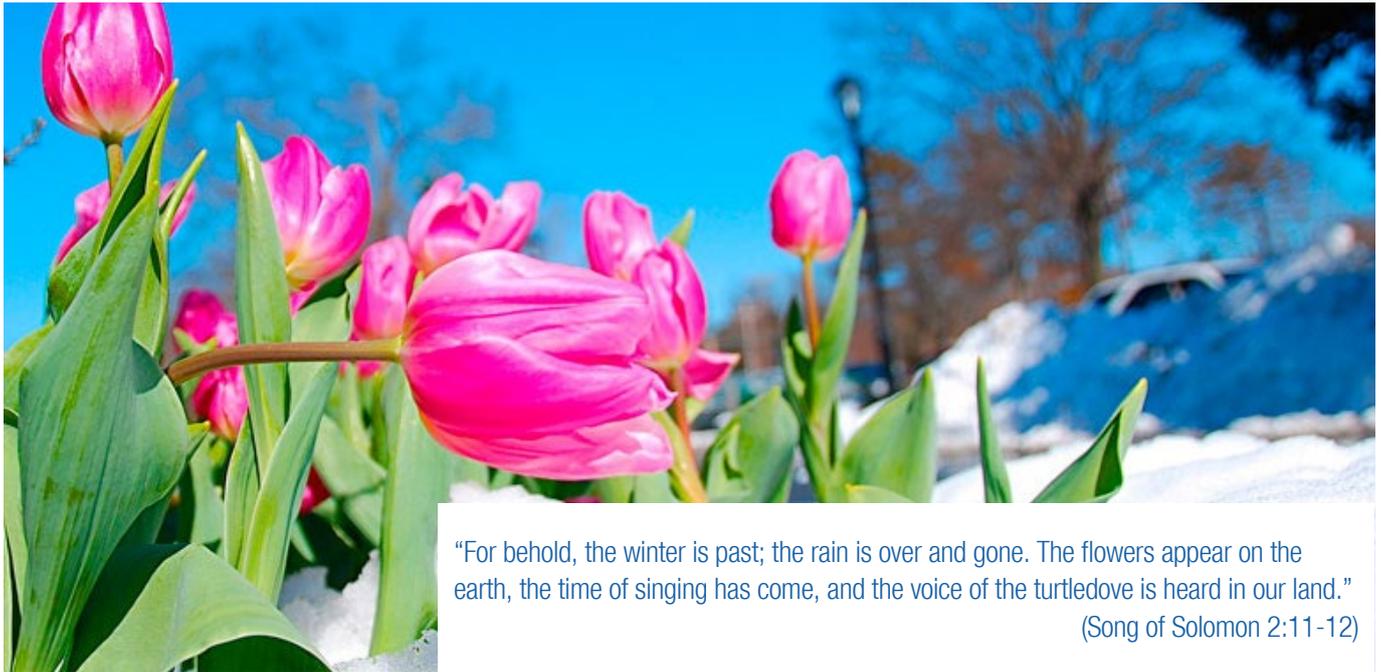
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MARIST NEWS

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

B. BEN CONSIGLI

FORCING THE SPRING



"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."
(Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

Father Timothy Healy, S.J., an American priest and former President of Georgetown University and the New York Public Library, believed that as Christians when we are frozen in our "winters" of anxiety or past frustrations or helplessness, we must "force the spring." A spring reborn out of its ordinary time/season, amid a pandemic, that generates a vision and courage to reinvent our world. How do we, as Marist leaders,

do this, to force the spring, in our day and time? It might be by the words we speak and the actions we take. No simple task, but it is what we are called to do.

Throughout the world, we are all in different stages of the COVID-19 pandemic—maybe you were in an epicenter or maybe you had the good fortune of being in a community that

general administration

- On Monday, Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, took part in a meeting with the Brothers of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte and on Thursday he will take part in a live transmission of Canal Farol 1817, on the perspectives of the Marist Mission (<https://bit.ly/3ml7Q5S>)
- Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, Ken and João, General Councillors, together with Brother Ernesto, Superior General, and the directors of the secretariats and departments of the General Administration accompanied the Marists of the Arco Norte Region during the forum which was held online on

Monday and today.

- On Wednesday, Brothers Óscar and Sylvain, General Councillors, led a retreat in the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte.
- Today, Brothers João and Sylvain, General Councillors, together with Raúl Amaya and Ana Saborío, from the Bureau for the Laity, are meeting with the Provincial teams for the animation of lay life in the Arco Norte Region.
- On Thursday, Brothers João and Sylvain will attend the fortnightly meeting of the Bureau of the Laity.

was not hit hard. Or perhaps you have experienced a deep personal toll. We are all trying to pick up the pieces of shattered norms, sheltering at home, wearing masks, social distancing, trying political leadership, devastating personal loss, and enormous economic turmoil. In so many ways, we are anxious to press the “reset” button.

Our response as Marists to this pandemic demands that we are intentional in the way we exercise the influence and responsibility invested in us. History will judge the impact of our decisions on the legacy of this virus not just in our communities and provinces, but also in our regions and the world at large.

Leadership and Innovation

What kind of leadership works when past norms no longer have meaning or are even possible? In these seven-plus months since the virus shut down so many parts of our world, I have learned that leadership requires reading the signs of the times, quick-thinking, prayerful discernment, flexibility, calm, confidence, visibility, communication, moral courage, caring, faith in God, and disciplined decision-making. Leadership matters: it always matters.

There were certainly “winter” moments in Marcellin’s life—the vocation crisis of 1822, his illness of late 1825/early 1826, the crush of the creditors wanting to be paid, the dismissal of his first recruit in 1826, the “abandonment” of Marist Fathers Courveille and Terraillon when they left the Hermitage, the institution of the Guizot Law in 1833, and the failure in 1838 to obtain legal approbation of the Institute. These were times when Marcellin was tempted to give up or when he doubted, albeit briefly, if things were going to work out. We see a man seriously “churning” these things over and over in his heart, his mind, and his gut, but he was not defeated by them. He was sure that if it were in God’s plan, “all would be well.” This is the type of optimism which Marcellin embodied.

Marcellin was also able to adapt plans or approaches to fit changes in situations. Let us look at the situation created in 1833 by the passage of a new education law, the so-called Guizot Law. The “Guizot Law,” passed on 28th June 1833, required that free primary school education must be made available to all everywhere in France’s 37,000 communes. Each commune was responsible for having a primary school in which all the teachers had their “brevet”(teaching certificate).

The exceptions to this were the Brothers or Sisters belonging to a religious organization which had legal authorization to teach. Since Marcellin’s Institute did not have legal authorization to teach, each Brother had to have his brevet. With this law, brevets could only be issued by the University; Former brevets, unless granted by the University, were no longer recognized. Without their brevets and without legal authorization of the Institute from the government, the Brothers, upon reaching the age of twenty, could be conscripted into military service for seven years. Clearly, this new education law seriously threatened the life of the Institute.

What was Marcellin’s practical and creative response? Of his letters which have survived, Marcellin wrote sixteen letters to Father Mazelier, superior of the Congregation of Brothers of

Christian Instruction of the Diocese of Valence, concerning merging their two groups. Why? First off, Mazelier’s group received legal authorization in 1823...and thus his group of Brothers fulfilled the Guizot law. Marcellin did not want to run the risk of seeing his Brothers (twenty years of age and older) go off to do seven years of military service or paying a large amount of money to some other young men to do military service in place of the Brothers. So, in an arrangement with Mazelier, Marcellin entrusted his Brothers who turned

twenty to Mazelier. This whole process began when the first four Marist Brothers went to St.-Paul-Trois-Châteaux on 13th June 1835 and continued over the next number of years (until the Institute and Mazelier’s group merged in 1842):

“Here we come again this year to ask your help for the four subjects I am sending you. Without the help you give us, these subjects would be in real danger.” (Letter to Monsieur François Mazelier; St. Paul-Trois-Châteaux, Drôme; 1836-05-08; PS 065)

By sending those Brothers who were about to turn twenty years of age to Mazelier, Marcellin adapted his position/ideas to the political and social reality facing him for his greater aim: to have Brothers to educate the youth of the area. Another reason why Champagnat was willing to make this adaptation is seen in his July 1836 letter to Mazelier:

“The Superior General of the Society (Jean Claude Colin) has told me of the plans for union about which you spoke with him and which I myself had been thinking about for a long time.



After discussing it together, we believed that this union would be for the glory of God and the good of religion. On both sides, we have the same aim, which is the Christian education of children, and the means we use to accomplish it are the same, apart from some minor differences.” (Letter to Monsieur François Mazelier; St. Paul-Trois-Châteaux, Drôme; 1836-07; PS 066)



The aim of both groups was the same—the Christian education of youth. Marcellin was willing to do what was necessary to insure that this important work would continue. He changed the paradigm to respond to the reality he confronted. He “forced” the spring.

Needed Change For a New World

Besides the speed of needed change, the challenges of these past months have included redesigning online learning, staff meetings on the fly, reflecting on the economic impact of the virus, and developing crash courses on initial formation programs, but to name a few. Despite the fears and anxieties caused by this pandemic, many Marists have listened with an ear to the ground like never before and allowed all the ingenuity, testing of new practices, and innovation possible. This takes grit and resilience. These are experiences we want to learn from when we reset for the future. In times of great challenge, I have found it important to have a solid footing on how I approach my own actions and decisions. Empathy, compassion, and discernment have proven, time and again, to be vital anchors for me during any crisis, often leading to answers and responses that are not immediately obvious. We will need these anchors—and more—as we discern what our Marist mission will look like and what it will be in the future. The questions presented to the delegates of the XXII General Chapter in Rionegro, Colombia, still resonate, now more than ever, during this pandemic:

- What is God calling us to be?

- What is God asking us to do?

In his recent circular, “Homes of Light”, Brother Ernesto articulated the type of leadership which Marcellin exhibited and encourages us to follow in his footsteps:

“Marcellin was always attentive to discern the voice of God in the events of life and in his personal prayer. His boldness made him open and flexible to develop new responses without getting bogged down in pre-determined schemes. He gave himself to the education and evangelization of youth, giving priority attention to the most abandoned. He did all this while building up a spirit of brotherhood, forming homes of light. He had the intuition that the witness of a group is always more powerful than that of an individual. We Marists of Champagnat have these and other characteristics that Marcellin gave us in our DNA. They continue to light up our path today.” (Brother Ernesto Sanchez Barba, Homes of Light, p. 14.)

Will we go back to “normal” when we press the reset button? I hope not. We have learned not to waste. We have learned how to virtualize everything: community communications, meetings, visits, education, prayer services, formation, and seminars. During the times of lock-down, we have tried to build up a spirit of fraternity in our communities and in our homes. We have learned to do things differently—what is value-added and what is not—and hopefully we will continue to lay out an indelible image of what being Marist is all about. Let us not lose these advances when we reset. Together, let us “force the spring”.

Br. Ben Consigli, General Councillor

SOUTH AFRICA

MARIST MERCY CARE 1,000,000 MEAL MILESTONE ON WORLD FOOD DAY

Right on World Food Day, which has been celebrated on October 16, Marist Mercy Care's The Place of Mercy and Hope, honours this day celebrating the momentous milestone: over 1,000,000 meals distributed to poor and vulnerable children and adults of the Sundays River Valley, Eastern Cape, in South Africa.

In fourteen years, The Place of Mercy and Hope, under the banner Marist Mercy Care, have given happiness to poor and vulnerable communities, have educated over 20.230 children, 2.760 adults, cared for 800 sick and dying patients and provided over 282.450 meals during COVID-19 lockdown.

Marist Mercy Care thanks the supporters and followers for the support to continue and reach even greater milestones.

Marist Mercy Care is a collaborative effort between the Marist Brothers, Sisters of Mercy and Lay Persons in the



Sundays River Valley, Addo, Eastern Cape, South Africa. The project assists families who are from disadvantaged communities, with a specific focus on children. Programs include a Crèche and Pre-School, Clinic, Soup Kitchens and Adult Learning programs as well as the Summer Camp.

www.placeofmercyandhope.com

GENERAL HOUSE

BR. SYLVAIN RAMANDIMBIARISOA SPEAKS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC IN OUR LIVES

Brother Sylvain, General Councillor of the Marist Institute, shares with the Marists of Champagnat his reflection on life at this particular time of crisis caused by the pandemic. Br. Sylvain seeks to answer the question “how can we live in this situation”, “how do we welcome, interpret this reality” and notes that we have learned that we are “limited, but God is limitless”. This is what makes us put our trust in God: “Now I know but limitation and God alone is without limit, everything depends on him”.

In the video bellow, Br. Sylvain speaks in French, but subtitles are available in English. If they do not appear, turn on the option in YouTube's settings.



CHILE

On 21 October, a webinar was held with the theologian Leonardo Boff. Nearly 400 spectators took part in the initiative that seeks to provide tools and accompany Marist laity and Brothers during the pandemic. The video is available here: <http://webinar.maristas.cl/webinars-antecedentes/>

BR. SEÁN SAMMON

The Ex-Superior General will be honored by Religious Vocations Conference of United States with their biennial Outstanding Recognition Award on October 31st.

NEW ZEALAND

On 16th October, Champagnat Marist Principals had a meeting in Auckland. It was an opportunity to connect with one another and look at how they can continue to enhance the Champagnat Marist charism in their faith-based communities.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Using the slogan, "United in pain and hope", 120 participants, brothers and laypeople, met online on the 18th October at the Marist formation centre in Guatemala to pray for all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

ARCO NORTE

The Regional Forum of Arco Norte took place on 26 - 27 October, via Zoom. The meeting brought together the members of the General Council, the Provincial Councils and the members of all the Commissions of the Region. There was also an information and training session on the theme "A new present, a better future".

ITALY**A 15 YEAR OLD YOUTH PROCLAIMED BLESSED**

In the community prayer in Rome we prayed over the lives and words of three blessed Marist martyrs: a former student, a colleague and a teacher. Francisco de Paula Castelló Aleu, who studied at the Montserrat School in Lleida between 1924 and 1930; Julián Aguilar Martín, who worked in Marist communities, living with the Brothers as an employee and Ramón Emiliano Hortelano Gómez, exercising his profession as a teacher and dying as a companion in the martyrdom of Blessed Brother Julián José (Nemesio Cabria Andrés). Our lauds that morning directed our gaze to these pioneers of Marist sanctity when the reverberations of the feast of the



beatification of Carlo Acutis A 15 year old youth were proclaimed Blessed

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Carlo has left a radiant trail of holiness of life given to others that has already attracted thousands of people. His parents, Antonia and Andrea, participated in the beatification celebration happy to have left their son free to follow the path Jesus was showing him. Carlo used the social networks convinced that the web was a space for dialogue, knowledge, exchange, mutual respect, to be used responsibly, without becoming its slave and rejecting digital bullying. From his initiative the exhibition on the Eucharistic miracles was launched. On his own merit he deserves to be proclaimed patron of those using digital communication.

Asked about what his faith journey had been he suggested that the highway to reach heaven is Jesus the friend present in the Eucharist, to maintain with Jesus a personal, intimate, deep relationship and to make the Eucharist the crowning moment of the relationship with God.

In 2006 he died of terminal leukaemia. The life of this fifteen year old shows that it is also possible for young people to walk the path of holiness. A young man of our time, captured by Christ, who emerges as a powerful beacon of holiness in the midst of our world.

There is no lack of models. God continues to place before our eyes models to motivate our life journey. It is an excellent opportunity to talk about them and to spread their fame.

Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún, Postulator General

GUATEMALA

FORMER STUDENTS JOIN DON BOSCO AND JESUIT STUDENTS TO HELP VULNERABLE FAMILIES

Inspired by the work of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Saint John Bosco, the associations of former students of the Liceo Guatemala (Marist – ADEMAR), the Liceo Javier (Jesuit) and the Colegio Don Bosco joined forces to support the communities affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in Guatemala.

Under the name, “Colours united by a mission”, the campaign of aid and solidarity began in May.

At the suggestion of the Boards of Directors of the three associations, it was decided to develop a joint strategy to respond to the effects of the crisis in Guatemala. And as a strategy, each association promoted the collection of monetary donations within their communities, made up of thousands of former students, through their already established social and cooperative networks.

The funding obtained by the three Catholic associations was used to purchase basic grain, and to help 1,400 families over a six-month period, and to distribute 72 tons of beans and rice.

After six months of joint work to help families in poverty, the



movement set up by the three associations concluded the initiative on 30 September.

The Presidents of the associations involved, Mario Roberto Reyes Marroquín (AAADB), José Manuel Burgos Zetina (ADEMAR) and Pablo Fernando Monzón Barrientos (AELJ), jointly stated; “That these actions are inspired by the work and life of Saint John Bosco, Saint Marcellin Champagnat and Saint Ignatius of Loyola, and that, faithful to the human formation received in the Catholic schools from which we graduated, this initiative is the starting point for other projects that can be worked on jointly by the three associations”.

SRI LANKA

MARIST FORMATION HOUSE IN NEGOMBO

The Marist Formation House is the Pre-Novitiate of the Sri Lanka Sector of the Province of South Asia. It is located in Maris Stella College in Negombo.

In this house, there are four (4) brothers and two (2) postulants who are supposed to undergo formation in the Postulancy House of the District of Asia in Davao, Philippines. Because of the pandemic, however, they could not travel. Hence, the brothers decided to provide them with the experience until such time that they can go to Davao.

There are some aspirants as well; but they are not living in the community now. Upon the invitation of the Secretariat of



Brothers today, they produced a video about their life during this time of the pandemic. You can watch here the video.

marist world

MALAYSIA: MARIST KUCHING COMMUNITY

GENERAL HOUSE: REGULAR COUNCIL

MEXICO: FORMATION COMMUNITY OF IRAPUATO: BROTHERS AND POSTULANTS



BRAZIL: COLÉGIO MARISTA PADRE EUSTÁQUIO

SPAIN: ASOCIACIÓN ESPIRAL LORANCA – SOCIAL WORK

PHILIPPINES: MDA – FRI (FORMATION INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS)

KIRIBATI
MARIST RETREAT IN KIRIBATI

Recent events in the Marist Life in Kiribati include the first Ecological Retreat, an initiative very much in accord with Chapter calls of the District of Pacific. Participating in it were 18 people coming from the Stewardship team, the Brothers and invited teachers from the St Louis High School and three Champagnat Marist Pre-schools.

Br. Barry led off the first evening with a presentation integrating the powerful calls of Pope Francis in “Laudato Si” into the urgent Cry of our Mother Earth and the Cry of the poor who suffer so much from climate change realities.



Next day, the participants were blessed with presentations by two local women who are both personally and professionally fully engaged in Kiribati climate change realities. It was a

powerful wake up call for all involved on the participants’ need to become more actively involved climate change action and in integrating this message into Marist educational priorities.

28 OCTOBER: MEMORY OF THE FR. CHAMPAGNAT'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE YOUNG MONTAGNE

The encounter with the young Montagne was an event that profoundly marked Father Champagnat's life, and clearly brought about the birth of the Marist Institute. Traditionally, on October 28th the memory of this meeting is celebrated. It is a reminder of the importance and urgency of our mission, as relevant today as it was in Father Champagnat's time.

Inspired by our Founder, who walked for several hours from La Valla to this place, we feel the same call to get going and meet the new Montagnes of today, wherever they may be.

Marcellin Champagnat meets the Young Montagne



Something happened in a clearly providential manner, to dispel Father Champagnat's misgivings and make him decide to go about setting up the Society of Brothers without further delay. He was summoned to a hamlet, one day, in order to hear a sick boy's confession. As usual, he set out at once. Before proceeding with the confession, he put a few questions to make sure that he was sufficiently instructed to receive the sacraments. To his great surprise, the child knew nothing about the principal mysteries and, in fact, did not even know whether God existed. Greatly upset at finding a twelve-year-old in such ignorance and fearing that he would die in such a state, he sat down beside him to teach him the mysteries and truths necessary for salvation. It took him two hours for the instruction and confession. It was extremely difficult to impart, even the most fundamental truths, to a child who was so sick that he scarcely grasped what was being said.

Having heard his confession and helped him make several acts of love of God and of contrition as preparation for death, the priest left him, to minister to a sick person in an adjoining house. As he went out, he asked after the sick youth, to be told by his tearful parents that he had died a moment after the priest's departure. Then he felt an upsurge of joy at having been there so opportunely, but it was mingled with a shudder of dread at the danger run by the poor boy, whom he had perhaps just snatched from the gates of hell.

He went home overwhelmed by those feelings and saying over and over to himself: "How many children are in the same predicament every day, exposed to the same dangers because they have no-one to teach them the truths of faith!" Then he became obsessed, with overwhelming intensity, by the thought of founding a Society of Brothers to obviate such disasters through the Christian education of children. The result was that he went off to see John-Mary Granjon and tell him everything that he planned to do. He explained to him all the good that his projected Institute was capable of achieving and asked him if he would like to be part of it and dedicate himself to the education of children.

Life of blessed Marcellin Joseph Benedict Champagnat - Br. Jean-Baptiste Furet - 1856

What burned in Father Champagnat's heart as he made his way back to La Valla after encountering the young Montagne? What energy pulsed through him, leading him to found the Institute just a few months later? We might ask, are we not called to travel this same road again, allowing ourselves to be deeply challenged by the situation of the young Montagne of today?

Br. Emili Turú

UNITED STATES

MARIST SCHOOLS IN UNITED STATES: 134 YEARS OF PRESENCE

The Marist Brothers came to the United States 134 years ago. The Marist Brother in USA try to incorporate the Marist heritage and values in the many activities they promote in their schools. As a result, the students learn that being Marist is a way of life and that has given rise to the annual Marist Youth motto, "Marist Youth today; Marist always."

During the last Provincial Council Meeting of September 22, a general report of the six Marist Schools of the country was presented. Here we share some information.

Archbishop Molloy High School – NY

Although its beginning dates to 1892 in New York city, the Marist Brothers opened the school in 1957 under the name Archbishop Molloy High School in honor of Archbishop Thomas E. Molloy. The School has been recognized as an Exemplary School by the Federal Department of Education (1994) and as an Outstanding American High School by U.S. News & World Report (1999). In 2009, Molloy received the Parents Choice Award based on academic performance, parental involvement, school spirit, and the school's commitment to its mission. In 2011, Molloy was awarded "Special Citation for an Outstanding Parochial Education" by The Blackboard Awards. This year the School has opened with 1,527 students.



Marist College, Poughkeepsie

Marist High School – Chicago, IL

The school was open in September in 1963, at the request of Cardinal Albert Meyer who asked the Marist Brothers to go to Chicago and oversee the planning and construction of a high school on the southwest side of the city. The Marist High School promotes quality education and opportunities for students to grow Marist spiritually and live out the mission of the school by serving others has always been the guiding principle at Marist. Through a service program serving 18 local organizations in service projects in the community to national and international mission trips, Marist continues to serve "the least favored." This year the School has opened with 1604 students.

Christopher Columbus High School – Miami, FL

Opened in 1958/59, Christopher Columbus celebrated its 60th anniversary in March 2019. Its mission embraces three traditions: the search for academic excellence, the patrimony of Catholic education and the missionary spirit of the Marist Brothers and Saint Marcellin Champagnat. The school won prestige for its educational and religious level. In 2008, for the fourth time in a row, it was selected as one of the 50 better Catholic high schools

in the United States. Today, Columbus has an enrollment of approximately 1,759 students.

St. Joseph Academy – Brownsville, TX

Founded in 1865 by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Saint Joseph Academy was opened in 1906 by Marist Brothers from Mexico who arrived to assumed operation of the school. The St. Joseph Academy has a community service requirement for each student during the school year. Every year, about 100 students and more than a dozen faculty members travel to several rural communities to do community services and conduct religious classes.

SJA opened earlier in August using distance learning to begin the school year. Opening Enrollment for 20-21 School year is 353 students.

Central Catholic High School – Lawrence, MA

Founded in 1935 by Brother Florentius, Central Catholic High School celebrates 85 years of operation in 2020. It is a college preparatory school with an academic campus and an athletic campus.

This year, School has opened with 1215 students. Registering students from closed Presentation of Mary Academy in Methuen is primary reason for large increase in student enrollment.

Mount Saint Michael Academy – Bronx, New York

Founded in 1926 and conducted by the Marist Brothers, the Mount Saint Michael Academy opened as a "boarding and day school in the country." Today the Mount has 724 students.

COLLABORATION FOR MISSION INTERNATIONAL

MARIST VOLUNTEERS FROM CANADA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



Marist volunteers did not stop their activities during this pandemic time. This too examples from Canada and South Africa are a testimony of the Marist compromise with the people who suffers especially during this time.

Marists in Iberville, Canada

Here down you can see some pictures of young adult Marist volunteers in Iberville, from the Province of Canada, who have helped an immigrant Family from Mauritius moving their house. The pictures also show some moments of fraternity having dinner all together in the Marist House in Iberville.

South Africa and Germany

Nyasha Bowora, 26 years old, from Johannesburg, Province Southern Africa, has been an Interprovincial volunteer in Mindelheim, Province Europe Central West at the St Stephan's creche since May 2019.



She stayed in Germany, living in the house where the Marists welcome young adult volunteers from abroad.

In her video, she is describing how volunteer programs continued both in South Africa and in Mindelheim during the Pandemic and how she discovered the significance of a "Global Community".



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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

Facebook

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

Twitter

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat