



Year XIII - Number 651 | 4 NOVEMBER 2020

MARIST NEWS

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

COLLABORATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION

A VISUAL IDENTITY FOR THE MARIST INTERPROVINCIAL VOLUNTEERS

The Department of Collaboration for Mission International (CMI) has just launched the Interprovincial Volunteering logo.

Through this “new identity”, it seeks to promote Marist volunteering in the Marist Institute and to foster a culture of encounter and openness of mind and heart for the global availability of all Marists.

The logo, created in collaboration with the Department of Communication of the General Administration, represents the nature of Marist Interprovincial Volunteering: missionary and ministering, international and intercultural, Marist charism and collaboration in the construction of a different world.



VOLUNTEERING
Marist

Marist Interprovincial Volunteering Logo

The image represents the nature of Marist Interprovincial Volunteering: missionary and ministering, international and intercultural, Marist charism and collaboration in the construction of a different world.

The logo is made up of a symbol and a name.

The symbol consists of the combining of four elements: the globe, the “M”, a pinwheel, and people. The combination forms a harmonious whole.

- The globe represents the space where Marist life and mission unfold,

general administration

■ Last Saturday, Brother Ernesto, together with other General Councillors, the Secretariat Brothers Today and some formators, took part in a virtual meeting with the young Brothers of the Arco Norte Region.

■ On Monday, Brothers Ben and Josep Maria, General Councillors, took part in the Oceania Council meeting with Brothers and lay leaders from Australia, the Pacific and Melanesia.

■ On Monday, the FMSI Board met with Brothers Ken, General Councillor, and Libardo, Econome General.

■ On Tuesday, Brother Valdicer Fachi, of the Cmi Department, held a videoconference with the Donators of the Fratelli Project.

■ Brothers Ben, Ken and Luis Carlos, Vicar General, meet on Tuesday to plan the next activities of the International Mission Commission.

■ On Wednesday, Brother Valdicer (Cmi) will meet with the Provincial Volunteer Coordinators of the Arco Norte Region to increase International Volunteering in the area.

■ Wednesday and Thursday the provincials and vice-provincials of the Europa Region (REM) will meet. The Link Councillors João Carlos and Ben will take part. On Thursday, for a period of time, the directors of secretariats and departments of the General Administration will also participate.

■ On Friday, Brothers Sylvain and Soterias, General Councillors, will have a meeting with the community leaders of the District of Asia.

■ The directors of the Secretariat of Evangelization and Education, Carlos Alberto and Mark, together with Brother Sylvain, will meet the Marist Youth Ministry advisors on Friday.

the place of God's manifestation where there is an invitation to become aware of ourselves and live as a global family.

- The letter "M", initial of the name "Marist", evokes the charism, the desire to live serving God in children and young people, in the style of Mary and Marcellin.
- The pinwheel evokes the dynamism, action, and movement of volunteers bringing life, social transformation and empowerment to children and young people.
- People of different colours embracing and forming a circle recall the international and intercultural life of the volunteers, who collaborate in the construction of the Global Charismatic Family.
- The name is "Marist Volunteering", a name by which all Marist volunteers of the Institute are recognized: broth-

ers, lay people, collaborators, students... The style of the font used (script) suggests historical memory, distinction, current events, dynamism, and vitality.

The diversity of colours and movements that the logotype brings together represents the diversity of cultures of the 5 continents and our presence in 80 countries. We recognize ourselves as different while, at the same time, identified with the Marist charism and Champagnat's dream of educating and evangelizing children and young people.

This logo will be used for the development of Interprovincial Marist Volunteering. If any Administrative Unit wishes to use it for interprovincial volunteering, it is authorized to do so. It is worth noting that it does not replace the logos of the AU or different Marist organizations.

UNITED STATES

BR. SAM AMOS PROFESSES FINAL VOWS

The Marist Brothers of the United States Province celebrated the Final Profession of Brother Sam Amos on Friday, October 23rd during a liturgy at Marist High School in Chicago. Br. Sam is the son of David and Lori Amos, and received his first sacraments at the parish of Holy Family in Grand Blanc, Miami.

Prior to entering the Marist Brothers, Sam graduated from Powers Catholic High School in Flint, and from John Carroll University in Cleveland, with a Bachelors Degree in Classical Languages. He also earned a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts.

In September 2013, Sam became a postulant to the Marist Brothers and lived in community at the Marist Brothers Novitiate in Esopus.

On February 2, 2014, Sam became a novice. Following his first profession in August 2015, Sam moved to the Bronx, NY, where he lived in a Marist Brothers community and taught at Mount Saint Michael Academy for one year. In 2016, he moved to the Leavitt Street community in Chicago, IL and began working as a religion teacher at Marist High School, where he continues to serve today. Br. Sam also enjoys volunteering and leading a youth group at Saint Benedict Parish in Blue Island, IL.



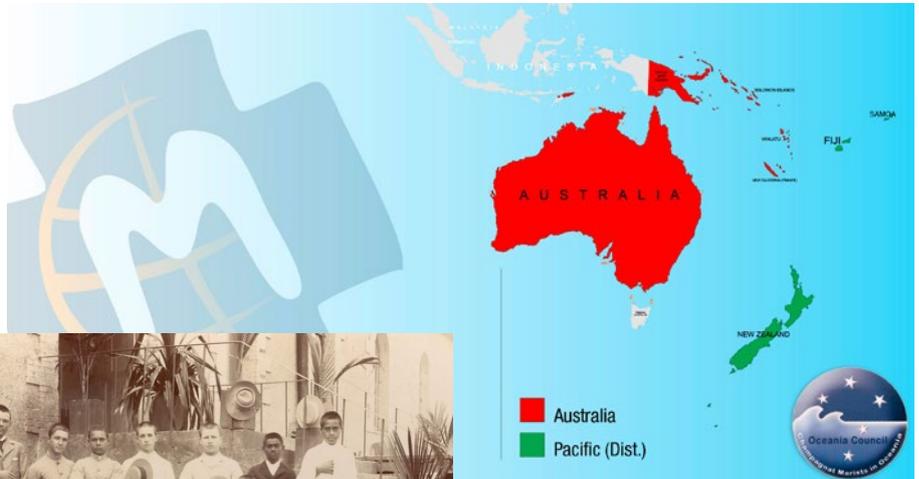
REGION OF OCEANIA

MOVING TOWARDS A SINGLE, UNITED MARIST PROVINCE

In July 2020, the leaders of the three Oceania Administrative Units (the Province of Australia, the District of the Pacific, and the District of Melanesia) wrote to Br. Ernesto Sánchez requesting that they be permitted to move towards a single, united Marist Province in the vast region of Oceania. After discernment during their recent September plenary meeting, the Superior General and his Council approved this request and endorsed the plans to move to a single administrative unit for Oceania by the end of 2022.

Marist Brothers' life in Oceania

Structural change has been a constant theme throughout Oceania's rich history and has been instituted to respond to changing circumstances. Our history tells us that Marist Brothers' life in Oceania began when Brothers accompanied Marist Priests into the Pacific and New Zealand. Between 1836 and 1859, a total of thirty-seven 'Little Brothers of Mary' had been sent to the region. The first Marist Brothers' community was later established in Sydney in 1872. This was followed in 1874 with the first Brothers' community in Noumea. The Province of New Zealand was established in 1917, and the Australian Province was divided into two Provinces – Melbourne and Sydney – in 1948. Since before World War II, Marists in the region have looked at ways to nurture Marist life and mission in Melanesia. In 1984, the District of PNGSI began, and within twenty years, the District of Melanesia came into being. In 2010 at concurrent Chapters of the Provinces of Melbourne, New Zealand, Sydney and the District of Melanesia, a decision was made to restructure into two autonomous Districts (The Districts of the Pacific and Melanesia) and one Province (Australia), with the Province of New Zealand offering a "tono" used to facilitate its change from Province to District and to ensure that the dignity of all involved in this change were sensitively addressed. More recently, in July 2020, the District of Melanesia was integrated into the Province of Australia. Each structural change was a response to the realities "on the ground" so that Marist life and mission would continue to be vital in the years ahead.



Vitality of Marist life within Oceania

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19).

Since 2010, there have been regular meetings of the leaders of the AU's within the region to share ideas and resources, especially around formation, and to investigate ways of increasing the viability and vitality of Marist life within Oceania. The realities of our world have necessitated these changes and explorations. The Covid-19 pandemic has also reminded us that to move forward we must be innovative and creative in our responses to God's call and mission. We are continually challenged to "read the signs of the times".

"The new Province should be a federation style"

Concerning the general structure of the new Province, Brothers Peter Carroll, Provincial of Australia, and John Hazelman, District Leader of the Pacific, have stated that after some initial consultation of the Brothers in the region "the new Province should be a federation style: given the vast distances and cultural diversity involved, there should be a strong central administration along the lines of any Province, but with decentralised authority for significant elements of Marist life. The exact nature of these arrangements is yet to be determined; that is the key task ahead".

Committees responsible for working on the design of the Province's administrative structures and processes as well as ensuring the participation and engagement of Brothers across the Region, particularly in identifying needs and possibilities, will be created soon.

GENERAL HOUSE

MEMORY OF THE MARTYRS OF BUGOBE

On October 31st, 1996, four Marist Brothers were killed in the refugee camp of Bugobe. They were Brothers Servando Mayor, 44 years old, Miguel Ángel Isla, 53, Fernando de la Fuente, 53 and Julio Rodríguez, 40.

These four Brothers worked for more than a year in the refugee camps in Congo, on the border with Rwanda. The refugees had become “their real family”, their heart’s concern! On the 31st October 1996 all the refugees fled. The Brothers stayed to be ready to welcome them again on their return. In the evening of that day they were murdered.

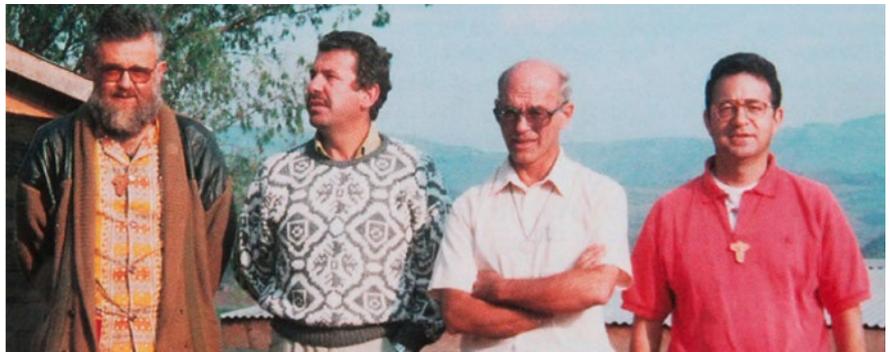
[Follow this link to read more.](#)

Historical Frame

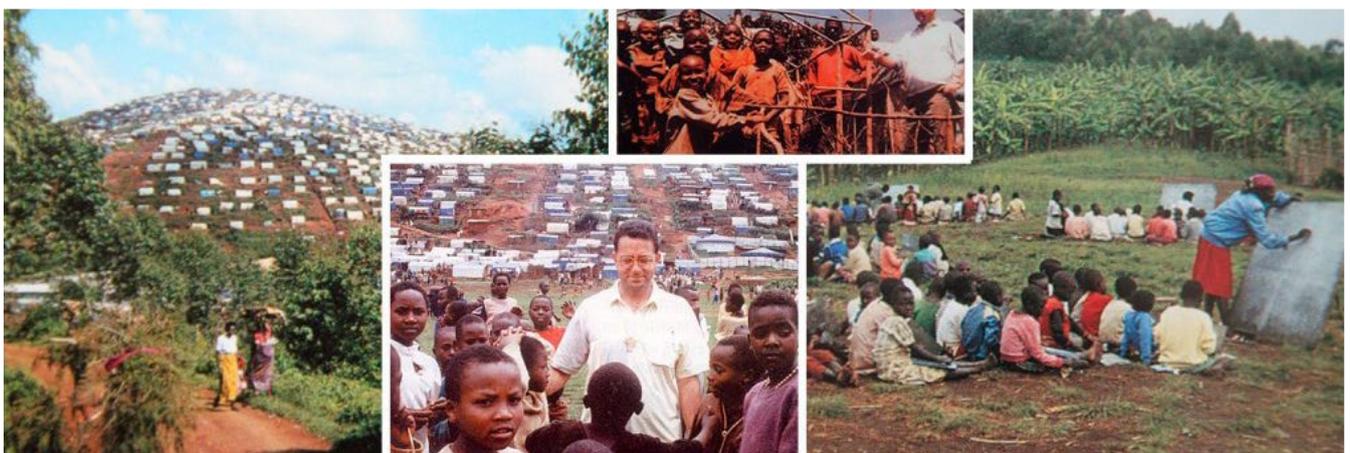
The Marist presence in the refugee camp of Nyamirangwe goes back to 1994, following the terrible genocide of the preceding months, in which at least half of a million people were massacred. Many people from the Hutu tribe fled away towards R.D. Congo (ex Zaire) and settled there in different refugee camps. Six of our Brothers, from the same ethnic group, decided to help those refugees; they went to the refugee camp of Nyamirangwe, not far from Bukavu, Congo.

Brother Benito, Superior General, then, said: “The more I come to know about this project, the greater is my admiration of the Brothers who launched it. They had the intuition to create an education project in perfect harmony with the thrust of our last General Chapter.”

There were about 30,000 people in the camp, most of them simple peasants. The Red Cross were the managers of the camp; the Brothers cared for the education of some 4,000



pupils, for catechesis and youth ministry. These Rwandese Brothers lived in poor conditions; their presence was seen as having political connotations and therefore their life was at risk. By September 1995 they were replaced by Brothers Servando Mayor and Miguel Ángel Isla. Brother Fernando de la Fuente arrived in February 1996 coming from Chile. The last to join the community was Brother Julio Rodríguez, who was working in Goma; it was on 12 June 1996. Poverty and violence were the daily share of the camp. The four new Brothers carried on the initiatives taken by the Rwandese Brothers. They were also caring for the sick and the elderly people; they provided extra food for 300 undernourished children, offered transport to the health centres and installed a mill that enabled families to get flour. Four of them had given a positive answer to a mission that they knew was difficult. When they were there they became fully aware that their lives were in danger: “Now I am a great deal more aware of the situation in which I find myself. Sometimes a gnawing fear afflicts my conscience, as quick and fleeting flashes. But I know very well in whom I have put my confidence and I happily go to the refugee camp... This western world is not for me, there is too much abundance and here there is too much need; but here man is more human” (Br. Miguel Ángel).



KOREA-JAPAN

The Sector had its annual retreat on October 20-25 at the Marist Education Center. Thirteen Brothers from different communities attended. The theme was "With the Word of God". During the retreat, Br. Abraham Kang renewed his vows, after which the perpetually professed Brothers also renewed theirs.



PHILIPPINES

Seventeen new teaching and non-teaching staff of Notre Dame of Cotabato attended the first session of the "New Staff Formation Program" on October 26.

CAMEROON

Br. Cyprian Gandeebo, District Superior, visited the Brothers living in the country from the 21st to the 24th of October 2020. During his stay, he had a 'tête à tête' with all the Brothers during which they shared their joys and challenges.

GHANA

A six-block classroom was recently handed over to the Marist Brothers in Ashalaja by the constructor. This project was sponsored by Editorial Group Eldelvives in collaboration with SED & the Marist District of West Africa.

BRAZIL

A NEW SCHOOL IN THE PROVINCE OF BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE ENHANCES THE PRESENCE AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



The Province of Brasil Centro-Norte has opened a new school, Marista Padre Eustáquio, in the city of Belo Horizonte, which will start to operate in 2021, with a capacity to serve 2,000 students in Infant, Primary and Secondary Education. This will be the 20th Socio-Educational Unit in the Province, which also has nine community schools.

Until now, the school has been run by the Congregation of the Brothers of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy (CMM), who have been in Belo Horizonte for 58 years. "The association of the two religious institutions means the strengthening of both. We want, as Marists, to emphasise these links to guarantee the continuity of the Marist mission and to take advantage of the potential for strategic growth in the region, to make the dream of Marcellin Champagnat a reality, to bring an evangelising education of quality to more children, adolescents and young people", emphasises Brother Renato Augusto da Silva, Vice-President of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte.

The new Unit, formerly known as the "Colégio Padre Eustáquio" is made up of 46 classrooms, five sports facilities, a playground, workshops, a library with 31 thousand volumes, an educational games room, interactive screens, space for conferences and presentations, an art workshop, an experimental kitchen, and also an administration department and a study centre.

After a period of transition, consisting mainly of the presentation of the Marist educational proposal to the team of educators, the solemnity of the launch of the new school was planned for January 2020.

LAVALLA200>

ARGELIA HERNÁNDEZ MENDOZA: BEING A MEMBER IN MOUNT DRUITT

Argelia Hernandez Mendoza, from the Province of México Occidental, participated in the Project LaValla200> for three years. She was in the Mount Druitt Community, Sydney, Australia, from April 2017 to May 2020, with her husband, Rodrigo Gris Castro. In this interview, she shares some of the things that impacted most on her from that experience.

What living in community has meant for you?

As a married Lay Marist, community life meant a total change in my way of life. Community living has been what has most impacted my life, feeling part of and belonging to a community at every moment. It allowed me to open a window on the consecrated life of the Institute. It was a great privilege and responsibility, to experience from within the dream of Marcellin Champagnat, to live fraternity in everyday life with the brothers who invited us to imitate that same love of neighbour.

And the ministry of the community?

Sharing mission has been an outward expression of the union of the inner strength and hope that we share as Marists of Champagnat. Our ministry was a tangible expression of how as Laypeople and Brothers we share the same charism and mission, how we go side by side to be with children and young people on the peripheries. Working together in mission has meant growing in solidarity, combining our professional experience and our personal skills, putting everything on the table for the common good. It invited us to set aside self-interest and individualism.

What key words summarize your experience?

Brotherhood/Sisterhood, mission, encounter, solidarity, union, invitation, Spirit, light, mentoring, journey, listening...

What is the most significant scenario or event in your time with Lavalla200>?

One significant moment was to witness firsthand the brothers' working with young people, to see their dedication and commitment to be at their side facing whatever life throws up, to see their tireless commitment to be brothers for others. To witness the simplicity with which they relate to the most vulnerable. In these days where not all the ministries have brothers or sisters to accompany children and young people, to have been able to see this has been a great privilege, one that in turn becomes a strong call to imitate such brotherly love. There were many meaningful moments, but I believe



that just experiencing brotherhood in such a close and lively way has filled me with hope and energy to continue our Marist mission.

What was your most important learning?

The sense of fraternal community and humility. We can all feel close to or in solidarity with others when we are on mission, but actually living together brought me face to face with an expression of community that invited me to a deeper perspective on life, an invitation from the Spirit that was nourished in prayer and through daily contact. Living in community demanded other values such as reconciliation, tolerance, empathy, honesty, and joy and helped me to rediscover the meaning of humility, of knowing myself as vulnerable and limited. It taught me that I cannot walk or do things alone, that we need each other to keep going. It was an experience of shared life, gives that was transforming and life-giving.

How did the experience help you grow in your Marist vocation?

It helped me to deepen my experience of the Marist charism, to discover my co-responsibility in mission and to nourish my experience as a lay person. It was an opportunity to experience being a bearer of the simplicity and humility to which Mary invites us by her example. Living the LaValla200> experience has helped me to discover myself as part of a global charismatic family; it made me feel somehow responsible for my sister and brother Marists; it connected me to the Marist world 'without borders', knowing that we can live the dream we share with

marist world

CÔTE D'IVOIRE: KORHOGO, COLLÈGE MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



SPAIN: COLLEGE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE CARTAGENA



NEW ZEALAND: SACRED HEART COLLEGE, AUCKLAND – RECOGNITION FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE



BRAZIL: COLÉGIO MARISTA ARAÇAGY



BANGLADESH: MARIST GIASNOGOR



HUNGARY: SZENT PÁL MARISTA ÁLTALÁNOS ISKOLA

Father Champagnat of going to the margins of society to be with children and young people, despite differences in language or culture.

What were the biggest challenges you faced during this time?

Entering into a different culture meant confronting my way of being, thinking, acting, speaking, etc. Every decision or event that contrasted with my personal worldview became a personal challenge but also an opportunity for growth as well. Being immersed in a different culture made me more aware of the ‘other’, of differences that enrich. I became I am a migrant in a new world; it gave me a new perspective; it helped me develop empathy, simplicity and especially humility. I was constantly challenged by the invitation to get out of my comfort zone, to discover new possibilities, to see things that are ‘outside the box’, to have a more open mind, ready for change.

What would you like to say to the brothers and lay Marists who are thinking of participating in Lavalla200> communities or other international/intercultural projects of the Institute?

To participate in an international/intercultural project is an

opportunity for transformation in every sense of the word – spiritual, personal and professional. It is an opportunity to know ourselves better as we go out of ourselves to encounter others. It is a chance to live the dream of Champagnat. I also believe that it is a path of discernment in which the Spirit is leading us, the Spirit who is inviting us to join in a project of fraternal love which Jesus modelled in the witness of his life; it is an invitation to be a disciple and to go out to other lands. Let us listen to the Spirit and go out fearlessly to distant places.

What were your reasons for leaving everything to participate in an international, intercultural community?

For me the motivation was to continue to participate in Marist missions and solidarity programmes, something Rodrigo and I had been doing together. When the invitation came from Br. Emili Turú, this was a moment where both of us felt the call of the Spirit. It was not in our life plan, but we recognized it as a call from the Spirit that came up at a specific time and that took shape with accompaniment and a process of discernment. Despite hearing such a call, I believe that it is important to discern the implications of life and mission, to find how they intertwine, discover how they nurture each other, take a decision and head off to an unknown land.

SPAIN

FRATELLI COMMUNITY OF MELILLA: A JOINT PROJECT OF MARISTS AND LASALLIANS TO HELP IMMIGRANTS

The Marist Brothers of the Province of Mediterránea and the Lasallian Brothers of the District of ARLEP have succeeded in setting up the common project “Comunidad Fratelli Melilla”, whose objective is to orientate, educate and help the immigrants and refugees who are in Melilla, a Spanish city located in North Africa, which in the last three years has seen an increase in its migratory flow. The community is made up of four Lasallian Brothers (Jesús Bejarano Busto, Juan Antonio Esteban Milla, Eulalio Sánchez Huertos, Crescencio Terrazas Olalla) and one Marist Brother (José Luis Elías Becerra). Brothers José Luis Elías (Marist) and Jesús Bejarano (Lasallian) spoke about the Fratelli Community in Melilla.

When and how was the initiative to form the Fratelli Melilla Community created?

The initiative came from the Provincial Councils of the De La Salle and Marist Brothers, during the year 2019, after the previous experience of an inter-congregational community in Bonanza. It was decided to start the new community in Melilla taking advantage of the infrastructure and the existing community of De La Salle Brothers, who have been running a school since 1912. Also for the last 12 years, an association has been operating in the school, the Alfa project, aimed at the literacy of Muslim women, a very vulnerable group in the city.



What does the community project consist of?

The first year was one of coming to grips with the situation, working in the school and making contact with the reality of work with migrants and refugees in Melilla. The idea, despite the slow-down of the pandemic, is to initiate specific activities this year around three areas of work:

1. Second chance school (social and labour insertion area): experience shows us that the possibilities of insertion of immigrants in society depend on personalised accompaniment and professional training. Therefore, the implementation of an E20 in the autonomous city of Melilla is proposed, which involves the following activities to improve the employability of the beneficiaries: individualized accompaniment, academic and professional guidance, development of personal skills, adult education, professional training actions and pre-work experiences.
2. Emancipation Home (residential area): the migratory processes of young people who have been deported, the few alternatives offered by the city of Melilla, and the number

of young people on the streets justify the setting up of an Emancipation Home. The initial proposal would be for six young people, on a temporary stay, and as a bridging resource to other similar ones in the peninsula, with the aim of accompanying them personally and in groups in the different dimensions: personal development, autonomous life, conviviality, administration, health, training, occupational and socio-cultural, among others.

3. Healthy Leisure and Free Time (socio-educational area): the importance of educational accompaniment in leisure and free time which both congregations incorporate into their mission, determines the proposal to develop a Plan of Leisure and Free Time Activities. This would include weekly activities such as educational sessions, workshops, sports activities or cultural outings and the development of a Summer School for boys and girls between 11 and 16 years old, with priority given to those in Residential Centres for minors or Temporary Stay Centres for immigrants (CETI).

To whom does the community offer assistance?

Apart from the school activity, the community has been involved for years in the literacy of Muslim women (the Alfa Project). Now we are starting to work in support and literacy with young people who have crossed the border, unaccompanied minors, and our intention is also to work with these young people at the key mo-

ment of their emancipation, when they come of age and leave the assistance structures offered by the autonomous city for them.

What is the legal, social and health situation of the immigrants assisted by the community?

The women who use the Alfa Project are generally women who lack documentation and therefore are unable to access the literacy courses offered by the Autonomous City.

The young people we work with also do not have their documentation organised and it is difficult for minors to leave the protection service with their formalised documentation. These children have difficulty gaining access to the Peninsula and many of them either pass through illegally or remain stranded in Melilla waiting for their papers to be sorted out.

In the support of young people in the Temporary Centre for Immigrants (CETI) we often meet young refugees who have not yet obtained their asylum permit.

So far, how many people have been helped by the community?

In the Alfa Project we have been assisting about 100 women per course. The young people with whom we have worked in the summer camps and in the literacy courses are also about 100.

Can you describe a little bit the social context of this place?

Melilla is a territory marked by its geography, its history, its geopolitical value, its predisposition to commercial exchange and its mixture of races. It has about 12 square kilometres of surface and about 90,000 inhabitants. It is one of the Spanish Plazas in North Africa, where the Mediterranean forms its natural maritime border to the East, and has about 12 kilometres of land bordering with Morocco to the West, the border being delimited by the sadly famous fence, and equipped with four official border posts.

Melilla, like other points on Europe's so-called Southern Border located on the Peninsula, has seen its irregular migratory flow increase over the past three years, mainly due to the extra difficulties that have arisen in Central (Italy) and Eastern (Greece) Mediterranean.

During 2018, an estimated 6,000 people entered Melilla ille-



gally, of whom 4,821 came by land and 918 by sea. Contrary to popular belief, most of the people who used the land route entered through the official border posts, using foreign or forged documentation and taking advantage of the similarity of ethnic features, as they were mostly Algerians, Tunisians and Syrians, and are therefore easily mistaken for the population that moves across the border daily for commercial purposes. While a minority takes part in the "jumping of the fence" or tries to enter hidden in vehicles, generally those of sub-Saharan origin (Mali, Guinea Conakri, Ivory Coast) or of any other ethnic origin. Entry by sea is done in poor quality boats or even by swimming.

Unaccompanied foreign minors (UFM) have increased in recent years. According to the Ministry of the Interior, 1090 minors have arrived in Melilla during 2018. Girls do not reach 20% and are cared for in the Divina Infanta and Gota de Leche Centres; boys go to the Centro de Menores Fuertes de la Purísima, where they live in difficult conditions as they have almost tripled their original capacity (in 2020 there were around 900 inmates in this centre).

During the pandemic, a group of almost 200 of these minors have been moved to other facilities (Fuerte de Rostrogordo, partly with wooden barracks) to alleviate the overcrowded situation a little.

In recent months the number of residents has been decreasing as those who have reached the age of 18 leave the care centres. At the same time there are fewer children in the centres because the border has been closed since March. These young people who leave the minors' resource usually leave without documentation and remain in the city without documentation and without any possibility of going to the Peninsula or even returning to their country of origin since the borders remain closed due to the pandemic.

EL SALVADOR

25 LAY MARISTS COMPLETE THE 5-YEAR "ITINERARY OF SPIRITUALITY"

The Itinerary of Spirituality, initiated five years ago in El Salvador, held its last meeting on October 4. The twenty-five lay people who participated in the formation have held four meetings each year, which focused on the Marial and apostolic character of Marist Spirituality.

The conclusion of the Itinerary confirmed that the territory of spirituality is very broad, that there are many paths and ways, but that the direction cannot be changed: that of converting our existence into receptivity and self-giving.

The map for this Itinerary was designed by Br. Rodrigo Cuesta, and was animated by Nohemy Pinto, the delegate for spirituality, and Sr. Maria Laura Soto, of the Mission Team El Salvador.

During the meetings, the participants reflected on their faith journey and their spiritual physiognomy, in a community process and in their relationship with others in their daily lives.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants were invited to answer the following question: How do we feel that spirituality shapes our way of relating to people, to the world, to ourselves and to God?

In their responses, the participants highlighted six signposts on the way with which they were confronted:

- Faith gives a mood, gives a profile of a person, a vital tone. Faith is a powerful motor for growth and for getting back on your feet as a person.
- Walking with others. Community is necessary to live faith. One cannot follow Jesus by oneself. The "other" makes me exist. I discover others as the meaning of my life.
- -The contemplative gaze, which knows how to see God in all things. The believing look at reality is necessarily a global, "inclusive" look: it is looking at reality-in-God and at God-in-reality.
- -Simplicity, a family air, an expression of Marist spirituality. Like Champagnat, we approach God with transparency, honesty, openness and trust. A sign of the way that tells us that the fullness of life, the joy of being, is not outside the sphere of daily life.
- To spend life is to want a lot. This signpost expresses that love is the best translation of an existence in God. If I have no love, I am nothing.
- Change and conversion. Closeness to the Lord changes and converts. To set out in the footsteps of Jesus is a spirituality for change, which is born only of the Spirit of God.



GENERAL HOUSE

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING – LAVALLA200>

This video presents the participants in the 2020 program sharing their vision as an invitation to other Brothers and Lay men and women to be part of this Institute initiative.



If you are interested in dedicating a significant amount of time in a [Lavalla200> community](#), please contact your provincial or write to cmi@fms.it, the department for international mission collaboration in Rome.

The communities of Lavalla200> are made up of Brothers and lay people from around the world, choosing to live interculturally and share mission.

NICARAGUA

50 YEARS OF MARIST PRESENCE IN NICARAGUA

The Marists of Nicaragua celebrated in October 2020, 50 years of presence in the country. In 1970, the Marist Brothers Pablo Mata and Anastasio García founded the San Francisco School in Estelí, in the presence of the Bishop of the Diocese and the Brother Provincial, Zósimo Pérez.



During these five decades, the Marist Brothers have encouraged and shared with the society of the country of Central America their charism and evangelising mission towards children and young people through education, knowledge and human and Christian values.

The Marist Brothers have two schools in Nicaragua:

- Colegio San Francisco – Estelí: currently has 980 stu-

dents who are being formed with the support of 4 Brothers, 26 teachers and 8 people in the area of administration and maintenance.

- Instituto Marista Padre Andrés Weller Kolbe – Condega: founded in 1978, the school this year serves 500 students. There are 3 Brothers, 23 teachers and 6 people in charge of administration and maintenance.

PHILIPPINES

MARIST SCHOOL MARIKINA: 25TH YEAR OF ITS EVENING HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Marist School in Marikina, Philippines, celebrates the 25th year of its “Evening High School Program”, an educational Marist project that since 1995 has helped thousands of children and youth from depressed communities within the vicinity of Marist School and other poor communities in Cupang and Antipolo. To date the school has graduated some 5,000 students from 1999 to 2020.

For years, the desire to help the poor students, the “Montage” of today, had been one of the school’s perspectives, considering that it is part of the Marist Charism. In school year 1993- 1994, when the school was celebrating its 30th anniversary, the school president.

Br. Brother Manuel de Leon, in one of its President’s Council meeting, raised the issue on how Marist School can concretely respond to its mission of providing quality education to the least favored.

In December 1993, Bro. Manuel had the opportunity to be invited to De La Salle, Greenhills in San Juan to observe the Adult Education Evening classes. The experience inspired him to push the idea and assigned a council member to gather more information from other schools offering the same program.

The following school year 1994-1995, the department furnished Marist School the checklist needed for all the requirements. Consultation meetings, revisions of the curriculum, ocular visits, took place until finally a one-year permit for a ladderized program was granted in May 1995. The education department also recommended to offer an afternoon shift



instead of an evening classes program, thus the name Marist School Afternoon Shift Program.

On June 10, 1995, forty-seven boys and girls were admitted and started their first day of school under the tutelage of volunteer teachers coming from both the high school and grade school departments. Some Marist Brothers scholastics from MAPAC handled the Religion classes. Br. Dominador Santiago, the current provincial of the East Asia Province, was the first Religion teacher of Class 99. On June 21, 1995 at 5 pm the first Holy Mass was held in the open on the longest day of the year. On March 21, 1999, eighteen young boys and twenty-four young ladies graduated from high school.

Presently, there are 10 sections with 427 students. Over the years the school has trained several young people, who are now teachers, nurses, accountants, businessmen/women, bank tellers, guidance counsellors and other graduates coming from the afternoon shift.



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