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MARIST NEWS

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

GENERAL HOUSE

FIRST STEPS OF THE MARIST GLOBAL FAMILY FUND TOWARDS HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

The pandemic situation has made many of us aware of our vulnerability, the vulnerability of an increasingly global world. In response to this situation, decisive steps were taken to help in a variety of ways. The General Administration proposed the “Global Marist Family Fund for Humanitarian Emergencies” initiative.

During these past months, the Provinces have been giving courageous responses,



general administration

- On Monday, the Bureau of Education and Evangelisation (Br. Beto, Br. Mark and Diugar) held a virtual meeting with the liaison Councillors (Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General) and Br. Ben, General Councillor, to report on the progress of the various projects and initiatives being carried out by the Bureau, such as the creation of the Network of Schools, the development of the Marist Youth Ministry Network, the start of work on the revision of the Marist Education Document and the 3rd Mission Assembly
- On Monday, Brother Ben took part in a meeting via Zoom, with the leaders of the Province of Australia and the District of the Pacific, to follow up on the discussions and planning for the creation of a single Province for the Oceania region.
- On Tuesday and Wednesday, Brothers Luis Carlos, Ken and Ben met to discuss issues related to the upcoming meeting of the International Mission Commission.
- From Tuesday to Friday, Brother Ernesto, Superior General, is taking part in the Assembly of the Union of Superiors General, which is being held virtually.
- On Wednesday, Br. Ernesto is taking part in the Vocational School of the South America Region, where he will speak

about his circular “Places of Light”, with a focus on vocational animation.

- On Wednesday, Br. Sylvain (General Councillor), Manu and Br. Elias, of the Secretariat for the Laity, met to discuss the lay Marist vocation in Africa
- On Thursday, Br. Angel, Director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, will take part in the online meeting of the Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality, where the spirituality animators of the 11 provinces of the Americas will be present.
- On Thursday, Brothers João and Sylvain will take part in the meeting with the Bureau of the Laity.
- On Friday, Brother Sylvain, together with the Bureau of Education and Evangelisation, will take part in the meeting with the team of counsellors of Marist Youth Ministry.
- On Saturday, the group “Tutti Fratelli”, which brings together representatives of the congregations of Religious Brothers, will hold their annual meeting, where Br. Ernesto will take part with another 10 Brothers from the General House
- On Sunday 29th, Br. Ernesto will take part in an online meeting with the Marist Youth Ministry of Australia, where he will speak about Mary and Marcellin in his Circular “Places of Light”.

either by helping local and concrete situations that were in need, or by collaborating with the General Administration. Some Administrative Units have contributed financial funds, others have developed Humanitarian Emergency projects. In other parts of the Institute work is being done to discover and raise awareness of emerging needs, others are developing initiatives to raise funds to help with these needs.

As Marists of Champagnat we feel called to respond to the needs of our world. That is why, in June 2020, the General Council created the “Global Marist Family Fund for Humanitarian Emergencies”. The Bureau of Solidarity is responsible for developing this initiative in collaboration and coordination

with all the Administrative Units, in this way responding to the mandate of the General Council.

We have set ourselves two objectives:



1. To grow in our awareness of solidarity as a Global Family, which knows how to respond to the emerging needs of our time.
2. To respond to the humanitarian emergencies that arise in our world.

As a Marist of Champagnat, you can join us and collaborate, from your own concrete reality, to create a greater awareness of solidarity, as well as in fundraising.

SOLIDARITY

REFLECTION TEAM ON MARIST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY NETWORK

In October we started a small reflection group about the Marist International Solidarity Network, and to consider how to adapt the work already developed at the first Assembly in January 2018, adapting it to the Bureau of Solidarity. On 3 November we had our second meeting.

This small group consists of Rebecca (Australia), Victoria (Guatemala), José Luis (Mediterránea), Brother Cho (Ivory Coast) and the two Brothers Francis and Ángel Diego, as members of the Bureau of Solidarity.

reflecting on how to assume, from the Secretariat of Solidarity, the mandate given by the General Council to encourage this initiative.



The meetings are being held in two sessions, one in English and one in Spanish, adapted to the different time zones we are in, from Australia to Guatemala, via the Ivory Coast, Spain and Italy. After the meetings, the minutes are sent out so that they can be reviewed by the

members of this reflection team.

We are continuing the great work done at the Assembly and

Br. Ángel Diego – Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity

CAMEROON

SIGNS OF HOPE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND TATUM COMMUNITY



Since November 2016, heaven has been stormed with prayers and supplications from all and sundry, at home and abroad, for an end to the sociopolitical crisis in Cameroon. Trusting that God's time is always the best, the Brothers in Tatum Community, the lone surviving Community in the English-Speaking region of Cameroon recently challenged themselves to match prayers with action. Hundreds of young people with no means of relocating to safer areas to continue education stranded in the village have been a cause for concern for everyone looking into the future, often said to be in the hands of the youth. Hence, without prompt intervention, their future and particularly that of teenage mothers and their children remains bleak.

It is from the above background that the three Brothers in this Community took the challenge as preparations for a new academic year was underway to do something for these hopeless cases. In collaboration with the parents, an informal school setup has been put in place with some classrooms around the Community and the rest within

the Mission premises. A team of committed teachers has equally been invited to collaborate with the Brothers and deliver quality wholistic education to these children from Form One to Five.

With assistance from FMSI office in Rome, within the context of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance, the young people in this program have so far received some basic writing materials. This is a welcome relief since these have become very scarce in Tatum with the road-blocks and the fact that most prominent businessmen have relocated. As the learning process continues, more assistance in food items and sanitary equipment will equally follow.

As we call on Mary's continuous intercession, we continue seeking out the countless helpless young people and their families, victims of this senseless crisis that has brought everything to a standstill. This is our pride as Marists of Champagnat, not giving in to despair but instilling hope in them to believe that all is not lost.

COVID-19 - MARISTS IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

BR ÓSCAR MARTÍN: “CHAMPAGNAT IS ILL”

Brother Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councilor, shares with us a meditation that was born from the experience we have been living in the last few months. Below are his introductory words and, in these links, in PDF, is the full text of his reflection ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)).

The pandemic situation, the global crisis, the multitude of the sick and dead all over the world... have forced us all to take stock and change our way of looking at things.

Every day we hear news of people who are sick or dying, of acquaintances, friends, relatives, and brothers of our Institute who are infected... And this gives rise to intense feelings in us, at least for me, that are not always easy to manage. We become concerned about our own health, that of our brothers and of those we love. Each in our own way, we are living with experiences of uncertainty, fear, and disorientation. Maybe we ourselves have had to adjust to illness or frailty.

We can also be haunted, as I have been, by the desire to be more active in helping victims and those who are suffering. The witness of the dedication of so many health workers, of so many priests, men and women religious, of many Marists throughout the world, brothers and laypeople, is very powerful, courageous and challenging. Am I being over-prudent? Perhaps the best thing to do is to simply follow the advice of health professionals about prevention? Or rather, perhaps now is the moment to be more daring and get involved to help



those most in need today?

This indecision stays with me, and, while I have been trying to “let go” of some of my old security blankets and adopt a new stance, questions keep coming back to me, prodding me to sharpen my focus, such as: How do I face this dilemma from the standpoint of my Marist vocation? Is there a “Marist” way of living through a crisis? How did the first brothers deal with suffering and loss? In particular, how

did they react when they were told that Father Champagnat, founder, father, mentor, friend, was ill? And finally, how did Marcellin himself cope with his illness?

Maybe this different perspective can help us – at least it is a help to me. I have always been fascinated by the scene, so often recounted, of Marcellin ill,



COVID-19 - MARISTS IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

lying in bed, aware of the discouragement of his followers and the problems of the congregation, and, then, of how, leaning on the arm of Brother Stanislaus and making a supreme effort, he struggled up and entered the community room.

The Brothers were probably not used to seeing Marcellin in pain, clearly ill and weak. But the sight of him in that state and yet still on his feet maybe changed something in the history and future of the fledgling Institute.

The desire to put this question to myself and all of us is the reason for this article: Why not contemplate Marcellin Champagnat from this uncommon perspective? We are so used to looking at his qualities, his audacity, courage, and dynamism... perhaps now is a good time to look at another facet of the Founder: how he handled illness, weakness, and pain.

Writing these words is a way for me to share my own experience at this moment; more than a study at depth, I want this article to be a meditation. I invite all of us to stop and think about Marcellin in a way we are not used to: as a weak, ill, and vulnerable person.

The key to reading this reflection is found in the Document of our XXII General Chapter, when it invites us to “experience our vulnerability as a source of fruitfulness and freedom” (Message of the XXII General Chapter). This idea is integral to our considerations here, as we try to examine how Marcellin managed his experience of vulnerability and illness.

Read the full text: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

BR. CARLOS A. HUIDOBRO REFLECTION FROM THE HEART



Brother Carlos, Secretary General of the Institute (2013-2020), shares with the Marist world his reflections on the critical period experienced by humanity as a result of the pandemic.

Br. Carlos, inspired by Federico Fernández de Buján, proposes a Decalogue to be applied in this particular time:

1. Not to become obsessed with our “ego” and to give our all
2. Look up to the sky while still looking at the earth
3. Do what you can and leave the rest to God
4. Don’t bury the unavoidable desire to improve
5. Seeking God, finding God
6. Helping others to be better
7. The desire to believe
8. You are only happy in

company

9. Don’t look for happiness at a distance... it is very close to you.
10. Hope that gives us peace

He ends by suggesting that we put our trust in God: “dare to ask and pray to God not to cease to be present”.

The video, in Spanish, comes with subtitles in the 4 languages of the Institute. Use the YouTube settings to activate them.



NOVEMBER 20

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



We continue to remember this day, and there is good reason to continue doing so. Have we made progress? I think we can answer ‘yes’. Have we reached the end of this journey? There is no doubt we must answer ‘no’. In the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (8), Pope Francis himself acknowledges that progress has been made, but that this is not enough.

The global situation in which we find ourselves – the pandemic – unquestionably marks a setback in the implementation of Children’s Rights. In many parts of our world, the health crisis translates into an economic and social crisis. And in this type of crisis, we know very well that those who suffer the most are those most vulnerable, particularly children and young people.

In his recently published encyclical – the title of which inspires the concept of Rights – the Pope repeatedly mentions human rights in general and at times focusses particularly on the rights of children. In article 29 there is reference to children who suffer the consequences of poverty and hunger – rights which go to the heart of human dignity, which we cannot renounce in any circumstance.

In article 173 of this same encyclical, the Pope is precise in his sharpens his ideas, challenging the highest political institutions. He advocates reform even of the United Nations, so that “the concept of the family of nations can acquire real teeth.”

As Marists of Champagnat in this 21st century, we cannot avoid our responsibility to defend basic human rights and even more so to promote children’s rights. For some years now, we have been working in this area at the United Nations, and lobbying government agencies, to defend, protect and enhance the fulfillment of the rights of all children.

We want to continue growing in this domain, working in collaboration with others to develop creative responses, committing ourselves “firmly to the promotion and defence of the rights of children”, as the fifth call of the XXII General Chapter challenges us. Work in favour of children’s rights is increasing in the Provinces and Regions of the Institute. Collaboration with other institutions is also expanding. The creative search for new forms of partnerships with other congregations is developing both locally and at the level of the General Administration.

This time of pandemic can help us to be more sensitive to the needs of our world. It can be an opportunity to open wider “the eyes of our hearts and listen to the cries of children and young people.” We can thank God because, personally and as an Institution, as laypeople and as brothers, we are taking determined steps in this direction. Let us ask the Triune God to grant us the grace to be always sensitive to the needs of children and young people, and to grant us the strength to continue responding to those who need it most.

Br Angel Diego – Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity

marist world

MADAGASCAR: INAUGURACIÓN DEL NUEVO EDIFICIO DEL COLLÈGE IMMACULÉE CONCEPTION ANTSIRABE

BOLIVIA: NOVIADO REGIONAL CHAMPAGNAT COCHABAMBA

MALAWI: NOVIADO DE MTENDERE



ESPAÑA: GUADALAJARA

IRLANDA: MARIAN COLLEGE EN DUBLINO – NUEVO GRUPO DE LÍDERES MARISTAS

TIMOR ORIENTAL: ENTRADA OFICIAL DE LOS POSTULANTES MARISTAS 2020

VANUATU

AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY THANKED ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HIS APPEAL

On 3rd April 2020, category 5 Cyclone Harold raged Vanuatu's Island of Santo and caused very serious damage. Brothers' community house and St Michel Technical College were severely affected. Now, thanks to many generous donations mainly from Australian Marists, via Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS), it has been able to start the rebuilding process. This is a huge achievement given the challenges presented by the cyclone, the isolated location and of course the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 23 October 2020, celebrations occurred at St Michel Technical College, Vanuatu, when the Technical Classrooms reopened. Currently, rebuilding is underway for the boys' toilet and shower block. The Brother's House will be built next year and it will be undertaken by the Province's MAPS Fund, with coordination by the AMS team who have secured three funding partners for the project.



Australian Marist Solidarity community thanks in a special way the contributions that were received from Marist Brothers' communities. Indeed, these contributions totalled nearly 50% of the total amount raised for the appeal! Furthermore, Australian Marist Solidarity is very grateful to everyone who have contributed on the reconstruction project.

GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF BROTHERS TODAY

The International Commission of Brothers Today (ICBT) met online on November 10. It was the first time that the group came together again, virtually at that, since the scheduled meeting in March was canceled because of the pandemic.

The ICBT acts as a “think tank” for the Secretariat of Brothers Today and supports the directors of this Secretariat, in their work of animation. Furthermore, the ICBT is accompanied by two General Councilors who serve as links – Oscar Martin and Joao Carlos do Prado.

The present ICBT was appointed last year and had its first meeting in Rome in October 2019. The members are Brothers:

- Marcio Henrique – Brasil Centro-Norte, representing America Sur
- Juan Carlos Bolaños – Central America, representing Arco Norte
- Sefo Une – District of the Pacific, representing Oceania
- Anselmo Kim – Marist District of Asia, representing Asia
- Aureliano Garcia – Mediterraneo, representing Europe
- Ebel Muteveri – Southern Africa, representing Africa
- Tiamaro Alphonse – Madagascar, representing the Marist International Center (MIC)



Recently, Br. Simon Serero, the Rector of Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) in the Philippines, was also invited to be part of the ICBT.

After the welcoming and the prayer, the brothers took turns sharing about their respective communities and the work they are doing. They also spoke about the situation of the country where they are in this time of the pandemic, as well as of other realities in the regions they represent.

Brothers Oscar, Joao, Angel and Lindley then gave brief updates about the different things that have taken place in the general house these past months, in relation to the two communities and to the service of animation of the Institute. For the next part, the Secretariat of Brothers Today made the following presentation:

- On-Going Formation. Because of the pandemic, the programs for 2020 were either cancelled or postponed. The secretariat has organized some programs for 2021 to begin in May, as well as those to be done in the regions towards the end of the year on the theme Spirituality of the Heart. There will also be online short courses that the secretariat is thinking of offering.
- Initial Formation and Vocation Ministry. The secretariat is working on a World Map of Initial Formation alongside a Directory of Formation Houses. The process of the revision of the Formation Guide, as mandated by the 22nd General Chapter and defined in the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, has begun with the first online meeting on October 6 of the international commission formed for this purpose.
 - Year of Marist Vocations. This is envisioned to be launched on May 20, 2022 and will culminate on June 6, 2023. It is important to note that we are not only talking of the vocation of the Brothers, but of the Marist laity as well.
- Others. The secretariat is also working with the Tutti Fratelli group in Rome, and with Communications for the next FMS Message.

The meeting concluded with the Secretariat assigning some tasks for the commission members, namely, to:

- Validate the World Map of Initial Formation and update the Directory of Formation Houses;
- Discern the needs, identify the groups and propose possible short online courses that Brothers Today can organize and offer; and,
- Generate ideas on how to celebrate the Year of Marist Vocations.

The ICBT is looking forward to having a face-to-face meeting next year. However, the secretariat is set to convoke the commission virtually in two months’ time.

The ICBT is thankful to Teofilo Minga for doing the simultaneous translation.

NOVIATE IN SRI LANKA

The first year novices were not able to reach Tudella and are therefore being trained through Zoom. The so-called “prenovices” are from the Solomon Islands (Cosmas), East Timor (Julio, Filomeno, Dionisio, Pedro, Clementino, Salvador, Leonel, Juvencio), Bangladesh (Suman, Topu), Cambodia (Pech) and Vietnam (Thanh, Duy, Ly).

MEXICO

Two postulants, Cristóbal Tovias and Moisés González, together with Brother Javier Peña, are interviewing the Brothers about their lives as Marists. The interviews can be found on the facebook page of ConVocación Marista: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/147463016611898/1621451211349047/>

EAST TIMOR

On 18 November, 8 young men entered the postulancy. As they were unable to travel to the Philippines, the training course will be held in Baucau. There are 28 young people in training in the country, who are going through different stages.

PHILIPPINES

Several volunteers participated in the campaigns to distribute basic goods to the members of the Marist family around Marikina, who have been heavily affected by Typhoon Ulysses. The volunteers went from house to house to help the families of the Marist students who have been affected by the passage of the typhoon.

PERÚ

LAY PEOPLE RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE MARIST CHARISM



On Saturday 31 October, Brothers and lay people of the Province of Santa María de los Andes met online to commemorate the Brothers, Martyrs of Bugobe and other Marist martyrs in the history of our congregation. The presentation was made by Brother Alfonso García and there were testimonies from some Brothers who shared various aspects of the martyrs of Bugobe; especially those who knew Brother Fernando de la Fuente, who was from the Province.

It was in this context that seven lay Marists of the Community of Cana: Alfredo, Eliana, Jenny, Monica, Raul, Sonia and Sara, renewed, for two more years, their commitment to the Marist charism, according to the “Itinerary of growth in the lay Marist vocation” of the Province of Santa María de los Andes. They made this

commitment before Brother Saturnino Alonso (Provincial), Raúl Amaya (Director of the Bureau of the Laity), the lay people who are part of this Vocational Itinerary and some Brothers who participated in the meeting of lay communities.

In the words of these same lay men and women who renewed their commitment:

“The connection to the charism is for us a commitment to follow Jesus from the lay state and by living Marist spirituality. The desire to “Follow Jesus as Mary did” and to “make Champagnat’s dream of making Jesus known and loved”, leads us to renew our commitment to vinculation. We feel blessed to share this journey with the Marist Brothers in our community. We ask our Good Mother to be our companion on the way”.

LAVALLA200>

BR. PIETRO BETTIN: “LIFE BEGINS WHERE FEAR ENDS”

Br. Pietro Bettin, from Italy and of the Mediterránea Province, was a member of the [Lavalla200> Atlantis community](#) in South Africa for 3 years, until July 2020. In this interview, he shares some aspects of his experience with the Institute.



What motivated you to leave everything to participate in an international and intercultural community?

My motivation came from the fresh challenge that Br Emili, Superior General, laid down on the occasion of the Marist bicentenary: to establish international communities in every region who would be a significant presence among children and young people in vulnerable situations on the periphery of the world. It was also a response to Pope Francis' invitation to be an outgoing Church that allows itself to go beyond geographical and existential borders.

Considering my age (almost 70 when I went), I thought that this might be the last opportunity for me to have a different experience of community and mission from the one I had known in my 50 years of religious life.

Of course there were many question marks. Faced with my fears in making such a decision, I returned to the question asked by Brother Emili in one of his letters: What would you do if you were not afraid? What would we do as Marists if we were not afraid?

Life begins where fear ends.

Briefly describe some significant moments in your community life

What stands out for me in our community lifestyle, was the family spirit that was evident in the deep sharing of our community meetings, in the care of the house, the garden, the

kitchen, etc.. The other important element was our commitment to ministry. Particularly significant was the end of the day when, in the peace of the evening, we had our moment of contemplation and prayer to share what God had worked through us during the day.

... and in the ministry of the community?

Our settling into the area of Atlantis was gradual. After three years, we could say that we were well established and well known both in the parish and around the school.

We went to Atlantis with no particular plan in mind other than that of being “a significant evangelising presence among children and young people in vulnerable situations”. In the first year we contacted all the associations that were involved with the youth of Atlantis and offered our collaboration, where possible, especially in extracurricular activities. This allowed us to get to know and understand the social and cultural context of the population.

The second year we officially joined the staff of a primary school for afternoon activities. We organised a whole week of recreation and educational activities over the summer, in which we involved pupils from the Marist high school in Rondebosch and students from Atlantis. In order to get to know more about the social context, we arranged a series of interviews with local people with years of experience in education. In the third year, we started up a leadership training program to be held in 12 meetings, open to 20 students chosen from

the high schools of Atlantis. We managed to hold 3 meetings, but then everything stopped because of coronavirus 19. All this gradual process of integration into a new culture, starting from scratch, was a really interesting experience of working alongside those responsible locally for the education of young people.

What key words best capture your experience?

Alcune parole del Fr. Emili Turù all'88° assemblea USG, nel 2016, mi hanno guidato in questa scelta. Le riporto: Siamo tutti chiamati a mettere nelle nostre vite un po' di pazzia e di audacia e andare oltre il conosciuto. Uscire dalla nostra zona di confort per andare in questo spazio dove si fanno i miracoli.

È interessante anche un video realizzato da Maria Bobillo che con 100 parole illustra l'esperienza di Atlantis.

Describe the most significant scenario or event in your time with Lavalla200

The most significant event of my time at Lavalla200, I think, was the celebration of my Golden Jubilee on June 6, 2018, St Marcellin's Day, at St Joseph's Marist College. The two communities of Atlantis and Rondebosch organised the event unbeknown to me. We started at 9 a.m. with Mass with the senior pupils. Before the offertory, the brothers of the 2 communities (+ Maria) gathered in front of the altar and Tony read a beautiful prayer and Father John read the blessing. We had lunch in the school with the teachers and dinner in the community with the Brothers and some lay friends.

Overall, I was very happy to celebrate my 50 years of religious life on the feast of St. Marcellin and in an international community on the outskirts

of the Marist world. It was a special, unexpected day, a great surprise, a witness to the affection of the brothers and lay people around me, an occasion to give thanks to God for his faithfulness to me.

What has been your most important learning?

Contact with different cultures has taught me not to judge diversity as a defect, but as an asset. Moreover, the presence of laypeople demanded a new approach to community life and spirituality: I had to learn to be flexible and patient.

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

This type of experience is a unique opportunity for growth in our Marist vocation, for a host of reasons: a significant evangelising presence on the peripheries of the world, international collaboration outside the confines of our own province, a communion of cultures and appreciation of diversity, organising our community life in a shared way with laypeople (men and women). All these elements have strengthened my attachment to the Marist vocation.

What were the biggest challenges you experienced during this time?

One challenge that stayed with me all the time was the difficulty of communicating: I couldn't get used to the way they spoke English. I couldn't understand the children because their mother tongue is Afrikaans. I had to react to the temptation to shut myself off and find other ways to communicate.

The other big challenge was due to my age (70). I often felt useless because I could not get into all the activities that others were doing. Until I discovered the importance of my presence, simply presence, for many people.

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

Preparation is important. Learn the language well so that you can make contact with local people as soon as possible. Ask for the light of the Spirit and the gift of discernment. It takes courage, it takes patience; and trust in God.

Preparation is important. Learn the language well so that you can make contact with local people as soon as possible. Ask for the light of the Spirit and the gift of discernment. It takes courage, it takes patience; and trust in God.

“God is eternal newness. He impels us constantly to set out anew, to pass beyond what is familiar, to the fringes and beyond. He takes us to where humanity is most wounded, where men and women, beneath the appearance of a shallow conformity, continue to seek an answer to the question of life's meaning. God is not afraid! He is fearless! He is always greater than our plans and schemes. Unafraid of the fringes, he himself became a fringe (cf. Phil 2:6-8; Jn 1:14). So if we dare to go to the fringes, we will find him there; indeed, he is already there.” (Gaudete et exultate, 135).



NETWORK OF MARIST COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE

For years now, in the Marist Region of Europe (MRE), we have been reflecting on and defining a new project which we have called Network of Marist Communities in Europe. Networking is already a reality in the region in some other fundamental areas of our life and mission: ministry, solidarity, formation, etc.

There are many communities, brothers and laypeople, who, in one way or another, have participated in the reflection and implementation of this project.

There are four principles on which the Network is based:

We promote a new and enriching vision that encourages us to walk towards a “global family” to generate and nourish Marist life and mission in Europe in all its diversity.

We feel called to encourage, accompany, and strengthen communities focused on fraternity, which cultivate a spirituality based on the encounter with God, with oneself and with others. Thus, we respond in a concrete way to the emerging needs that challenge us as Christians and Marists in connection with the local church and/or other institutions.



We share, as a network, synergies, people, mission, life, communication... from a global availability, to offer a more hopeful view of the Marist future in Europe.

We build homes of light as Marists of Champagnat, involving ourselves passionately in the creation of a family lifestyle open to all in order to respond to the calls of the XXII General Chapter.



Video presentation (Moving)

They are not a group of “special” communities, as if they were a “selection” that would serve as an example to others... It is simply a matter of promoting a new vision by overcoming provincial barriers. It is open to other communities

that feel this call. At present, eight communities in different provinces have begun, and we present them in a simple way with this video.



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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

Facebook

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

Twitter

 https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat