



Year XIII - Number 658 | 23 DECEMBER 2020

# MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | [WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG](http://WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG)

## GUIDED BY THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM, LET US CREATE HOMES OF LIGHT

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR 2020 OF BR. ERNESTO SANCHEZ BARBA, SUPERIOR GENERAL

Dear Marists of Champagnat,

Warm greetings from Rome. I wish the very best for each of you, your communities and families, in the midst of the challenging situation we are experiencing across the world due to the pandemic.

To speak of Christmas is to refer to the light of God in our midst. A light that shines in the darkness. It seems that in this year 2020 there has been a lot of darkness and so it is harder for us to discover this light amid all that we are living through. And yet, that light has never faltered.

Three months ago, I sent a Circular to the Institute, inviting everyone to build "homes of light", to care for life and generate new life.

I invite you to be watchful for our inner light to remain aflame, so that together we can be the "Marist Charismatic Family", "Beacons of Hope in the midst of this troubled world", in the words of the XXII General Chapter.

Christmas is a time to look for ways to rekindle that light:

- the light that comes from the Good News of having God among us, for that is what Christmas is all about.
- the light that gives us hope to face the uncertainty that surrounds us.
- the light that helps us to overcome our fears and anxieties (which may have increased in this special time the world is

living through).

- the light that we glimpse in the generosity and dedication of so many people in their service to others.
- the light that leads us to imagine a different future, one that we want to create together under the watchful gaze of God. Like the star of Bethlehem that led the Magi from the East to go on their quest beyond their cultures and homelands.

In my Circular I mentioned the idea of caring for the light that is in each of us, developing our inner lives and spirituality. We must look within and there perceive the light of God shining brightly, a source of hope.

We learn from Mary how to do this. We can imagine her heart, so free and full of God, and therefore transparent to God's light. The light that came from within her was the light of God shining in and through her. We are invited to have the same experience. We are also invited to discern the light of everyone around us, in our communities, families, fraternities, workplaces.

We are invited to discern the light of the most vulnerable, those who lack even the basics of life. We go out of our way to share what we have, to share our very selves. And to let their light shine on us.

To be a beacon of hope in this troubled world is an invitation for us to let our light shine, not just as individuals, but as commu-

nities and families, as a global Marist family.

Marcellin was a light in the midst of the dark situations he had to live through. Like him, let us be light for those around us. Guided by the star of Bethlehem, let us build "homes of light", in this particular moment of fragility and vulnerability around the world.

My best wishes to each of you, your families, your communities,

your fraternities. May this Christmas and the coming year 2021 be full of hope for you.

Fraternally



*Guided by the star of Bethlehem, let us create homes of light*

The General Council wishes all Marists of Champagnat a Christmas and a 2021 full of hope.

## GHANA

# FMSI HELPS TO INCREASE THE MARIST EDUCATIONAL OFFER IN KUMASI

The Marist Brothers of Kumasi, Ghana, of the District of West Africa, together with [FMSI](#), have completed in November the construction of a new two-storey classroom block of the "Marist Preparatory School", in Sabin Akrofrom. The project, financed by the [Italian Bishops' Conference \(CEI\)](#), aims to accommodate more than 1000 students, since due to the lack of space and the great demand for enrolment many were unable to attend.

The Marist school is a reference point for the local community and one of the best in the country. Thanks to this expansion, the school, whose fees are accessible even to low-income families, will be able to accommodate more students and guarantee teaching in classrooms with 40 students per class and benefit learning. Previously, the classrooms had an average of 60 students.

"The availability of adequate spaces represents a form of investment in the education of the new generations," said

Brother John Kusi Mesa, the school's director, in expressing his satisfaction and gratitude to FMSI and the Italian Bishops' Conference.

During the realization of the project, families and students were involved, which meant a great formation experience for the whole school community.



**LAITY USA**

54 people were registered in the formation programme for the laity of the Province. The first meeting will be on January 2. There will be 5 webinars dealing with various Marist themes. In May, the group will hold a discernment retreat and on June 6th there will be a commitment ceremony.

**AUSTRALIA AND PACIFIC**

Recently, Brothers from Australia and District of Pacific gathered for a Q&A Zoom-session about the future Province. The process over the next two years and the work of the Committees and Work Groups will help clarify issues and provide options for the new Province to be created. In September 2020, the Superior General and his Council approved the request and endorsed the plans to move to a single administrative unit for the Region Oceania by the end of 2022.

**LAITY PHILIPPINES**

On the 28th and 29th December, members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family will hold a formation session, which will precede the renewal of the commitment, which will take place on the 2nd January. There are five fraternities of the ChMMF in this country.

**COMPOSTELA**

The last meeting of the Guidance Coordinators of the Spanish and Portuguese schools of the Province was dedicated to reflection on an inclusive perspective in relation to diversity, with the aim of ensuring an inclusive, equitable and quality education, as well as promoting learning opportunities for all.

**BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA****BROTHER EVILÁZIO TEIXEIRA AND MANUIR MENTGES, RECTORS OF THE PUCRS**

**T**he Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS) held the inauguration ceremony of the new 2021-2024 administration on 8 December. The ceremony was presided over by the Chancellor of the University, Dom Jaime Spengler, Archbishop of Porto Alegre, who announced the renewal of the Rector of the PUCRS, Br. Evilázio Teixeira, and the inauguration of the new Rector, Br. Also present was Br. Inácio Etges, Provincial of Brasil Sul-Amazônia and President of the "Rede Marista"

After the reading and the presentation of the appointments, the other names that will make up the new administration 2021-2024 were also made known. The new members were presented and Brother Evilázio reviewed the management of the last quadrennial.

**Next steps towards the new administration**

In his speech as rector, Brother Evilázio Teixeira, highlighted that the great challenge for the future of a university like the PUCRS "continues to be that of preparing

people to be better human beings and good professionals; to promote teaching and research that have as a premise the commitment to the search for knowledge as the best service that can be offered to humanity".

For the next four years, the rector highlighted three fundamental strategic guidelines, which must be given priority in the coming years, considering the context and relevance for the University: academic matrix, educational model and institutional performance.

Brother Evilázio concluded his speech by renewing his vows with the Marist mission and reaffirming the commitment to promote strategic collaborations and the commitment to overcome challenges "in a coherent and consistent manner, with wisdom and humility in favour of the mission, taking as a premise the care of life".

See here the [full name of the new management 2021-2024 of the PUCRS](#) and watch below the video of the ceremony.

## MARIST EDUCATION WCE

# EMPOWERING MARIST STUDENTS TO LEAD WITH MARIST VALUES IN WEST CENTRAL EUROPE



**MARIST  
LEADERSHIP**

The Marist Leadership Programme is an initiative of the Mission Council, in the province of West Central Europe. It aims to empower Marist students to lead with Marist values, given by Marcellin Champagnat. The programme was launched in partnership with Kinharvie in 2016. It is led by two facilitators: Aisling Demaison (Marist Education) and Alastair Callaghan (Kinharvie).

Marist Student Leaders receive leadership training by both professional facilitators, are guided and supported in their schools by designated Marist Coordinators, and supported by a team of teachers and management that make up the Marist Core Team.

It is a two-year programme consisting of facilitation training in year one and a mentoring programme in year two. Marist Leaders carry out chosen initiatives based on Marist values over the two years.

The programme currently exists in six schools in the province: Moyle Park College, Marian College and Marist College Athlone (Ireland); St Johns RC HS Dundee, St

Mungos Academy Glasgow and St Josephs College Dundee (Scotland).

At the end of their two years the Marist Leaders are invited to join a Marist Leader Alumni, where they can continue to be part of meet ups, continue their good work and attend regular events with their Marist family. We are very proud of all of the Marist Leaders who have been through the programme, and those who are future Marist Leaders.

## Virtual trainings

Normally the year starts with a gathering of all schools in The Hermitage in France and visits to each school by the facilitators for leadership training, but this year that was not possible. In recent months, all trainings and inductions have been carried out virtually and with masks on. New Marist Leaders have had online inductions and year two Marist Leaders have presented their activities and plans for the year.

The Marist Leaders have been amazingly positive and upbeat about the whole situation. Not only that but they

## marist world

FRANCE: COLLÈGE-LYCÉE-NOTRE DAME LES MARISTES – MARSEILLE



EAST TIMOR: YOUNG MARISTS



SPAIN, GUADALAJARA: FOOD COLLECTION CAMPAIGN



NEW ZEALAND: CHAMPAGNAT MARIST CENTRE



SOUTH AFRICA: MARIST MERCY CARE



BRAZIL: BR. GENTIL PAGANOT CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF MARIST RELIGIOUS LIFE

have also risen to the challenge and led many new creative initiatives that help develop Marist values in their community.

### **Some of those initiatives include;**

- Name tags with a photo of teachers, while they are wearing masks. Aim was to make it less intimidating for new students who have just arrived in the school.
- Created a video tour of the school for new students who have no access to many areas due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- A Marist Week in October for the school community to all focus on Marist Values.
- A November remembrance table with paper butterflies. Each student in the school names someone they would like to remember and colours in the butterfly. They all make one giant butterfly and there is a prayer service for all the names.
- Shoe-box appeal – all students donate towards a gift and write a personalized card for patients in the hospital.
- ‘Something to look forward to’ – Marist Leaders create a weekly tea meet up for senior students so they

have something to look forward to each week.

- Organized non-uniform days to raise money for local charities

These are only a short summary of the many initiatives they have carried out and many more are planned. Each term the Marist Leaders focus on one agreed Marist Value and then build their ideas around this.

The wonderful Marist Coordinators who work so hard to support the Marist Leaders and volunteer their time to do so are:

- Moyle Park College: Leigh Ellis, Tracy Doyle, Bernie Doonan.
- Marian College: Kym Doyle, Mitch Lindsay
- Marist College Athlone: Orla McGrath, Carol Nolan
- St Johns RC HS: Laura Robbins, Lynn Cockburn
- St Mungos Academy: Paul Michael Graham, Caroline Keegan
- St Josephs College: Kate McCaughey

Aisling Demaison  
Marist Education West Central Europe

**SIRIA: A WAIT THAT DOES NOT END  
LETTER FROM ALEPO NO 40**

**Dear Friends,**

We are in the time of Advent; this time that marks the liturgical expectation of the birth of Christ. It is a time of hope and expectation.

The prophet Isaiah 9,1 proclaimed: "The people who walk in darkness see a great light...".

Sadly, the Syrian people continue to walk in darkness. For him, the light is far from being seen!

Four years after the end of the war in Aleppo, its inhabitants, like all Syrians, continue to suffer from its consequences which are manifested today by other wars: An economic war, a war of sanctions, a war of devaluation of the local currency and so many other miseries... And, as if all of this were not enough, the COVID19 pandemic is worsening the anguish of my people.

The "Cesar Act" has as a result the punishing of the entire Syrian population by imposing sanctions at all levels.

How many times have I heard people say, "We almost miss the time when the bombs fell on us... It is true that we were afraid of the bombs; however, we were more comfortable. Today, the bombs no longer threaten us, but everything else suffocates us..."

A friend of mine who is a doctor told me that to complete a patient's chemotherapy treatment, she needed a drug that the Syrian government used to provide for free.

Today it costs over 4 million Syrian pounds... Imagine what it means when a very good salary barely reaches one hundred thousand Syrian pounds!

**Tutti Fratelli**

In this letter, I want to share with you my reflections based on the encyclical promulgated by the Holy Father on October 3, 2020. At number 25, he writes:

"The wars, the violence, the persecution for racial or religious reasons, and so many attacks on human dignity are viewed in different ways depending on whether or not they suit certain, fundamentally economic interests. What is true when it suits a powerful person ceases to be true when it does not benefit him. These situations of violence are multiplying (painfully in many parts of the world, to the point of taking the features of what one might call a 'third world war in stages')."

Are we in Syria going through this "third world war in stages"?

Why do we have to spend the winter cold without fuel to warm up when our country is an oil producer, but the production fields are under the control of American troops?

In addition, Mr. Trump, the world order maker, just announced his intent not to leave this region of northeastern Syria.

Why does our currency have to undergo a galloping and

constant devaluation? Who has an interest in this?

Why impoverish a people who used to live in dignity and make them at all costs beggars and in debt?

Who decided to deprive us of electricity, fuel, gasoline, bread, medicine and so many other necessities?

In another paragraph (26), the Pope tells us:

"This is not surprising if we consider the absence of horizons able to unite us, because what falls into ruin in any war is "the project of fraternity inscribed in the vocation of the human family"; this is why "any threatening situation fuels lack of confidence and withdrawal into oneself." Thus, our world is moving forward in a meaningless dichotomy, with the pretension of "guaranteeing stability and peace on the basis of false security supported by a mentality of fear and mistrust".

The words of the Holy Father come to explain this disillusion of the Syrian people.

How can we speak of a fraternity project when they impose upon us a false sense of security supported by a mentality of fear and mistrust?

How to understand that, in this 21st century, great powers decide the fate and the future of a country?

### **Blue Marists**

And, although, we are often disappointed, tired and worried, we continue, as Blue Marists, to sow hope to the best of our ability.

We want to share few good news with you.

On Saturday, December 5, 2020, and on the occasion of World Volunteering Day, FOCSIV (Federation of Christian Organizations International Volunteering Service) awarded Dr. Nabil Antaki its 27th international volunteering award. It is a new recognition from an international body for the commitment of Dr. Nabil and for the work of the Blue Marists.

Our book "The Letters of Aleppo" has been published in both Spanish and Italian versions.

The Spanish version which has the title: "CARTAS DE ALEPO" is published by the Marist publishing house "Edelvives". You can acquire it and give it as a Christmas

present at the following addresses: <https://www.edelvives.com/es/Catalogo/p/cartas-de-alepo>

The Italian edition was published by Harmattan Italy under the title "LETTERE DA ALEPPO". You can acquire it and offer it as a Christmas present, at the following addresses: <https://www.amazon.it/Lettere-Aleppo.../dp/8878923982>

The project "Sharing Bread" continues to serve the elderly. In fact, 170 elderly people, living alone in a precarious situation, without family and without support, receive a daily hot meal with fruit and bread, prepared by about ten Blue Marist ladies. The young volunteers who distribute these meals and in response to the Pope's invitation to young people on the occasion of the 32nd World Youth Day, collect the words of wisdom kept by these elderly people. They thus participate in the campaign launched by the Laity Family Life (<http://www.laityfamilylife.va>).

Listening to people's grievances, we could not go without an answer. We took the initiative to distribute a substantial food basket to 700 of the poorest families.

### **Blue Marist projects**

Since the Syrian government has not enacted a 2nd lock down of the country, the other Blue Marist projects have resumed normally since September 2020.

The educational projects "Learn to Grow" and "I Want to Learn" have seen the number of children increase significantly. New premises have been fitted out to transform them into a classroom.

The Heartmade workshop added 3 other rooms to allow for greater production.

Since September 2020, all the members of the Blue Marists have undergone continuous training, the themes of which touch the Marist spirit and the sense of solidarity and volunteering.

By the time, you read this 40th letter, Christmas will be upon us. May this Christmas be a time of reunion, despite all the restrictions that are imposed. May this Christmas be a time of prayer for all the children of the world. May this Christmas be a time of hope.

Br. Georges Sabé  
For the Blue Marists of Aleppo  
13 December 2020

COLOMBIA

# END OF THE 2020 PROGRAMME OF THE INTER-PROVINCIAL NOVITIATE IN MEDELLÍN

**O**n December 8th, with the first profession of Brother Kevin Quezada, the activities of the year in the Interprovincial Novitiate of Medellin came to an end. Brother Ricardo Alfredo Mundo Dueñas, who also finished his novitiate, made his first profession in El Salvador. As well as them, two other candidates to religious life, after the two years of novitiate, will live an extended period of six months. Four novices finished their first year and will move on to the second. Eight new novices are expected to begin their first year in February 2021.

Brother José Miguel Caballero Hierro, from the [Province of Norandina](#), has been Master of Novices since 2014.

On December 8, he finished his term of service. The new Master of Novices is Brother Alejandro Herrera, from the Province of Central America. In addition to the Master, the formation team will consist of Brothers Jesús Hernández (sub-master) from México Occidental, and Geovanni Velasco, from Norandina.

Below is a summary of the experience spent in the novitiate during this particular year, as described in the November bulletin.

## 2020 at the Marist Novitiate

This 2020, at the [Marist Novitiate in Medellín](#), has been a complex one, marked by surprise, uncertainty, sobriety, creativity and innovation to which the pandemic has brought us.

The apostolic mission was diminished, it was time to reinvent ourselves through participation in virtual platforms and social networks, in sporadic collaborations with the Marist educational centres of the Region and in support of our neighbourhood through messages of encouragement and care. The fraternal experience in the community was accentuated by daily and exclusive

living together: cooking together, shared domestic work, more frequent and innovative recreation, more time for shared holidays and festivities.

On the outside, the relationship with our families, with the Fraternity and with the Novitiate of Cochabamba by video call was a pleasant novelty.

The interior spirituality seems to have been a challenging experience for each of us because the pandemic tested our moods. We had to follow personal paths of acceptance and acceptance of the new situation. Without a doubt, the experience of silence, personal listening, the monthly retreats and the May and November retreats were a solid support. God accompanied our journey, giving us encouragement and challenging us to love more.

This year teaches us to welcome relational austerity, admiration for the simple and routine, to live today and have patience, to understand that the Marist mission, more than the activities that are performed, is the way of relating to the few or the many with whom we can find ourselves in close contact or at a distance. Being grateful to God for his love and goodness, we come to the end of this year.



# THE VICAR GENERAL EMPHASIZES THAT THE CHALLENGE OF EDUCATION IS TO “LISTEN, UNDERSTAND AND PROPOSE”

**A**s a society, as Marists, let's not let ourselves be robbed of the school. The school has a value in itself, which has to do with the ethical root of what it means to educate. I firmly believe that we have a very beautiful task, not only for this century, but for the following centuries of life”, affirmed Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, during his participation in the 3rd Seminar of Service Learning (SLA), on this occasion organised by the Marist Sector of Chile, in association with the Marist Province of México Central and with the Red Corazón Solidario, with the motto “Connect yourself to SLA: a pedagogical response in times of crisis”.

A+S is a methodology that allows the linking of curricular contents with social service actions. It is applied to projects that combine pedagogical intentions with solidarity objectives.

The meeting, held through Zoom, was attended by brothers and sisters and lay educators from pre-school to university level from different countries in the Arco Norte Region, Central America and South America.

The aim of the seminar was to identify and analyze the active service-learning method, to evaluate the experience of A+S and to integrate the values of solidarity and civic responsibility in the students.

Among the speakers, Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez tackled the theme “Challenges of school education in the 21st century”; Xus Martín (doctor of pedagogy) dealt with the argument “Why A+S in times of crisis”; Valeria Romero (Marist educator) spoke on “Work in reflective groups: Responses to social problems from A+S”; Chantal Jouannet (psychologist) presented “A+S, one of the responses for the co-construction of new realities”. In addition to the exhibitions, 18 workshops and projects took place, with the participation of facilitators from Mexico, Chile, Argentina and Bolivia.

## Presentation by Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez

The Vicar General of the Marist Institute emphasised that it is not possible to speak of school and education in the



XXI century “without stopping to listen to the cries of the children and young people who continue to resound at the doors, inside and outside our schools. And the question that I would like to ask you, who are committed to service, and myself, is: “do we listen, do we understand these cries, do we propose anything? I think it is something fundamental. And the methodology we are facing now is “listen, understand and propose”, and this is an important shift in our attitude when it comes to responding to the needs of our communities and the needs of children.

Speaking about the future of schools, Br. Luis Carlos noted that “distance learning, online or remote, is here to stay, this is not just an effect of the pandemic . In some places teachers in one centre will start sharing their classes with colleagues in other centres. And students will participate in the possibilities of listening to other teachers. And we need to be wise about this and more focused. Before concluding his presentation, Brother Luis Carlos said: “Certainly, history has changed us, but we can also change history, and that is what we want to do. See here the full speech on “Challenges of school education in the 21st century”: [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2496301897337064&id=108178355899945&rdr](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2496301897337064&id=108178355899945&rdr)

## Digital site

The meeting was also an opportunity to present the A+S website ([www.aprendizaje.maristas.cl](http://www.aprendizaje.maristas.cl)), a digital site that will allow the sharing of testimonies, resources, plans and service learning projects, connecting educators in the Americas with the challenge of continuing to weave a network through training in solidarity and human rights.

## GENERAL HOUSE

# MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF MARIST SPIRITUALITY AND PATRIMONY

The Spiritual Heritage Commission is composed of the following members: Antonio Ramalho (Brasil Centro Norte – Coordinator of the Commission), Br. André Lanfrey (L'Hermitage), Br. Michael Green (Australia), Mr. Diogenes P. Araujo (Brasil Centro-Sul), Br. Allan De Castro (East Asia), Br. Vincent de Paul Kouassi (District of West Africa), Br. The commission is accompanied by the Brothers Today Secretariat and Brothers Óscar Martín and João Carlos do Prado are the General Councillors who liaise with the group.

The commission met virtually on October 8, 2020 to evaluate the work of the brothers on the theme of patrimony, management of spirituality, projects, research and preparation of articles for the Marist Notebook.

After the words of welcome to the members of the commission by Brothers Ángel Medina and Antonio Ramalho, all the participants had the opportunity to share the work they are doing.

Brother Óscar Martín, liaison councillor, presented the following topics to the Commission:

- Preparation of the texts of the Rule of Life and Constitutions
- Organisation of the Commission's work schedule, with a view to the future: Symposium, Heritage Course
- Holding, in June 2021, a meeting of the General

Councils of the four branches of the SM in the Marist places of origin with the intention of unifying and enlivening the joint journey of study and deepening of the common Marist Patrimony. A first joint visit will be made to these places.

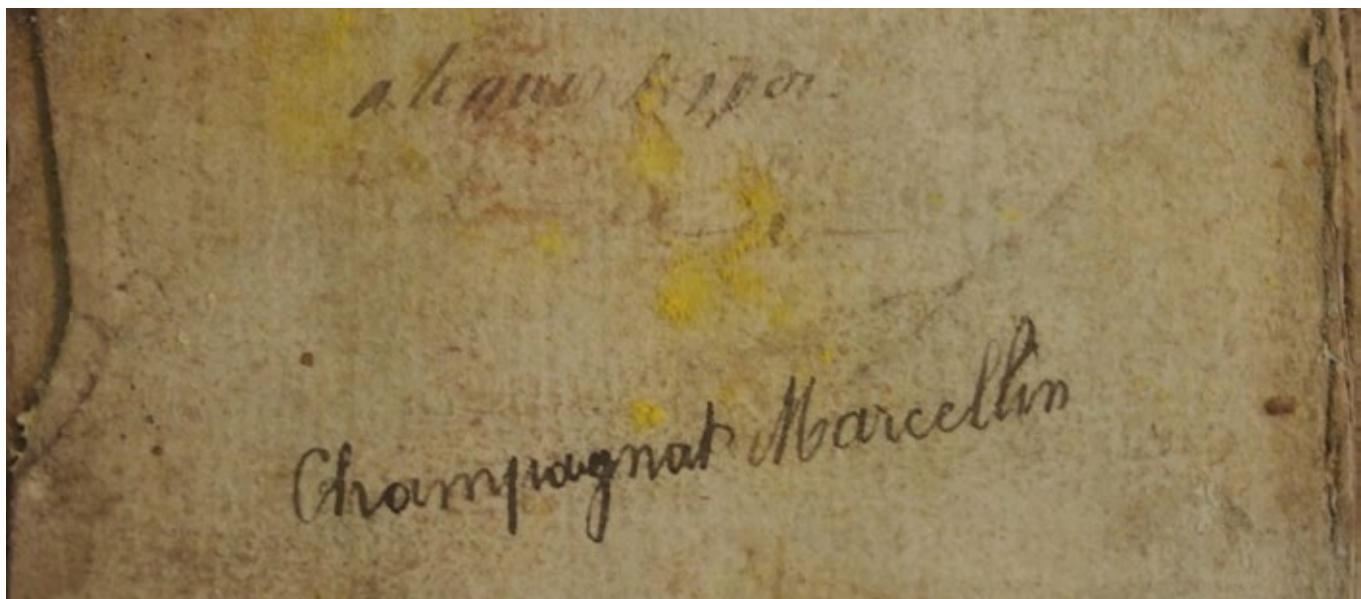
- Commission for the Formation Guide. This group of brothers was recently appointed for this task. Various experts will be consulted to renew this document, and the Patrimony Commission will certainly be included in this delicate work.

Brother Antonio Ramalho presented the theme of the 39th edition of Marist Notebooks, planned for April 2021. Brother André Lanfrey will follow the coordination of the publication.

The next meeting of the group is planned for January and a face-to-face meeting is planned for June or September next year.

Second virtual meeting: January 2021 to take up again the programme of CM39, other publications such as FMS Studia, the course on patrimony. Possibly, on 26 or 27 January, at 2 p.m. Rome time.

Face-to-face meeting: in January the theme of the face-to-face session will be taken up again in June (21-25) or September (20-24) 2021 for greater certainty. The themes of the Symposium, the Heritage course, will be addressed.



GENERAL HOUSE

# MEETINGS OF SOLIDARITY DELEGATES BY REGION



**O**n 9 and 10 December, 31 Solidarity representatives from 24 Administrative Units took part in the first round of regional meetings run by the Secretariat of Solidarity. Five meetings were held (Africa, South America, Arco-Norte, Asia-Oceania and Europe) by videoconference. Along with the Province solidarity delegates, we also had representatives from SED, Corazon Solidario and UMBRASIL. The meetings were led by Brothers Francis and Angel Diego, directors of the Secretariat of Solidarity.

The main objective of these meetings was to have the opportunity to get to know each other and to share what we are and what we do. Indirectly, through this meeting, we have been able to reinforce some of the calls of the XXII General Chapter. We have discovered, once again, the sense of belonging to a "global charismatic family", sharing Marist life in all its diversity, and growing in our desire to act as a global body.

### Building bridges

During this unsettled period, the result of the pandemic, we have been trying to respond creatively, taking advantage of new technologies to communicate with, strengthen links and build bridges within the Marist world, so as to be bridge builders on a wider scale in the midst of our society.

Through our simple and fraternal sharing in the course of our meetings, we have managed to reinforce our efforts and commitment to be attentive to the needs of our world, to "journey with the children and young people living on the margins of life" and to build a more just and more human world. We can truly say that we have experienced a sense of belonging to the same family, beyond our cultural and linguistic diversity. People from more than 20 countries sharing, working on and dreaming about a common ideal.

Issues that have been raised in the sharing include concern for Child Rights, growth in our ecological awareness and action, education in solidarity in our schools, attention to emerging needs, being creative in our search for alternative models, increasing our presence on the margins of the world, networking and collaboration... All of them represent a challenge for the Marist world. Likewise, all of them are real issues today in one way or another in the five continents.

### Solidarity Network

During the various meetings we have been able to share our main concerns in the area of solidarity, as well as some of the actions being taken in our Administrative Units. These concerns and actions cover a wide range of approaches to solidarity.

From the Secretariat of Solidarity, we would like to thank all the participants, and their support teams as well. We are grateful to them for making themselves available, their Maristness, their efforts for the most needy, and attempts to respond to the emerging needs of our time. It has been a great opportunity to discover the treasure that is the Marist Institute on the 5 continents.

We would also like to thank Brother Teofilo for his service in translation. A great help, and a great service, putting his gifts at the service of others. Thank you, Teofilo.

Marcellin let himself be touched by the needs of his time and found a way to respond to them. We ask God, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, to open our hearts to discover the needs around us and to give us the strength to respond boldly to them.

Secretariat of Solidarity

# MERRY CHRISTMAS! SEE YOU ON JANUARY 7TH



The Communications Department of the General Administration of the Institute  
wishes you all a happy and holy Christmas

Thank you for joining us every week in 2020. We are especially grateful to the translators, who work free of charge to make information available and to be an instrument of unity of the Global Marist Family. Our translators are Heloisa Afonso de Almeida Sousa (Brasil Centro-Norte) and Brothers Gilles Hogue (Canada), Jean-Pierre

Cotnoir (Canada), Manoel Soares (Brasil Centro-Norte), Douglas Welsh (West Central Europe), Jeff Crowe (General Administration) and Michael Sexton (Australia).

The next Marist News bulletin will be published on 7 January.



#### Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto:comunica@fms.it)

**Website**

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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