

# SCHOLASTIC DIRECTORY





# MEET THE YOUTH IN INITIAL TRAINING



## BRO. ROBERTO

### CONSTANZA, FMS

My name is Roberto Constance. I am Salvadorian and I am 28 years old. I am a third-year scholastic and live in the formation house located in Guatemala City. Currently I share life and community with several postulants and with 4 brothers who work in different ministries in Guatemala.

Presently, I am studying for a degree in Theology and another in Chemical and Biological Sciences. I like to read, watch television series, and cook. I come from a small family. I am the eldest of 2 children, my father and mother currently live in El Salvador and my brother is married and has a son, which makes me a lucky uncle. I am happy with my life and with who I am. I am passionate about my ministry, my being a brother and being present others despite the difficulties that we face because of COVID-19 crisis. I enjoy being a teacher, and I assist in the youth ministry program.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

As a Marist alumnus, I attended two schools administered by the Marist Brothers, the first was middle school, Colegio Marista San Alfonso, where I first met the brothers in sixth grade. I then attended a Marist high school, El Colegio Liceo Salvadoreño. After graduation, I continued to be involved in the REMAR program, which was offered at various ministries including Colegio San Alfonso. I would help to accompany the youth groups and assist the youth ministry and vocation teams of the school. Through my involvement,

I continued to experience the Marist charism and mission of the Brothers. It was because of the various meetings and gatherings of young people that were taking place in the province that I gradually felt called to share in this mission.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

I think that one of the biggest challenges are being a bridge builder and a being beacon of light, especially among people who are deeply fragmented, discouraged, and disillusioned. For people who are living in these complex realities, we must go the extra mile to carry out these calls, especially among the children and young people, who sometimes are the first individuals to experience discouragement and feel disconnected from society. As a young brother, I feel that I am called to be a significant presence, one that can cause transformation by my witness. I feel called to accompany all young people, especially with those who we share our mission with and interact with regularly. And to do that with love and mercy because for many young people they may not have any other contact with the church, beyond that which we present to them. Therefore, we have a delicate but fascinating mission of bringing to life the hopeful experience of God's love, mercy, and sense of fraternity to all.



# BRO. JOSÉ EDUARDO GERMÁN

## MACIEL MOTA, FMS

My name is José Eduardo, but my friends call me Pepo. I am 26 years old and I am originally from Mexico. Currently, I minister at the Mexico Primary Institute and I live in a community, that is also a home and an assisted living facility for our older brothers.

As for my hobbies, there are many things I enjoy, such as reading and anything that involves me being in the water. I also love animals and enjoy the cold weather. Presently, I am taking courses in Teaching and Religious Education. I like to learn languages, currently I can speak English and a little French.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

I met the Marist Brothers in 2006, I studied at the Colegio México, in Mexico City. I was part of the youth ministry program called “Amigos en Marcha” and it was there that my vocation to the brothers first started. I participated in a mission trip with an emphasis in vocation

and discernment and that led me to join the province and start my accompaniment process in 2010.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

Based on my current reality and being a young brother, one of the challenges that I continue to face has been to keep alive the international aspect of my formation. I did my postulancy year in the province of México Occidental and then my novitiate in the province of Norandina at the international novitiate for Arco Norte in Medellín, Colombia. Now that I am back in my province, and involved in local activities and projects, it feels like I have lost my connection to the internationality of the institute and this challenges me to keep alive those past relationships with my brothers who are currently living in other countries and provinces.

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [jegmm0111@gmail.com](mailto:jegmm0111@gmail.com)



# BRO. MARIO ALBERTO

## GARCÍA RÍOS, FMS

Greetings! My name is Mario Alberto. I was born and raised in the city of Jacona Michoacán in Mexico. I am a Marist alumnus of Jacona High School. I belong to the Marist Province of Central Mexico and I am currently a member of the Marist Community of the Colegio México High School, in Mexico City, where I am presently working on my university studies.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

While I was in high school, I had the opportunity to participate in the Marist Youth ministry program where I first met the brothers and experienced the Marist charism. I strongly believe that attending the school in Jacona was an incredibly significant and enriching experience in my life, for my spiritual growth and my vocational journey. It was during this time that my desire and restlessness of wanting to be a Marist brother was sparked. Each day, I try to reflect on God's invitation to continually live this Marist life. I am grateful

to the brothers and teachers who have contributed and continue to support me in my education and formation.

Being a Marist brother is a personal choice that makes me feel happy. It allows me to realize my dreams and my goals, to live with a sense of passion and to follow my heart.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

As young brothers, we have the challenge of keeping Champagnat's dream alive and imitating him, in what we do and where we live. We are called to be beacons of hope in a world where fear and hopelessness seem to prevail. My hope is that our life and witness, as brothers, be a testimony and reflect that Marist life is still a viable life choice for young people and come to see that it is worth being a brother today!

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [garcariosmario99@gmail.com](mailto:garcariosmario99@gmail.com)





## BRO. NICOLÁS CHABLÉ RÍOS, FMS

My name is Nicolás Chablé Ríos, I am 24 years old and I was born on August 3, 1996 in the municipality of Macuspana, in the state of Tabasco, Mexico. My family is numerous, we are eight brothers, I am the sixth oldest, and thankfully, my parents, Feliciano Chablé Y Aurora Ríos are alive and well.

Some of my favorite hobbies include drawing, painting, singing, reading, watching TV shows and movies, walking, exercising, and listening to music.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

At the age of 15, I struggled with the idea of having a vocation. During this time, I was an altar boy, for a year and a half, in the parish to which I belonged. Later I joined a ministerial group of Psalmists, at which point my sense of vocation grew. By the time, I was 17 years old, I was searching through the internet for religious communities. Although

there were many congregations, only one caught my attention, the Marist Brothers. During this time, my vocational struggle was only known to my best friend. She has an uncle who is a priest and she told him about my discernment. Her uncle helped me, and he put me in touch with the vocation director for Marist Brothers. My parents accompanied me to the appointment, as we were chatting with the brother, I was invited to participate in the Holy Week missions trip offered by the Marists. It was a great experience for me and on August 10, 2014 I entered the postulancy program for the Brothers.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

The challenge is how to be a beacon of light in this turbulent world to evangelize and accompany children and young people through technological means.

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [viadesanico@gmail.com](mailto:viadesanico@gmail.com)



## BRO. YARIB ZAIN DAZA GARCÍA, FMS

I am originally from Acapulco, Mexico. I am the second of three children who were raised in a traditional family environment with many Christian and Marian values. Currently, I am a temporary professed brother who is studying. I am 28 years old and I live in a formation community in Mexico City. In addition, I actively participate in the local Marist school as part of my formation and ministry training. One of the main aspects of formation, that I thoroughly enjoy, is the opportunity to gather with other young religious in formation and participate in the inter-congregational program.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

My first experience of knowing the brothers was through the internet. Growing up, we had the De Lasalle Brothers living in my town and it was because of their presence that I felt an attraction to religious life. In addition, from an early age, I began to feel a special call to work in education, maybe because of the education I received by the religious of the Carmelite High School where I attended. This led me to contact the Marist brothers. The brothers welcomed me and treated me with kindness. They offered me an accompaniment process that I found to be very good for me personally and which allowed me to grow

spiritually, develop a sense of fraternally with my brothers, and that allowed me to discern God's will for me to live in the spirit of Mary and Marist religious life.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

I am challenged by my current reality to be generous and to offer to others the best person that I can be considering my limitations. I feel a need to be more responsible and commit to change, from a society that asks me to be more human and more like a brother.

The calls of the General Chapter invite me, like Mary of Nazareth, to be attentive and available not only to the new realities facing children and young people but also to all who are in vulnerable situations and have lost a sense of dignity. I need to be involved in the development of new scenarios and opportunities to live charity with a significant presence wherever I am called.

If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [yarib.daza@cmb.edu.mx](mailto:yarib.daza@cmb.edu.mx)



## **BRO. DAVID ALEJANDRO**

### CASTILLO MENCHACA, FMS

My name is David Alejandro Castillo Menchaca and I am a Marist Brother. I was born in the city of Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico. I am the younger of two brothers. My brother's name is Andrés Castillo and my parents are Silvia Menchaca and Gerardo Castillo. My hobbies focus on film and music. However, what I enjoy doing the most is teaching and being involved in youth ministry.

#### **HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?**

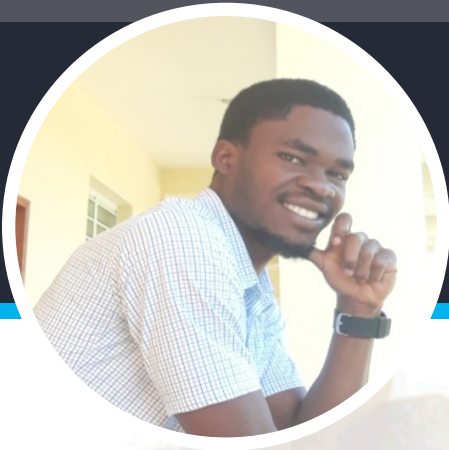
I am a former Marist student. While I was in high school with the brothers, I was always struck by their lifestyle, especially their dedication among children and young people. It was not until after high school that I realized that I wanted to give myself the opportunity to look into this life and reflect on the call I heard from God through my experiences and people around me. After finishing the accompaniment process as an aspirant, I was given the

opportunity to do my postulancy year in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and then completed my novitiate in Medellín, Colombia, where I took my first vows as Marist Brother in December 2016.

#### **BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?**

We are called to be brothers who bring fresh and new ideas to the institute. We are called to form a global family that sheds light where there is darkness by taking on the challenge of presenting Jesus through the Marist charism from where we are. We are responsible for taking care of Champagnat's legacy. Also, we live and transmit joyfully who we are, striving to promote our vocation, as brothers and to help young people find their way.





## BRO. ANDRIS ROUBENS, FMS

My name is Andris Roubens. I was born on October 29th, 1995 in West Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and spent my childhood at Dame-Marie Grand 'Anse, Haiti. My father, Andris Paulin, has passed away, leaving my mother, Louis Jeune Magareth, my two sisters and me.

I enjoy doing manual labor and I am an avid sports' fan, especially soccer. As far as my studies go; I have a particular interest in the area of psychology.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

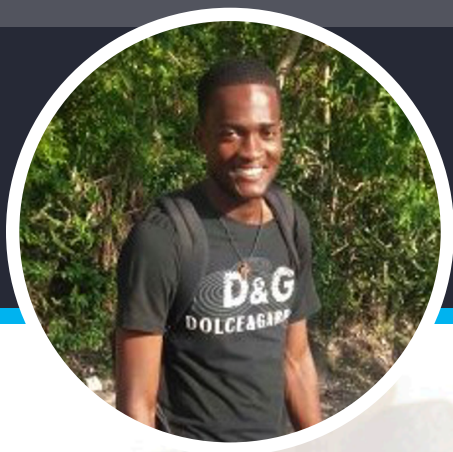
I did all my classical studies with the Marist Brothers in Dame-Marie. It was there that I first met the brothers.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

I feel that the biggest challenge facing young brothers is how to seek out the poor who are found in abandoned places. Following the example of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, we should continue to build schools for children and young people who are most in need and help guide and accompany them on their journey. They need us!

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this brother in initial formation, you may contact him via email at [andrisroubens1331@gmail.com](mailto:andrisroubens1331@gmail.com)



## BRO. CLÉBERT BOYER, FMS

My name is Clébert Boyer. I am a Haitian Scholastic associated with the Province of Western Mexico. I was born in Tuffet (South Cayes), on May 01, 1994. I am the eighth child in a family of ten children. My father is Victor Boyer ; an agricultural worker, and my mother; Roselaine Louis, works in merchandizing. I have always been highly supported by my parents, and this has contributed a great deal to my growth as a person, making me confident, and joyful.

Coming from a strong, faith filled Catholic home has instilled in me strong personal values: a sincere respect for others, a strong work ethic, determination, and a sense of ambition. These have shaped me to become the person that I am today. I enjoy reading, having discussions, and listening to socio-cultural broadcasts.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

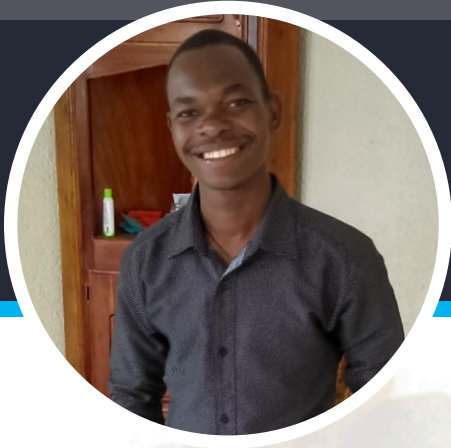
The residence for the initial formation of the Brothers, the Postulate, is situated in the city where I was born. I was able to meet the brothers

through the apostolic activities they offered throughout the city. A member of the Divine Mercy community house had given me some information about the lifestyle of the brothers and that led me to the beginning of my vocational journey with them.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

For me, as a brother, I feel called to give up my comfort zone. I wish to help the needy living on the peripheries of our society. They are the Montagnes of our times. My goal is to help build a more equitable world; to help re-ignite a sense of hope in those who are suffering and in dire need; and to continuously reflect on the merciful face of God in these troubling times.

If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial training, you can contact him by email at [clebertboyer@gmail.com](mailto:clebertboyer@gmail.com)



## BRO. JUSTE TOURENTINGUE, FMS

My name is Juste Tourentingue. I was born in Corail in Grand'Anse on November 9, 1994. I am the youngest child of a family of eight children, 6 boys and 2 girls, and I am the youngest of my family. My father is Juste Lenord and he works as a farmer. My mother's name was Odemise François. She has since passed.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

I did my primary studies at the Brother Paulin de Jérémie School, and my secondary studies at Nord Alexis de Jérémie High School. I didn't have the opportunity to study in a Marist Brothers' school, but upon completion of my studies I felt called to join a religious community. My cousin spoke to me about the Marist Brothers' Community and the work they were doing in Haiti in Grand'Anse, especially in the area of education. I went to visit the formation house in Jérémie, and it was there that I met Brother Antonio Bueno Cavazos and started a process of accompaniment with him. It was during this time that I began to discover my vocation and desire to become a Marist Brother.

What is most exciting about the formation process of being a Marist Brother? It is the way that we are called to work with children and young people most in need.

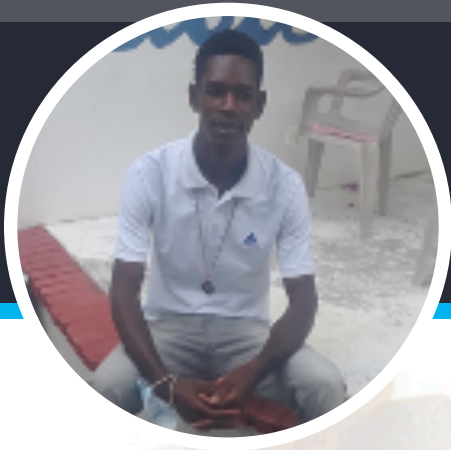
### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

As for the Calls of the XXII General Chapter, they challenge a young brother, like me, to be able to confront all the obstacles that face us in our mission; to be capable of transforming the youth of today into good, honest and authentic citizens in order to rebuild a better world. They invite me to be an instrument of peace and love for others, especially the most marginalized of our society, and recognizing that Mary is our Ordinary Resource, so that we can make Jesus known and loved wherever we are present.

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this brother in initial formation, you may contact him by email at [justetourentingue09@gmail.com](mailto:justetourentingue09@gmail.com)





## BRO. LYNCEE

### SAINT-PAUL, FMS

My name is Lyncée Saint-Paul, I am a 31-year-old Marist Brother Scholastic from Haiti. I am the fifth child of a farm working family. My hobbies are reading psycho-spiritual books, writing, conversing with the brothers, and listening to broadcasts about personal growth.

#### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

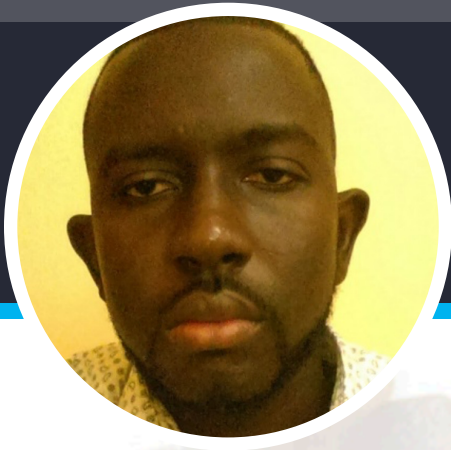
I first meet the Brothers through two friends who lived in the Divine Mercy Community, located near the Brothers.

#### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

For me, the calls of the General Chapter challenge a younger brother to give oneself entirely to God and to be of service to the needy and the hopeless. It calls us to be bridge builders and to meet the needs of the people of our time.

If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial training, you can contact him by email at paulojerome3@gmail.com





## BRO. ROGER

### SAINT LOUIS

I am Brother Roger Saint Louis. I am 27 years old and in my second year of the scholasticate. I enjoy reading, listening to music, watching films, and simply going for walks around the city.

My mother is Germila and my father is Jean Robert Jean Louis. I have a brother and sister on my maternal side and on my paternal side I have two sisters and five brothers.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

I did my secondary studies in a middle school run by the Marist Brothers in Latibolière. It was there that I met the brothers who impressed me by their good works, their presence and witness. It was these characteristics that attracted me to the community and their way of life, as brothers.

The Marist Brothers mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved through education by forming good, responsible, and virtuous citizens has motivated me to join the community. In addition, I am

most impressed by their simple way of living life, and their welcoming presence as brothers.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

The challenges that we younger brothers must take is to be in harmony with the invitations of the XXII General Chapter. We must be prepared to accompany the children and young people of our country and to educate them in becoming responsible, honest, and virtuous citizens. Our country needs responsible men and women in positions of authority to help lead the country to a path of sustainable development instead of a country corrupted by greed and selfishness. This, for me, is the main challenge for us in Haiti as young brothers. In addition, as a global family, we must collaborate with the laity and be available to work where the Lord calls through the invitation of our superiors.

If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this brother in initial formation, you may contact him at [sainyroger@gmail.com](mailto:sainyroger@gmail.com)



## BRO. TANGERE

### CHANCELET, FMS

I am Tangere Chancelet. I was born twenty-nine years ago in the city of Grand'Anse close to Dame Marie. I am the youngest son of Tangere Eliagene and Edeline Enelas. My family consists of four brothers, a sister as well as two half-brothers and three half-sisters.

I consider myself to be a courageous and hospitable person. I enjoy listening to music and reading. I also enjoy artistic activities from time to time.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

I was not a Marist student. However, I was familiar with the brothers and the work they did at the school; Dame-Marie. It was because of who the brothers were and what they did that motivated me to collaborate with them in this beautiful mission.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

For me, the forces of evil and injustice, are strong in Haiti. Therefore, I feel that it is essential for me to work with children and young people while trying to be a beacon of light for them by being attentive to their needs and to be a bridge builder that connects these children and young people to live in the way of Mary.

If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this brother in initial formation, you may contact him at [chancelettangere91@gmail.com](mailto:chancelettangere91@gmail.com)



## BRO. THOMAS

### PIERRE ACLUCHE, FMS

I was born in Privilé, on April 7, 1994 into a family of eight (8) children of which I am the third. My parents are married and are faith filled Catholics. I did my elementary studies with the Sisters of the Good Pastor in Privilé, and my high school studies with the Marist Brothers in Latibolière, as well as some additional schooling in the town of Cayes with the Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis.

I am cheerful by nature, outgoing, and a good team player. I enjoy living and working with others. I love working with young people and children especially those who are most in need. I believe that I am loyal and fair-minded person, however, I can be a little authoritarian and not always easy to get along with. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, watching movies, listening to music, playing sports, sharing time with others and discussions about religion, culture, and politics.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

I first met the Marist Brothers when I was finishing my elementary studies and throughout high school. After I had completed my

classical studies, I lived with the brothers for one year in order to know them better and to have a better understanding of my vocation and the formation process.

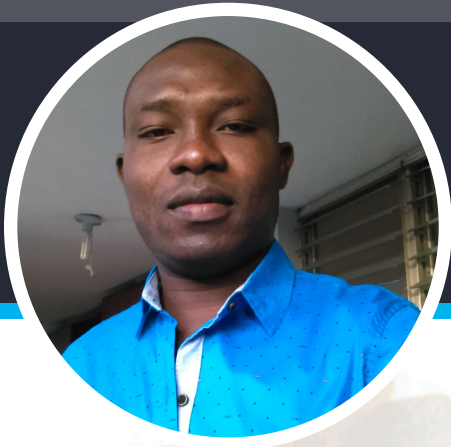
### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

In my opinion, the calls of the General Chapter, challenge me to be a bridge builder, one who reaches out to those who are the most needy and feel isolated. It calls me to be a ray of hope for the neglected and abandoned; and the calls invite me to be a true disciple of Jesus following Mary and Marcelin through our words and actions.

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial training, you can contact him by email at [acluchethomas@gmail.com](mailto:acluchethomas@gmail.com)





## **BRO. WILSON**

### DORCY, FMS

My name is Brother Wilson Dorcy. I am thirty-one years old and I am presently a scholastic living in Haiti. I am the sixth oldest in a family of ten children. When I was three years old, my father abandoned my mother and his seven children. My mother was financially strapped and was forced into a second marriage. My mother became widowed quickly and suffered serious health issues. Relying on her strong faith in God to sustain her she miraculously recovered. She is happily remarried and has given birth to three more children. When I was younger, I completed my primary studies with the Sisters in Latibolière and my secondary studies with the Marist Brothers.

Presently, as a scholasticate I continue to discern my vocation while being attentive to God's will for me. I continue my studies in order to better prepare myself for my ministry as Brother. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, doing research, play sports, and share with my fellow Marists.

### **HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?**

When I arrived at the College of the Brothers, I began my journey with Brother Antonio Cavazos to get sense of the congregation. During Holy Week, the brothers invited me to participate in a vocational camp in Jérémie to have an in-depth experience of the mission of the Marist Brothers. It was a great experience for me. After this experience, Brother Antonio asked me to write a letter asking for permission to enter postulancy. I entered postulancy on September 10, 2014 in the city of Les Cayes. While I was there, I spent three years in accompaniment and spiritual direction, experienced community life, and continued studies at school.

After my three years of accompaniment and with the authorization of the Superior General, I went to the novitiate to continue my discernment. Here, I spent two years in prayer and deep dialogue with the Lord. I had done some ministry with children at the Fatima School in Latibolière and a month-long internship with the Salesians of Don Bosco, where children and young people from the streets are welcomed. On June 6, 2019, with I made my first vows, as a religious. Bro. Luis Rodriguez was there to receive my vows as the delegate of the Superior General.

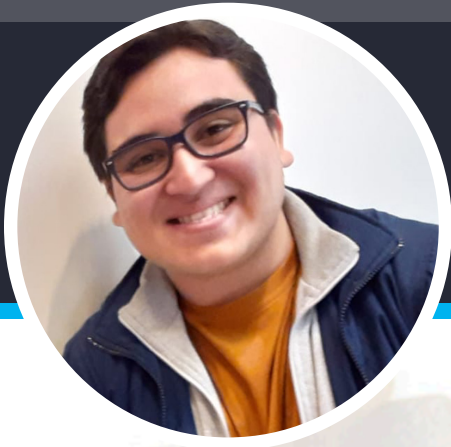


## DE CARA A TU REALIDAD, ¿CUÁL CREEES QUE SON LOS RETOS PARA EL HERMANO JOVEN, EN SINTONÍA CON LAS LLAMADAS QUE NOS PROPONE EL XXII CAPÍTULO GENERAL?

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As for me, the calls of the XXII General Chapter challenge me to become an agent of change and strongly commit myself to helping

young people through evangelization programs and initiatives. I am also studying Educational Sciences to better prepare myself for ministry. By helping the most needy, children and young people it will allow me to be a bridge builder to help nourish and grow the Marist mission here in Haiti.



## **BRO. ALEXNNYS JOSÉ**

### FLORES ESPINOZA, FMS

I am Brother Alexnnys José Flores Espinoza, I was born in 1994, in a small town called La Victoria, in Venezuela, located a few hours from Caracas, which is the capital of the country. I am the youngest son of Henry Flores and Reina Espinoza.

As for my hobbies, I love reading, writing, playing the guitar, cooking, and listening to music.

#### **HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?**

As a child, my parents enrolled me in a religious school where many of my relatives had completed their studies. The school was run by a religious group of sisters, founded in Spain called the Missionary Conceptionists. I studied in this school for ten years and participated in the children and youth ministry programs offered by the school. During my last two years of high school, I studied at a secular school. After completing school, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. Shortly afterwards, I began a vocational accompaniment process with a religious sister. I felt that my life revolved around

service and education, perhaps it was the example and testimony of the nuns with whom I studied. However, I was certain that I was not being called to look at the priesthood.

For two years, I was involved in a vocational accompaniment process along with my studies at the university pursuing a Bachelors of Spanish degree at the Pedagogical University. At some significant point, in my life, I decided to find out more about religious congregations dedicated to education and I was certain that the priesthood was not where God wanted me. This is how I came to know the Marist Brothers. The brothers had a school named San José, in Maracay City, Venezuela and this is where I met them. When I met the brothers, I began a formal process of accompaniment with Bro. Carmelo San Millán.

As part of my discernment, I worked at the high school in San José in Maracay, Venezuela. I then entered postulancy and ministered in Loja, Ecuador. Afterwards I entered the novitiate in Medellin, Colombia. Currently, I am living with nine brothers in the scholasticate in Bogota, Colombia.

## BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

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I believe that one of the main challenges we have as consecrated men is to continue to revitalize the charism by creating bridges of fraternity and mercy. Today, as young Marist Brothers, we are aware that we are part of a new generation of consecrated life in the church and within our institute. We are invited to join forces inter-

congregationally, recognizing that together we are more impactful. In addition, our sense of fraternity, which is found in our religious families, brings us together with the sole purpose of serving others, as Jesus and our founder wanted from us. From our charism, we put our lives at the service of others, especially among children and young people, whom God entrusts to our care and as Champagnat always wanted as the one constant...that young people be a part of our lives. Finally, I believe that, as brothers, we are invited to extend our hands to welcome others and model that God is constantly present in our lives.

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [haflares@fmsnor.org](mailto:haflares@fmsnor.org)



# BRO. ANDRÉS FELIPE

## ROBLES, FMS

I am a proud citizen from the region of De Quindío, Colombia. Our region is known for the warmth and hospitality of its people, for its tourist attractions, its landscapes and for its coffee. I am the youngest of three brothers and I am 24 years old. I enjoy watching television, going to the movies, walking, and having a good cup of coffee.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

I came to know the Brothers in 2013. However, it was through the Marist laity, who first came to visit the Colegio San José de Armenia, that I first came to experience the Marist charism. Initially, I was not really interested and looked for ways to get out of class, but I began to gradually meet and know the brothers and lay people and found them to be kind and down to earth. They radiated a sense of family spirit that spoke to me and from that moment I began to connect with this Marist life.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

Without a doubt, as young brothers we have the challenge of being attentive to the signs of the times, inviting us to give creative responses through our life and mission as brothers. Another important challenge, for me, is to continue to have a more regional perspective of Marist life within our region of Arco Norte. It is not just about having meetings but also about providing formative experiences that bring us closer together as a region. Finally, I believe that an immense challenge for us, as young brothers and for the region of Arco Norte, is living out our internationality. After several formative experiences in different areas of the region, and finding myself back home, it is sometimes difficult to practice what we have learned...living with different people, celebrating different cultures and traditions, not conflicting with the older brothers because we were formed differently. I believe that this is a tremendous challenge and that our formation needs to always be in line with the reality of our communities.

If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [harobles@fmsnor.org](mailto:harobles@fmsnor.org)





## **BRO. HENRY DAVID**

### ARAUJO ROMERO, FMS

My name is Henry David Araujo Romero and I am 29 years old. I was born on April 24, 1991 in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

My family consists of my mother, Sergia Emelina Romero Villasmil, my Dad, Henry David Araujo, my brother, Diego Enrique Araujo Romero, my sister, Mariana Isabella Araujo Romero and my maternal grandmother, Griselda Villasmil, who we refer to as Bella. Currently my mom, sister, and brother, along with my sister-in-law and nephew are living in Bogota, Colombia. My dad and grandmother are living in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

I am an avid reader. I love to read books on the topics of politics, psychology, spirituality, and anthropology. Additionally, I enjoy reading the bible, books on Marist history and spirituality and on social justice. I also like to ride my bicycle and watch television. I am passionate about youth ministry and religious education classes.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

I studied at the Ildefonso Gutiérrez school, a Marist high school in Maracaibo, Venezuela. It was there that I fell in love with the charism through my conversations with the brothers, especially brothers Angel García Sáenz, Carmelo San Millán, and Francisco Javier Pérez Paris. Also, while I was in school, I participated in several youth ministry programs, Amigos en Marcha and REMAR, and eventually helped to lead these programs. It was also during this time that I met Brothers, Txema Ondarreta, John Arrieta, Ricardo Gómez, Ángel Gonzales, Diego Antón and several others. It was through these relationships that I experienced firsthand the powerful witness of their lives, their sense of community, their work ethic and commitment, especially to the most impoverished people in the country. It was because of their example that I felt captivated to follow Jesus through the Marist charism.

## BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

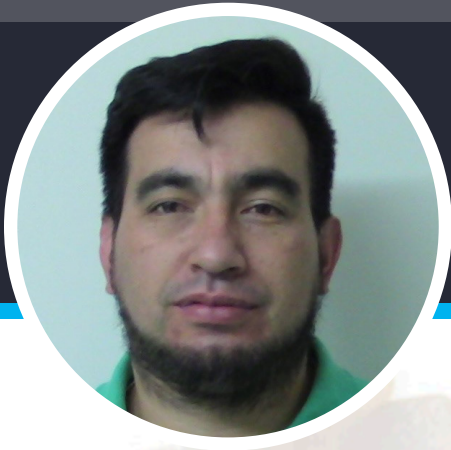
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For me, the calls of the General Chapter invite me to recreate the charism, with a North Andean and Venezuelan face, in the places where it is found. It invites me to rescue the richness of my culture and share it with the congregation, especially from a communal, festive and a solidarity perspective. It invites me to rethink the current structures,

how will we respond faithfully to our individual call, to the church and to the congregation? I believe that we are not called, as young brothers, to maintain current structures. We are called to discern where we can serve and do so more effectively? Where are we most needed, today? Where are these new peripheries, both existential and concrete, to which we are called to go and serve? We need to look at vocation ministry, make it more experiential and personal. It needs to be more welcoming with a better understanding of accompaniment that witnesses to the joyous and generous aspects of our lives that can speak to many young people, within our communities, who are searching for something more out of life.

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [hharaujo@fmsnor.org](mailto:hharaujo@fmsnor.org)



## BRO. JUAN PABLO BURGOS GÓMEZ, FMS

My name is Juan Pablo Burgos Gómez. I was born on May 21, 1984, on Trojayaco street in the municipality of El Tambo, located in Nariño in southern Colombia. My family consists of 4 members, my father, Mauro Nelson Burgos Burbano, who works in agriculture, my mother, María Ofelia Gómez Díaz, who is a housewife, and my younger brother, Carlos Andrés, who also works in agriculture.

I love life and adventure. I like sports, especially soccer and mountain biking. I enjoy walking trails, caring for animals and plants, and being in the countryside. I enjoy simple and humble living and sharing what I know and who I am with people.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

In 2004, I entered the “Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje” (SENA), which is a vocational school, in the city of Pasto, near the capital of Nariño, and took a two-year training program to become an electrician. The program included a 6-month internship with a company, which happened to be the Champagnat school of Pasto. It was here that I was able to do my practicum with my classmate.

Until that moment I knew absolutely nothing about the Marist community, while I was training, on December 28, 2006, I met Brother Martin Orduz (may he rest in peace) who, together with my classmate, told us the history of the community and what the brothers were doing around the world. Afterwards he asked us, “would you guys like to become Marist Brothers?”, my classmate immediately said no to him, while I did not respond, and that gave Brother Martin the opportunity to continuously invite me. After finishing my practicum, I left school, and a few months later, toward the end of 2007, I returned to work in the maintenance department of the school. And there was Brother Martin who continued, telling me to begin my formation as an Aspirant (Contact) and that this could be done while living with the community of Pasto.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

Global charismatic family, beacon of hope in this turbulent world.

- **Openness with those most in need:** although we live in a

globalized world I feel that as young brothers we find it difficult to go out to be present among those most in need and that we stay within our bubble which has become our community.

Be the face and hands of your tender mercy

- **Deepening our sense of interiority and spirituality:** we need to develop them properly. During prayer, sometimes I feel we are simply present in body but not in spirit. We tend to make community prayer a duty instead of a need born from our heart. We must learn to live as brothers and sisters.

Inspire our creativity to bridge builders.

- **Abandon the culture of egos:** and enter a culture of echoes promoting solidarity, the economy, ecology, and preservation of the environment.

To walk with the marginalized children and young people of life.

- **Learn to listen to the weeping and suffering of those most in need,** to be empathetic to their feelings and creatively seek solutions to their difficulties.

Boldly respond to emerging needs

- **To be able to take risks to work for those most in need:** those who are on the peripheries, the vulnerable and forgotten of society, may it not simply be talk but lived out.

I believe that the fundamental challenge we face is **to be coherent**, consistent in what we say and do, consistent with an austere and unprivileged way of life, consistent with people's feelings, consistent with a lifestyle in keeping with following Jesus and his gospel.

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [hjburgos@fmsnor.org](mailto:hjburgos@fmsnor.org)





# BRO. JUAN SEBASTIÁN HERRERA SALAZAR, FMS

I am Brother Juan Sebastián Herrera Salazar. I made my first vows on December 8, 2013 in the city of Medellín, Colombia. I was born in the city of Manizales located in the center of the country 31 years ago. My parent's names are Onel Antonio and Liliana and my younger sister is Valentina.

I did my primary and high school studies at el Colegio de Cristo, in a Marist school in my hometown. I graduated in December 2005. I finished my bachelor's degree in Religious Education at the De La Salle University in Bogotá in 2019. As for my hobbies, I enjoy reading historical novels, conversing around the table and I have a strong interest in the political situation of my country.

## HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

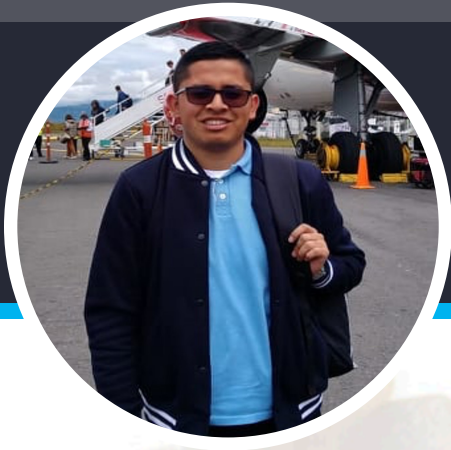
I met the brothers at my school, El Colegio de Cristo; I have studied there from the age of 6 until the time of my high school graduation. Basically, I came to know the Marist Brothers through the youth ministry programs offered at the school, especially through the REMAR program where I was a participant and eventually became a leader of the program.

## BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BRO-

## THER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

In early 2020, I participated in a formation program for those Marist Brothers who were preparing for their perpetual profession in Guatemala City. This meeting helped me greatly. Above all, the experience not only provided me with an opportunity to live in an intercultural community with brothers from other provinces but also it gave me greater understanding about what it means to be a Marist. This experience allowed me to better understand my choice to live consecrated life. I believe, that this experience, has confronted me with two main challenges that we, the Little Brothers of Mary, have to face as we move forward, and they can be summed up in two words: mystic and communion. The mystic because it is the backbone of our identity, we are followers of Jesus of Nazareth and consecrated brothers who serve children and young people; we must not be "gatekeepers of religion" but mystics who transmit what we live and experience within our hearts. Communion is our way of being: walking towards an encounter with the other, weaving bridges between our realities, as presented by the General Chapter; this aspect is and can be a powerful evangelical and Marist witness to those whom we minister to. Lastly, we are men who live a sense of diversity from our Marist identity, through authentic communion and fraternity.

If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [sherrera@fmsnor.org](mailto:sherrera@fmsnor.org)



# BRO. MICHAEL ALEXANDER

## ANAMÁ ANAMÁ, FMS

My name is Michael Alexander and I am a brother from the Province of Norandina. I was born in the city of Pasto, in southern Colombia. I am 25 years old. In my spare time I enjoy watching television, listening to music, reading and playing the guitar. Unlike most Colombians, I do not like soccer. I consider myself to be a modest, responsible and a courteous individual.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

While I was attending the Champagnat School in my town of Pasto, the brothers held a meeting to welcome all the families. It was there that I first met the brothers.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

As I reflect on this question, I feel that the calls of the General Chapter invite me to improve my skills in assertive but compassionate communication to help me in my community relationships. It invites me to help strengthen our vocation ministry efforts and to take care of my own vocation as well as the vocation of my other brothers and sisters. I also believe that the calls invite us to develop more inter-province formation experiences, Marist or pedagogical, and have an openness to work with other faith traditions.

If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial formation, you can contact him by email at [hmanama@fmsnor.org](mailto:hmanama@fmsnor.org)



## **BRO. FRANCISCO JOSÉ** RUÍZ HERNÁNDEZ, FMS

I am Brother Francisco Ruíz. I was born in a small city in Colombia known as Ibagué on September 26, 1994. I am the youngest son of Francisco Ruíz and Rosa Liliana Hernández. My sister and brothers are María Cecilia, José Darío and Juan Daniel.

I love to read children's books as well as mystery and historical novels. I enjoy listening to music and really appreciate sharing time with my family, friends, and fellow brothers.

### **HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?**

I attended both elementary school and high school at the Champagnat School in Ibagué. It was here that I shared some incredibly special moments with my friends and the Marist brothers, which proved to be a significant time for me as a student. For me, an important experience during those years, was participating in the REMAR movement which is a retreat experience offered by the Marist Youth Ministry program. It was through this experience, that I felt, for the

first time, God's call to consider Marist religious life. After graduation and finishing the REMAR program, I traveled to the city of Bogotá to start my university studies. However, the desire to be of service, centered on Jesus and Marist spirituality continued to resonate within me and motivated me to be part of the REMAR movement at the Champagnat school in Bogota but this time, as a moderator. While in the school, I met Brother Diego Zawadzky with whom I was able to connect and share with him some deep experiences of faith and who eventually encouraged me to better know God's love in my life. It was because of these experiences that in 2015 I became an aspirant at the Champagnat Institute in the City of Pasto, in south Colombia. Brother Leonardo Yepes was the brother who accompanied me during this time. In 2016, other lands awaited me and with great enthusiasm I traveled to the City of Loja, Ecuador to join four other companions to begin our postulancy year. Happy to recognize God's presence in my life, I continued to discern and in 2017 I entered the novitiate and took my first vows on December 8, 2018. Currently, I am a scholastic and I live in the city of Bogotá with nine brothers who are part of my community.

## BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

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I believe that we are invited to be bridge builders, radiating fraternity with everyone. We are called to share our identity of brother with the most vulnerable children and young people while being faithful to the charism that we have inherited by Father Champagnat.





## BRO. JUAN BOLAÑOS, FMS

I am Brother Juan Bolaños, I was born in 1982 in Belén in the region of Nariño, located in southern Colombia. I am the second son of Andrés Bolaños and Herfilia Ordóñez, my siblings' names are Marisol, Libardo, Nancy and Ancizar. I enjoy playing soccer with my brothers and friends. I also enjoy watching movies during community recreation and reading books on spirituality.

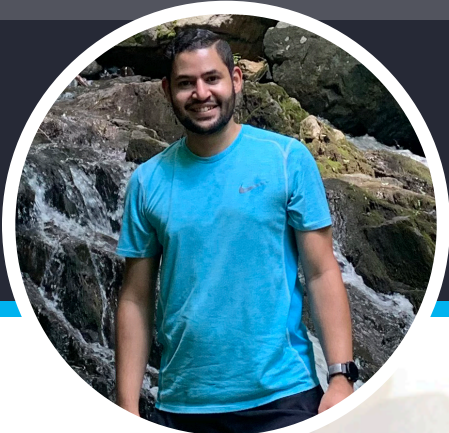
### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

In 2006, when I was studying for my degree at the Colegio Técnico Agropecuario La Esperanza, in Bethlehem, Nariño, Brother Martín Orduz came to the school to offer the eleventh-grade students, a vocational talk. During his presentation, he presented the charism of the Marist Brothers with the hope of encouraging young people, who may be interested in the brotherhood, to participate in a vocational program. This is how my process of accompaniment and vocational discernment of God's will for my life began. In 2008, I was an aspirant in the City of Pasto, Colombia, and began my postulancy in the city of Manizales from 2009–2010. I entered the novitiate in 2011 and in 2013 I took my first vows, as a brother, in the city of Medellín, Colombia. I presently live in the city of Bogotá as a scholastic and

I am currently completing my degree in Religious Education at De La Salle University. During the first half of 2020, in Guatemala City, I participated in a formation program for brothers preparing to take their perpetual vows. This experience has enriched my life and my vocation as a brother.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

Considering our reality, I believe that we must be brothers who witness to the experience of community and fraternity, which is enriched by the simplicity proposed by the spirit of our Founding Father, Saint Marcellin Champagnat. I also believe that we are invited to collaborate with the laity in continuing the mission of showing children and young people, especially the most vulnerable, the merciful face of God that is present in Jesus and Mary. Finally, as young brothers, I believe that we must work on cultivating an openness to working inter-congregationally and interculturally in order to be more available to the mission that God has given us.



## BRO. LUIS RAMOS, FMS

Growing up in New York City was great, especially because of the diverse population! Now, at 27 years old, I find that our Marist world matches the rich diversity I experienced as a child. My parents are both educators and lead a ministry in the Bronx, NY. My younger sister is currently an artist and is finishing her university studies.

Music usually follows me anywhere I go, and I enjoy learning about the history and development of different genres. I also like to work with my hands inside or outside of the house. Another love of mine is enjoying the natural beauty of the United States or any place I find myself, especially through hiking, walking, or running. I also love to drive and sightsee.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

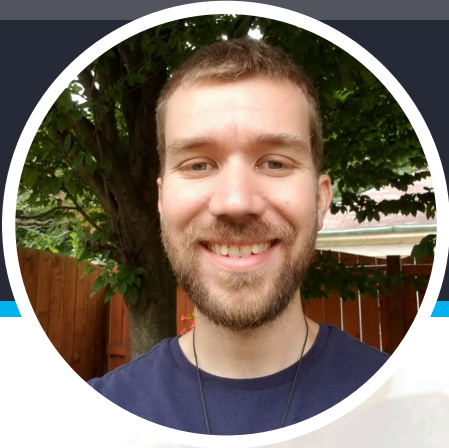
My first experience meeting a Marist Brother was when I registered to be a student at Mount Saint Michael Academy, Marist school located in the Bronx, NY. I had met priests, sisters, but never a brother! What

impressed me was that the brothers of the school all had a common way of living but maintained their individuality. Their openness and outreach to youth and young adults in the US made it possible to stay connected, minister together with them, and eventually become a brother myself.

### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

One positive challenge for younger brothers is to ensure they know how to listen to the young people they are ministering to. Oftentimes we can assume that we know how to listen simply because we are close in age to the young people with are teaching. We need to sharpen our listening skills to truly accompany these young people and bring their ideas, needs, concerns, to our approach in ministry.

If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial training, you can contact him by email at [luisrfms7@gmail.com](mailto:luisrfms7@gmail.com)



## BRO. SAMUEL

### AMOS, FMS

I'm 31 years old and I am from the Midwest of the United States. I have younger sister, Sarah, and my parents, Dave and Lori, are both still alive. I'm very much interested in languages, though I tend to be better at reading them than speaking them - I can read Spanish, French, Latin, and Greek. I enjoy studying scripture and early church history, and I like to study them in their original language when possible.

#### HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE MARIST BROTHERS?

My first encounter with the Marist charism was through two former brothers who worked as laymen in the schools I attended growing up. They introduced me to the brothers, whose way of life and ministry to

young people attracted me. I entered in 2014 and am now in my final year of temporary profession. I have been approved for final vows, and will profess them sometime this year.

#### BASED ON YOUR REALITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER, CONSIDERING THE CALLS PROPOSED BY THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER?

The main challenge for temporarily professed brothers is to find new ways of living out the Marist mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved. I think our traditional apostolates will continue, but the world and the congregation are changing rapidly, and we must find new ways to evangelize and educate young people.

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If you would like to write a letter of support and encouragement to this Brother in initial training, you can contact him by email at [Amos.Sam@marist.net](mailto:Amos.Sam@marist.net)

