



Year XIII - Number 665 | 17 FEBRUARY 2021

# MARIST NEWS

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION LEADERSHIP AND OUR MARIST MISSION

The International Marist Mission Commission presents to the Institute its second message entitled "Leadership and our Marist Mission", which highlights how leadership is central to the present and future of the Institute's mission.

The team, made up of Brothers and Laity, took on the task of reflecting on the centrality of Marist mission in today's world at their recent meetings. In December the first message was published: "The pandemic and our Marist mission". Each month, a member of the Commission will contribute a new reflection.

The text of the message, published today, was written by Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, on behalf of the Commission, and is born of the desire to propose messages that help to make life easier, that there are reasons for hope, enthusiasm for walking, that what is lived has meaning and reason, and that we innovate with passion and compassion.

Inspired by the leadership of St. Marcellin Champagnat, Br. Luis Carlos invites the Marists of Champagnat to look for ways of shared leadership, Brothers and Laity, that allow the Marist Family to be a bridge and serve with prophecy.

Download PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)



## general administration

- On Monday 15, the General Council concluded the week of collaboration with the Secretariats and Departments of the General Administration. The day was devoted to reflection on the topic of child protection. The draft Institute Policy and guidelines for Provinces and Districts were presented.
- From Tuesday, the Council continued with its plenary session, devoting itself to issues related to the Regions, matters coming up in 2021, and appointments. It is also spending time on planning for the General Conference to be held in 2022.
- Last Saturday, Manu Jesús Gómez Cid, one of two assistant directors of the Secretariat of the Laity, participated in the Assembly of the Laity of the Province of Compostela, and presented an overview of Marist laity in the world.
- On Wednesday, the International Commission for Marist

Mission meets in two sessions, with the Vicar General, Brother Luis Carlos, the Councillors Brothers Ben and Ken, and also the Directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation, Brothers Beto and Mark.

- On Friday, the link Councillors for Europe, Brothers João Carlos and Ben, will meet with the Provincial Council of West Central Europe to discuss the future of Marist mission in the Province.
- Also on Friday, Raul and Manu, from the Secretariat the Laity, are to meet with the lay formation team of the Province of L'Hermitage.
- On Saturday, the General Councillors, Brothers Ben, Ken and João Carlos will meet with the Provincials of Central America and Compostela to discuss the Marist community and mission in Honduras.



## MEMORARE

Remember,  
O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help,  
or sought thy intercession  
was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to thee,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;  
to thee do I come;  
before thee I stand,  
sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.  
Amen

“Memorare in the Snow”,  
February 1823

## GENERAL HOUSE MEMORARE IN THE SNOW

In February 1823, Marcellin Champagnat came close to fainting in the snow, but instead of losing hope, he prayed the “Memorare” and entrusted himself to the Virgin Mary.

This event is celebrated in the Marist World on 15 February with the evocation “Memorare in the Snow” which recalls the exhausted itinerary under the snow that Father Champagnat and Brother Stanislaus made on their way home, after having visited Brother John the Baptist, who was ill.

Realizing that it was impossible to continue and that they were lost, Father Marcellin entrusted himself to Our Lady and began to pray the “Memorare”.



Prayer in PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

Here you can read the event as it appears in the Champagnat's biography written by Jean-Baptiste Furet in 1856.

“In the month of February 1823, one of the Brothers of Bourg-Argental as seriously ill and Father Champagnat did not want his child to die without seeing him once more and giving him his blessing. The weather was bad and the ground covered with snow, but he was not deterred from making his way on foot to visit the patient, once he heard of his dangerous state. After consoling the Brother

and blessing him, he made ready to return to La Valla, despite the efforts to dissuade him because of the great quantity of snow which had fallen that same day, and the blizzard that was still raging. However, drawing on his courage, he chose to resist the pleading of the Brothers and the advice of his friends. He soon had reason to regret that choice.

With Brother Stanislaus at his side, he started for La VaHa, across the mountains of Pilat; but they had walked for hardly two hours when they lost their way. As there was no

trace of a path, they were forced to rely on luck or rather on the protection of God. A violent wind hurled the snow into their faces, making it so difficult to see that they didn't know whether they were going backwards or forwards. After wandering for a few hours, the Brother became so worn out that Father Champagnat had to take him by the arm to lead him and to help him keep his feet. It wasn't long, however, before he himself benumbed with cold and smothered with snow, felt his strength failing and was obliged to stop.

"My friend", he admitted to the Brother, "we are finished, if the Blessed Virgin doesn't come to our aid; let us have recourse to her and beg her to rescue us from the danger we are in of losing our lives in these woods and this snow." The words were scarcely out of his mouth when he felt the Brother slip from his grasp and fall exhausted to the ground. Full of confidence, he knelt down beside him, (now apparently unconscious), and said the Memorare with great fervour. After that prayer, he tried to raise the Brother again and to get him to walk.

They had to ken only a few steps, when they noticed a light shining in the distance; for it was night. They made in the direction of the light and arrived at a house, where they spent the night. They were both quite benumbed with cold, and the Brother especially was a long time recovering.

Father Champagnat declared, on several occasions, that if help had not arrived right then, would both have perished and that the Blessed Virgin had snatched them from certain death."

## CENTRAL AMERICA

# PROVINCIAL MEETING OF COMMUNITY ANIMATORS OF THE PROVINCE



The Community Animators of the Province of América Central met online from February 5 to 7 to discuss the theme of leadership and community building.

The meeting was led by a team of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit. Br. Hipólito Pérez Gómez, Provincial of Central America, was present.

The objectives of the meeting were: to evaluate the work carried out in the different areas where each one of them exercises leadership; to learn how to reposition our expectations; to

favor interactions and to build trust.

The meeting was enriched by the participation of three community animators from the Province of México Occidental: Hugo Rivera, Luis Enrique Rodríguez, Melesio Tizcareño, and three brothers from the Province of Norandina: José Miguel Caballero, Juan Pablo Marín, José Manuel Burnes.

At the conclusion, the meeting was marked by family spirit and transparency – each of the participants committed themselves to continue helping to build communities.

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

# BR. LUIS ENRIQUE RODRÍGUEZ SANTANA, NEW PROVINCIAL

The General Council, after having studied the results of the survey carried out in the Province, has appointed Br Luis Enrique Rodríguez Santana as Provincial of Mexico Occidental for a first period of three years. Br Luis Enrique will replace Br Miguel Ángel Santos Villarreal, Provincial since 2015. He will begin his mandate with the celebration of the Provincial Chapter, scheduled for 18-20 July 2021.

In a letter addressed to the Brothers of the Province on February 8, 2021, Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, thanked Br Miguel Ángel, the current Provincial, for the work he has done: "You have lived your leadership with an attitude of availability and listening, always open to dealing with matters coming up in both Mexico and Haiti, especially in these difficult times".

At the same time, Br Ernesto thanked Br Luis Enrique for his generosity. And he underlined: "your closeness to the people, your ability to listen and to be a team player, your experience in formation and vocation ministry, the years you have lived in Haiti, as well as your participation as delegate at the XXII General Chapter will be of great help to you".

## Br. Luis Enrique Rodríguez Santana

Born on 2 July 1965, in Guadalajara, Mexico. Son of Salvador and Baudelia, he is the 14th of 16 siblings.

He began his Marist formation in the juniorate in Tepatitlán, in 1978. He did the 2nd and 3rd years of his Juniorate in Loma Bonita, in Guadalajara. He also did his first year of Postulancy there. He did the other two years in Querétaro, while he was studying at the teacher training school. He did his Novitiate in Morelia and the Scholasticate in Querétaro and made his first religious profession on 6 July 1986.

Luiz Enrique has a degree in Psychology.

He began his work as a Marist Brother in the community of Nuevo Laredo. Later he moved to the city of Aguascalientes. "I had the good fortune to begin my apostolate in two communities with excellent Brothers. It was here, in Aguascalientes, that I made my definitive consecration on 20 July 1992."

The third community where he lived was in Mexicali. Here he worked in a school for children from humble families, three years as a teacher and six as director.

After nine years in Mexicali, he was asked to join the Vocation Ministry Commission, where he worked for eight years. During this time, he lived for three years in the Provincial House, for



four years stayed with the young Brothers of the Scholasticate, and spent one year in the insertion community of Villa de Guadalupe.

From 2010 to 2019 he was on mission in Haiti, firstly in Jérémie and for the last five years in the city of Okay, where he shared his life in the formation of the young postulants who were interested in following in Marcellin's footsteps as Marist Brothers. "Here Life goes on and our God who is Love is who makes Life sing".

On his return to Mexico, he returned to being on the formation team in the Postulancy and Scholasticate of Guadalajara, and at present, he is leader of the Postulancy community in Morelia.

## GENERAL HOUSE

# MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON MARIST SPIRITUALITY AND PATRIMONY

The commission met virtually, on 26 January 2021, to evaluate the work of the brothers on the theme of Marist Patrimony, to resume the programming of Marist Notebooks and other publications.



The commission is made up of Br Antonio Ramalho ([Brasil Centro-Norte](#) – Coordinator of the Commission), Br André Lanfrey ([L'Hermitage](#)), Br Michael Green ([Australia](#)), Mr Dyogenes P. Araujo ([Brasil Centro-Sul](#)), Br Patricio Pino ([Santa María de los Andes](#)), Br Allan De Castro ([East Asia](#)), Br Vincent de Paul Kouassi (District of West Africa), Br Omar Peña ([Central America](#)) and Br Colin Chalmers ([West Central Europe](#)) who is also the General Archivist.

João Carlos do Prado and Óscar Martín, and the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Angel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, participated in the Commission meeting.

Brother Guillermo Villareal, Postulator General, was invited to participate in this meeting. Brother Guillermo reminded the meeting that at the present time work is being done on two postulates for presentation to the Vatican: that of Brother Lycarion and that of Brother Basilio. The cause of Br. Moisés Cisneros is also being initiated. The Postulator General manifested his particular interest in rescuing the life of Brother François as a model of Christian and Marist life. He also asked the Commission to include Brothers Basilio and François in its research work, in order to work together on the two causes.

As part of the publications project, it was mentioned that the next issue of Marist Notebooks is already in the final phase of translation and will come out, as usual, next May. The contents of next year's issue were discussed, as well as the need to continue to explore possibilities of communication and dissemination of research on Marist patrimony, so that it becomes more and more accessible to the whole Institute.

In his intervention, Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor accompanying the Commission, presented the processes that the General Administration is going through, updating the points

seen at the last meeting:

- Constitutions and Rule of Life: to carry out a reflection-reading on the “points of novelty” presented by both documents, which highlight the historical evolution of the Institute (laity and spirituality).
- Symposium and international Patrimony course: to continue the reflection in accordance with the current pandemic conditions, perhaps thinking of the possibility of a mixed proposal, on-line and face-to-face.
- Marist places: to begin collaboration between the patrimony centres of the 4 branches of the Marist family.
- Formation Guide: The Commission’s advice to the working group responsible for the elaboration of the guide was recalled, so that the richness of the Patrimony is present in this process.
- Publications: a mixed team, such as the Commission, is called upon to take a step forward in its work of divulgation.
- 

Other pending issues were also discussed during the meeting, among them:

- FMS Studia: a list of possible topics is requested to be presented for the next meeting. Br. André Lanfrey will collect the proposals.
- Heritage Course: it was recommended to present a possible plan to work on. Br. Michael Green remained responsible for this task.
- Communication and outreach: for the next meeting, Dyogenes, Br Omar and Br Vincent will present proposals.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 22 June, virtually. Then, from 20 to 25 September, the group hopes to meet in Rome.

SPAIN

# THE NGO SED PRESENTS REFLECTIONS, PROPOSALS AND PRAYERS FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

**S**ED (Solidarity, Education and Development) launched its Lenten book 2021 under the title "Weaving fraternity, we build the future". The purpose of the publication is to accompany its readers, through reflections, proposals and prayers, from the beginning of Lent (February 17) until April 3.

To complement the themes collected in the [Lent 2021 book](#), people can also access a collection of seven videos, whose objective is to help meditate – personally or in a group – on each week, including the week of Ash Wednesday. [YouTube channel of the NGO](#).

SED, a Spanish Marist NGO, works mainly promoting the Right to Education in Africa and Latin America, as well as in some countries in Asia and Europe. In Spain it works in the field of Education for Development and Social Advocacy.



## Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love

"In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8). During this season of conversion, let us renew our faith, draw from the "living water" of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ."

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis For Lent 2021:[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco\\_20201111\\_messaggio-quaresima2021.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20201111_messaggio-quaresima2021.html)



## marist world

EAST TIMOR: MARIST PRE-NOVICES AT WATABOO – BAUCAU



GENERAL HOUSE: MSGR. JORGE PATRÓN WITH THE GENERAL COUNCIL



PHILIPPINES: MARISTS OF THE PHILIPPINES



SPAIN: MARISTAS DE ALICANTE



BRAZIL: APRENDIZADO MARISTA PADRE LANCÍSIO – SILVÂNIA



INDIA: MARCELLIN TRUST – OPERATION RAINBOW

SPAIN

## IBÉRICA PROVIDES TRAINING IN COMMUNICATION

The Communication Office of the Iberian Province is conducting online seminars on social media, photography and marketing with the aim of better training its teachers in the digital age and

informing them about the possibilities offered by online communication platforms.

The courses – held during the second and third school trimester – aim to respond to the challenges of 21st century education in which teachers and professors find themselves on a daily basis.

The programme is made up of three seminars: the social media seminar deals with the Social Media universe and



explores the most famous networks (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and other digital channels as informative and educational tools; the photography seminar deals with various basic photographic techniques and explains how to make an impact with the image on social networks; the marketing seminar is aimed at a more specialised audience in charge of marketing strategies in educational centres.

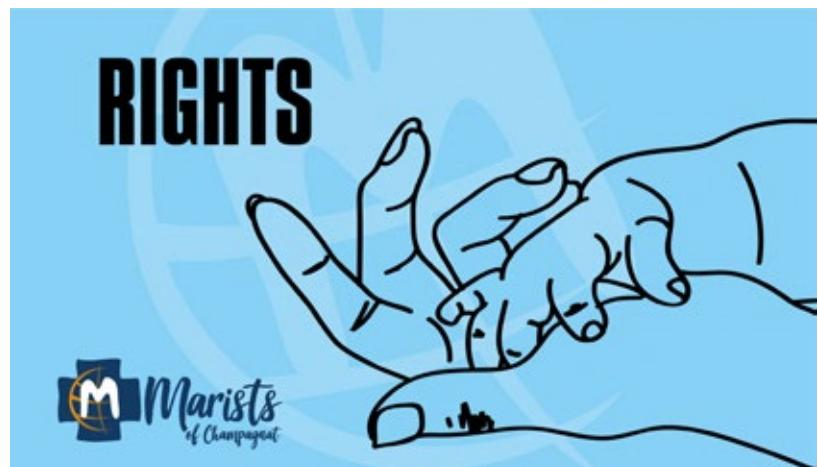
## GENERAL HOUSE

# EDUCATION FOR ALL: AN URGENT MATTER

**N**ot all children worldwide enjoy their right to education. Poverty, gender inequality, armed conflicts, violence, and poor-quality education are underlying factors in this worrying situation. Due to poverty, not all families in under-developed countries can send all of their children to school; mostly the boys, while girls stay at home to do household chores or get married early to reduce their parents' economic burden. No opportunities for schooling gets worse in conflict regions where armed groups directly attack and destroy school facilities and kill or kidnap students. All these, coupled with physical punishment from teachers, bullying from school mates and poor-quality education give many children in developing countries a bad experience of school education. The above situations underlie the United Nations' (UN) fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4).

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that radical change is possible. This lesson has given the world an opportunity especially in education to work towards achieving more. Given education's unique power to catalyze global change in various situations including poverty, inequality, insecurity and injustice, it was adopted during the United Nations (UN) summit of September 25-27, 2015 as one of the key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". The unprecedented setback that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought by causing school systems worldwide to shut down has not destroyed the hope of 'education for all'. Rather, it has opened up other avenues including remote learning as an alternative to conventional schools and their classroom-based approach. It has equally invited all the stakeholders to double their effort towards the promotion of education.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the school systems has shown that remote learning is more accessible to all than school- and classroom-based learning. Hence, to prepare for subsequent crisis which could be massive population displacements caused by climate change, armed conflicts, natural disasters, or another global pandemic, education systems need to give urgent attention to the redesigning of textbooks, and the developing of home-based study. It has been observed that the closure of schools had a negative impact in places with neither ICT facilities and textbooks nor access to TV and radio. In such places, access to learning during crisis could be through



textbooks designed for self-study and adapted to home-based learning. Such textbooks could incorporate short units and lessons with simple activities that draw on children's experience as well as guidelines put in the margins for teachers, tutors, and helpers. Such a revolution in textbook writing, requires training and coaching for textbook writers, and in-service teacher training to prepare them for new roles in home-based education. These roles include mobilizing support for children studying at home and empowering teachers in poor areas with didactic materials and digital technologies to enable them to transmit lessons and learning materials to students.

Today, many children cannot complete education without home-based tutoring. This is an indication that classroom-based schooling is gradually giving way to online, home- and values-based education. While encouraging the production and the use of textbooks and ICTs designed for self-study, the need to provide support structures and train caregivers including household members and neighbours to help children learn at home is more urgent than ever. This is even more so in communities where gender-based harassment and violence are endemic. For many children, particularly girls who are forced to learn at home due to the pandemic or armed conflicts in their countries, this may be their only option to continue their education, even after the crisis. Based on these considerations, guidance to caregivers from government- and civil society-based programs in mobilizing, sourcing, and training home-based learning facilitators can increase the long-term impact. Education for all by the year 2030 could be possible if countries make immediate investments in textbooks, caregiver training, and teacher re-orientation to support home-based learning.

Brother Francis Lukong – Secretariat of SolidarityHermano

**NORANDINA**

Starting February 6, the Marist Laity of the Province will be broadcasting a programme of formation and reflection "live" via Facebook on the first Saturday of each month. In the first meeting, Br Leonardo Yepes and Marianita Moreno reflected on the Circular "Homes of Light" of Br Ernesto Sánchez.

**MEDITERRÁNEA**

Through the Marcellin Champagnat Foundation and the Province Delegation for Child Protection, the Marist Province has taken part in a public consultation for the Modification of Law 4/2000 on the rights and liberties of foreigners in Spain, with the aim of supporting minors and young people living in Spain.

**GREECE**

The Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See in the country, Mgr Savio Hon Fai-Tai, visited the Leonteo High School in Athens on February 9. During the visit, the school executive team and the bishop had the opportunity to discuss the educational work and youth ministry of the Marist Brothers in the country, in the schools of Athens.

**BRAZIL CENTRO-NORTH**

At the start of the school year in Brazil, classes begin with staggered attendance. About 32,000 students attend the Province's schools. This year, the Colégio Padre Eustáquio, in Belo Horizonte, with more than 1,500 students, joined the network of Marist schools.,

**SPAIN**

# MEDITERRÁNEA MEETS TO EVALUATE THE PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO EVANGELISATION IN OUR WORKS



**A**bout 150 Marists from Spain, Italy and Lebanon took part in a meeting of Province of Mediterránea, held online from 5 to 6 February, around the theme "We are EvangeLIO".

The meeting brought together members of the school management teams. It was promoted by the Province Pastoral Team, by the Provincial Council and supported by other province groups.

There were three main objectives of this Province meeting:

- To present the Strategic Project: "To evaluate the priority being given to evangelisation in our ministries, explore new actions and create new projects".
- To reflect on evangelising through education in these "times of no gatherings".
- To get to know the analysis tool and how to apply it in our ministries.

The words of Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes Marí, Provincial, sum up the spirit that is moving Marists in the Province: "We are Mission and We are Gospel. Our desire as Christian educators is to transform the world around us for the better and both Evangelisation and Education are our pillars for this".

During the sessions over two days, there was time for presentation, participation and prayer. There were also moments of individual and group work, and all together. Everything came together to continue moving forward and improving, as the broad human and religious group that is the Marist Province of Mediterránea.

## GENERAL HOUSE

# WE CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES AS A GLOBAL MARIST FAMILY

**A**s we enter into February, time moves on and so do our lives. It has been many months since we began the time of pandemic. A special time that has changed our lives, that continues to change our lives, and that will certainly change our lives in the future. We run the risk of becoming insensitive to so many situations of pain that we find around us. We can be tempted to want to keep our lifestyles as our first objective.

As people, as Christians, and as Marists of Champagnat, we also have a great opportunity. We have the possibility for generating life, as Brother Ernesto invites us to do in his recent circular. Our vocation is precisely that, to help to generate life, a life that develops in fullness.

Last June we began the first steps of the “Marist Global Family Fund for Humanitarian Emergencies”. In September we began to make this initiative known to the whole Institute. Today we must continue to be attentive to the needs of our environment, to the emergencies that are occurring in our own houses and communities, in our towns and cities.



During these months we have responded to many needs that have arisen in our surroundings. Some of these responses have been at the local level, others at the provincial or administrative unit level. Many of these responses have also involved the collaboration of some of our NGOs and Foundations. The General Administration has also supported the development of several humanitarian response projects.

The present and the future are in our hands, in our actions. May we continue to realise Marcellin's dream in our world, especially among the least favoured people in each of our societies. We offer to God, who is merciful love, our lives and our mission.

Br Ángel Diego, Director of the Solidarity Secretariat

**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>

**YouTube**

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

**Facebook**

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

**Twitter**

[https://twitter.com/fms\\_champagnat](https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat)