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MARIST NEWS

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ARGENTINA

CENTENARY OF SERVICE OF GRAM EDITORIA

On 1st March 2021, GRAM EDITORIA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS of focussed and committed Marist presence in education, evangelisation and advocacy of child rights in Argentina. Its books, classroom resources and all its materials, developed specifically for teachers, have sought to respond to changes that have taken place in society, culture, the world of work, and the Church, always attentive to emerging needs.

The centenary will be celebrated throughout the year, proudly recalling those whose work and dedication have



left us a values-based enterprise with all its challenges and hopes. With great conviction, they were faithful to what is at the heart of our Marist mission and

charism: TO MAKE JESUS CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED.

VICTORINO MAGIN SERVITJE GUITART was in charge of the Publication house from 1921 to 1947. In its foundation year, he launched the first school text (an Atlas for First Grade), by Br. Felipe Lorenzo, and the first set of class Readers (from 10 to 60).

Today GRAM publishes cutting-edge material on religious education for schools, youth ministry, textbooks, spirituality, Mariology, communication and child rights and protection.

general administration

■ The Council of the Fratelli Project met by videoconference on Monday to advance the implementation of the project in Maicao, on the border between Colombia and Venezuela. Besides the members of the Council (Brs Óscar and Valdicer Fachi - Marist; Br Jorge Gallardo and Rafa Matas - Lasallians), Brothers César Rojas and Orlando Escobar, present and next Provincial of Norandina and the Lasallian Visitor in Colombia, also participated.

■ On the same day Brothers Luis Carlos, Ken and Ben met to prepare the next meeting of the International Commission of Marist Mission.

■ Br Sylvain, General Councillor, met with the Provincial Council of South Asia on Tuesday.

■ On Tuesday, the Cmi Department met with the Curitiba IT team developing the NEXUS platform for interprovincial volunteering.

■ General Councillors Ken, Oscar and Ben attended the

Marist Online Symposium with Fr Timothy Radcliffe, organised by the Marists of Australia, on Tuesday.

■ Raúl Amaya and Manu Gómez, of the Secretariat of the Laity, together with General Councillor Sylvain, took part in a meeting with the Marist formation group working with laypeople in the Province of Madagascar.

■ On Thursday, the Council of Lavalla200> will meet to deal with matters relating to international communities.

■ The Secreterariado de Solidarity will participate in the meeting of BICE for Latin America on Thursday on: "Child and Adolescent Protection and victims of violence, especially of a sexual nature".

■ On Saturday, Br Sylvain will meet virtually with the Brothers of Pakistan.

■ Next Sunday, Manú Gómez, of the Secretariat of the Laity, will take part in the second phase of the "Forum of laypeople who have made a public commitment" of the Province of Ibérica.

Message from Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, for the celebration of the centenary:

A journey over 100 years

Today, GRAM Publications is launching “Cien años de Historia” (A Hundred Years of History), a digital publication that invites people to retrace the life of an institution that has inspired generations in their life education and learning.



This journey down the years shows us the most relevant milestones and produc-

tions, from the first school and religious publications to its best-selling collections, showing its constant evolution and growth.

In May 2021, we plan to launch a publication in book format of the history of GRAM from its beginnings to the present day. A great opportunity to take up the challenges of the publishing industry and to continue our vocation to be life-giving and sowers of hope.

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

MEETING OF WELCOME AND STRENGTHENING OF SPIRITUALITY

On February 22, the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul held a virtual meeting that marked the beginning of the year’s activities for Brothers and collaborators of the Marist Mission. The objective was to promote a motivating and inspiring reception. For this reason, the meeting was called “Celebration of Life”.

The meeting was attended by Brothers, collaborators of the Province, lay people, young people and members of the “Praça da Vida Marista”. The meeting was also open to the whole Marist community and to the public, so that all could add their intentions.

The Celebration of Life, which lasted about 30 minutes, was based on two concepts: giving hope and sowing. In this context, there were words of welcome, prayers and music to lighten the mood.

The program was composed by the collaboration of different



teams of the Province. Aspects of the Circular “Homes of Light” of Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General of the Marist Institute, were also discussed.

It was a time to take care of the light of the house so that the Marists can keep the flame of the mission burning during this new stage that we are beginning to live, after a period of summer vacations in Brazil.

You can live and participate in the celebration through the YouTube channel of the Province.

3 MARCH

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY CELEBRATION

FORESTS: INDISPENSABLE ECOSYSTEMS



The theme of this year's World Wildlife Day celebration (<https://www.wildlifeday.org/>), 3rd March, is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and the Planet". It highlights the importance of forests as sources of our livelihood and survival on the planet and invites us to reflect on our attitude towards the forests knowing that they cover only 31% of the earth's land surface and yet half of the world's population rely on them for their livelihood and survival. We depend so much on the forests for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the firewood we use and the vital services we get from them including carbon storage, absorption of harmful greenhouse gasses, climate regulation, filtering of water through tree roots, trapping of dust particles and pollutants from the air, providing timber and the bark of tree and herbs for medicine, as well as being the habitat to more than half of the world's land-based species. Forests products continue to be a vital part of our daily lives in many ways: sitting on a chair, reading a book or newspaper, using toilet paper, paper towels, corks, notebooks, furniture, medicines, cosmetics, detergents; developments in the areas of healthcare and pharmaceuticals also. Despite this, deforestation continues at an alarming rate. The Amazon, the world's largest rainforest in Brazil loses 1.35 million hectares of forest each year, DR Congo 0.481, Columbia 0.340, Bolivia 0.177, and Indonesia 0.155. The destruction of the natural habitat and loss of animal and plant species, global warming, the destruction of the water cycle, soil erosion and desertification are the consequences of deforestation. According to statistics, an average of 28 million hectares of forests are being cut down every year since 2016. It is estimated that half of the world's rainforest has been destroyed in just one century. At the current rate of deforestation, the world's rainforests will be gone in 100 years. Needless to ask the question, what will happen

then when the forest is gone? The image of the earth taken 3.7 billion miles away from a spacecraft is a tiny speck of light floating in a sunbeam. The earth is the only home we have in the cosmos. We do not know where else human life is possible. In "Laudato Si", Pope Francis draws our attention to the fact that global warming is the consequence of human irresponsible exploitation of the earth's resources. He believes that "we can take from the bounty of the earth whatever we need for subsistence" but warns that "we must exercise responsibility and care for its resources". Similarly, Pope Benedict XVI in "Caritas in Veritate" affirms that "the environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility... to abhor its "reckless exploitation" of the air, water or land or needless disruption of the natural world". Pope Francis insists that "we can no longer be indifferent to the exploitation of our common home", and proposes change based on an integral ecology; the awareness that "everything is connected" as well as a "spiritual conversion" capable of leading to a new consciousness of our relationship with ourselves, with others, with society, with creation and with God.

Putting a stop to deforestation can go a long way to stabilize the climate, save wildlife species and protect our well-being. In practical terms, this means planting trees, using less paper, using recycled products, buying only sustainable wood products, not burning firewood excessively, reducing air pollution, switching to renewable energies, practicing eco-forestry, raising forest protection awareness, respecting the rights of indigenous people, supporting agro-ecological methods which increase yields while reducing environmental impacts, supporting organizations that fight deforestation, as well as not supporting corrupt politicians, governments and systems.

Br. Francis Lukong - Secretariat of Solidarity

GREECE

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CORFU AND THESSALONIKI SPEAKS ABOUT HIS MARIST EDUCATION IN ATHENS

"Thanks to the Marist Brothers, a light began to shine in me. It was the light of the call, like the light of a more specific and exclusive dedication to God", said Archbishop Georges Altouvas, Metropolitan of Corfu, Zakynthos and Cephalonia, Greece, during his episcopal ordination on 7 February 2021 in the Cathedral of St. Dionysius the Areopagit in Athens.

"I would like to speak about my school, Lycée Léonin – Marist College of Athens – which provided me with many spiritual experiences. Certainly, schools are not only the buildings, but above all the people who make it up and the education it offers. I include here my teachers, but above all the Marist Brothers, who sowed in me the spiritual virtues of simplicity, humility and modesty," said the Greek Catholic Archbishop, a former Marist student and teacher at the Marist schools of Athens (Lycée Léonin of Néa Smyrni and Lycée Léonin of Patissia).

During his visit to the community, he recalled the vocation camps, his spiritual days and his pilgrimages to the Marist Places, to the Hermitage. Referring to his Marist formation, Mgr Georges Altouvas pointed out, in a special way, that on his episcopal mitre he has placed "the three Marist violets",



symbols of simplicity, humility and modesty, the three Marial virtues which come to us from Marcellin Champagnat. The now Metropolitan Archbishop of Corfu, Zakynthos and Cephalonia and Apostolic Administrator of the Apostolic Vicariate of Thessaloniki, was a pupil in primary and secondary school at the "Leontios" College in Patissia, from the age of 6 (1979 – 1991). In 1992, after 12 years of Marist education, Mgr Georges moved to Rome to follow his vocation to the priesthood.

GENERAL HOUSE

REFLECTION TEAM ABOUT THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY NETWORK

On February 25, the reflection team that is working on how to re-launch the Marist International Solidarity Network met. This team has been working since October, divided into English and Spanish language groups. For the first time all the members met, with the help of Brother Teófilo who has done the translation service.

The purpose of this meeting was to have the opportunity to get to know each other, to share the work as Marists of Champagnat, and to thank each of the members for being Marist and for the reflection developed during these months.

The participants in the last meeting were: Rebecca Bromhead (Australia), Victoria Racancoj (Guatemala), José Luis González (Spain), Br. Cho Nchang (Ivory Coast), Br. Teófilo Minga (trans-



lator), and the directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, Brothers Francis Lukong and Ángel Diego García Otaola.

MEXICO CENTRAL

The educational community of Centro Universitario Mexico is holding a series of on-line conferences aimed at students, as well as parents. Some of the conferences that have been shared are entitled “How to build success”, “Let’s talk about addiction prevention”, “How do I deal with my children’s emotions?”, among others. To access these conferences, visit their YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/c/MaristasCUM/>

CHILE

Currently the Marist school of La Pintana Marcelino Champagnat, in Santiago de Chile (Santa María de los Andes Province) is operating as one of the Coronavirus vaccination centres in the commune of La Pintana.

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

Last Wednesday 24th February, 160 basic food-baskets and cleaning kits were given to the families of the Marist Social Centre Aparecida das Águas and of the Tia Jussara Marist School, in partnership with the local authorities.

WEST AFRICA

The district launched its new web page on 2 March, in a live broadcast on Facebook: <https://marist-westafrica.org/> In August, with the celebration of its first Chapter, the District will become a Province. The District covers Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Liberia, with 82 Brothers, distributed in 11 communities and working in 10 schools.

SPAIN

INSTITUTE OF MARIST STUDIES PROMOTES DEBATE ON SOLIDARITY IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



"Marist Solidarity in times of pandemic" is the theme of the XII Edition of the Café Colloquium of the IEM (Institute of Marist Studies) of the Pontifical University of Salamanca (UPSA), which will be held online from 9 to 10 March.

During the first session, Br Ángel Diego García Otaola, Director of the Solidarity Secretariat of the General Administration, will present the role and initiatives of the Secretariat in times of pandemic. The colloquium is scheduled for 9 March at 18:00.

The second day will be given by Br Javier Salazar Celis, Director of SED (Solidarity, Education and Development), the NGO of the Marists in Spain, who will speak on the theme: SED responds. Step forward. His talk will take place on 10 March at 18:00.

The Institute of Marist Studies invites everyone to participate in the meeting, which is free of charge and open to all at the following links:

Tuesday 9 March 2021 (18:00 h) Session

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/34a38ffc3f2047c282e547213776bc8e>

Wednesday 10 March 2021 (18:00 h)

Session <https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/afa154d3fa104dfd8e74a543c5d501fb>

Institute of Marist Studies (IEM)

The IEM is a Higher Institute integrated into the Pontifical University of Salamanca, through the Faculty of Education in the Luis Vives Building. It was created at the proposal of the Provincial Councils of the Marist Provinces of Compostela and Mediterránea and with the approval of the Governing Board of the Pontifical University of Salamanca. Its series of coffee-colloquiums are intended to be an annual meeting on subjects related to the objectives of the Institute, where guests and participants can reflect, debate, give their opinions and encourage closeness, knowledge and the strengthening of common bonds.

TIMOR LESTE

FMSI RAISES FUNDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A SCHOOL IN BAUCAU



FMSI has succeeded in raising funds for the construction of a primary school in Quelicai, Baucau (East Timor), thanks to the support of the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) and the joint work with the Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS), which helps the brothers present in East Timor, promoters of this project.

The project will rebuild the entire Santa Terezinha primary school, belonging to the diocese of Baucau, whose infrastructure is in a state of emergency and is an imminent danger for the 450 students who attend it. This educational centre has been officially functioning since 1999, and the Marist Brothers accompany the educational activities.

The Bishop of Baucau, Don Basilio do Nascimento, has decided to build the school in its entirety on the lands of his diocese and has entrusted the work to the Marists “because over the years they have demonstrated their efficiency in the field of education”.

Brother Peter Sheehan, AMS Project Coordinator for East Timor, is the focal point and responsible for the organisation and management of this project. The AMS will also count on the effective collaboration of other Brothers present in the community.

In addition to the Italian Episcopal Conference and Austra-

lian Marist Solidarity (AMS), the project is also funded by the Kindermissionswerk and Aid to the Church in Need. The final completion of the work is estimated to take 8 months.

The Marist presence in the country is growing every day, thanks to the joint work of the brothers in Australia and Brazil. There are many Marist candidates and the Catholic Institute for the Formation of Teachers, run by the Marists, is an educational framework. The Australian Province has already approved the construction of a new Marist school.

FMSI is a Foundation established by the Marist Institute for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. FMSI carries out its mission through advocacy and lobbying activities and projects in countries where there is a Marist presence.

AMS is the Marist Australian Province's international relief and development agency for Asia and the Pacific Islands. It supports communities in 17 countries with long and short term development projects

marist world

FRANCE: CENTRE D'ACCUEIL L'HERMITAGE – BR. BENITO AND BR. ELADI CELEBRATING HIS BIRTHDAY!



AUSTRALIA: MARIST GAME CHANGERS



SPAIN: SAN JOSÉ DEL PARQUE SCHOOL



SOUTH AFRICA: THREE2SIX PROJECT



CHILE: INSTITUTO ALONSO DE ERCILLA – COLEGIO MARISTA



VOTE COUNT FOR CENTRAL AMERICA CHAPTER PARTICIPANTS

GENERAL HOUSE

CONGRESS OF HISTORIANS TO STUDY THE POSITIO OF THE CAUSE OF BR. LYCARION

The Commission of Historians of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints will study the Positio of the Cause of Br Lycarion on 23 March 2021. The Commission will have to express its opinion on the scientific value of the documentation that has been collected and submitted and on the sufficiency of the evidence presented. The Positio of the Br. Lycarion could only go to press at the beginning of June 2020 after overcoming the difficulties caused by the pandemic in Rome in the early months of last year. The copies needed by the experts in history were immediately consigned to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints for them to study. Eight months of patient waiting have passed before the announced date of 23 March next. This is good news because once this step has been taken, the



documentation will be handed over to the Commission of theological censors and finally to that of the Cardinals. Once this juridical process has been completed, we can expect the decree of recognition of Br. Lycarion as blessed and martyr. We recall that Br Lycarion was a Swiss Marist who died in Barcelona during the sad events of the Tragic Week of Barcelona in 1909, the first

Marist to shed his blood on Spanish soil. We raise our prayers to the Lord through our Good Mother, thanking Him for the witness of life and death of this Servant of God, and at the same time we ask that through these legal gestures His glory and His will may also be manifested among us.

H. Antonio Martínez Estaún

GUATEMALA

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCO NORTE

Inspired and encouraged by the Lenten message of Pope Francis, the Regional Council of Arco Norte met by videoconference on 22 February to continue walking with hope, in “a new present, a better future”, in the construction of Marist Arco Norte.

At this meeting the “family was enlarged” with the participation of many people. The Brothers Provincial of the Region: Gérard Bachand (Canada), Patrick McNamara (United States), José Sánchez (México Central), César Augusto Rojas (Norandina), Miguel Ángel Santos (México Occidental), Tomás Briongos (Compostela – Honduras) and Hipólito Pérez (América Central).

We had the joy of sharing with the four new Brothers Provincial, recently appointed in the region: Brothers Orlando Escobar (Norandina), Luis Enrique Rodríguez (México Occidental), Luis Felipe González (México Central) and Dan O’Riordan (United States). It was a wonderful opportunity to give them the most fraternal and cordial welcome, while favouring a serene process of transition in the regional leadership.

João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, the liaison General Councillors of the region, accompanied us as usual.

Br. Rodrigo Espinosa, in his capacity as Executive Secretary, convened the meeting, set the agenda and carried out the session successfully, fruitfully and responsibly.

The most important aspects developed were:

- A time to share the provincial journey with the following guidelines: How do I feel today? A sign of hope and a special situation in my province.



- Approval of the documents: regulations of the CAP, updated SWOT, plan of the Brothers Today Team and Organisms and functions of the Region.
- Presentation, reflection and approval of the new regional logo, with the participation of Jessica Urquiza as coordinator of the Communications Team. We congratulate and thank all the members of this team for their commitment and creativity in this initiative.
- Follow-up and information on the processes in which the region is involved: Province of Canada, La Valla 200 Montagne community (Holguín-Cuba), La Valla Interprovincial Novitiate (Medellín, Colombia) and Marist Life and Mission in Honduras.
- Information from the International Mission Commission.
- Organisation of the meeting of the American Conference of Provincials 2021.

“May we live this Lenten season with hope, being artisans and witnesses of this new reality for Marist life and mission in the Region, in which God makes all things new” (cf. Lenten Message 2021, Pope Francis).

Br. Hipólito Pérez – Provincial Central America



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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

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