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# MARIST NEWS

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

THE ADVENTURE OF THE MARIST BROTHERS IN CHINA

## A STORY OF RESILIENCE, CREATIVITY AND LOVE OF MISSION

The book “The adventure of the Marist Brothers in China” was launched on-line on March 19 during the closing of the course on Marist Spirituality and Patrimony, promoted by **UMBRASIL**. The Marist Memorial of the **Province of Brasil Centro-Sul**, in collaboration with the publishing company **PUCPRESS** and the General Administration of the Institute, were responsible for the Portuguese and Spanish versions of this book, first published in the original English in 2017.

During the launch, broadcast live on **canal do Farol 1817 do Youtube**, the panellists

were Br Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General of the Marist Institute; Br Carlos Huidobro, former Secretary General of the Marist Institute; and Br Benê Oliveira, Provincial. One of the authors of the book, Spes Ku, a former Marist student, also participated in a video message. The transmission can be seen on <https://youtu.be/gr09IFS1ZK0>

Br Carlos met with the entire team that produced the book at the



General House when he was Secretary General. Captivated by the story described there and seeing the inspiration that this experience could mean for Marist life today, he took it upon himself to promote the translation and publication of the work in the other languages of the Institute, Spanish, Portuguese and French. The authors of the book are Spes Stanley Ku and Nathalie A. Pasa. It was published in 2017 by New City in the Philippines.

## general administration

- This week Br. Ernesto Sánchez is participating in the online Holy Week Retreat, organised by the Province of East Asia, with a talk each day from Monday to Saturday on his Circular, “Homes of Light”.
- On Monday, General Councillors Brs. Sylvain and Oscar took part in a meeting of the Regional Council of South America.
- On the same day, Brs. Ben and Josep Maria took part in a meeting of the Oceania Council and the College of Leaders, with leaders from the Province of Australia and the District of the Pacific.
- On Monday and Tuesday, Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and Br Ben met with the Secretariat of Education and Evange-

lization to discuss the launching of the Marist Global Schools Network.

- On Tuesday, Brs. Ben and Josep Maria met with Brs. Luis Carlos and Goyo to discuss developments in the Oceania Region.
- On Wednesday, the directors of the Secretariat of Solidarity, Brs. Ángel Diego and Francis, took part in the second meeting of the four Marist congregations to continue their study of “Integral Ecology”.
- On Wednesday, the link Councillors for Europe, Brs. Joao Carlos and Ben, met with Brothers Luis Carlos and Goyo to discuss developments in the Region.

Spes Ku is a Marist ex-student of St Francis Xavier's College, Hong Kong (class of 1982). The original title of the book is "Dawn of the word – In Silence – The adventure of the Marist Brothers in China". The authors present how the work of Marcellin Champagnat developed in China from 1891, when the first six Brothers arrived, to 1954. During their research, the authors studied diaries, personal letters, notes, interviews and other documents found in the Marist archives. On the day of the presentation, Spes Ku said that he had spoken personally with the last brothers still living in the country. Without a shadow of doubt, it is a story that involves much resilience, creativity and love for our mission. And one whose fruits go far beyond the date of the closure of the Chinese Province, which is now encompassed by the Province of East Asia and the District of Asia.

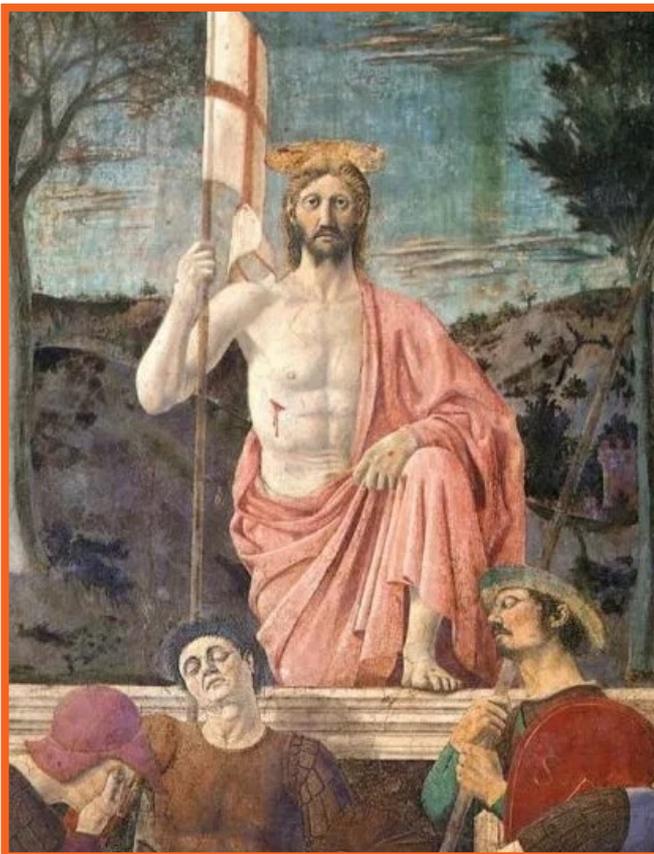
During his presentation, Br Ernesto stressed that the authors "had an extraordinary intuition in transforming into a written document all the valuable information about the Marist presence and mission in China, thus ensuring knowledge and inspiration of our legacy in Chinese lands for present and future generations".

The Portuguese version was printed in Brazil and will be distributed through the Marist Memorial. The Spanish version, translated and printed by the General House, will be mailed to the Administrative Units in the coming days. A French version



The authors of the book received, in 2018, by Brothers Ernesto and Luis Carlos

is also being produced and will be published in the coming months. The work will also be translated into German. This book is important for the Marist world today because it shows how the 6 French Brothers who arrived in China in 1891 can be an example of global availability mandated by the last General Chapter. It also shows the missionary ardour of the young Brothers who started this adventure: "the missionary spirit of Saint Marcellin remained very much alive in the hearts of these Brothers", emphasised Brother Carlos, during the presentation of the book.



Do not be amazed!  
Jesus has been  
raised.

Mark 16,6

Happy and holy Easter  
to all the Marists of  
Champagnat! May the  
risen Christ help us to  
walk as a global family.

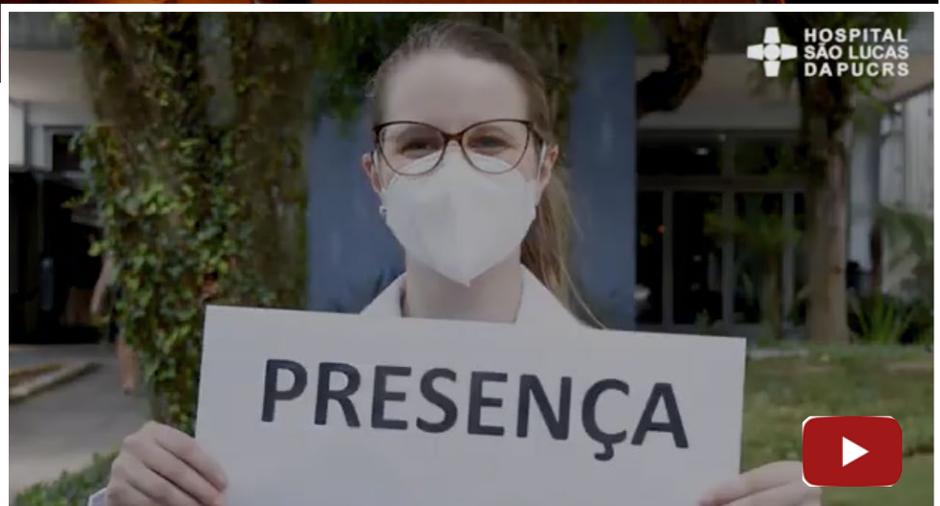
BRAZIL

# THE MARIST HOSPITAL OF PORTO ALEGRE PAID TRIBUTE TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL



One year after the first case of Coronavirus was diagnosed in Brazil, the Hospital São Lucas, belonging to the Brasil Sul-Amazônia province, paid tribute to the health professionals who are at the forefront of the battle against Covid-19, through the screening of a very significant video on the reasons that inspire the entire team to continue their work. Among these motivations are love of work, empathy, compassion and courage.

On behalf of the academic community, the Rector of PUCRS, Br Evilázio Teixeira, highlighted the University's recognition: "We are very proud and very grateful to all the health and education professionals who offer their time, knowledge and energy to save lives, promote knowledge and ensure education. One of the challenges for human beings is to combine work and care. These are not contradictory, but complementary. And during these 365 days there has been no shortage of compelling and inspiring examples of care in all dimensions of our university and our hospital".

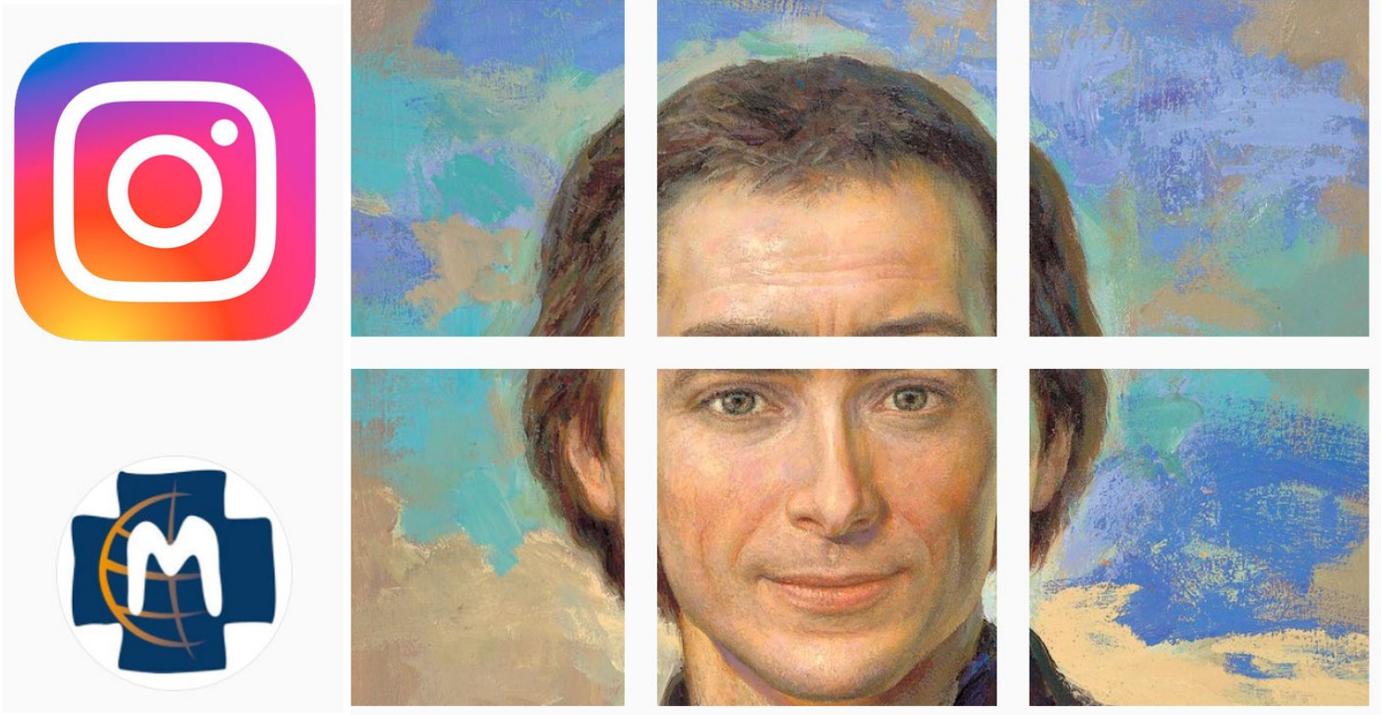


The video shows a series of actions taken by the hospital to raise awareness in society about pandemic care and the recognition of the professionals who continue to serve the community.

Leandro Firme, general director of the São Lucas Hospital of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), mentioned that this is a moment in which human beings are fragile, the tribute is a sign of empathy with the life of the collaborator, "who has been totally available to care for so many people, especially in this period, which is one of the most serious of the pandemic".

GENERAL HOUSE

# WE ARE NOW ALSO ON INSTAGRAM



The General Administration of the Institute has just launched its official profile on Instagram! You can visit our channel @fms.champagnat and follow us either from your computer by clicking on this link [www.instagram.com/fms.champagnat](http://www.instagram.com/fms.champagnat) or from your smartphone by downloading the free official Instagram app.

### Why did we decide to use a new social communication channel?

Thanks to its ease of use, the possibility of connecting with people from all over the world, of following the profiles that are of most interest to us, Instagram is now the most successful social network, and not only among young people.

Statistics show that more than a billion people around the world actively use it, a truly impressive percentage. When browsing this social platform, we also immediately noticed how many Marist communities around the world have their own profiles, how many brothers, lay people, students and alumni tell us about their Marist experience every day. So it was natural to think of wanting to be there in person to help strengthen the great community inspired by the charisma of Marcellin Champagnat.

While **Facebook** continues to be the most popular and ac-

cessed social network, Instagram is rapidly gaining ground with growth rates that far exceed those of other social networks.

### #MaristsOfChampagnat

So follow us by 'liking' @fms.champagnat. When posting photos or videos of your Marist experience, remember to add the hashtag of our community #MaristsOfChampagnat, so that anyone searching for content with this search key will also see yours.

Hashtags, for those who are not used to using these tools, are 'keywords' that aggregate content on the same theme. If you search for #MaristsOfChampagnat in the search field offered by social networks, you will see, in fact, a lot of entries published in every corner of the world about Marist life events.

Instagram has convinced us of this: it allows us to be part of a large family even if we are far away and do not know each other personally; it is a social platform that creates a common narrative that we want to join to add our contribution and to feel even more united at a time when the pandemic emergency is forcing us to remain at a distance physically.

We look forward to seeing you on our new communication channel and invite you to share your marist experiences with photos and videos.

## ■ MEXICO

On March 12th the Provincial Councils of Mexico Central and Mexico Occidental met together. There was an atmosphere of openness and a willingness to proceed as Marist Mexico. The actions, policies and strategies that have been carried out during the pandemic were shared. The progress made by each of the interprovincial commissions was also discussed: Communication, Solidarity, Sports, Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, Laity Commission, and Child Protection.

## ■ UNITED STATES CHAPTER

In April, the Province will hold its Chapter. Last week, a video question and answer was posted to explain to young Marists the significance of such a gathering: <https://youtu.be/FViU9N-IWxvU>. During the Chapter, Br Dan O’Riordan will take over as Provincial from Br Patrick McNamara.

## ■ PHILIPPINES

Thirty newly hired personnel of Notre Dame of Cotabato undertook Marist Formation on March 26-27. The program was intended as an orientation on the Marist tradition, Marist charism, and the story of St. Marcellin. Participants were introduced to the Marist life of both the brothers and the Marist lay.

## ■ AUSTRALIA

The Marist Association held a meeting of the Local Coordinators via Zoom; that is, the women and men who help to facilitate and lead the Association’s Local Groups. Over 40 people participated. The theme was ‘To walk humbly with our God’ and the keynote speaker was Carole Wark (Video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vTpsnYOD0quqdkm73oHvfOA-VEOIDS1NB/view>)

## MEXICO

# AN INVITATION OF THE MYM OF MEXICO CENTRAL TO LIVE HOLY WEEK IN AN ALTERNATIVE WAY



The Marist Youth Ministry of the Province of Mexico Central shares an initiative that invites young people to live Holy Week in an alternative way: TODAY ALL OF US ARE MISSIONARIES!

The slogan of the initiative is “My family is Mission Territory”. The idea originated from the pastoral coordinators of the schools of the Province, working collaboratively. In focussing on their everyday reality and circumstances, the young people have at hand a different way of living Holy Week at home.

A set of message cards has been prepared for each day of the week as a guide for family moments, with the

time and space chosen to best suit each family. By way of introduction, there is a text explaining the purpose behind the idea, as well as the methodology for using the message cards.

The process invites us to consider our family reality from a faith perspective, one that is pieced together with small daily rituals in each of our homes, as we offer the best of ourselves, from our humble family abode out to the heart of humanity.

We invite you to get to know, share, communicate and take up this idea at your home: My family is Mission Territory.

GENERAL HOUSE

# A PROPOSAL FOR THE LAY MARIST VOCATION: A COMMUNION OF FULLY COMMITTED MARISTS

Words of Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, about the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, inaugurated on 19 March 2021.

Dear Marists of Champagnat:

For a little over a year now, around the world we have been living through a time of both intense crisis and opportunity. The pandemic caused by Covid-19, in addition to presenting us with significant challenges in terms of caring for life, has made us aware of the many faces of suffering and injustice that exist in our world. Situations that, in one way or another, were already present, but which the pandemic has brought to the fore more sharply, and others besides that have emerged during this period. In regard to all this, Pope Francis said, “We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us.” ([Pope’s prayer in St. Peter’s Square, 27 March 2020](#)).

To set out, conscious of our need for one another, was the main call of the 22nd General Chapter: let’s journey together as a global family! At a time when protection measures seem to be separating and isolating us, new ways of feeling close and connected are emerging. Among these, digital means are currently playing a key role. Our spirit of hope is prodding us to be creative and motivating us to be innovative.

This is the context in which the initiative of an [INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION](#) is being launched in the Institute. It is a process that is intended to take place over the next four years. Several of the stages will be carried out on-line, others in person. The process seeks to encourage us in WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION.

In my [Circular Homes of Light](#) I invited all of us to continue to grow in our experience of our Marist vocation as brothers and



laypeople, following the invitation of the XXII General Chapter: “the future for the charism will be founded on a communion of fully committed Marists”. A number of initiatives are currently underway throughout the Institute that are focussed on strengthening each of these vocations, with elements specific to each vocation and elements common to us all. On this occasion, the focus of the INTERNATIONAL FORUM is the lay Marist vocation.

I would like to thank the members of the Secretariat of the Laity and the Extended Secretariat, as well as the facilitators, for their achievement in launching and assisting in the Forum process. Thanks also to all the formation teams serving lay Marists in the Provinces and Districts. My thanks to all the brothers and lay people who will be involved in this Forum movement. We believe it will be a life-giving experience for all.

We place the work of the Forum in the hands of Mary, our Good Mother, as well as our lives and mission, since this Institute is her work, as St. Marcellin so often reminded us. Mary

inspires in us a heart that is free and full of the fire of God, capable of welcoming newness. With her by our side, let us journey together.

Br. Ernesto Sánchez, SG  
Rome, March 2021

marist world

KOBE, JAPAN

SPAIN: MEDITERRANEA PROVINCE – DIVERSITY DAYS

NEW ZEALAND: ST PAUL'S COLLEGE, AUCKLAND DAYS



PHILIPPINES: FORMATION HOUSE IN DAVAO

RWANDA: MARIST NOVITIATE OF SAVE

SRI LANKA: LENT REFLECTIONS AT THE MARIS STELLA COLLEGE, NEGOMBO

EUROPE

VIRTUAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

On the 25th March, the second virtual meeting of the European communities seeking to live the Marist fraternity and mission as a network took place. They are the communities of Ponferrada and the CUM of Salamanca, Bonanza and Granada, Fuenlabrada and Romania (Bucharest and Moinesti) and that of Syracuse. In November 2020 there took place the first meeting, for small groupings of communities.

Br. Ernesto Sanchez participated in the whole meeting and added some words of encouragement, linking his message with the feast of the Annunciation.

The members of the European Team of Brothers Today and the two directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat of the General Administration, Brother Ángel Medina and Brother Lindley Sionosa, joined in this moment of brotherhood.



It was a precious family moment in which they expressed how they live in these difficult times of confinement, but where they feel called to live creatively, so that fraternal life and mission continue to offer their best expression.



## GENERAL HOUSE

# 25 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF SLAVERY

Human history is dotted with men and women, boys and girls, who were victims of slavery. There was a time when it was even seen as normal. Remember how St. Paul, in his letter to the Galatians (Gal 3:28), recalled this distinction, and called for the elimination of differences, promoting the unity of every human being in Christ Jesus.

Centuries later, and for hundreds of years, the slave trade from Africa to

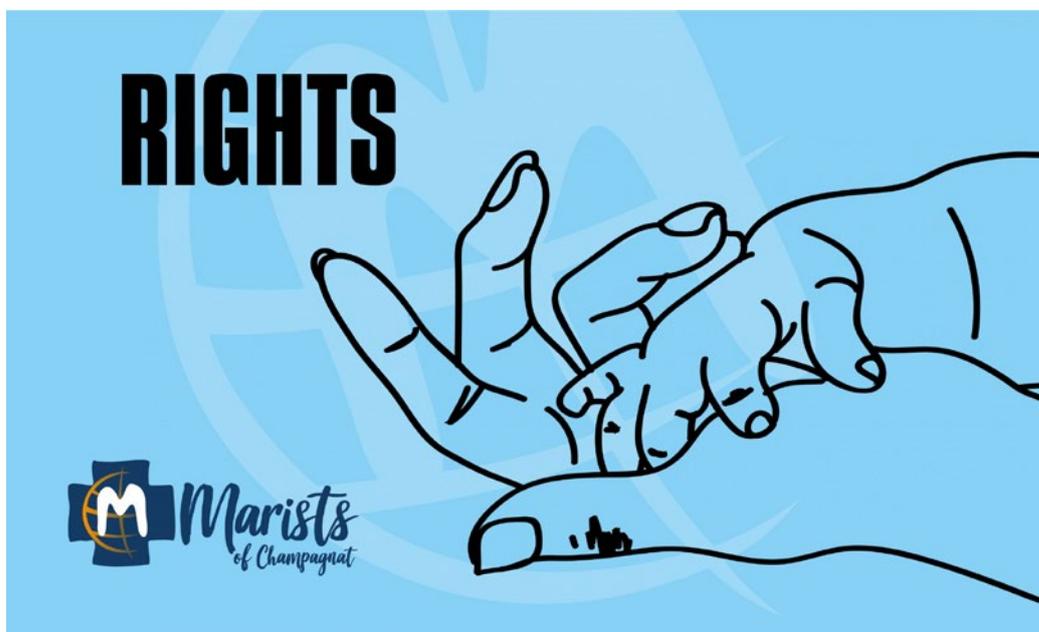
America became a sad reality. Millions of Africans were forcibly taken from their homes to become slaves. A reality that even today can still be perceived in the social differences in several countries of the American continent.

The aim of celebrating this day is to remember all the people who suffered this scourge, at different historical times. It is also to raise awareness of the dangers of racism in our world today, in any of our societies and in its different forms.

It is worth remembering that slavery implies the loss of all kinds of rights for the people who suffer it. Human dignity is crushed, eliminated. The person becomes a mere instrument at the service of his or her “owner”. A forced service, always, without voice, without rights. People as mere merchandise.

Slavery is historically linked to poverty, being its main cause, although it is not the only one. Paying debts, losing a battle, convictions for breaking the law... are other reasons why a person could become a slave.

A few months ago, Pope Francis published the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, inviting all Christians and the whole of society to establish a new order. How can we live this universal fraternity if we maintain divisions? How can we treat “my brother and my sister” in an unworthy manner? How can we continue with racism, with contempt for “the other”, because of his race, or



his religion, or his culture, or his gender...? As Christians and as Marists we are called to respond to the appeal of the Pope, to the appeal of Christ, to universal fraternity.

Also today, as Marists, we are called from our educational centres to work in favour of this universal equality. We feel the challenge of working for the integral development of the person, of every person. We have in our Marist DNA the memory of Marcellin fighting for the full dignity of every human being, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Even today there are children forced to work, there are girls who are sexually exploited, migrants who are prisoners of human trafficking mafias. Slavery, unfortunately, is still present in various forms in our world. It is up to us, Marists of Champagnat, to continue to respond to these situations. Hundreds of Marists working for children without resources, Marist presences among those who are forced to emigrate, brothers and laypeople who give their lives to those who suffer the consequences of wars and poverty?

Let us give thanks to God for so much work well done, and let us ask Him for the necessary strength to continue to face the challenges with which our societies present us, so that the human being, every human being, can recover his or her dignity.

Br Ángel Diego, Director of the Solidarity Secretariat

## COMPOSTELA

# MARIST SCHOOLS HOLD THEIR SOLIDARITY WEEKS IN TIMES OF COVID-19



The Marist schools of the Province of Compostela (Spain and Portugal) have adapted their Solidarity Weeks to the current situation, marked by the pandemic, complying with all health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

During Solidarity Weeks, Marist schools promote aid and collaboration among their students through awareness-raising activities (solidarity games, exhibitions, storytelling) for all ages and initiatives in which funds are raised to finance scholarships for students in Honduras, Zambia and Comayagua, where the NGO SED is present.

The Marist schools of the Province of Compostela committed to Solidarity Weeks are: San José in León, Nuestra Señora de la Fuencisla in Segovia, Cristo Rey in Coruña, Santa María in Tui, Liceo Castilla in Burgos, the Externato Marista in Lisbon and La Inmaculada in Valladolid, which in mid-March undertook a virtual solidarity march to cover 8134 kilometres, the distance between Spain and Honduras.

The Solidarity Teams of the Marist schools have carried out the following activities:

- Use of the SED Teaching Units where the 2030 Agenda

and Sustainable Development Goal No. 4: 'Quality Education' are explained.

- Online tutorials with people who have been volunteering for SED projects in Zambia, Honduras and/or Mozambique.
- Solidarity and personalised badges made with infant school students.
- The #RecorriendoPuentes challenge to adapt the Solidarity Walks to the online format or to go around the world, from the subject of Physical Education, as a symbol to collaborate with education.
- Solidarity T-shirt, with Malala Yousafzai's famous phrase 'one child, one teacher, one book, one pen, can change the world'.
- Crowdfunding challenges led by secondary school students to obtain educational scholarships for children and young people in Honduras, El Salvador and Zambia.
- Exhibitions to reflect the work that SED does to promote Human Rights in Honduras and Zambia.
- Food collections.

At the beginning of the third term, in April, it will be the turn of the Marist schools of Carcavelos, Oviedo, Vigo, CCV and Lugo, as Palencia already did it during the first term.

## THE PATRON OF THE INSTITUTE

## YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH, THE MAN OF DAILY PRESENCE

With the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), the Pontiff commemorates the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church and, on this occasion, from 19 March 2021 until 8 December of the same year, a special year dedicated to him will be celebrated.

In the background to the Apostolic Letter, there is the Covid-19 pandemic which – Francis writes – has made us understand the importance of ordinary people, of those who, far from the limelight, exercise patience and instil hope every day, planting co-responsibility. Like St Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, the man of daily presence, discreet and hidden”. And yet, his is “an unparalleled protagonism in the history of salvation”.



### The Patron of the Institute

This date coincides with the celebration in the Institute, for another year, of the feast of St. Joseph as Patron of the Institute. This pious tradition comes to us from Champagnat who bore the name “Joseph” from his baptism along with “Benedict” and “Marcellin”. The historical record of St Joseph as patron of the Institute is found in Marcellin’s spiritual testament proclaimed “in the presence of God and under the protection of the Blessed Virgin and of St Joseph” when Champagnat invites the Brothers: “To devotion to Mary join that of the glorious St Joseph her most worthy spouse; you know that he is one of our first patrons” (Life, 234). Marcellin’s recognition of and gratitude to St. Joseph was evident in his circular of 13th January 1939 when he wrote to the Brothers: “Who, after Mary, can better express all that we feel than St. Joseph, that great saint, that seraphic man” (Marcellin Champagnat, *Circulaires des Supérieurs*, vol. 1 (1939) 24). Champagnat, and with him the brothers, headed their letters with the names of Jesus, Joseph and Mary.

### Marcellin’s devotion to St. Joseph

Marcellin himself honoured with devotion the person and holiness of the spouse of Mary and father of Jesus especially in the last days of his life. “With great fervour he observed the month of St. Joseph to pray for a good death. He recited the

litanies of the holy spouse of Mary every day; and when at the end he could no longer do it himself, he wanted a brother to recite them at his bedside. On the feast day of this great saint, after having given the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament, he said that it was the last time he would give it on that day” (Life, 231). “As soon as he had to stay in bed, he had the images of Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph placed on the walls of his room so that he could look at them and contemplate them at will, and give fuel to his piety and love for Jesus, Mary and Joseph, whose help he asked for and whose names he often invoked” (Life, 241). “Not satisfied with the ejaculatory prayers, he devoted himself with admirable punctuality and fervour to his exercises of piety. He responded clearly to the Rosary, which he asked to be recited at his side when he no longer had the strength to do it alone, as well as to the Litany of St. Joseph and other prayers which he wanted to be recited at every hour of the day” (Life, 241). “The intensity and violence of his sufferings did not prevent him from remaining united to God and continually repeating acts of love, of trust and conformity, of contrition, or brief invocations to the Blessed Virgin, to St. Joseph, to his Guardian Angel and to his patron saints” (Life, 253). “On Thursday, the fourth of June, the good Father had an ardent desire to receive Our Lord for the last time; and, remembering the words of the priest of St. Peter’s, he trusted

that God would grant him this grace, which he asked fervently through the intercession of St. Joseph” (Life, 255). “He constantly looked at the pictures of Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph, and finding it impossible to pronounce their names, he greeted them with his hand, which they held out for him as he pointed to each of them” (Life, 255). “During the night, he continued his invocations: Jesus, Mary, Joseph! At about half past two, he said to the Brothers at his side: ‘Brothers, the lamp is going out’” (Life, 255).

**An image of the Patron of the Institute**

The General House is the house of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The presence of images, pictures or paintings reminding us of Jesus and Mary in the rooms of the General House is abundant and in some cases remarkable. On the other hand, the representation of St. Joseph is more discreet. There are three paintings at the entrance to the house next to the statue of Mary that represent Joseph at the birth of Jesus, in the flight into Egypt and in the temple of Jerusalem before Jesus who is in dialogue with the doctors of the Law. The images are classical reproductions and are made on acrylic material. Another ceramic image, representing the paternity of St. Joseph, is located in the church of the House, on the right side, next to the sacristy door. The most representative of all is un-

doubtedly a mosaic of approximately 2m2 that presides over the chapel of the community of the brothers who collaborate with the General Council. This work represents the patronage of St Joseph over the Institute. The representation is framed by a platform on which the protagonists rest, framed by a sort of wooden portico from which hang two signs typical of the carpenters’ guild: an axe and a square. The central figure depicts Saint Joseph, standing with his arms discreetly open, extending his protective mantle, to his right, over the family of Nazareth: Mary, seated on a bench, and Jesus, who rests seated on Mary’s knees. And on the left, over the Marist Family of Champagnat, represented by a representation of the church of the General House. On the frontispiece of this church, a golden “M” is framed in a kind of stately coat of arms. Joseph holds a flowery crozier, symbol of the authority of the head of the family who brings about the sanctity of life of all those who come under his patronage. The staff of authority is under the dominion of St Joseph’s hand, but the strength of this authority emanates from the hands of Jesus and Mary, who support him effectively. The work appears without the author’s signature.

H. Antonio Martínez Estaún  
Rome, 19 March 2021

**Br. François, first Superior General of the Institute**

**2/60 NAPOLEONIC WARS**

**When Gabriel Rivat was born, Napoleon was holding Pope Pius VII captive and waging numerous wars throughout Europe. After the years of the Revolution, military conscription did not mobilise in the countryside more than one young man out of 15 called up, but from 1810 onwards, additional enlistments were rushed. In 1811, his brother Jean-Claude was mobilised and when, in December 1812, the disaster in Russia was announced, he could only resign himself to the departure of another of his brothers, Jean-Antoine, because the Emperor wanted to resist at all costs. At the age of 3, Gabriel had seen Jean-Claude leave amidst the tears of the whole family: “Why is my big brother leaving? Now, at the age of 5, the scene is repeated: “Where is my brother Jean-Antoine going?” And no doubt they answer him: “Pray a lot for your brothers. Your prayer will be the most heard by the Blessed Virgin”.**



WEST AFRICA

# MARIST-RUN SCHOOL IN LIBERIA WILL HOST 600 MORE STUDENTS

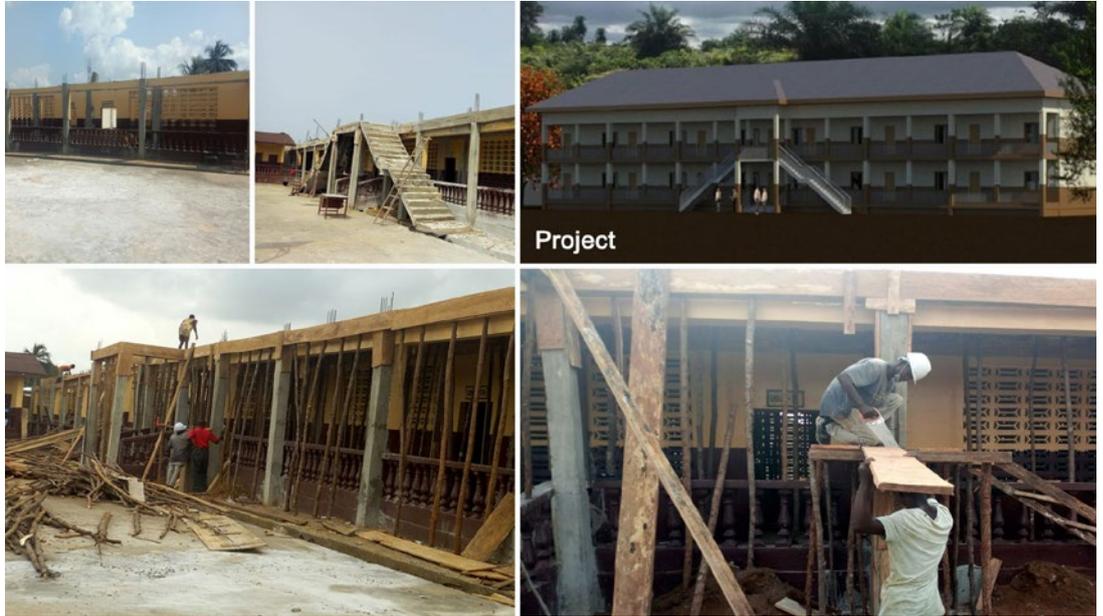
The school “Sister Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School” (belonging to the Archdiocese of Monrovia) running by the Marists Brother in Liberia, **West Africa**, hope to be able to welcome 600 students more for next academic year, from September 2021.

“The current project is about increasing the number of classrooms and administrative

offices. The population of the Barnersville community is rapidly growing and due to limited classrooms in out school, most of the children in the community are not able to gain admission in the school”, said Br. Anthony Doe Siryeh, School Principal.

The project started on November 1, 2020. It has been funded by the School’s PTA (parent–teacher association) and it consists of building 6-unit classroom block that will later contain 12 classrooms and 6 administrative offices.

The administration of **Sister Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School** oversees the construction and Br. Anthony, also supervises the project together with the contractor and the PTA Chairman. They are funding the project from the dues paid by students through payment of fees in the school.



“We hope that the project will be completed by August 2021. However, there is an issue of funding to begin the 2nd and 3rd phases. The PTA has again begun writing series of communications requesting financial assistance from government and other stakeholders in Liberia because they have exhausted all of their savings in the first phase of the project”, said Br. Anthony.

### Marist Brothers in Liberia

Liberia is a country under the **Marist District of West Africa**. The Marist Brothers do not have their own school in Liberia, but, as said, they are running a school belonging to the Archdiocese of Monrovia, founded in 1995. The Late Archbishop Michael Kpala Francis, in 2005, signed a contract with the Marist Brothers to take over the administration of the School.



### Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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

Facebook

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

Twitter

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