



## AMÉRICA SUR AND ARCO NORTE

# LEADERSHIP IN UNCERTAIN TIMES IS THEME OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIALS

On April 12, the American Conference of Provincials (CAP) was held on the Zoom platform. With the theme Leadership in times of uncertainty, the meeting was attended by the Superior General of the Marist Institute, Br. Ernesto Sánchez; the Vicar General, Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez; four General Councillors, Brothers Óscar Martín Vicario, Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, Ken McDonald and João Carlos do Prado; the Executive Secretaries of the South America Region and the Arco Norte Region, Brothers Alberto Aparicio and Rodrigo Espinosa Laracochea, respectively; and 21 leaders from the 11 Marist Provinces of the American continent. Ernesto, Superior General, opened the meeting with these words to share and dialogue between the current Provincials of the two regions of the American continent, Region



of South America and Arco Norte, "I am happy with the initiative of meeting together, especially with the theme of leadership in times of uncertainty". "Today we are called to be witnesses of hope for better days. As Pope Francis said in his homily Pascal, return to Galilee, there we will meet again and we will begin again. This invitation is also for us, a request to take up our plans to start again", he recalled.

## general administration

- Brothers Joao Carlos and Ben are concluding their virtual visit to the Province of Compostela this week, and will begin their visit to the Province of the Hermitage, meeting next Saturday with the community superiors of Catalonia and Hungary.
- On Monday, General Councilors Ben, Joao Carlos, Ken, Oscar and Sylvain attended the meeting of the American Conference of Provincials.
- Tuesday, a regular meeting of the General Council.
- Tuesday, Brs. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and Ben reflected with the members of the Secretariat of Education & Evangelization to continue to discuss the progress of the various initiatives of the Secretariat, in particular the Global Network of Marist Schools.
- Tuesday saw a meeting of the General Administration's Marist Life Area, which hosted the International Brothers

Today Commission and the Extended Secretariat of the Laity. In addition to the directors of the secretariats, Brs. Sylvain and Joao Carlos also participated.

- On the 14th, the International Commission for the Revision of the Formation Guide met, with the participation of Brothers Ángel, Lindley, João Carlos and Óscar.
- On Thursday, the Secretariat of Laity will meet, along with the Link Councilors, Brs. Joao Carlos and Sylvain.
- On Friday there is a meeting of the International Brothers Today Commission, with the participation of Brothers Angel, Lindley, Joao Carlos and Oscar.
- On Friday, Brs. Josep Maria and Ben will take part in a meeting of the Provincial Council of Australia.
- On Saturday, Brs. Sylvain and Josep Maria will meet online with the Brothers living in Pakistan.

Inacio Etges, Provincial Coordinator of the Permanent Council of CAP and Provincial of Reference of the South America Region, commented on the importance of maintaining an open and fraternal dialogue between the Provinces: “As leaders today, we are prophets of hope”.

The meeting consisted of three parts. The first part was an expository approach to the present moment of leadership in these Marist spaces. After the opening, the Executive Secretary of the South America Region, Br. Alberto Aparicio, followed the conference, presenting the current status of the Networks led by the two Regions: Red Corazón Solidario and Red de Espiritualidad. At the end of his presentation, Br. Alberto showed the rules of the CAP Council for the evaluation and approval of those present.

### Leadership in times of uncertainty

In the second stage of the meeting, the Vicar General, Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, led a presentation of reflection on the responsibilities and challenges that the current Provincials must have as a horizon in their daily action in each Marist space. “The present moment calls for visionary, audacious and responsible leadership,” he said.

“Our history as a Church is glorious because it is a history of struggle, of sacrifice, of work and of hope. That history is one that we live today as well.” He recalled the past year and set out two truths in the daily mission of today’s leadership: “we live in the midst of two spirals – of fear and doubt and of change and innovation”. Through this reflection, Br. Luis Carlos reinforced the need to keep a sensitive eye, even in the midst of the current uncertainties, and to keep in mind the priorities of the moment: “we must courageously maintain the mission, be responsible in our obligations and be in solidarity”. Finally, he reinforced the role of management spaces in contemporary times: “let us be leaders who listen, understand and propose what is necessary in times of uncertainty”, he concluded.

### Division into groups for reflection

The third and final stage of the meeting consisted of dividing into language groups for a brief dialogue on the reflections presented. The provincial animators shared with each other the main fears and the way forward for the future.

The next conference is already scheduled for the second half of 2021, on 8 September.

## Br. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

### 4. NEW VICAR AT LA VALLA

Following the custom, the boy Gabriel Rivat began to help with the work on the farm at the age of seven. He was entrusted with the care of the sheep and lambs. Life in the meadows soon developed in him a taste for botany, reflection and contemplation.

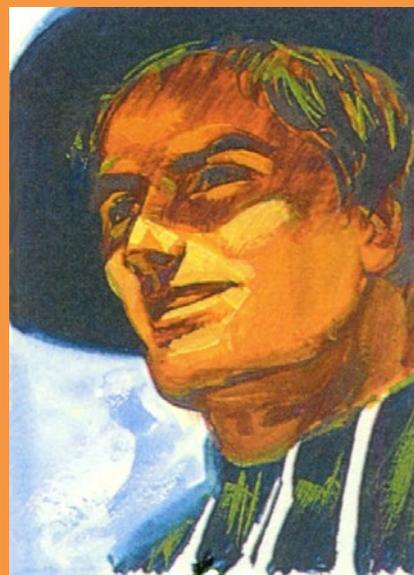
In the summer of 1816, there was news in the parish. A young curate was expected to be ordained on 22 July. He was dynamic and arrived a few days before 15 August. His name was Champagnat. He comes from Marlihes. He surprised everyone by his height: 1’79 m, which at that time placed him among the exceptionally tall. He sings well. He preached with ease. Later on, some people would notice that his French was not very good, but in this peasant environment, who would notice?

If he came directly from Marlihes, he had to pass through Maisonnettes and, already on the first day, he could have met by chance the Rivat family.

For the feast of 15 August, he will certainly be the one to give the sermon, as the parish priest, Mr Rebod, is a bit of a stammer and will be happy to give him his place. He knows the country customs. During the summer months there will be no parish activities, but in the beginning of autumn, there will be practical things to talk about, especially catechism and preparation for First Communion.

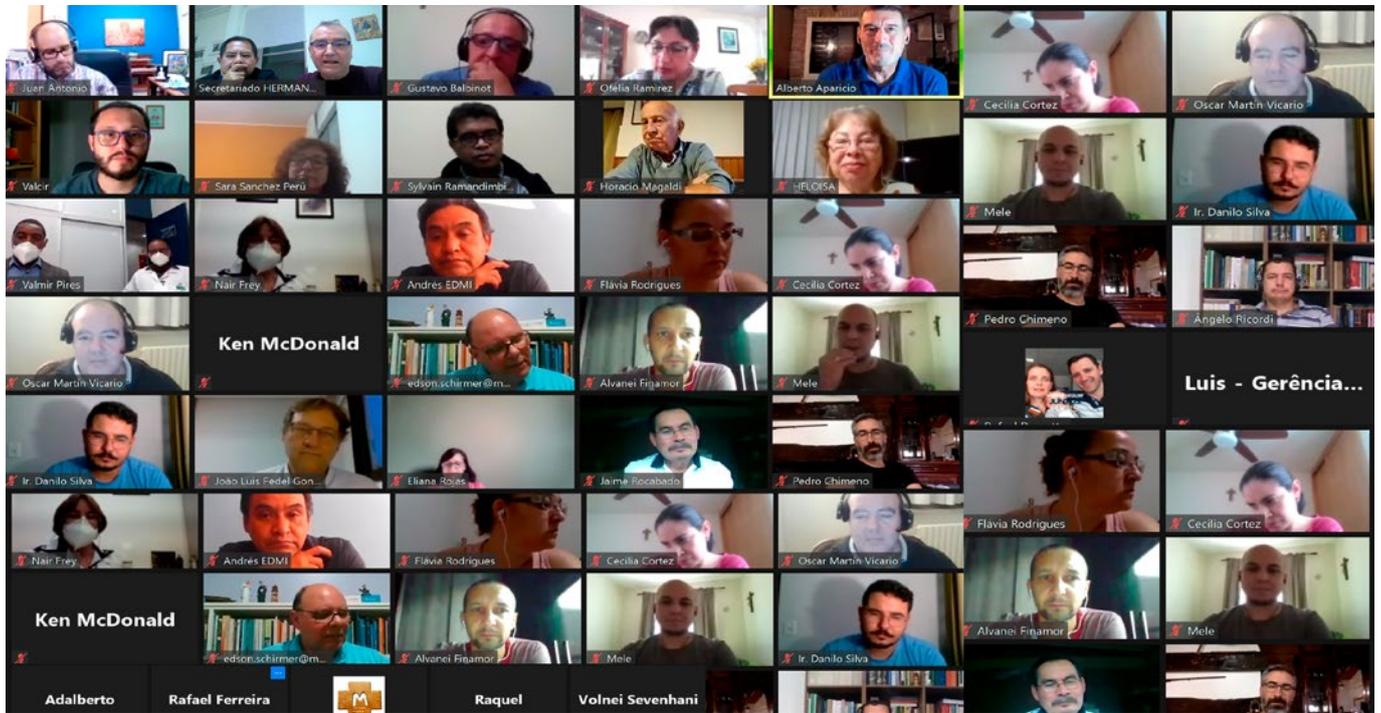
The new priest also has another project. With other seminarians from his class, they have decided to found a new religious family dedicated to Mary. He is in charge of one of its branches, that of the Brothers, under the name of Marists, to catechise and instruct the children of the countryside.

Read [here](#) the other episodes of the Br. François’ life



## MARIST SPIRITUALITY

## MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK



The Team of the Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality met on 24 March, virtually, with the persons responsible for the Spirituality of each Province of the two regions, South America and Arco Norte, with a view to developing the Project of Formation and Experiences for the year 2021. From the General Administration, the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Angel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, as well as the General Councillors for Liaison, Brothers Sylvain and Oscar, were present at the first meeting of this year.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

1. To share some ways and experiences that are being lived in the provinces and that can help to animate other provinces;
2. To provide formation on themes related to spirituality and interiority and to meet the calls of the XXIInd General Chapter;
3. To prepare for the regional meetings of the "Spirituality of the Heart", promoted by the General House of the Marist Brothers;
4. To strengthen the networking of the spirituality animators of the Provinces.

The General Plan of Action of the Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality proposes to elaborate:

- Itineraries of spirituality and interiority;

- To identify and prepare leaders for animation and spiritual accompaniment;
- To promote a spirituality that integrates the different programmes of formation and accompaniment, based on our tradition and open to inter-religious and intercultural dialogue.
- And in response to initiative 1 of "Formation in Interiority/Spirituality", the Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality.

The meetings of the Network team take place every month. In their programme, they combine formation themes and the sharing of experiences. The next meetings will be held on the following dates:

- April 28, with the theme: Shekinah "The presence of God", with Br. Josep Maria Soteras present.
- 26 May, with the theme: Experience: Projects for the cultivation of Interiority in schools, with the participation of the provinces selected to share their project.
- 16 June, with the theme: Spirituality of Champagnat and the first Brothers, with the presence of Brother Manuel Mesonero.
- On 25 August, with the theme: Spirituality with a focus on the future. And the presence of Br. Graham Neist.
- The last two meetings are scheduled for 22 September and 20 October.

CANADA

# MARISTS TAKE A TIME OF RENEWAL

The end of Lent is a good time to stop and revisit what makes us live. And Marist Canada has to look at the future with new eyes: to move from Province to District for the brothers, and for the laity, to rethink the AMDL (Marist Lay Association) for the AMCC (Marist Champagnat Association of Canada) for a greater unity.



In this ferment of life, the brothers and laypeople wanted to give themselves a time of renewal together to strengthen even more the links which unite us around the values which are common to us. To this end, a mixed team of six people (laypeople and brothers, women and men) took to themselves the mission of preparing a substantial “buffet” that would reach each and every one of the participants in their personal journey. It was necessary to find a “service” that could satisfy all tastes. Two meetings were therefore scheduled (Saturday 27 March and Saturday 3 April).

But how to keep the flame burning between these two meetings? During the week, each participant received a daily “capsule” that dealt with a theme for reflection: each participant had the opportunity to go deeper, at his or her own pace, into the proposed subject that touched on the general theme of the two days of meetings.

The two meetings (27 March and 3 April) were centred on a general theme: “My Marist history: treasures to discover”. The

first reflection was based on the idea that “no one is born a Marist but that we (brothers and lay people) are all called to become one day by day”; the participants were invited to share how, concretely, each one lives these values of our charism, at his or her rhythm, in his or her state of life and in his or her environment. The second meeting was definitely more future-oriented: going beyond our fears and concerns to open up more and to draw on the treasures and gifts that each person carries for the good of all. At the end of each of the Saturday meetings, a person came to share his or her vision of hope: Br. Ernesto Sánchez in the first week and Br. Luis Felipe, from Central Mexico, in the second week.

At the end of the second meeting, the participants of each reflection team were invited to formulate a “Marist credo” which, in its own way, sought to restate its attachment to the values that unite us. It is in this spirit that we want to enter the world of new life that awaits us. May Mary and Champagnat accompany us on the path to the future that is opening before us, brothers and lay people.

## APRIL 18, 1999 - A HEART THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Twenty-two years ago, on April 18, 1999, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Institute of the Marist Brothers, was canonized at the Vatican. For the Marist family the canonization was a very special occasion, with the motto “A heart that knows no bounds”. Access [this link](#) and remember this special moment in our history

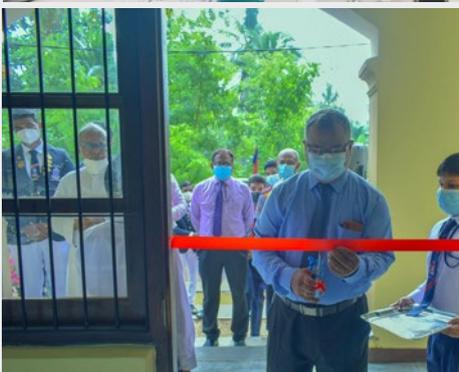


marist world

INDIA: MARCELLIN TRUST – OPERATION RAINBOW

AUSTRALIA: BREATHE PROGRAM TO 200 STAFF SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SA

VIETNAM: MARIST FORMATION



GREECE: LYCÉE LÉONIN – ATHENS: SCHOOL DONATED BLOOD

SRI LANKAMARIS STELLA COLLEGE, NEGOMBO

SPAIN: MARISTAS CHAMPAGNAT GUADALAJARA

CRUZ DEL SUR

MEETING OF ANIMATORS AND ADVISERS OF THE FRATERNITIES OF THE CMMF

Open to treading new paths in these particular times in which we are living, the <http://www.maristas-cruzdelsur.org/sitio/> del Sur held a meeting of animators and advisors of the fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (MCFM) on the 12th and 13th March. They were spaces for reflection based on the motto proposed by the Province for this year: “Called to restore hope”, where each participant was able to express what most touched him or her about this challenge.

Then a virtual work table was proposed to the participants to

discuss the life and vitality of the fraternities today, exchanging experiences of the present journey and ideas to strengthen the MCFM in the Province of Cruz del Sur.

With profound testimonies from the animators and Brother advisors who attended, the participants were strengthened and enriched by so much life shared in the diversity of the fraternities.

In the Cruz del Sur Province there are 18 fraternities of the Champagnat Movement: 15 in Argentina, 2 in Uruguay and another one in Paraguay.

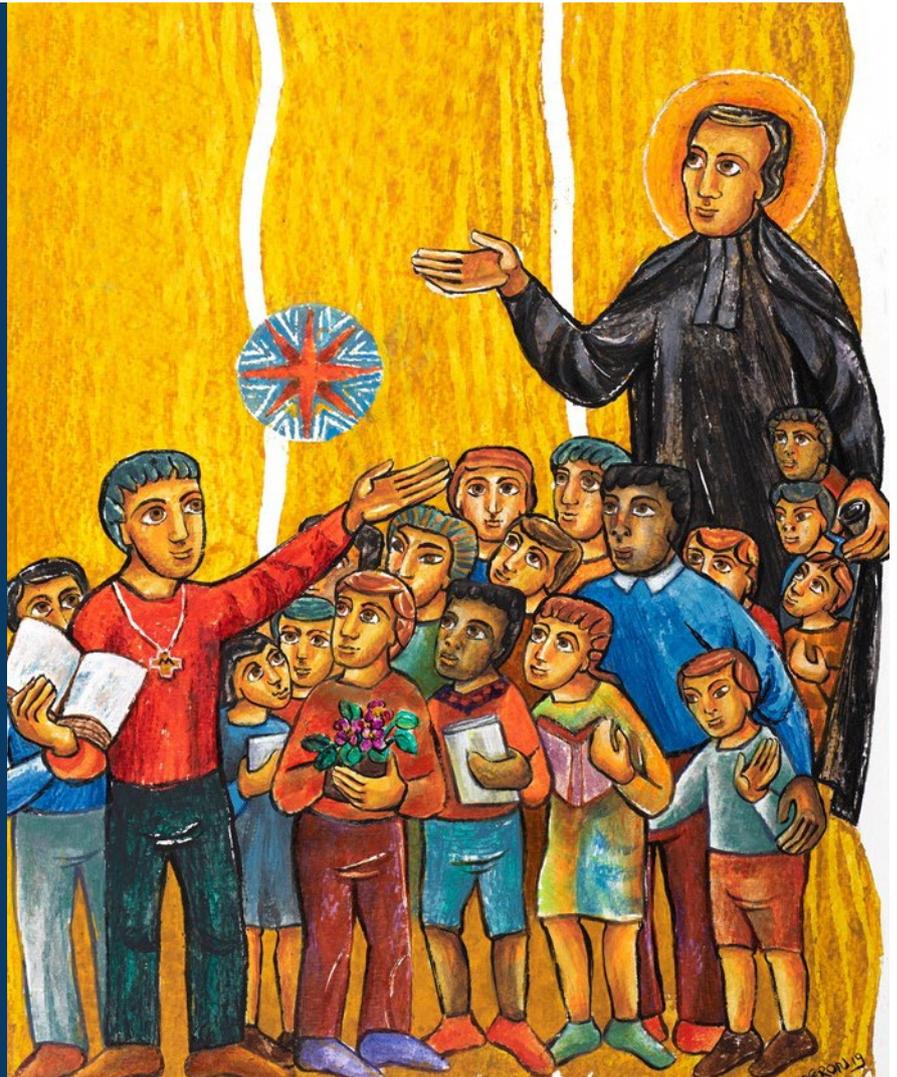


# MARIST NOVITIATES IN THE MARIST WORLD TODAY

The Marist novitiate is where life in the Institute begins. Its purpose is to accompany the novice as he discerns his call to follow Christ in the way of Mary as a Marist Brother, at the service of our mission as a global Institute. The discernment process is designed to help the novice to deepen his faith, to bring him to a loving encounter with God, and to clarify his motivations and suitability.

Assisted by the Novice Master and his team, the novice is initiated into living in accordance with the Constitutions. As the novitiate nears conclusion, the novice prepares himself for his religious profession.

(Constitutions 67)



The Secretariat of Brothers Today is in regular contact with the different houses of formation throughout the Marist World. Thanks to the advancement in technology, there are various platforms available, making it easy for us to make correspondence with the brothers, particularly the formators. What a joy to be connected with them! They have been very generous in responding to our invitation to give us updates about their respective realities and experiences in formation. In addition to refreshing our data about formation, we are also able to get to know our formators, many of whom we have never met before, as well as the young men who are on the journey to become Marist Brothers. We are indeed deepening our sense of being a global Marist family.

In this article, the Secretariat would like to share with you some information about the novitiates. Most of what you will find here were supplied to us by the novice masters themselves.

## Africa

There are three novitiates in Africa: Save Novitiate in Rwanda

for the Provinces of East Central Africa (PACE) and Madagascar, Matola Novitiate in Mozambique for the Province of Southern Africa, and Kumasi Novitiate in Ghana for the Province of Nigeria and the District of West Africa.

The Covid-19 Pandemic brought about difficulties of international travel, among other problems. Thus, it was necessary to set up a provisional novitiate good for two years to receive the young men who finished their postulancy formation in Mtendere, Malawi because they were unable to proceed to Matola.

Constitutions 117/9 provides that “[The Superior General cannot act without the consent of his Council to:] (9) set up, transfer or close a novitiate house, and authorize the establishment of various novitiates in the same Province or District.” Guided by this, a decision was made to open a novitiate in Mtendere. Br. Simeon Banda was named novice master and on 7th November 2020, 9 novices began their canonical year.

The Matola Novitiate, meanwhile, had 6 novices in second year

who eventually professed their first vows on 5 December 2020. The house was left without novices thereafter. The novice master is Br. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji.

Save Novitiate has a new novice master, Br. Fabien Bulaimu, who took over from Br. Antoine Kazindu on 30 August 2020. Br. Fabien finished his studies in Rome in early 2020; but he had to wait some time until he could go home, obviously because of the pandemic. On 6 June 2020, 7 brothers made their first profession. The incoming novices were also delayed in coming. It was only on 2 January 2021 that the 3 first-year novices from PACE were admitted, while the 2 from Madagascar were accepted more than two months later, on 19 March. Presently, there are 9 novices in second year and 5 in first year.



Kumasi Novitiate, on the other hand, was able to follow a more regular route despite the pandemic. On June 13, 2020, 6 brothers made their first profession. Currently, there are 20 novices in second year and 4 in first year. Br. Sylvain Kouassi Kan is the novice master, and he has 2 brothers in his team.

### America Sur

We have one novitiate in South America, the Champagnat Regional Novitiate in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Established in 2017, it is the novitiate of the Provinces of Brasil Sur-Amazonia, Brasil

Centro-Norte, Brasil Centro-Sur, Santa Maria de Los Andes and Cruz del Sur.

Last December 2020, 6 brothers made their first profession. The then novice master, Br. Isidro Azpeleta, finished his term and Br. Rubens José Falchetto took over. As of this writing, only 1 novice in his second year is there because the 10 incoming novices are still to arrive on 15 April 2021. They will commence the canonical year on 01 May 2021.

In the community of Patos de Minas of the Marist Province of Brazil Centro-North, there is one novice making his novitiate, under the responsibility of Br. Claudinho Falchetto. This way of doing the novitiate is based on Constitutions 117/5: “[The Superior General cannot act without the consent of his Council to:] (5) authorize a candidate, as a particular case and by way of exception, to make his novitiate in a community of the Institute other than that of the novitiate, under the care of an experienced brother, who takes the place of the Novice Master.”



### Arco Norte

There are 3 novitiates in Arco Norte: La Valla Inter-Provincial Novitiate in Medellín, Colombia, Jérémie Novitiate in Jérémie, Haiti, and Poughkeepsie Novitiate in New York, USA.

The Novitiate in Medellín receives novices from the Provinces of Norandina, America Central, Mexico Central and Mexico Occidental. The Novitiate in Jérémie is for novices from Haiti, a country which forms part of Mexico Occidental. Novices of the US Province do their formation in Poughkeepsie.

In December 2020, 2 brothers who underwent the novitiate experience in Medellín made their first profession. The novice master of 7 years, Br. José Miguel Caballero Hierro, also finished his term. He was replaced by Br. Alejandro Herrera Galicia. Currently, there are 7 novices in first year and 6 in second year, 2 of whom are on extension.



The novitiate in Jérémie have 10 novices at present, 5 in each year level. The first profession is scheduled on 6th June 2021. Br. Antonio Cavazos Bueno is the novice master and with him are 2 other Mexican brothers.

There are no novices today in the Poughkeepsie; but there are 2 young men now who are in the postulancy. The novice master is Br. Sean Sammon.

### Asia

Asia, perhaps, has the most interesting picture to paint as far as novitiate is concerned. There are 2 novitiates, Marist International Novitiate in Tudella, Sri Lanka which receives novices from South Asia and the District of Asia, and Immaculate

Conception Novitiate in Tamontaka, Philippines, the novitiate of East Asia.

In May 2020, the leaders of Asia and Oceania, in anticipation of the influx of candidates and the incapacity of either one of these houses to accommodate big numbers, decided to establish Tamontaka as another inter-regional novitiate. The idea is for Tudella and Tamontaka to receive first year novices in an alternating fashion, such that in 2021 for example, incoming Asia-Oceania novices will go to Tamontaka and will stay on until 2023. Meanwhile, the second-year novices in Tudella will continue until they profess in 2022. Only then will Tudella receive incoming novices. In other words, it will be that at any given time, Tamontaka will either only have second-year novices while Tudella will only have first-year novices, and vice-versa.



The pandemic, however, led to several complications.

On 4 April 2020, 6 Vietnamese brothers of the District of Asia pronounced their first vows. Under normal circumstances, they would have gone home after that for family visit and then proceed to the Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) in the Philippines for their post-novitiate formation. But they were forced to stay in Sri Lanka. Some have enrolled in theology courses online, e.g., Mariology, Youth Ministry, Church History, and Scriptures.

The incoming novices for formation

year 2020-2021 never made it to Tudella. Instead, they had to follow a “post-postulancy pre-novitiate” program coordinated by the newly named novice master, Br. Francisco “Paco” Garcia who was also stuck in the Philippines. He was formerly the master of postulants in Davao, Philippines and is taking the place Br. Nicholas Fernando as novice master.

These 14 pre-novices were in Vietnam (2), Bangladesh (2), East Timor (7), Australia (1, an East Timorese), Solomon Islands (1) and Philippines (1, a Vietnamese). They began their canonical year of novitiate on March 25, 2021 and will undergo this stage of formation in the houses designated by the Provincials and approved by the Superior General and his Council, following the provisions of Constitution 117/5 referred to earlier in this article. While Br. Paco remains to be the novice master, these novices will be under the care of Br. Anselmo Kim (Vietnam), Br. Vigilio Bwalya (Bangladesh), Br. Greg McDonald (East Timor), and Br. Mark Poro (Solomon Islands).

On 6 March after some months spent waiting in MAPAC, Br. Paco moved to Tamontaka where he will be temporarily based; with him is the novice from Vietnam. Once the international borders reopen, they will move to Tudella.

On 25 March 2021, 4 novices (3 East Timorese and 1 Vietnamese) professed their first vows.

Afterwards, they will be joining the other 6 who professed last year in following a pre-scholasticate program in Sri Lanka. According to Br. Réal Sauvageau, who is acting novice master and partnering with Br. Rod Thompson in journeying with the post-novices, they are looking at the possibility of these young brothers continuing formation and at the same time doing some ministry in the different communities in Sri Lanka. Some will pursue professional studies. The East Timorese, on the other hand, expressed the need for reinforcement in the English and Portuguese languages.

What will it be like then in Tudella Novitiate after March 25? There is a first-year novice from South Asia, a Sri Lankan, and a second-year novice who is doing extension, plus the 10 post-novices. The Sri Lankan novice is supposed to join Tamontaka, but he could not travel to the Philippines. Thus, he will do his novitiate in Tudella. If the situation (of the pandemic) improves and would allow the novices to travel from the countries where they are now, they will finish

their novitiate in Tudella.

Tamontaka Novitiate has been without novices since late 2018. There was a previous arrangement between the Province of East Asia and the District of the Pacific that in September of 2020, the novices and Br. Jone Seduadua, the novice master, of Lomeri Novitiate in Fiji, will move to Tamontaka. That clearly did not happen.

In mid-February 2021, Br. Pepito Mahong was named novice master of Tamontaka Novitiate. On 13 April 2021, the 14 postulants (9 East Timorese, 3 Vietnamese and 2 Indians) in Davao will move to Tamontaka to begin their novitiate formation. The habit-taking ceremony is scheduled on 19 April.

### Oceania

In Oceania there is one novitiate, the Marist Brothers Pacific Novitiate, also widely known as Lomeri Novitiate, in Serua, Fiji. The novice master is Br. Jone Seduadua. On June 20, 2020, 2 Kiribati brothers made their first profession. They are now in Suva, Fiji, doing post-novitiate studies while waiting to go to MAPAC.

East Asia Province decided in 2019 to send its lone novice to



Lomeri. He was admitted on 22 November that same year. In early March 2020, he travelled to Samoa and shortly thereafter the borders closed; thus, he was unable to return to Lomeri. The General Council eventually approved the continuation of his novitiate in the Mulivai Community in Samoa, naming Br. Af-

aese Afaese as his novice master. His companion, meanwhile, is continuing his formation in Lomeri.

In summary, there are 2 novices, both in second year in Oceania, 1 in Lomeri and 1 in Mulivai. Note that the novices of East Timor and the Solomon Islands which are part of the Province of Australia, were already accounted for when we talked of Asia earlier; except for another novice from Solomon Islands who very recently completed his postulancy and was admitted to the novitiate on March 25, 2021, along with the other 14 already mentioned.

The formation house in Baucau, East Timor could not accommodate all formands. Hence, the brothers have decided to rent

a house for the 8 novices who are beginning their canonical year on March 25, 2021.

**Europe**

There is no existing novitiate in Europe today. However, there is a young man from Portugal, part of Compostela Province, who will start his postulancy in Madrid on 25 March 2021. Depending on how the Spirit moves, he may enter the novitiate by the end of this year.

We hope that the 2 aspirants from Mediterranean Province who started formation in January 2021 will continue and eventually proceed to the novitiate. Br. Manuel Jorques Bru of Malagá Community in Spain is accompanying them.

**GLOBAL PICTURE**

Novitiate	Novice Master	Novices As of March 2021	Notes
<b>AFRICA</b>			
Save Novitiate, Rwanda	Br. Fabien Bulaimu	9 in 2nd Yr 5 in 1st Yr	
Matola Novitiate, Mozambique	Br. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji		
Kumasi Novitiate, Ghana	Br. Sylvain Kouassi Kan	20 in 2nd Yr 4 in 1st Yr	
Mtendere Novitiate, Malawi	Br. Simeón Banda	9 in 1st Yr	Another batch of 10 novices will begin the canonical year in mid-April 2021
<b>AMERICA SUR</b>			
Champagnat Regional Novitiate, Cochabamba, Bolivia	Br. Rubens José Falchetto	1 in 2nd Yr	10 novices will begin the canonical year on May 1, 2021 1 novice (2nd Yr) in Patos de Minas, accompanied by Br. Claudinho Falchetto.
<b>ARCO NORTE</b>			
La Valla Inter-Provincial Novitiate, Medellín, Colombia	Br. Alejandro Herrera Galicia	6 in 2nd Yr 7 in 1st Yr.	2 of the 6 in 2nd Yr are on extension
Jeremías Noviciado, Jeremías, Haití	Br. Antonio Cavazos Bueno	5 in 2nd Yr 5 in 1st Yr	

Poughkeepsie Noviciado, NY, ESTADOS UNIDOS	Br. Sean Sammon		
<b>ASIA</b>			
Marist International Novitiate,	Br. Francisco (Paco) García	1 in 2nd Yr 16 in 1st Yr	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 2nd Yr novice is on extension</li> <li>2. Distribution of the 15 1st Yr novices: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 1 in Tudella with Br. Réal Sauvageau</li> <li>b. 1 in Tamontaka with Br. Paco</li> <li>c. 2 in Vietnam with Br. Anselmo Kim</li> <li>d. 2 in Bangladesh with Br. Vigilio Bwalya</li> <li>e. 8 in East Timor with Br. Greg McDonald</li> <li>f. 2 in the Solomon Islands with Br. Mark Poro</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Immaculate Conception Novitiate, Tamontaka, Philippines	Br. Pepito Mahong		14 novices to be admitted on April 19, 2021
<b>OCEANIA</b>			
Marist Brothers Pacific Novitiate, Serua, Fiji	Br. Jone Seduadua	1 in 2nd Yr	The formation year will end in September 2021 and Lomeri will no longer receive novices. Future novices from Oceania will go either to Tamontaka or to Tudella.
Mulivai Community, Samoa	Br. Afaese Afaese	1 in 2nd Yr	

**Concluding remarks**

We in the Secretariat of Brothers Today, on behalf of the whole Institute, wish to thank our brothers who recently finished their mission as novice masters. We acknowledge the work they have done in accompanying the novices, many of whom are young brothers now. Our appreciation goes to:

1. Br. Antoine Kazindu (Save);
2. Br. Isidro Azpeleta (Cochabamba);

3. Br. José Miguel Caballero Hierro (Medellín); and,
4. Br. Nicholas Fernando (Tudella).

We welcome and send our best wishes and blessings to our newly appointed novice masters:

1. Br. Fabien Bulaimu (Save);
2. Br. Rubens José Falcheto (Cochabamba);
3. Br. Alejandro Herrera Galicia (Medellín);

4. Br. Francisco (Paco) Garcia (Tudella); and,
5. Br. Pepito Mahong (Tamontaka).

We are also happy to have the following brothers who accepted to accompany the novices in special and extraordinary conditions:

1. Br. Simeon Banda (Mtendere);
2. Br. Claudinho Falchetto (Patos de Minas);
3. Br. Afaese Afaese (Mulivai);
4. Br. Réal Sauvageau (Tudella);
5. Br. Anselmo Kim (Vietnam);
6. Br. Vigilio Bwalya (Bangladesh);
7. Br. Greg McDonald (East Timor); and,
8. Br. Mark Poro (Solomon Islands).

Of course, we continue to hold in high esteem our veteran novice masters and send them our encouragement:

1. Br. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji (Matola);
2. Br. Sylvain Kouassi Kan (Kumasi);
3. Br. Antonio Cavazos Bueno (Jérémie);
4. Br. Sean Sammon (Poughkeepsie); and,
5. Br. Jone Seduadua (Fiji).

While we could not name all of them, we are also thinking of the brothers and possibly some lay who make up the different novitiate formation teams. They also play a very important role in the journey of the novices. Our gratitude to and prayers for them as well.

We pray to God and our Good Mother for our novices. May they receive the grace of openness of mind to allow the Holy Spirit to work in them and the generosity of heart to respond to where God is leading them. We ask our beloved father and founder, St. Marcellin, to pray with us that God may continue to bless our Institute with vocations.

This is a challenging time. The Covid-19 Pandemic caught the world by surprise. We were all affected, our lives were disrupted. What used to work before has been deemed insufficient, if not ineffective. However, we were also called to explore areas we never thought of going into. Now we have learned that in the crisis, there are new possibilities that allow us to move forward. Above all, we once again realized that “Mary who has done everything for us” continues to do so. She who is and will always be our Ordinary Resource.

**To the brother serving as formator:**

Your mission of helping aspirants, postulants, novices, and young brothers to discern their vocation is crucial for the life of our Marist community.

Share with each of them your passion for this way of life and the depth of your Marist spirituality, as well as your personal gifts and abilities and experience of faith.

Care for their well-being, foster their growth, be patient and discreet with each of them.

Never forget that the Spirit of God is the true formator of those entrusted to your care. Look to Mary and Marcellin as sources of inspiration. In your zeal to be of service, don't overlook your personal well-being as a Christian and religious person, particularly your need for ongoing formation.

(Rule of Life, No. 90)

**To the novice:**

Value and take full advantage of the privileged time of the novitiate. First of all, without fear open yourself to God's love; it is the source and origin of every Christian vocation and ultimately the only thing that sustains it.

As you are initiated into religious life, open yourself fully to personal growth and the process of conversion of heart. Strive to know and value yourself more deeply while at the same time integrating the evangelical counsels and our Marist charism into your way of being and acting.

Learn to cherish silence and the interior life. Both will help you to grow in intimacy with God and to develop a deeper love for your brothers and sisters.

Listen carefully to the Spirit of God who longs to send you into the lives of children and young people; there you will witness to the love that Jesus has for each of them.

If you decide to welcome God's call to our Marist life, and the community agrees, give yourself wholeheartedly to joyfully living the vows that you profess as a brother.

(Rule of Life, No. 58)

## GREECE

The Lycée Léonin in Athens donated blood, April 6, following all health protocols. Despite the given difficulties of this period, forty-six people came forward: members of our school community, teachers, administrative and technical staff, graduates and parents of students.

## UNITED STATES

During their Provincial Chapter, the Marist Brothers of USA elected the new Council that will walk together with the new provincial, Br. Dan O’Riordan. The elected brothers are: Owen Ormsby (Vice Provincial), Hank Hammer, Dominick Pujia, Todd Patenaude, Steve Schlitte and Seán Sammon.



## PHILIPPINES

Five Brothers from the East Asia and one Brother from the Marist District of Asia renewed their vows last April 5 in Lagao, General Santos City. The celebration was attended by the Brothers from Kidapawan, Cotabato, Lagao, Marcellin, Dadiangas, and Fourviere communities, by the Marist Missionary Sisters and some friends. Two Brothers renewed their vows last April 8 at the Holy Family Chapel of Notre Dame of Cotabato.

## EAST ASIA

## JOINT RETREAT OF THE BROTHERS AND LAITY OF THE PROVINCE



Brothers and lay Marists from the different sectors of the East Asia Province held a virtual holy week retreat from March 29 to April 3, based on the key points of Brother Ernesto’s Circular “Homes of light. Caring for life. Generating new life”. Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, was the retreat facilitator and Br. Dominador Santiago, Provincial, provided a comprehensive introduction on the topic.

During the sessions Br. Ernesto emphasized that the Holy Spirit is the real master of the retreat. It is the Holy Spirit who leads, moves, and guides the participants in their journey during moments of reflections, sharing, prayers and discernment.

Br. Ernesto gave a brief introduction, pointing out the highlights of the 22nd

General Chapter: “A global charismatic family, a beacon of hope, in this turbulent world.” He said, “we are called to care for life and to generate new life in moments of great fragility and vulnerability in the world.” He raised the point of adaptation because of our different realities. There is a need to adapt to one’s circumstances or situations in life, in the family or in the community.

Daily morning and night prayers were prepared for use by the different communities of the Brothers and of the lay. The lay also gathered later in the day and had their night prayers and sharing of reflections which helped deepen their experiences. Read and deepen in this link the six topics discussed and the personal reflections of the brothers and lay people.

MEXICO

# THE LAITY OF MEXICO CONCLUDE THEIR REFLECTIONS ON THE CIRCULAR HOMES OF LIGHT



The National Team of the fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (MCFM) met virtually on 20 March with the animators of the 22 Marist fraternities of the Provinces of México Occidental and México Central to conclude the study on the circular Homes of Light.

The National Team consists of 9 members, accompanied by Br. Guillermo Villarreal and under the coordination of Flora Martínez Herrera.

Since last year, this has been the fifth meeting between the National Team and the animators of the fraternities. The first one took place on 25 July 2020 and since then they have met every two months. On the other hand, this was the 12th meeting of the National Team, since 19 March 2020.

The next meeting will be by region and is scheduled for 19 June. The aim of the meeting will be to study the person of Saint Marcellin from his human side.



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