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MARIST NEWS

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29 APRIL 1991

BROTHER MOISÉS CISNEROS: PRESENCE, ENCOURAGEMENT AND AFFECTION

On April 29 we remember the assassination of Brother Moisés Cisneros thirty years ago. Brother Moisés, born in Spain, moved to Guatemala in 1984. At that time, Guatemala was experiencing what has been called the “Internal Conflict”, a bloody civil war. As director of the Marist School of Guatemala, in Zone 6, he was assassinated in his office on April 29, 1991. At first it was thought to be a robbery, but when the body was found, it became clear that it was a “professional crime” carried out by a death squad. We believe that the death of Brother Moisés was a political assassination, part of the persecution unleashed against the Church, the Church committed to the poorest, of the type Br. Moisés experienced during his time in some communities in El Salvador and in the Diocese of Quiché, in Guatemala; a Church faithful to the Second Vatican Council and to the Episcopal Conference of Puebla; a persecuted Church, a fact later researched by Bishop Gerardi, for which he would also lose his life.

The Archbishop of Santiago de Guatemala has been asked to



initiate the Cause of Canonization, and we are waiting for the answer. In requesting it, we want to discern with the whole Church about the possible martyrdom of our brother. As a congregation we affirm that the death of our brother happened because he was faithful to Jesus Christ, to the Gospel, to the Church and to his own vocation.

Br. Guillermo Villarreal - Postulator General

general administration

- The Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation met on Monday with Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and Ben, General Councillor. Another meeting will be held on Friday in the presence of Brother Ernesto, Superior General. The central theme of the meetings is the Global Education Compact and the upcoming review of the Marist Education Document (In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat).
- The Cmi department met with the link Councillors of Europe (Monday) and Oceania (Wednesday) to discuss matters related to Marist volunteering in both regions.
- The Provincial Volunteer Coordinators Network met on Tuesday and was attended by Brs. Ernesto, Luis Carlos, Óscar Martín (General Councillor), Ángel Diego (Solidarity Secretariat), Valdicer Fachi and Matteo Cavicchioli (Cmi).
- On the same day, the monthly meeting of the team from the 4 branches of the Marist Family who are working to im-

plement a joint Marist action on the theme of Laudato Si' took place. The directors of the Solidarity Secretariat participated.

- Brothers Óscar and Ken took part, Tuesday, on the meeting of CSAC (African Provincials).

- Wednesday, Brothers João Carlos and Ken participate in the meeting of the sub-commission for the preparation of the America Central's Provincial Chapter.

- Br. Josep Maria Soteras, General Councillor, is giving a conference on Wednesday for the Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality, entitled “Shekinah, the Presence of God”, broadcast live via [this link](#)

- The ad Hoc committee on the Global Marist Network of Schools will meet next Thursday.

- On Saturday Br Valdicer Fachi is taking part in a Webinar organised by the Province of Santa Maria de los Andes, on the theme: “Volunteering: crossing bridges to be beacons of hope”.

GIVING HIS LIFE TO THE VERY END IN ORDER TO CHOOSE FOR THE MARGINALISED

Brother Gregorio Linacero, of the Province of América Central, currently living in Rome as assistant to the Econome General and Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, tells us his personal experience of the life and commitment of Brother Moisés, whom he knew personally.

“Brother Moisés was in the management office and was assaulted, murdered and left in a cellar next to the office. This was made possible by the support that the assassin had from the secretary of the school.

The circumstances of the Brother's murder are linked to the persecution by the armed forces against the Catholic Church because of its social commitment. It should be borne in mind that from the 1970s until 2000, many priests, religious and catechists were murdered. A bishop was also martyred.

Brother Moisés was director of the Marist School from January 1990. During this short time, he maintained a firm commitment to those most in need. His public expressions and decisions in line with the option for the poorest such as: diversified school fees, school books

on loan, visits to the homes of the students' families, socio-economic studies..., were all in line with the aim that the poorest children could receive a Marist education.

Moisés also gave strong support to the youth ministry movement: REMAR. He involved these groups in the decisions taken on behalf of the poorest families in the school. This helped

to strengthen the boys' critical awareness in the analysis of social reality.

At the Youth Easter of 1991, celebrated by the REMAR groups at the Marist School on Holy Saturday, the young people produced a CREDO with a strong critical component which was proclaimed at the Easter Vigil. Some members of the military school were present at this celebration. This detail and

many others have helped many of us to understand that his death is linked to this persecution of the Church by the armed forces.

When Brother Moisés was (in my opinion) martyred, I was a young brother. His presence, encouragement and affection were decisive at the time in my decision to make perpetual profession.

In my opinion, the death of Brother Moisés corresponds to that of a martyr. His life, his witness and his violent death have

helped me to perceive more clearly the option of Jesus for the marginalised and to understand the Gospel from this point of view. At this time, when the cause for the canonisation of Moisés is beginning, I think it is a good time to “universalise” Moisés and to spread the testimony of our brother who gave his life to the end.

I believe that it is possible to transmit to new generations of Marists throughout the world that the witness of Moisés' life is similar to that of Jesus of Nazareth: the giving of one's life to the last consequences in opting for the marginalised. May the Good Father help us to live the Gospel”.



Br. Gregorio Linacero - April 2021

CENTRAL AMERICA

The Province has created a site where each month it will post reflections on our Marist educational style, and will suggest ways to study it in depth and be inspired by it. Thanks to the work of Brothers Javier Espinosa and Salvador García, the first article is already available: “IDENTITY OF THE MARIST EDUCATOR, continuing Champagnat’s dream”.

ARGENTINA

The Marcelino Champagnat School in La Boca, Rosario, has implemented an adult classroom for the mothers of its students to study. Many women in the neighbourhood often drop out of school due to early childbearing. So far 22 women have enrolled and many others are requesting information for the next enrolment.

LAVALLA200>

This year, the formation program has two candidates: Br. José Manuel Acal Francés, from Ibérica, and Enrique Jesús Muñoz Becerra, from Mediterránea. Br José is currently in the community of Naval Moral de la Mata, in Spain, while Enrique is in the Siracusa community this year as a volunteer. The Lavalla200> team began the formation program last week and will have further sessions online in June and then, if possible, in Rome. Three people now have their visas for South Africa: Br Paul Bhatti (Pakistan / Tabatinga), Mariana Morones and Denise Hernández Sánchez (Mexico Occidental). They will join Br Tony Clark (Australia) in Atlantis Lavalla200> community in the next month. Mayra Gutiérrez Márquez (Mexico Occidental) has this week received her visa for Brazil (Tabatinga).

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

On 17 April 2021, a meeting was held with the students of the Province who have been participating in the Vocational School of the South America Region since last year. During the meeting, ideas and approaches related to the theme of Vocational Ministry were discussed.

GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE MARIST LIFE AREA OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION



The Marist Life Area of the General Administration met virtually on June 13 and 20. The meeting was planned to be held in March 2020 and then in June, but it was not possible and was held virtually.

It was the first time that it met as an extended group, including not only the secretariats, but also the international commission of Brothers Today and the members of the extended Secretariat of the Laity. Therefore, the main objective was to get to know each other.

Br. Ernesto Sanchez was present on the first day to welcome the participants, as well as to give his message of thanks and encouragement. Each member of the group introduced himself, highlighting especially his own Marist history. On the first day it was the turn of the brothers and lay people from Asia, Africa and America and on April 20 those from Europe, Arco Norte and Oceania.

Besides the dynamic of getting to know each other, this series of meetings is also a space to explain what the Marist Life Area consists of, how it fits into the Strategic Plan of the General Administration and what are the expectations of its members.

Space has also been set aside for the Lay and Brothers Today Secretariats and the CMI (Collaboration for International Mission), together with LaValla200> and the Postulator General to present their respective plans and initiatives.

The following list shows the composition of the Marist Life Area.

- Secretariat of the Laity: Raúl Amaya, Agnes Reyes, Manuel Gómez
- Extended Secretariat of the Laity: Ana Saborío, Carole Wark, Elías Odínaka, Marcos José Broc
- International Commission of Brothers Today: Tiamaro Alphonse, Anselmo Kim, Aureliano García, Ebel Muteveri, Juan Carlos Bolaños, Marcio Enrique, Sefo Une, Simon Serero
- Postulator General: Guillermo Villareal
- Cmi-Lavalla200: Valdicer Fachi, Jeffrey Crowe
- Brothers Today Secretariat : Lindley H. Sionosa, Ángel Medina
- Link Councilors: João Carlos do Prado, Óscar Martín, Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa



MADAGASCAR

LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION AT AMPAHIDRANO FIANARANTSOA

The launch of the International Forum on Lay Vocation in Madagascar was held at Ampahidrano Fianarantsoa on Thursday, 8 April 2021. The pastoral team of the Province, Brother Ernest, Mrs. Alida and Miss Elia, led this event. The coordinators in the southern cities where there are groups of Lay Marists participated: Julio from Betroka, Symphorose from Ihosy, and also from Fianarantsoa, Nelly, Amélie, Stephanya, Jean Baptiste, Br Jean Juste and Br Léonide.

First of all, the group watched the video of Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Raúl Amaya, Director of the Lay Secretariat. Brother Sylvain Ramandimbirisoa, General Councillor, translated it into Malagasy for us to understand better. They explained the main reasons for the Forum which was inaugurated across the Institute on 19 March 2021, the feast of St Joseph.

The participants were surprised because they thought that it is only Mary who is close to the Marists, whereas St. Joseph also has an important place. They appreciated the slogan: welcome, nourish, live and share our vocation. They are motivated to live in this way. They discovered the value of the objectives of the Forum:

- To deepen our understanding of the Marist vocation with particular emphasis on the lay Marist vocation
- To review and offer processes and approaches to formation and accompaniment of the lay vocation.
- To reflect on and propose possible forms of commitment to the Marist charism.
- To know, reflect on, explore and propose possible juridical structures (civil and canonical) for the Marist laity.

We have been thinking about these ideas already, and now their importance has been confirmed.



We also talked about the steps to be followed during the 4 years of the Forum. The participants are ready to lead their groups to follow the guidelines and send reports.

In addition to sharing about the Forum, we also took advantage of this meeting to listen to news from each city. It is clear that the situation of Covid-19 is a great challenge for us.

To end the morning, we enjoyed a meal together. We thank the Brothers' community in Ampahidrano for their attention to us.

In the afternoon, we took time to share with the young people in the Postulancy about the wider Marist family, and especially about the Lay Marist Vocation. They were surprised to learn that Brothers and Laypeople live the same charism! They were very interested and asked many questions.

Finally, we would like to thank the Province of Madagascar, represented by the Brother Provincial and his Council, who helped us to organise this event for the south of the country. Because of the pandemic context, we are yet to see how to reach those who are in the centre and the north. If it is not possible to travel, we will be in touch online.

Alida Bodomanitra

marist world

SPAIN: MARISTAS SAN JOSÉ DEL PARQUE – FIRST COMMUNION

AUSTRALIA: MARIST FORMATION AT ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, KILMORE

EL SALVADOR: COLEGIO MARISTA SAN ALFONSO – MEJICANOS



ARGENTINA: MISIÓN MARISTA DE NUEVA POMPEYA, CHACO

SOUTH AFRICA: THREE2SIX PROJECTAFRI

JAPAN: MARIST BROTHERS KOBE COMMUNITY

CHILE

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION: “LOOK HOW THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER... PROVINCE OF SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES (1909-2021)”

Following the call of the Network of Marist Memory Centres of the South America Region which promotes the articulation of the Memory Centres, the Marist Patrimony Department of the **Province Santa María de los Andes**, invites all Marists to know their history through its **virtual exhibition** “Look how they love each other.... Province of Santa María de los Andes (1909-2021)”. This initiative is part of the desire to preserve the historical-cultural-spiritual heritage of the Province of Santa María de los Andes (comprising Chile, Peru and Bolivia) and to share its historical legacy with the entire South American region.

The virtual exhibition, by means of photos, images and themes, invites us to travel through time and retrace Marist history since the arrival of the first Brothers in Peru (1909), Chile (1911) and Bolivia (1956). In 2002 these 3 countries will form a Province and in 2016 they will together form the



South America Region.

Visit the virtual exhibition and share it by [clicking here](#)

The Network of Marist Memory Centres is composed of a group of professionals with different experiences and knowledge, made up of Brothers, managers and collaborators of the Provincial archives, historical archives, libraries and museums located in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Paraguay and Uruguay.



GENERAL HOUSE

JOURNEYING TOGETHER AS A GLOBAL FAMILY – A REFLECTION BY BEN CONSIGLI, GENERAL COUNCILOR

“Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God”.

Pope Francis

Life is a great journey that constantly calls us to leave ourselves behind to follow that uncertain desire that drives us. Certainly, during this time of pandemic with travel all but at a standstill, our life’s journey may have a different meaning than it had many months ago. But even the journey of the past year has offered us both challenges and new understandings. The Christian journey is a process of learning and growing. It is a process of coming to know ourselves honestly and our God intimately.

Our history as a people of God is a journey of growing in God, learning to understand who God is and who we are. Over the course of the past two Lenten and Easter seasons, the scripture readings reveal that to be a people of God means learning to be a different kind of people, a completely unusual and radical people: a people who place God as a priority in their hearts and lives, who care for strangers and foreigners, who care for the most vulnerable people, who protect each other, and who respect the image of God in each other. This is the journey that the 22nd General Chapter called us to almost four years ago.

Our Marist Constitutions remind us to be “seekers of the living God,” and that our prayer should not be “limited to exercises of piety, nor identified with our apostolic work”. Rather, our spirituality must be “grounded in presence and being one with God, who draws nearest when we are attending to the needs of others” (Const #45). There, too, is a call for us to journey so as to “grow in God”, but we do not do this journey alone.

Our Rule of Life present us with a story from the Old Testament: the story of Ruth and Naomi. The Book of Ruth relates that Ruth and Orpah, two women of Moab, had married two sons of Elimelech and Naomi, Judeans who had settled in Moab to escape a famine in Judah. The husbands of all three



women die; Naomi plans to return to her native Bethlehem and urges her daughters-in-law to return to their families. Orpah does so, but Ruth refuses to leave Naomi, her mother-in-law, declaring (Ruth 1:16–17), “Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried.” Ruth journeys with Naomi to Bethlehem and later marries Boaz, a distant relative of her late father-in-law. She is a symbol of abiding loyalty and devotion.

These three words of Ruth—Wherever you go—convey an “almost unimaginable strength, an ability to endure, persist, . . . overcome”, and journey. Our Rule tells us that the words of Ruth can help us “express some of our deepest longings as we travel on our life’s journey” (Wherever you go . . . The Marist Brothers’ Rule of Life. Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools, Rome, Italy, 2020, Introduction).

For me, one of the most helpful ways of thinking about our Marist, Christian life is to see it as a journey. The Bible itself is richly imbued with this image. Perhaps the greatest of those was the forty-year journey of the people of Israel from their harsh captivity in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan. Elsewhere, we read of Abraham stepping out in faith to leave the land of his ancestors and go to a place chosen by God. He did not know where he was going, but he knew who he would be travelling with – and that was good enough for him.

In his book, *The Liberating Path of the Hebrew Prophets: Then and Now*, Nahum Ward-Lev relates that the Hebrew prophets were men and women of their time who challenged the status quo and reminded the Israelites that exodus, the ongoing liberation journey out of oppression and toward human flourishing, is the true heart of God's covenant with His people. Two powerful principles emerge from Ward-Lev's exploration of liberation themes: 1) Life is a liberation journey; 2) The journey's destination is reciprocal relationship. This journey is an engagement with our living God and it is one of mutuality (Nahum Ward-Lev, *The Liberating Path of the Hebrew Prophets: Then and Now*, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York, 2019, p. 24). Likewise, the New Testament relates how the earliest term used to refer to Christians was 'those who belong to the Way' (Acts 9:2). They were to be seen as travelers on their way to the New Jerusalem.

A journey is a process of personal or communal development, not simply a means of getting from one point to another. To travel to a distant land is a purposeful and intentional matter. We must believe that this journey is worth undertaking. The journey itself offers us the chance to deepen our commitment to what we are seeking. As we travel, we have the opportunity of reflecting on our goal, and anticipating our arrival. Anticipation of the joy of reaching that goal then becomes a means of sustaining us as we travel. During the journey, the traveler becomes the witness to God's love, and it is this love which strengthens the traveler to transcend his/her present brokenness and pursue a more loving and life-giving future.

Yet traveling does more than lead us to our goal; the journey inevitably changes us. Life moves us, our encounters transform us. The journey is itself a process, which enables us to grow and develop as we press on toward our goal. To travel is certainly about finally achieving journey's end, with all the joy and delight that this will bring – but it is also about experiencing and encouraging personal and spiritual growth within us as we travel. Journeying is a process which helps our development as people and as believers.

The journey is never made alone. In one way or another, it is always an experience in community. Jesus sends his disciples out two by two because that is the beginning of a community. Along the way, they share, they argue, they reach decisions together. This mutuality is necessary so no one person "takes charge" of the journey; it is the recognition that one is not in



control. The disciples also walked together so that they could be witnesses to each other because the only way to give authority to the words of another is to have a witness. With two, it is possible to support each other, for the journey also took them through moments of discouragement and mistrust.

In the Journey to Emmaus, two followers of Jesus were walking along the road, heading to Emmaus, deep in solemn and serious discussion, when Jesus met them. They could not recognize Jesus and saw him as a stranger. Jesus let them talk about their anxieties and pains; he let them grieve and mourn. Jesus listened to them, who poured out their crises and doubts, and he patiently guided the two disciples "from hopelessness to celebration". It is important to note that the two disciples showed their openness and caring to the unknown stranger, who is Jesus, by inviting him to stay with them, to join in meal and companionship. On this journey of mutuality, Jesus nourished the two disciples' faith to such an extent that they saw him in the breaking of the bread. Afterwards, the two realized that their hearts were "burning" during their conversation with Jesus along the way to Emmaus, especially when he explained the Scriptures. They have gone through a journey symboliz-

ing their change of hearts from ‘sad’ to ‘burning’, and they immediately returned to Jerusalem to share their experience with others.

Our own Marist history has events marked by a journey. One such event is the story of the Memorare in the Snow. We know well the particulars of the event: The young Br. Jean-Baptiste Furet, aged 16, was struck with a serious illness during his work while teaching in the school at Bourg-Argental. As soon as Marcellin heard of this Brother’s sickness, he set out immediately for Bourg-Argental which was over 20 km away across a very rugged terrain. Br. Stanislaus went with him, but on their return journey they lost their way in the heavily timbered area at the height of a snowstorm. Both were young and strong, Marcellin being 34 and Stanislaus 22, but hours of wandering lost on the slopes of Mount Pilat led eventually to exhaustion. After some hours of walking in various directions on the slopes of the Pilat range, darkness overtook them and death in the severe cold seemed a distinct possibility. After a while, young Stanislaus had to be helped along by Marcellin, but eventually even he tired and had to stop. “We are doomed”, he said, “if the Blessed Virgin does not come to our assistance” (Henri Bilon, *Annals of the Institute: The Memorare in the Snow*, Marist Brothers of the Schools, 1884, p. 50). Together in the snow and high wind, they recited the “Memorare”, a prayer seeking Mary’s help in desperate situations. Within a short while, they spied a lighted lamp, not too far in the distance. For the rest of his days, Marcellin saw his deliverance and that of Brother Stanislaus—henceforth referred to as the Memorare in the Snow—as an act of Providence.

What caused Marcellin to set out on his journey in the first place? Care and concern for a sick brother. His great love for his “little brothers” was one of his most memorable qualities. Marcellin lived and “travelled” a “practical Christianity”. For Marcellin, love always translated itself into concrete action. A brother was sick; the founder set out to visit him. Yet, he did not journey alone! God and Mary were with him...and usually one of his “little Brothers”.



Journeying together as a global family becomes an excellent occasion to learn to ask, to allow life to care for us, and to discover the secret providence hidden in the order of things that teach us to act like we are not alone and to know that we need the other. We must learn not to depend solely on ourselves, which means remembering to create room, even emptiness, within us so that another can be welcomed there. The journey is the celebration of and participation in a relationship.

At the end of every journey, there is a time for reinterpretation: the disciples will gather around Jesus and learn to understand what has happened, passing the pages of the memories they have conserved in their hearts. For our early Brother, they

would gather around Marcellin to understand God’s providence and Mary’s protection in their midst. Sometimes, however, we are forced to go from one experience to another without taking a breath, without being able to stop and reflect on what we have just lived through. But we should always seek a time, at the end of the journey, when we can stop in order to set out again.



This pandemic has given us the time to stop and reflect on what we have lived over these many months and continue to live. Now, in our lives, in our communities, and in our families, we need to discern anew what it means to ‘journey as a global family’ in the world today.

Br. Ben Consigli, General Councilor – April 2021

CASA GENERAL

FIFTH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE REVISION OF THE FORMATION GUIDE

The International Commission for the Revision of the Institute's Formation Guide held its fifth meeting on 14 April.

The commission was appointed by the General Council to implement the recommendation of the General Administration's Strategic Plan to "review the current plans and structures of initial formation for Brothers and the Formation Guide". It held its first meeting on 6 October 2020.

For the fifth meeting of the commission, Brother Robert Schaefer, a De La Salle Christian Brother, former secretary-coordinator of their congregation's formation secretariat, was invited. Together with Br. Luis Bernardo Bolivar, also a De La Salle Brother, he spoke about how they developed a formation guide for the congregation. The focus of the document produced, which was more of a handbook, was on the mission of God. Hence the title "Lasallian Formation for Mission". The De La Salle Brothers used the image of the pilgrimage as their metaphor for this guide.

After Br. Robert's presentation, time was allotted for the members of the Commission to make comments, ask questions and seek clarifications.

During the second part of the meeting, the Secretariat of Brothers Today, with Brothers Angel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, presented a synthesis of all the previous meetings in the form of a road map that gives an overview of the process leading to the new Formation



Guide for the Marist Institute.

Members also shared their reflections and provided input to help define the next steps.

The commission will meet again on 18 May.

The Commission is composed of the brothers:

- Angel Medina, Director of the "Brothers Today" Secretariat.
- Cesar A. Rojas, Norandina Province
- Fabien Bulaimu, Province of East Central Africa
- Francisco García Ruiz, Marist District of Asia
- Graham Neist, Province of Australia
- João Carlos do Prado, General Councillor
- Lindley Sionosa, Deputy Director of the "Brothers Today" Secretariat
- Oscar Martín Vicario, General Councillor
- Pere Ferre, Province of the Hermitage
- Rubens Falqueto, Province of Brasil Centro Norte

"Sharing" Newsletter on the Lay Marist Vocation

On 30 April a new bulletin is to be launched: "Sharing. The Lay Marist Vocation". This is an initiative of the Secretariat of the Laity with the aim of stimulating and accompanying the Marist

life of the laity and helping to promote the future of communion between the different forms of our Marist vocation.

It will be a monthly bulletin for Marist lay people and brothers. It will not be a news bulletin, but rather will encourage reflection and disseminate personal and community experiences, life testimonies and whatever promotes the development of the lay Marist vocation and communion with the brothers.

The newsletter will have a PDF version and an email version. This will be sent to subscribers on the "Marist News" mailing list.



BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

THE MARIST MEMORIAL OF CURITIBA CELEBRATES ITS IVTH ANNIVERSARY WITH INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND PROXIMITY



The Marist Memorial of Curitiba, founded on 29 April 2017, in the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, is a milestone in the celebration of the bicentenary of the foundation of the Marist Institute. The complex has a large structure, with five multi-purpose rooms, two auditoriums, a technical centre and a library. It also includes the Mãe da Misericórdia Chapel and an exhibition hall.

Among its objectives are: the intelligent and innovative preservation of the Marist Historical and Spiritual Patrimony; the organisation of historical collections; the stimulation of research, systematization and diffusion of knowledge; the intelligent use of technologies to present the Marist identity and mission; the use of different languages for the benefit of all ages; the offer of subsidies and opportunities for the formation and development of the Brothers, collaborators, lay Marists and lay Marists.

Marist Memorial Hypermedia 360

Since the beginning of its existence, the Marist Memorial has valued innovation and interactivity in order to bring visitors clos-

er to the Marist identity. In the last year, the initiatives carried out so that people can continue to have quality and attractive content, even at a distance, have gained even more prominence. On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Centre, an original and exclusive experience has been launched: The Marist Memorial Hypermedia 360! This is a digital project that offers immersion in a 360-degree environment, through videoconferencing, interaction and mediation by specialists in real time.

You can visit the exhibition individually or in groups of up to 10 people, with the help of a guide. You can access the exhibition with a computer, tablet, smart phone or VR glasses.

To schedule a guided tour, please write to the following email: memorial@marista.org.br.

Over the last few years, the space has undoubtedly established itself as a dynamic project. All its resources make people fall in love with the charism as new Marists of Champagnat and are able to face today's challenges with hope and fraternity.

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA PROVINCE “STAND UP, SPEAK UP & ACT”

The “Stand Up, Speak Up & Act” project launched by the Institute’s Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation in 2019 is also being implemented in the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province, where 90 children aged 6 to 12 will be listened to as part of the initiative.

The Project highlights how listening and enabling children and young people to participate in decisions that affect their lives and promotes their empowerment in all mission situations ([read more about the project](#)).

On 24 March, the Province held its first training session in which about 25 educators from the Schools and Social Units, who were chosen to listen, as well as other leaders from the Administrative Unit, participated. Under the direction of Lúcia Flesch, from the social area of the Marist Network, the participants, who met virtually, discovered what the project consists of. Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation of the General Administration, responsible for the project at Institute level, was also present through a video



message.

According to Jacqueline Camillo, member of the Child and Adolescent Protection Consultancy of the Marist Network, an organ of the Province

of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, this is a bold and pioneering project. “We are very happy to participate. It is necessary that in our spaces we have and create a culture of child and youth participation, given that our work and mission is at their service”.

More information about this initiative in Brazil can be found [here](#).

Br. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

6. FIRST COMMUNION

The young Gabriel made rapid progress in the study of catechism. Vicar Champagnat did not hesitate to admit him to his first communion, which was celebrated on 19th April 1818, the fourth Sunday after Easter. Gabriel had just turned ten years old.

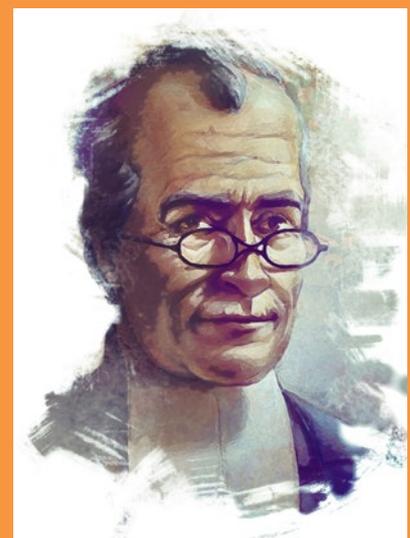
He will keep the memory of this feast, thanks to a prayer-card which he called his “great treasure”. It is a classic image, representing a chalice and a host adored by the angels. Below the table holding the chalice, the lamb is seen lying on the cross.

This act, in the cultural context of 19th century rural France, not only has a religious significance, but publicly marked the end of childhood.

Brother François continued to grow in his love of the Eucharist, and at the end of his life it is said that when Brother François returned from communion, he wore an extraordinary smile on his face.

Later he would say: “He who has known Jesus Christ... can no longer pay attention to what he likes or dislikes... he thinks only of remaining united to Him”.

[Read here other episodes](#)



ITALY

THE GENERAL HOUSE WELCOMES YOUNG IMMIGRANTS

The Marist Brothers at the General House, in collaboration with Caritas in Rome, have welcomed 12 young immigrants since 2016, and 3 more young people are currently living at the House, in a similar way to the 1980s and 1990s. Generally, the young people stay with the Marists for 3 to 28 months, depending on their situation and success in finding work. The young men who arrive are almost always already attending educational centres and have basic Italian.

Under the overall direction of Caritas in Rome, the community of the General Administration provides the young people with room and board while they study, work and regularise their situation. The important thing is to help them integrate into the working and social world of the host country.

In most cases, the young people are of Muslim faith. In these cases, the Marist Brothers adapt to their prayer schedules and fasting times.

Currently, due to the pandemic, which calls for physical and social distancing, the Brothers have reduced physical contact with the young people, as they are constantly going out to work and study, but a team of three brothers is always at their disposal for any need. On the other hand, there are also regular meetings with a social worker from Caritas to follow up on the situation of the 3 guests in the Marist House.

The 3 young guests at the General House

The first is a 26-year-old Guinean asylum seeker. He was accepted in June 2019. For the time being, he is waiting for the Supreme Court's response to his asylum application. This



young man has completed the remaining two years of upper secondary school and is currently studying mechanics at a technical institute, as well as working as a food-delivery rider.

The second is a 46-year-old Nigerian asylum seeker. He too was accepted in June 2019. He is waiting for a response to his asylum application. He graduated from public school last year and works as a gardener.

The third young man currently in the General House is from Venezuela and has been accepted for a few months. Like the other two, he is also an asylum seeker. This young man has a degree in journalism and plays in the baseball team of the Latin American community present in Italy. He speaks Italian very well and has won a scholarship to study "NGO Management" at the Angelicum University in Rome, with the support of the Scalabrinians. He also assists as a scholarship holder in a project of photographic reporting on the sports teams of migrant communities in Rome.



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