



MESSAGE OF BROTHER SUPERIOR GENERAL - 6 JUNE “WITH MARCELLIN, TAKE THE LONG VIEW...”

On the feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat, the Superior General of the Institute invites the Marists of Champagnat to “take the long view”. Brother Ernesto Sanchez analyzes the current situation, underlining the limitations imposed by the pandemic, and invites us to reflect on the example of the founder of the Institute, who “was capable of envisioning a horizon far beyond his own confines and limitations. Like Marcellin, let us be encouraged to take the long view, and seek to respond with the same enthusiasm and intuition that he responded with in his day. We can count on the same enlightenment and strength that he had from Mary, our Good Mother, who continues to inspire and accompany us on this journey.” ([Read all the message](#)).



general administration

- On Saturday, May 29, Andrea Rossi, director of FMSI and Mark Omede, deputy director of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Evangelization, will participate in a meeting to prepare the narrative and financial report of the first year of the New Horizons project.
- On Monday, May 31, the first week of plenary sessions began. During these days, the General Council is reflecting on some emerging themes and on the preparation for the General Conference. It also considers the theme of Legal Structures and holds a Regular Council. Carlos Huidobro for his services and presence at the General House.
- This week and the following two weeks, Br Jeff Crowe will be conducting an abbreviated training program for Br José Manuel Acal (Iberia) and Enrique Muñoz (Mediterranea), 2021 candidates for Lavalla200> communities. Some sessions on-line and some together in Rome.
- Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, participated virtually in the meeting of the Executive Council of the Union of Superiors General.
- Also on Monday, Br. João Carlos participated via zoom in the Coordinating Committee of the Process of Discernment of Marist Presence in Honduras.
- On Tuesday, June 1, Br. Angel Diego, of the Secretariat of Solidarity, met online with the Coordinating Group of the Laudato Si Action Platform for Religious Orders. On the same day, Br. Angel Diego participated virtually in the preparatory meeting for the General Assembly of BICE. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, participated online in the Provincial Chapter of Norandina.
- On the same day, Brothers Ken and João Carlos, General Councillors, participated via zoom in the preparation of the Chapter of Central America.
- On Friday, June 4, Brothers Ben and João Carlos, General Councillors, will attend virtually the intercommunity meetings of the Province of L'Hermitage - France Sector. The following day, both brothers will also attend virtually the intercommunity meetings of the Province of L'Hermitage - Catalunya Sector.
- On Saturday, June 5, the communities of the General House and Manziana will celebrate the feast of Father Champagnat.
- On Sunday, June 6, Br. Josep Maria, General Councillor and Agnes S. Reyes, from the Bureau of the Laity, will participate virtually in the Philippines Meeting of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family.

MARIST PATRIMONY COMMISSION

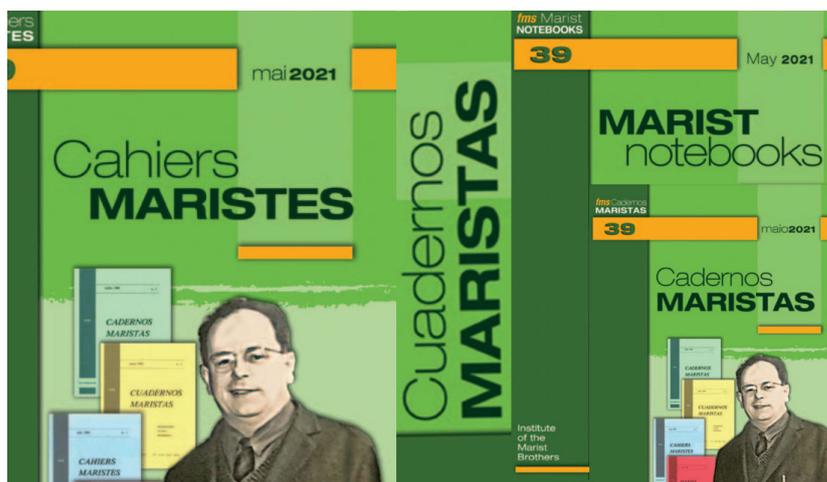
MARIST NOTEBOOKS 39

The International Marist Patrimony Commission has just published Marist Notebooks number 39. The Editorial, signed by Brothers Antonio Ramalho, President of the Commission, and André Lanfrey, Coordinator of the publication, is reproduced here below.

“ This issue of Marist Notebooks is marked by its treatment of two quite different events: one event related to our history and the other of international significance. This year we Marists celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of Marist Notebooks, the first edition of which appeared in June 1990. It is, then, a noteworthy year for those with a particular interest in our Marist tradition and who are engaged in keeping it alive and making it better known. The year 2020 also saw the passing of the founder and first editor of Marist Notebooks, Br Paul Sester. Our sadness is somewhat lightened by the knowledge that his legacy lives on.

Obviously, the second major event is the pandemic which has disrupted our normal preparation method for Marist Notebooks: the usual meeting of the Patrimony Commission in June in Rome was replaced by a video-conference in September, chaired by Br Antonio Ramalho and organised by Brs Angel Medina and Oscar. At that meeting we took the decision to continue publishing Marist Notebooks in four languages. The pandemic context prompted two articles (by Brs Patricio Pino and André Lanfrey) that touch on health issues and epidemic dangers that the Institute has had to confront in the course of its history.

But the inclusion of these articles concerning health, which explore some important things, is only the first focus of this issue. We also wanted to commemorate the thirty years of the journal in a diverse and creative way. First of all, there is a feature article by Francisco J. Flores Sanchez (Chile) in which he critiques the concept of Marist spiritual patrimony and proposes an alternative; then a note on Br Paul Sester (by Br André Lanfrey) that recalls his long career in the service of the Institute and more particularly his role as a pioneer in Marist scholarship. Also, we have included a note on Fr Bernard Bourtot SM (1940-2020), the author of two works on the history of relations between the Marist Fathers and Marist Brothers. Finally, an index to Marist Notebooks Nos.



1-38 offers researchers an overview of the authors, themes and articles treated in this journal between 1990 and 2020.

A third focus of this issue comprises two complementary contributions related to the history of the Institute: first, the second part of the 'History of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers until 1903', by Br Antonio Martínez Estaún; then a contribution by Br André Lanfrey concerning an article on the Marist Brothers published in 1858 by the Catholic newspaper L'Univers, at the time when Br François was in Rome trying to obtain canonical recognition for the Institute. It was undoubtedly the first document to present the Institute to the general public but one which, in the short term, had the effect of disrupting the negotiations that Br François had in hand.

Finally, two unrelated texts. Angelo Ricordi's article can be placed in the field of spirituality. In his focus on Br Nestor, he sheds light on a Superior who has been overlooked too often and to an important element in Marist spirituality: devotion to the Sacred Heart. Br Emilien Twagirayesu, in a more academic style, addresses a new subject for our journal: Marist higher education.

In short, we are not offering a set of readings for a time of crisis, but rather Marist research from fresh authors and subjects.

[Download PDF: English](#)

BR. SYLVANUS-ANIEBIET

MARIST MISSIONARY IN SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH SUDAN

Since 2013, the Marist Brothers have been actively involved in the Solidarity with South Sudan (SSS) project, which currently has 19 members from 14 Catholic congregations. The Marist Brothers are present in the Riimenze community, 30 kilometres from Yambio, one of the 4 inter-congregational communities of the project. In 2013, Br Christian Mbam, was one of the first Marists physically present in the country, and in 2014, he was joined by Brothers Longinius Dimgba and Mathew-Mary Ogudu. Subsequently, Br Matthew-Mary had to leave Sudan to work at MIC. Brothers Christian and Longinius remained in the country to continue the Marist Mission. At the end of 2020, Br Christian Mban finished his stay in South Sudan, after having dedicated his mission – for 7 years – to education, pastoral work and agriculture. Following his departure, the Province of Nigeria has sent Br Sylvanus-Aniebiet Victor Okon to join Br Longinus Dimgba and together they will continue to work on the project of the Unions of Superiors General (UISG and USG) supported by 260 congregations, benefactors and international agencies working to improve the standard of living of the needy people in South Sudan.

Sylvanus-Aniebiet gives a report on the SSS project and his mission there as a Marist:

“Solidarity with South Sudan members work in four major areas which aimed at training, accompanying, and empowering the South Sudanese to be self-reliant and sustainable. These four critical areas of need involve, training of midwives and nurses, sustainable agriculture, pastoral work and teacher training.

In order to give life/or continuity to the above mission in South Sudan I was posted to Solidarity Teachers Training College (STTC), after a long process of dis-

cernment and screening by the commission in charge of mission in the general house, ably led by Br. Fachi Fms and the director for Solidarity with South Sudan Fr. Jim Green MAfr, where I have been appointed a Tutor by the executive director of Solidarity with South Sudan and the principal of the college have also appointed me The Dean of the Students affairs of TTC.

Furthermore, I will be teaching professional studies and Christian Religious Studies in the college. The college is training professional teachers for primary school. So far so good the staff and students I met are accommodative and welcoming and I am optimistic of working amicably with them, I will ensure that the aims and objectives of Solidarity with South Sudan is accomplished.



Another beautiful side of the ‘coin’ is the Internationality of the Religious Community in Solidarity Teachers Training College(STTC). The composition of the Community is very unique. It is a mixed community of mature men and women of God. In all honesty am the least in religious life, experience and above all in age. Am the “Benjamin” of the house but am also a special gift to the community as testify by almost all of them. The specialness of the community is seen in the na-

ationalities of each of her members. (Sr. Jacinta is an Irish, Sr. Margaret Shin an American, Sr. Guile from Peru, Br. Methodius from Ghana, and Br Chris from India)

They are as marvelous as the marvelous of Champagnat, here we take turns in cooking, doing the dishes and cleaning the house and in shopping for the community and driving the community from time to time. It is a very sensitive and careering community where no one seek for power and superiority, it's a down to earth and hardworking community, here in my view it can be said as of the earliest community 'see how they love one another'.

Less I forget the solidarity also pay special attention to ensure that South Sudanese girls and women have equal access to education and training and strive to prevent gender violence but the challenge remains that the girl child and women are reluctant to key into this great agenda for them, girls are easily married off or put in the family way early, polygamy has eaten deep in the fabric of the society.



I hope to use some of my holiday time for vocation campaign to religious life in South Sudan if am I am facilitated and empowers. Am grateful for the opportunity given me to be a missionary in my continent. Am grateful to identify with the people of this young country and in contributing my quarter to the upliftment and improvement of literacy of this young country. More so I hope to draw from the well of the experienced members of my community for my growth. Just a brief testimony with Solidarity with South Sudan”.

marist world

AUSTRALIA
ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL



MADAGASCAR: INSTITUTION ST JOSEPH, ANTANANARIVANA



KOREA
MARIST CENTER FOR CHILDREN



PHILIPPINES
NOTRE DAME OF JOLO



ITALY
GIUGLIANO



CUBA
LAVALLA200> HOLGUÍN

GERMANY: VISIBLE, AUDIBLE AND ACTIVE AGAINST RACISM YOUNG MARISTS PUT NEO-COLONIALIST STRUCTURES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Triggered by the Black Lives Matter movement in America in 2020, the issue of racism became more and more present in Germany as well. Therefore, the “Young Marists”, a group of young adults, mostly former Cmi volunteers but also other former and current students of the Marist College in Mindelheim/Germany, together with staff of the Cmi office, decided to organise theme days this year around the topic of anti-racism and neo-colonialism and its consequences. The aim was to reach out to the students of the Marist schools in Germany, as well as lay Marists, ex-Volunteers, future Volunteers and other interested people, to educate them about racist patterns, consequences of colonialism and racist ideas. This was meant to be the first step in the right direction to learn how to recognise and act against intolerant behaviour as an individual, but also how to “unlearn” one’s own racism. All this took place under the framework of the global action “Stand up, speak up, act”.



Here, it was not only important to find speakers with expertise in their field who could reflect on the topics and give a well-founded account of them, but also to explain terms that people have certainly heard in the course of the debate but do not necessarily understand, as well as to recommend good books or even good documentaries, and generally to encourage people to engage further with the topic, even outside the education days.

In order to reach as many people as possible, especially in times of Corona, the theme days were advertised by the “Young Marists” not only on the website but also on Instagram, where especially the students of the Marist schools spend more time.

On 2 May, a service designed by the “Young Marists” themselves and streamed on YouTube marked the beginning of the theme days against racism. In addition to lectures in German, it was also very important to the group to offer in-

ternational lectures. Therefore, a panel discussion was held, where Marists from all over the world were invited as speakers on the topic of “Colonial Heritage”, which included speakers from Samoa, Colombia, Congo and Kiribati. Brothers and young adults from 16 countries were among the 52 participants in the discussion. (See photo)

A poetry slam was also held at an international level. Under the motto visible and AUDIBLE against racism, young people were able to give a voice to their feelings and experiences, with contributions from Germany, South Africa, and Lebanon.

Especially for pupils who want to get involved in future Marist projects, but also for Brothers and lay Marists, it is important to deal with the topics listed above as the first step towards a more tolerant world, where volunteer work has the right impact and background.



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION ASIA LEADERS ORGANIZE PARTICIPATION

On May 20, 2021, birthday of St. Marcellin, seventeen Brothers and laity leaders of lay animation from the Marist District of Asia, South Asia and East Asia met to organize the process of participation of the Marists of the continent in the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, launched on 19th March by the General Administration, through the Extended Secretariat of the Laity.

The meeting agenda was to provide comprehensive information about the International Forum with its theme “Welcoming, nurturing, living and sharing our vocation” and the subtitle “Your sons and daughters will prophesy” (Joel 3:2). The gathering



was convened by Elma Rafil, Chair of the Asia Laity Commission, and the inputs in the said meeting were guided by Carole Wark and Agnes Reyes of the Secretariat of Laity.

During the meeting, brothers and laity gathered to provide comprehensive information about the Forum, orientation on the guidelines for reflection, the intended timelines of process implementation, and the envisioning of next steps of the processes which will be carried out in their respective administrative units.

PROVINCE OF IBÉRICA AND EDELVIVES REFLECTION ON CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND NEW SPIRITUALITY

The School of Spirituality of the Iberian Province, together with the In and Out project of the Edelvives Foundation, present the Effeta Notebooks. It is a project that aims to encourage reflection on the current religious situation of people with Christian concerns. In a pluralistic society, open to debate and contrast, we believe it is necessary to contribute, in all simplicity, our Christian and Marist word on subjects that we feel are of concern to us as a community.

The Notebooks are the product of shared reflection, initiated and co-ordinated by the School of Spirituality but which includes many

other people around us. We believe in listening together in order to listen more clearly to the Spirit and, for this reason, the Notebooks are not and do not want to be official documents or great theological treatises, but rather they want to gather the intuitions and clues that, together, we feel can help us to journey, personally and as a community. Therefore, they will always be working documents, open, written with rigour and, at the same time, in a language that is accessible to all those who are interested in them. The text has a body of bibliographical notes that should not make reading difficult, but rather provide possibilities for those who are interested in programmes for further reflection.

The Notebooks are a project sustained over time and with an annual frequency, because they want to help to incorporate listening to the signs of the times and spiritual reflection on reality into our daily Christian life. To be a Christian today is to be, as Pope Francis invites us, a Church going out, in dialogue, listening, a Church on the way towards the Kingdom of God-Love.

The booklet that opens the series is entitled Christian Spirituality and New Spirituality. A dialogue. This booklet arises from the question perceived in our communities and our environment, on how to face, from our Christian identity, the pro-

gramme of the new spiritualities, sometimes called oceanic, which are present in our cultural environment. Our programme is situated in our ecclesial and Marist tradition: we propose avenues of dialogue with these spiritualities, aware of the richness of our Christian identity and in the certainty that diversity is a gift and an opportunity.

The School of Spirituality continues to work to promote spaces of encounter and shared reflection and is working on the next booklets on themes such as religious indifference or an image of the person that integrates current philosophical, psychological, educational and theological languages.



[The booklets are available online.](#)

PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA A WEBINAR ON EXPERIENCES OF LEADERSHIP

To adapt our leadership to new realities, “we have to take steps to release the hidden potential in each person that comes to the surface in contexts of crisis and difficulty, such as the pandemic”, said Br. Oscar Martin, General Councillor, during his intervention in the webinar “Experiences of Leadership that Inspire”. The event was organised by the School of Marist Educational Leadership (ELEM) of the Province of Compostela and took place on 26 May.

Among the speakers were also Pedro Huerta (Secretary General of Catholic Schools) and Montserrat del Pozo (Superior General of the Missionary Daughters of the Holy Family of Nazareth).

The aim of this second webinar was to develop the leadership skills of people from Compostela Province, as well as to conduct a motivating and inspiring meeting drawing on the personal and professional experience of leaders in the world of education.

Br. Oscar spoke about the role of leaders and how leadership has had to adapt to new realities. “The pandemic has taught us some things, and also, fortunately, it has also caused us to unlearn some things. We should not



just look at what we have had to learn. We have had to unlearn some prevailing assumptions, some ‘know-it-all’ ways of acting, maybe relying too much on our strategic plans and too little on the potential of the ordinary teacher. Such unlearning can be helpful as we face the future, including the role of leadership.

What do we do with those who are resistant to change? “Well, on the one hand, love them a lot, but on the other hand, make them face the truth”, said Br Oscar towards the end of his remarks ([access the video here](#)).

INTERNACIONAL COMMISSION 6TH MEETING FOR THE REVISION OF THE FORMATION GUIDE

On May 18, the International Commission for the Revision of the Formation Guide held its 6th meeting to continue the work it was mandated to do.

To connect with the previous meeting, the members first shared their thoughts on the April 14 presentation of Br. Robert Schaeffer, Superior General of the Brothers De La Salle, about the work the de la Salle did on their formation guide. There are

many things about the experience of the de la Salle that the commission can learn from as well as ideas that are in line with what it wants to do.

The commission is now in the listening phase. This means hearing from others outside the commission about what formation to Marist life should be today. This also highlights the value of participation, such that there is involvement of as many members of our global family as possible.

Hence, the commission will be reaching out to formators (past and present),

formands, laity, young brothers, and other interested individuals or groups, including probably other congregations, to gather more ideas that will help widen the perspective. To do this, connections to the regions and administrative units will be established in the form of virtual meetings, as is the means most feasible at this time. The Brothers Today Secretariat is working on the design to do this process.

The commission will re-convene on 23 June.

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 Ruíz, 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.

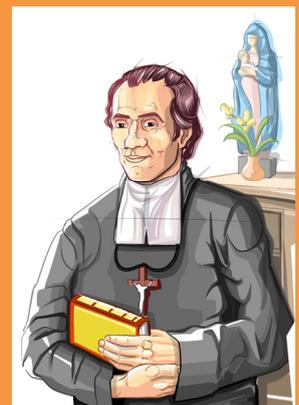
Fr. François first Superior General of the Marist Institute

11. SCHOOL TEACHER

Brother François (Gabriel Rivat) began teaching at La Valla at the age of 12. Since he was too young to see all his pupils, he climbed on a rock and gave his lessons from there. At the same time, he cooked for the community and for the boarding pupils; in the afternoon, he taught reading, catechism and prayers to those who were lagging behind. In 1821, Brother François left La Valla to go as cook to the school of Marthes (Loire) and at the same time to continue teaching with a division of the afternoon class. The Marthes classrooms were small, damp and poorly ventilated, which is why the school was closed two years later.

It was here that one afternoon he met Fr. Préher, the parish priest of Tarentaise (Loire), former teacher of Jean-Antoine Rivat (Gabriel's brother), who was looking for candidates for the seminary. Turning to Brother François, he invited him to resume his Latin studies and to leave his kitchen to embrace the ecclesiastical ministry. At the end of their discussions, he asked him the reason for his refusal: "Because" replied the Little Brother, "I do not follow my own will, but God's will, which is made known to me by my superior." From the kitchen at Marthes, Brother François went on to Vanosc (Ardèche), to take charge of the little children's class. The school had just been inaugurated in 1823 with the support of the Count of Vogüé.

[See other episodes here.](#)

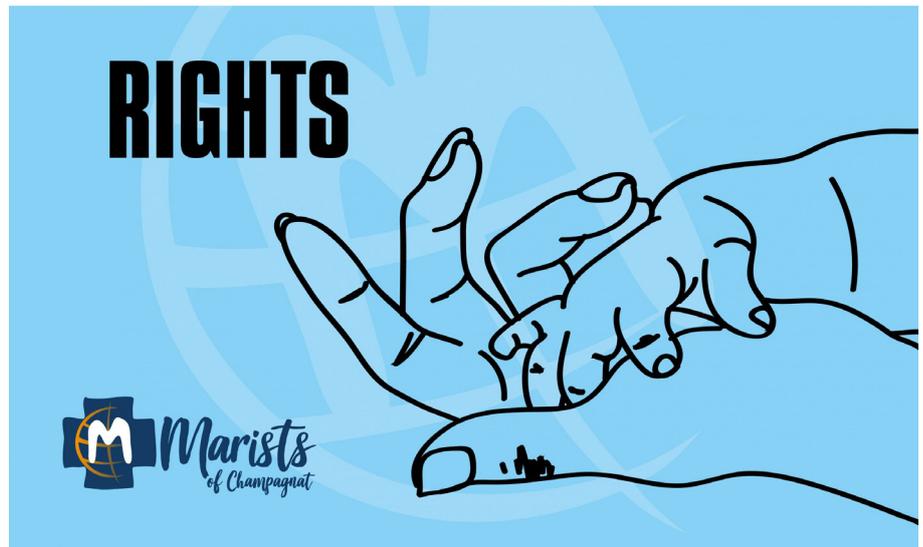


4 JUNE

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF INNOCENT CHILDREN VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION

Violence and Abuse of Children: Deep Wounds that do not Heal with Time

The United Nations (UN) instituted the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression to acknowledge the pain that children suffer from all sorts of violence. This day is celebrated annually on the 4th of June to affirm the UN's commitment to protect children as well as to urge governments, civil society organizations and the various educational institutions to conduct programs to educate people about their rights. Documented information reveal that children have been and continue to be victims of armed conflicts and domestic abuse. According to the UN, many children are used as child soldiers, sexually violated, abducted, killed, and denied access to humanitarian assistance, schools, and hospitals. Also, in many parts of the world, many of them are



victims of all sorts of abuses including child marriage, child labour, female genital mutilation, and child-trafficking. Some of them equally suffer from physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect at home and at school. These abuses cause them wounds that time cannot heal.

Happy Feastday!

|| Like Marcellin, let us be encouraged to take the long view, and seek to respond with the same enthusiasm and intuition that he responded with in his day. We can count on the same enlightenment and strength that he had from Mary, our Good Mother, who continues to inspire and accompany us on this journey.

This Sunday, June 6th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ in many parts of the world (in some it is celebrated on Thursday the 3rd). We are heirs to Marcellin's great love and devotion to the Eucharist. Inspired by Mary, the centrality of Jesus in his life was evident. Around this Solemnity, let us give thanks for the gift of our Father and Founder.

Happy celebration of Champagnat Day!

Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General





with a malevolent world. It predisposes the child to have a biological basis for fear, even though he or she may act and pretend otherwise. Early abuse moulds the brain to be more irritable, impulsive, suspicious, and prone to 'ght or ight' reactions that the rational mind may be unable to control. The brain is programmed to a state of defensive adaptation, enhancing survival in a world of constant danger.

It is evident from the foregoing reflection that childhood abuse is one of the root causes of violence and delinquent behaviour.

Neurobiologists and neuropsychiatrists see all kinds of brain abnormalities and psychiatric disorders in people who have been abused as children. Some of these include psychosomatic disorder and agoraphobia, post-traumatic stress disorder or aggression, impulsiveness, delinquency, hyperactivity, and substance abuse. Although genes provide the foundation and overall structure of our brains, their numerous connections are sculpted and moulded by experience. Research describes a pattern of brain abnormalities associated with childhood abuse. An electroencephalogram (EEG) test used to diagnose conditions such as epilepsy, head injuries, dizziness, headaches, brain tumors, sleeping problems and brain death ascertains that childhood abuse is associated with specific evidence of neurobiological abnormalities. Boys and girls who had been abused or neglected develop complications on their corpus callosum: a bundle of nerve fibers connecting the left and right cerebral hemispheres.

Childhood abuse is not something we get over later. It has enduring wounds. It is an evil that we must acknowledge and confront if we aim to do anything about the unchecked cycle of violence in our societies. Given this, is it possible to reduce violence by focusing on childcare rather than on crime? If society reaps what it sows, then, this question is an invitation to everyone to improve daycare and after-school programs. Therefore, parents need education on how to nurture their children more effectively and how to foster better relationships among peers and siblings. They need to create child-centred, enabling environments to facilitate children's learning and development in the early years.

Whatever form child abuse takes, it sets off a ripple of hormonal changes that wire the child's brain to cope

Brother Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity



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