



## SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION AND EVANGELIZATION

# MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Following the call of the XXII General Chapter of the Marist Institute to “journey together as a global family”, through the creation of an international networks that strengthens the Mission and the Marist charism, on May 27 and 28, 2021, the first online workshop on the Marist Global Network of Schools was held. Divided in two interregional groups, it was the first attempt to involve the Coordinators of the Marist schools of the different Provinces and Districts in the knowledge and building of the entire project of the global network.

Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, welcomed the participants and then traced the historical background of the journey to the building of the Marist Global Network of Schools. “From the beginning, we want to design a network that arises from interaction and mutual understanding, hence, an option for a collaborative development that involves all stakeholders”, he said.

To foster this spirit of co-design, we resorted to the methodology of appreciative inquiry that encourages



dialogue and encounter in the design of the proposals. Miriam Subirana, founder of the Institute for dialogues and appreciative inquiry and Pep Buetas, expert trainers in the methodology, facilitated the experience of the workshop, whose main objective was to fall in love and spread the dream.

Appreciative Inquiry as a methodology involves the disciplines of appreciating, inquiring, dialoguing, designing, and planning. In the different stages towards the official launch of the network (work- >>>

## general administration

■ In the third week of the traditional June plenary session, the General Council reports and reflects on the Provinces, Districts and Regions, drawing on the contacts the Liaison Councillors have had over the past three months. On Tuesday, a day of Retreat focused on the calls of the General Chapter. A day was also devoted to a review of the strategic plan: current status and progress.

■ During this week, the General House welcomes the two candidates of the LaValla200> 2021 programme, who have completed the formation process, under

the coordination of Br Jeff and Cmi: Enrique Jesús Muñoz Bercerra, Mediterránea; Br José Manuel Acal Francés (Ibérica).

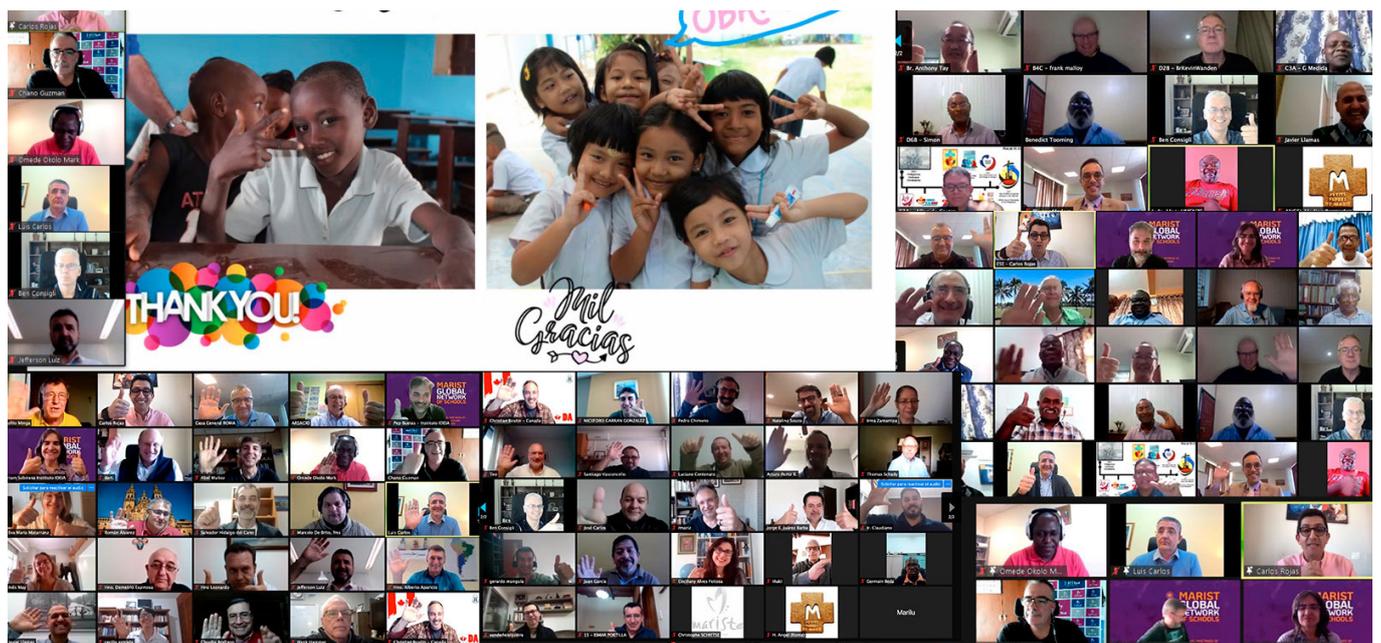
■ The Provincial Chapter of Central America will take place from the 12th to the 24th of this month. Brothers Ken and João Carlos, liaison councillors of the Province, are participating online in some sessions.

■ On Monday and Tuesday, Brothers Angel Diego and Francis, directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, participated in the General Assembly of Child Rights Connect, to which FMSI belongs.



- On Tuesday, the Department of Collaboration for International Mission (Cmi) met with the IT team of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, which develops the Nexus platform.
- On Wednesday, the International Mission Commission will meet to discuss the rights and protection of children. Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, Ben and Ken, General Councillors, and Carlos Alberto and Mark, directors of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, will participate on behalf of the General House.
- On the same day, the meeting of the novice formators took place, with the participation of Brother Ernesto, Superior General, Brothers Óscar and João Carlos, Councillors, and the directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today, Brothers Ángel and Lindley.
- On Wednesday, Brothers Lindley and Ángel will also participate in the meeting of the Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality.

- On Thursday, Cmi will meet with the East Asia and Central America provinces to consolidate the work of their respective VPCs.
- On the same day, Cmi promotes the virtual meeting of the Board of Directors of the CPV Network, with the participation of Br. Valdicer and Matteo, members of the Department.
- On Thursday, Br Ángel Diego and Francis took part in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Marist International Solidarity Network.
- On Friday, Brothers Ángel and Lindley will take part in the meeting of the group "Tutti Fratelli" in Rome.
- On the same day there will be a meeting of the Council of the Fratelli Project, which will deal with both the headquarters in Lebanon and the future headquarters in Maicao, Colombia. On behalf of the Marist Brothers, Brothers Óscar, General Councillor, and Valdicer, Director of the WCC, are taking part.



shops, pre-summits, and summits) the team and the participants will share the aspirations and hopes to turn them into affirmative proposals that lead to a vision of the guidelines of action in the practical development of the Marist Global Network.

The workshop, held with the education leaders of the various Marist provinces, has been of great help in opening new horizons and visualizing new opportunities. The online environment was fraternal, as each participant joyfully brought their experiences and dreams to

the network.

The official launch of the Global Network will take place at the end of October, but before that time, the space between July and September 2021, interregional workshops very similar to the one recently experienced will take place, in which, in addition to the educational leaders: directors, educators, students and families, from each of the countries with a Marist presence will meet to continue collaborating in the building of the project of the Marist Global Network of Schools.

**20 NEW BROTHERS**

On 12 June, 20 novices from the novitiate in Kumasi, Ghana, made their first profession as Marist Brothers. Br Yao Kouassi is the master and the new brothers are from the Province of Nigeria and the District of West Africa.

**BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA**

PUCRS has been considered the best private university in the south of Brazil according to a ranking published by the British company Quacquarelli Symonds. The result comprises one of the most popular university ranking systems in the world.

**MARIST SPIRITUALITY**

The Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality is promoting this Wednesday a webinar with Br. Manuel Mesonero, on the theme "Spirituality of Marcellin and the first brothers". See the meeting at this link: <https://youtu.be/EK2Zyo2vP0w>.

**DISTRICT OF THE PACIFIC**

Four young men recently renewed their vows as Marist Brothers: Anitelea, Tabunga, Ienraku and Ieremia. Brothers Ienraku and Ieremia renewed their religious vows in Suva, Fiji. Brother Tabunga renewed his vows in Tarawa, Kiribati.

**UNITED STATES**

Br Dan O’Riordan, Provincial, has received an award from the Catholic Media Association. He has received awards for two books published in 2020: “A Plan B Camino 2020” and “Never too Young to Change the World”.

**NORANDINA**

**VII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER**

The VII Chapter of the Province of Norandina was held from 3 to 6 June in Fusagasugá, Colombia. Its motto was “With hands linked in solidarity, we lead daring lives together”. 32 Brothers took part and Fr. Manuel Lalangui was the chaplain. Br. Diego Antón joined on-line from Maracaibo. Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Brothers Ken McDonald and João Carlos do Prado, link General Councillors, were also present virtually.

During the Chapter, Brother Orlando Escobar took over as Provincial from Brother César Rojas. The members of the Provincial Council elected were: Diego Zawadzky, Julián Olmo, Carlos Regalado, Carlos Saúl Corzo, José Miguel Caballero and Leonardo Yepes.

During the opening, Br. César Rojas, Provincial from 2014 to now, urged everyone to be open to challenges and make bold choices, to listen to the Lord; to be united with the brothers, laypeople, and youth of the province, after the pre-capitular journey. Br. César then presented Br. Orlando, the new Provincial, with a

lighted lantern, and invited him to be a “beacon of hope” with his fraternal style of leadership.

In his message, Br. Orlando urged all those present and the whole Province to be builders of brotherhood and joyful witnesses fostering our Marist vocation.

For his part, Br. Ernesto invited everyone not to be afraid of the new, to tend new shoots of life that are springing up, in synergy with others in the Province.

After discerning together on how to grow Marist life and brotherhood, three major challenges came to the fore:

- To see the context of our countries through the lens of God’s gaze, to feel part of that gaze, going beyond the ordinary way of proceeding, so that the Chapter generates vision.
- To read again the calls of the XXII General Chapter in the current situation of our world and our Church, to see beyond our Province and Institute.
- To take our spiritual journey >>>



seriously in order to make our experience of God more transparent, to transform our communities into homes of light and to be more supportive of one another.

On the second day, Br. César Rojas and the Provincial Councillors presented their report on the past three years to the assembly. They highlighted the presence of young Brothers in the Province and the strength of the lay Marist vocation, which represent great strengths, and at the same time, a challenge to continue accompanying and stimulating this charismatic richness. Afterwards, the Brothers reflected on and discerned the calls based on the Reports of the Mission Councils of the countries and of the different Provincial Commissions, among other documents distributed prior to the Chapter.

On the third day of the Chapter, the eve of the feast of St. Marcellin, there was discussion by table groups of lines of action to implement the calls. After further discussion in a plenary session, some actions were ratified to be taken up by the new province leadership team. Before the Eucharist, the organisation of the province over the last three years was evaluated and ideas shared on the most suitable way to provide leadership and governance for the Province. The letters sent by the Conference of Religious of Colombia and the communities of Tucupita and El Cristo,



in Venezuela, were also tabled.

On the fourth day of the VII Provincial Chapter, 6 June, the new provincial council was elected. Before concluding, Br Laurentino Albalá, Provincial Treasurer, presented a financial report for the three years.

At the closing of the Chapter, during the Eucharist to celebrate the double feast of Marcellin Champagnat and Corpus Christi, the new Provincial Councillors of the Province of Norandina for the triennium 2021-2024 were commissioned.

## SAMOA MARIST BROTHERS PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS 'LEARNING TO READ BY READING'

Thirty-two students of Marist Brothers Primary School in Samoa were presented with 'Gold' Reading Awards on 21 May. The Gold award represents the completion of the First Level of the 'Learning to Read by Reading' program comprises of thirty one Scholastic readings.

The students were taught through instructional strategies of how to read, correctly pronounce and understand meanings of the three thousand and twenty six word count and three hundred and six new words in the readings. The goal of achieving

the 'Gold' reading award is the attainment of 'comprehension' skills whereby students are equipped with skills of how to summarize, finding the main idea, following the chronological order of the story, how to infer and predict which enhance and increase their comprehending skills.

The parents have expressed their heartfelt gratitude because Marist Brothers Primary School has given their children a 'second chance' and a 'head start' in their education journey.

In fact, this is the third Gold Award presentation since the 'Learning to Read



by Reading' was introduced in 2019 as a key component of the Literacy program. The Literacy program was initiated in 2018 by Brother Siaoisi, the principal, who's 'Vision' states:

"Every student of Marist Brothers Primary School should be able to 'read' and 'comprehend' what is read".

marist world

GHANA: FIRST PROFESSION IN THE NOVITIATE OF KUMARI



SUDÁFRICA: THREE2SIX PROJECT



SAMOA: BR. ANITELEA CHARLES FIDOW RENEWS VOWS IN APIA



PHILIPPINES: COMMUNITY OF MAPAC



BRAZIL, MCFM - ARUANĂ



NICARAGUA: FEAST OF CHAMPAGNAT

LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY IN ROMANIA  
THE MARIST CENTRE IN MOINESTI

1st June is a public holiday in Romania: the International Children’s Day is celebrated with great prominence, an idea dating back to 1925 during the World Conference on Children’s Welfare held in Geneva. There is practically no locality in Romania that does not organise a public event on this day.

In Moinesti this year, the Marist Daycare Centre (“CENTRUL DE ZI MARISTI”) was the star of the day. We designed a project to be put to the three primary schools in Moinesti. “COPILARIE, VIS SI FANTEZIE” (Childhood, dreams and fantasies) was the title; and the project aimed to make the Marist Centre better known, to dialogue with the schools’ leaders and teachers, and to foster the inclusion of our children into into the wider community, all at risk of dropping out of school and social exclusion.

The proposal was for the pupils to participate in a drawing competition on the theme of children: their dreams and fantasies about the future ...

All three schools took part and we received around 170 drawings from 19 different classes.

The prize-giving ceremony was scheduled for 1st June, with a public event in the “Bai Park” at the Moinesti Centre. But instead... a change of programme!

The heavens opened the whole day and we were forced to seek shelter in the Lira theatre, run by >>



the municipality. This unfortunately limited our time to just 30 minutes, before a children’s show from the local folk group.

We displayed all the drawings on the walls of the theatre and awarded prizes on the spot to the children who had produced the best works, while promising to go to each class to award prizes to all the participants.

The Mayor gave the initial greeting, a few words about

the Marist Centre and the project, and then the series of prizes for the schools and individual winners began. The folklore show followed.

The next day, 2nd June, we visited the schools. We were allowed to meet each class that had joined the project and so we were able to congratulate each individual child with a diploma of participation, a pack of colouring pencils and souvenir photos.

[Read the article written by Br. Mario Meuti](#)

## MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS ADDING TALENT TO THE PROJECT

Following the calls of the XXII General Chapter to “Journey together as a Global Family”, the General Council of the Institute has entrusted the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization with the launch of an International Network of Schools that favor the strengthening of the Marist educational mission.

Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede have led the project with the support of an international team with whom they have worked, for two years, a launch proposal that is being co-created with the actors of the Marist educational world.

The project will soon be launched, and with this development, comes a need to incorporate new talent to ensure its management.

### Francisco Javier Llamas

With the above in mind, we welcome Francisco Javier Llamas, who, after a selection process, joins the team of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, as Project Manager of the Marist Global Network of schools.

In his career life, Javier is familiar within the Marist world, since he lived the experience of being a brother for 15 years in Latin America and has always been closely linked to the Marist Family.

On the part of his formative profile, it is worth mentioning the following: He began his higher studies graduating in philosophy. Later he graduated in education and continued his postgraduate training by pursuing MBA (Master of Business

Administration). He has recently obtained a PhD in Social Sciences in innovation and entrepreneurship.

His professional career has been closely linked to the educational environment, the Marist Charism and Latin America. From a very young age he has worked as a teacher and responsible for the direction of various educational areas, from basic education (primary school teacher, teacher, director) to university training (professor and director of several master’s programs).

His professional performance has also been closely linked to management and entrepreneurship, through the direction and management of



some companies and the creation of a startup.

Javier, feels his new mission as a thank you from God and the opportunity to continue updating the global vision that Champagnat already had: “All the dioceses of the world are in our plans”.

## CANADA: A FAMILY CELEBRATION

# CELEBRATION OF ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

The Marists of Champagnat in Canada, brothers and laypeople, have had the opportunity to celebrate as a family the feast of our Founder. The restrictions of the pandemic have invited us to rediscover the mechanisms that the Zoom platform offers us to favour the fraternal encounter, the cordial greeting and sincere embrace in the distance, the sharing of life in a simple way, without haste; the times of reflection, interiorisation and prayer lived in a personal way, the sharing of what was expressed in the groups..., in short, a thousand and one gestures and moments that we felt could only be lived fully in a face-to-face way.

This event, as a global family, is part of a journey as a province that we began last year and which, throughout this 2021, has been taking shape in actions and initiatives that are linked together and give meaning and content to each of the stages of this journey.

We began our journey with the retreat we held last Easter. This virtual meeting was prepared with great generosity and dedication by an ad hoc team, led by the provincial animation commission. From personal reflection and group sharing emerged a series of treasures present in the community and some beliefs that nourish our life and mission as Marists: what we are and what we



believe should be the path to follow if we wish to transmit, faithfully and creatively, the charism that we have inherited.

A new step in this journey was the meeting on the occasion of the feast of Marcellin Champagnat. The committee which, since April, has been in charge of the planning of this meeting has had the invaluable help of the team which organised the retreat last Easter. From this joint effort came the guiding principles that gave meaning and unity to the almost two hours of the celebration:

- To focus our gaze and heart on our current Canadian context, seeking to respond to those realities that challenge us.
- To promote the culture of encounter by making real, in concrete names and faces, what the General Chapter of 2017 invited us to do in each of its 5 Calls.
- To prepare our hearts to continue to journey together, laity and brothers, in a creative and forward-looking way, with a view to our next assembly at the end of July 2021.

What the different groups, composed of more than 50 participants, have expressed will guide the dynamics of our next assembly, the same one that will begin our new stage as a District and the Association of Marists of Champagnat of Canada (AMCC), made up of laypeople and brothers, and in which we will continue to seek to respond with the same enthusiasm and intuition with which Marcellin Champagnat responded in his day.

"Family spirit, one of the central pillars of our charism, gives us the certainty that networking is something that we can easily establish and strengthen" [\(Message of the Marist International Mission Commission\)](#)

## LEBANON

## FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRATELLI PROJECT

The Fratelli Project celebrated 5 years of mission in Lebanon in April. The project, founded by the Marist and De La Salle Brothers, has as its mission “to provide socio-educational support to disadvantaged and vulnerable children and youth, focusing on Lebanese in need and refugees displaced from their countries due to war and violence”. Since 2016, more than 3,000 children and youth have benefited from various socio-educational programmes.

Supported at the beginning by the Fratelli Council, Brothers Andrés Porrás Gutiérrez, FSC, and Miquel Cubeles, FMS, formed the first Fratelli community. As time went by, other Brothers and volunteers formed the Community.



Fratelli is currently made up of a fixed community of three Brothers: Miquel Cubeles, FMS, Esteban Ortega, FMS, and Gilbert Ouilabegue Oueidigue, FSC. On the occasion of Fratelli's fifth anniversary, the three brothers give their views on the Fratelli Project over the past five years.

### Br. Gilbert Ouilabegue Oueidigue

“With the arrival of Brothers Miquel Cubeles (Marist) and Andrés Porrás (De La Salle), the Project took shape in November 2015, in Bouchrieh (Beirut). Subsequently, in March 2016, after settling in Rmeileh, it consolidated its identity. Since then, the Fratelli Project has become a point of reference that brings to life the Italian concept of FRATELLI (Fraternity), which welcomes people from all over the world.

During these five years in Lebanon, the two congregations of Marist Brothers and De La Salle Brothers have really become one, both literally and figuratively. Through its direct involvement, the Fratelli Project is recognised by the Lebanese Ministry of the Interior and the non-formal education directorate of the

Ministry of National Education sees in Fratelli a privileged partner and a constant reference.

With the Fratelli Project, all the speeches and invitations of Pope Francis (trip to Abu Dhabi, the encyclical Fratelli Tutti and the last trip to Iraq) are concretised in the actions and programmes of Fratelli Lebanon. Every day, thanks to our programmes, a rapprochement is taking place, albeit very slowly but surely, between Christians and Muslims, between Syrian and Iraqi refugees and the Lebanese host population. With the economic crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic and all its consequences, especially after the explosion of the Beirut Port, the Fratelli Project has helped to mitigate the direct negative effects on the affected families and the local populations of Rmeileh and Bourj Hammoud where the two socio-educational centres of the Fratelli Project are located.

Personally, I feel directly involved in the five years of Fratelli, even though I have only been with the project for three and a half years. From what I have been able to experience and share both at the community level and the experiences of the beneficiaries (Lebanese, Syrians, Iraqis, Palestinians, etc.), the Fratelli Project is a more than necessary and significant work for the complex region of the Middle East. From these five years of Fratelli I have the following conviction: it is possible, despite our differences, to live and love each other, considering all of us as Brothers and Sisters in humanity, whatever our origins and backgrounds.

So now more than yesterday, Fratelli is and remains more than necessary after these first five years in Lebanon”.



**Br. Miquel Cubeles**

“These years have been years of blessing, full of reasons to thank God for the call to be brothers, to serve the most vulnerable with a towel wrapped around our necks and to speak to them without knowing the Arabic language, of goodness, of peace, of reconciliation, of the presence of the one God. To give thanks for being able to welcome and accompany so many people and, with presence and affection, to heal the wounds that traumatic situations have caused and continue to cause. Thank you for the gift of being a brother... and for hearing it from the mouths of the children and young people who from the first thing in the morning say hundreds of times .... “frèeeere frère”. [Read the complete testimony](#)



sal brotherhood, a forum for life and growth in which children and young people can recreate and grow. Fratelli becomes concrete in every gesture, every action, in every service that builds fraternity”.

**Other testimonies**

Valdicer Fachi, FMS, member of the Fratelli Council, celebrating 5 years “is a reason to thank God for the care and attention given to migrant and vulnerable children and young people in Lebanon. Thanks to the brothers, lay people, volunteers, and educators of Fratelli. It is a reason to evaluate the road travelled and to look to the future

with more experience and renewing processes”.

Some lay members of Fratelli have also expressed their opinion on the meaning of the Project for them:

“A mission of the Church for Lebanon, a force beyond many borders for the development of our humanity” (Claire Said).

“Education, guidance and growth opportunities for vulnerable children and youth, especially refugees” (Edouard Jabre).

“Love, love for human souls regardless of colour or race, it is for them that God’s smile shines through the eyes of Fratelli’s children” (Hoda El Hajjar).

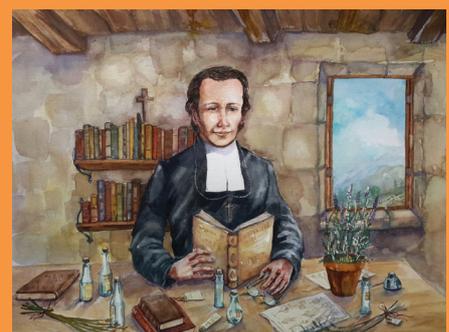
**Br. Esteban Ortega**

“Fratelli is a challenge and a challenge to build community, it is a permanent commitment to univer-

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

**13) CRISIS OF 1826**

These were difficult times for his friend Fr. Champagnat and the little work in which Br. François was involved, as he had to overcome opposition to the new congregations of Brothers from both the government and the archdiocese. In addition, Champagnat had difficulties with Fr. J.C. Courveille, who considered himself the founder and superior of all the "Marists", Fathers, Sisters and Brothers. In January 1826, François received a letter from Fr. Courveille asking for prayers because Champagnat was ill, construction difficulties, debts and the hardships of travel had undermined his health: "Our very dear children in Jesus and Mary, with sorrow and great regret, we write to request that you pray earnestly to the Father of mercies and to our august Mother, the divine Mary, for our very dear and beloved son Fr. Champagnat, your dear and venerable Father Director, who is gravely ill. I beg you, my very dear children, to accompany us in prayer to ask insistently the divine Jesus and the divine Mary, our Mother, to keep for us a son who is so dear to us; and for you a father, who should be no less dear to you. Ask the priests to be so kind as to pray for him and to recommend these intentions to the faithful. Be assured of the paternal tenderness with which I have the honour of being your devoted Father and that I am all yours in Christ-Jesus and in Mary."



[Other episodes here](#)

AUSTRALIA

# VIDEOS PRESENT THE CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS OF MARIST SPIRITUALITY

The Vocations Office of the Marist Brothers Province of Australia, coordinated by Br. James Hodge, have published three new short films on contemporary expressions of Marist spirituality in Australia. Each film features people who have a strong affinity and commitment to the Marist charism, deepening their own relationship with Jesus in the Catholic tradition. The films are produced by Conor Ashleigh, a visual storyteller, communications specialist, and former student of St Francis Xavier’s College, Hamilton in Newcastle, New South Wales.

The three films, titled, “Meaning & Mission,” “Community & Relationships,” and “Faith & Spirituality,” focus on the contextual understanding of the key elements of Marist life in Australia. Their reflections offer resonance with the greater stories of the Christian tradition in the Australian context. The pace and style of the storytelling invites reflection on the themes.

### Meaning and Mission



It presents the perspectives where engagement with mission and personal meaning intersect. This is articulated by Anthony Mackett, a committed Marist and psychologist, who summarises this junction in this way, “[It is to] ...bring the Marist values into the way that I work. So... [there is] authenticity, making others to feel safe and comfortable, no matter what their concerns are.”

### Community and Relationships

It is a conversation about the natural spaces where Marists experience meaningful connections with other people, as well as the deeply relational nature of Marist spirituality, inspired by the early Christian communities and the first communities of Brothers in 19th Century rural France.



### Faith and Spirituality

It explores the contemporary expressions of Christian faith, grounded in the Marist charism. As noted by Br David Hall, Marist Brother and Dean of the La Salle Academy at Australian Catholic University, one expression of a Marist faith perspective is, “...to live in the Marian way is to bring that God to birth in the world.”



You can watch those and other videos in <https://vimeo.com/maristvocations>. In August, during the National Vocations Awareness Week in August 2021, will be launched the Marist Vocations website (<http://www.maristvocations.com/>).

## BRAZIL

# MARISTS PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST WORKSHOP ON HISTORICAL AND SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY

More than 30 brothers and lay people from the Provinces of Brasil Centro-Sul, Brasil Sul Amazônia and Brasil Centro-Norte took part on 12 and 13 May in the first Workshop on Marist Historical and Spiritual Patrimony (PHEM) 2021. The theme of the activity was “Superiors General of the Marist Institute: Champagnat’s succession – charism, spirituality and management”. The meeting was also attended by Brother Pablo, Provincial of Santa María de los Andes, and members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family.

At the opening of the event, Dyogenes Philippsen Araújo, director of the Marist Memorial, presented the first volumes of the Marist Studies Collection, divided into three areas:

- Marist Sources: brings together fundamental unpublished sources, in a bilingual version;
- Marist Studies: oriented towards important studies on different themes of Marist history;
- Marist Spirituality: presents studies related to the historical evolution of Marist spirituality.

The first day was devoted to the theme “How to build a successor”. Angelo Ricordi and João Luís Fedel, both from the Direction of Identity, Mission and Vocation of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, treated the subject of the succession of Father Champagnat in two stages.

First, Angelo recalled the history of the story of succession by analysing



two sources: Life of Father Champagnat, by Jean-Baptiste Furet, and “Annales de l’Institut”, by Br Avit. In the second part, João Luís encouraged the participants to work directly with some texts from Notebooks 303 and 304 of Br François. Materials related to Government, especially on their use as literature to complement the knowledge on the best way to govern.

The second day was devoted to the theme of spirituality. Fabiano Incerti, Director of the Directorate of Institutional Identity of the PUCPR, proposed the reading of Brother François’ Notebook 301.

These elements make Brother François not only the successor of Champagnat, but also the heir of a rich spiritual tradition which continues to inspire us.

For Brother Claudiano Tiecher, Director of the Colégio Marista Santo Antônio, the workshop led to a profound reflection. That is to say, a technical and refined analysis of the

role of Brother François at the head of our Institute.

“It is important to be able to understand this person and how the elements of his time influenced the directions taken in the decades following the death of the Founder. Brother François’ writings, in the form of a diary, are a real treasure to be deciphered, full of anointing, spirituality and nuances of how he conceived leadership as Superior General. Amazing records that reveal an admiration for the Founder and the need to strive to achieve Champagnat’s virtues. Congratulations to the Memorial and the team for their research and their valuable contribution to Marist Brazil and our Institute,” he said.

The PHEM Workshop is a project that has existed since 2012, and is promoted by the Department of Identity, Mission and Vocation, through the Marist Memorial of the PMBCS. And it has a partnership with the Irmão Francisco Laboratory, of the Identity Board of the PUCPR.

17 JUNE

# WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

**A** Marists of Champagnat we want to continue to join in the days of remembrance of those causes that fight for a better world, that want to improve the living conditions of our brothers and sisters. The drought, the growing desertification of some areas, is harming thousands of people who live in those areas. This date joins other initiatives along the same lines: the International Soil Conservation Day, celebrated every 7 July, or the World Soil Day, celebrated on 5 December.

We know that drought and desertification are processes that can be caused by climatic variations, and we know that these phenomena have always occurred. We are also aware that these phenomena are being aggravated and accelerated by human action: overexploitation, inadequate use of water, use of chemical products, deforestation... are factors that favour and accelerate desertification processes. Desertification, according to some analysts, affects more than 100 countries on 5 continents. Some governments have begun to take measures, although the promises are often reduced to mere good intentions. We are not talking about a minor issue.

We are facing phenomena that must be tackled globally, in collaboration with other organisations, because this way our actions will be faster, more effective and will reach more places and more people. Some of the projects we are developing already take the ecological issue into account, and we are invited to make this type of project more and more present in our action initiatives.

The lack of care for the world we live in directly affects the human beings who inhabit this "common home". Therefore, protecting the earth helps to protect those who inhabit it. Protecting people should also mean preserving the natural environment in which we live. As an example, the Solidarity Secretariat and FMSI are promoting the Universal Periodic Review in Papua New Guinea, where



one of the project objectives focuses specifically on environmental care.

The first step is to be aware of this reality, and that it also concerns the lives of millions of people who are affected by both drought and desertification. A second step is to know that each one of us, individually and as an institution, can do our bit (through education of future generations, through concrete initiatives, by joining the work of other organisations through networking...).

The Message of the XXII General Chapter, in the "Principles and Suggestions", points out to us the "urgency of changing the way we live", inviting us to base it on an integral ecology, along the lines proposed by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*. In addition, the Chapter Message suggested that we "develop policies at all levels of the Institute that strengthen our commitment to care for our common home".

It is up to us to be creative, to do our bit, to be open to working together with others, to start with our personal and concrete reality. It is an urgent task. Our world and our brothers and sisters cannot wait.

Br. Ángel Diego – Director of the Solidarity Secretariat



**Institute of the Marist Brothers General House**

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