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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON MARIST SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY

Since 2020, the pandemic situation has prevented the International Commission on Marist Spiritual Patrimony from meeting face-to-face in Rome, as it did in previous years, for a full week, usually in June. The Commission began meeting virtually and held its first meeting in October 2020. Following its second meeting, held on 26 January 2021, the group met virtually on 22 June this year.



All the members participated, namely Brothers Antonio Ramalho (coord.), Allan de Castro, André Lanfrey, Colin Chalmers, Guillermo Villareal, Michael Green, Omar Peña, Patricio Pino, Vincent de Paul and Mr. Dyógenes Philippsen, as well as Brothers Angel and Lindley

of the Brothers Today Secretariat and Br. Brothers Teófilo and Arsacio oversaw the simultaneous translations. Br. Óscar communicated that it was not possible to carry out the joint visit of the 4 Marist General Councils to the

general administration

- On Monday, Br Beto, Director of the Education and Evangelisation Secretariat, met with the audio-visual team for the launch event of the Marist Global Schools Network in October.
- On Tuesday, Brothers Beto and Mark, directors of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, participated in the second meeting of the International Team working on the revision of the document on Marist Education.
- On Wednesday, Cmi met with the leaders of the Southern Africa Province in charge of volunteering.
- On the same day, Brothers Mark and Beto participated in an inter-regional meeting (Asia/ Oceania) on the Marist Youth Ministry and also met with the two liaison councillors of the

Region, Brothers Sylvain and Josep Maria.

- On 1 July, Br Antonio Estaún, Postulator General until a few months ago, returned to his Province of L'Hermitage where he will be part of the community of Les Avellanes.
- On Thursday, Brothers Ben and Josep Maria, Councillors in charge of liaison with the Region of Oceania, met with Brothers Beto and Mark, Directors of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, to discuss activities in the Region.
- On Friday, there will be an ordinary meeting of the General Council.
- On the same day, Br. Beto will participate in a meeting of the executive committee of the Network of Higher Education Institutions.

places of origin. However, there was a Council meeting in May, at Manziana's house, where those responsible for the Marist places in France took part. They form a team to ensure the articulation between the historical places of the different Marist branches. Regarding the Formation Guide, the team appointed by the General Council is continuing its work. They will begin a stage of listening, in which they will ask for the contribution of the Patrimony Commission.

Marist Notebooks – Dyogenes presented a project to make access to and knowledge of the CM more wide-ranging and dynamic. He suggested that the publication could have an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number), to be available to researchers and people interested in the study of Patrimony. A first call for contributions was made in view of the 40th issue of CM, which will be organised from the next meeting.

FMS Studia – Br André Lanfrey, having previously examined the titles and authors important for publication in the collection, suggested at the meeting two or three works as priorities for printing in the next two years, if possible. The Commission reflected on the proposal and defined a priority to be forwarded to the General Council.

Heritage course – Br Michael Green prepared a proposal for a course, which has already received comments and other input. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

Scheduling of the Commission – Given the short time of only two hours for the meeting, several matters will be left pending. Given the impossibility of holding the desired face-to-face meeting in Rome in September, three dates have been scheduled for the next meetings, virtually: 20 and 23 September, and 25 October 2021.

Fr. François first Superior General of the Marist Institute

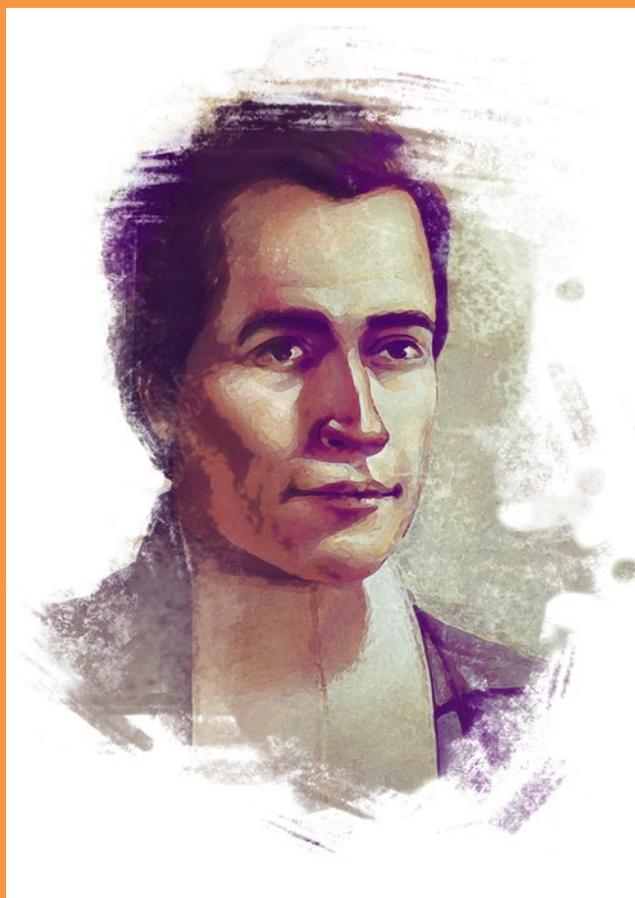
15. NOVICE MASTER AND SECRETARY

Although he was only nineteen years old, he was in charge of the novitiate classes at the Hermitage, starting in 1826. He gave lessons twice a day: one and a half hours in the morning and one and a half hours in the afternoon.

At the same time he became Father Champagnat's confidant. He replaced Fr Champagnat in leading the growing Institute during his visits to the communities and, in 1836, when he went to Paris to seek legal recognition of the Institute, a recognition he did not obtain.

Another example of the confidence Father Champagnat had in him was when it became necessary to put the rules and customs of the community into writing. He asked Brother François to do this. When it was finished, François presented it to the Founder for his approval. The Founder, after examining it carefully, thought that it would be better to divide it into two separate parts: one with all the articles of the Rule; the other indicating how to observe them with a supernatural motivation or the spirit of the Rule. Humbly, Brother François set about reworking the text.

Other episodes in: <https://champagnat.org/en/biography-of-br-francisco-in-instalments/>



COLOMBIA

“A HEART WITHOUT BORDERS” IN MAICAO CELEBRATES TWO YEARS WITH MIGRANT CHILDREN

On 6 June, the Norandina Province celebrated the second anniversary of “A heart without borders”, the Marist house in Maicao, Colombia, which since 2019 has benefited more than 250 children, children of Venezuelan and Colombian migrant families living in difficult situations. The beneficiaries, mainly children between 5 and 14 years old, have had access to food and a pedagogical proposal based on the contextualisation of study habits, self-esteem, and resilience; in addition, it has been possible to insert them into the education and health sectors. “A heart without borders” is possible thanks to the work of volunteers and lay Marists, members of fraternities, the youth, children’s, and university ministry, and the collaboration of teachers and students from various Marist schools in Bogotá. With the arrival of the pandemic, closing the doors implied a



reinvention, which led to the implementation of new strategies to continue protecting minors and to convert each home of these children and adolescents into a protective space that would dignify their rights. In November 2020, responding to the call of leaders in the area, a group of children and adolescents received health care, food, and education through a new phase of the project, carried out in coordination with various NGOs. Although the main objective of ‘A Heart Without Borders’ is to welcome the children of migrants, in the last year, children’s and youth groups, a school for parents and projects such as ‘My travelling book’, ‘Marcellin loves the earth’ and ‘My ecological corner’ have emerged in the community. The Marist initiative is currently coordinated by Kenia Navas, Marist Coordinator of “Heart Without Borders”.

NIGERIA

PREPARATION FOR FINAL VOWS – AFRICA REGION

The two-month Program of Preparation for Final Vows in the Africa Region started on 01 June. There are twelve brothers participating – seven from Nigeria and one each from Angola, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Zambia. The Brothers are: Francis Aboko, Israel Atakwu, Julius Egbo, Magnus Inyang, Andrew Nnoham, James Odo, Peter Onah, from Nigeria; Victor Mwamba (Zambia); Quintas Jose (Angola), Deric Ngong (Cameroon); Lawrence Doe (Liberia); Aristide Yao (Ivory Coast). With Br. Vitus Osuji doing the overall coordination, the program is being conducted at the Marist Formation Center, Orlu, Imo State, Nigeria. It will conclude on 31 July.



NIGERIA

MARIST FOUNDATION PROMOTES TRANSFORMATION OF LIVES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Marist Solidarity Foundation (MaSoF), a solidarity agency of the Marist Province of Nigeria is faithful to its cardinal six points agenda. This always pushes a button in the agency to reach out to the young people and aged on the margins. In whatever it does, the solidarity agency remains focused on the following:

1. Promotion of education, solidarity justice and peace.
2. Identification with the poor and oppressed in the society.
3. Support of the spiritual and cultural empowerment of the youth and act in solidarity with the oppressed.
4. Promotion of human right and self-determination.
5. Development and coordination of fund-raising strategies that will respond to the solidarity needs of the Marist Province of Nigeria.
6. Cooperation and collaboration with other solidarity groups and organisations towards the development of solidarity culture that responds to the needs of people on the margins.

The points one and two on the agenda were remarkable in the activities of MaSoF in the Covid-19 Pandemic era. Covid-19 made its first entrance in Nigeria through an

Italian citizen who visited Ogun State via Lagos State. This first case was reported on the 27th February 2020. The Covid-19 was quick to spread to the other parts of the country through the borders. The spread led to the total lockdown of all the sectors of the country. The education sector was not spared. The Marist Province of Nigeria that solely gets her income from school fees was badly hit.

The daily increase in the pandemic scared the whole nation. The federal government of Nigeria, in her wisdom decided that her citizens needed to remain safe. Therefore, there was a major national broadcast that schools should be closed. On 19th March 2020, the federal government announced a total lockdown of the education sector. In support of the federal government's decision on school closure, the various State governments also followed suit in the closure of State, private, and mission schools. In south-east geopolitical zone for example where the Marist Province of Nigeria gets most of her income to fund MaSoF, the closure of schools was imminent. Anambra State for instance closed secondary schools on the 27th March 2020. Enugu State government also ordered the closure of schools on the same day. Ebonyi State, Imo State, and Abia State joined their counterparts and announced the closure of schools.

marist world

SRI LANKA: MARIST INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE

SPAIN: FUNDACIÓN MARCELINO CHAMPAGNAT – TRANSFORMING WOMEN PROJECT

MALAWI: MARIST BROTHERS AND NOVICES IN MTENDERE



SPAIN: COMMUNITY OF MALAGA WITH BR CARLOS MARIO FROM LIBANO

THE GENERAL COUNCIL THANKS FR. JOSEP PILLA FOR HIS 4 YEARS AS CHAPLAIN

GUATEMALA: 102 YEARS OF BR ZÓSIMO PÉREZ

As a result of the pronouncement, all academic activities in the country were put to hold. MaSoF was really worried because this pronouncement meant no more income for the agency in carrying out its solidarity activities. The closure of schools forced learners and their teachers to be on a total lockdown at their homes. Despite lack of income from school fees, the Marist Province of Nigeria paid the salaries of the staff and took care of the feeding and medical treatment of the inmates of Nike Centre for the Disabled. Therefore, the total closure of schools did not deter MaSoF from carrying out its activities because the Province of Nigeria financially supported the agency fully.

In the promotion of education and solidarity, MaSoF felt that there was need to be in solidarity with the Brothers despite the economic meltdown as a result of the lockdown of schools. This is in respect of the old adage that charity begins at home. MaSoF gave comprehensive scholarship to seven candidates in the 2020/2021 academic session. These candidates were solely relatives

of the Marist Brothers. The comprehensive scholarship comprises tuition fees, boarding fees, and educational resources. This enabled the Brothers beneficiaries to be more focused on their vocation and not to be distracted by family responsibilities.

In identifying with the poor on the margins, MaSoF dedicated its services in this recent time to the welfare of the inmates of Nike Centre for the Disabled. MaSoF collaborated with the Marist Chaplaincy of Umuchigbo Iji-Nike and organised monthly fundraising in order to help out in the feeding and medical attention of the inmates. The work of taking care of the inmates is enormous. Therefore, MaSoF is calling on the Marist International Solidarity Network to help out in this venture. This is because the Marist Province of Nigeria wants to run this social centre in a more professional way of international standard.



MaSoF Team

CUBA

LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY AT HOLGUÍN



The Marist community “Montagne” of Holguín this year is made up of Rosa Schiaffino (Mediterránea) and Brothers Jorge Gaio (Brasil Centro-Sul) and Luis Sanz (Santa María de los Andes). Present in the city since 2019 as part of the LaValla200> initiative, the Marists are involved in youth ministry with groups of children, teenagers and university students, young catechists, organising guitar classes in their house and in a poor area of Holguín. There is now a new possibility in the country to help young people set up small businesses. Every weekend they also go to the parish of Cacocum and the surrounding villages. Their intention is to train leaders and support lay leaders. The community lives in a diocesan house.

For the moment, the community and the whole city of Holguín is in lockdown as the number of Covid cases is increasing again. The rate of vaccination has been slow, but the government is promising to speed things up. (Cuba has developed two vaccines of its own). Educational centres are shut and all non-essential work prohibited. Rosa, Jorge and Luis remain in good spirits. They continue their ministry via Whatsapp groups!

No problem for them to find time for a community meeting to talk through and design their vision and priorities:

The Marist community “Montagne” of Holguín recognises the land that welcomes us as a sacred place to come to barefoot, showing the respect that its people and culture deserve.

We understand Mission as walking with others: supporting them in their own growth and offering them the support they

need to achieve their full human potential; respecting the rhythm and time to grow and bear fruit that each of us, both inside and outside the community, needs.

We are aware of the need to work on our inner self deep-down, being like manioca plants where we find nourishment in the roots.

We wish to cultivate respect for others and for ourselves, as well as opportunities for personal and community growth in order to be life-giving.

We see in our diversity a true richness to offer in our Mission and community life; likewise we recognise the diversity of those we meet around us as a gift.

We wish to respond boldly to the needs that are emerging, taking Mary as our model, who, moved by the Spirit of Pentecost in the “Cenacle”, together with the disciples, overcame fear and apathy.

We commit ourselves to “dance” with joy, knowing that the energy, joy and love transmitted through the “dance of Mission” are contagious.

We want to continue to drink from the “Living Water” that Jesus offers us as food and nourishment to care for the Creation that dwells in us and in the Universe, moved by the Spirit that stimulates and generates the sensitivity to tend the gardens of Life so full of diversity, beauty and yet fragility.

GENERAL HOUSE

SECOND MEETING OF MASTERS AND ACCOMPAGNATEURS OF NOVICES

The masters and accompagnateurs of novices gathered once again on Wednesday, June 16, to continue 'journeying together as a global family'. Organized by the Secretariat of Brothers Today, this meeting, like the first virtual encounter on April 28, primarily aims at getting acquainted with each other and sharing experiences in the ministry of novitiate formation.

Br. Ernesto Sanchez was also present to greet the attendees and give his message of encouragement. He acknowledged the service that the formators are doing, with special mention to those who are now accompanying novices in these unusual circumstances. He also talked about the pandemic, its lights and shadows, and the challenge for all of us to respond to the emerging needs it has brought to surface.

The meeting started with a prayer, wherein Brothers Angel and Lindley invited the novice masters and accompagnateurs to share photos of their respective novitiates / communities and the novices, while offering a Hail Mary for them.

As he was not around on April 28, Br. Greg McDonald who is accompanying the 9 novices in Baucau, East Timor, was invited to share about the Marist presence there and about his community and the novices.

The main message of Br. Ernesto revolved around three key ideas: formation that is authentically Marian (formation in the Marian key), caring for ourselves and others, and formation for mission (in the key of mission).

"The great gift that Marcellin gave us was the name of Mary. We are invited to pass on to our novices a deep spirituality, favoring a heart that is free and open to welcome God, as Mary did." Br. Ernesto said. In talking about caring, he reiterated some words from his circular, "Homes of Light", stressing rest and giving time for oneself, as well as accompaniment and listening to one another. As for the mission key, Br. Ernesto reminded the formators that aside from giving the novices solid formation in spirituality, they should "have this connection with the context of the most needy."

Brothers Óscar Martín and João Carlos do Prado, link councilors for the Secretariat of Brothers Today, also gave their brief message of thanks and encouragement to the formators.

The Secretariat then presented two important projects. First,



the process of the revision of the formation guide, wherein the formators and formands will also be involved along the way. Second, the proposal for the Year of Marist Vocations (20 May 2022 – 06 June 2023) in which they were invited to think and talk among themselves about this and send ideas to make this celebration more meaningful.

Participants

In attendance were Novice Masters Fabien Bulaimo (Save, Rwanda), Emmanuel Mwanalirenji (Mtendere, Malawi), Yao Kouassi Kan Sylvain (Kumasi, Ghana), Rubens José Falcheto (Cochabamba, Bolivia), Alejandro Herrera (Medellin, Colombia), Sean Sammon (Poughkeepsie, USA), Francisco García (Tudella, Sri Lanka) and Pepito Mahong (Tamontaka, Philippines).

Also present were brothers designated to accompany novices who are in communities and who cannot be with their respective novice masters for now. These accompagnateurs are Reál Sauvegeau and Rod Thompson (Tudella), Anselmo Kim (Saigon, Vietnam) and Greg McDonald (Baucau, East Timor). The other members of the novitiate team of Kumasi participated as well.

They are Ezugwu Eugene Ikenna and Osuagwu Obinna. While some novice masters and accompagnateurs were unable to participate in the meeting for one reason or another, their service of formation merits acknowledgment, nevertheless. They are Brothers Joni Seduadua (Fiji), Vigilio Bwalya (Bangladesh), Mark Poro (Solomon Islands), Antonio Cavazos (Haiti), Claudino Falcheto (Patos de Minas), Simeon Banda (Mtendere) and Afaese Afaese (Samoa).

Helping with the simultaneous translation was Teofilo Minga from Manziana.

The meeting ended with a note to see each other again in about two-months' time.

BRAZIL

THE MARISTS OF BRAZIL PRESENT REPORT ON THE “STAND UP, SPEAK UP & ACT” PROJECT

The Marists of Brazil presented a document that brings together the conclusions of the work process inherent in the “Stand Up, Speak Up & Act” Project, proposed by the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation of the General Administration of the Institute. The document is the result of the careful analysis of the educators of the educational units and the Working Groups of the three Provinces and the Reference Group.



Given the pandemic situation, the schedule of the listening process in the provinces had some setbacks and only some units were involved in the project, respecting the limits and forms of organisation imposed by the legislation. Thirty-five educators from the schools and social units took part in these meetings, as well as members of the project’s working group in the provinces and the reference group at the level of Marist Brazil.

- The specific objectives of this participation process were:
- To empower children, adolescents and young people to be advocates of the right to be heard.
 - To include and enable children, adolescents, and young people to be protagonists in matters of institutional and public relevance. Encourage educators to reflect on the issue of listening and the participation of children, adolescents, and young people.
 - To carry out qualified listening.
 - To present a report to the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation of the Marist Institute.
- During the consultation, the educators underlined the need to

deepen the theme of the right to participation of children and young people in the Marist mission spaces, it being fundamental to carry out training, reflections, and dialogues on the subject, both with adults and with the children, adolescents and young people themselves. For their part, the children, adolescents, and young people also offered suggestions for improving and strengthening the spaces for participation.

- Some of the principles presented in the document were:
- Provide spaces for sharing and coexistence;
 - Promote and defend children’s rights;
 - Encourage child empowerment and participation;
 - Recognise the child as a theological place.
- Among the various methodologies used are: storytelling, conversation circles, drawings, paintings, writing activities, awareness with music, videos, film excerpts, poetry reading, interactive resources, such as the Mentimeter platform, meditation using the Mindfulness technique, among others.

[Download the document](#)



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