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# MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG

## NIGERIA E WEST AFRICA

# TWENTY MARIST NOVICES TOOK THEIR FIRST VOWS IN KUMASI

**T**wenty Marist novices from the Marist International Novitiate, in Kumasi – Ghana (aka Marist Formation Centre, Sabin-Akrofrom) made their first profession on the 12th of June, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Trede, about 2 kilometres from the Novitiate Community.



The Brothers who made their First Profession were Br. Alladoum Aime (Chadian), Br. Dingamadji Franklin (Chadian), Br. Gregory Oppong (Ghanaian), Br. Kouassi Konan Jules (Ivoirian), Br. Nsom Clovis Njini (Cameroonian) and Br. Wirsiy Clinton Berla (Cameroonian). All from Marist Province of West Africa. Others were Br. Akalite Emmanuel Paul,

Br. Ebokpo Mark Ben, Br. Eze Christian Emeka, Br. Ezenwamba Godwin Somtoo, Br. Iorbee Mathias Tarwanger, Br. Ndife Chigozie Innocent, Br. Ngamefule Claret Chizoba, Br. Nor Bundebuun Felix, Br. Nweze Michael Chinedu, Br. Ogiri God'swill Vincent, Br. Omengui Saviour Ehinor, Br. Onozie Cyprial Chibuike, Br.

Orugbala Nnabuike Callistus and Br. Ozour Jeremiah Chika. All are Nigerians from the Province of Nigeria.

The Profession ceremony took place within the context of a Holy Mass presided over by the Chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of Obuasi, Very Rev.

## general administration

- Last Saturday, Br Jeff, responsible for the formation and accompaniment of the members of LaValla200> spoke with the "Friends of Marcellin", from the East Asia Province, on the theme of communion and co-responsibility.
- On Monday, Br Carlos Huidobro returned to the Cruz del Sur Province. He had been the Secretary General since 2013. The Provincial House will be his new community.
- The Department of Collaboration for Mission, International (Cmi) met on Monday with the leaders of Marist Volunteers of the Province of Compostela.
- On the same day, there was a meeting of the Legal Structures committee, with Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, Ben, General Councillor, and Libardo, General Bursar, in attendance.
- Monday saw the start of the online course for Mentors

and formators, run by the Secretariat Brothers Today and the Community of Manziana. There are 45 participants.

- The same team is leading the formation meetings planned for this year, the first session of which took place on Tuesday. The 9 meetings, held online, cover the theme of spirituality and interiority. There are 40 participants.
- On Tuesday, the General Council held an ordinary meeting.
- On Wednesday, a meeting of the Extended Secretariat of the Laity took place to coordinate the activities of the International Forum of the Lay Marist Vocation. In addition to the directors of the Secretariat (Raul, Agnes and Manu), Brothers João Carlos and Sylvain also participated.
- The Chapter of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul will take place on Thursday and Friday, with the participation of Brothers Oscar and Sylvain, General Councillors.

Fr. Godfred Appiah Marfo who was the special delegate of His Lordship, Most Rev. John Yaw Afoakwa, the Bishop of Obuasi Catholic Diocese. The Chancellor was accompanied by Rev. Fr. Peter Nkansah. Many priests, religious men and women, Novices of different Religious Congregations, invited guests, and parishioners of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Trede. The parents and relatives of one of the Brothers who made their First Profession who is a Ghanaian, Br. Gregory Oppong, were also present at the occasion.

The formators who help the young men to grow in all dimensions, and become useful to themselves, to the Institute and to the Church were Br. Yao Kouassi Kan Sylvain, the Master of Novices (Ivoirian, Marist Province of West Africa), Br.

Clement Nwadike (Nigerian, Province of Nigeria), Br. Kevin Ngoran (Cameroonian, Marist Province of West Africa), Br. Eugene Ikenna Ezugwu (Nigerian, Province of Nigeria), Br. Daniel Taylor (Liberian, Marist Province of West Africa) and Br. Obinna Osuagwu (Nigerian, Province of Nigeria). It is worth highlighting that the Formation Team resolved to push through with the Formation Programme of these young and newly professed Brothers in spite of the global setback of COVID-19 Pandemic. Relying only on the Divine Providence, the formators moved ahead with the formation activities, making necessary adjustments here and there to ensure an uninterrupted formation of the Novices.

The social activities that normally take place during First Profession were not

all observed because of the COVID-19 protocol of social distancing and other restrictions. Hence after the mass, there was no elaborate reception ceremony. However, the parishioners were given light take-away refreshments at the Parish premises while the Priests and the Religious and other invited guests had their refreshments in the Novitiate Community.

What was remarkable and significant about this year's Religious Profession (the 33rd First Religious Profession) in the life of the Marist International Novitiate, Kumasi, was the greater number of Novices that made their first religious commitment. In fact, it was the first time in the history of the Kumasi Novitiate to have up to twenty (20) Novices pronounce their Religious Vows at a time.

## CRUZ DEL SUR

# BR. RAUL SCHÖNFELD APPOINTED PROVINCIAL FOR A SECOND MANDATE

**B**r Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, and his Council have appointed Br Raul Schönfeld as Provincial of Cruz del Sur for a second three-year term. In a letter sent to the Province on 29 June, Br Ernesto announced the appointment and thanked the Province's Marists, brothers and lay, for their dedication to Marist life and mission in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Br Raul, who took up his first mandate in September 2018, will begin his second during the next Provincial Chapter which will take place from 7 to 10 October this year.

### Br Raúl José Schönfeld Hergenreder

Br Raúl was born on Jan. 7, 1972, in San Rafael, a small town located in the province of Entre Ríos in Argentina. He lived there with his family, in a rural environment up to the age of 12. In 1985, he encountered Marist life and entered the Juniorate of Lujan, in the province of Buenos Aires, where he completed secondary school. His initial formation was in the same city and he made his religious profession in 1993. He studied at the Marist Superior Institute where he obtained the title of Professor for Primary Teaching and Professor of Religious Sciences.



In 2002, he was qualified for initial formation in Conferre, Chile.

Br Raúl has worked as a primary and secondary school teacher as well as a catechist. He also worked as the coordinator of pastoral ministry in an educational centre.

He was part of the team of vocation animation of his province and collaborated in initial formation – as Master of Novices – in the interprovincial novitiate in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

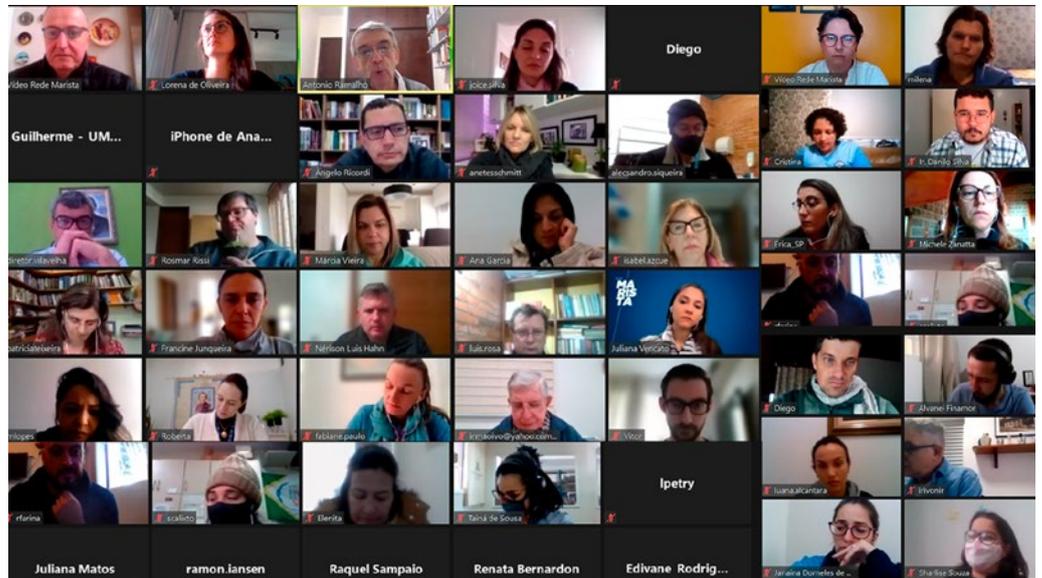
In 2015, Br Raúl was elected Councillor and Vice Provincial. And in 2018 was appointed provincial superior of Cruz del Sur for a first three-year term.

UMBRASIL

# PROVINCES OF BRAZIL PROMOTE A COURSE ON MARIST SPIRITUALITY AND PATRIMONY

**U**MBRASIL together with the 3 Marist Provinces of Brazil promoted the second module of the Extension Course on Marist Spirituality and Patrimony (L'Hermitage) from 15-18 June.

The course, the first module of which was held in March, is an opportunity to explore the life of Marcellin Champagnat and the first Marist Brothers. By learning about their history and mission, participants are called to a more authentic experience of the spirituality and charism that touched Marcellin Champagnat and the first Brothers. About 100 people attended the course. The content focused on the deeper understanding of the Founder's life, on the creation of the Institute and its legislation, on the Marists of Brazil, on Marist pedagogy and on the Global Charismatic Family. All this knowledge was shared by Brothers Ivo Strobino, Danilo Silva, Claudio Tiecher, Rafael Ferreira Júnior and Heloisa Afonso. The course consists of three modules, carried out in one year, with a total of 110 hours. The participants are Brothers, lay peo-



ple and collaborators from all the Marist institutions in Brazil.

Ivonir Imperatori, Co-ordinator of Consecrated Life and Laity of UMBRASIL, “the Course, in this second module, fascinated the participants. It was possible to discover in depth the nuances of Champagnat’s life and the essence of his legacy through his gaze, his reality and his attitudes”.

The course is a proposal of the Marist Life Commission of UMBRASIL, which will later propose other formation initiatives.

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

### 16. STUDIES AND CARE OF THE SICK

**Brother François took advantage of his time for self-education. He perfected his handwriting, grammar, arithmetic and even pharmacology. He left us many notebooks with his notes on each of these subjects as well as on religion and spirituality.**

**In 1831, he followed with the best results the mathematics and geometry course that Brother Louis-Marie, his future successor at the head of the Institute, had just opened.**

**Brother François had a real aptitude for the care of the sick and the manufacture of medicines made from plants that he himself grew and collected. He took the time to talk to each sick person, advised him, prayed with each one and prepared a good remedy for him, often obtaining unexpected cures. Some of the remedies would give rise to a famous liqueur called Arquebuse.**

**Among the notes and summaries are fragments and lives of saints named after him: St Francis of Assisi, St Francis de Sales, St Francis Xavier and St Francis Regis, whom he admired, the first for his humility, the second for his joy, the third for his zeal for the salvation of souls and the fourth for his love of God.**

**See other episodes here: <https://champagnat.org/en/biography-of-br-francisco-in-instalments/>**

BRAZIL

# MARISTS CREATE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR INTEGRATED NETWORK OF BASIC EDUCATION

Inspired by Champagnat Day, UMBRASIL announced the creation and the beginning of the work of an Administrative Council that will lead the processes of the Integrated Network of Basic Education in Marist Brazil.

In the light of the calls of the General Chapter of the Marist Institute and under the protection of the institutional values, the announcement was made during a live celebration of Champagnat Day and in thanksgiving for the Marist mission in Brazil.

The event was led by Brother Inacio Etges (Provincial of Brasil Sul-Amazônia), Brother Benê Oliveira (Provincial of Brasil Centro-Sul) and Brother Ataíde José de Lima (Provincial of Brasil Centro-Norte) and was attended by several Brothers from the country.

The Integrated Network of Basic Education of Marist Brazil is based on the desire for an interprovincial journey, which began in 1960, in harmony with the Marist way of doing things, through various projects on different fronts.

In the specific case of Basic Education, since 2017, Networked content has been developed, such as the Curriculum Matrix, the Marist Education System, Religious Education and Large-Scale Assessment. Another milestone on this path has been the Strategic Planning 2015/2021, which has among its objectives the development and implementation of a model of Networked Education for Marist Basic Education in Brazil. In the last Ordinary Assemblies of UMBRASIL, the decision of the Network made its progress concrete with the creation of a Board of Directors.

The Council is composed of representatives of the three Brazilian Provinces. Natalino Guilherme de Souza is the President, whose members will be Br. Délcio Afonso Balustrin (President of the Marist Group, Brasil Centro-Sul), Br. Lúcio Gomes Dantas (Coordinator of the Evangelising Education Committee of Brasil Centro-Norte), Br. Odilmar



José Civa Fachi (Vice-President of the Marist Network, South Brasil-Amazon), Br. Vanderlei Siqueira dos Santos (Executive Director of Basic Education of the Marist Group, Brasil Centro-Sul), Antonio Luiz Rios (Superintendent of the Marist Group, Brasil Centro-Sul), Elísio Alcântara Neto (Superintendent of Brasil Centro-Norte) and Rogério Francisco Caldas Anele (Superintendent of Schools and Social Units of the Marist Network, Brasil Sur-Amazonas).

The Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sánchez was also present and hoped that the Brazilian initiative “will go beyond borders, that it will be lived in an attitude of sharing and learning from other Marist parts of the world. This will facilitate our journey as a global family.

Watch the video for some moments of the celebration



**marist world**

NEW ZEALAND: ST PAUL'S COLLEGE – AUCKLAND – MOSQUE VISIT



MOZAMBIQUE: MARIST SCHOOL OF MANHIÇA



NIGERIA: MARIST COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMY UTURU



FAREWELL TO BR CARLOS HUIDOBRO FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE



SOUTH AFRICA: LAVALLA200> ATLANTIS COMMUNITY



TWENTY MARIST NOVICES TOOK THEIR FIRST VOWS IN KUMASI

GREECE  
**MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT IN ATHENS!**

A few days ago, a beautiful symbolic painting was completed adorning a large wall in the courtyard of the primary school of the Leonin Establishment in Athens. It represents Saint Marcellin Champagnat, Founder of our schools, teaching children in Athens! Although Saint Marcellin himself never travelled to Athens or Greece during his lifetime, his thoughts, ideas, values and vision of education are widely spread in Greek society, thanks to the Marist Brothers who have been in Greece since 1907 (l'Hermitage Province). Thousands of children and young people have attended the Leonine School in Athens during its years of operation, as well as the Leonine School in Nea Smyrni. The two Marist schools in



Greece offer children and young people a complete education based on unchanging Christian and Marist values. Therefore, their work is particularly well-known in Greek society because the education they provide is considered, by common consent, to be of a high standard, substantial and timeless. It is good that this painting is not in the classrooms, but in the area of entertainment, leisure and sports for the students, reminding all of us, children and teachers, that Marcellin's vision lives on among us today. The work by the painter Mr. Kitanidis was enthusiastically received by the young students of the Leonin Primary School in Athens, as well as by the school staff in general.

CENTRAL AMERICA

# XVI PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Under the theme “Renew Hope”, the Province of Central America celebrated its XVI Provincial Chapter from 12 to 24 June. During the Chapter, Brother Provincial, Hipólito Pérez Gómez, began his second three-year term of office. The chapter also elected the members of the new provincial council: José Antonio Alonso, Juan Carlos Bolaños, Nicéforo Garrán, Daniel Martín, Manuel Matilla and Gerardo Munguía.



Thirty-six Brothers and more than 100 Lay Marists from Central America and the Caribbean (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Cuba) were present at the virtual event. From Rome, Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, General Councillors, liaison with the Province, accompanied the celebration. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, also participated at certain times.

Through a video message on the opening day, Brother Ernesto greeted all the brothers and lay people of the province and thanked Brother Hipólito for his availability to continue in the mission.

During the celebration of the chapter, initially scheduled for December 2020, the provincial highlighted the 3 priorities of the province:

- To generate life as Marists of Champagnat, in charismatic communities, being attentive to spirituality and vocational development.
- To promote a charismatic and innovative professional management, which is harmonious and responds to today’s challenges.
- We are aware and want to be attentive to the emerging realities of children and young people, to the social clamours and to the attention and care of the most vulnerable children, adolescents and young people.

During the 10 days of work, the brothers addressed issues related to the achievements and challenges in the province; the impact of the pandemic in the areas of education, solidarity, catechesis, youth and vocational ministry. They also highlighted the measures taken to accompany associations and help families affected by the pandemic; they spoke about the development and revision of legal structures more in line with the

current reality in the countries. The brothers also reflected on how to further promote the vitality and fruitfulness of Marist life and mission in Central America, Cuba and Puerto Rico. They also addressed the expectations and dreams of the Province in the face of the priorities, bearing in mind the themes of Marists of Champagnat, Management and Leadership, and Emerging Realities.

As part of the agenda, the Marist life and mission in Honduras was also discussed and the Chapter was asked for suggestions and orientations to continue the process already begun. In this regard, Brother João Carlos, General Councillor, invited the Province to take on the mission in Honduras as its own. The financial situation of the Marist Association of Guatemala, the country where the houses of formation, the house of the Elder Brothers and the offices of animation of the Province are located, was also discussed.

During the closing session, the Provincial thanked everyone for the teamwork and, recalling the approaching 100 years of Marist presence in Central America, he emphasised that “the journey of the Province has the horizon of the celebration of the centenary of the Marist presence in our lands, with the arrival of the Colombian missionary brothers, in January 1923, in San Salvador”.

And he added: “Marists of Champagnat, I repeat once again, this is our hour, it is all the time we have in our hands to make the future? always with the confidence that God is walking at our side”.

For his part, the Superior General joined virtually all those present and after thanking the members of the previous Provincial Council, he said: “Thank you again, Hippolyte. And we are with

you on this journey. And of course, you are not alone, because your Council has also been elected. Thank you and congratulations also to the new Provincial Council for accepting this service to the Province and to the Institute. Thank you very much. I believe that you will be a great support for Hipólito, together with all the other animation teams, brothers and laypeople of the province”.

Likewise, Brother Luis Carlos pointed out that: “Brothers and friends, all the Marists of Champagnat, may we fill our bags with hope and joy, may we be active Samaritans in these itineraries of life, with our Central American and Caribbean peoples. May we aspire to serve, more and better, to educate, more and better, to evangelise, more and better, to all, and especially to the weakest and most fragile in our societies. May our searches always have the passion of God in our hearts”.

Br. João also greeted and thanked those present and recalled that along the way “God has placed challenges and oppor-

tunities. The pandemic has been a great challenge for all of us, the technologies have been great options for all of us,” he said. Before concluding, Br João spoke of the challenges of the entire province and said that the brothers and lay people have to assume “in their minds and hearts” the horizon that God sets before them all.

For his part, Brother Ken also greeted the brothers and lay people of the province: “Thank you very much for all the work done during this assembly and the Provincial Chapter. Many congratulations to Hipólito and the new Council”.

At the end of the celebration, Brother Hipólito thanked the Council that ended its function, made up of the brothers Carlos Vélez, Juan Antonio, Gregorio and Jorge Sánchez. And he welcomed the new members of the Provincial Council. “Together we will try to give the best of ourselves in this entrusted service. We have all the fraternal support and prayers of the province”, he concluded.

## GENERAL HOUSE

# MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF BROTHERS TODAY

The International Commission of Brothers Today (ICBT) met online on June 28 where the main agenda presented by the Secretariat were the process of the revision of the Formation Guide and the Year of Marist Vocations.

The process of the revision of the Formation Guide is now in the listening stage. This was incidentally the main subject of the recent meeting of the International Commission for the Revision of The Formation Guide on June 23. In this stage, the members will be reaching out to brothers, lay people and other groups to reflect with them basically on what Marist Formation should be. For this, the Commission of Brothers Today will be collaborating with the Commission for the Revision in connecting with the whole of the Marist world.

The Secretariat also presented to the ICBT the proposal for the Year of Marist Vocations and the itinerary leading to



its launching on May 20, 2022. During this period, the ICBT will be working closely with the Secretariat in designing the logo and theme, writing the prayer, and composing the theme song, among others. In the plan, the Year of the Marist Vocations will culminate on June 6, 2023.

In attendance at the meeting, other than the Secretariat, were: Anselmo Kim (Korea but is now in Vietnam under the District of Asia), Aureliano Garcia Manzanal (Spain, of the Province of Mediterranean), Ebel Muteveri (Zim-

babwe, of the Province of Southern Africa), Juan Carlos Bolaños Viscarra (Guatemala, of the Province of Central America), Marcio Henrique (Brasil, of the Province of Brasil Centro Norte), Sefo Une (Samoa, of the District of the Pacific), Tiamaro Alphonse (Madagascar, but is now part of the staff of the Marist International Center in Kenya), Simon Serero (Papua New Guinea, current rector of the Marist Asia Pacific Center in the Philippine)

Br. Teofilo Minga helped in the translation.

BRAZIL, CHILE, ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA AND MEXICO

# MARISTS TAKE PART IN WORKSHOP ABOUT CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Marist students and professionals in education and health from Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Colombia and Mexico took part in the seminar “Intercultural dialogues on children’s right to education and health in the context of the pandemic”, held from 21 to 22 June, by the Master’s and Doctoral Programme in Education of the **Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR – Brazil)**, in collaboration with the Master’s Programme in Humanitarian Action, Cooperation and Development of the University Fernando Pessoa (UFP – Portugal) and the Master’s Programme in Teaching in Health Sciences of Faculdades Pequeno Príncipe (FPP – Brazil). Also joining the seminar was Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General and coordinator of the International Commission of Marist Mission.

During the sessions, the data of the diagnosis of the needs, demands and strategies to guarantee the rights of children during the COVID-19 pandemic were analysed, in the light of the research “Children in humanitarian situations in Latin American and European settings: perspectives for guaranteeing the right to education and the right to health”, published in 2021, in which both students and Marist education and health professionals collaborated.

[Download the research report here.](#)



The research was coordinated by Dr. Ana María Eyng, from the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR). The field research work was carried out in collaboration with the Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL) and the Commission of the Solidarity Heart Network. The Marist Centre for the Defence of Children (CEDIN) and the ‘Observatório da Juventude’ of the Marist University of Curitiba, PUCPR, also supported the work.

The seminar provided elements of reflection related to the themes being tackled by the **International Commission of Marist Mission**, among them “New frontiers and new margins”, “Network of schools” and “Children’s Rights”.



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