



MÉXICO

XVIII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF CENTRAL MEXICO

With the theme “Same mission, new and great challenges!”, the Province of México Central held its XVIII Provincial Chapter from 22 to 24 July. During the celebration, Br. Luis Felipe González began his service as Provincial, and the members of the Provincial Council were elected for the next three years. Brothers Juan Carlos Robles Gil, Irapuato community; Juan Jesús Franco, Pachuca community; Hugo Émerson Jiménez, CUM CDMX community; Luis Felipe González, Provincial; Juan Montúfar, Acoxa CDMX community; Rodrigo Espinosa, Querétaro community and Marco Soto, Ixtaltepec community. In addition to the capitulants, Brothers



general administration

■ From 1 to 5 August, Brothers Ken McDonald and Oscar Martin, General Councillors, and Br. Francis Yufenyuy Lukong, Deputy Director of the Solidarity Secretariat are present at the transition from District West Africa to Province. The three Brothers will also be present during the Provincial Chapter of West Africa, which will take place from 9 to 13 August.

■ On 2 August, the Ongoing Formation Team (Manziana) together with the Brothers Today Secretariat held the 1st online Personal Growth Workshop as part of the Mentors and Formators Course. Among the facilitators were Monica Jimenez Diaz, psycho-historical-spiritual companion, and Leandro Miranda Quan, psycho-historical-spiritual companion. The workshop also takes place on 4 and 6 August.

■ On Tuesday, August 3, the Brothers Today Secretariat together with the International Commission for the Revision of the Formation Guide, the International Commission of Brothers Today, the Regional Formation Coordinators and the president of the Regional Commission of Brothers Today attended the

Meeting of the Interregional Consultation Team for the Revision of the Formation Guide of Arco Norte and South America.

■ On Tuesday, the Ongoing Formation Team (Manziana) together with the Brothers Today Secretariat continued the online Formation Meetings. And on the same day, the Brothers of the Brothers Today Secretariat also conducted virtually the 1st Accompaniment Workshop. Br Darren Burge, from the Province of Australia, was the moderator.

■ On August 5, the Brothers Today Secretariat together with the International Commission for the Revision of the Formation Guide, the International Commission of Brothers Today, the Regional Formation Coordinators and the president of the Regional Commission of Brothers Today attended the Interregional Consultation Team Meeting for the Revision of the Formation Guide for Africa and Europe. On the same day, the Interregional Consultation Team Meeting for the Revision of the Formation Guide for Asia and Oceania also took place, with all the corresponding members.



Ernesto Sánchez (Superior General), João Carlos Do Prado (General Councillor), together with the incoming and outgoing Provincial of México Occidental, Brothers Luis Enrique Rodríguez and Miguel Ángel Santos were present. And also 6 lay Marists from the Province of México Central.

On the first day, 22 July, Brother Luis Felipe González took up his mandate as Provincial and thanked Brother José Sánchez for his service during two three-year terms. For his part, Br. José Sánchez (Pepe) commented on the work done in the last three years. He highlighted the progress of the mission in the works, the organisational structure of the Province, the issues of government, management and administration.

During his participation, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, thanked Br. Pepe for his service: “We take with us the way in which Pepe led the way in a time of uncertainty, he

managed to build teams, to encourage, to organise and to push... Thank you Pepe”.

On the second day, the proposals of the different working commissions were reviewed: – Marist life and mission: brothers, laity and formation – Marist mission: education and evangelisation – Management, animation and government – Financial matters. At the conclusion of the approval of the lines of action, the brothers thanked the lay Marists for their participation in the two days of work.

On Saturday 24th July, the Brothers continued with the study and approval of the Norms of the Province. This was followed by the election of the members of the next Provincial Council.

Before concluding the Chapter, Br. Ernesto said in his message: “I take away with me a very beautiful experience of fraternity, with the atmosphere of

dialogue and harmony that was experienced during these days. The lines of action that you propose touch on the key points of the broad mission that you have in this Province... Let us put our energy into what generates life and future, in synergy with lay people, especially for the most needy. God is asking us to do this, and we have to move”.

Luis Enrique, incoming Provincial of México Occidental, emphasised that “something very important for us is to recognise what follows, and how good it is that we can continue to walk together. What it is up to Luis Felipe and me is to create a Marist Mexico. We are two Provinces, but in a Marist Mexico with the same mission, and new and great challenges. And after planting a tree symbolising the challenges and dreams of the new Council, Br. Luis Felipe González, the new Provincial of México Central, said: “May this tree represent the commitments and actions that we take with us in this Chapter”.

BRAZIL

BR. JOSÉ DE ASSIS ELIAS DE BRITO

PROVINCIAL OF BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

In a letter sent to the Brothers of the Province, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, announced the appointment of Brother José de Assis Elias de Brito as Provincial of the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, for a first term of three years. Br José de Assis will replace Br Ataíde José de Lima, Provincial since 2015.

In the letter, the Superior General thanked Br. Assis for his generosity in accepting this mission of leadership in the service of his Province and underlined his confidence in his service: “your experience of several years as Provincial Councillor as well as your time of service in UMBRASIL and, in

recent years, as Director of the Marist College of Natal will be of great help in your service of leadership”.

Br. Ernesto also thanked Br. Ataíde: “His dedication and commitment, as well as his teamwork, have been of great help. His collaboration with the other Provincials in Brazil and South America is very valuable. He also thanked the Provincial Council and the different provincial animation groups.

Br. Assis will begin his mandate with the inaugural celebration of the Provincial Chapter, scheduled for 17 December this year.

Br. Assis

Br. José de Assis Elias de Brito or Br. Assis, as he is known, was born on 15 October 1979 in Araçagi, Paraíba State. He is a Marist alumnus, who did his primary studies at the Colégio Marista Pio X, in João Pessoa.

He assumed his journey as a Marist Brother in 1999, when he entered the Aspirancy in Nísia Floresta. He did his Pre-Postulancy in 2000, in Fortaleza; Postulancy in 2001, in the city of Natal and Novitiate in Fortaleza. He made his First Profession in 2003 and, the following year, he joined the Juniorate in Belo Horizonte. In 2009 he took perpetual vows. He graduated in Pedagogy from the Catholic University of Brasília and in Theology from the St. Thomas Aquinas Institute in Belo Horizonte. He has a postgraduate degree in Educational Management from the Catholic University of Brasília, and another in Theology of Religious Life from the Higher School of Theology and Franciscan Spirituality. He studied Religious Education and Pastoral School at the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, and Catechetical Methodology at the Salesian University Centre of São Paulo. He is a board member of the Brazilian Institute of Corporate Govern-



ance. He is currently pursuing an MBA (Master of Business Administration) in Project Management at the University of São Paulo.

In his mission, as a Marist Brother, he was Director of the Champagnat Marist College in Taguatinga, Coordinator of the Consecrated and Lay Life Area of the Mission Area of UMBRASIL. He was Vice-President of the Brazilian Union of Education and Teaching and of the North Brazilian Union of Education and Culture, from 2013 to 2015. He was also Provincial Councillor for two consecutive terms,

from 2013 to 2018. For some years, he was part of the Marist Apostolic Spirituality Network of the American Continent.

He is currently Canonical Animator of the Marist Community of Natal, member of the Committee of the South America Region, Director of the Marist College of Natal and participating member of the Provincial Committee of Corporate Governance of the Sponsors UBEE-UN-BEC. In the state of Rio Grande do Norte, he is advisor and coordinator of the State Council of the Association of Catholic Schools.

AUSTRALIA

PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA LAUNCH ITS NEW MARIST VOCATIONS WEBSITE

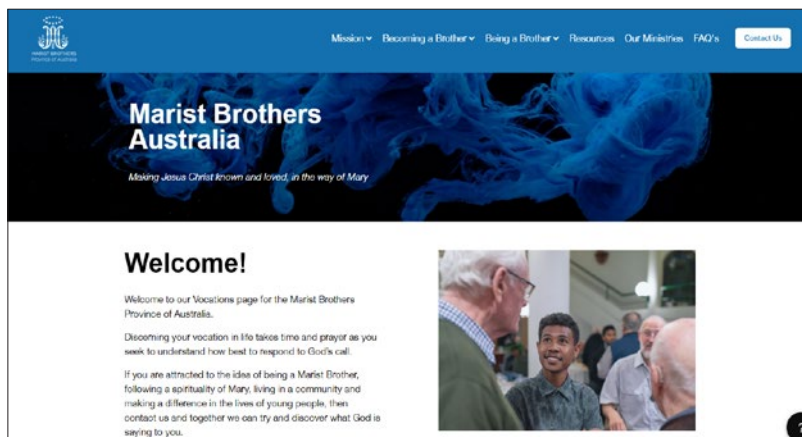
On Wednesday, 4 August, as part of marking National Vocations Awareness Week, the **Marist Brothers Province of Australia** will launch its new Vocations website, located at <http://www.maristvocations.com.au/>. This new website is dedicated to providing material and resources about the life and mission of the Marist Brothers in a contemporary context, as well as materials that can assist a person discerning life as a Marist Brother.

The website is part of the Marist Brothers' faithfulness to providing resources and avenues for young people to continue to explore the possibility of a formal religious commitment in the Catholic Church. Promoting and advocating diverse expressions of living one's vocation and discipleship to Jesus Christ, including life as a religious brother, remains an important priority of the Marist Brothers. The website provides introductory information about the Marist Brothers in Australia, including insights into the life and spirituality of the Marist Brothers, a brief history of our Founder, St Marcellin Champagnat, and information on our discernment and formation stages. The website also presents resources for education and formation settings, including three distinctive film series. The first series, "Being Marist" contain three films, titled, "Meaning & Mission," "Community & Relationships," and "Faith & Spirituality," all of which focus on the contextual understanding of the key elements of Marist life in Australia. The second, "Character-

istics of Marist Life," provide reflective resources on the nature of mission, spirituality, and community for the modern-day Marist Brother. The third series "Talking Heads" involves the Marist Brothers in Australia responding to interesting, provocative, and challenging questions about the life of a Marist Brother in Australia today.

Finally, information about the ministries that Marist Brothers founded, and continue to be associated with through the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat, are also accessible on the new website.

The website is also viewable in a mobile-friendly mode, making it easier and clearer to access information on smartphones and tablets. For more information visit the social networks: [Instagram](#) (@fmsbrothers: 'Marist Brothers Life Aus') and [Facebook](#) (@MaristVocations: 'Marist Brothers Life').



Brother François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

20. DEATH OF CHAMPAGNAT

Marcellin Champagnat died in the early hours of June 6th 1840. It fell to Brother François to organise the funeral and to communicate the news to all the Brothers' communities. In the circular, Brother François recalls that "death put an end to a penitent, industrious life, full of works of zeal and devotion, through the sufferings of a long and cruel illness". But – he adds – "he will be more effective and powerful as our protector in heaven, with the divine Mary, to whom he gave us everything in his death.... It is now up to us to collect and carefully follow his last and touching instructions".

He then indicated the suffrages for the repose of the soul of the deceased and announced that a painter had come to reproduce his portrait, promising a copy to each community.

He also gave two rules: to read the Spiritual Testament every month and to celebrate a solemn mass on June 6th of each year, to remember the life and teachings of the Founder.

Shortly afterwards, he would write in his notebooks: "It is necessary that each congregation preserve the spirit of its Founder for the good that God intended in inspiring it".

Seven months later, on 20th February 1841, when the Hermitage received the portrait of Father Champagnat, he wrote in his diary: "Receipt of the portrait of Father Champagnat. To be his living image".

marist world

NEW ZEALAND: ST PETER'S COLLEGE, PALMERSTON NORTH



CHILE: COLEGIO MARISTA LAS COMPAÑÍAS – N. SRA. ANDACOLLO



ROMANIA: CASE ALE SPERANTEI – BUCHAREST



MADAGASCAR: LAY PEOPLE AND MARIST YOUTH IN ANTISRANANA



UNITED STATES: LOS FRESNOS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES BR. PAUL PHILLIPP'S 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF BECOMING A MARIST BROTHER



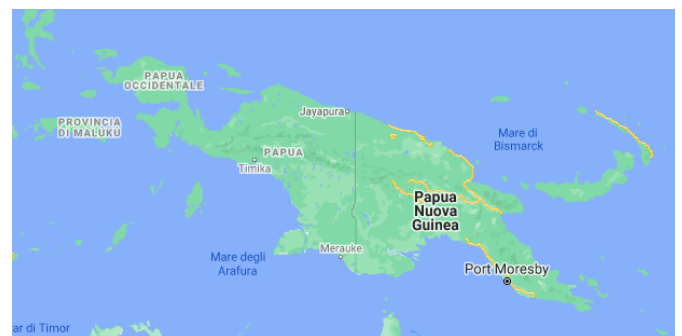
UNITED STATES: MARIST YOUTH USA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA MARIST PRESENCE

There are three Communities in Papua New-Guinea, that belongs to the Province of Australia.

Mabiri (the Autonomous Region of Bougainville). The community is comprised of Brothers Clement Pekubei, Mark Kenatsi and Sixtus Winduo. All are involved in the school ministry of St Joseph's College Mabiri which currently has 345 students. Last year because of COVID many students were withdrawn from the school, as a result this year they have an extra Year 9 class with about 40 students in each class. Br. Mark is the Principal, Br. Clement is Dean of Boys, Br. Sixtus is teaching English and assisting the Principal and Bursar. Brendan Sinei is also officially attached to the community. There are also several Aspirants living with the Brothers. Benedict Tooming, who coordinates Marist Ministries in Melanesia, is a regular visitor from Arawa.

Madang (in the Province of Madang). The Brothers community is located adjacent to Divine Word University. Br. Rodney Pauru is the Community Leader and Formator. He lectures at the University in the Business Faculty and assists the President with projects. He also accompanies the three student Brothers: Cyril Benora



(from Wewak, PNG), Fereole Melteror (from Vanuatu) and Carlvn Rumina (from Bougainville). All are undertaking the Diploma Course in Social and Religious Studies.

Port Moresby (Central Province, National Capital District). Currently there are three Brothers in the community: Finan Valei, Dominic Tsibuen and Henry Uguni. Br. Finan manages the property, Br. Dominic is now teaching at the De La Salle Technical School at Hohola, and Br. Henry is patiently waiting to return to the Solomon Islands, the government of which has limited all international arrivals, even of citizens, such as Br. Henry. Francis Marai, the Administration and Finance Officer for Melanesia, is also based at the residence, which was formerly the District of Melanesia Administration Centre.



CHILE

The animation team of the Area of Explicit Evangelisation met on 29 July with the animators of the fraternities of the MCHFM and of the Champagnat Lay Marist movement of the country, to assume stage 2 of the International Forum of the Lay Vocation.

CANADA

From July 30th to August 1st, the Marist Assemblies of Canada were held online. The event marked the establishment of the Marist District of Canada, dependent on the Provinces of the United States, Central Mexico and Western Mexico. For canonical matters, the District of Canada will depend on the Province of the United States. Br. Gaston Robert assumed the position of First Superior of the District.

UNITED STATES

During this week the first annual meeting of Marist youth leaders of the Province is taking place in Indiana. More than 100 Marist teachers, youth and adults are participating in a week of seminars and other dynamics that will strengthen them as leaders for the Marist mission.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

Several members of the Brazilian team that are participating in the Olympic Games in Japan are people who studied in Marist schools. Among them are Bruno Fratusa, bronze medal in the 50-meter swimming, Maurício Borges, from the volleyball team, and Matheus Cunha, from the football team. See other details in [this link](#).

PHILIPPINES

EAST ASIA PROMOTES CHILD PROTECTION WITH MEETING ON CYBERTHREATS



The Child Protection Desk of the East Asia Province organized a meeting with the student youth leaders of Marist schools and non-school ministries last July 23, Friday. In attendance were 125 student leaders, their advisers, and the school child protection officers. The agenda of the meeting was to provide “awareness on cybercrime, cybersecurity, children’s rights and other forms of cyberthreats” and also to “educate and engage the Gen Z’s to take action in protecting children and youth from online sexual abuse and exploitation, cyberbullying and all forms of cyberthreats.”

The pool of competent Resource Persons included Dr. Teresa Paula de Luna, Associate Professor of UP Diliman who talked about the “Impact of Cyberspace to Human Behavior and Society”. Fr. Yoniz Beley, OMI, who directs the Oblate

Youth Philippines, presented the “Need for the Youth to Participate in Co-creating a Safer Cyberspace”. Meanwhile, Mrs. Concepcion Sangil, discussed the Cyber Youth Empowerment Program.

During the workshop in breakout groups, participants were asked the questions: From what has been shared, what touched you and unsettled you? To what is St. Marcellin inviting us today to address the concerns of the children and the young?

Proposals were presented at the plenary. The need for cyber literacy webinars, opening a Student On-line Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children Help Desk, creating a Cybersafety Commission in schools and working in close collaboration with the school guidance counselors were articulated, among others.

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

MARISTS TAKE PART IN A MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LAITY OF BRAZIL

More than 25 lay people from the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (MCFM) and the Farol Movement – accompanied by the Brothers advisors of the MCFM – took part in an on-line formation meeting the first week of July, with the aim of strengthening the relationship of the laity of the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia with the National Council of the Laity of Brazil (CNLB), a canonical organisation that brings together lay people, pastoral ministries and movements in order to reflect on aspects of the Christian vocation and the construction of a more just and humane society.

During the meeting, the Marist lay leaders spoke with the coordinator of the CNLB, Waldir Bohn Gas (Regional Sul 3), and with the representative of the Marist laity in the CNLB, Edison Oliveira. They also spoke about their organisation, their projects, their objectives of action and the main challenges. During the meeting, it was announced that an affiliation of Brasil Marista to the CNLB is underway, through the initiative of the Marist Life Commission of UMBRASIL. This affiliation should become effective in October with the validation of the letter sent by UMBRASIL to the National Assembly of the CNLB. Referring to the meeting, Marcos Broc, of the Enlarged Secretariat of Lay Marists, said that “moments like these strengthen our organic journey as a Catholic Church and encourage greater inclusion in ecclesial bodies that can contribute to the promotion of the lay Marist vocation. It is also an opportunity for us to witness and make known, to other leaders of Christian communities, the characteristics of the Marian face of the



Church that we are.

At present, the Marist laity is represented in the CNLB (Regional Sul 3) by the layman Edison Oliveira, as first secretary, and the laywoman Silvana Nazário, as second secretary.

With the aim of continuing the process of bringing the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province closer to other lay organisations of the Church, another meeting has been scheduled, possibly for the month of August or September.

August is the month for holidays in Italy and General Administration employees rest during this period. Therefore, the next issue of Marist News will be published on 20 August. We thank all the users for their company during this year and, in a special way, the translators, who voluntarily dedicate their time to translate the texts that we publish each week in the 4 languages of the Institute.



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat