



NEW MARIST PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

FIRST PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Brothers of the Marist District of West Africa marked the beginning of their Chapter on the 9th of August 2021, which led to the birth of a new Province in the Marist world: Marist Province of West Africa. The delegates to the chapter totalled 25 persons representing Brothers from the countries that make up the Province (Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Liberia), the General link Councillors for Africa (Brothers Óscar Martín and Ken McDonald), Brothers Juan Carlos and Aureliano Garcia (respectively Provincial and elected Provincial of Mediterránea) and Mr Samuel Nontwiri, a lay Marist from Ghana.

The theme of the chapter, 'Dying to Self; Generating New Life', was an invitation for all the Capitulants to sacrifice in order to build a new Province of West Africa.

During the ceremony, the new Provincial Leader, Br. Cyprian Gandebo, was installed. Delivering his



speech, Br. Cyprian thanked all the Brothers for reposing their trust in him to lead them for the next three years.

The delegates reflected and studied the various reports which were presented to the chapter. This was followed by the creation of Commissions to formulate proposed priorities which will help guide our mission for the next three years. The selected themes included Communion, Vocations, Mission and Sustainability.

Then followed the reading and approval of the norms of the Province

and the election of the Provincial Councilors. **Brothers Oliver Tata, Germain Beda, Eric Kramo and Pascal Birkem were elected Provincial Councilors** to help the provincial in his mission.

Finally, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mediterranean Province and the Province of West Africa was signed by the two Provincials and their vice. Thereafter, Br Cyprian Gandebo gave his closing remarks. He thanked all the Brothers of the Province for their massive participation as well as all the artisans of the first Provincial Chapter. And to finish, he exhorted us to be sowers of new life. We concluded our Chapter with Holy mass in gratitude to God.



[You can read all the history about the Chapter in that PDF](#)

[PHOTOS](#)



GHANA

ASSEMBLY OF THE BROTHERS OF WEST AFRICA

The Marist Brothers of the Marist District of West Africa held their Assembly in Accra – Ghana from the 1st to the 6th of August 2021. This was only the second time in over 20 years of existence that all the Brothers in the District were able to organize an Assembly. It could also be considered the first Provincial Assembly. As announced in November 2020, Brother Superior General and his Council approved that the District of West Africa become a new Province from August 2021, during the first Provincial Chapter (from August 9 to 13, 2021).

Due to the restrictions of Covid-19, all the Brothers living in Ghana and the delegates of the 1st Provincial Chapter participated physically at the Assembly while the rest of the Brothers participated virtually via Zoom. Brothers Juan Carlos (Provincial) and Aureliano Garcia (Provincial elected) from the Province of Mediterránea and Brothers Óscar Martín and Ken McDonald both General link Councilors for Africa were also present.

The theme of the Assembly “Let us rise up and build” (Neh 2:18) was indeed very instrumental in leading and guiding the participants throughout the Assembly. Brothers shared at length about their hopes and vision and the group could sense that Brothers are indeed ready to take up the new challenge of becoming a Province.

The participants were taken through the different stages followed towards becoming a Province, the history of the Administrative Unit, presentations from different teams and the organogram of the new Province. Brother Óscar Martín also took the Brothers through the U-process and helped the group in a spirit of discernment for the priorities of the new Province while Brother Ken McDonald animated the session on Child Rights and Safeguarding children.



CUBA

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW MARIST PRESENCE

The Marists of Cuba wish to remember with gratitude these first 20 years of our new presence in the Pearl of the Caribbean. We thank the Lord of Life and History for all the good he has done for his people, and, for this, we are very happy. We thank Mary of Charity, our Good Mother, for her living presence among the Cuban people in order to be a seed of the Kingdom.

During all these years we have been able to see the effective action of God in the history of our journey in Cuba since 8 August 2001, at the service of the Church and the Cuban people. Our desire is to continue sowing the Good News of Jesus and his message of the Kingdom of God from the little, small, humble but germinal and hopeful. With Mary we can do everything, without her, we are nothing.



COLOMBIA

From the 19th to the 27th, the Provincial Administration is holding a meeting of 15 directors of Colombian educational institutions. The central theme is the analysis of the national educational projects and the presentation of the Inspiring Lines of the Provincial Educational Mission. The meeting was led by Brother Leonardo Yebes and was attended by Brother Provincial, Orlando Escobar.

CRUZ DEL SUR

The Province is promoting a workshop course on Marist charismatic patrimony for educators, parents, participants in fraternities and other lay groups who wish to reflect more deeply on Marist patrimony in order to recreate Marist life today. It starts at the end of August and lasts 2 months.

UMBRASIL

Faced with the pandemic situation, in order to help (re)plan learning situations, the Marist Union of Brazil launched the document "Ways of welcoming, listening to and guaranteeing the rights of children": (re)meanings of Early Childhood Education in Marist Brazil" ([download the PDF in Portuguese](#)).

CUBA

Monsignor Emilio Aranguren Echeverría, former student of Santa Clara, Cuba and affiliated to the Institute of the Marist Brothers, celebrated 30 years as a priest. Monsignor Emilio has been the soul of the New Marist Presence in the Greater Antilles, both in Cienfuegos and in Holguín ([Read in Spanish](#))

We wish to thank all those who have promoted Champagnat's work among Cuban children and young people. Thanks to all those who, directly or indirectly, have contributed so that our missionary presence continues on the road and on the way. Thank you, dear Brothers, dear students and former students. Thank you, dear Marists, of Champagnat. Thank you, dear teachers, priests, lay people, bishops and friends, for sharing this marvellous journey of accompanying children and young people in their process of growth so that they can become good Christians and upright citizens.

Our special thanks go to Bishop Emilio Aranguren Echeverría, a former Marist student of Santa Clara for his efforts to make the Marist mission present in Cienfuegos and Holguín.

We also thank all the Marists who, from the General Council, promoted or accompanied the new Marist presence in Cuba. Thanks to Brother Charles Howard Superior General, Brother Marcelino Ganzaraín CG, Brother Javier Espinosa Provincial of Central America, Brother Benito Arbués SG, Séan Sammon SG, Brother Antonio Ramalho CG and Brother Antonio Eguía Provincial of Venezuela.

Thanks to all the Marists who have sown the Good News of the Kingdom in Cuba in these last twenty years: Efraín Mar-

tín, Carlos Martínez, Héctor Ávalos, Salvador Salinas, Jesús Bayo, Carlos Scottá, Germán Chaves, Manuel Matilla, Rodrigo Cuesta, César Henríquez, Teódulo Hernando, José Antonio Alonso, Marco Antonio Vargas, Jesús Balmaseda, José María Custodi, Jorge Gaio, Jong Acosta, Ricardo Miño, Sylvia Pérez, Rosa Schaffiano and Luis Sáenz who have come with the utmost willingness to serve the people and the Church on pilgrimage in Cuba from our Marist charism, and to insert themselves in the plans of a particular Church and in the reality of Cuban society.

We know that there are many challenges ahead of us, but we trust that Jesus, Lord of Life and History, will continue to be our companion on the road in the face of the specific characteristics of a socialist Caribbean country where we believe that our charism is a gift for the Church and the Cuban people.

May Mary of Charity of El Cobre, patroness of the Cuban people, continue to encourage our journey in the face of the health, economic and social crisis. May solidarity between peoples encourage us to build bridges of fraternity and sisterhood.

Marist Brothers of Cuba



MARIST INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF IHE MEETING BRINGS TOGETHER PASTORAL MINISTERS FROM MORE THAN 20 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Online event promotes dialogue between pastoral initiatives of the Marist International Network of IHS

On the 25th of August, from 9am to 11am (Brasilia time), the 1st Pastoral Meeting of the member institutions of the Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education will be held online, through Zoom. Based on the theme Resonances of the Global Education Pact in the pastoral methodology of the Marist Institutions of Higher Education, the event aims to provide space for reflection on the Global Education Pact and its calls – launched by Pope Francis in 2019 – for the Marist Institutions of Higher Education, and also aims to assume a movement of dialogue and rapprochement between ministers, teachers and collaborators who work in pastoral care and similar actions in each of these institutions.

The programme will be opened by Curate Gustavo Hass, from PUCRS, and will include the participation of the Superior General of the Marist Institute, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, directly from the General House of the Marist Institute in Rome, who will make the initial reflection. Afterwards, the meeting will be led by Fr. Luiz Carlos

Susin, from PUCRS, who will speak in depth on the theme of the Global Education Pact. David Hall, from the Australian Catholic University and member of the Executive Committee of the Marist International Network of IES, will bring the perspectives and challenges of IES confronting the Pact. The event will also be attended by Brother Marcelo Bonhemberger, pro-Rector of Institutional Identity of the PUCRS and Brother Rogério Renato Mateucci, Pr-Rector of Mission, Identity and Extension of the PUCPR.

Opening of a new path

“There is a great expectation that this event will be the first of many other possibilities for dialogue and joint work,” says Rafael Rosseto, from the Pastoral Coordination of the PUCRS and one of the organisers of the event. We are looking for the potential of building bridges and the setting up of a pastoral day capable of enhancing the actions already developed in each Marist IES,” he says.

As part of a series of events organised for the Marist International Network of IES, the 1st Pastoral Meeting



is also the first in a series of events that seek to generate new spaces for dialogue between educators and researchers from these institutions and to strengthen existing connections. “After this first meeting, there is the possibility of developing collaborative projects in the different perspectives of formation, solidarity and spirituality,” says Rosseto.

To share in the 1st Meeting of Pastoral Ministries of the Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education enter:

- [Zoom link](#)
- ID meeting: 972 0140 3933
- Password: 697145



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marist world

MONS. JORGE PATRÓN VISITS THE BROTHERS IN YUCATÁN, MEXICO



TIMOR LESTE: YOUNG MARISTS RECEIVE THE CONSTITUTIONS



URUGUAY: COLEGIO SAN LUIS MARISTAS – PANDO



COLOMBIA: MEETING OF PRINCIPALS OF MARIST INSTITUTIONS



BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA: ILHA GRANDE DOS MARINHEIROS



CENTRAL AMERICA BROTHERS RECEIVE THE CONSTITUTIONS AND RULE OF LIFE

EDUCATION AND EVANGELIZATION

CO-CREATING THE MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

In the last text on [Getting to know the Marist Global Network of Schools](#), we talked about the basic ideas behind the Network. Our objective is for the network to contribute to the growth, vitality and sustainability of Marist Mission through schools.

Once the General Council decided in 2021 to proceed with the launch of a Network of Schools, a process of co-creation began, with planned, collaborative activities carried out by the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation.



CREATING TOGETHER NETWORK



There are three important moments in this collaborative phase for imagining and designing the network through collective creativity.

In May 2021, an online meeting of Education coordinators from all regions of the Institute took place.

The Asia, Oceania and Africa regions met on 27 May, >>

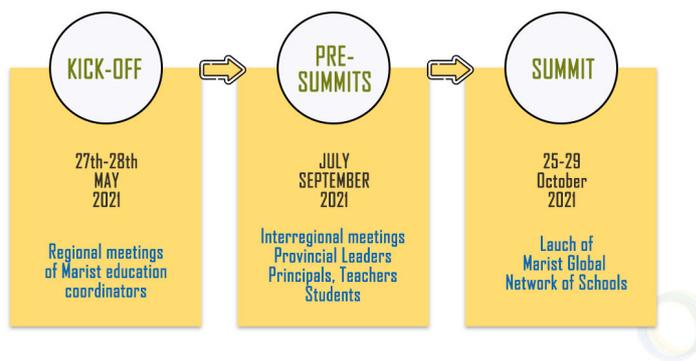


with 26 participants from 9 Administrative Units. On 28 May the Europe, South America and Northern Arc regions met with 40 members from 16 Administrative Units present.

The on-line workshop lasted 4 hours. Its main purpose was for participants to begin to get a feeling for the project of having a network and fall in love with this dream, and for them, in turn, to encourage the participation of others by sharing their experience with their contacts.

At the end of August and the beginning of September, inter-regional lead-up events of educational leaders will be held, in which other representatives of the educational community besides the coordinators will participate: (Brothers, principals, teachers, students, parents...) It will also be held by regions: on 26 August, the regions of Asia and Oceania, on 9 September, Arco Norte and South America and on 23 September, Europe and Africa. Around 1,100 participants are expected to attend. During the week of 25-29 October, a series of activities are planned with the aim of making known, on a massive scale, what the Marist Global Network of Schools intends to be. To this end, it was decided to seek the assistance of the Institute for Dialogue and Appreciative Inquiry (IDEIA).

Appreciative Inquiry is a methodology of dialogue, encounter, proposal design and alignment of vision, mission and action.



Appreciative enquiry involves the disciplines of appreciation, inquiry and planning.

Its approach is to build on recognised strengths and open new possibilities, aligning individual, congregational and collective aspirations; to create common dreams as we look at issues in the design of proposals and commitments to get the network going.

The Marist Global Network of Schools is a project of the General Council in response to the calls of the 22nd General Chapter which called for us to be a global family. It will be a place of promotion for the Marist mission that is carried out in more than 600 schools in 80 countries. On behalf of the General Council, the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, in collaboration with the network of Marist publishers, is organising the launch of the network, which will take place from 25-29 October 2021. [Further information about the network can be found here.](#)

BROTHERS TODAY

PROCESS OF REVISING THE FORMATION GUIDE ENTERS CONSULTATION STAGE

The consultation-participation stage of the process of the revision of the Formation Guide began this August 2021. Led by the International Commission for the Revision of the Formation Guide (ICRFG), meetings will be conducted with different regional or inter-regional groups to reflect together on the Formation Guide and Formation for Marist life today. Over and above being a means of gathering information, the ICRFG sees this exercise

as a way of involving as many Marists as possible in the task at hand, as well as connect them with one another to give a sense of journeying together toward a new Formation Guide.

The consultation-participation is being carried out through teams composed of 2 members of the ICRFG, 2 or 3 members of the International Commission of Brothers Today (ICBT), and 2 or 3 regional coordinators of, or reference persons in, formation. These

teams are accompanied by Br. Angel Medina and Br. Lindley Sionosa of the Secretariat of Brothers today.

Among the groups identified to be consulted include formators, formands, commissions or teams already existing in the administrative units or regions, including lay Marists, and ex-brothers or ex-formands.

The teams formed for this purpose are:



Americas (North and South): Cesar Rojas and Rubens Falcheto (ICRFG), Juan Carlos Bolaños and Marcio Henrique (ICBT), Felix Roland, Albert Rivera and Isidro Azpeleta.

Africa-Europe: Pere Ferré and Fabien Bulaimu (ICRFG), Ebel Muteveri, Tiamaro Alphonse and Aureliano Garcia (ICBT), Antoine Kazindu, Nicolas Garcia, Fernando Ocaña, Teodorino Aller, and Vitus Osuji.

Asia-Oceania: Francisco Garcia and Graham Neist (ICRFG), Anselmo Kim, Sefo Une and Simon Sere-



ro (ICBT), Darren Burge and Juan Castro.

The above teams met for the first-time last week: Americas on August 3, Africa-Europe on August 5 and Asia-Oceania also on August 5. The next step is to name the groups to be consulted, decide on the questions to ask, and set the date and time of the meetings. The consultation-participation stage is expected to be completed by the end of October 2021.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA

The Brothers of the Province, spread across Australia and 10 other countries, are keeping well, despite the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 era. While several Brothers overseas have contracted the virus, fortunately none have been seriously unwell as a result.

The Brothers in the dedicated aged care communities have been under varying degrees of restrictions for much of the last 18 months, and they continue to adjust very well. Paul Creevey and Ray Arthur were even able to make a return for a home holiday from Belgium and Manila. Both have now returned overseas.

Formation

We currently have approximately 30 East Timorese and Melanesians in various stages of Formation. The virus has caused us to adapt our processes and we now

have novices in East Timor, The Philippines and Solomon Islands.

Melanesia

It's just over twelve months since the District of Melanesia merged with the Province of Australia. It's been a challenging time with international travel restrictions, meaning there's been no possibility of travel between Australia and Melanesia. There are also restrictions on travel between the countries of Melanesia. For example, Br Henry Uguni, a citizen of the Solomon Islands, is still stranded in Port Moresby, unable to gain access to his home country.

Tragically, Br Mark Poro, who was 56 years old and the Community Leader and Formator at Laumansa House, died in Honiara Hospital on 20 July. His death is a huge loss to the young Brothers in the community and to the Province.

New Province 2022

The new Province, to be formed on 8 December 2022, with the amalgamation of the District of the Pacific and the Province of Australia, has a name. Br Ernesto, Superior General, has confirmed that it will be known as the Star of the Sea Province. It's a most appropriate name given that most of the countries of the Province are islands or ones where sea features significantly: Aotearoa- New Zealand, Australia, Cambodia, East Timor, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu. The name is a time-honoured title for Mary. Our prayer is that Marist life in the Province will indeed be a star, like the Christmas one followed by the Shepherds and Wise men, leading to Jesus.

Br. Peter Carroll Provincial
ChristeLife 107 – 11 August

UNITED STATES

THE MISSION OF THE MARIST YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP IN THE PROVINCE OF THE USA

Marist Young Adults and Marist Youth from 10 Schools and ministries around the Marist Province of the United States joined in Indiana for the first ever Marist Youth Leadership Camp, from August 3 to 7. This is the first in a series of new Marist Youth programs for students.

The goal at this camp was to work on practical leadership skills. The students learned important skills like how to lead prayer, to build small group skills, lead activities and how to write a talk. Now, the Marist Leaders are ready to run a freshman retreat for their incoming freshman so that they can be a part of the Marist Community and understand what it means to be Marist.

During the Marist Leadership Camp the students participated in four Marist sessions:

Session 1 – Leading Prayer

The first skills session was led by Matt Fallon. He talked about how to lead a prayer and the components that go into creating a group prayer. He gave the students a challenge for the rest of our time at camp, each small group will lead prayer.

Session 2 – Giving Talks

The second skills session was led by Mike Bourie, a Marist of Champagnat. He helped explain the differences between the two kinds of talks and led a group discussion about the important factors that should be considered when giving a talk.

The Marist Leaders then went to 4 different workshops to work on their own talks. The 4 workshop themes

were about St. Marcellin Champagnat, Mary Our Good Mother, Pray for Each Other, and Witness talks. The students were taught by Marist Brothers and Marist Young Adults information on their themes and aided them into writing their talk.

Session 3 – Leading Small Groups

The third skills workshop was about leading small groups. Maureen Hagan, a Marist of Champagnat from NJ, gave the talk and helped the leaders understand all the components of leading a small group.

Session 4 – Leading Group Activities

The fourth skills session was led by Ed Kennedy, director of outdoor adventures at Esopus. He gave an interactive talk about how to lead group activities.

The day ended with a group night swim! It was filled with music, volleyball games, diving competitions and so much more! It was a night filled with family spirit!

The fourth day – Practice Makes Perfect

The Marist Leaders put the skills that they had learned into practice. They were able to ask questions and get a better understanding of what the program that they will be leading will look like!

The final day the Marist Leaders celebrated with Mass. They celebrated with Msgr. Dennis Lyle the pastor at St. Benedict's Parish. One of the small groups also helped with Mass to practice their skills with prayer. At the end, the final day ended with a dance.

It was the start of a new era in Marist Youth Ministry!



COMPOSTELA / AMÉRICA CENTRAL

MARIST MISSION IN HONDURAS WILL BE LINKED TO THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, announced on 24 June that “the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has decided that, as from 12 December 2023, the Marist Mission of Honduras will be canonically linked to the Province of Central America”.

The process of reflection on the future of the mission in Honduras was assumed in 2016, with a meeting held on 20 and 23 September in Comayagua, with the participation of representatives of the Marist works of the country and of the international Marist institutions. In June 2020, a process of joint discernment was assumed by the General Government, the Provinces of Central America and Compostela and representatives of the Marist works and community of Honduras, to discern how best to accompany the Marist mission in Comayagua.

After a few months of on-line meetings, a way forward was presented to the Provincial Councils to take care of the formation of Marist leaders and to commit to the fu-

ture of the mission if there were no Brothers. After being approved by the two Provincial Councils, this discerned pathway was presented to the General Council in May 2021.

The provinces of Central America and Compostela, following the decision of the General Council, commit themselves to implement the “Road Map” in this process of transition. “We take on this new challenge as a province with a sense of faith, hope and responsibility”, says Br. Hipólito Pérez Gómez, Provincial of Central America, communicating the decision of the General Council to the Province. Brother Tomás Briongos Rica, Provincial of Compostela, values “the mission developed in the Marist educational works of Honduras over these years, for all the dedication of the Brothers who have been there and the lay people who continue to take care of our students. Those of us who have known this work at first hand are certain that these are responses that reflect the heart of the Marist mission: to take care of children and young people, >>

Br. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

22. DEVOTION TO FATHER CHAMPAGNAT

Brother François was both faithful and creative. He knew himself to be the superior general of a growing congregation, but at the same time a disciple of Marcellin Champagnat. François faced many challenges, among them: the legal authorisation of the institute and ecclesial recognition, the separation of the Fathers' branch from the Society of Mary, the union of several congregations. He was a man of solid structures; under his command the Common Rules and Rules of Government will be drawn up. In his quest to heed the Spirit and the signs of the times, he will be a man of the Rule. On receiving the posthumous picture of the Founder, François decided to be "the living portrait of Marcellin". Like Champagnat, he will know how to preserve what is essential and to renew, after much consultation and prayer, what is necessary. In this way he gained the esteem of the Brothers.



François was a great promoter of the devotion the Brothers had for the Founder: "Go to Father Champagnat. You will see how he arranges everything with his Ordinary Resource, the Blessed Virgin", he told them.

The retreat of September 8th, 1840 was a long memorial for Marcellin; the Hermitage was converted into a Marist shrine, a reliquary of the Founder. A year later, in a circular dated 10 August 1841, Brother François asked the Brothers to send him testimonies, letters, and notes about the Founder to serve as background for his first biography.

Other episodes here

especially those most in need”. ” During these years – stresses Br. Tomás – we still have a great deal of work to do: to take care of the formation of our leaders and to organise structures that facilitate the viability of the Marist mission. With this objective in mind, there will be two brothers, one from Central America and the other from Compostela, committed in the coming years”.

History of the Marist presence in Honduras

In August 1989, the former Marist Province of León (Spain), at the request of the then Superior General, Br. Charles Howard and his Council, reflected on the need to find its own place of mission in view of the fact that its presence in Zaire was no longer necessary.

After having consulted the disposition of the Brothers of the Province, Brother Provincial, José Rúa Galina, sent Brothers Santiago Fernández García and Manuel Fernández González to Honduras, with a two-fold mission: “To collaborate in the Holy Mission of the diocese of San Pedro Sula, in the north of the country, and to carry out a study on the viability of a Marist establishment in this nation”.

After studying various possibilities, on 4 January 1992, it was decided to accept a twofold offer from the bishop of the diocese of Comayagua, Monsignor Geraldo Scalpone, in the diocesan capital: the College of the Immaculate Conception and a training centre. This is the foundational Marist work in Honduras.

During the first year in Comayagua, the Brothers carried out these ACTIVITIES:

- Undertaking the tasks of organisation and management of the centre “La Inmaculada”, without taking over the ownership of the centre.
- Collaboration work in the Training Centre in the same city, without taking over its management.
- Steps taken to obtain legal recognition of the Marist

Brothers in Honduras.

- Construction of a community residence in Comayagua capable of housing six Brothers.
- Drawing up of a contract with the Bishop of the diocese to regulate the presence and work of the Brothers in the work being undertaken.

The first community in Comayagua was made up of Brothers Manuel Fernández González (Superior), Santiago Fernández García (Administrator) and Carmelo Cuesta Vegas. Their accommodation passed through various sites in the vicinity of the colonial area, until the decision was taken to acquire a building in Calle 6ª NO, where the new house was built, which is the one that remains today at number 17 of the aforementioned street. The house was inaugurated in September 1993.

Already in October of the same founding year, the Brothers had received the offer to collaborate in the social work for street children “Horizons to the Future”, an association born under the auspices of the Church on the initiative of the “Cursillistas Movement”. It will not take long for them to become involved in the management of this initiative, a commitment that Brother Gregorio Alonso has been carrying out from the beginning.

Marist presence in Honduras today

At present, the Marist work in Comayagua continues to support and animate two important activities:

1. The “Instituto Marista La Inmaculada”, a co-educational school housed in the former convent of San Francisco, property of the Diocese of Comayagua. It has about 1100 students in Secondary and Baccalaureate.
2. The “Horizontes al futuro” project, which houses and educates a group of between 30 and 40 street children. These children attend classes in nearby schools and within the centre they are accompanied and receive educational attention and participate in workshops that prepare them for a future profession.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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Website

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