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MARIST NEWS

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AMÉRICA SUD

CLOSING OF THE VII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF SANTA MARIA DE LOS ANDES

"**W**hat role do we Marists of Champagnat of Santa Maria de los Andes have to play today in order to be the presence of God in the midst of all that we are living in Bolivia, Peru and Chile? I believe that Mary gives us the key", said Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, referring to the 19th anniversary of the Province of Santa María de los Andes, celebrated on 15 August, during the closing of the VII Provincial Chapter, which assumed on 11 July.

During his virtual presentation, Br. Ernesto thanked Br. Saturnino once again for his dedication during these 7 years as leader at the service of the province. He also thanked Br. Pablo Gonzales for accepting to serve the Institute as provincial leader. He also thanked the new provincial council, made up of Brothers Isidro Azpeleta, Alfonso García, Álvaro Sepúlveda, Juan M. García, Patricio Pino and Pedro Herreros. The Superior also congratulated the liaison councillors, Óscar Martín Vicario and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, for their participation and accompaniment.

Addressing the 37 Brothers and 34 lay people present online, Br. Ernesto, connected from Mexico, thanked everyone for having made it possible to hold the VII Provincial Chapter online. "It is the first time in the Institute, and certainly with the authorisation of the Vatican, that it has been carried out in this way, 100%



virtually", said Brother Ernesto, speaking about the holding of the Chapter,

"I congratulate you on the guidelines you are offering to the provincial council. I see that you have chosen crucial areas, the area of life, brothers and laity, charismatic sustainability, vocational

general administration

■ Several brothers of the General Administration have been able to travel during this holiday period in the northern hemisphere to visit their families or to follow some meetings in the Institute. They are now returning to the General House. Among them is Br Ernesto, Superior General, who arrived in Rome on Saturday 28 August. Arriving from another continent, a quarantine of 10 days is necessary.

■ The plenary session of the General Council, traditionally held in September, will be held this year from 8 to 20 November. The collaborative week, which promotes the meeting of the Council with the directors of secretariats and

departments of the General Administration, will be held next week.

■ Brother Fachi, director of the WCC, is visiting the Fratelli Project in Lebanon on behalf of the Project Council until 4 September. The visit coincides with the conclusion of the 2020-21 activities and the finalisation of the budget for next year.

■ On Friday, Br Ángel Diego, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, takes part in the Council meeting of the International Catholic Centre of Geneva, which assists NGOs in the defence of human rights.

animation, ongoing formation. Because in all this we are making progress”, said Br Ernesto. And he added, “thanks to each one of you for your dedication and for making Marcellin Champagnat’s dream come alive in Bolivia, in Chile and in Peru”.

Brother Pablo, Provincial, also thanked everyone for their participation: “May the charismatic light that Marcellin lit shine today in our provincial community. And borrowing Marcellin’s words, I leave you in the hearts of Jesus and Jesus Christ. I leave you in the hearts of Jesus and Mary until we meet again.

The closing of the VII Provincial Chapter of Santa Maria de los Andes, held on 15 August, coincided with the anniversary of the birth of the Province, the celebration of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven and the celebration of the Marist Patronal Feast.



Br. Pablo, new Provincial

[Video](#)

ASIA

MARIST SCHOOLS LEADERS’ CONFERENCE

In the 22nd General Chapter, the New La Valla, the New Beginning, we were called to be beacons of hope, to be light in the middle of darkness, to be hands of mercy, to be bridge-builders and peacemakers, and to journey together as a global family”, Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, shared the inspiration for establishing the Global Network of Marist Schools. “Building the Marist mission network is a good way to realize the Marist life and mission,” he emphasized.

Responding to the call to become a global family, thirty-five Marist school leaders, directors and principals, a mix of Marist Brothers and laity, convened in a virtual Marist Schools Asia Leaders’ Conference last August 18. They were from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, and Cambodia.

With the theme, “Gathered Around the Same Table: Moving Towards Global Network of Schools,” the Marist school leaders were enriched by the talk about Marist Leadership by Br. Max Meier, FMS, and an orientation on Marist Global Network of Schools by Br. Carlos Alberto.

“Champagnat always responded, not reacted, to problems and upcoming problems” underscored by Br. Max. He was challenging Marist school leaders to stay relevant by responding to the mission as a network. “The Marist tradition about



good leadership is anchored in community-building. It is about service, leadership without ego,” he added.

The Marist leaders were invited to seize the opportunity to work together for the Marist mission by connecting people and educational institutions. “As a global family, we need to create new models on how to move the Marist mission and the Marist life. The way to do it is through the network. The concept of networking is not only about connecting the Marists of Champagnat around the world but how to live together with one single purpose of creating evangelical communities in our schools,” said Br. Carlos Alberto.

Initiated by the Br. Dominador Santiago, the Provincial of East Asia Province, the Marist Schools Asia Leaders’ Conference was a preparatory activity to launch the Marist Global Network of Schools in October 2021.

The conference culminated with a simple yet meaningful invitation to all Marist school leaders. “Let us walk as one global family,” said Br. Allan de Castro.

Ms. Leann Jester Daus Rosali

VATICAN

SEASON OF CREATION 2021

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home. Together, the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray and protect God's creation. The season starts 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

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

A home for all? Renewing the oikos of God

This year we will be uniting around the theme, "A HOME FOR ALL? RENEWING THE OIKOS OF GOD." Oikos is the Greek word for "home," or "household." By rooting our theme in the concept of oikos, we celebrate the integral web of relationships that sustain the well-being of the Earth.

This year's symbol, Abraham's tent, signifies our commitment to safeguard a place for all who share our common home, just as Abraham did in the Book of Genesis.

As Marists of Champagnat, we are invited to participate through prayer, sustainability projects, or advocacy.

- Prayer: Host an ecumenical prayer service that unites all Christians to care for our common home.
- Sustainability: Lead a clean-up project that helps all of creation thrive.
- Advocacy: Raise your voice for climate justice by participating or leading an ongoing campaign, such as the movement to divest from fossil fuels.

We invite you to schedule your own participation in the season. As a first step, go to SeasonOfCreation.org. You will find the official Season of Creation Celebration Guide, a wide range of resources, and a form to register your events.

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



news in brief

UMBRASIL

The Provinces of Brazil held the first of four meetings of the III Marist Forum on Information Technologies and Education on 31 August. It is a space to challenge managers, teachers, educational and information technology teams and the whole educational community to talk about Hybrid Education, consolidating better teaching and learning practices that are more diverse and inclusive.

CANADA

The members of the Marist Champagnat Association of Canada (AMCC) have elected the new Board of Directors, which is composed of the following members: Jacques Boudrias, President; Jessica Bonneau, Vice-President; Michel Beaulac, Secretary-Treasurer; Br. René Mailloux, Mission; Br. Gilles Hogue, Resource Centre; Claudine Cholette, Marist Life; Fernando Castro, Solidarity-Spirituality.

KIRIBATI

On the feast of the Assumption, a large group of Marists gathered at La Valla. The Marist family is preparing a prayer book for their meetings in the local language. Br Tabunga prepared the group who animated the liturgy, especially with the young people, who will soon participate in a 4-day meeting for a youth orientation programme.

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

ENTERING INTO A PROCESS THAT WILL CONCLUDE WITH THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The launching of the 1st Provincial Assembly of the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia and the launching of the 3rd Provincial Chapter took place online on 13 August in the chapel of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS). The theme that will accompany the Province in the next triennium is depicted by the phrase “Let us dare to live with hope” and aims, from the reflections and new projects, to work towards initiatives that support the purpose of the Marist mission, in line with the challenges and pressing needs of the present day.



to support the Brothers of the Chapter with proposals to be presented to the III Provincial Chapter for decision making.

This event will take place online, from 26 to 29 October, and will include moments of formation and discussion on the institutional performance projected into the future. During this month of August, all the Marist missionary areas are carrying out the Preliminary-Assembly of Mission, which consists of time for listening accompanied by their representatives in order to support the reflections to be made by the participants in the Assembly.

[In this video you can watch the launching of the process leading up to the Assembly and the Chapter.](#)

1st Marist Provincial Mission Assembly

The Assembly will bring together Brothers, Lay Marists, collaborators and specially invited young people to share important aspects of the mission, to reflect on courses of action and

III Provincial Chapter

The meeting will bring together the Brother Capitulants in Veranópolis, from 23 to 26 November, for reflection and the taking of institutional decisions, such as priorities and points of reference for the next Triennium, and the election of the Provincial Council. During the programme, there will also be the inauguration ceremony of Br. Deivis Fischer, appointed as the new Provincial for the next three years.

Br. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

23. THE PROBLEM OF LEGAL AUTHORISATION

A problem that arose from the time of Marcellin Champagnat was the legal and ecclesial authorisation of the Institute. At the time of Marcellin's death, the Institute was recognised by the bishops of the dioceses where it was present and by the town councils. But it was not recognised by the French government or by the Roman Curia.

The lack of legal recognition created several problems: the difficulty in expanding, since it was limited to a certain region; the possibility of dispensing its members from military service; the need to take a public examination to become a teacher; and the higher cost of taxes and duties to be paid when a Brother died and had made a will in favour of the Institute.

The lack of ecclesial recognition represented a lack of identity, the fledgling congregation was either a third order linked to the Society of Mary (Marist Fathers) or an independent and autonomous religious congregation.

Of all these problems, the main and most urgent is to resolve the problem of the military service for the young Brothers. It should be remembered that in a country in constant war, military service lasted at least 6 years, and it meant a long separation from the Institute for any moderately confirmed vocation.

In a recognised congregation, its members were exempted from military service with an obedience from their Superior.

The Superior indicated that the person concerned had been appointed to a school, and that was enough. As the Marist Brothers were not recognised, if one of the Brothers was called up, he had to present himself or a replacement, which at the time of Marcellin's death meant paying someone about 6000 francs, i.e. 15 times the annual salary of a Brother.

Since the time of the founder, it had been noted that the solution of paying a replacement was ruinous, and he had contacted Fr Mazelier, superior of a congregation of teaching brothers with recognition but no members, to ask him to accept temporarily some of the brothers called up for military service. It was also known that the government did not want to recognise any of the new congregations.

[Other episodes](#)

marist world

SPAIN: "ENCUENTROS HORIZONTE" IN ROXOS

BRAZIL: LAVALLA200> INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN TABATINGA

AUSTRALIA: RED BEND CATHOLIC COLLEGE FORBES REFLECTING ON MARIST ASSOCIATION



COLOMBIA: MARIST NOVITIATE "LA VALLA", MEDELLÍN

SAMOA: MARIST BROTHERS

LEBANON: FRATELLI PROJECT

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

A GUIDE TO THE PROVINCE PROVIDES TIPS FOR VOLUNTEERING

want to help, but where do I start? This is the title of the latest e-book launched by the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, in collaboration with the "Involve" Programme of the PUCPR, to commemorate the National Volunteer Day on 28 August. It is an e-book with theoretical and practical information on how to participate or even develop one's own solidarity actions.

The guide gathers advice from experts and shows how everyone can participate, according to their availability and personal tastes, in social initiatives. It also provides strategies to help develop an action plan, especially for taking a project idea forward.

In addition, the publication offers a brief history of volunteering in



Brazil and other useful information for volunteers.

[Access the digital guide here](#)

OCEANIA

THE LAST MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL

“We speak with you today to mark a milestone—the last meeting of the Oceania Council. Milestones can be helpful because they encourage us to reflect on the past and look toward the future. Leadership in dynamic times always requires different skills than required in the past”, said Br. Josep Maria Soterias, General Councillor, during the last meeting of the Oceania Regional Council, held on August 17 ([read the message](#)).



At the last meeting, a tribute was paid to all the Marists whose commitment and work have enabled the council to function so effectively over the last 11 years. The former Administrative Unit leaders since 2010 Brothers Carl Tapp, Jeff Crowe, Julian Casey, David McDonald, Peter Carroll, Jean Marie Batick, John Hazelman. The coordinating roles of Anthony Robison and later Kevin Wanden. The many members of com-mittees, commission, working parties, groups as well as past and current members of the Oceania Council. This process had laid out the initial work towards the formation of the new province that we are now undertaking.

“Like Marcellin, the past and present leaders within the region of Oceania welcomed collaboration and cooperation. Even before the creation of Oceania Council, there had been a great deal of cooperation between the Provinces of Melbourne, Sydney, New Zealand, and the District of Melanesia, particularly in formation and Marist laity. The aim of these efforts of collaboration was quite simple: to seek input from multiple perspectives and to value diverse points of views”, recalled Br. Josep Maria referring to the formation of the Council.

A Brief History

In December 2010, the Provincial-Chapters of Melbourne, New Zealand and Sydney and the District Council of Melanesia petitioned the Superior General to restructure to form the Region of Oceania. The following statement was adopted: We, the delegates of our Brothers, in a spirit of mutual respect and concern for the wellbeing of each other and the future of Marist life and mission in Oceania, commit ourselves to the establishment of a new governance and canonical structure.

The first meeting of the Oceania Council (est. 2010) occurred in April 2012. The mandate of the Oceania Council was to promote greater collaboration for “vitality and viability for mission” across Oceania. To give effect to this new responsibility, the Oceania Council set up a number of Oceania Commissions to develop

practical collaboration in the areas of Brotherhood, Ministry, Formation, Finance, and Solidarity. From the outset, committed Lay Marists were appointed to participate as equal members of the various Commissions.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Administrative Units of Australia, Melanesia and the Pacific was approved by the Superior General and his Council on June 17th, 2013.

With the implementation of the New Models project in 2015 discussions were focused on reconfiguring the Oceania Region. Following the meeting of the extended General Council at Mitagong in October 2016 it was agreed that the councils of the three administrative units (Australia, Melanesia and Pacific) would meet together in April and August 2017. These discussions proposed that a single administrative unit be formed in Oceania.

During 2018-19, the College of Leaders engaged a Change Management Consultant, Mr. Peter Cranko, to assist in the process of determining a pathway forward for Oceania. This process resulted in a workshop of representatives from Australia, Melanesia, and the Pacific in March 2020.

At the conclusion of that workshop, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the respective Councils of the administrative units that one new Province in Oceania be established. The Councils of the Province of Australia and the Districts of Melanesia and the Pacific unanimously accepted this recommendation and petitioned General Council on 20th July 2020 to form a single administrative unit. The General Council on 12th September 2020, approved the request and endorsed the plan to move to a single administrative unit for Oceania by the end of 2022.

SECRETARIAT OF LAITY

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION – STAGE II

July 2021 marked the beginning of STAGE II of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, inspired by the text of Luke’s Gospel: “He started to walk with them” (Lk 24, 15). This stage emphasises reflection meetings at local and administrative unit level. It lasts one year and ends in June 2022.

This phase includes the study and deepening, at personal and community level, of the proposed themes arising from the four objectives of the Forum. The dynamics will be developed in small groups made up of brothers, mixed communities, lay men and women with a vocation, fraternities of the CMMF or other movements face-to-face, where possible, or virtually. It is important to stress that each Administrative Unit will schedule this stage according to its internal programming possibilities, which means that it is not necessary to cover all the months assigned in the proposed year.

- Publicise the proposal: July 2021
- Generate small group dialogues: July 2021 to May 2022
- Select 3 representatives: July 2021 to May 2022
- Hold Provincial/District Forum: July 2021 to May 2022
- Submit findings of the Administrative Unit: by 30 June 2022

From July 2021 to May 2022 each Administrative Unit:

- Publicise the proposal of the International Forum.
- Generate dialogue among all the participants, in small groups (communities), in person or virtually, according to the guidelines given by the Secretariat of the Laity.
- Participatory selection of representatives (two lay people and one brother) to attend the International Forum. Their participation will be in November 2022 (Rome, in person) and in November 2024 (virtual).
- It will hold a Provincial/District Forum or a similar face-to-



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON
**THE LAY MARIST
VOCATION**

WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION.
"YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHESY" (JOEL 3,1)

face or virtual event in which representatives of the local phase will participate. Each AU organises this experience according to its reality. The three representatives of the AU will be sent to the Forum.

By 30 June 2022, the provincial Lay Animation Teams will send to the Secretariat of the Laity the conclusive documents in which the results of the local and provincial/district process and the representatives are consigned.

Reflection sheets for community meetings

To support the dialogue of the communities, the Enlarged Bureau of the Laity has prepared a series of instruments both to guide the animation of the Provincial or District Teams and to help in the reflection of each fraternity or community of lay people and brothers and sisters. It consists of a series of cards to animate the meetings and which touch on each of the objectives of the Forum, with the intention of generating reflection and dialogue among all the lay people and brothers involved in this process and of formally welcoming their opinions and contributions to the Forum. The Provincial or District Teams responsible for the Forum in their respective Administrative Unit will animate this stage and distribute this material according to the calendar which each one has organised.

[You can find all the sheets here](#)



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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

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