



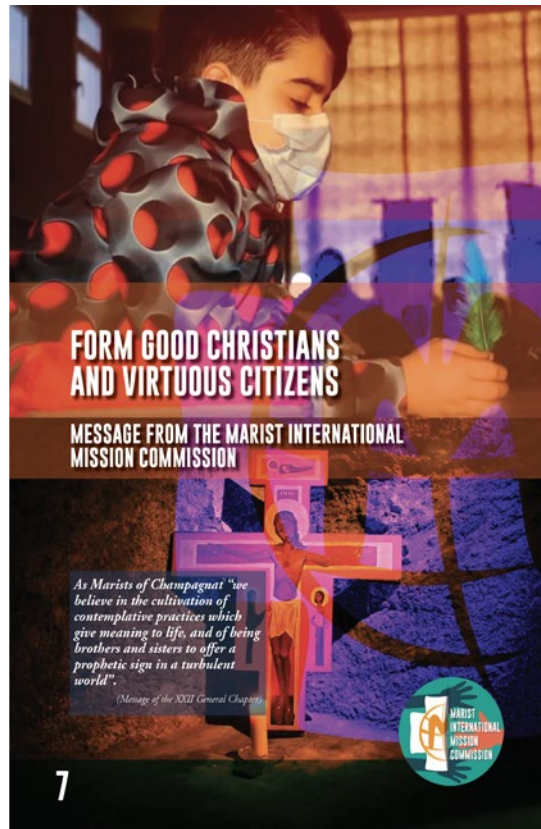
## MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

# FORM GOOD CHRISTIANS AND VIRTUOUS CITIZENS

The seventh message of the International Commission on Marist Mission deals with a challenge for our time, as Marists of Champagnat: 'Form good Christians and virtuous citizens'. So invited Marcellin Champagnat invited his first Brothers. "Today, and more than ever, this invitation still defines our mission as Marist educators, whether we be Brothers or lay people."

Christophe Schietse, Secretary for Mission of the Marist Region of Europe, have produced the reflection statement based on the contributions of the Commission.

The text highlights the Marist Mission that focuses on education and evangelization, "enabling the whole of society to contribute to the



education of future generations, knowing full well that the future of the social project depends on them". That goal can be reached promoting the "concept of an integral and inclusive education which does not wish to be confined to the classroom but which embraces a variety of life experiences, learning processes, and educational and pastoral events where the other is welcomed in their difference – be it cultural, social, ethnic, religious or gender – in order to discover in that person the splendour of the image of God."

You will find the other messages that the Commission has published from January onwards [at this link](#).

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## general administration

- On Monday, Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, Libardo and Goyo, Econome General, and Ben, General Councillor, met with the Legal Structures Committee to continue the process of establishing legal entities in support of Marist mission.
- Last week Andrea Rossi, Director of FMSI, participated in the meeting on Marist Solidarity in the Americas promoted by the Solidarity Heart Network.
- Brothers Ben and Josep Maria, General Councillors, met on Monday with Agnes Reyes of the Bureau of the Laity to create solidarity in the accompaniment of Marist lay life in the Oceania region.
- On Tuesday, Br Ben met with Brothers Peter Carroll and John Hazelman and the Executive Committee to define the

future Star of the Sea Province in Oceania.

- On the same day, Br Mark and Diugar from the Education and Evangelisation Secretariat participated in the online meeting of the Education Commission of the UISG and USG.
- On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Education and Evangelisation Secretariat (Brothers Beto and Mark together with Diugar and Javier) meet with the Education Coordinators of the Administrative Units in view of the launch of the Marist Global Network of Schools from the 25th to the 29th of October.
- On Wednesday, there was a meeting of the International Mission Commission with the participation of Brothers Luis Carlos, Ben and Ken.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

# 4TH MEETING OF THE REVIEW TEAM OF THE DOCUMENT

The fourth meeting of the team on the review of the Marist Vision on Education: In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat, A vision for Marist Education Today took place online on the 8th of September 2021. The Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas gave an update of the teams work since inception and enjoined all to key into the new phase of the task. The open session of the meeting led the team members to discussing the question on whether the document should be reviewed or rewritten. Having read the document and seeing its relevance to the Marist mission today, members agreed to review, expand, and adapt it to the current trends in the society and the Marist world. The high point of the meeting was the readiness of the team to work hence an introduction to the next assignment dwelling on the environment and event in the Marist world that will affect Marist life and educational values.



**The focus of the team for the next session will be the following:**

- Objective: To begin the study of the “external” context that influences and affects the Marist mission.
- Scope: the team will seek to explore the current “DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD” and how to “THINK

- AND GESTATE AN OPEN WORLD” and project the way this influences the Marist mission currently and in the future. This is inspired by part 1 (9-53) and part 3 (87-127) of “Fratelli Tutti” an encyclical of Pope Francis on the important topic of Brotherhood (We All are Brothers).
  - They will work in pairs of (2) volunteering to study the selected topic and to highlight the elements that have the greatest impact on the Marist mission today.
- the future of the mission is dependent on the collective effort of all Marist of Champagnat to innovate and adapt to the trends that will keep the charism alive at the service of children and young people. All are called to collaborate with the team reviewing the document to make the exercise a success.

*“The students don’t have books so at the end of lessons they borrow books to copy the subject. I was outside the school when a student arrived to ask to borrow a book. Her name is Domingas, she is in grade 10 and already has a 3-year old daughter. Domingas asked me what I thought of Nivava and I told her that I was delighted with the happiness of the people and how they smiled and were welcoming. I told her that in Portugal people are always worried about unimportant things, like buying a new mobile phone, or travelling, or having more and more new clothes... She answered me: ‘Brother, it’s because here people don’t show their sadness and worries’.*

*Domingas is right... here people are very resilient, but they have to worry even about what they are going to eat tomorrow or if they are not going to eat... But the truth is that they do not show sadness. Even the children who come here every day (who I know are hungry) have never asked me for anything. They only ask me to repeat the same magic trick over and over again”.*

(Brother Jaime Barbosa, from Portugal, speaking of his experience in Mozambique)





**DISTRICT OF THE PACIFIC**

Two Brothers made their first profession in the Institute on 11 September. Br Karalo Ratuyada took vows in Lomeri, Fiji and Br Melchior Nowelle in Mulivai, Samoa.

**UNITED STATES NOVIATE**

On 12 September, Robert Dittus and Ryan Richcher conducted the investiture ceremony, which marks the beginning of the novitiate. Br Dan, Provincial, and Br Séan, Novice Master, attended the celebration which was broadcast on Face Book.

The two young men will be making their novitiate in Poughkeepsie, New York, along with Carlos Pena, from Portugal, of the Province of Compostela.

**COMPOSTELA**

The Provincial Teams for Education and Evangelisation, Social Mission and Institutional Services have begun a new course under the motto. #MaristasESCUCHA. Br. Óscar Martín, General Councillor, presented the lines of joint work for this new academic year in which the Marist Global Network of Schools, the Global Education Pact and the Marist Global Family Fund are to begin.

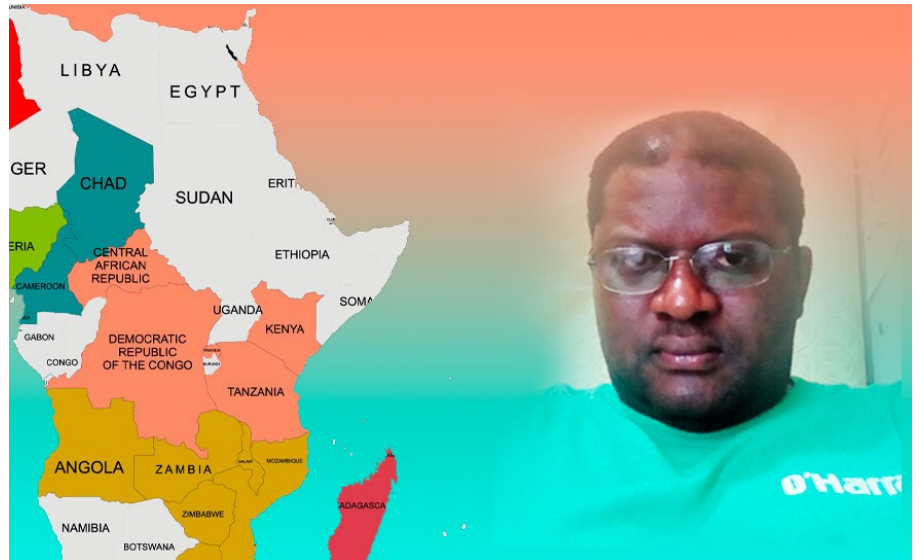


**ASIA**

The Marist Community of Talit, in India, received two new Marist Aspirants: Polu Sateesh Reddy & Rohid Tigga. And two Postulants - Shovo Chiran and Shohel Costa - began their postulancy program in Mymensingh, Bangladesh.

**EAST CENTRAL AFRICA**

**BR. VENCESLAS BAINDEKELI BEIMOYATO  
NEW PROVINCIAL**



**B**rother Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General of the Institute, announced on 15 August the appointment of Brother Venceslao Baindekeli as Superior of the Province of East Central Africa. He will begin his first three-year term of office during the Provincial Chapter to be held from 14-17 December. Br Ernesto expressed his thanks to Br Venceslao: “Your experience as Provincial Councillor and Vice-Provincial, your sensitivity and listening skills, as well as your participation as delegate to the XXIInd General Chapter will help you to fulfil this mission at the service of the

Institute”. “Your experience as Provincial Councillor and Viceprovincial, your gentleness and capacity to listen, as well as your participation as a delegate at the XXII General Chapter will help you to accomplish this mission serving the Institute.”

Br Venceslas will replace Br Théoneste Kalisa, Provincial since 2015. In the letter sent to the Brothers of the Province, Br Ernesto also thanked Br Théoneste: “Thank you for your dedication, for your attention to the Brothers and to the laity, for accompanying situations that are sometimes not easy”.

**Brother Venceslas Baindekeli**

Brother Venceslas was born in Kisangani (R.D.C.) on 15 October 1973. His father is BOLUNDA Christophe and his mother YOHA Modestine. He made his first profession in the Marist Institute in Save (Rwanda) on 10 May 2001 and his perpetual vows in Kisangani on 26 August 2006.

He made his superior studies in Kinshasa after being two years in the MIC. He has a degree and the diploma of specialization in mathematics in mathematics by the University of Kinshasa.

Br. Venceslas is Provincial Councilor since the 5th Provincial Chapter and now he is Vice Provincial.

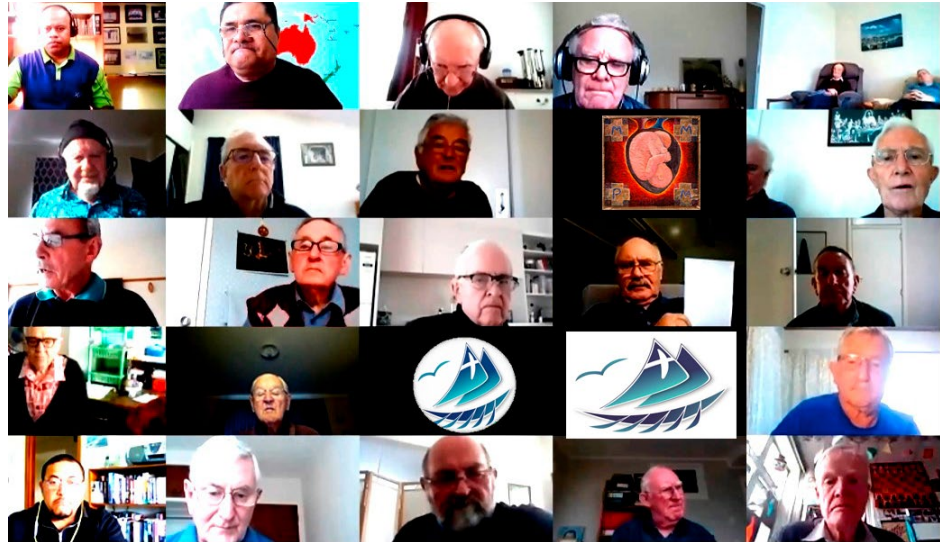
At present, he is living in the community of Kinshasa as Superior of the community, working in the school as director.

DISTRICT OF PACIFICO

# BROTHERS DISCUSS MARIST SPIRITUALITY AND ECOLOGY

**O**n Sunday 5th September about fifty Brothers from the District of the Pacific came together for a Zoom meeting to discuss Marist Spirituality and Ecology. After a prayer led by Brother Anitelea, the participants watched a video-clip organised by Brother Sean Sammon to launch the topic. The discussion was facilitated by Brother Christopher. After the presentation, the Brothers split into small groups to discuss where Mary came into their lives as they progressed through their life. During this time, they also viewed a video "What is Spir-ituality".

Following this the combined group began a discussion on "Care for Mother Earth". This began with a Powerpoint presentation by Brother Christopher. The Brothers then split into groups to discuss where Marist Spirituality came into Eco spirituality in



our lives today. Their findings and views were then shared by the full group. The participants finished the morning by discussing the Lomeri Project and the possibilities about it and then finished the morning with a final prayer.

**B. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute**

## 25. FIRST SYNTHESIS OF MARIST SPIRITUALITY (CIRCULAR ON FAITH)

**In Brother François' communication with the whole Institute, the Circulars stand out. They deal with a wide range of subjects, from family news, the dead, instructions, aspects of discipline and congratulations. One of the most important is the circular On the Spirit of Faith, written between 1848 and 1853, and delivered in four sections. It presents the first synthesis of the spirituality of the young congregation.**

**"It is to be a Christian and to live as a Christian, that is, to think, speak and act according to the Gospel and in accordance with the Gospel".**

**Like Jesus, "let us love what he loved, let us value what he valued, let us despise what he despised and act as he acted."**

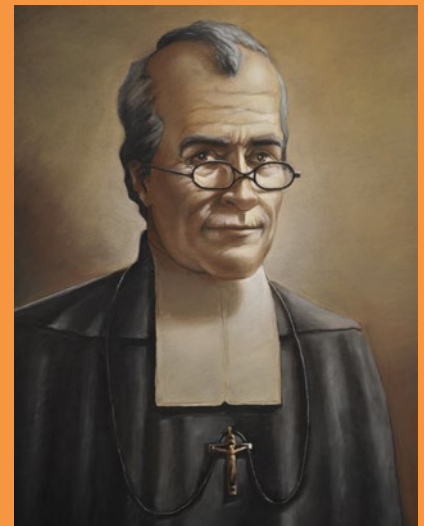
**"As religious teachers in the first place, we are responsible for our state to teach the truths of the faith to our pupils, to make them know and love Jesus Christ, for we wish to make them good Christians."**

**"The knowledge and teaching of religion will always be the aim and end of all our studies and of all our lessons, for we must learn and teach the profane sciences only in order to be able to spread with more authority and fruit the science of religion."**

**"Let us add, the spirit of the Little Brothers of Mary, their distinctive character must be a spirit of humility and simplicity, which leads them, after the example of the Blessed Virgin, their mother and their model, to have a particular predilection for the hidden life, for humble work, for the poorest places and classes, which leads them to do good everywhere without noise and without glitter, which endears them to a modest and reduced, but solid and religious education."**

**"There are four means: assiduous reading and meditation of the word of God, the spirit of prayer, frequent communion and the sacred exercise of the presence of God."**

Other episodes





marist world

INDIA: MARIST ASPIRANTS IN TALIT: POLU SATEESH REDDY AND ROHID TIGGA



UNITED STATES: INVESTITURE OF ROBERT DITTUS AND RYAN RICHTER IN THE NOVITIATE OF POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK



HUNGARY: MARISTA TESTVÉREK



BANGLADESH: POSTULANTS SHOVO CHIRAN AND SHOHEL COSTA BEGAN THEIR POSTULANCY PROGRAM



UNITED STATES: EL PASO



FRANCE NOTRE DAME DE L'HERMITAGE

UNITED STATES

PROVINCE COMMISSIONS SECOND VOLUME OF THE HISTORY OF THE MARIST BROTHERS

Brother Daniel O’Riordan, Provincial of the Province of the United States, has requested Brother John Klein, recently named as Province Historian, to research and write Volume II of the History of the Marist Brothers in the U.S. Brother John received his Doctorate in United States History from Fordham University in 1980 and also received a year-long research grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to work in the Rockefeller Family Archives. Volume II of our Marist United States History follows the excellent work, *Go to the Land I Will Show You*, written by Brother Leonard Voegtle in 1995. In this first volume, Brother Leonard discussed the arrival of the first group of French Brothers in Canada in 1885 until the creation of the Province of Canada and the Province of the United States in 1911. Volume II hopes



to “pick up” the story as Marist life grew and thrived throughout the next forty-eight years until the formation of the Provinces of Poughkeepsie and Esopus in 1959.

The research for Volume II has already begun with the assistance of Brother John Nash, the United States archivist. The province archives hold a rich

source of documents, correspondence, photographs, etc. This resource will be supplemented through personal interviews with brothers whose Marist lives began in the mid-twentieth century and several who entered the juniorate or novitiate earlier than that. In reality, it is hoped that the development of this new History will be a collaborative effort involving as many of the brothers as possible.



GENERAL HOUSE

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 13: CLIMATE ACTION

In previous articles we have already talked about the Sustainable Development Goals, as the set of objectives chosen by the member countries of the United Nations as a commitment to work towards a better world. Goals that aim to reduce inequalities, help the development of the most disadvantaged, take care of our planet... Goals that are not watertight compartments, but are related to each other. On this occasion, through this article, we wish, as Marists of Champagnat, to join in the efforts of thousands of people and of the governments of many countries in the achievement of this objective that we present here. Climate change affects all countries, in different ways, but all of them.

The last General Chapter, held in 2017, commits us to care for the planet, which means caring for the environment and taking courageous action to combat climate change and its effects. We wish to abandon the culture of egos and promote ecosystems. We wish to commit ourselves to care for our common home (calls 3 and 5).

What can we do from our concrete situation? Search creatively. Investing in renewable energies, promoting responsible consumption, reducing or eliminating the use of plastics, caring for our use of water and electricity, accompanying those who are most in need... In many parts of the Institute, steps have already begun to be taken in this direction (local and provincial initiatives, regional or institutional plans, collaboration with other organisations and agents of change).

Education, the main mission of the Marists of Champagnat, can become a powerful instrument for the transformation of present and future generations. We can be engines of change in the midst of our societies. Formation and awareness plans in our families, communities, and educational works. Action plans,



at all levels, that include small concrete actions and medium to long term action strategies. Advocacy plans with other civil society actors and groups.

This call is to each of us, regardless of age, nationality or ability, as the Message of the 22nd General Chapter tells us. Individually and as an Institute we can and must work together for a better world, to reverse and mitigate climate change and its consequences. Yes, this means stepping out of our comfort zone. And yes, it means living based on “an integral ecology”. Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si* (25), reminds us that “climate change is a global problem with serious environmental, social and economic dimensions... and poses one of the major challenges facing humanity today”. As Marists of Champagnat, as Christians, as human beings, individually and as an institution, we wish to contribute our life and mission towards a better world.

Many initiatives are being implemented. This is the way. Awareness and action. The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor cannot wait.

Br. Angel Diego – Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity



**Institute of the Marist Brothers General House**

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto:comunica@fms.it)


**Website**

<http://www.champagnat.org>

**YouTube**

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