



Year **XIV** - Number **698** | 13 OCTOBER 2021

# MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | [WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG](http://WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**THURSDAY** (2 PM - Rome)

Network Higher Education Institutions

1st Meeting  
of the Observatory for Youth  
and Youth Ministries



Webinar

Link Zoom: <https://bit.ly/2YTd8PQ>  
ID meeting: 972 0140 3933  
Password: 697145

**THURSDAY** (11 AM - Rome)

Institute's Administration

Webinar: "Pandemic  
Learnings and challenges  
for the Marist future"



14 October: Europe and Africa (11 AM Rome)  
19 October: Americas (Guatemala 8 AM | 11 AM Brasilia)  
09 November: Asia and Oceania

To participate, please request information  
to the Provincial or Provincial Administrator

**25 - 29 OCTOBER**

Marist Global Network of Schools

[www.champagnat.global](http://www.champagnat.global)

Launching of the network

CHAMPAGNAT  
GLOBAL

\* SUMMIT

\* VIDEO EPISODES

- 25 October - 3 PM (Rome time), in Spanish,  
with subtitles in the other 3 languages  
- 27 October - 3 PM (Rome time), in Portuguese,  
with subtitles in the other 3 languages  
- October 29th - 6 AM (Rome time) in English  
with subtitles in the other 3 languages

## general administration

- A regular meeting of the General Council was held on Monday.
- This week, Brothers Angel and Lindley, and the International Commission for the revision of the Formation Guide, met with regional groups and international commissions that are working on the process: Americas, Monday and Thursday; Asia and Oceania, Thursday; Europe and Africa, Friday.
- Last week, Andrea Rossi, director of FMSI, met with the CEO of Misaan Cara and members of other congregations to discuss the drafting of their work plan.
- On Tuesday, Br Valdicer, director of the WCC, met with the three brothers who are part of the Solidarity with South Sudan project: Longinus Uchechukwu Dimgba and Sylvanus Aniebiet

Victor Okon from Nigeria; Br Joseph Kwame Mammah from Ghana.

- On Wednesday there is another meeting of the International Mission Commission, coordinated by the Vicar General, Br Carlos, with several members of the General Administration.
- On Wednesday and Thursday, the "Brothers Today" team from Europe is meeting in Madrid. Br Lindley will participate.
- On the same days, Manu, from the Bureau of the Laity, will also participate in the meeting of the European Team of the Laity in Madrid.
- On Friday, Br. Ben, General Councillor, meets online with the Executive Committee of the future Star of the Sea Province of the Oceania Region.

GENERAL HOUSE

# EVENT PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN MARIST HIGHER EDUCATION YOUTH OBSERVATORIES

Groups from 27 institutions of Marist higher education participate in the online meeting

On 14/10, the 1st Meeting of the Observatory for Youth and Youth Ministries of the Marist International Network of Higher Education Institutions will be held online through Zoom. The event will bring together teams of Pastoral members of the Youth Observatories of the IES, Marist Youth Ministry (Marist Colleges and Universities) and leaders of the IES.



**Marist International Network**  
of Institutions of Higher Education

### A theme for dialogue

Based on the theme “Youth in the Marist DNA: the culture of encounter with contemporary generations through dialogue with the Youth Observatories”, the event aims to share good practices existing in the Youth Observatories of the Marist HEIs, to deepen the theme of Youth inspired by the research conducted by the Research areas of the Universities, to propose strategies for joint action and to share actions between the HEIs.

Manuir Mentges, President of the Marist International Network of IHE, and a representative of the General House of the Marist Institute. In the follow-up, the programme will include the participation of Prof. Dr. Roberto Rafael Dias da Silva, from the Universidade do Vale dos Sinos (UNISINOS). He will give the lecture “The culture of encounter with the young university generations in the current scenarios”.

In the second part of the event, cases of action with young people in Mexico and the work developed by the Youth Observatories of the PUCRS and the PUCPR will be presented. At the end of the event, there will be a time for discussion to join in the sharing of ideas and challenges resulting from the event.

More information about the Marist International Network of IHE [here](#).

Have a look at the other events of the Marist International HEI Network [here](#).

To participate, please use the meeting registration form, available here:

Link Zoom: <https://puclink.pucrs.br/cl/PL5-i/A/57b8/0/BMxv/Ox6bH3Fm0kc/1/>

Meeting ID: 972 0140 3933

Password: 697145

### TIMES BY COUNTRY/CITY:

- Mexico – Mexico City – 7AM
- Peru – Lima – 7AM
- USA – Poughkeepsie/NY – 8AM
- Brazil – Brasília – 9AM
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – 9AM
- Nigeria – Enugu – 1PM
- Congo Republic – Kisangani – 2PM
- Spain – Madrid – 2PM
- Italy – Roma – 2PM
- Kenya – Nairobi – 3PM
- Philippines – Davao – 8PM
- Australia – Brisbane – 10PM

**UMBRASIL**

The 1st Symposium on Evangelisation in Marist Brazil will be held on 19 and 20 October. The aim of the initiative is the promotion, interaction and exchange of knowledge between the pastoral teams of the three Provinces of Brazil. The theme of the meeting is "Horizons of the Marist evangelising mission".

**MEDITERRÁNEA**

Two members of the Provincial Solidarity Team - José Antonio and Alejandro - co-ordinators of the Marcellin Champagnat Foundation, were present at the transnational meeting of the European Union project "Inclusive Emergency", which was held in Turku (Finland).

**PACIFIC DISTRICT**

More than 40 participants attended the online meeting on the theme 'Marist Youth Ministry' held on October 3rd. Coordinated by Brothers Petero and Anitelea, the event was a great opportunity to witness what Joanie (REMAR New Zealand), Sheena (MARISI FIJI) and Tabunga (CHAMPGNAT Youth Kiribati) shared about what is happening in this area and their dream for the future.

**UNITED STATES**

The Marist Laity Council met for the first time in person, after 17 months of virtual meetings. The group was very excited about the meeting and the possibility of being together, joining meals, prayers and liturgy. The group was joined by Br Dan O'Riordan, Provincial, and together they shared some of the vision and projects for the coming year.

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

The Province launched the campaign "HOJE COM O HAITI" to help the victims of the earthquake of 14 August. The campaign started on 30 September and will end on 15 November 2021.

**ECONOME GENERAL****WEBINAR: "PANDEMIC LEARNINGS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE MARIST FUTURE"**

*"Such is hope, it surprises and opens horizons, it makes us dream the unimaginable and realizes it."*

*Pope Francis*

The Institute's Administration Office, under the direction of Br. Libardo Garzón, Econome General, has programmed three editions of a webinar on the theme "Pandemic: Learnings and challenges for the Marist future", directed at the leaders of the Administrative Units, the Commissions of Economic Affairs and the leaders of Marist works (schools, Universities, hospitals, social centres, etc.).

The webinar, which is divided by region and is held via zoom, has the following objectives:

- To study in depth some of the lessons that the pandemic has taught us in our schools, universities, hospitals, etc.
- To propose some future perspectives for the management of our Administrative Units.
- To encourage further reflection in the AUs and Regions.

The programme by region is as follows:

- **14 October: Europe and Africa**  
Panelist: Dr. Gustavo Inácio de Moraes, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS).  
Time: Abidjan, 9:00; Madrid, 11:00; Beirut, 12:00.
- **19 October: America Sur and Arco Norte**  
Panelist: Dr. Gustavo Inácio de Moraes.  
Time: Guatemala, 8:00; Brasília, 11:00.
- **09 November: Asia and Oceania**  
More information soon.

The webinar lasts one hour and has simultaneous translation in English, French and Spanish.

If you have not yet received an invitation to participate, you can ask the Provincial or Provincial Administrator for the link to access the webinar for your region.

PDF: [Inglês](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

11 OCTOBER

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

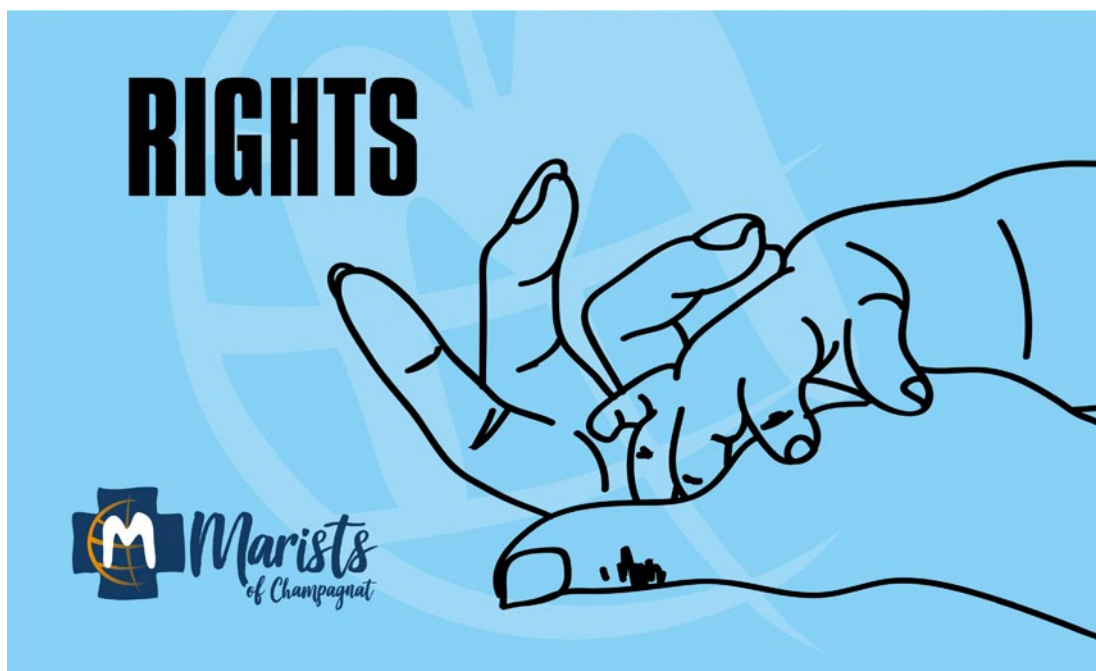
In many parts of the world, girls are still struggling with gender-biased practices. In rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa, they wake up early, clean the house, cook food, and follow their parents to the farm or stay at home and look after their younger siblings instead of attending school. Their parents believe that chores are sufficient for them to learn how to keep a family. The few of them who enroll in primary schools drop out to get married and become mothers. This situation robs them of their girlhood and destroy their chances of progressing in education.

The plight of girls caught the attention of the world in 1995 during the World Conference on Women in Beijing. Consequently, on December 19, 2011, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declared **October 11 the International Day of the Girl Child** to recognize girls' rights and the challenges they face around the world. Since 2012, October 11 has been marked to denounce gender-based discrimination against girls and to promote their empowerment.

## Marists of Champagnat

As advocates of Child Rights, we, Marist, join other religious congregations and civil society organizations to promote girls' rights because we believe that they have the right to enjoy their physical and mental health. Champagnat's charity towards poor children is our source of inspiration. Champagnat always insisted that 'equality ought to be the hallmark of the brothers' schools and characterize all aspects of the children's education. In the footsteps of Champagnat, we are invited to see in the girls and boys only what faith reveals and take into consideration only their conduct, love them and treat them all as our children.

Girls are not immune to the world's problems. They are also



torn apart during protracted conflicts, humanitarian crises and population movements but their biggest challenge in the developing countries is unequal opportunities to enjoy their education right. Concerned about their plight and hoping that the Beijing Conference would draw attention to it, Pope John Paul II, in his **letter of May 26, 1995 to Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women of the United Nations**, told her that the Church has always demonstrated in action and in word, the importance of educating the girl-child, and providing her with health care, particularly where she may not otherwise have had these benefits.

Pope John Paul II insisted inter alia that as children continue to face crises that threaten their long-term development and their very life, it is imperative that the security afforded by responsible parents within the context of the family be re-established and reaffirmed because children, particularly girls, need the positive environment of a stable family life that ensures their development to human maturity. Given that today, there is no 'standard' family form, the Pope John Paul II urged Mrs. Gertrude Mongella to encourage Women's Conference, institutions and organizations around the world to give special attention to the girl child.

Brother Francis Lukong  
Secretariat of Solidarity 11/10/2021



marist world

PAKISTAN: SARGODHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – 1ST HOLY COMMUNION



ROMANIA: MOINESTI COMMUNITY



UNITED STATES: LAY MARIST COUNCIL



ITALY: MEETING OF THE FRATELLI PROJECT COUNCIL IN MANZIANA



GREECE: NURSERY SCHOOL – SMYRNI



BRAZIL: FÓRUM MARISTA DE GESTORES

NIGERIA

BROTHERS OF NIGERIA PROVINCE MADE THEIR PERPETUAL PROFESSION

Seven brothers from the Marist Province of Nigeria celebrated in Orlu the perpetual profession on Saturday, the 18th of September. They are Br. Magnus Inyang, Br. Israel Atakwu, Br. Francis Aboko, Br. Julius Egbo, Br. Andrew Nnoham, Br. James Odoh and Br. Peter Onah. The perpetual profession of the brothers was witnessed by the Christian community, the Provincial, Br. Vincent Abadom, who received each brother's vows, and Monsignor Egbosimba, the special delegate of the local ordinary of the Catholic Diocese of Orlu, Imo State, Most Rev Augustine Ukwuoma.

The Brothers who celebrated their perpetual profession were presented by their parents to the Provincial. During the celebration, the brothers committed themselves as youth apostles to evangelize, teach, advise, challenge, console and love the young with the ultimate purpose of leading them to Jesus through Mary.

The occasion was graced by the Catholic Bishop of Orlu Di-



ocese, who seized the opportunity to congratulate the newly perpetually professed Brothers.

The ceremony was attended by priests, religious, as well as the parents and relatives of the Brothers, teachers, Marist staff and students.

It was a day of great joy for the entire Christian community.



CRUZ DEL SUR

## THE PROVINCE PROMOTES THE "PLAZA DE LAS INFANCIAS" (CHILDREN'S SQUARE)



In the framework of the project *Abrazando Infancias*, promoted in all the educational centres of the Marist Province Cruz del Sur, the Provincial Team of Education and Innovation began on September 27th the virtual fair *Plaza de las Infancias*, which will end on Friday, October 8th.

Brother Marcelo De Brito, Vice-Provincial, said during the opening: "The *Plaza de las Infancias* is a celebration that marks a point of arrival on the road, and which, at the same time, relaunches the project embracing childhoods, towards a stage of deepening and consolidation of the principles and outlook, but also of new listening in a constant search. It is an event that allows us to bring the voices of the educators, but also those of the children of the initial level and the first cycle of primary school and their families, through the stories and narratives of each of the schools that will join their journey throughout these two weeks".

The *Plaza de las Infancias* presents encounters, dialogues, moments of reflection, celebration, learning and expression through webinars, assemblies, exchanges, narratives and presentations of pedagogical projects,

shared games and other activities where children, adolescents and young people (NNAyJ) are at the centre of the Marist Mission. The virtual fair is part of the *Embracing Childhood* project that seeks to welcome each child from their uniqueness and way of being, through teachers who accompany and intervene based on play, interest, listening and curiosity.

"It is an innovation in the province that all the schools are looking at their pedagogical proposal from a common point of view, with a shared horizon and a collaborative construction" explained Brother Marcelo, after thanking all the principals, teachers, school guidance teams and families who made the virtual fair possible. I hope that we can enrich ourselves and enjoy these two weeks that we will join through our screens. May it allow us to visualise each one of us as a vital part of something much bigger and more valuable at the very heart of the Marist mission", concluded the Vice-Provincial.

[More information about the event on the website of the Plaza de las Infancias.](#)



## GREECE

# INAUGURATION OF A NEW SCHOOL UNIT OF THE LEONINE OF NEA SMYRNI

The new school unit of the Leonine of Nea Smyrni was inaugurated on 25 September 2021: the Nursery School "Diamantideio", a name given because of the considerable sum of money donated by the former student and great benefactor of our Marist Establishments in Greece, Mr. Diamantidis.

Many personalities participated in the official inauguration: His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio, Mgr Savio Hon Tai Fai, His Eminence the Archbishop of Corfu, Mgr Georges Altouvas, who presided at the blessing of the Nursery School "Diamantideio", the Vicar Provincial, Brother Gabriel Villa-Real and the Provincial Econome, Brother Xavier Giné, also representatives of the State, the Minister of Tourism, the Mayor of the town of Nea Smyrni, and also executives from our Establishments.

And of course, Mr. Diamantidis, former student of the Leonine of Athens, who contributed to the completion of the construction work with a considerable sum of money. In his speech, Mr. Diamantidis said, among other things, that he remembers the Brothers, his school and his school years with love. He still appreciates the education he received at Leonine, as he often points out when talking to his former classmates: "Thanks to Leonteios, we have become the people we are today".



The ceremony took place outside. First of all, there were a number of speeches by people who played a significant role in the conception and realisation of this important work. Everyone stressed the role and meaning of this Nursery

School in the school complex of Nea Smyrni. Some even underlined with emotion and fervour the role of the inspirer of this Marist work. At the end, what was a very important surprise was that the benefactor, Mr. Diamantidis, promised that he would give all the money necessary to consolidate the foundations of the Establishment of the Leonine of Athens. Finally, a delicious meal followed in the courtyard of the college.

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

## 29. SEPARATION FROM THE MARIST FATHERS

**Marcellin died thinking and believing that the Marist Brothers were one of four branches of the Society of Mary. In 1936 the Marist Fathers were approved and entrusted with the missions in Oceania (Polynesia). But this approval said nothing about the Marist Sisters and Brothers.**

**A discussion arose as to whether the Fathers and the Brothers were one and the same society. At the same time, there was a debate as to whether the Marist Brothers were a part of the Marist Third Order or a separate religious congregation.**

**Between 1852 and 1854 a general chapter took place, bringing together 33 brothers representing all the provinces. At the last session Fr Colin, Superior General of the Fathers, came forward to report that Rome had refused to keep the two congregations united under one superior general. Thus Brother François took the title of Superior General. At this Chapter, under his direction and that of his two assistants, the Chapter drew up the principal legislative texts: Common Rules (1852), Conduct of Schools (1853) and Rules of Government (1854).**

Other episodes

MARIST AFRICAN MISSION COMMISSION

# NEW HORIZONS CONTINUES ITS ACTIVITIES DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

After an enforced pause due to the pandemic, Br. Francis Jumbe (Provincia de Southern Africa), Br. John Bwanali ( Malawi), Br. Mark Omede (Sec-retariat for Education and Evangelization), Andrea Rossi and Marcello Romagnoli from the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) met on 21 September to discuss online about the challenges of the Covid and also about the achievements obtained by the New Horizons project in the six countries (Malawi, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique) were is implemented.

Following the Strategic plan (2019-2022) to respond the 3 main challenges have been identified, News Horizons in its second year of implementation has achieved to benefiting 7623, 5174 children, mainly poor boys and girls. Results might have been a lot higher, but lockdowns and closure of schools for several months in all 6 countries have hindered the implementation of all training activities taking place at school level. However, it is worth noting the increase of enrolments of students in most of the schools. Such increment came because of implementation of plan for “Low Income Families and “New Learning Opportunities Plans” customized by the schools

In relation to Mozambique, it should be noted that in October 2020, this country prepared the Universal Periodic Report for Mozambique that has been submitted to the United Nations with the help of FMSI. That is a great achievement, as it’s the first time that Brothers in Mozambique are taking part in the process of UPR submission, and it will contribute to putting schools and students more in the condition to be active agents of change.

Although the realization of the “New Horizons” project is supported by FMSI and Misean Cara, the issue of covid-19 requested a budget change that Misean Cara promptly accepted. Materials were procured in Malawi,



Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Face masks, hand washing soap, Buckets, thermometers, oxes of gloves, hand sprayers, disinfectants and hand sanitizers were distributed in 14 schools.

Initially, before the pandemic, New Horizons II had defined achieving 4 priority objectives in its work area, now the consequences of the covid are added to these. That means taking steps to “support students during and after the pandemic whether they’re learning remotely or in classrooms. The social, emotional, and mental health needs of students must be taken into account, as well as the impact that lockdowns are causing especially among girls and the most fragile. There is need for more governments to develop post COVID-19 strategic plans for reopening schools, plans that take into account the needs of girls and young women”, said Andrea Rossi, director de la Fundación Marista para la Solidaridad Internacional (FMSI).

The project New Horizons – launched by the Marist African Mission Commission – performs in 21 local schools and communities in Malawi, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique. It includes 18.334 students, 790 teachers and 469 school staff. New Horizons II aims at increasing equal access to quality education for all children in order to promote equity, social justice and inclusion, pursuing improvement of school in terms of its capacity to become a place for the safeguarding and empowerment of children.



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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

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