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MARIST NEWS

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20 MAY 2022 TO 06 JUNE 2023

YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS

On October 10, 2021, we announced the Year of Marist Vocations from 20 May 2022 to 06 June 2023. It will be a year to celebrate the vocation of all Marists of Champagnat – Brothers and Laity – and of “Caring for and generating Marist life”, a slogan adapted from the circular of Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Homes of Light. This expresses very well our stance in this turbulent moment in which we see how fragile life is.

Logo: Caring for and generating Marist Life

To mark the beginning of the Season of Advent, the Secretariat of Brothers Today, on 28th November, unveiled the logo of the Year of Marist Vocations. Just as the first week of Advent is



caring for and generating
MARIST LIFE
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about hope or expectation, in this case of the coming Messiah, so is the unveiling of the logo a looking forward to that year of grace which we will soon celebrate in the whole Institute.

The Year of Marist Vocations is symbolized by a plant shoot in the gardener's hand. New growths in plants are very delicate and therefore need utmost care. The same is true with our vo-

general administration

- After having participated in the Provincial Chapter on Monday and Tuesday, the General Councillors, Brothers Sylvain and Oscar visited the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia. Then, until 5 December, they will be visiting the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul.
- On Monday, the CMI team, consisting of Br. Fachi and Matteo, attended the meeting of the Coordinators' Network. Br Ángel Diego, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, was also present.
- On Tuesday, General Councillors Josep Maria and Ben participated via Zoom in a meeting with the leaders of the Australian Province.
- On Tuesday and Wednesday, Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, presented the theme “Spirituality for Mission” during the sessions on spirituality and interiority promoted by the Institute's ongoing formation team.
- On Wednesday, the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley, participated in the

- meeting of the Brothers Today Team of the Arco Norte Region.
- On Wednesday and Thursday, the working groups and the executive committee are meeting to reflect on the “Marist Educational Mission”. The Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation and Brother Ángel Diego are also taking part.
- On Thursday, the directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, Brothers Ángel Diego and Francis, took part in the Webinar “Ecology”, promoted by the Province of Compostela.
- On Friday, Br Ángel Diego will take part in the meeting of the management team of the Centre Catholique international de Geneva.
- From Thursday to Sunday, Brothers João Carlos, General Councillor, and Ángel Medina, will collaborate in the online sessions of the virtual retreat of the Province of América Central on the Constitutions.
- From Friday to Sunday, Brothers João Carlos and Ben will participate in the assembly of the Italian sector of the Province of Mediterránea.

cation, our Marist life. It must be tended attentively. At the same time, we must sow the seeds if we want the garden to flourish, following what Champagnat did during the difficult period when vocation was scarce.

The stalk shaped like an M – for Marist and for Mary – is colored green to signify life. The two leaves represent Marist Brothers and Marist Laity.

The leaves are heart-shaped, proclaiming our love for the charism. However, they are not in the usual upright position, indicating the inquietude of the comfort zone and the restlessness in the face of emerging needs.

The vibrant colors blue and orange speak to us of the rich variety of ways in which we respond to the call, according to our respective gifts. Blue characterizes fidelity to our commitment. Orange, on the other hand, suggests ardor and reflects our passion for Marist life.

The hand and the lump of soil that supports the shoot paints



a picture of caring, whether it is for the seedling, or for the sprout. This is a reminder of our responsibility to nurture Marist life – our own, that of our companions on the journey and of those who are just beginning. We need a new culture of caring for life, building on what we have learned these past few years which were indeed challenging for all humanity.

Resources

Accompanying this article is [short video about the development of the logo and picture files of the logo](#) and theme in the four languages widely used in the Institute. The logo and theme are now at your disposal; you may begin using them, for example, in preparing materials and resources.

Soon we will publish an ORIENTATION GUIDE (previously referred to as the Primer in the Year of Marist Vocations) to help all of us in the development and animation at the different levels of the Institute. Other resources will follow in the succeeding months. Together, we take the next steps among many on the journey to the Year of Marist Vocations.

CASA GENERAL

APPOINTMENTS OF THE ENLARGED SECRETARIAT OF THE LAITY

The Superior General, Br Ernesto Sanchez, and the General Council have appointed Ms Alida Bodomanitra (Madagascar) and Mr Nathan Ahearne (Australia) as members of the Enlarged Bureau of the Laity for a period of three years. Both have started this mission on 01 November 2021.

Alida Bodomanitra works together with Br Elias Odinaka in the animation of the Africa Region. Nathan Ahearne replaces Ms. Carole Wark representing the Oceania Region.

The Extended Secretariat is a team that supports the directors of the Secretariat, Raul Amaya (Santa Maria de los Andes), Agnes Reyes (East Asia) and Manu Gomez (Mediterranean).

It is currently composed of Ana Saborío (Central America),



Nathan Ahearne (Australia), Br Elias Odinaka Iwu (Nigeria), Alida Bodomanitra (Madagascar) and Marcos José Broc (Brasil Sul-Amazônia).

ON-GOING FORMATION TEAM

PROGRAM ON SPIRITUALITY AND INTERIORITY: CARING FOR LIFE, CARING FOR GOD

The Program on Spirituality and Interiority began on November 15, Monday, for Group A and November 16, Tuesday, for Group B. With more than 250 brothers and lay men and women having enlisted to participate, this online program will run for 6 weeks and with 120 minutes per session.

Following the success of the MidLife/Senderos Program in August-September 2021 with the same theme, “Caring for life, caring for God”, the program invites participants to reflect on the theme of spirituality and interiority in the light of the 22nd General Chapter and the circular Homes of Light by Br. Ernesto Sanchez

It will also be venue to share learnings and to offer paths that will help us to answer the questions that Brother Ernesto suggested: What is my thirst? What is my spiritual quest

today? What concrete means do I use to quench my thirst for God?

Furthermore, the participants will have the opportunity to practice meditation or contemplative prayer as a means to connect with our centre.

The Program on Spirituality will be developed in the following manner:

- Session 1: Theme: “Spirituality and interiority” (Br. Josep Maria Soterias).
- Session 2: Theme: “Body and spirituality” (Elena de Andrés, Laywoman)
- Session 3: Contemplative prayer practice. Theme: “Treasure and Witness: Spirituality for the mission” (Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez)
- Session 4: Contemplative prayer practice. Theme: “Mary, inspirer of a spirituality that cares for life”. (Br. Ernesto Sánchez)
- Session 5: Contemplative prayer practice. Theme: “Towards a contemplative practice in challenging times” (Br. Ken McDonald)
- Session 6: Contemplative practice. Theme: “Compassion and non-violent communication” (Br. Joe Walton).

Group A participants attend the Monday session at 2 PM, Rome time; while those in Group B are in the Tuesday session at 9 PM, Rome time. The last meeting, session 6, will be on December 20 and 21. The idea of having 2 groups is in consideration of the different time zones. In this way, the participants can choose which time is more favorable for them.

The Program on Spirituality and Interiority is directed by the On-Going Formation Team composed of Br. Antonio Peralta, Br. Joe Walton, Br. Joaquim Sperandio and Br. Teofilo Minga.



X MESSAGE DE LA COMMISSION DE MISSION: PROTECTION DE L'ENFANCE



The tenth message of the Marist International Mission Commission of the Marist Institute is entitled « défenseurs des droits et engagés dans la culture de la protection de l'enfance dans toutes les missions maristes ». Divided into two parts, the message underlines what Pope Francis has mentioned repeatedly and what the Institute wants to be fundamental to its mission:

« La protection des mineurs et des personnes vulnérables fait partie intégrante du message de l'Évangile que l'Église et tous ses membres sont appelés à proclamer dans le monde entier. ... nous avons tous le devoir d'accueillir de bon cœur les mineurs et les personnes vulnérables et de créer pour eux un environnement sûr, en donnant la priorité à leurs intérêts » (Pape François – 26 mars 2019)

The first part of the message was written by Br Alberto Aparício and María del Socorro Alvarez Noriega, with the collaboration of Mónica Yerena Suárez. It seeks to show how the institute promotes, protects and defends the rights of children and young people and their empowerment as agents of transformation.

The second part focuses on the culture of child protection, starting from the verification that, since the Institute's origins, this concern has been central in pastoral activities. This section of the message was written by Br Ken McDonald, General Councillor.

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

The Marist International Mission Commission, made up of Brothers and Lay people, took on the task of reflecting on the centrality of Marist mission in today's world.

In this link you will find all the messages that the Commission has published since January.

If you would like to share your ideas, reflections or experiences with the Commission following this message, you can write to the following e-mail address: fms.cimm@fms.it

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

The Marists of the community of Itapejara do Oeste are helping Haitian immigrants to integrate into Brazilian society through solidarity projects, especially by teaching Portuguese and helping with practical life issues. This year, up to September, 6,300 Haitians entered Brazil. Br Hugo Depiné recounts this experience in this [video](#).

CANADA

On 20 November, Vallee Jeunesse Québec organised a workday to carry out very concrete tasks: the participants managed to remove and replace the floor covering of four rooms, change all the lights and the heaters in the nursery. This day proved once again that Marist values lead to great achievements.

COMPOSTELA

The Marist School of Educational Leadership is furthering the goal of developing the leadership competency of the people who make up Compostela Marist with an online seminar "Leadership Experiences that Inspire" on Thursday 2 December at 18:00. The aim is to generate a motivating and inspiring meeting based on the personal and professional experience of leaders committed to sustainability and to draw conclusions applicable to the educational environment ([registration](#)).

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

During the III Chapter, held from 23 to 26 November, the new Provincial Council was elected. Brothers Danilo Correia Bezerra, Dionísio Roberto Rodrigues, José Carlos da Silva Bittencourt, Manuir José Mentges and Miguel Antonio Orlandi will accompany the Provincial, Brother Devis Alexandre Fischer for the next three years.

GENERAL HOUSE**FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW ON-GOING FORMATION TEAM**

The new On-Going Formation Team of the Institute met for the first time on November 19 at the office of the Secretariat of Brothers Today. This new team is composed of Br. Antonio Peralta (Santa Maria de Los Andes), Br. Xavier Barceló (L'Hermitage) and Br. Michael Sexton (Australia). Also in attendance were Br.

Oscar Martin and Br. Joao do Prado (Link Councilors) and Br. Angel Medina and Br. Lindley Sionosa of the Secretariat. Br. Michael, who cannot be present in person, connected via Zoom.

After the prayer, Br. Oscar and Br. Joao expressed their gratitude to the team for having accepted this special service. They proceeded to share the General Council vision for on-going formation in the Institute stressing, among others, the importance of working as a team, being available globally, and thinking more in terms of collaboration with the Marist Laity and the Area of Marist Life. In dreaming about the programs for the 2023-2025, the invitation is to focus on emerging needs especially during this period of the pandemic.

The second part of the meeting was the presentation of the Programs for 2022, which the Secretariat has prepared in collaboration with the Link Councilors. Most of the programs are re-activation of those already planned but cancelled because of the pandemic. These are:

- Midlife/Senderos, for brothers be-



tween the ages of 45 to 65 years.

- Gier, for young brothers who made final vows in the last 5 years.
- Mentors/Acompañantes, for those accompanying young brothers in the communities.
- Third Age (simultaneous in three separate language groups, English, Spanish-Portuguese and French)
- Regional Program for Vocation Animators. This is open to both brothers and laity.

The On-Going Formation Team will animate the Midlife/Senderos, Mentors/Acompañantes and the Regional Program (in collaboration with the team formed in the regions). Meanwhile the Third Age Programs and Gier will be facilitated by teams of brothers invited specifically for these.

In January 2022, new On-Going Formation Team begins its mandate. They will be based in the General House. On the other hand, the actual team, which also includes Br. Antonio Peralta, will finish in December 2021. Others in the present team are Br. Joe Walton, Br. Joaquim Sperandio and Br. Teofilo Minga.

SRI LANKA

BROTHERS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE IN TUDELLA RETURN HOME AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF WAITING

With the opening of international travel in and out of Sri Lanka (South Asia province), the Brothers who have been stranded at Tudella since their profession are now free to return to their homes: – six Vietnamese (since April 2020), three east Timorese and one Vietnamese (since April 2021).



The last two years have posed numerous challenges, which Brothers Rod Thomson (Australia) and Real Sauvageau (Canada) have managed marvelously. The new Novice Master replacing Nick Fernandez, Brother Paco García from MDA, wasn't able to gain entry to Sri Lanka from Philippines, so the Brothers Rod and Real were the only Formators on site. They had to cope with continuing the formation of two groups of newly professed Brothers and effectively changed the Novitiate into a Scholasticate, arranging in-person and online programs for them.

local lockdowns and Brothers who contracted Covid, always conscious to maintain the harmony and spirits of the community. The Institute is very grateful to Rod and Real for carrying so much. Thanks to Rod and Real.

At the same time, they were called upon to support the Novices and interim Novice Masters who were situated in six different locations around Asia-Pacific. They also needed to work around

The new novices will arrive in Sri Lanka in January-February next year.

Br. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

36. JOURNEY TO ROME FOR ECCLESIAL RECOGNITION

Brother François went to Rome in 1858, at a time when the Pope was in dispute with the French Risorgimento movement, to obtain ecclesiastical recognition. During his stay in Rome, Brother François suffered directly and violently from the adversity of contact with the situation in Rome.

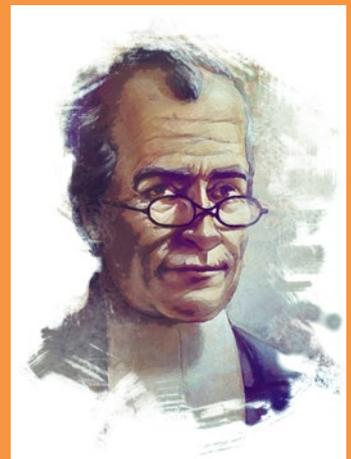
Accompanied by Brother Louis Marie, he left Saint-Genis-Laval on 6 February. Father Nicolet, procurator of the Marist Fathers, warned him before his departure: "In Rome they are tired of so many new institutions" and they wish to carefully examine his rules and constitutions before approving them.

He thought he had put together a good dossier; he hoped to obtain provisional approval very quickly. But in Rome, the French were distrusted; they had not yet forgiven the imprisonment of the Pope by Napoleon; moreover, Brother François was a layman, who spoke mediocre Latin, not in keeping with ecclesiastical usage, and he presented himself as the superior of a congregation that had no priests among its members.

The Roman congregations think that the Marist Brothers are more like the Brothers of the Christian Schools than the Marist Fathers. At the same time, and even more serious: Rome received complaints from former brothers about the way the congregation was organised and the way it was treated.

The procedures and the timetable dragged on and Brother François returned to Saint-Genis in August without having obtained the authorisation he had sought.

Other episodes



marist world

BELGIUM: MARIST EDUCATION -WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

EL SALVADOR: REMAR COMMUNITIES

FRANCE: STUDENTS OF TOULOUSE IN L'HERMITAGE



AUSTRALIA: VOLUNTEERS AT AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY (AMS)

SPAIN: VOCATIONS MEETING IN GUARDAMAR

VENEZUELA: MARISTS OF NORANDINA

VIETNAM

MARISTS HELP NEEDY FAMILIES VICTIMS OF THE PANDEMIC

Some low-migrant workers and their families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in Binh Duong and Ho Chi Minh city in Vietnam, have benefited from the Global Marist Family Fund for Humanitarian Emergencies. Through Marist Project VN, in the Marist District of Asia, Brothers Bao and Thuan, with the support of volunteers including a group of lay men and women, some students, and factories workers, succeeded to carry food items to over 7, 329 people in need.



Other activities carried out included delivering people positive with Covid-19 to hospitals, supplying medicines, assisting orphanage centres, and supporting field hospitals for covid in Tân Uyên, Ben Cát and Thu Duc, with necessary provision and 7000 medical masks.

With more donations in cash and kind from friends, well-wish-

ers and volunteers, and despite difficulties faced including travel restrictions, long distances to cover, and several break downs of trucks carrying food supplies, the Marist Project Trust VN was able to reach needy people and give them food items, face masks, and medicines.



BRAZIL

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON BROTHER FRANÇOIS RIVAT

The Science and Faith Institute of the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR) is promoting, on 30 November and 1 December, the **1st International Colloquium on Brother François Rivat: Mysticism of everyday life: a historical-theological approach** (Mística do Cotidiano – uma abordagem histórico-teológica). The event is an initiative of the Laboratory of Studies of Brother François Rivat, a body dedicated to the study of the intellectual and mystical legacy of the successor of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

During the colloquium, theologian Maria Clara Bingemer and historian Brother André Lanfrey will examine the historical-theological approach to the concept of mysticism and its relationship with the life and writings of Brother François, the first Superior General of the Institute of the Marist Brothers.

Maria Clara, who will give her lecture on the 1st of December, affirms that “the life and work of Brother François Rivat place us before what theology and spirituality studies today identify as the ‘mysticism of everyday life’. Peacefully active, he ceaselessly sought union with God in order to find his will and put it into practice. In this sense, he is in line with the life of many other great mystics in the history of Christianity. And for this very reason, he appears as a witness and an example that can stimulate the Christian life of many men and women today, in the midst of secularisation and in the heart of post-modernity”.

1º Colóquio Internacional do Laboratório Ir. Francisco Rivat da PUCPR

Mística do cotidiano: uma abordagem histórico-teológica

9h // 30 de novembro
Conferência: Os diálogos do Ir. Francisco Rivat com autores místicos com Irmão Lanfrey

9h // 01 de dezembro
Conferência: Mística e contemporaneidade com Maria Clara L. Bingemer

Laboratório Ir. Francisco Rivat Instituto Ciência e Fé PUCPR MARISTA

PROGRAMME

30 November (Tuesday)

- 9am – Conference: Dialogues of Brother François Rivat with mystical authors and Brother André Lanfrey.
- 10h30 – Communications of the Group of the Laboratory of Studies Brother François Rivat of the PUCPR.

1st December (Wednesday)

- 9am – Conference: Mysticism and the contemporary world, with Maria Clara Bingemer
- 10h30 – Round table with the Group of the Laboratory of Studies Brother François Rivat of the PUCPR

To take part in the meeting, [register through this page](#).

The meetings will be simultaneously translated into Portuguese <> French.

Objectives of the laboratory

The Brother François Rivat Studies Laboratory of the Science and Faith Institute of the PUCPR has the following aims:

- To deepen the knowledge of the person and work of Brother François Rivat in the context of 19th century French spirituality and his involvement in Christian mysticism.
- To contribute to the Marist Institute for the perpetuation of its Historical and Spiritual Patrimony (PHEM).
- To prepare a critical bilingual edition (French-Portuguese) of the works of Brother François Rivat.
- To train qualified researchers and multipliers of the PHEM.
- Disseminate Marist pedagogy and spirituality at the University and elsewhere in the Institution.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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