



Year **XIV** - Number **706** | **9 DECEMBER 2021**

# MARIST NEWS

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

LET US DARE TO LIVE LIFE WITH HOPE!

## III CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF BRAZIL SOUTH AMAZÔNIA

For four days, from the 23rd to the 26th of November, 41 Brothers of the Province of Brazil South-Amazônia met at the Recanto Marista Medianeira to deliberate on the direction of the institution for the next three years. The General Councillors and liaisons with the South America Region, Brothers Óscar Martín and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, took part in the chapter assembly.



In the course of the meeting, Brother Devis Fischer was sworn in as the new Provincial, replacing Brother Inacio Etges, who has completed his 12-year term as Provincial. "Let us dare to live life with hope! This is the challenge for the next three years. As Jeremiah says on his return from exile: 'there is hope for the future'. As long as there are men and women who believe, who commit themselves, who give their lives, there is hope! And this hope leads us to dare," said the new Provincial, Br Devis. See the investiture ceremony of Br. Devis: <https://youtu.be/y5aw7dKkfaU>

During the 3rd Chapter, the new Provincial Council was also elected. Brothers Danilo Correia Bezerra, Dionísio Roberto Rodrigues, José Carlos da Silva Bittencourt, Manuir José Mentges and Miguel Antonio Orlandi will accompany the Provincial for the next three years.

The Provincial Chapter closed with a solemn Mass, during which Brothers Antonio Rai Costa de Menezes, Donovan

### general administration

■ This week the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley, are visiting the interprovincial novitiate La Valla in Medellín, Colombia, and on Wednesday 8th December they will take part in the liturgy of First Profession.

■ During this week, several meetings promoted by the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation are taking place in order to promote initiatives inherent to the Marist Global Network of Schools.

■ On Monday, Brothers Luiz Carlos, Vicar General, and Valdicer Fachi, Director of Cmi, participated in a videoconference with representatives of the Marist world to celebrate International Volunteer Day (5 December), which had as its theme: Volunteering now for our common future.

■ On the same day, the directors of the Bureau of Solidarity, Brothers Angel Diego and Francis, met with the Executive Committee of the Marist International Solidarity Network to prepare for the second assembly. On Thursday, they will

meet with the representatives of the Regions of South America and Arco Norte for the same purpose, and on Saturday, with those of the Africa Region.

■ From Monday to Thursday, General Councillors Sylvain and Oscar visited the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul.

■ On Wednesday, Brother Valdicer has a meeting in Porto Alegre to analyse and prepare a proposal for Interprovincial Volunteers to be implemented at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul.

■ On Thursday, the laypeople and brothers of the General Administration are meeting to mark the opening, at local level, of the process of participation in the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation. Up to June 2022, 6 more meetings are scheduled.

■ On Friday, the directors of the Solidarity Secretariat and the FMSI team are taking part in a training meeting on the use and technical management of the mechanisms for the defence of human rights before the United Nations.

Farias Machado, Luciano Taminski and Matheus da Silva Martins renewed their temporary vows.

**Priorities for the next three years**

As a result of the reflections and discussions of the Brother capitulants, two priorities were approved for the next triennium: Identity of Being Brothers and Solidarity and Care for Life.

The first priority, “Identity of Being Brothers”, aims to strengthen the identity of consecrated Marist religious as a community of faith, based on community life, spirituality and mission, with audacity and hope, responding to the signs of the times. The points of attention in this area will be culture

and vocation animation, ongoing formation, and care for the brothers’ families.

The focus of the second priority, “solidarity and care for life”, is the promotion, through networking, of the culture of solidarity with a view to social transformation, the promotion of human rights and care for our common home, collaborating in the building of the Kingdom of God.

Other points of attention for the three years will be: to improve the knowledge and the living of the Marist charism in the mission areas; to support formation and vocational itineraries with the Marist laity; to promote the integral development of the person and his or her leadership.

ITALY

**ANNUAL TUTTI FRATELLI GATHERING IN ROME**

The Annual Tutti Fratelli Gathering took place in the afternoon of November 27 at the General House of the de la Salle Brothers. About 90 brothers, among them 8 superiors general, from 14 congregations were in attendance.

Sixteen (16) Marist Brothers from the General House, Manziana and San Leone Magno, were present, led by Br. Ernesto and Luis Carlos.

Sr. Anna Damas of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS) was invited to talk about Interculturality: Challenges and Opportunity for Fraternity. Her discourse was made up of three parts: (1) Sociological Part – The 2 basic types of Culture; (2) Biblical Part – A Look at the First Christian Community; and (3) Practical Part – What can we do to build an intercultural community? Within her presentation, the participants had two moments of sharing in small groups about their experiences related to theme being developed.

The afternoon started with a welcome message from Br. Robert Schieler, FSC, the Superior General of the de la Salle Brothers. A short prayer followed, after which Sr. Anna was introduced to the assembly.

After the talk of Sr. Anna, the brothers took a simple snack. They gathered once again for the final prayer at the main chapel.

Due to the on-going pandemic and the restrictions attached to



it, the gathering was made as brief as possible. In the previous years, there was more time for interaction capped by a dinner. In 2020, it was done online.

Tutti Fratelli is a group of religious brothers living and working in Rome. It was organized in 2010 as an initiative of the Union of Superiors General (USG) to promote the vocation of the religious brother in the Church, to share experiences and to develop common initiatives.

The first annual gathering happened in 2015. The Secretariat of Brothers Today represent the Marist Brothers in the core group that meets monthly, and which plans and prepares the annual meetings and inter-congregational formation courses offered to religious brothers.

## AUSTRALIA

The Marist Mission and Life Formation Team of the Marist School Australia produced some resources that communities or individuals might like to use in their prayer or reflection. This material is based on the Formation Theme for 2022: Known and Loved: Dignity for All. To see and download the package, you can follow [this link](#)

## SAMOA

Marist Brothers' Primary School in Apia came second among the schools on the island. First place went to Vaiala Beach School. Encouraged by the award, the students at Marist Brothers' Primary School took part in an eco-friendly initiative on 4 December, which involved litter picking and tree planting in some areas of the city.

## PHILIPPINES

The Human Resource Office of the ND Kidapawan College organized a Marist Formation Session with their faculty and staff last December 3, 2021, Friday. The formation sessions were focused on the Marist Charism and the Marist Core values.

## MEDITERRÁNEA

The provincial newsletter Hoja Informativa, which has been in existence for 19 years, has changed its name to 'Somos Maristas' (We are Marist). The first issue came out in November (<https://www.maristasmediterranea.com/hojas-informativas>). The initial approach is to include content from each of the eight settings in separate "We Are" sections: Education, Family, From Within, Diversity, Safe Environment, Mediterranean, Land and Network.

## PROVINCE OF L'HERMITAGE

## THE LOCAL PHASE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION



On Saturday 20th November, the first of four online workshops proposed by the Province of L'Hermitage to live the process of the **International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation** was held. The participants, more than seventy Champagnat Marists from the Province, deepened their understanding of the Marist vocation. The first workshop offered spaces for prayer, listening, dialogue, the opportunity to recognise oneself and to feel oneself a Marist province.

Mrs Catherine Demougin and Brother André Dury shared their testimony of Marist life. They spoke of welcome, listening, accompaniment, rereading life in the light of the Gospel, respect, presence in the world of young people and adults, being an open community, Marist life in the mixed community of Mulhouse-la Valla. Following their testimony of LIFE, in the small group meeting space, the participants were able to talk about the challenges to be faced as Marists on this vocational journey. The reflections of the groups will form part of the contributions that will be made as a Province to the

theme "The Marist Vocation and the Lay Marist Vocation".

The next online workshop "Formation and Accompaniment Pathways" will take place on Friday 14 January at 6.30 pm.

## International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation

The Forum has as its motto "Welcoming, nurturing, living and sharing our vocation". It is a journey of dialogue and walk together in an ongoing process of discovery and development. It aims to show the importance of each moment and how they fit together in a gradual process of discipleship that impels us to be men and women for others, to go forth, to be brothers and sisters at the service of all.

We are now on the 2nd step of the Forum, until June 2022, with meetings held in the Administrative Units. [Download here the sheets to animate the meetings of phase 2.](#)

[Here you find further info about the Forum.](#)

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

The week of 25-29 October 2021 saw a very special event: the **launch of the Marist Global School Network**. Since 2017, when we were invited by the General Chapter to Journey Together as a Global Family, steps have been taken to create a common meeting place for the Marist International School Community.



Over the course of several years, the common dream that has materialised in the **Champagnat Global**

**Network** has been built in a creative and collaborative way: a meeting point for the entire Marist school community to have the opportunity to interact globally and to promote activities of interest that promote quality educational, connection, exchange, innovation and technology, evangelisation and social transformation.

The operational plan of the **Champagnat Global Network** includes activities aimed at the school community such as: face-to-face and online meetings with educational coordinators and leaders, webinars with school leaders, teachers and parents, and international educational projects developed jointly by different schools. We will also launch massive open online courses (MOOCs) on topics of general interest and aimed at an unlimited number of participants.

Champagnat Global, has a digital platform, **AGORÁ**, which is one of the main tools of the Network to promote communication, meeting, and interaction of the International Marist School Community.

**Agorá** will facilitate, on a global level:

- Cultivating Marist identity and a sense of belonging
- Cultivating a sense of Marist identity and belonging
- Sharing experiences and good practices.
- Fostering synergies and collaboration
- Encourage exchange between members of the school community.
- Carrying out international

academic projects.

- Promote solidarity and social transformation.

Having experienced a stage of collective design of the creation of the Network model, under the methodology of Appreciative Inquiry, which concluded with the launch of Champagnat Global, we are beginning a new stage in the implementation of the **Network**, which we will continue to build together in three phases:

- Validation: The Network, far from being a final product, is a minimum viable product, which has enough features to allow us pioneers to live the network experience, and to go about validating the assumptions with which the model has been built in its design phase.
- Iteration: The experience will allow us to gather a great deal of learning that will help us to keep adding functionalities to the Network and keep developing, incremental versions that respond to our real needs.
- Scaling up: Once our model has been validated and after sufficient experience, we will be ready and able to achieve high growth and be able to focus on mass impact transformations.

We will soon inform you of the Open Network activities that will take place during the year 2022 at **Champagnat Global**.



From 15 December 2021 you will be able to join **Agorá's** pioneer groups.

**Champagnat Global**, a place where we all belong!

## RWANDA

## EUGÈNE KWIZERA AND PLACIDE UWIRGIYE WERE ADMITTED AT THE NOVITIATE IN SAVE

During the Eucharistic celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King on 21 November, postulants Kwizera Eugene and Placide Uwiragiye Uwiragiye, Rwandan nationals of the Province of East Central Africa (PACE), were officially welcomed into the novitiate of Save, Rwanda. Fabien Bulaimu Poyo, novice master, on behalf of Brother Provincial Théonèste Kalisa. The postulants arrived at the novitiate in September, after two years of formation at the postulancy in Mwanza, Tanzania. At the beginning of their life in the Institute, the Brothers entrust their journey to the intercession of Our Good Mother and to fraternal prayers.

The Interprovincial Novitiate of the Marist Brothers of Save (Rwanda) welcomes young men from Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Tanzania, Kenya and Madagascar.

The Novitiate currently has seven novices: two in their first year and five in their second. Fabien Bulaimu Poyo (Democratic Republic of Congo – PACE), novice master; Br Jean Luc Randriatahina, assistant novice master (Madagascar-Madagascar); and



Br Louis de Gonzague Karambizi, bursar (Rwanda – PACE). The community is still waiting for the postulant Nestor Rafanambiantsoa, from Madagascar, who is also due to begin his novitiate this year, but due to the pandemic has not yet been allowed to leave his country.

## EUROPE

## THE MARIST REGION LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE

The Marist Region of Europe launched the new website that you can visit here <https://champagnat.eu/en/>. It will be the online meeting point for the five provinces that make up the region: **Compostela**, **Central-West Europe**, **Iberica**, **L'Hermitage** and **Mediterranea**. On the main page you will be able to know the Marist news of the Region and, by navigating through the different links, you will be able to deepen our life and mission.

Marist Region of Europe, 5 Provinces

This new website was created with the aim of connecting online the five Marist Provinces of the Marist Region of Europe and to give visibility to common projects and reflections. An activity that, in addition, you can follow on our social networks like twitter, facebook or instagram.

As Marists of Champagnat we are brothers and lay people united in a global family that follows in the footsteps of Marcellin



Champagnat. We follow Jesus in Mary's way, we live in fraternity and we make our lives a witness of welcoming presence, especially through the education of children and young people.

A testimony that we hope to transmit and share through this new web site, a window to the world, through which to show our mission and its fruits in solidarity, education, evangelization and protection of children, four signs of identity of the Marist DNA.

PROVINCIAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

# MARIST NETWORK COMMEMORATES 2 YEARS

**O**n the 29th of November, the WCC Department organised, together with the members of the Marist Provincial Volunteer Coordinators Network, a videoconference meeting to commemorate 2 years since the foundation of the



Provincial Volunteer Coordinators Network (VPCs). The meeting was attended by members of the Network with other people strategically involved in the coordination of Marist Volunteers, Interprovincial and Local, representing different Administrative Units and the six regions of the Marist world. Valdicer Fachi, Director of CMI, underlined: “In these two years of walking as a Network of PCVs we have built a greater sense of belonging and of a global body collaborating for the construction of a global charismatic family”.

The meeting opened with a common prayer, the greeting of Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and the commemoration of what has been done in these 2 years of life of the Network, the priorities followed, the meetings held between the PCVs of the different Administrative Units and Regions, and the situation of the volunteers in times of pandemic.

This was followed by a moment of dialogue divided into groups, at the end of which the respective representatives presented the results and ideas that emerged. Among the main reflections, the importance of having walked together in these 2 years, often finding common ground, the sharing of experiences and chal-

lenges to be taken up together, the need to look for new ways of continuing to keep Marist volunteering alive and to overcome the impact of the Pandemic, both in person and virtually.

Many then underlined the importance of working in a new and ever greater way on accompaniment, on the formation of Volunteers and volunteer leaders, as well as questioning how to involve as many volunteers as possible, especially young people and Brothers, promoting Marist Volunteering with ever more concrete testimonies of life and mission.

Matteo Cavicchioli, a member of the CMI team, sums up these two years of the PCV Network in this way:

“The Network has given a common sense of unity in the charism and in joining a mission without geographical or cultural boundaries in times of closures and challenges. We have always continued to encourage each other, seeking in every way moments of encounter and sharing. Together we have matured the awareness that the journey together as a network is necessary to face and respond to the needs of a world that will be different from what it was before the foundation.”

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

## 37. THE HOUSE OF SAINT-GENIS

**During the time Brother François was in Rome, the general house of the Institute moved from the Hermitage to Saint-Genis-Laval. This was in the year 1858. The entire government of the Institute, known as “the Regime”, was relocated along with the Novitiate and all the services of the house, including many of the ornaments of the Chapel, the school supplies of the library, the infirmary, the workshops and the shoe shop were transported to Saint-Genis. Unfortunately, during the move, several documents from the archive were lost.**

**Only a dozen Brothers remained at the Hermitage.**

**The house at Saint-Genis was built for the most part by means of savings and sacrifices made by the Brothers of the communities. Five years later the chapel was completed. The house received more than one hundred novices that year.**

Other episodes



marist world

HUNGARY: MARISTS – SZENTENDRÉN



ITALY: PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF MEDITERRÁNEA – GENERAL HOUSE HEADQUARTERS



CHILE: INSTITUTO ALONSO DE ERCILLA – COLEGIO MARISTA, SANTIAGO



BRAZIL: MARISTAS NA ILHA GRANDE DOS MARINHEIROS



COLOMBIA: NOVIADO MARISTA LA VALLA



ARGENTINA: MEETINGS WITH MARIST TEACHERS – JUJUJ

HERMITAGE PROVINCE

MARIST CHILD PROTECTION TEAM OF CATALUNYA PARTICIPATED IN AN INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT

"We Marists are experiencing a change of institutional culture that leads us to work without pause in the process of prevention and protection of the rights of children and young people at all levels of our educational works", said the coordinator of the Child Protection Team of **Marists Catalunya**, Raimon Novell, as he spoke at the international summit of Keeping Children Safe, which took place from the 8th to the 11th of November through the internet.

In his talk, Raimon spoke about the commitment of Marists, brothers and laypeople, in a process of co-creation of the culture of "safeguarding" (safe-

guarding) through networking, always having "the rights of children and young people as one of the essential pillars of the Marist mission". "Beyond the Marist sphere, we work with other entities, organisations and institutions, public and private, from which we hope to learn and also to enrich them with our experience: some examples are KCS, the Spanish Standardisation Agency (UNE), UNICEF, EDUCO, PORTICUS IBERIA", Raimon

also mentioned during his speech at the international summit on keeping Children Safe.

The full presentation of his participation can be [seen here](#).



SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY

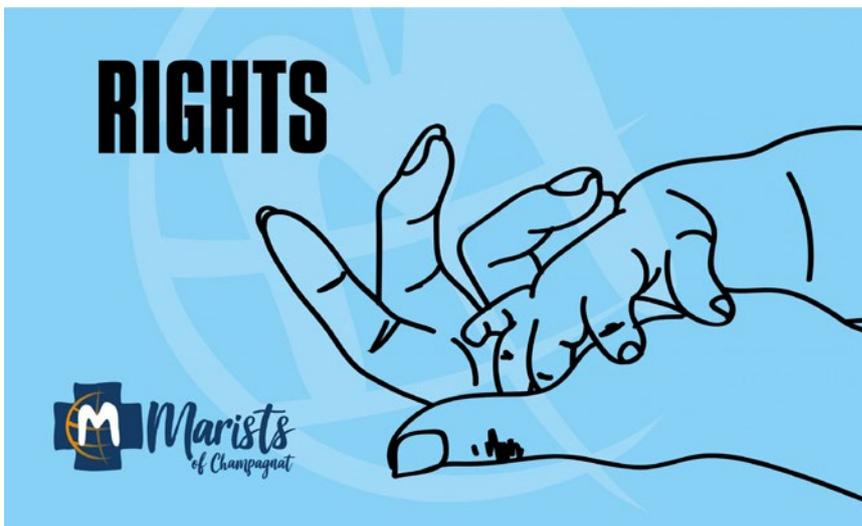
# 10TH OF DECEMBER, HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Every 10 December is celebrated as “Human Rights Day”. On this day, in 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The just-formed UN organisation, still deeply shaken by the horror of war, decided to take a step forward. This is one of the most widely translated and published documents in history. We know that this Declaration is not a binding document, but it constitutes the international framework in which various instruments for the defence of rights are set up.

As Marists of Champagnat, we too, today, wish to join in this celebration. We wish to continue to do our bit to ensure that every human being has equal rights. We wish to continue working so that all our children grow up, in any part of the world, aware of their rights. We wish to continue to develop initiatives that stand on the side of those most in need when it comes to defending their rights.

When we speak of “Human Rights” we refer to a set of rights that are INALIENABLE, and that belong to ALL human beings. These rights do not depend on the sex, nationality, ethnicity, religion... of the person. We wish human rights to be “truly” universal and equal for all. Pope Francis, in his encyclical Fratelli Tutti, challenges us to defend human rights. We Marists wish to join in this proposal.

For the celebration of this year 2021, the United Nations proposes the theme “Equality”. Equality is at the heart of all rights, protecting in a particular way those who are most vulnerable (children, women, indigenous people, migrants...). It is also worth noting that this celebration wishes to be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, including climate justice. But we are not just talking about celebration, we are also talking about concrete commitment, practical action and shared responsibility. Our educational works, and our communities and



families, are privileged areas in which to continue our journey. Our determined will to improve our world leads us to join with others, working in networks, in order to go further and be more effective.

We are driven by a strong commitment to the promotion and defence of rights, as the fifth call of the XXII General Chapter reminds us. And this commitment drives us to implement policies of protection, defence and promotion of rights, especially among the most vulnerable children and young people.

In this time of pandemic, which we continue to experience to varying degrees, we continue to commit ourselves to reflection and action, to move forward together, working as a network. Much is already being done, and much more can be done. We have hundreds of concrete experiences, in schools and social work, in communities and families, in groups of young people and adults, showing us this. Experiences that we are increasingly joining on our web pages, with other Provinces and Regions, with various institutions. Experiences in defence of “human rights” that bring us ever closer to the great “global family” that we wish to be.

Br. Ángel Diego, Director of the Solidarity Secretariat



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