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MARIST NEWS

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COORDINATORS OF PROVINCE VOLUNTEERS

NETWORK OF CPVS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

The United Nations celebrates International Volunteer Day on 5 December. This day, all over the world, offers a unique opportunity to give thanks for all the efforts made by volunteers, as well as to promote their values and publicise their achievements.

This year's inspirational theme was **volunteering** now for our common



general administration

- During this week, the Provinces of Brasil Centro-Norte and Afrique Centre-Est are celebrating their chapters. In Brasilia, Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, Oscar and Sylvain, General Councillors, are accompanying the Assembly (from Monday to Wednesday) and the Chapter (from Thursday to Saturday) of Brasil Centro-Norte. And in Rwanda, Br Ernesto, Superior General, is accompanying the PACE Brothers from Tuesday to Friday. In Brazil, Br José de Assis Elias de Brito, and in Rwanda, Br Venceslas Baindekeli Beimoyato, take office as new provincials.
- On Monday, Brothers Ben, John (General Councillors) and Mark (Mission Secretariat) met with members of the team revising the Marist Educational Mission document.
- From Monday to Wednesday, the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, Br Beto, Javier and Diugar, together with Brothers Luis Carlos and Ben from the General Council, attended meetings with the Provincial School Coordinators to continue the implementation of the Global Champagnat Network.
- On the same day, Br Francis, from the Solidarity Secretariat, met virtually with the representatives of the Asia and Oceania regions in view of the 2nd Assembly of the Marist International Solidarity Network.
- On Tuesday, Brothers Óscar and Valdicer, director

of the WCC, met virtually with the Council of the Fratelli Project to take stock of the work done and the future of this mission in Lebanon.

- On Wednesday, the Communication Department promoted an online meeting with Marist communicators from all over the world. Br João Carlos, General Councillor, led the meeting together with Luiz Da Rosa, Director of Communications of the Institute.
- The International Mission Commission met on Wednesday to discuss "Planning for the Future of Marist Mission".
- On the same day, Brothers John and Ben met with the Regional Council of the Europe Region.
- And again, on Wednesday, the Solidarity Secretariat met to continue planning for the Bolivia II Project.
- On Thursday, Brother Valdicer met with Brother Deivis, Provincial of Brasil Sul-Amazônia to follow up on the LaValla200 community in Tabatinga.
- On the same day, Brothers Francis and Angel Diego, directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, took part in the seminar on climate change organised by the CCIG.
- On Friday, Br Ángel Diego meets with BICE and the solidarity team of the Province of Mediterránea to prepare courses on resilience.

future, highlighting how together we can build a more prosperous future, ensuring inclusion and service to the most vulnerable. Engaging, recognising and promoting volunteering is an important part of creating a more equal and inclusive future.

Virtual meeting of Marist leaders

On 6 December, to celebrate International Volunteer Day, Cmi promoted a virtual meeting, with 170 participants, brothers and lay people, with the presence of the Network of Volunteer Coordinators, pastoralists and volunteers. It was an opportunity to thank the volunteers and to raise awareness of the need to promote Marist volunteering.

Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, underlined the relevance of the mission of the volunteers in the Institute from the perspective of availability and the construction of a global charismatic family at the service of those most in need.

Br. Valdicer Fachi, director of CMI, invited all those present to go ahead and look for alternative and creative ways of volunteering, responding to the needs of today's world. He also expressed his gratitude for all the service provided by the network of PCVs and for the generosity and example of so many Marist volunteers around the world.

In the videos below, produced for this moment, the protagonists speak about what it means to be a volunteer.

MARIST VOLUNTEERING

As Marists we believe that **volunteering**, by contributing to the development of the culture of solidarity, is an effective instrument for building the culture of encounter, which establishes links between nations and between cultures; it is a powerful tool for sharing knowledge, skills and values, which contributes significantly to the reduction of poverty. We are invited to be open, simple and available, locally or globally, as volunteers, going beyond geographical or provincial borders; to know in depth our world in continuous transformation and to face the current challenges; to abandon the culture of egos and to promote resonance, diminishing the scandal of indifference and inequalities; to be agents of change, bridge builders, messengers of peace, committed to transforming life and the immediate situations in which we are immersed; to convert our hearts and make our structures more flexible, without fear of taking risks, in order to reach out to the peripheries, in defence of the poorest and most vulnerable.



NIGERIA

FOUR CANDIDATES WERE RECEIVED AS POSTULANTS AT THE MARIST FORMATION CENTRE ORLU

During the Eucharistic celebration of the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception on 8th December, four candidates were officially received as first year postulants at the Marist Formation Centre Orlu. They were officially welcomed into the Postulancy by the Provincial Superior of Nigeria, Br. Vincent Abadam.

The Postulancy currently has nine Postulants: five in their second year and four in their first year.

The Provincial used the occasion to pray for the candidates and entrusted their vocation journey to the intercession of Mary, Our Good Mother and Ordinary Resource.



CHILE

The sector of the Province of Saint Mary of the Angels held the first meeting of Marist animators of pastoral movements, which was also attended by the Missionary Childhood Movement. It was a time to give thanks for the work done and to dream of the future.

SPIRITUALITY FROM THE HEART

Last Saturday, the Marists of Mexico organised a virtual meeting with Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor, who reflected on the theme of spirituality that the General Chapter invited us to cultivate: "It is time to ask ourselves about our roots, our thirst, our fears, our longings? and to discover the God who lives in me and in each one of those around us". [You can watch the video here](#)

PROFESSIONS

During the month of December, many young men make their promise to follow Champagnat's ideal as consecrated men. In several provinces, young brothers who have completed their novitiate have made their first profession. Others have completed their initial formation process and have been definitively consecrated through perpetual profession, such as Brothers Cong Nguyen (Vietnam), Alonso Pino (Colombia) and Doe Lawrence (Liberia).

UNITED STATES

Marist Former Student Marcus Anthony Lemonis - who is an entrepreneur, television star, and philanthropist - donated more than \$10 million to Christopher Columbus Marist College in Miami, from which he graduated in 1991. The funds will be used for the construction of two centres on the campus: the College and Career Guidance Centre and the Desmond Family Success Centre. Marcus also included a donation for the school's educational staff.

ARCO NORTE

MEETING OF THE TEAM OF LAY ANIMATORS

On the 2nd of December, the regional team of lay animators of Arco Norte met to conclude the activities of 2021. Despite the challenge of two years of pandemic, quarantine and isolation, this group of Marists of Champagnat, with joy, hope and creativity, managed to join the lay processes developed by the Administrative Units of the Region, five provinces and the new district of Canada. The team also carried out the SWOT (SWOT) for the lay ministry of the region and defined the nuclei where efforts will be focused in the coming years: Organisation, Communion, Formation and Vocation, which will accompany the development of the Lay Vocation Forum.

Along with these achievements, perhaps the greatest richness of this period is a Marist family Arco Norte with tangible faces where each one feels that he is a bridge between his province and the region. The last meeting of the year was accompanied by Brother Hipólito Pérez, Provincial of Central America and delegate of



the Provincials for the Arco Norte regional committee. Br. Hipólito invited the laity to reflect on three attitudes: gratitude, welcome and creation.

The final prayer was based on the figures of the crib. A small virtual tribute by Claudia Rojas, coordinator of the laity for Arco Norte, closed this beautiful and moving moment.

The team is especially grateful to the secretariat of the laity, to the Brothers Provincial of each of the provinces and of the district for facilitating the participation of the members of the team. It is especially grateful to Jesus, Mary Our Good Mother and Champagnat who continue to walk with the Marists of Champagnat.



BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

LOCAL PHASE IN THE PROVINCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MARIST VOCATIONS

Following the call of the Marist Institute, through the Secretariat of the Laity, which asked all the Provinces to promote the process of the International Forum on Marist-Laity Vocation, the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul launched its participation in the forum on 17 November. The initiative has involved the laity in a journey that will last until 2024.

For the Provincial Superior, H. Benê Oliveira, participation in the Forum responds to the XXII General Chapter, which stated that the future of the charism is based on a community of Marists of Champagnat: "People totally committed, called to journey together, respecting the diversity and variety of experiences in the Marist world. We are all responsible for the life and work of the Marist Movement".

You can see the [video of the meeting here](#).



In the Province the forum section will have as its reference point the Farol 1817 portal, where there will be a course with reading suggestions and videos to guide the discussions. [The registration is open here](#).

The next steps will be marked by the creation of groups within the Fraternities, groups of young people and work companions, so that the discussions will be more profound and varied.

Br. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

38. CHAPTER OF 1860: APPOINTMENT OF A VICAR GENERAL

Rome, in studying the Constitutions, asked for some changes to be made. To do this, Brother François convoked a General Chapter in 1860. In accordance with the norms, the capitulants were elected from among the Brothers with the vow of stability; there were thirty-three at that time and thirty were to be elected. No election was held because three of them had resigned as capitulants. The Chapter was held in the new house of Saint-Genis-Laval.

During the discussions, Brother François surprised everyone by presenting his resignation as Superior General. He gave reasons of health, continual headaches which prevented him from working. Four reasons influenced his decision: his poor health; his increasing responsibilities; the demands of his interior life; and the example of Father Colin, who had resigned in 1854 as Superior General of the Marist Fathers.

Brother François de Borja, Assistant General at the time of Brother Diogène (1920-1942), comments on his health: "It is not surprising that the health of this modest worker of the Lord was broken and even very delicate at the age of fifty-two. Brother François had been suffering from headaches for a long time. Difficulties, occupations and worries, the solicitude for everyone did not allow him a moment's rest. His headaches became chronic and became so serious that he asked to be relieved of the burden of governing the Institute...".

After much discussion, the Chapter did not accept the resignation of Brother François, who remained Superior General, but who, for reasons of health, completely handed over his office to his Vicar, Brother Louis-Marie. Legally, Brother François remains at the head of the congregation. In practice, he has resigned. He will no longer intervene in the government.

In addition, the Chapter elects three new assistants. These nominations are a means of reducing a centralisation which Rome considers excessive.

[Other episodes](#)

FRANCE

OUR LADY OF THE HERMITAGE

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre d'Accueil Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage has had to deal with the containment measures imposed by the health authorities on several occasions, starting on 17 March 2020. Nevertheless, the community and the people who work on the site have put their energy into allowing the reception activities to resume.



The presence of Caroline and Virginie allows us to renew our welcome of groups and individuals, to open our space to other clientele, to relaunch the return of all our Marist friends from abroad after this difficult period. It also allows us to create links with official tourism organisations and associations. Finally, it allows our house to make new proposals for training.

A new candidate was hired on 1 October this year: Ms Virginie Chomette (on the right in the photo), reception coordinator. She supports Ms Caroline Martin, who has been in post since August 2017 and who becomes the director of the Welcome Centre.

We thank Caroline and Virginie for their presence at the Hermitage so that the spirit of welcome and openness proper to this place is preserved.

F. Maurice Berquet – Director of the house and the community

COLOMBIA

RETREAT AND PROFESSIONS OF BROTHERS IN THE PROVINCE OF NORANDINA

On 12 December, in Ibagué, Colombia, Br. Alonso Pinos made his perpetual profession. At the same celebration, 12 Brothers renewed their vows. The Mass was presided over by Fr. John Fitzgerald Yara Aponte. Brother Orlando Escobar, Provincial, thanked God for the Marist vocations in the Province and also for the 100 years of life of Brother Rafael Rengifo, commemorated during the Mass.



The young Brothers prepared for this important moment in their vocational journey through a retreat, which began on 10 December. Brothers Orlando Escobar led the retreat, Provincial, Julian Olmo, Provincial Councillor, and Lindley Sionosa, from the Institute's Brothers Today Secretariat.

The brothers who renewed their vows are Duberney Giraldo,

Alexnys Flores, Andrés Robles, Michael Anamá, Juan Pablo Burgos, Duvan Correa, Francisco Ruiz, Óscar Bolívar, Junior Jaramillo, and Kevin Quezada.

[In this link you can watch the Eucharistic celebration, presided by Fr.](#)

MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS THIS IS HAPPENING IN CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

Although the **Marist Global Network of Schools** is only at the beginning of its Network's activity, some very interesting events have already taken place:

CREATION OF THE GROUP "THE THIRD EDUCATOR".

Following the invitation to participate in the Marist Global Network of Schools, through the creation of an international interaction group open to other educators, the Marist School Juan Zorrilla of Montevideo (Uruguay), has been the first to present a proposal. The group is led by teachers María Favaro, Adel Steineck and Natalia Bengoa, former Marist students and mothers, and they have decided to call the group "THIRD EDUCATOR".

The aim of the group is to create a space for reflection from an interdisciplinary perspective that invites to debate, raise awareness, and provide tools to create learning environments that enable to be and to do. Thus, it has to do with the influence that physical spaces and environments have when it comes to promoting meaningful learning, and therefore the purpose of co-designing educational spaces in terms of the rights of children and young people.

If you are interested in the topic and would like to look or join the group, you can already do so at: <https://agora.champagnat.global/?lang=en>

MEETING BETWEEN INSTITUTO MÉXICO in TOLUCA (Mexico) and COLEGIO NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL CARMEN in BADAJOZ (Spain)

Teachers Jesús Gutiérrez (Instituto México de Toluca) and Marta Romero (Colegio Ntra. Sra. del Carmen de Badajoz) met at the Champagnat Global Summit last October, working on the theme

of language learning. In their working group, they proposed the initiative to create the CULTURAL AMBASSADORS Programme, which aims to connect Marist communities interested in learning a new language or culture.

As a pilot test, on 19 November they held a virtual meeting with 33 students from Badajoz and 30 from Toluca. On that day they were all able to experience the richness of sharing Marist values and inspiration.

Encouraged by this experience, Marta and Jesús are now preparing to develop other similar meetings and to coordinate

the Language Learning group on Champagnat Global's Agorá platform. There, all those interested will be able to interact and promote initiatives that strengthen the learning of languages and other countries and cultures.

MEETING OF MANAGEMENT TEAMS FROM THE PROVINCE OF SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES.

On 23rd November, during the first online

meeting of directors of the Province of Santa María de los Andes (Bolivia, Chile, and Peru), the team of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation was invited to present the Champagnat Global Network and its implementation process.

The workshop, in which almost a hundred managers participated, focused on sharing the most relevant elements of networking and seeing how they could be applied in the school environment and management. From the collaboration and creative contribution of the different working groups, very interesting conclusions were drawn, such as the idea of strengthening co-creation and activating collective intelligence, sharing good practices, deepening Marist identity, and continuing to strengthen our global family.



CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL



marist world

PHILIPPINES: MAPAC

SPAIN: LAST MEETING OF THE CURRENT PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF MEDITERRÁNEA

UNITED STATES: NEW YORK



GUATEMALA: FIRST PROFESSION: BROTHERS MELVIN ANTONIO MARROQUÍN AND GERARDO RIVERA

VIETNAM: PERPETUAL VOWS OF BR. CONG

ROME: BR. ERNESTO, SUPERIOR GENERAL, AND BR. JOSÉ SÁNCHEZ WITH MONS. JORGE PATRON, ARCHBISHOP OF JALAPA

Champagnat Global, through its online platform, will be a very favourable space for the managers of the Province of Santa María de los Andes to open their communication and meeting group.

NETWORK PIONEER COORDINATORS MEETINGS

Those who follow the journey of the Marist Global Network of Schools know that, during the year 2021, we worked creatively and collaboratively with the international school community to build a model of an international school network that is now a reality: Champagnat Global. The summit last October, in which almost 500 people from 50 countries took part, culminated in the contribution of more than 40 initiatives, which will gradually become groups that we will find on the Agorá platform.



During the week of 6-10 December, the Education and Evangelisation Secretariat team met with the leaders of these initiatives to guide their transformation process on themes that will appear on the platform and will be accessible to all those who wish to interact around a theme with other educators around the world.

Interested parties can now register on the platform and sign up for the available groups. Little by little, new groups will be added. In the meantime, we invite you to get to know the Agora Manual where you can find important information on how to join a group: <https://www.champagnat.global/en/marist-global-network-of-schools-agora-manual/>

MÉXICO CENTRAL

PROVINCE PROMOTES THE CONSTRUCTION OF SAFE AREAS IN ITS WORKS

From the 8th to the 11th of November, the Province of México Central held a series of webinars on the theme “For you... building a safe world”, with the aim of promoting safe areas in its Marist works, learning about good practices in the field of the prevention and treatment of cases of violence and giving a voice to the young people and the Protection Committees on the subject.

The sessions were attended by 214 participants, including members of the Provincial Protection Committee, high school and university students, teachers and speakers who are experts in different fields and approaches such as health, psychology, sociology and education. Guests from other educational institutions in Mexico and Marists from Chile and Catalonia also participated.

During his participation, Br. Luis Felipe González, Provincial, recalled that “Marcellin Champagnat rebelled against any kind of violence and proposed that education should be based on respect and love. May this continue to inspire our commitment to have educational areas free of violence and thus favour the construction of a better society. This will be done through our participation and work.

Building a safe world

During the first day, different national and international educational institutions joined together to share their mechanisms and good practices in prevention and comprehensive care of sexual violence with a gender perspective. The speakers addressed policies for dealing with cases of violence, protocols, support groups, measurement



indicators, monitoring and accompaniment, and prevention programmes.

During the second day, the Protection Committees of the Province spoke about the work they do, the challenges and advances they have in each of their Marist works to make them safe and trustworthy places for all members of the community.

The third day was an area for exercises of introspection, reflection on learning, coexistence and how to build relationships between peers, school, work and family.

Zero tolerance for violence

For its part, the student community of México Central responded to the question “how can we participate to improve the attention and prevention of sexual violence in our school?” during a round table discussion between different schools and the Provincial Protection Committee.

Finally, the Provincial Protection Committee concluded the cycle by reaffirming that committing to listening and care is a priority on the road to zero tolerance of violence. [More information](#)



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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