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MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG

Marists of Champagnat, inspired by Mary, *“the Mother who watches over us, her children, on our journey through life, often weary and in need, anxious that the light of hope not fail”* (Pope Francis, *Cristus Vivit*, 48).

She accompanies us and leads us to Jesus, God among us, the light that enlightens, revives and nourishes our hope.

Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General and his Council



general administration

- During this week, from Monday to Thursday, the VII Chapter of the Province Cruz del Sur is taking place in Buenos Aires, with the participation of Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and Óscar, General Councillor.
- From 26 to 29 December, the Chapter of the Province of Ibérica will be held in Lardero. Brothers Ernesto, Superior General, and Ben, General Councillor, will be present.
- From 27 to 30 December, the chapter of the Province of Compostela will be held in Valladolid. Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and João Carlos, General Councillor, will be present.
- At the beginning of the year, from the 2nd to the 4th of January, the Chapter of the Province of Mediterránea will be held in Guardamar, with the participation of Brothers Ernesto, João and Ben.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SOLIDARITY DAY

DECEMBER 20TH – HUMAN SOLIDARITY: A CALL TO WORK TOGETHER IN COMMON CAUSE

In the Millennium Declaration of September 8, 2000, heads of state highlighted, inter alia, solidarity as a value in international relations. They agreed that global challenges should be managed in ways that cost and burden are distributed fairly. Those who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most. In reference to this, the World summit of December 22, 2005, through resolution 60/209, established December 20th as an International Human Solidarity Day, reiterating that solidarity should underlie relations between nations. Since then, this day is commemorated every year, to remind governments to encourage initiatives in the fight against poverty, promote unity in diversity and the culture of cooperation.

Mass protests in developed and developing countries against inequality, poverty, joblessness, injustice, income disparities and lack of opportunities continuously create a vicious cycle of frustration across generations. The World Social Report, 2020, published by the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) revealed that the income of the richest one per cent of the world's population continuously increase while the bottom 40% of the world's population continue to languish in poverty. Average incomes of North American countries are sixteen (16) times higher than those of Sub-Saharan Africa where slow economic growth keeps people trapped in poverty.

The existence of digital technologies makes the world a global village, unfortunately fraternity does not enter the picture. Pope Benedict XVI in his Encyclical Letter, 'Caritas in Veritate' laments that, 'As society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbours but does not make us brothers'. Similarly, in 'Fratelli Tutti', Pope Francis regrets that science, technology, medicine, industry, and welfare do not seem to lead to a more humane future, because situations of injustice and lack of equitable distribution of natural resources persist while fraternal values, interculturality, the sense of belonging to a single human family fade, and the dream of working together for justice and peace seems utopian.

Beneath the principle of solidarity lies altruism and the rec-



ognition of fellow human beings as brothers and sisters. But for many people solidarity is a feeling sympathy for those in distressing situations. Pope John Paul II is not of the same opinion. In his Encyclical Letter 'Sollicitudo Rei Socialis', he points out that 'solidarity is an authentic moral virtue, not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good, the good of everyone, because we are responsible for all'. Saint Paul, in Galatians 3:28, reiterates that 'there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for all are one in Christ Jesus.' Similarly, in 1 Corinthians 12:26, he continues, 'If one member suffers, all suffer, and if honored, all rejoice together.' In this sense, solidarity is a social virtue: a commitment to do good with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to lose oneself for the sake of others.

Finally, the rule of solidarity must permeate the strata of our society and rid it of individualism, self-interest, and the 'Me first' attitude to create a sense of hope. In this sense, Pope John Paul II affirms in 'Sollicitudo Rei Socialis' that solidarity must be seen above all in its value as a moral virtue that determines the order of institutions. Consequently, he insists that the "structures of sin", referring to both liberal capitalism and Marxist collectivism and any other system with their respective visions that dominate relationships between individuals and peoples must be overcome, purified, and transformed into structures of solidarity through the creation or appropriate modification of laws and regulations which govern society.

Br. Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity

CRUZ DEL SUR

On 17 December, the provincial animation team promoted a meeting of the Fraternities of the MCFM, to celebrate what has been experienced and joined throughout the year.

The Province also presented the Spanish version of the book that tells the story of the landing of the first Marist Brothers in China. Read the full article at <https://bit.ly/3mIZfSL>.

SED

The 95th issue of the quarterly magazine 'SED Solidarity' is now available under the title "Global Family". The magazine of the Marist NGO in Spain offers a reflection on the concept of globality, alliances and the way of understanding solidarity as a whole, as well as a review of the latest innovations and actions launched by the organisation.

EAST ASIA

The Brothers in Korea are closing up the one-year long program of the Pilgrimage of the image of Our Good Mother that every week was hosted by different persons and families to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Marist Brothers in the country. The Pilgrimage, that started on January 2nd will finish on January 1st, 2022.

BRAZIL

BR. ROGÉRIO RENATO MATEUCCI TAKES OVER AS NEW RECTOR OF PUC PARANÁ

Br. Rogério Renato Mateucci took office as Rector of the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, on 7 December. Besides the directors of the University, the Archbishop of Curitiba and Grand Chancellor of the PUCPR, Dom José Antônio Peruzzo, the President of the Marist Group and of the "Associação Paranaense de Cultura", Br Délcio Afonso Balestrin, the Provincial Superior, Br Benê Oliveira, the Rector Emeritus, Br Clemente Ivo Juliatto, were also present. Several academic authorities and student representatives were also present. Br Benê Oliveira expressed his fraternity, appreciation and support for Br Rogério's leadership in carrying out his mission in the University, and also thanked Professor Waldemiro Gremski, who was the Rector of the PUC of Paraná in recent years.

Br Rogério was appointed to the post in June 2021 by the Administrative Council of the Marist Group. The appointment followed formal ecclesiastical procedures and was confirmed by the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education, for a first term of four years (2022 – 2025). During the same occasion, the appointment of other leadership positions in the University took place.

For more detailed information, [please click on this link](#).

You can watch [the video of the ceremony here](#).

Br. Rogério Renato Mateucci

The new Rector of the PUCPR is an educator by training and holds a PhD in Administration, Leadership and Educational Policies. He was Director of the Colégio Marista de Londrina from 2001 to 2004. After returning from the United States, where he did a doctorate at Fordham University in New York, he took charge of the Institutional Identity of the PUCPR until 2016, when he was invited to become Vice Rector of Mission, Identity and Extension, to develop training activities and interaction of the academic community with the identity values and mission of the University.



"In addition to training excellent professionals, the PUCPR seeks to contribute to the development of citizens who make a difference in society. I feel very honoured to have been entrusted with such an important mission, as the Rector must promote the PUCPR's way of educating together with the professors, students, employees and the whole community, marked by the Marist values of love of work, spirituality, presence, interculturality, simplicity, family spirit and solidarity as our guides", said Br. Rogério in his speech.



ITALY - EUR

THE GENERAL HOUSE RENOVATES ITS FRONTAGE AFTER 60 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION

After 60 years of construction, the General House began renovating the frontage of its buildings at the beginning of this year because that area of the building had begun to deteriorate seriously, with cracks in both the house itself and the hotel. The General Administration decided to renovate the frontages of the General House and the Hotel by taking advantage of an incentive from the Italian government's tax agency, called "bonus facciate", which this year granted tax discounts to all those who beautify, restructure or repair the City's buildings. "The bonus for facades lasts for one year, which is this year 2021. Therefore, we started all the administrative part last year, and this year we started the renovations in mid-March, and all the work must be finished before mid-February 2022, because the report must be submitted to the municipality before March 2022", as pointed out Br. Libardo Garzón, Econome General. In addition to the change of the facades, which have to keep the same characteristics, the walls of the lower part of the first floor will also be washed for legal reasons. In the future, the General House hopes to be able to maintain the dome of the large chapel, which is in need of maintenance and is expected to be done next year.



History of the General House

The land on which the present General House is located in Rome (55,000 m²) is situated in the areas destined for the "Roman Universal Exposition" (EUR). The building, constructed in accordance with the criteria and needs of the time, was inaugurated in 1961 and rests on the foundations

of what was to become the "Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry". In the 1960s, EUR was the venue for the Olympic Games held in Rome:

In this residential area of Rome, you can admire the "Palazzo dello Sport" by the architect Pier Luigi Nervi (the same architect who designed the "Paul VI Hall" in the Vatican) and a beautiful lake. The central building of the General House now houses the Superior General, the Vicar General, the General Council and a community of brothers who look after the various services of the General Administration. The building of the former international school was renovated in 2000 to make better use of the facilities for social purposes. Thus "Villa EUR – Parco dei Pini" was born. In 2016 the building was rented to a company, which independently manages the hotel Parco dei Pini, Villa EUR.

Further information

At the Crib we find the innocence, simplicity, gentleness and even weakness of a God who is capable of touching the hardest of hearts. ... There is no room for fear of a God who became a child.

(St. Marcellin Champagnat, Life, VI)





Institute of the Marist Brothers

Legal Entities at the service of the Global Family



Fraters
Maristen
Internationaal

GIER International and Fraters Maristen Internationaal

Two legal entities at the service of the Global Family

On 18 November, the General Council approved the constitutions and statutes of two international legal entities at the service of the Institute. With the creation of the Corporation "GIER International" and the Association "Fraters Maristen Internationaal" (Marist Brothers International) a major step has been taken from a legal point of view to help the Congregation and the Administrative Units in their various needs.

Since the beginning of Br Ernesto Sanchez's mandate, various civil and canonical avenues have been sought and consulted to enable the Institute to act as a Global Family, with the values of communion and solidarity. To this end, since February 2019, an intense study has been conducted which has made it possible to:

- » Establish general strategies on canonical and civil entities from the General Government, delivered to Provincials and District Superiors in March 2020.
- » To offer guidelines - at the request of various Administrative Units - on the creation, adaptation or transformation of their civil and/or canonical structures.
- » To specify general criteria on the government, management and patrimony of the Institute, in a communication sent on 10 August 2021 to the Superiors of the AUs.
- » To create international juridical entities which will support the life and mission of the Institute, in the course of 2021.



After a careful review of the documents, the Council considered that both entities offer adequate legal security and coverage to assist, promote, contribute to and support the development and furtherance of the mission and life of the Institute. This is truly relevant in two respects. First, we now have two international entities that will facilitate



the care and support of the areas of Marist mission, particularly those that may be in greater weakness. Secondly, they will help to interconnect the various civil and canonical bodies of the Institute for greater internal effectiveness and solidarity.

Its purposes include, in addition, meeting the needs of formation, solidarity, charity, integral human promotion, evangelisation and education; also, channelling aid or receiving donations, and supporting internal and external alliances. It will certainly be a useful mechanism for the needs of the Institute's organisms and networks or of regional and interprovincial bodies that need some kind of legal cover.



The GIER International Corporation will operate from the United States



The Association "Fraters Maristen Internationaal" (Marist Brothers International) will operate from the Netherlands, with international and interprovincial management teams, working primarily online.



In the coming months, the implementation processes of both will take place. Both institutions are in line with the latest guidelines of the General Council. That is, they have separate governance and management bodies, with reserved powers and defined functions. The Governance Board of both is the General Council and the two Management Boards will be composed of people from different Administrative Units and Regions.

Accompaniment, monitoring and exchange services will facilitate connections and cooperation between schools, various apostolic works and other areas of mission. The legal platform that will help and streamline processes of exchange, knowledge management and administrative, educational and missionary advice. The care of our mission works will have a prominent place in the vision of these entities, offering the appropriate legal basis for linking and sustaining the Marist presence in any of the

Legal Entities



places where we are present. It will also be of assistance in the management of our assets at the service of the mission. Created with an international and interprovincial perspective, they will help the Institute to grow and mature in collaborative structures that facilitate co-responsibility, subsidiarity, cooperation, management and governance.

The Administrative Units, or their respective countries, and the Institute's Regions and Networks may identify areas of help, opportunity or service that GIER International Corporation or the Association "Fraters Maristen Internationaal" can offer them. This is particularly important in situations of weakness or in social contexts, where joining and working together is a necessity for the continuity, development and sustainability of the Marist mission, of Catholic education and of the Institute's presence at a general level. Integration is done through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or mutual contract, with a lot of flexibility and adaptability.

It is a cause for hope to take this new step which was ratified by the signature of Brother Superior General and the General Council. Both decisions, as well as the Statutes, were symbolically offered at the Eucharist on 19 November 2021, feast of Our Lady of Providence.

We thank all those who participated in these processes at some stage: Brothers Benjamin Consigli, Óscar Martín, Libardo Garzón, Carlos A. Rojas, Juan Miguel Anaya, Xavi Giné, Gregorio Linacero, Jacques Scholte, Robert Thunus, Maurice Taldeman, Patrick McNamara, Fernando Rodríguez, Carlos Vélez and Edgardo López; as well as the respective law firms and consultants.

Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, fms
Vicar General, Canonical and Civil Structures



BRAZIL

THE BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA PROVINCE INVESTS IN THE FORMATION OF COLLABORATORS FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF CHILDREN

The Pastoral Coordination and the Children's Pastoral Work Group of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province concluded, this December, the Extension Course "Percurso de Aprendizagem: experiências reflexivas da Pastoral das Infâncias", conducted during the year 2021.

The formative itinerary, divided into three cycles: identity, meanings and paths, had the objective of promoting a conceptual and methodological alignment of the pastoral action with children, with the aim of qualifying and giving a new meaning to the pedagogical-pastoral practices of the schools and social units of the Province.

Approximately seventy collaborators from the schools and social units of the province took part in the project. The group consisted of pastors, pedagogical coordinators, educational advisors and educators.

The course responds to the premise that evangelisation is an educational process in constant deepening and discovery. For Maria Inete Maia, Pastoral Advisor of the Marist Network, the itinerary was "an initiative that helps us to recognise children as a theological place and to build areas of participation and protagonism".

LEARNING ITINERARIES: REFLECTIVE EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – 2021

The edition was organised in three cycles conducted during the year that covered conceptual deepening, conversation circles called communities of experience and exchange, forums and seminars:

- In the first cycle, Identity, which ran from March to June, participants were invited to write their autobiography and identify experiences of evangelisation in childhood, as well as conduct a theoretical deepening on the concepts of childhood.



- In the second cycle, called Meanings, which began in July, participants were invited to immerse themselves in the local situation, and to have the opportunity to analyse the approaches between pastoral care and childhood, to give greater meaning to the option for an evangelising education, to construct questions and to structure the meaning of pastoral care for children.
- The third and final cycle, Pathways, which ended in December, dealt with intervention projects aimed at children, seeking to give a new meaning to practices based on the exercise of reflection, awareness and understanding of the emerging demands in relation to children.

Edition of the course

This is an initiative of the Pastoral Coordination and the Children's Pastoral Work Group of the Province. Constituted in 2020, the group is made up of representatives of the Educational Management, Social Management, Pastoral Coordination and pastoralists. The idea of formatting the learning pathways arose after studying the document Children's Pastoral Care: Identity, Meanings and Pathways, and listening to those responsible for evangelising action with children. From these movements, the team identified that it is essential to invest in the training of those responsible for pedagogical-pastoral action.

VIETNAM

FINAL PROFESSION OF BR. ANTON NGUYEN TIEN CONG

Within the theme “Love to the end”, Br. Anton Nguyen Tien Cong, of Marist District of Asia (MDA), celebrated his final profession on December 8th, the feast day of Immaculate Conception, at My Khanh Parish, in the Phu Cuong diocese (VT). The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Joseph Albert Nguyen Mai Thanh, of the Missionary Society of Viet Nam.

Br. Kim Dong Ryeol (Anselmo), received Cong’s vows and gave the perpetual profession crucifix on behalf of the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba.

Due to the pandemic and government restrictions, only 50 people were able to present including brothers. The celebration was broadcast online with live streaming, so all the brothers who knew Br. Cong participated online in various places and at different times, praying, celebrating, and sharing joy together. [Watch the video](#)

Br. Cong expressed his gratitude to his family, friends, brothers, and all his former formators who accompanied him at different stages of his formation.



Br. Cong joined Marist in 2010 and started formation with help of several brothers including Br. Canisio, the current MDA leader. His first profession was made in Tamontaka Novitiate, the Philippines, in 2015. By the leading of the Holy Spirit and the MDA Council’s support, he joined the formation program in May 2018.

He lives in the Cu Chi community and serves as a formator and the VT Country Coordinator.

Br. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

39. ECCLESIAL RECOGNITION

Brother Louis-Marie, Vicar General, continued his efforts to obtain ecclesial recognition of the Institute, and in 1862 he travelled to Rome. He was asked to reconvene a General Chapter to revise and approve new constitutions. It was the General Chapter of 1862, which approved a draft of the constitutions and responded to the observations made by the Congregation for Bishops and Regulars.

In January 1863, the Institute was approved by His Holiness Pius IX, the decree specifying that it “approves and confirms the congregation of the Marist Brothers of the Schools”. This was, in fact, the name given by the Holy See to this congregation which the French government called the Little Brothers of Mary, the teaching congregation of the Brothers who were coadjutors of the Marist Fathers.

Here is the text:

“Our Most Holy Lord Pope Pius IX, in an audience granted to the Secretary, designated below, of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, on the 9th January 1863, has approved and confirmed, according to the present decree, as a congregation of simple vows, under the government of a Superior General, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Ordinaries, according to the prescriptions of the Sacred Canons and the Apostolic Constitutions, the aforesaid Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools (Fratres Maristae a scholis) whose mother house is in the Diocese of Lyons. He has also confirmed, on a trial basis and for five years, the Constitutions written below, as contained in this copy; nothing to the contrary having been recorded”.

Other episodes

marist world

LIBERIA: FINAL PROFESSION OF BR. LAWRENCE DOE



SOUTH AFRICA: END OF YEAR STAFF CELEBRATION FOR THE EMMANUEL DAY CARE CENTRE, ATLANTIS



BRAZIL: COLÉGIO MARISTA CHAMPAGNAT – PORTO ALEGRE



AUSTRALIA: MARIST COLLEGE, CANBERRA



RWANDA: BUKOMERO SCHOOL GROUP, IN BYMANA



CUBA: CELEBRATION OF THE 20 YEARS OF THE NEW MARIST PRESENCE

COLOMBIA - GUATEMALA - MÉXICO
FIRST PROFESSIONS IN THE ARCO NORTE REGION

Four young men finished their second year in the Interprovincial Novitiate La Valla in Medellín and made their first religious profession in the Marist Institute in December.

Brothers Mesvin Antonio Marroquín León (Guatemala) and José Gerardo Rivera Hernández (El Salvador) made their first profession on 8 December in Guatemala. Also, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Brother Ernesto José Da Costa Omaña, from Norandina, made his first profession in the novitiate of Medellín. Br. Nicolás Pedro Pinzón Martínez, from México Central, was professed on 11 December in Mexico City.



Colombia



México



Guatemala

Medellín, Br. Ernesto: [Video](#)
 Guatemala, Brothers Gerardo y Mesvin: [Video](#)
 México, Br. Pedro: [Video](#)

BROTHERS TODAY

THE SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCES ON-GOING FORMATION PROGRAMS FOR 2022

The Secretariat of Brothers Today recently announced the On-Going Formation Programs to be offered at the level of the Institute for the year 2022. These programs are envisioned to be delivered face-to-face after two years of suspension because of the pandemic. They will be conducted in the context of the Year of Marist Vocations; at the same time, they will be an experience of strengthening and enriching the vocation of those who participate.

The 3rd Age Programs (French, English and Portuguese-Spanish) will be held simultaneously but in different houses (General House, Manziana and Hermitage). They however will share the “Pilgrimage” to Marist places and a time of intercultural community experience together in our mother house.

For all the programs, the Hermitage will be more than a “place of passage or residence”. It shall be for all the participants a “house and center of formation” during a good part of each of the programs, thus recalling the experience of our first Brothers with Father Champagnat. Meanwhile, the French Language 3rd Age program will be held almost entirely at the Hermitage.

As a novelty, the GIER Program has been introduced as a formative experience for Brothers who have made their perpetual



profession in recent years, with its own dynamics and team. It will take place partly at the General House in Rome and partly at the Hermitage.

The last face-to-face programs conducted were the Regional Programs for Community Animators – one in the Arco Norte and another in Africa – in January of 2020. However, the On-Going Formation Team was able to offer certain online formative meetings, including the first part of the Midlife and the Mentors, from June this year.

ON-GOING FORMATION PROGRAMS FOR 2022

- Midlife, for brothers between the ages of 45 to 65 years. 12 weeks. From March 20 to June 12. In Manziana.
- Gier, for young brothers who made final vows in the last 5 years. 4 weeks. From June 1 to June 30. In the General House and Notre Dame de l’Hermitage.
- CMI international communities. For brothers and laity. 5 weeks. From June 16 to July 23.
- Mentors, for those accompanying young brothers in the communities. 8 weeks. From July 3 to August 28. At Notre Dame de l’Hermitage.
- Third Age (simultaneous in three separate language groups, English, Spanish-Portuguese and French). 8 weeks.
- French: from September 26 to October 10. Notre Dame de l’Hermitage
- Spanish: from October 10 to 24. General House
- English: from October 10 to 24. Manziana
- Regional Program for Vocation Animators. This is open to both brothers and laity. From September to December. Duration: two weeks.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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 https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat