



## MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE MARIST SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY

The 2022 programming of the International Marist Spiritual Patrimony Commission began with a two-hour virtual meeting held on 27 January. All the members took part, as well as the coordinators of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Angel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, and the two reference General Councillors, Brothers Óscar Martín and João Carlos do Prado.



The coordinator of the Commission, Brother Antonio Ramalho, introduced the meeting with a brief prayer. He welcomed the new member of the Commission, Brother Rafael Ferreira, from Brasil Centro-Norte, appointed by the General Council to join the community of ND de l'Hermitage. On behalf of all, he congratulated Brother Allan de Castro, member of the Commission, recently appointed as the new Provincial of East Asia.

First, an evaluation was made of the progress made with the 40th edition of Marist Notebooks. The translations are well advanced and should be ready by 15 February for revision. Dyogenes Philippsen shared information about the ISSN for this publication and the steps to make access to it more dynamic.

Brother André Lanfrey has taken up the ideas of the reflection sent previously on the state of his work around the next

### general administration

- On Monday, 31 January, the Secretariat of Brothers Today organized an online meeting of Vocation Ministry Animators from the different administrative units to continue the conversation on the road to the Year of Marist Vocations.
- On the same day, the opening of the II Assembly of the Marist International Solidarity Network, organized by the Secretariat of Solidarity. The Assembly will conclude on February 16th.
- On Tuesday February 1st, the General Council began its traditional February Plenary Session. During this first week, it continues the preparations for the General Conference to be held in Rome in March. The General Government also devote some sessions to the people working for the Institute and holds a Regular Council.
- On Tuesday, Brother Teófilo Minga, until now a member of the permanent formation team, returned to his Province. After 15 years at the service of the General Administration, in different activities, he begins again the Marist journey in the

community of Carcavelos, Portugal.

- On Wednesday, Brother Antonio Sancamillo, since 2015 superior of the Brothers' community of the General Administration, returned to the province. His new community will be in Cesano Maderno. The community bid him farewell during the Mass in celebration of the Day of Consecrated Life, together with the General Council.
- On the same day, Brother Sylvain, General Councillor, held a meeting with the coordinators of the laity in Africa.
- During the week, the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization held several meetings: with the Link Councillors, Brothers Luis Carlos, and Ben; with the team that is revising the document "In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat: A Vision for Education"; with the Branches of the Marist Family, in preparation for WYD in Lisbon in 2023; and with the team that is implementing the shared spaces of the Marist Global Network of Schools.

edition of FMS Studia, dealing with the legal approval of the Institute. He proposes the introduction of updated and critical contributions, both his own and those of Brother Pierre Zind, to a central body of text prepared by Brother Gabriel Michel. The Commission gives its approval to this conception of a joint work, which would be ready for publication by the end of this year.

Brother Guillermo Villareal, Postulator General, presented an overview of all the causes for canonisation in the Institute and the progress. He added his concern for finding better ways of communicating and spreading these Marist causes.

On the proposal of a Patrimony Course, Brother Michael Green took up the project and took up several suggestions in the group’s comments. He will present all these observations in writing so that the Commission can move ahead with the realisation of the Course. There was a consensus in favour of considering the programme as essentially academic, for the formation of researchers, brothers, and laypeople, and not as a renewal or diffusion course.

The meeting ended with thanks to the participation of all and the support of the translator, Brother Teófilo Minga. The next meeting, already planned, will be on 6 April, in a virtual form.

## GENERAL HOUSE XXVI WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

February 2, the Fest of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, the Church celebrates the XXVI World Day of Consecrated Life. This year’s theme is “Journeying Together,” an invitation to participate in the Church’s “journey” of synodality. Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and the Secretary of that dicastery, Monsignor José Rodríguez Carballo, with a Letter address all consecrated men and women, inviting them to actively participate in the ecclesial journey that opened on October 10, 2021, entitled “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”.

In his Apostolic Exhortation Vita Consecrata, Pope St John Paul II stated that “the consecrated life is at the very heart of the Church as a decisive element for her mission, since it “manifests the inner nature of the Christian calling” and the striving of the whole Church as Bride towards union with her one Spouse” .

Regarding religious brothers and consecrated life, the Vatican document, “Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church” underlines that “The Religious Brother and Sister, by participating in the saving mystery of Christ and the Church, are permanent reminders for all Christian people of the importance of the total gift of self to God and a reminder



that the mission of the Church, respecting the various vocations and ministries within it, is one and is shared by all”.

Concerning the mission of the Marist Brothers, the XXII General Chapter highlighted that “our vocation implies an availability to go anywhere in our worldwide family, working alongside the poor, especially children and young people, to transform the world. o being brothers is a call to be signs of humanity in all its fullness, which implies healing the wounds of our own lives, promoting the dignity of each person, and caring for our common home.”



United with Pope Francis, who will celebrate a televised Mass in the Vatican at 17.30 Italian time, we ask the Lord to inspire religious to be a prophetic voice and beacon of hope in this troubled world.

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

The Province has presented the document, Horizon of Spiritual Competence. It supports the fundamental elements for the development of Spiritual Competence with which they aim to lead students to have a personal experience of God that nourishes their Christian commitment, unifying faith with their own life and culture.

ASIA

Twelve participants from East Asia Province, Marist District of Asia and South Asia attended the meeting of Lay Animation Leaders of the continent. The agenda included sharing news about the formation initiatives for lay people and planning the next steps for the reflection process on the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation.

HAITI

The Marists in the country held their second Sector Assembly late last year, attended by 38 brothers and novices. The Marist in the country is currently undergoing a restructuring of their formation houses, and plans are underway to reopen the Latibolière community and a new apostolic community in Jérémie. There are also plans to open new educational activities.

ITALY

On January 29th, Marist alumnus Sergio Mattarella was re-elected President of Italy for a second seven-year term. He studied at the Marist school in Rome, San Leone Magno.

PROVINCE OF NIGERIA

PROVINCE ORGANIZED FORMATION FOR PRINCIPALS, DIRECTOR AND BURSARS OF HER SCHOOLS



On the 28th of January 2021, the Marist Province of Nigeria organised a workshop for the Principals, Director and Bursars of all her schools. The workshop was held at the Provincial House in Enugu. The topics discussed were: Pay Direct method of payment;

How to calculate salaries of our collaborators based on the new salary scale; Pension calculations and remittance to the pension scheme; Tax computation and remittance to the government; Budgeting and budget control; Processes and procedures of finances in Marist schools.

The workshop was facilitated by Br. Innocent Ndubuisi Iloabueke (Provincial Econome), Br. LuckyPaul Ogwu (Deputy

Provincial Econome) and Mr. Micheal Mbibi.

As promoters of just wages, Mr. Mbibi spoke on budgeting and budget control, the need to keep our expenditures within the approved budget.

The main aim of the formation was to show that, for transparency and accountability, proper accounting process and procedures must be upheld in our schools.

The meeting was mainly about best financial practices in the Marist Schools, but also a time to heighted the Education charism as essential for the Marist Mission, a moment of putting heads together and exchanging views on our best practices in our schools.



PROVINCE MEXICO CENTRAL

# THE PROVINCE PROMOTES THE CARE OF THE COMMON HOUSE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

On 20 January, 44 young people from different Marist Institutions and other organisations met to share their projects and dreams for the care of the Common House. Karime Guillén Libien (BIOVATEC / UAEM) participated with the presentation “Change for a sustainable world” and Alejandro Caballero (movimiento Escazú Ahora MX / Ateneo) shared about environmental/climate activism: truths and learnings.

Between these presentations, there was a space for dialogue between students in different working groups such as:

- Consumerism as a polluting factor
- Applied solar energy
- Life is a cake with different slices
- Recyclock, GEMAR 2030
- A cafeteria committed to the environment
- From the garden to the Common House
- Intercam and Green Diplomacy

The invitation that remained was: “Let’s transform our lifestyles that damage the planet and our society: let’s be the change we want to see in the world!”

For more information, [click here](#).



## Br. François first Superior General of the Marist Institute

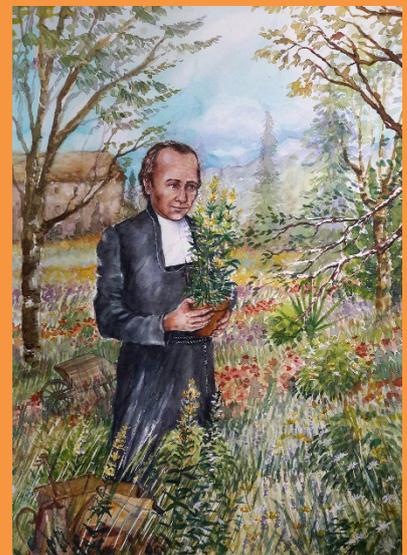
### 44. AN EARLY ENVIRONMENTALIST

Another trait he developed, in imitation of his patron saint St. Francis of Assisi, was his love of plants and animals.

Brother Francis tended a small garden where he grew medicinal plants, with which he prepared remedies for various ailments.

He also cared for the small animals that lived in the surrounding area. He cared for them and protected them. A person from those times recalled: “Great was my astonishment when in the spring of 1858, when I was doing my novitiate at the Hermitage, to see that the little birds made their nests in the rose bushes or other small shrubs in the garden and in all the holes in the walls of our playgrounds. They made them within easy reach of anyone’s hand. But it was not long before I had an explanation for what had seemed so extraordinary to me, who, in my village, had a passion for running around looking for nests and not for protecting them. I was warned that Brother François was very severe on this point. He would not allow these little creatures of God to be hindered in the making of their nests or their coming and going to bring food to their little ones”.

[Other episodes](#)



marist world

BRAZIL: PRÉ-POSTULANTADO EM VILA VELHA

EAST TIMOR: IRMAUN MARISTAS

GUATEMALA: MARIST FORMATION CENTER



COLOMBIA: MARIST LIFE AND MISSION ASSEMBLY – CALI

SPAIN: PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF MEDITERRÁNEA

CAMBODIA: MARIST CENTER OF HOPE, PAILIN

COLOMBIA

NOVICES ENTER THE INTERPROVINCIAL NOVITIATE IN MEDELLIN

On February 2, feast of the Presentation of the Lord and Day of Consecrated Life, three new novices begin their formation stage at the La Valla Novitiate in Medellin, Colombia. The new novices are Jesús Andrés Morales Reyes and Albino Quiroz Alejandre (México Occidental); and Jose Andrés Martínez Martínez (Norandina).

The celebration will take place at 16:00 (Colombian time) and will be transmitted through Facebook.

Along with the three new novices, the novitiate will have 4 second year novices: Víctor Hugo Franco Méndez (México Occidental), Cristóbal Sebastián Tovias Fraga (México Central), Saúl Isaías Conza



Salazar (Norandina) and Gerson Alexander Poo Asig (Central America).



## SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY

## CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO PLAY

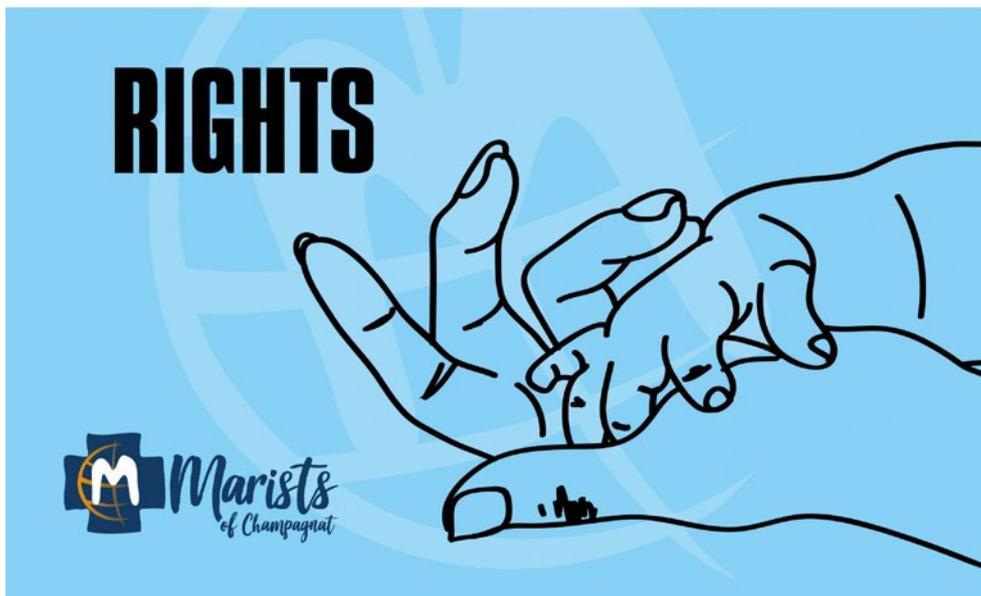
**A**rticle 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that children have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. This same article mandates governments to promote opportunities for children to play. The International Play Association (IPA), an international, non-governmental organization founded in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1961 equally advocates and promotes children's right to play through seminars, conferences, research, publications, playground design, play work training and the organization of play programs and Play Days.

Research shows that children play instinctively given the time, space, materials, and the support. They play not because they want to achieve anything. During play, their brains and their motor skills develop while they grow in self-control, self-esteem, and self-confidence as they get older. They equally integrate all types of learning as they play. They learn to sort by shape and size when playing with blocks, use symbols to represent ideas when drawing pictures, improve their eye-hand coordination when stringing beads, develop an understanding of cause and effect when mixing colours, improve their language and social skills during pretend-play, as well as develop agility, coordination and balance when engaged in active play.

Unstructured play activities have a significant impact on children's development. As they engage in play activities, they develop teamwork, problem-solving and social skills, turn-taking, sharing, listening, and critical decision-making skills. Today, unfortunately, the rise of so many structured activities including time spent in front of screens, and increased attention to academic work have reduced opportunities for unstructured play. Parents need to strike a balance between structured and unstructured play by setting aside some time every day for their children to spend in unstructured play and create opportunities for them to play outdoors.

**Play is the best way for children to learn**

Experts in education and educators from the time of Maria



Montessori agree that play is the best way for children to learn. By playing, children learn with ease as their motor skills, sense of wonder and self-expression develop. Sigmund Freud pointed out that this is true even for an infant whose play consists of nothing more than smiling at his mother, as she smiles at him. During play, children assert their characters as they develop basic life skills. Research has shown that play-based learning is more effective than direct-instruction approaches. Lack of play during early child development leads to isolation, depression, poor self-control and poor resilience, difficulty adapting to change, and a greater tendency to addiction and shallower interpersonal relationships in adulthood.

In his theological and religious interpretation of play, Hugo Rahner's examines play as an activity which is both serious and joyous. From this perspective, he envisions play as an "anticipation of heavenly joy" and sees in children' play the human person's "deep-seated longing for harmony between body and soul". Convinced about this, Champagnat insisted that brothers ought to be guardian angels of the children by supervising them all the time in their learning even during recreations, 'to encourage them to play, to see what they do and to hear what they say.' More than just physical exercise, children should be encouraged to cultivate playfulness, a virtue or habit which enhances their well-being. From this perspective, Pope Francis encourages, and even admonishes, parents to take time to play with their children both for the good of the children and to resist a culture of work that is dehumanizing and undermining family life.

Brother Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity

## GENERAL HOUSE

## THIS IS HAPPENING AT CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

In the section “THIS IS HAPPENING”, of Champagnat Global, we take the opportunity to tell you about “**AGORÁ**”, the online platform that facilitates the meeting of the Marist Global Network of Schools.

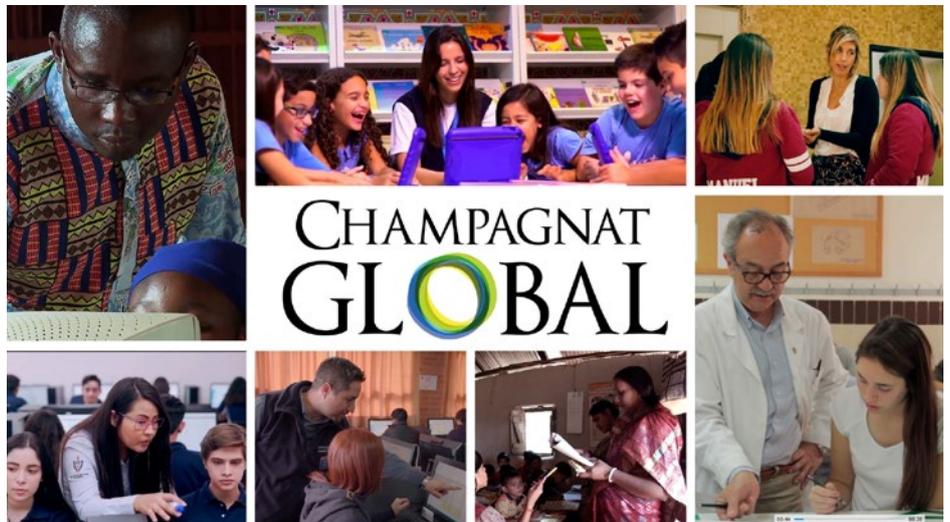
“**AGORÁ**” (from the Greek ἀγορά) is a term used in ancient Greece to designate the public square where the citizens of the polis (Greek city-state) used to congregate. It was an open space that was the centre of commerce, culture, politics, and the social life of the citizens.

Evoking Greek antiquity, in our “**AGORÁ**” you can also meet and share with other Marists of Champagnat, from different parts of the world. Register on the platform and join one or more groups. In each group you can join a conversation, participate in a discussion, find, and share materials, or work on initiatives or topics that are of interest to you and members of the international Marist school community.

If you want to know more about “**AGORÁ**” it’s very easy: you can find it all at this link.

The groups that are already active and are waiting for new members are:

- Education and digital safety. The group shares knowledge and best practices on cybersecurity and digital competence, parental control, technology and digital well-being in school and family environments.
- Language learning. It is an ideal group to promote initiatives to connect different Marist centres or organisations for the practice of a language.



- Stand Up, Speak Up & Act. This group aims to promote and support initiatives that contribute to the education, participation and empowerment of children and young people.
- The third educator. The aim of this group is to discuss, raise awareness and provide tools to create learning spaces that enable being and doing, in the integral development of people.
- Internationalisation of students. This group seeks to empower students to lead activities and processes in their school communities through Marist values and with the support of the global presence of the Marist school community.
- Global Citizenship. It is a group that wants to work actively in schools to build a fairer, more sustainable, and peaceful planet.
- Educational innovation. An ideal group to share and be enriched by new teaching and learning processes that add value to the school dynamic.

If you are interested in other topics that you would like to lead by interacting with the international Marist community, **let us know so that we can support your initiative and start a new group.**

WELCOME TO CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL, WELCOME TO AGORÁ!



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

**YouTube**

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

**Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

**Twitter**

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