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# MARIST NEWS

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

## XI MESSAGE OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

### MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

The eleventh message of the Marist International Mission Commission of the Marist Institute is entitled “Marist Youth Ministry: a way to journey together as a global family”. The message underlines what the Marist Constitutions has mentioned about children and young people in the world today:

“We contemplate the world through the eyes of the poor children and young people. We keep ourselves alert and are ready to go to new fields of mission close to the most vulnerable among them” (Article 60).



## general administration

- All the General Administration met on Monday to celebrate the gift of life of Br. Ernesto, Superior General.
- Matteo Caviccholi, who worked in the Department of Collaboration for International Mission (CMI), has ended his collaboration with the General Administration.
- On Monday, Brothers Beto and Mark (Secretariat for Education and Evangelization), Ángel Diego (Secretariat of Solidarity) and Fachi (CMI) met to follow the review of Marist Education Document.
- From February 22 to 26, the “Arco Norte” Regional Committee meets in Mexico City. Br. Goyo, from the General Administration, is present. The general councilors João and Ken also participated virtually on the first day.
- On Tuesday, Br. Beto and Javier Llamas, Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, met virtually with the mission and management coordinator of “UMBRASIL”, Ricardo Mariz.
- Also on Tuesday, Brother Ángel Diego, director of Secretariat of Solidarity, participated in the meeting of the “Religious Orders” Group to discuss the Laudato Si’ Action Platform.
- On Tuesday, FMSI and brothers Nnodu (Nigeria) and Mark (Secretariat for Education and Evangelization) met via zoom to discuss the Hopeville Project.
- Also on Tuesday, FMSI met with Br. Francis Jumbe and Mr. Patrick Siwinda (Malawi) to coordinate the Project “Equity of access to quality education for girls and disadvantaged children in Malawi”. That same day, the FMSI staff met at the General House with Maurizio Di Schino - TV2000 Journalist - to talk about the 15-year anniversary of the Foundation.
- On February 22 and 23, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, from the Secretariat Brothers Today, and Manu Gómez Cid, from the Secretariat of Laity, participated in the meetings of the three commissions of Europe: laity, brothers today and mission, held in Lisbon, Portugal.
- On Wednesday, Br. Beto met online with the Young Leaders of the “Stand Up, Speak Up & Act” Project.
- On Thursday, Brothers Beto and Mark and Diugar, from the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, will meet online with the Ad hoc team on Marist Youth Ministry Survey. That same day, Javier Llamas, Project Manager of the global network of schools, will meet Joan Pratdepadua Bufill, headmaster of the Marist school in Badalona.
- On Friday, Brothers Lindley and Ángel, from the Secretariat Brothers Today, participate in the meeting of the Tutti Fratelli Group to reflect on Laudato Si’ and on the group’s activities for this year.

The message, based on input from the Commission, is by Br. Mark Omede – from the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization.

The text highlights the “The type of MYM we want to have today” and seeks to answer the question: what are the current experiences so far in the Marist Youth Ministry that are helping us to stay in touch with the young people? On the same way, the text aims to searching for best practices outside our confinement, because, today, more than ever, alliances and sharing of best practices produce better results than an AU going it alone.

Through the reflections it is hoped to respond creatively to the aspirations of the Marist Youth Ministry, since we are aware that as care givers to young people, we are called “to be bridge-builders and be close to young people, especially the marginalized”.

At the end, the message leave a call to action to all Marist Youth Ministry agents:

1. Promote MYM platforms, especially in the neediest AUs.
2. Encourage networking among MYM around the world.
3. Share best practices and synergies between the AUs and the Regions, offering experiences to young people.
4. Promote MYM networking.
5. Work with Youth Research Centres (Observatories) to continuously analyse the youth world, cultural changes, and new generational values, and finally,
6. Create and accompany MYM experiences in response to the calls of the XXII General Chapter, to encourage listening, transformation, empowerment, and accompaniment of young people.

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BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL

# PUCPR AND FAROL 1817 PROMOTE COURSE ON GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL PACT

In partnership with the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR), the Farol 1817 channel (Brazil Centro-Sul Province) developed the second module of the “Nos Passos de Francisco” course, which is based on the precepts of the “Global Educational Pact”, a proposal of Pope Francis that seeks the renewal of education.

The course, which consists of 10 hours, develops in a simplified way the main concepts covered by the Global Educational Pact. Some of the topics addressed are alliance and educational village; importance of dialogue and listening in education; reception education; the role of ecology and sustainability; people centered education; and the courage to invest the best resources in education. [Enter this link to see the topics](#)



es are: Education, ecology, economy, and ecumenism. The [first course dealt with Integral Ecology](#) and was launched in the middle of last year.

**Farol 187 and the proposal “Nos Passos de Francisco”**  
The four pillars of the “In the Steps of Francisco” mini course-

Farol 1817 is a platform that offers content and courses for brothers, laity, collaborators, and people interested in spirituality and mission.

## SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY

## CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO A HOME

The concept of a home goes beyond a physical house and include a place of refuge where children develop a sense of belonging. When children's need for a home is ignored, they suffer from mental health. Based on this alone, the importance of a home for cannot be overemphasized. This explains why article 27 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is emphatic about it by stating that children have the right to a standard of living that is adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development. To reach their full potential, they need to feel safe and comfortable, have enough food and clothing, and live in a home. For this to happen, parents and guardians must provide good living conditions for their children. Regarding this, the UNCRC obliges governments to assist families to create decent homes for their children.

Furthermore, advocates of children's rights believe that children need a home also to develop a sense being and becoming. When they feel accepted for who they are as they develop, they acquire a sense of membership of a family, community, culture, and place. These experience enables them to develop their identity, social relationship, trust in people as they interact with their family members. They may not have access to things that they enjoyed but the sharing of concerns with their parents and siblings provides them a sense of ease and comfort, and the base for developing and maintaining lasting relationships which reinforce their sense of a home.

Children do not mind whether their families live in palaces or caves. What matter to them is having a home, a place where they are physically, socially, feel loved, and emotionally supported, with opportunities for play. Jesus did not mind where



his parents lived. He got from them emotional warmth, the best thing they could give him, and he grew up in wisdom and prominence whether they set up their home at the stable in Bethlehem for a time, in Egypt in exile or in their small village at Nazareth. This was also true of Saint Marcellin Champagnat who grew up in a small farm at Marlihes, where Christian values were put into practice. If he survived hardship in life, it was because he learned prudence, hard work, honesty and piety from his parents and aunt who gave him home education and spiritual formation. From his family, he acquired manual work skill, a sense of responsibility, and openness to new ideas, as well as the sense of good example and pedagogy of presence; the two pillars of his approach to education.

Talking about the duties of parents, the Catechism of the Catholic Church invites every home to become a domestic church, in the footsteps of the family of Nazareth, a natural environment where education in the virtues takes place. By creating a home where love, tenderness, forgiveness, respect, and fidelity are the rule and where they give them good examples, parents bear witness to their first responsibility for the education of their children.

Br. Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity



MEXICO CENTRAL

# THE MARIST COLLEGE OF IRAPUATO CELEBRATED 70 YEARS OF MARIST EDUCATION



The School “Pedro Martínez Vázquez de Irapuato”, in Guanajuato (Mexico Central Province) celebrated 70 years of Marist academic education.

The idea of building a Marist educational establishment arose in 1942, at the request of former Marist students who were aware of the quality of the teaching of the Marist Brothers at the national level and in Irapuato, where the Marists had been present from 1903 to 1914, with the name of the Guadalupe Institute. Through the intermediation of Church authorities, Brother Leoncio V. Lorenzo visited the school in Irapuato and accepted that it be under the tutelage of the Marist Brothers.

I believe that during these 70 years there have been many young people who have willingly assumed their responsibilities in different areas and interests. I hope that this Marist school continues to work for another 70 years to empower children and young people to be illustrious, not for them to dazzle and stand out from others because of their image, or what they appear to be, but so that through their testimonies

and way to be they can enlighten us the way to have more clarity about how to act to transform our society into a space of greater justice and well-being.

### **Pedro Martínez Vázquez School**

The school bears the name of the brother of one of the greatest benefactors, Don Sebastián Martínez Vázquez, who asked that the school bear the name of his brother who died in a plane crash, who had also collaborated in the construction of the new school.

At the beginning, in 1952, the school only had four groups of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, but in 1953 it completed the entire elementary school. Secondary education began in 1956 and High School in 1998.

During these 70 years, more than 15,000 students have been formed by the Marist charism, and today they are doctors, artists, athletes, scientists, politicians, diplomats, educators, architects, priests and many more. They are part of the identity of this Marist Institution.

# marist world

PORTUGAL: EUROPEAN TEAMS OF MISSION AND MARIST LIFE IN LISBON



NIGERIA: MARIST BROTHERS' JUNIORATE, UTURU



NICARAGUA: COLEGIO MARISTA SAN FRANCISCO



UNITED STATES: AUSTIN COMMUNITY OF WELCOME



AUSTRALIA: RUBEN AND SILVIA MARIA INES, FROM COMPOSTELA, NEW MEMBERS OF LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY OF MT. DRUITT



COLOMBIA: MARISTS OF NORANDINA

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

### 47. MAN OF PRAYER

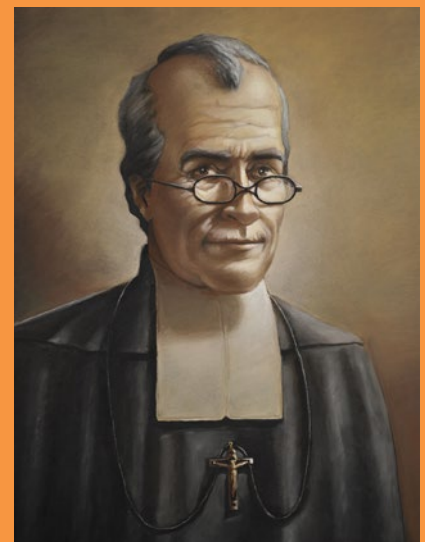
From his reflections and teachings, we can summarise his ideas on prayer in religious life: "The religious must be essentially a man of prayer. Prayer must become something familiar, even "crucial" as Champagnat described its practice.

Being a model of an apostolic religious living in community, he demanded of himself and of others the most perfect possible community prayer. Prayers were to be said slowly, attentive to one's neighbour for all to keep pace with one another.

All the Brothers, and even the neighbours, observed how intensely recollected he was in the chapel. Despite his faltering health, he remained on his knees, heroically, without leaning on the kneeler.

After his death some brothers recorded some memories of Br François: Until 1876, he used to pray the Stations of the Cross every day at mid-morning, on his knees. For the last five years of his life, he performed the exercise standing because he could no longer get up from his knees without help.... He did his meditation among us and, like us, kneeling on the ground. His composure was so edifying that I used to say to myself: "He is speaking to his good God and focussed on nothing else, so we must avoid distracting Him in any way. It seemed that he was in his element at prayer and that it was very natural to him. This is why his circulars often speak of prayer, a proof that he took real delight in it. He always seemed to be in deep recollection".

Other episodes





GENERAL HOUSE

# THE SECOND ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

The second assembly of the Marist Solidarity International Network (MSIN) took place online in February 01 and 16, 2022. Its Executive Committee composed of the Secretariat of Solidarity and the representatives from the Marist regions organized it. All the participants were from the Marist regions.

During the first session, 84 participants took part. It started with a welcome address from Br. Ángel Diego (Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity) followed by a moment of prayer led by Br. Francis Lukong, Assistant Director.

Br. Ernesto Sánchez (Superior General) was present and addressed the assembly. He invited the participants to be “prophetic voices” of our time.

Besides the main objective of the assembly which was to launch the Working Groups to carry out the activities of the MSIN, the five documents namely Handbook, Strategic Plan, Operational Plan Glossary, and the MoU of the MSIN were presented to the Assembly for approval.

Work in the five Working Groups, namely Education in Solidarity, Child Rights, Ecology, Social works, and NGOs started on the 04th and continued the 09th of February, to prepare for the second session on February 16, 2022.

The last session of the assembly took place on February 16, 2022. 75 participants attended. Br. Ángel Diego (the Moderator) welcomed them Br. Vicente Falchetto led the prayer. This was followed by a short speech from Br. Ken, the link General Councillor, in which he commended the Working Groups for the



work done and encouraged them to continue the good work. The English and the Spanish language Working Groups respectively took turns to present the outcome of their work. They each outlined their objectives, lines of action and concrete actions. To conclude this session of presentations, Br. Fachi Valdicer, the director of the department of Collaboration for Mission, International (CMI) was given a chance to say something about the CMI and its volunteering mission. Br. Ángel Diego presented the results of the approval of the five documents of the MSIN. From the figures and graphic representations, it was clear that the assembly had approved all of them by 97.6%.

The last intervention for the day was from Br. Luis Carlos (Vicar General). In his address, he thanked the Working Groups for work well done and encouraged them to continue in like manner to realize the Institute’s dream of a Marist global family. The assembly ended with words of thanks from Br. Ángel Diego who recognised the efforts of everyone and the encouragement of the General Council in supporting the MSIN to carry out its mission.



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