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MARIST NEWS

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SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION AND EVANGELIZATION

X ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The X Assembly of the Marist International Network of Higher Education took place in Porto Alegre, from 26 till 29 April 2022, on the campus of Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), Brazil. In this edition, leaders of 21 Marist institutions discussed the theme Innovation, Development and Transformation.

The first day, Br. Manuir Mentges, Senior Vice President of PUCRS and President of the Network's Executive Board, opened the event and presented the work planned for the meeting. After that, Br. Deivis Fischer, Provincial of Brasil Sul-Amazônia delivered a speech. He shared the local Marist history and talked about the regional context as something that brings these institutions together.

Thereafter, Br. Evilázio Teixeira, President of PUCRS, who welcomed the leaders, reinforced the importance of the connection between the member institutions and introduced the University.

After the opening speeches, Br. Luís Carlos Gutierrez, Gen-



general administration

- Brothers Óscar and Ken, General Councilors links with the Region of Africa, are visiting the Province of Madagascar during the week.
- Brothers Ángel Diego and Francis, directors of the Secretariat of Solidarity, are continuing their visit to the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, especially to see the social centers.
- André Rossi and Rita Pala from FMSI, together with Br. Mark, from the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization traveled to Malawi for a monitoring visit of the project "Equity of access to quality education for girls and disadvantaged children in Malawi", supported by Misesan Cara. The team visited two of the 7 schools involved in the project.
- On Tuesday, the meeting of the Volunteer Network management team began in Porto Alegre. The meeting, which ends on Thursday, is organized by the Department CMI. Brothers Luis

Carlos, General Vicar, Valdicer, director of the CMI, and Ángel Diego, from the Secretariat of Solidarity, are participating.

- Br. Ernesto, Superior General, was at the opening of the 46th Chapter of the De La Salle Brothers on May 1. Invited by Br. Robert Schieler, he also participated in the presentation of the Superior General's report on Wednesday.
- On Thursday, Br. Ernesto participates in a talk to the group of the international course for leaders animators of the lay Marist vocation, online.
- On Friday, Br. Ernesto will participate in the meeting "Leadership in Discernment", held at the Jesuit General House.
- On Saturday, Brothers Ben and João, General Councilors, will begin their visit to the Marist communities of Germany and Belgium, until the 12th. On Saturday and Sunday, they will be in Mindelheim, Germany.

eral Vicar, addressed the commitment of Marist institutions to the construction of a more just and fraternal society. He presented the three dimensions of Marist higher education and invited participants to “move on with boldness, establish proactive actions and innovate with passion. There is a lot to be done in the network”, he said.

The program gave participants the chance to share and build things together. It was also approved the statutes and strategic projects, which will be emphasized in the next stages. Likewise, the document “Marist Evangelizing Action in Higher Education” (produced in 2017) was relaunched, which has been updated and translated into three languages ([e-book on Amazon](#)).

In the same way, the dialogue on the strategic plan aligned the directions and objectives that will be worked on in the next two years.

Board of Directors and Fiscal Council of the Network

With the approval of the new statute, the Network will be directed by a Board of Directors composed of representatives of the English, Portuguese and Spanish speaking languages, and a representative of the General House.

The members chosen to carry out this activity were Br. Marcelo Bonhenberger, from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS) – who will act as president and will represent the Portuguese language; Ana Gabriela Aguirre Franco, from the Marist University of Mexico City, who will be the vice president and Spanish-speaking representative; and Br. Arnel S. Alfanta, from Notre Dame

Of Kidapawan College – Philippines, who will be the English-speaking representative. The Council will have the participation of Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, as representative of the General Government.

The members of the Fiscal Council were also elected. It will be made up of Fabiano Incerti, from PUCPR; Sílvia Vargas Salazar, from the Marist University of Valladolid, in Mexico; Osuji Gregory Ekene Rev, from the Marist Polytechnic – Enugu, in Nigeria; and Brother Marino Latorre Ariño, from the Marcelino Champagnat University, in Peru.

Upcoming challenges

At the end of the meeting, Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, gave a speech to present and strengthen the network activities present in the Institute. Br Carlos Alberto recalled how much this collaborative development is the future of the Marist institution and is connected, above all, with the calls of the Church, such as the World Educational Pact, and the changes in society.

Brother Luiz Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General of the Marist Institute, concluded the meeting stressing the need to continue advancing and to be connected with the essence of the Marist mission: “I think that what should inspire us as Marists when we plan something is: to have the audacity to move forward, focused on opportunities for connection”.

The next Assemblies will be held hybrid and annually. Every two years a face-to-face meeting will be held. The next face-to-face meeting will be in 2025, in L’Hermitage, France.

Br. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

57. DEATH OF A SAINT

On Saturday 22nd January 1881, at noon, Brother François did not attend the community Visit to the Blessed Sacrament. As he was not in the habit of missing prayers, the brothers, concerned by his absence, went to his room and found him unconscious, kneeling beside his bed. A stroke had left him in that position. The chaplain of the house administered the Anointing of the Sick, but he gave no sign of consciousness. He remained in this state until six o'clock in the evening, when he gave his soul to God.

On the day of the funeral it was very cold and there was 25 centimetres of snow... Brother Stratonique, Superior General, was present with other Brothers, all of whom were “joyful and comforted, knowing that they were attending the funeral of a saint”.

The people of the region said: “A saint has died!” However, he was not very well known, except by the people who came to consult him, because he was a great connoisseur of herbs and herbal remedies. Although he was little known to the people, this had not prevented a mysterious influence and admiration for him from spreading. Visitors to the Hermitage claimed that his face would light up when he received communion, and when he returned to his place, his face seemed transfigured.

His remains were laid to rest beside the tomb of Fr Champagnat in the Hermitage cemetery and a small monument topped by a cross was erected over his grave. In 1924, his remains were transferred to the chapel of the Hermitage, where they can still be venerated to this day.

Other episodes

UNITED STATES

The Province collected \$40,000 during Lent to help the Marist mission in Venezuela. The check was presented by Br. Dan, Provincial, to Dashiell López, of the Foundation “Ayuda a Educar”, created in Florida by Marist alumni living in the United States to promote the Marist mission in Venezuela. (<https://www.ayudaeducar.org/>).

TIMOR ORIENTAL

In several places the church celebrates the feast of the Religious Brother on May 1. This year, the Brothers of East Timor also participated in this celebration and prepared a video that was disseminated on social networks. **The video** focuses on spirituality, community and ministry in Marist life.

NEWSLETTER GLOBAL CHAMPAGNAT

Newsletter 5 of the Marist Global Schools Network was sent out at the beginning of the week. You can find all the issues [at this link](#). You can [subscribe here](#) to receive information from the Network.

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

The meeting of the management and animation teams of the Marist Sector of Bolivia was held on April 29-30 and May 1, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. During the days the directors of the Marist schools reflected on the Marist life and the commitment to continue living the charism of Champagnat.



AMÉRICA SUR

REGIONAL COMMITTEE AND COORDINATORS MEETING



From April 25-29, the Regional Committee of South America met in Brasília, with the participation of 20 people from the five provinces that make up the Region: **Brasil Centro-Norte**, **Brasil Sul-Amazônia**, **Brasil Centro-Sul**, **Cruz del Sur** and **Santa María de los Andes**. The meeting was led by Brother Pablo González, Provincial of Santa María de Los Andes and current coordinator of the region, and Leonardo Soares, executive secretary of the Region. **UMBRASIL** oversaw the organizing of the event. The principal objective of the meeting was to update the regional strategic plan and

elaborate the operational plan for the upcoming year 2022-2023. The motto that inspired the work of the regional leaders was: “Act in the present in order to build the future”. Gregorio Linacero, manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, participated on behalf of the General Government of the Institute to create synergies between the region, the secretariats, and networks promoted at the global level by the Institute. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (Vicar General), Óscar Martín (link Councillor of the Region) and Assis de Brito (Provincial of Brazil Centro-Norte).

MAY WITH MARY, OUR GOOD MOTHER

The month of May is a special time of devotion to Mary, not only for us Marists but for the whole Church. The Rule of Life, after telling us to “put all your trust in the Lord, following the example of Father Champagnat” asks us to “have confidence in Mary also; as our Good Mother, she has done everything for us” (Wherever You Go, 83). St. Marcellin encouraged the celebration of the month of May, as Furet reminds us: “All the Brothers will take to heart the celebration of the month of Mary and will lead the students to do the same with joy and devotion”. See [this link](#) for some resources for this month of May with Mary.

EAST ASIA VI PROVINCIAL CHAPTER



The Province of East Asia held its VI Provincial Chapter at the Marist Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu, in Philippines from April 20-25. Its motto was “Do this in Memory of Me! (Luke 22:19), Generating Homes of Light in Christ”, recalling the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, where Jesus impels His apostles to proclaim His salvific actions saying: “Do this in memory of Me”.

During the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Most Reverend Bishop Colin Bagaforo, with two other priests concelebrating (Fr. Allan Sasi, DCK and Fr. Rex Sumpan, DCK), Brother Allan J. de Castro assumed as the new Provincial, replacing Br. Dominador Aquino. Br. Allan will be accompanied by the newly elected Provincial Council composed by Brothers Anthony Tay, Jacobo Song, Manuel V. de Leon and Rommel Ocasiones. The event was attended by 26 delegates, 21 observers and 16 participants from the three Province’s sectors: Philippine,

Korea-Japan and China. Also were present Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, and the General Councillors Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and Br. Josep Soteras, Councilors links with the Region of Asia.

On the occasion, the youth observers of East Asia made an appeal: “We commit to be pro-active in terms of service and involvement as we move forward in amplifying the emerging issues that concern the youth. In the same manner, we aim to see young minds that may come before us, experience the advocacies that we have fought for. In this milieu, we channel the charisms of St. Marcellin of Champagnat and all the founding brothers of this Congregation.”

You can [read here down the Statement from the delegates and participants of the Chapter](#). And here you find the [3 bulletins](#) with other information and pictures from the meeting.

Statement of the 6th Provincial Chapter of East Asia

We, the delegates and participants of the 6th Provincial Chapter of the East Asia Province, discerned what the Holy Spirit is calling us to BE and DO in this volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world where we are now living.

In our synodal journey of reflecting, listening, sharing, and discerning the will of God, we believe that as Marists of Champagnat, we are called to be:

- CONTEMPLATIVES OF THE SACRED by nurturing harmony and interiority in our relationship with our God. We commit to being credible witnesses

in the spirit of the Beatitudes.

- COMPASSIONATE HEALERS by recognizing our limitations, weaknesses, and brokenness; being respectful of diverse cultures and beliefs. We commit to create a culture of CARE for one another, especially those who are suffering in whatever conditions. We remain

marist world

ROMANIA: CASE ALE SPERANTEI

URUGUAY: SCHOOL SANTA MARÍA MARISTAS

ITALY: PATHWAYS RENEWAL IN MANZIANA



ARGENTINA: CEC "SAN MARCELINO CHAMPAGNAT" DE TIGRE – BUENOS AIRES

BRAZIL: SOLIDARITY SECRETARIAT AND SOLIDARITY TEAM OF BRAZIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

SPAIN: MARISTAS MÁLAGA

faithful to what St. Marcellin impels us to “love one another and be of one heart and one mind.”

- BRIDGE BUILDERS by connecting with the young, listening to their voices, acknowledging their developmental needs, and bridging them to their dreams. We commit to journey with them, in becoming partners

and partakers in God’s mission, particularly the children and the young at risk and in need.

- CARERS OF OUR COMMON HOME by upholding human dignity and integrity of creation. We commit to intensify our responses and initiatives in addressing emerging needs, social injustices, and environmental

crises toward integral ecology through our ministries.

With unwavering trust in God’s guidance as Mary did, we will act with a sense of urgency and courage and do things in MEMORY OF JESUS.

We continue our journey together as Marists of Champagnat, one with the global Marist family, in becoming HOMES OF LIGHT IN CHRIST!

We now entrust all these to God, with the Magnificat of Mary, and their realization with the inspiration of St. Marcellin.

We go in the light of Christ with a profound sense of mission to create a hopeful and life-giving future!

Delegates and participants – 6th East Asia Provincial Chapter



GENERAL HOUSE

FORMATION PROGRAM FOR MARIST LEADERS

On the 27th March, in Porto Alegre, Brazil, the teachers who will lead the formation program “Marist Leaders – Servant, prophetic and qualified leadership” were presented. The program is promoted by the Marist Institute in collaboration with the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS). Brother Manuir Mentges, Vice-Rector, represented the PUCRS. Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, was present on behalf of the General Administration of the Institute.

The course is intended for leaders of the Marist Administrative Units working in the strategic areas of mission development and will have 50 participants. The first edition, held this year, will be in Portuguese and Spanish. Another program is planned for next year, aimed at the English and French speaking public.

The course has two fundamental objectives:

To foster, through training and accompaniment (even professional), a solidary mentality that privileges co-responsibility, transparency, efficient and effective management and sustainability.

To promote a leadership of service that is open and trained to meet the emerging realities of our Institute and the world.

The contents will be worked in hybrid form, online and in presence. The first part, which will open on May 13, will take place online through October. From October 3 until October 15, the participants will meet in Porto Alegre for the session in presence.

Program’s content

The Marist Leadership For-

mation Program will be based on the content of the book “Marist Voices” presented during the General Conference and currently being published in the 4 languages used by the Marist Institute.

The program is distributed in the following blocks

1. Servant Leadership: Introduction, concept and characteristics
2. Servant leadership, innovation and change processes
3. Servant leadership and community building (communication and interpersonal relationships).
4. Servant leadership and project development (processes and tools)
5. Leadership, new normality and networking
6. Servant leadership, “foresight” and strategic planning
7. Leadership and co-responsibility (indicator-based evaluation)
8. Servant leadership, ethical and moral foundations (ethical responsibility)
9. Servant leadership and sustainability.
10. Servant leadership: education, mission and pastoral care
11. Servant leadership, spirituality and charismatic identity.



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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