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MARIST NEWS

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MAY 20

COMMENCEMENT OF THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS

The Secretariat of Brothers Today has prepared a Prayer for Celebrating the Commencement of the Year of Marist Vocations to give Marist communities, and groups a resource for opening the YMV on May 20, 2022. The idea is to have a uniform celebration throughout the Institute, while at the same time respecting the unique context of each country or administrative unit.

The prayer celebration consists of several short readings around the theme of vocation that offer points for reflection and sharing.

The potted plant will be used as the principal symbol of Marist life, for which Marists of Champagnat are invited to care and to generate. It concludes with the Prayer for the YMV and a petition to the Good

Mother for her protection.

The prayer celebration is now available on our site. It also comes with the guideline to facilitate the animation.

Also on May 20, the secretariat will host the online Institute-wide Commencement Program. More information is available on the website as well.

You can find in this link all information about the Year of Marist Vocations.

Commencement of the
**YEAR OF
MARIST VOCATIONS**

May 20, 2022
6:00 am | 2:00 pm | 10:00 pm*

*Rome time - You may choose the time that suits your schedule best.

To participate enter this link: <https://bit.ly/381GnF0>

caring for and generating
MARIST LIFE

general administration

- Brothers Óscar and Ken, General Councillors, finish their visit to the Province of Madagascar next Sunday.
- Brothers João Carlos and Ben, General Councillors, conclude their visit to the Marist communities in Germany and Belgium on Thursday.
- On May 9 and 10, the Executive Committee of the Berford Fund meets at the residence of the District of Can-

ada. Meanwhile, on May 10 and 11 is held the meeting of the board of directors of the Berford Fund, which is made up of 6 people from the 4 continents, who manage the Institute's investment fund. Brothers Jorge Gaio, Gregorio Linacero and Libardo Garzón, along with Flavia Angi, from the Econome General, are in Canada to participate in the meetings.

MEXICO CENTRAL

STUDENTS FROM THE MARIST UNIVERSITY OF QUERÉTARO PRESENT ECOLOGICAL PROJECTS

With the objective of promoting care for the Earth, the Marist University of Querétaro promotes ecological projects, and as part of this program, some university students have presented their proposals for the development of eco-technologies using what is considered waste.

The projects presented were:

1. "Green rooftop terrace, optimizing costs" with substrate from coconut husk, to counteract urban impact and recover green areas.
2. "From electronic waste to Renewable Energy", from electronic waste, cardboard and wood, the students build a photovoltaic cell.
3. "Solar energy applied / solar cooker", from cardboard, glass and aluminium to make a kitchenette that bakes, gratin, cooks and roasts food.
4. "From the sky to the school" Rain-water collector to irrigate the school garden.
5. "Eco fashion". Preparation and repair of used clothing to give it a second chance.
6. "Foam a Contaminant Anonymous" to raise awareness about the use of household and personal hygiene cleaners. They teach that foam is not synonymous with cleanliness and is a contaminant that depletes oxygen from the water.
7. "Aquaponics", as a sustainable food alternative. At the pilot level, it cleans the fish tank and maintains a refined cycle.



The activities promoted by the Marist University aim to develop environmental projects to efficiently take advantage of natural and material resources. And promote environmental education in the educational community on the

sustainable use of natural resources and various materials for daily life.

Among its projects, the Marist University of Querétaro also has the "Marist Social Support Service" (SEMAAS), which promotes social assistance to the most vulnerable people and actions to create ecological awareness and care for the environment.

Br. François, first Superior General of the Marist Institute

58. THE INSTITUTE AT THE TIME OF THE DEATH OF BROTHER FRANÇOIS

With the death of Brother François, the first generation that governed the Institute, that is, the Brothers who had been formed by Father Champagnat himself, disappeared.

At the time of his death, the Institute was well founded and in a strong position, with approximately 2500 Brothers, teaching more than 80,000 pupils in 565 schools.

The Institute was divided into 8 provinces: Saint-Genis, Hermitage, St. Paul, Aubenas, Nord, Bourbonnais, the British Isles and the West. Besides the missions of Ocenia.

In addition, there was a large number of young people in formation: about 600 novices, 130 postulants and 190 juniors.

Other episodes

USA

16 members of faculty and staff from Marist Eugene, Mount Saint Michael Academy, Archbishop Molloy High School, Christopher Columbus High School, Saint Joseph Regional High School, Saint Joseph Academy, and Central Catholic High School joined together at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus last week for a Sharing Our Call 1 retreat. Presenters included Alice Miesnik, Br. Hank Hammer, Br. Michael Flannigan, Tim Hagan, Matt Fallon, and Ellen Salmi VanCLeef.

MEDITERRANEAN

44 people (10 brothers and 34 lay people) from Lebanon, Italy and Spain celebrated in the last week of April the provincial phase of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, in Guardamar. During his virtual participation, Raúl Amaya, director of the Secretariat of the Laity, invited the participants to reflect on the meaning of the Marist vocation they live and he underlined the need to create itineraries and vocational accompaniment processes.

OCEANIA E ASIA

The first of three Interregional Gatherings was held on Tuesday 26 April with 50 participants from the two regions who enjoyed the opportunity to welcome the Lay Marist Vocation as part of the International Forum process. Participants shared something of their Marist life context, where they find themselves in the unfolding Marist story, and left hungry for more of this unique fusion of the Marist Vocation.

COMPOSTELA

THE PROVINCE PROMOTE SOLIDARITY, RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND SUSTAINABILITY



The **Marist Province of Compostela** is moving forward in its strategic objective of raising awareness about the care of the common home in all its educational works. The eco2social Framework advocates “awakening and developing eco2social awareness from an integrative and Christian perspective that promotes solidarity, responsible consumption and sustainability,” in line with one of the calls of the 22nd General Chapter, which asks to respond to emerging needs.

In this sense, the eco2social coordinators are promoting ecological sustainability in educational communities, through the exchange of ideas, good practices, experiences, and projects in the various educational stages linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and the care of our common home. And, very soon, it will be launched the vegetable garden in kin-

dergarten, the vertical gardens in primary school and the zero waste project.

The initiatives propose 5 main lines of action: people, planet, prosperity, peace and alliances. [See here the presentation of the project](#), some time ago, with the participation of Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General.

With the aim of sharing eco2social projects with other schools, the Province of Compostela, with its 14 schools in Castilla y León, Galicia and Asturias, has joined the **Natives Platform**. As a result of this alliance, Marist schools can now share their eco2social initiatives with other schools.

The medium-term objective is to make eco2social a cross-cutting awareness that permeates all activity without the need for explicit encouragement.

MARIST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION

FMSI DELEGATION IN MALAWI TO ASSESS EDUCATION CHALLENGES

The director of FMSI, Andrea Rossi, together with Br. Mark Omede, Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Mission and Rita Pala, from the staff of FMSI, 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 Misean Cara. The team visited two of the 7 schools involved in the project and were able to interview students, teachers, parents and the headmasters. The project aims at ensuring equal access to quality education, especially for girls, in an area where this is often not guaranteed.



Marist International Solidarity Foundation

FMSI is a Foundation of the General Administration of the Marist Institute and work worldwide to promote a new mentality and concrete initiatives for the benefit of children and young people, especially the most defenseless and abandoned to make the world a better place for children and young people.

Currently, FMSI and the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization of the Marist Brothers are jointly implementing two projects in Malawi, which are aimed at addressing barriers hindering underprivileged and non-boarding students, particularly girls, from accessing education in the country.

Andrea Rossi said the aim of their visit is to appreciate the contribution Marist Brothers are making towards improving the quality and access to education for every child. “As a child

rights-based organization, our biggest concern is always the welfare of children in all the country where Marist Brothers are present. So, our visit to Malawi will give us the opportunity to understand and appreciate the challenges that children are facing and how best we can work with our stakeholders such as the government in addressing them to ensure every child has access to quality education,” said Rossi.

“We want to address school dropout and improve the quality of education in public schools in Malawi and any other country where Marist Brothers are present. We want to create resilience programmes and income generating activities as a way of ensuring sustainability of the project,” stated Rossi.

Director of Education, Youth and Sports at Salima District Council, Alfred Hauya, stated that less than a quarter of the learners that sit the Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PLSCE) make it to secondary school because of lack of space. Hauya therefore pleaded with the delegation to consider supporting the government in constructing additional hostels and classroom blocks to facilitate increase in numbers of learners being selected to secondary schools.

In her remarks, District Commissioner for Salima, Grace Chirwa-Kanyimbiri, assured FMSI that her council will provide the required support for the project to achieve its goals.

Currently, Marist Brothers are implementing their interventions at Likuni Boys Secondary School in Lilongwe, Champagnat Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) and Marist Secondary School in Dedza, St. Charles Luwanga Secondary School in Balaka, Zomba Catholic and Mayaka Community Day Secondary Schools in Zomba and Msalura and Mafco CDSSs in Salima.



marist world

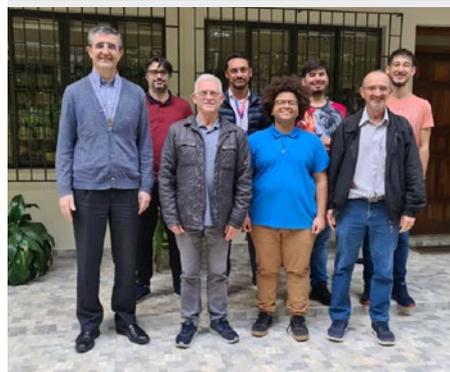
BRAZIL: MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT TEAM OF THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK



SPAIN: INTERNATIONAL MARIST FORUM ON THE LAY VOCATION, IN GUARDAMAR



AUSTRALIA: ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTHAM



BRAZIL: VICAR GENERAL MEETS FORMATORS AND CANDIDATES FOR MARIST RELIGIOUS LIFE IN CURITIBA



MALAWI: MARIST SECONDARY SCHOOL



BELGIUM: BROTHERS JOÃO AND BEN VISIT THE BROTHERS OF GENVAL

IBÉRICA

ANOTHER LOOK, A PODCAST FOR A BELIEVING READING OF REALITY

The School of Spirituality of the **Iberian Province** presents the new monthly podcast program "Another Look" It is a project that was born to serve the Marist community and anyone who wants to share this space with us, to position themselves as Christians in the face of reality. This podcast program aims to associate actuality, formation, and spirituality. Because living animated by the Spirit means being open to the action of the God of Jesus in daily life, intuiting his presence in the events of history, and learning to look at it through the eyes of faith. Therefore, we want to create a space for reflection and listening, to talk about current issues that concern us. We want to perceive reality with different eyes, to perceive the look that we often miss in this complex, accelerated, and noisy world. We want our gaze to be slow, calm, critical, compassionate, and constructive; a believing gaze that helps us to situate ourselves and to know how to respond to it. The first podcast was published at the beginning of May, with

the collaboration of Joseba Louzao, who helps us to understand the key to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and to situate ourselves in all this from a believing vision of reality. The program can be accessed through the following platforms: **IVOOX**, **SPOTIFY** Behind these podcasts are the people who make up the team of the School of Spirituality of the Iberian province, but also a whole network of regular collaborators, good, competent, and generous people, who will accompany us and help us in this adventure. From now on, if you want, you have an appointment every month with "Another Look", a podcast of restless people for a believing reading of reality.



Ángel Fernández, Spirituality School of the Iberian Province



SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY

VISIT TO UMBRASIL AND THE PROVINCES OF BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE AND BRASIL SUL-AMAZONIA

Brothers Francis Lukong and Ángel Diego, Directors of the Secretariat of Solidarity of the General Administration have visited part of the Marist provinces of Brazil Centro Norte and Brazil Sul-Amazonia. From the 25th of April to the 2nd of May 2022, we had the opportunity to meet some of the people and Marist works that are directly related to solidarity. After two years of the Covid 19 pandemic, we were able to begin visiting to get to know the Marist reality. The richness of the personal encounter has been the dominant note during all the days of the visit. We had the opportunity to meet and interact with many Marists and their collaborators, and with many children and young people who they minister to.

We had the opportunity to get to know the realities of Brasilia and Porto Alegre, as well as some nearby cities. We were also able to meet with UMBRASIL, as the organization that organizes the collaboration between the three Marist Provinces of Brazil. We had meetings with provincial coordinators, social educators and children and young people who are the beneficiaries of our solidarity action as a Marist Institute. These meetings gave us the opportunity to transmit the way of understanding and organizing solidarity in the General Administration. We were able to learn from each other and to discover how to continue to collaborate and network in the coming months. Solidarity is all-embracing and not just one way direction of feeling



sympathy. As Marists, children and young people unite us, and give us a common understanding of relationships and mission. We want to thank all the Marists of Champagnat who welcomed us and accompanied us. We thank them for their availability, closeness, and sense of family. We are especially grateful to Leonardo, Paulo and Brothers Iranilson and José. We thank them for their fraternal and Marist welcome in the provincial communities of Brasilia and Porto Alegre.

Br. Ángel Diego – Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity



MARIST SISTERS

During the XXX General Chapter, which takes place in Nemi, from April 24 to May 15, the Marist Sisters elected the new general government on May 8. This will be made up of Sister Sylvette Mané, Superior General, and her advisers, Sisters Silvia Sanz de Diego, Mari Aranda Sánchez-Lara and Kate McPhee.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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