



Year **XIV** - Number **730** | **18 MAY 2022**

# MARIST NEWS

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

## MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>: BEGINNING OF THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS

To celebrate the commencement of the Year of Marist Vocations, the Secretariat Brothers Today has prepared a prayer and an online event. In this link you will find all the information to celebrate and take part in the events:

<https://bit.ly/381GnFO>

*"It is a time in which we wish to celebrate and give thanks for the gift that we have received as Marists of Champagnat, the brothers, the lay Marists... all of us who throb deeply with the Marist charism, to the point of living it in depth, making this gift our way of life. Along with celebrating and giving thanks, we wish to take up again with strength and enthusiasm the theme of Marist vocations, from the perspective of a renewed vocational culture"*

*(Br. Ernesto Sánchez about the Year of Marist Vocations).*



*caring for and generating*  
**MARIST LIFE**  
**YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS**  
20 MAY 2022 - 06 JUNE 2023

### general administration

- Last weekend, in Nemi, the General Chapter of the Marist Sisters ended. Brothers Josep Maria, General Councilor, Luis Daniel, Secretary General, and Patrick, Superior of the community, participated in the concluding celebration on Saturday.
- Brother Sylvain, General Councilor, took part in the meeting of the Africa Laity Team on Tuesday.
- On Tuesday and Wednesday, the meeting of the solidarity delegates of the 5 Provinces of the European Region was held in Alcalá de Henares. The meeting was attended by the directors of the Secretariat of Solidarity, Brothers Ángel Diego and Francis.
- On Wednesday, led by Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, the International Commission of Marist Mission met via zoom.
- On the same day the Extended Bureau of the Laity met, together with the links General Councilors and the facilitators of the International Forum. The main topic was the preparation of the meeting planned for November in Rome.
- From Wednesday to Friday, Brothers Óscar, Ben and João Carlos, General Councilors, participate in the Marist Leaders' Course in the Province of Compostela, in Valladolid.
- On Friday the Year of Marist Vocations begins. Three online meetings, organized by the Brothers Today Secretariat, will mark the day. Besides the directors of the Secretariat, several brothers of the Council will participate in the live, via Zoom and Youtube.
- On the same day, the Brothers and collaborators of the General House will participate in the a celebration for the commencement of the Vocational Year, organized as one of the stages of the local process of the International Forum on Lay Marist Vocation.
- Also on Friday, the FMSI team will participate in the celebration organized on the occasion of the Forum of Catholic NGOs in Rome.

XIV MESSAGE OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION  
**HUMAN POTENTIAL**

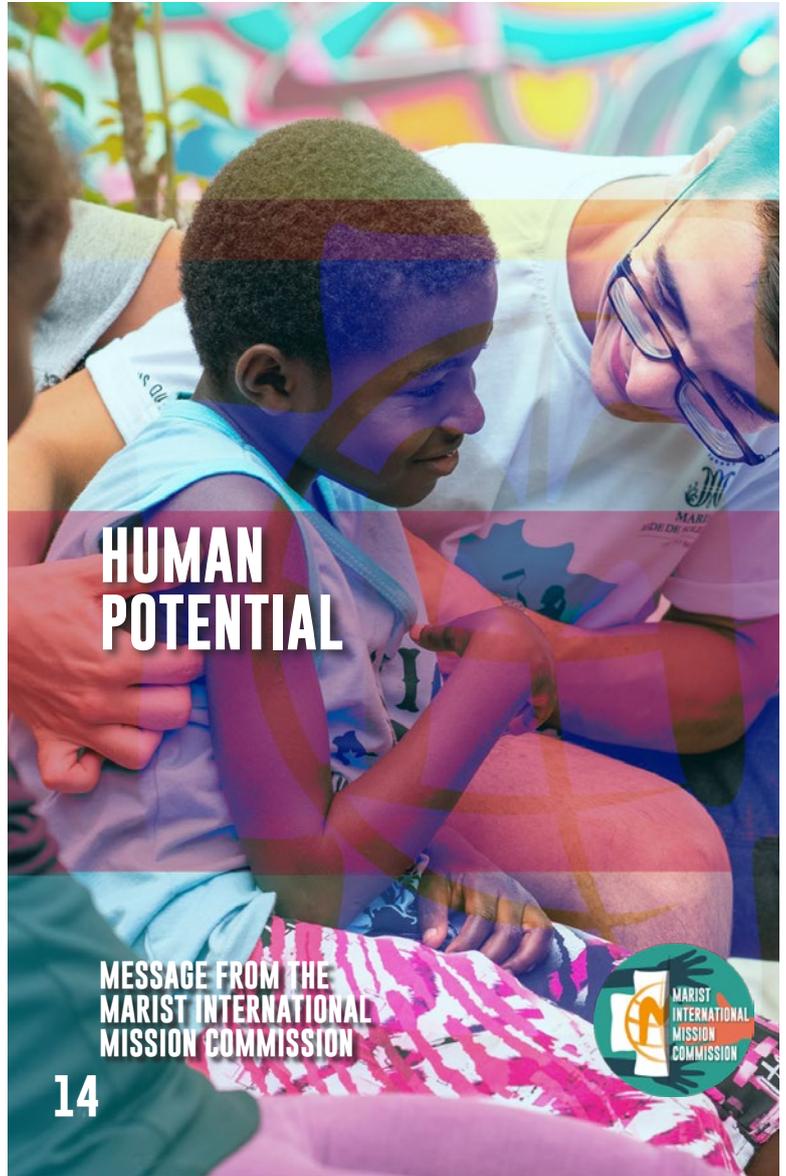
The XIV message the **Marist International Mission Commission**, entitled “Human potential”, values the importance of the person and highlights that the strength of the Institute lies in the potential of those of us who are Marists of Champagnat.

The text, prepared in the name of the International Commission of Marist Mission by Br. Rodrigo Espinosa Larracochea (México), emphasizes human capital from 5 points: as the sense of Marist fraternity (we are truly family), our own unique “mark” (with a particular stamp), the care of the person, the professionalization as a permanent task, and the search for new horizons in the future, because “the path is made by walking...”

The message invites Marists to care for and foster “human potential” and calls on:

- To deepen and share the diverse richness that gives us the experience of Brothers and lay people, in as many latitudes as there are Marist presences in the world;
- To broaden the spaces for dialogue and listening, as well as more participatory processes of co-responsibility and commitment;
- To maintain the attention and care of every person;
- To strengthen our training and professionalization programs to ensure adequate and harmonious leadership.
- To develop joint initiatives: provincial, regional, and global, with an integrative approach.

PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)



14

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

**59. THE PRESENT STATE OF THE CAUSE OF BR. FRANÇOIS**

The process of canonisation of Brother François is currently underway in Rome.

The diocesan process took place in the diocese of Lyon between 1910 and 1922.

In 1924 the remains of Brother François were transferred to the Hermitage Chapel where they can still be venerated today.

The process was brought to Rome, and from 1929 onwards his writings were studied. In 1934 his cause was officially introduced.

On 4th July 1968, Pope Paul VI signed the decree of Heroicity of Virtues and he can therefore be called Venerable. With this title, the Church recognises that he practised the Christian virtues in a heroic manner, especially faith, hope and charity.

Other episodes

## CHILE

The coordinators of Orientation and Evangelization of the Marist schools of the country met on May 10 to visualize ways of articulation - already done or to be done - in relation to community life, to welcome the experiences that they are having as animators of their area and to recognize and prioritize the essential processes to have a good result.

## AUSTRALIA

Next week, there will be the Brothers' Online Forums. The online meeting will have these topics: Synod in October 2023 (Susan Pascoe), Emerging Futures Collaborative (John Thompson) and Star of the Sea Province (Br. Peter Carroll).

## PHILIPPINES

Lay leaders from Notre Dame of Dadiangas University gathered at the provincial center. It was a unique opportunity to share about the vocational journey, the experience of the pandemic crisis and live the process of the International Forum on Lay Marist Vocation.

## BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

On April 28 and 29, about 60 Brothers gathered in Curitiba to follow the evolution of Marist life during the year 2021, presented by the 4 juridical entities which group the Marist works in the Administrative Unit: ABEC, APC and UCE and FTD Education and also the Religious Organization. It was an occasion to strengthen the family spirit so characteristic of the Marists of Champagnat.

## GENERAL HOUSE

## FORMATION PROGRAM FOR MARIST LEADERS BEGINS



**6**0 brothers and lay Marists, coming from 19 countries of Europe, America and Africa, begun on May 13 the first part of the formation program "Marist Leaders – Servant, prophetic and qualified leadership".

The formation, promoted by the General Administration of the Marist Institute with the sponsorship of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), is carried out in line with the **Message of the XXII General Chapter** (Colombia – 2017) that asks to assume "a prophetic and servant leadership, which closely accompanies Marist life and mission". And it suggests that "at all levels of government, structures should be put in place and/or strengthened where all Marists share leadership and responsibility in life and mission".

Participating in the course are brothers and lay people who are developing strategic leadership in the Administra-

tive Units or are preparing to work in strategic areas of mission development.

The first edition of this program is in **Portuguese** and **Spanish**. It will be online until October. Afterwards, the participants will meet in Porto Alegre for the face-to-face session, from October 3 to 15. **[Here you can see all the program contents.](#)**

The course has two main 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.

Another program is planned for next year for English and French-speaking audiences.

MAY 20TH

# ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

On May 20, 1789 – the year the French Revolution began – Marcellin Joseph Benito Champagnat was born. The place is a modest house built with stones, in the village of Rosey, which is now the property of the commune of Marlhès, 900 metres above sea level, located in the rural canton of Saint-Genest Malifaux. The largest urban centre is 23 km away, in Saint-Etienne, on the south-eastern border of the Department of Loire. At that time, approximately 2,700 inhabitants lived in Marlhès. This was a region that was cold and not very fertile, and when Champagnat was born, there was a high rate of infant mortality (30% of annual deaths) and also a very high rate of youth mortality.



About 60% of the population were farmers. It is in this typical rural context that we find the family of Jean-Baptiste Champagnat, the father of Marcellin, a small merchant and farmer, who came to hold public office during the Revolution. His mother, Marie-Thérèse Chirat, was a housewife and took care of the couple's nine children. After Marcellin, the tenth child was born. Years later, Father Marcellin Champagnat would recall his childhood in the request for recognition of the Institute sent to King

Louis-Philippe. The letter reads as follows: "Born in the canton of St. Genêt Malifaux, department of the Loire, it was only with infinite difficulty that I was able to read due to a lack of qualified teachers: from that moment I felt the urgent need for an institution which could, with less expense, do in the rural areas what the Brothers of the Christian Schools do in the cities" (Letters, No. 34) Virtual pilgrimate to ROSEY <http://q-r.to/bak66P>

## CONGRATULATIONS, FATHER CHAMPAGNAT

Today, once again, we, your children, Champagnat, unite from the four corners of the earth. Our hearts are like a cup that overflows with the purest wine of our love. We praise and thank God for the great gift that your life was to the world. If there is a party in heaven for your birthday, we here too sing our praises to the One who is the Lord of all things, for the valuable gift of your life. In doing so, we reaffirm our faith and our commitment to follow you, believing that, among the Saints, you, Champagnat, encourage us to walk. Since we are your dearest children, wherever we are, today we salute your name, we exalt your glory, we exult with joy. Congratulations, Champagnat!

Today we want to express our deep gratitude to God who chose you for such a sublime mission, planting in the good and fertile soil of your youthful heart a unique, beautiful, fertile and powerful seed, your original vocation.

God, having made a singular choice for you, wanted to show the world that his love is without measure. He made you more than a bridge, a channel, a source through which his deepest Father's

love would flow, and you would be in this world the instrument to bring this love for the most abandoned, the thousands of forgotten children in their poverty, young people with their wounds for never having been loved.

We have repeated insistently that the "Marists of Champagnat", those who feel like your sons and daughters, are committed to keeping alive, today more than ever, your inspiring presence. In a world that experiences the harsh consequences of countless "Revolutions" that appear one after another, in these times marked by so much unpredictability and uncertainty, we need your transforming energy. And it is not without reason that in our hearts there are the same concerns, the same anxieties that your young priest's heart suffered, lashed by the fury of different and, at times, insurmountable storms; but you knew how to look beyond, and even during the terrible dark nights, you could sense and believe that the dawn of a new time would come.

We, your children and other followers live these new times that you audaciously glimpsed when you imagined that your project

marist world

CHILE: MEETING OF THE SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES PROVINCE COUNCIL WITH THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION



CHAD: VOCATIONAL MINISTRY



LEBANON: MEDITERRANEAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL TOGETHER WITH THE MARIST COMMUNITY OF JBAIL



MADAGASCAR: GENERAL COUNCILLORS AND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



BELGIUM: MARIST EDUCATION -WEST CENTRAL EUROPE



SRI LANKA: THE 8 NEW NOVICES OF MARIST INTERNATIONAL NOVIATE IN TUDELLA

would spread to the ends of the world. That confidence was extraordinary. There was an almost palpable certainty that the undertaking God placed under your responsibility could not fail. If these new times we live in are different and have appeals and challenges that are also very different from those experienced by you, we are challenged to be moved by the same faith, by the same trust, by the same certainty. We cannot fear, but, "looking beyond" we will find new intelligent, creative and courageous ways to respond to what the world expects of us, and to make your project as important and as necessary as when it was started more than two hundred years ago.

Believing that you walk ahead of us, we feel encouraged, confident to continue working to sow new seeds, but in a new and creative way of educating and evangelizing. But it is you, Champagnat, who always inspire us, pointing out to us new possibilities, new alternatives, a new way of being, of doing and of being among children and young people. We need courageous proposals to be a good Christian and a good citizen, because this world insists on wanting to kill within human beings the noblest feelings of justice and fraternity, and offering them multiple individualistic options for pleasure, as the only



way to live and be happy.

And on this special day when we begin the "Year of Marist Vocations", we ask you, Champagnat, to inspire the hearts of many young people to follow in your footsteps, in the sincere desire to imitate your example and be like beacons to illuminate the dark nights of these difficult times that we live today, believing in the dawn of a new tomorrow where justice, love and solidarity will prevail.

Br. Manoel Soares - Timor Leste

MALAWI

# THE MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS COMES HOME TO MARIST SECONDARY SCHOOL

**I**f you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far, go together” (African proverb)

The 6th May 2022 marks a milestone in the history of Marist Secondary School in Malawi when the Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization; Brother Mark Omede officiated the launch of the Marist Global Network of Schools among members of staff and students.

The school organized this special event in order to raise awareness about this new initiative of the Institute that brings to birth the network of schools as one practical way of inviting Marists of Champagnat to journey together as a global family.

The school community is excited with the project and looks forward to benefiting from the inherent outcomes of this global Marist network.

Among others, the school hopes to benefit from the best practices of other Marist institutions. Additionally, the school is keen to participate in the promotion of innovations in evangelization and education in view of providing quality holistic education to



the youth. Random feedback from students after the presentation showed that many students are very excited about the network because it will open many opportunities for them to interact with fellow Marist students in other parts of the world which will help to broaden their horizon and bring about mind-set change. The school promised to be an active participant in the activities of the network.

ONGOING FORMATION

# THE “PATHWAYS” RENEWAL GROUP ADVANCES IN ITS FORMATION IN MANZIANA

**T**he 19 brothers from the “Pathways” renewal group who are following the ongoing formation courses in the Marist International Formation Centre of Manziana, are now into the second half of the program.

The formation began in March 2020 for Brothers between 45 and 60 years of age, from the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Last week, Sr. Mercedes Casas, from the Dicastery for Consecrated Life, has been talking about the calls to religious emanating from the writings of Pope Francis. With many references also to our own Institute documents, her presentations are proving inspiring and challenging.

Previous presenters have focussed on a variety of topics around personal growth and integrated living, contemplative prayer. Input on nonviolent communication and interculturality have also been relevant to and appreciated by the participants who come from fourteen different countries: Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, DR Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Zimbabwe,



Mozambique, South Korea, Spain and Australia. This week, the group begins its pilgrimage to the Hermitage in France. It promises to be a very special two weeks since, for most of the group, it will be their first experience of the Marist places, their first chance to walk the pathways of Marcellin and the early Brothers.

## VENEZUELA

## MEETING OF MARIST DIRECTORS OF EDUCATIONAL WORKS

Los Directivos de las obras Educativas Maristas de Venezuela, Provincia Norandina, se reunieron del 10 al 13 de mayo para reflexionar juntos sobre el Pacto Educativo Global, promovido por el Papa Francisco. Estuvo presente también el superior Provincial, H. Orlando Escobar, que invitó a los participantes a vivir las llamadas del último Capítulo Provincial. The Directors of the Marist Educational Institutions of Venezuela, Province of Norandina, met from May 10 to 13 to reflect about the Global Compact on Education promoted and launched by Pope Francis. The Provincial Superior, Brother Orlando Escobar, was also present and invited the participants to live the calls of the last Provincial Chapter.

During the conference, the challenges of the educational works in Venezuela were discussed.

Marisol Mendoza, a lay Marist, spoke about the mission that the Marist Leaders must assume in order to act efficiently and to be able to give timely responses to the children and young people with whom they work.

The meeting also saw the formal launching of the “Change, Educate and Transform” Project, which seeks to generate a



pedagogical proposal in the educational works adapted to the reality of the place, based on the new existing educational paradigms.

At the conclusion of the event, the Marist directors had an experience of retreat and silence. Accompanied by Fr. Nestor Briceño, a former student of Champagnat School in Caracas, the participants lived an experience of closeness to God and his call.

The meeting culminated with the celebration of the Eucharist, where all the directors were sent to share what they had experienced and make it fruitful.

## LAVALLA 200&gt;

## COUPLE JOINS THE COMMUNITY OF TABATINGA AS VOLUNTEERS

A married couple, Laura Patrícia de la Maza Borja and Marcio Sampaio de Paula, lay people from the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, just arrived at the international community of Tabatinga, Brazil, which belongs to the LaValla200> project. The couple is now part of the community together with Mayra Gutiérrez Márquez (Mexico) and Br. Luke Fong (Pacific) and will be there for the next 2 years.

The couple lived in Cajuri, state of Minas Gerais, and were accompanied by the team of Lay Marists of the Brasil Centro-Norte Province. In order to participate in the LaValla200> project and join the mixed community of Tabatinga, Laura and Marcio followed a preparatory process. For five days, brothers and lay people from Manaus oriented them to the realities.

“One of the greatest riches we have had from this moment of formation is the knowledge of the indigenous spirituality. It is a spirituality united to their lives, in which their religious manifestations are given daily in all their acts. It was fundamental, the importance of this constant relationship of communion with the Common Home and with the creator”, Laura comments. (Read more: <https://champagnat.org/mundo-marista/voluntari->



[os-maristas-na-amazonia/](https://os-maristas-na-amazonia/)

For the two community members, welcoming the married couple into the community has been an enriching experience. “I look forward to the new experiences and challenges of walking alongside our three lay Marists this year,” says Br. Lucas. And Mayra adds: “I hope that their experiences of life in mission will add to the project in Tabatinga, but above all, I am happy because their arrival brings an air of freshness, novelty and hope”.

CRUZ DEL SUR

# MARIST WORKS DIRECTORS “REIMAGINE EDUCATION”

Directors of 17 Marist educational centers of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay met from May 2 to 6 at the Villa Marista de Pilar, in Buenos Aires (Argentina), to deepen the process of educational transformation. The event was also attended by Brothers Marcelo De Brito, Horacio Magaldi and Carlos Huidobro.



Schools from Uruguay (Juan Zorrilla de San Martín and Santa María, from Montevideo), Paraguay (Inmaculada Concepción de Caaguazú) and Argentina (Nuestra Señora Del Rosario and Marcelino Champagnat School, from Rosario; San Rafael, from Mendoza; Manuel Belgrano, La Inmaculada, Champagnat and Macnab Bernal, from the City of Buenos Aires; San José de Morón, San José de Pergamino, Nuestra Señora De Luján, San Luis de La Plata, Instituto Peralta Ramos, from Mar del Plata, and Instituto Ceferino Namuncurá, from Cinco Saltos) participated.

The meeting of directors was coordinated by the School Educational Centers Management Team and led by Xavier Aragay and Jonquera Arnó, who since 2019 have been accompanying the Province in this process of change called “Reimagining Education”, which aims to transform the approach of the educational proposal in schools.

On the first day, the meeting brought together members of the Management Team, school and college referents, and Coordinators of the Animation Teams for a day training action day.

On May 3 and 4, the participants of the first cohort – which has been working since 2019 – presented the prototypes that they launched in their schools to capture the change proposal and enthusiastically presented the results obtained.

On May 4 and 5, the second cohort began to work on the design of their prototypes focusing on how to design the weekly work, how to reform and provide spaces to be able to connect with students in a stronger way, and the activities that they seek to rethink, through the RIEDUSIS method, the daily structures and find a change in the educational approach.



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