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# MARIST NEWS

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

## OPENING OF THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS

**T**he Year of Marist Vocations kicked off on May 20 with three Zoom meetings held at 6:00 AM, 2:00 PM and 10:00 PM, Rome time. Hosted by the Secretariat of Brothers Today with the collaboration of the Department of Communications, the program was also steamed-direct on YouTube.



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

The live parts were those of Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, directors of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, which were the welcoming- introduction at the beginning, the closing-concluding at the end, and the brief interventions in-between segments. All the other parts were delivered as pre-recorded videos, even though in one, if not all, of the of the video conferences, the speakers were virtually present as participants.

Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, was the first to give

his message. He said that the Year of Marist Vocations is a time in which we wish to celebrate and give thanks for the gift that we have received as Marists of Champagnat. He added that it is also an occasion to take up again with strength and enthusiasm the theme of Marist vocations, from the perspective of a renewed vocational culture.

After Br. Ernesto's message was the music video "Cántalo a Una Voz" (Sing it in One Voice). This song was composed by

## general administration

- The Gier Program, for Brothers with at least five years of perpetual profession, begins on June 1 with 26 participants. This week the team that accompanies this ongoing formation program arrives, made up of Brothers José Miguel Caballero, from Norandina, and Tony Leon, from Australia.
- This week, the directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, Brothers Ángel Diego and Francis, are participating in different events: on Monday they participated in the General Assembly of CCIIG (International Catholic Center of Geneva); on Tuesday they were present in the working group "Education in Solidarity", Spanish and Portuguese; on Wednesday they participated in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Marist International Solidarity Network; on Thursday they participate in the IV Seminar on "learning and service", promoted by the network "Corazón Solidario".
- On Wednesday and Thursday, in Mexico, Br. Carlos Alberto, Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, will participate in the V Assembly of the International

Network of Marist Publishers. Brother Ernesto, Superior General, will participate in the closing ceremony.

- On Wednesday, Andrea Rossi (FMSI) and Brothers Valdicer (Cmi) and Ángel Diego (Solidarity Secretariat) met with the solidarity team of the Province of Mediterránea.
- The European Commission Brothers Today is meeting in Geneva from May 24-26. The directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Ángel and Lindley, will participate in the meeting on Thursday.
- Also on Thursday, the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat will participate in the online meeting of the Commission working on the new Formation Guide.
- On Friday and Saturday, Brother Ernesto, Superior General, will participate in the XXVII Inter-American Congress of Catholic Education, in Mexico, organized by CIEC. During the meeting he will give a talk entitled "Manifestos in favor of Catholic Education in the Present and Future". Brother Carlos Alberto will also be present.

Br. Angelito Gonzalez from Venezuela.

What followed were the messages of the Link Councilors of the Marist Life Area, Br. Óscar Martín, Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and **Br. João Carlos do Prado**. Afterwards, another song was rendered, this time from a group in the Philippines, entitled, "I am. You are. We are".

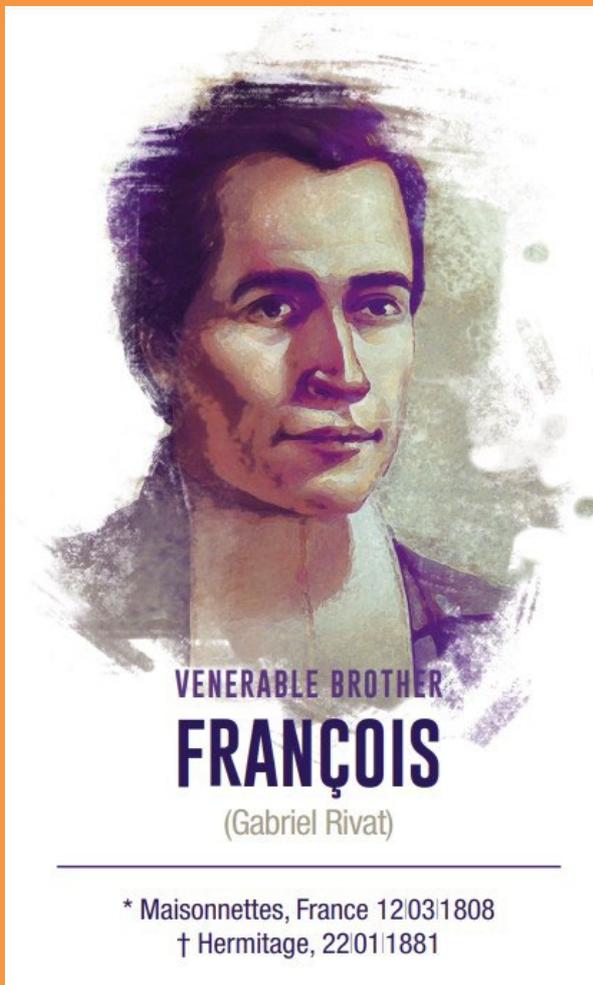
Next to speak were Raul Amaya, the Director of the Secretariat of the Laity, and the co-Directors, Agnes Reyes, and Manu Gomez. This was succeeded by the Prayer for the Year of Marist Vocations, using a video participated in by Marists from Lebanon, Rwanda, Spain, Philippines, Colombia, Portugal, Australia and Bolivia.

After the prayer, another video was shown that featured Marists from different parts of the world proclaiming in different languages,



“There is great value in being Marist today!” along with several one-minute sharing on “Why am I Marist?”.

Towards the end, Brothers Angel and Lindley made some announcements, gave the acknowledgments, and brought the program to a close.



**Prayer for a Grace**  
 Holy Spirit, Giver of Life,  
 You gave Brother François a special gift for caring for and healing the sick and preparing them to peacefully accept any decline in health. We turn to him now, as in his earthly life, to pray with us to You and Mary, our Good Mother, for the grace of Your healing presence for our brother / sister. ...., in his/her time of need. Brother François, please hear us, and intercede for us.

Those who receive thanks or want more information, please contact:  
 Postulación General  
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 Email: gjvillarreal@fms.it

Gabriel Rivat (Br François) was born on March 12, 1808, in La Valla-en-Gier (France). In 1817, he joined the fledgling community of Marist Brothers. In 1839, he was appointed Superior of all the Brothers and remained Superior for 20 years. He died on 22nd January 1881. He was declared Venerable on 14th July 1968.

SRI LANKA

# TUDELLA INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE RECEIVES 8 NOVICES

**O**n May 10, eight young men officially entered the International Novitiate in Tudella, Sri Lanka. The novices come from East Timor (5), Vietnam (2) and Cambodia (1).

The novices were received at the Novitiate House in Tudella after a long journey from Dili (East Timor) and Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam): on May 8 two novices arrived from Vietnam, Cuong and Ky and one from Cambodia. These three novices belong to the Marist District of Asia (MDA). Br. Rod accompanied them from Ho Chi Minh City to Sri Lanka. On May 9, 5 novices arrived from East Timor (which belongs to the Marist Province of Australia) accompanied by Br. Matthew: Dedimo, Edgar, Manecas, Ruben and Simon.



from Spain. The community also includes two older brothers from Sri Lanka, Br. Godfrey and Br. Remigio, whose presence is very significant for the young novices.

### Second Year Novices

Officially there are 14 Second Year Novices: 8 from East Timor, 1 from Bangladesh, 2 from the Solomon Islands, 2 from Vietnam and 1 from Sri Lanka. 10 will make first profession on October 7, 2022 and 4 on March 25, 2023. The two novices from the Solomon Islands have not yet been able to travel to Sri Lanka because of the pandemic. Their formation continues to be done online.

During the celebration, on May 10, the novices received the Constitutions, the Marist cross and the bible; and they committed themselves to follow with determination their stage of formation and discernment.

The formators of the Tudella novitiate are Brother Real, from Canada, Brother Rod, from Australia, and Brother Paco,

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

# WHAT MAKES A SCHOOL A MARIST SCHOOL?

**A**s part of its plan of work with the Marist International School Community, the Marist Global Network of Schools, Champagnat Global, has scheduled a special event, a webinar, to celebrate the feast of St. Marcellin in June for the directors of Marist schools. The theme will be: What makes a school a MARIST school? On this day, there will be Marist educators from different parts of the world sharing with us their answer to the question.

To encourage everyone's participation, the same webinar will hold on two different dates: the first on 8th of June ([youtube](#)) and the second on 14th of June ([youtube](#)).



## CASA GENERAL

# 21 MAY – WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT

To speak about cultural diversity is to speak about reality. To speak of reality is to speak of concrete elements, relationships, interconnection, and moments of encounter and disagreement. We should not remain at the theoretical level. Culture provides us with a way of expressing who we are, it helps us to understand ourselves and others better, it offers us a refuge to go to for rest, and it opens us up to a relationship with those who are different. A culture that manifests itself in art, literature, cinema, music, language, and also in religion.

During the time of the pandemic, we thousands of cultural events were cancelled, hundreds of meetings to share cultural richness, and how the main cultural and historical places were deserted. These are great examples of how our daily lives have been affected. As human beings we dialogue, we relation, we have the need to encounter, to share with others, to show how we are and how we understand each other. So our lives have been affected, our relationships have lost richness, and also many economic sectors have lost dynamism. All this has also had a negative impact on the development of certain social groups and certain peoples and communities.

The richness of cultural diversity was recognised by the United Nations as early as 2002. Since then, with the declaration of this day, we are invited to look more deeply into the most important values behind cultural diversity. The United Nations want to raise awareness of the importance of dialogue, they want each person to be able to commit themselves through real and daily gestures, to eliminate possible positions of power of some groups/cultures over others.

### Marists, builders of bridges

As Marists of Champagnat, we also join this current that seeks to value the diversity and richness of each culture and its cultural manifestations. In a certain sense, Marcellin was also prophetic when he told us, “all the dioceses of the world enter into our vision”. Similarly, the 22nd General Chapter reminded us of the importance of promoting life “in all its diversity” (1st Call). What is it if not to be bridge-builders? How can we walk with children and young people on the margins of life if we are not able to open ourselves to their reality, to understand them



in their own culture? If we fall into the temptation of approaching children and young people in a paternalistic way, we will not be really approaching their own reality, their own way of understanding and living life.

On this day we would like to invite you to become aware of all the positive things that diversity and dialogue bring. We want to leave behind the stereotypes and populisms that lead to the exclusion of those who are different. As Marists, we have the great opportunity to live and educate thousands of children, adolescents and young people so that the affirmation of our own culture does not mean rejecting those who are different, so that they can (and we can) discover the richness that other ways of understanding life bring us.

Let us remember what the General Chapter also said: “Interdependence... must be the new normal for us. We will be witnesses of unity and hope”. Emotional geography invites us precisely to discover and value the other through appreciation and empathy, it brings us closer to a more fraternal relationship, it encourages us to feel like a global family. When we emotionally connect with others, even in the most distant places in the world, we feel and experience others as brothers and sisters.

Cultural diversity “forces” us to be open to the other, to the different, to what is different, to another way of thinking, doing and living. Cultural diversity “forces” us to dialogue. Do you dare to make the journey towards cultural diversity? Do you dare to let yourself be challenged by the other? Do you dare to leave “our comfort zone”?

Br. Ángel Diego – Director of the Solidarity Secretariat

marist world

EL SALVADOR: AMÉRICA CENTRAL – PROVINCIAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION



BOLIVIA: NOVITIATE OF THE SOUTH AMERICA REGION, COCHABAMBA



VIETNAM: RENEW OF VOWS



MALAWI: VOCATION SUNDAY HELD AT SHARPVALE PARISH, DEDZA



COLOMBIA: NORANDINA COUNCIL OF MISSION



BRAZIL: PROVINCIALS OF THE SOUTH AMERICA REGION VISIT THE COMMUNITY OF LAVALLA200>TABATINGA

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

# MARISTS PROMOTE THE COMBAT AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In Brazil, the month of May is marked by a wide national mobilization to combat the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and adolescents. In order to discuss strategies concerning this subject, the Marist Centre for the Promotion of the Rights of Children and Adolescents and the Advisory Service for the Protection of Children and Adolescents of the Marist Network, from the Marist Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, are promoting the 3rd Marist Conference on Confronting Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents. The event, which has the support of the Brazilian Advocates Association, will take place online on May 27, from 6 pm to 8 pm, via Zoom.



With the theme Self-care as a form of protection against sexual violence, the event, in Portuguese, is free, open to the public, and aimed at professionals who work with children and adolescents in educational institutions and public protection network

bodies, academics, teachers, religious, among other members and collaborators of religious congregations.

[On this link you will find all the information you need to participate in the meeting.](#)

COMPOSTELA

# MEETING WITH THE GOOD MOTHER IN FATIMA

On May 14 in Fatima, a meeting took place for the Marist Family of the Province of Compostela. The pilgrimage had begun two days earlier, with hundreds of students in pursuit of the Good Mother. It was an exciting moment for the Province to recover a tradition interrupted by the pandemic, as Brother Provincial Máximo Blanco said in his opening speech.

The schools of Carcavelos and Lisbon gave a dance and orchestra performance, and various social works of the Champagnat Foundation were presented, such as the Work and Mission Camps, the Ludoteca and Ecoludoteca, and the Children’s House. Ermesinde, Vouzela and the MarCha movement were also present and everyone made this afternoon an unforgettable celebration.



As Brother António Leal said at the end of the day, nobody wanted to say goodbye, not even Mary. That is why Mary returned with each of the participants and will certainly walk beside them again next year.

SERIES OF VIDEOS

# IGNICULUS: MONTAGNE STORIES TODAY

The Marist Life Area of the General Administration proposes, beginning May 23, a series of short videos of people from the Marist world who share their stories of how, at some point along the way, they felt the “spark” (igniculus) that ignited their vocation to live the Marist life.

Igniculus is a Latin word meaning fire, flame or spark.

Every Monday during the Year of Marist Vocations, a new story will appear on our YouTube channel and on Facebook. On both channels, always leave the “subtitles” option active to follow the story in one of the four languages of the Institute.

In celebrating the gift of our Marist Vocations, we share faith-filled stories that are inspiring and life nourishing. These stories are testimonies to the creative movement of God’s Spirit that makes us fully live out our vocations as Marists: brothers and lay, men and women.

Igniculus: Montagne Stories Today brings back the memory of the



encounter of St. Marcellin with the dying boy Montagne, an experience that changed him and consequently gave his life a deep sense of meaning and purpose. The video series captures this transforming real-life experiences instrumental to the discovery of one’s gift of vocation to be Marist.

This is a concrete initiative to nurture and generate Marist life, which is shared as a testimony that the grace of Marcellin Champagnat is truly relevant for us today and always.

## GENERAL HOUSE

**22 MAY: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY**

The International Day for Biodiversity is observed every year on May 22 by the international community to draw the world's attention to the importance of biodiversity on the planet Earth. The theme for this year's Biodiversity Day celebration is "Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth". A shared future for all life represents the shared aspiration of mankind. Ecological challenges remind us that we are members of the same universal community. Our basic call to survival is best captured by the Chinese saying, "all beings flourish when they live in harmony and receive nourishment from Nature." The big lesson from this is that no one survives alone. If we protect nature and other species, we protect ourselves.

Biodiversity crisis, the rapid loss of species and the degradation of ecosystems, threatens the future of human beings on the planet Earth. A million species out of an estimated total of eight million according to the United Nations' (UN) report of 2019, are threatened with extinction due to habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and climate change besides human activities, the main cause of this loss. We can feel the impact in the decline of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat as well as in the medicine, shelter and the sources of our livelihoods.

Scientists from the University of Copenhagen are convinced that this human-induced species loss is 100 to 1000 times faster than the natural extinction rate. For this reason, they believe that the challenge of conserving the species requires political will and a solid scientific knowledge to ensure a safe future for the Earth. The main areas of action they proposed include conservation of critical ecosystems, restoration of degraded land and seas, safe and sustainable food systems, legal, safe wildlife use, knowledge and capacity building, governance and multilateral environmental agreements, and attention to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Pope Francis proposes integral ecology, an integrated and ho-



listic approach to political, social, economic, and environmental problems, as the solution to the climate change, pollution, and biodiversity crisis because he believes that humans are integral participants in the ecosystem. Given the overexploitation of the earth's resources and the disappearance of thousands of species, the Vatican calls for the protection of the rich biodiversity regions of the world, including the Amazon and the Congo Basin.

For us, Marists of Champagnat, care for our common home is a moral imperative. Given that God's love extends to all creation, our passion for God and passion for people embedded in our spirituality must include passion for creation because God's revelation is also found in creation. The fact that birds neither sow nor reap and gather into barns, and yet God feeds them, tells us that God cares for creation. Like Francis of Assisi, we are invited to consider all creatures as brothers or sisters. Our universal family bond should make us feel the painful extinction of species. Similarly, ecological spirituality invites us to widen the tent and relate with all creatures as relatives. In this way, our proactive answer to the call of our XXII General Chapter to go beyond the "egos" to the "ecos" would enable us to save the planet Earth, our common home from the various crisis including the loss of biodiversity.

Brother Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity

GENERAL HOUSE

# BROTHERS AND LAY MARISTS OF THE GENERAL HOUSE CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS

On the day of the birth of Marcellin Champagnat, May 20th, the Brothers and Lay Marists of the General House of the Marist Institute gathered to celebrate the opening of the Year of Marist Vocations, which will end on June 6, 2023.

Organized by the the Marist Life Area of the General Administration, the Year of Marist Vocations seeks to take up again with strength and enthusiasm the theme of Marist vocations. As part of this event, The Secretariat of Brothers Today has also organized 3 virtual meetings for the opening of the Year, held at 3 different times of the day. For more information, please follow the link

At the inauguration, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, greeted all the brothers and lay people – through a video message and said: “I invite you to live this year in an attitude of gratitude and renewal. With a vision of a Global Marist Family”. “Finally, let us remember that the most important thing will not be how many brothers and lay Marists there are or will be, but the quality of our life that witnesses with passion the presence of a living God who is close to us, as well as our dedicated soli-



arity with those who need it most.” Play the video message. During the inauguration, Br. Lindley, assistant director of the Brothers’ Secretariat today, asked all present to renew the Marist charism and to celebrate the gift we have received from Marcellin Champagnat, from Jesus and Mary. At the end of the celebration and prayer for the Year of Marist Vocations, all the brothers and laypeople celebrated the birth of St. Marcellin Champagnat together with a cake.



## IN MARY’S WAY

The relationship of Marcellin to Mary was deeply marked by an affective and total trust in her, as the “Good Mother,” because it was her work that he undertook. He wrote once: Without Mary we are nothing and with Mary we have everything, because Mary always has her adorable Son within her arms or in her heart. This belief remained constant all through his life. Jesus and Mary were the treasure on which Marcellin had learned to place his own heart. This intimate relationship helped shape the Marial dimension of our spirituality. In our tradition, the phrase “Ordinary Resource” has come to encapsulate our constant reliance on Mary. The motto attributed to Champagnat by his biographer, All to Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus, captures this close relationship between the Son and the Mother and our Founder’s attitude of confidence in Mary, which we are invited to live (Water from the Rock, 25).



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**Website**

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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