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MARIST NEWS

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INTERAMERICAN CONGRESS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

POINTERS OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

"The future of Catholic schools will depend on their capacity to adapt to the new times in which we are living, fostering innovation, connecting better with the new generations and presenting Gospel values", said Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General, during his speech at the XXVII Interamerican Congress of Catholic Education, held in Mexico on May 27 and 28.

The Catholic event aimed to reflect, re-think and put into practice in the Catholic School of America the UNESCO initiative, called 'Futures of education', which is in synergy with the Global Compact on Education.



general administration

- The 22 brothers participating in the Gier 2022 Program began arriving since May 25 at the General House. The Gier Program of ongoing formation is offered to brothers who have made final vows in the last five years. It will be held from June 1 to June 30: the first 15 days in Rome and the last 15 days at the Hermitage in France. The team that animates it is composed of Brother Tony Leon, Brother José Miguel Caballero, Brother Angel Medina and Brother Lindley Sionosa.
- On Monday, Brothers Óscar, General Councillor, and Valdicer, Director of the Cmi Department, attended the meeting of the Fratelli Council, a time for saying farewell to Brothers Jorge Gallardo and Rafa Matas.
- On Monday and Tuesday the FMSI Board meeting took place at the General House, with Brother Ken, General Councillor, as President of the Foundation.
- Wednesday, the Brothers Today Secretariat met with the

participants of the Program for midlife brothers (Senderos) in Manziana for a meeting on the Marist Vocation Year. The ongoing formation program has 19 brothers participating. They have just returned from their trip to the Marist places in France.

- On Thursday in Geneva, Brothers Ken, Ángel Diego and Francis, on behalf of Secretariat of Solidarity, will hold interviews to choose a candidate who will work with the organs of the United Nations. During this same period, they will meet some partners who work with the Marists in Geneva: CCIG, ERI, Franciscans International, Dominicans for Justice and Peace...
- From Wednesday until Sunday, Brothers Óscar and Valdicer will visit the LaValla200> community in Moinesti, Romania.
- On Friday, the group from Gier will be in Manziana for a fraternal meeting with the brothers of the Senderos program.

At the opening of the Congress, which had as its theme “Futures of Education”, were present: Msgr. Miguel Cabrejos, president of CELAM, and Sr. Daniela Canavina, general secretary of the CLAR. Several Marist Brothers also participated in the Congress, including Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization. [See in this link the program and the complete list of speakers.](#)

During his speech, on May 28, Br Ernesto presented the document “Pointers to the Present and Future of Catholic Education”, where he highlights 4 important points, which we summarize below:

1. Sit out together on mission, which expresses that “to be aware that we are sent is to understand that we carry out a mission of service which is the mission of God”.
2. We are sowers of hope, where he questions whether we really believe in the value and relevance of what we can offer the church and the world through Catholic education”.
3. With young people we make participation a feature of Catholic Schools: “The younger generations of today are bearers of novelty and creativity, just as ours were in their time. How can we listen better to them? How can we relate better to

them, employing words that touch their hearts and really communicate?”

4. Schools where students learn and we learn to accept the most vulnerable and marginalized: “The key question to ask ourselves is: in what way are we as a Catholic School contributing to social transformation? Is solidarity our priority? Are we focussing our energies and attention on the most needy and vulnerable?”

The Superior General concluded his intervention, recalling how “St Marcellin Champagnat knew how to “look beyond”, and to teach young people to “look beyond”, to open themselves to God, to the horizons of Gospel love”. And left the question: “What challenges does “looking beyond” pose for education in America today? It is about looking beyond the particular context in which we are living, beyond our geographical and cultural borders, beyond our own organisations and beyond the Catholic Church itself, to make its dimension of universality a reality”.

[In this link](#) it is possible to read details about the XXVII Interamerican Congress of Catholic Education.

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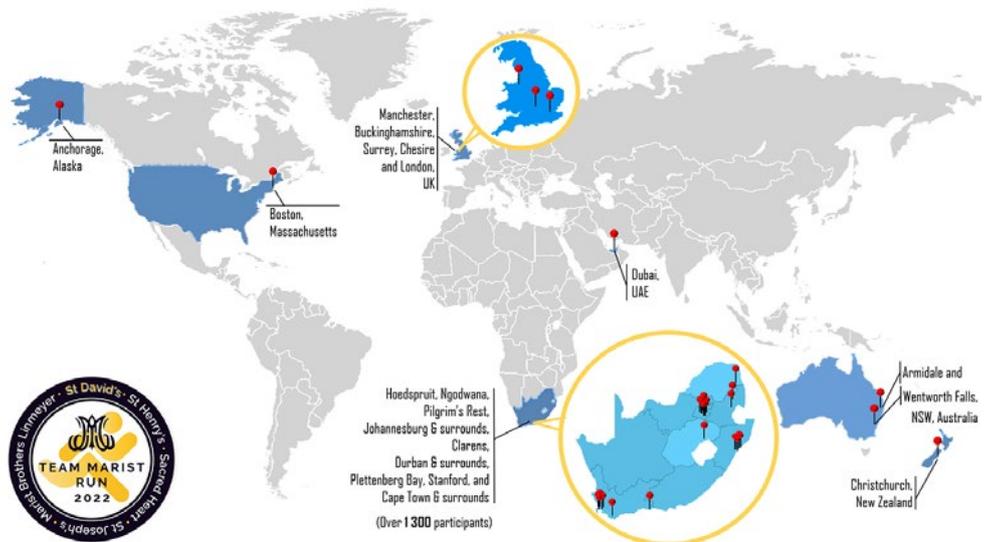
SOUTHERN AFRICA

THE VIRTUAL RUN ACROSS OF THE FIVE SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS

Following the success of the first-ever Team Marist run in 2021 the ‘virtual’ run returns this year across the five South African Marist schools. It will be launched on Monday 6 June (Champagnat Day) and end on Monday 20 June.

Team Marist Champagnat Day 2022 ‘virtual’ Run aims to strengthen the unite of all five of the South African Marist Schools: St David’s Marist Inanda, Sacred Heart College and Marist Brothers Linmeyer in Johannesburg, St Henry’s Marist College in Durban, and St Joseph’s Marist College in Cape Town.

The ‘virtual’ Run will consist of a community-building ‘virtual’ or in-person run/walk/cycle/golf to raise funds around Champagnat Day 2022. Last year over 1.300 participants took part in South Africa and around the world, raising a combined R110 000.



One-fifth of each school's funds raised will go to either Marist Mercy Care (in the Eastern Cape) or to the Three2Six Programme at Sacred Heart College. All participants will receive a virtual Team Marist medal upon completion of their event, at the end of the two weeks. [Click here to to take part in the event](#)

SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY

MARIST SOLIDARITY MISSION IN SPAIN

From May 13 – 18, 2022, Brothers Ángel Diego and Francis Lukong, directors of the Secretariat of Solidarity for the General Administration, participated in two Marist Social Works encounters which took place in Spain.

The first one was a resilience Course at Maimón, Cordoba, from May 13 – 15. This encounter, organized and facilitated by José Luis González, coordinator of Fundación Marcellin Champagnat in collaboration with BICE, brought together thirty-nine (39) young people and educators of social works of the Marist Province of Mediterránea. Using the appropriate language, gestures, symbols and activities, the facilitators, during the course, managed to accompany and help the participants to dream and reflect on their abilities as individuals or groups to bounce back from adversity to continue to plan their lives. The jovial atmosphere which characterized the experience at Maimón was an indication that social work is a way forward to journey and bring hope to young people on the margins of life.



Similarly, the two-day meeting of the Marist Solidarity Delegates of the European Provinces which took place in the provincial community House of Iberica at Alcalá de Henares, on May 17 and 18, focused on coordination, organization and best practices in the field of Marist social works in Europe. Brother Ángel Diego seized the opportunity to talk about the structure, organization and functioning of the Secretariat of Solidarity.

The participants equally reported and discussed about their activities and the situation of social works in their respective provinces. This was followed by the visit to some of the social works of the Iberica province including Day centres for children and adolescents at Espartales in Alcalá de Henares and Nuevo Versailles, Community promotion centre for social promotion at Fuenlabrada for people with special attention to women for their personal and social development, and Vocational training centre, Humanes, Madrid for vocational training and the acquisition of social skills.

EAST TIMOR

MARIST TEACHERS' COLLEGE IN BACAU GIVE A FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR ONE ITS FOUNDERS



Over four hundred members of the Marist Teachers' College in Bacau (East Timor) gathered on May 7 to held a farewell ceremony in honour of Margie Beck, College's Vice-Director for over the past twenty years, having arrived to Timor-Leste in 2002 at the invitation of the founding Director, Br Mark Paul. Margie now prepares to return to Australia. She leaves behind an impressive legacy which saw her awarded an Order of Australia in October 2020, presented by Australia's Ambassador to Timor, Peter Roberts, she has co-authored several books about education in Timor-Leste, written in journals published in Hong Kong, and she has prepared 16 graduation ceremonies for over 800 students.

Along with Br Mark Paul, Br Tony d'Arbon and his colleagues from ACU, Margie, lay Marist, was one of the firsts who assisted in the creation and establishment of the Catholic Teachers College in Bacau. It was officially opened in October 2003, in the presence of the local Bishop, Bishop Don Basilio do Nascimento, President, Xanana Gusmão, and Prime Minister, Mari Alkateri, and given the Portuguese title of 'Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores' – although people, then and now, often refer to it simply as 'Marista'.

Farewell ceremony

Following the opening prayer by Padre Avelino Lemos, the

Director of Catholic Education of the Diocese of Baucau, and representative of the Administrator of the Diocese, Padre Alipio Pinto Gusmão, Br Peter Corr, the President of the Marist Foundation and Marist Community Leader, gave the welcoming address and focussed on Margie's great commitment to the Marist mission in Timor.

Br Paul Gilchrist, Director of the Institute, then spoke on behalf of the staff and students and talked about Margie's incredible generosity and kindness to people. Besides her considerable input into the academic life of the Institute, Margie has also been the in-house medical officer, hospitality coordinator, and social worker.

After thanking everyone for their affection Margie also expressed her great satisfaction at being at the forefront of the Marist Mission to Timor-Leste, which started when the first Brothers arrived in Baucau, just four months after Independence, in September 2002.

"Loyal deputy to four Directors, Br Mark Paul, Br Fons Van Rooij, Br Peter Corr and Br Paul Gilchrist, Margie has very much been the cornerstone from which the Institute has been built. We congratulate and thank Margie for all that she has given to the Institute and to the Marist Mission. Our best wishes and gratitude go with her", said Br Paul Gilchrist.

marist world

ARGENTINA: MARIST YOUTH COMMUNITIES OF FRAILE PINTADO AND THE SAN LORENZO NEIGHBORHOOD



IRELAND: MARIST LEADER AWARDS AT MARIST COLLEGE ATHLONE WITH COORDINATOR MS ORLA MANNION



GERMANY: MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN LAITY TEAM



BOLIVIA: MARCHA MARISTA – COMARAPA



AUSTRALIA: STAFF FORMATION PROGRAMS -MARIST COLLEGE EASTWOOD



SOUTH AFRICA: LAUNCHED THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATION

IGNICULUS: MONTAGNE STORIES TODAY

"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.



AUSTRALIA

MARISTS CELEBRATE THEIR 150 ANNIVERSARIES ALONG WITH CATHOLIC BISHOPS

On the occasion of the 150 anniversary of the beginning of the first Marist community and mission in Australia, Marists of Champagnat held a special Sesquicentenary event at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill. To the commemoration were also invited the Australian Catholic Bishops who were meeting at the MacKillop Centre in North Sydney for their annual May meetings.



Even though the Marists have lived and worked in only 20 of the 28 Australian Dioceses, all of the 41 Bishops were invited, including those who lead Eastern Rite Eparchies and special Ordinariates. In total, 33 accepted the invitation, including the newly appointed Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Balvo. On the part of the Marist, attended: former Provincials, Provincial Councillors, Brothers, Association Members, Principals, Executive, Chairs and Directors of Marist Schools Australia, Marist180, Australian Marist Solidarity and the Marist Association.

Br Tony Boyd was Master of Ceremonies for the dinner that followed. Teresa Ardler, an indigenous elder and Director of the Marist180 Board, performed the Welcome to Country. This was followed by a formal welcome by the Superior General, Br Ernesto Sánchez, especially recorded for the occasion. He emphasized the pivotal role played by Bishops in the expansion of Marist works over the last 150 years in Australia: "It is a grace that our institute has always worked in collaboration and cooperation with so many bishops and dioceses. We really think that the 150 anniversary is a celebration such as the



Australian Church as it is for the global marist family", said Br. Ernesto. Watch the video

During the evening, a short film produced by Conor Ashleigh was shown. Its focus was the Marists today. Dr. Frank Malloy, National Director for Marist Schools Australia, moved a vote of thanks at the end of the evening and reiterated that "the Marists in Australia look forward to continue collaborative engagement with the Church".

Referring to the Sesquicentenary, Br Peter Carroll, Provincial, said "despite the obvious changes, we Marists remain as committed as always to the education and wellbeing of young people". [More about the 150.º anniversary](#)

UNITED STATES

More than 150 young people from 10 Marist schools across the country and from St. Mary Magdalene Parish gathered May 27-30 at the Marist Center in Esopus for the 2022 Marist Youth Gathering. There were several formation sessions and it was also marked by the XXI Annual Champagnat Games.

SOUTH AFRICA

This Sector of Southern Africa Province launched the Marist Vocations Year on Friday 28 May. The launch took place in conjunction with the Marist Management Conference which brought together the five head teachers of the country's schools and their staff for an annual conference on the theme "Remembering Our Roots and Spreading Our Actions".

PROVINCE OF IBÉRICA

14 educational centers and 3 social works of the province, from Spain and Romania, received the "keeping Children Safe" certification, which accredits them as places where children and young people are protected from any kind of mistreatment or abuse.

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

On May 27, 28 and 29, the Provincial Synthesis Meeting of the International Forum on the Marist Lay Vocation was held in Veranópolis. About 60 representatives of Brothers and lay people from the CMMF and the "Movimento Farol" (Lighthouse Movement) met to discuss and draw up the summary document on the main points of the lay vocation.

GENERAL HOUSE

FMSI AND DE LA SALLE SOLIDARIETÀ INTERNAZIONALE JOINING EFFORTS FOR FRATELLI PROJECT



Taking place in Rmeileh and Bourj Hammoud, the Fratelli Project in Lebanon is an educational initiative implemented by the Marist and the Lasallians Brothers in favour of Syrian and Iraqi refugee children remain isolated and educationally disadvantaged. Fratelli Project is inspired by the values of peace, justice, fraternity, and hope that animate the two Congregations and involves people, children and adults of all religions.

With the rationale of joining forces for this inter-congregational inclusive project, **FMSI** and **De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale** are now working together to ensure equal opportunities to a better future for children through education and personalized support for the period 2022-2025. The joint proposal submitted to **Misean Cara** by both organizations has been fully accepted on May the 13th 2022, and it will cover most of the expenses of the

project ensuring beneficiaries a safe and conducive environment where to express themselves, find psycho-social support, learn and develop the capabilities for their progressive autonomy.

The two foundations are now working together for supporting the project in the best way possible joining forces for fundraising strategies, monitoring and reporting activities as well as joint communication action which will take place in the next 3 years.

"It is just the beginning we want to bring this cooperation even further" says Andrea Rossi, Director General of FMSI. "There are great opportunities to explore, and both organizations are fully committed to work together reaching out the most in need, following the footsteps of what Marist and Lasallians Brothers are already doing since more than two centuries".

SOUTH AFRICA

SUPPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION FOR SCHOOL STRATEGIC REFLECTION



On 13 and 14 May 2022, the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation was invited by the Provincial Animator of Southern Africa, Br. Norbert Mwila, to participate in the meeting of the Custodians and members of the Council of Schools in order to analyse the strategy being followed in one of the 6 countries that make up the province: South Africa, which has 5 Marist schools with a long tradition and great prestige in the educational system of the country.

Br Mark, Deputy Director of the Secretariat and Javier Llamas, Project Manager of the Marist Schools Network Project, Champagnat Global, shared with the South Africa team experiences and excellent practices that are being carried out throughout the Marist world and that can be a reference when designing the local strategy. Thanks to the technology and the good disposition always found with the Marists of Champagnat, we were

able to have enriching experiences of school management, from Australia, with the intervention of the Regional Director of Education, Mark Malloy, from Brazil, with the participation of Brother Natalino Guilherme de Souza, president of the Integrated Network of Basic Education of Marist Brazil, and from Ireland with the participation of Brother P.J. McGowan and Aisling Demaison, Director of Marist Education in the Province of West Central Europe.

It is exciting to see that the challenges we face in our educational and administrative work are increasingly complex, but at the same time the tools and mentality we are developing are also more collaborative and this allows us to have greater collective strength when it comes to solving our challenges. Think globally, act locally, a good practice that will surely bear fruit in the reality of South African schools.



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