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MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG

GENERAL HOUSE

FEAST OF ST. MARCELLIN IN ROME

Marists from around the world gathered on June 6, the feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat, to celebrate the gift of his life that continues to be present in the Brothers and lay people who embrace his charism. The feast is also a special moment in the life of the General Administration community, when the Marists in Rome gather with the General House community to remember the founder of the Institute. This year the celebration was presided over by Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect



general administration

- From June 7 to 24, the General Council will meet in plenary sessions. In these first days, the General Council will discuss on the General Conference and will proceed with the topics offered at the end of the Conference.
- It will also deal with the evaluation of the General Administration, which was carried out during the General Conference.
- During these weeks, the Council will be in contact with the “Gier” group and the group of European leaders (from June 20 to 24) and with the Spiritual Heritage Commission (from June 20 to 24).
- The Gier formation program begins its second week and will continue until June 16 at the General House.
- On Thursday, FMSI talks about *Laudato Si'* and Br Mark, on Education and Evangelization.
- On Friday, Agnes will deal with the theme of the laity, and on Saturday, Br Óscar, General Councillor, will address the theme of spirituality.
- Br Ángel Diego, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, participated until Tuesday in the meeting “*Laudato Si'* Action Platform” of the group of Religious Orders.
- These days, the “Mission Area” of the General Adminis-

tration meets, and has the participation of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, Secretariat of solidarity, the Cmi and the links councillors, Br Ben and Br Ken.

- The International Webinar for directors of Marist Schools, organized by the Global Marist Network of Schools, takes place on Wednesday.
- The directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, brothers Francis and Ángel Diego, participated - until Wednesday - in an online training program: “Sowing peace for the planet”, on ecology, justice and peace.
- On Wednesday, the directors of the Secretariat of Laity, Raúl, Manu and Agnes, participated in a meeting with the laity team of the Southern Africa Province.
- Br Beto, director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, will participate on Friday in a meeting where will be discussed the face-to-face meeting in Mexico for the Launch of the Global Network of Marist Schools.
- On Saturday, the Senderos Program will end in Manziana, animated by the Institute’s Permanent Formation team. Br Ernesto and other brothers from the General House will participate in the closing celebration.

of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Concelebrating were the chaplains of the General Administration, Fathers Ricardo and Raj, along with the Superior of the Marist Fathers, Father John Larsen.

Cardinal Aviz invited the assembly to discover the meaning of wisdom, a gift of the Holy Spirit, which is acquired by “walking with the Lord” and thanks to “life in Christ who leads us to be little ones”. And he underlined: “Marcellin Champagnat left you a model of life that passes through this style: to follow the Lord in Mary’s way”.

The celebration was marked by the presence of the religious of the four branches of the Marist Family. There was also an extraordinary presence of Brothers from different parts of the world, members of the ongoing formation groups “Pathways”, who are in Manziana, and of the “Gier” group which follows the course at the General House. Also present were the Brothers of

the community of San Leone Magno, as well as the lay people who work in the General Administration and their families.

At the end of the celebration, Brother Ernesto took the floor to thank everyone for their presence and to recall the message he left to the Marists of Champagnat for this day of celebration, emphasizing that “Marcellin knew how to listen to the intuitions of the Spirit within himself, in a challenging context, and was able to respond with generosity and passion. Mary, our Good Mother, was his constant inspiration. Today we can count on this same inspiration and are being invited to respond to the challenges of our day.”.

Afterwards, everyone participated in a moment of fraternal sharing in the garden of the General House.

Photos in Facebook



Watch the video of the ceremony here

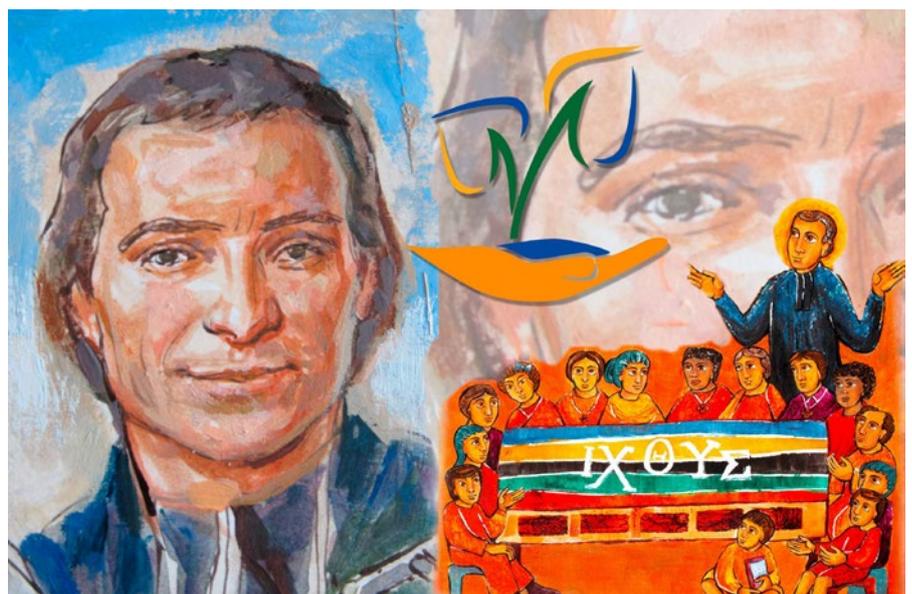
MESSAGE OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL ON THE FEAST OF ST. MARCELLIN LET’S MAKE AN EFFORT TO REKINDLE AND PASS ON THE GIFT OF THE MARIST CHARISM

Dear Marists of Champagnat,

This June 6th we give thanks for the gift of the person and vocation of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. On that day, while the community of brothers at the Hermitage were praying to Mary by singing the Salve Regina, Marcellin was called to our Father’s House.

It is a joy for all of us to celebrate our Founder with deep gratitude for the gift of the charism given to us through him.

As a young man, through the mediation of a visiting priest, Marcellin said Yes to the call he felt from God to become a priest. Difficult as it was for him, he undertook his formation, paying close attention to the intuitions he perceived from the Spirit. Thus it



was that, even before his ordination to the priesthood, he felt inspired to found an institute of brothers to be at the service of children and young people, particularly those most in need.

Indeed, at the age of 27, as a young priest, he began this wonderful project, giving us the name of Mary.

On May 20th, the birthday of Champagnat, we launched the Year of Marist Vocations throughout the Institute. We will bring this period to a close on today's date next year.

In my words at the launching, I invited us all to celebrate and give thanks throughout this year for the gift that we have received, as Marists of Champagnat – brothers, lay Marists, all of us who resonate with the Marist charism, to the point of living it at depth, making this gift our way of life.

I also invited us, besides celebrating and giving thanks, to renew our efforts with enthusiasm regarding Marist vocations, giving form to a revitalised culture of vocation.

On the one hand, we can take this opportunity to review our personal, community, and family lifestyles as well as the way we are carrying out our mission. We have the capacity to pass on the gift we have received, through the witness of our presence and dedication, our joy and authenticity.

At the same time, we can foster an atmosphere wherein young people can learn to listen and search their hearts. We can give opportunities for all young people to discover the gift they have been given and how to develop it. We want to accentuate caring for and generating Marist life, accompanying particularly those who feel called to live out the gift of a Marist vocation, whether as religious brothers or as lay Marists. I believe that the Lord continues to awaken this gift in young people, and so we want to offer them opportunities for searching their hearts, their accompaniment and their formation.

I reminded us all that what is important is not how many brothers and lay Marists there are or will be in the Institute, but the quality of our lives that passionately witness to the presence of a God who is alive and close to us, as well as our dedication in solidarity with those most in need.

In recent visits to some of the homes of older Brothers, I have told them that, when I meet them, I do not take note of their age, their possible ailments or whether someone is using

a wheelchair, but I take note of the look on their faces that shows the presence of God and Mary in their lives. I also call to mind the years of their devoted service to young people, in classrooms and sports fields, correcting homework, being a presence among them. Can I invite all the older Brothers to support the year of Marist Vocations with their prayer and with their witness that there is great value today in giving oneself unconditionally to God's call.

I invite you other brothers and all lay Marists to ask yourselves how you can be more faithful today to the gift of the Marist charism you have received, making this gift more visible in the way you live your brotherhood and in how you are engaged in mission. Perhaps we need to develop a deeper inner life and spirituality. Perhaps we need to review how we relate to one another, acting out of a spirit of mercy, forgiveness and

reconciliation. Perhaps we could look at our attitudes and actions of solidarity, especially at a time when new forms of poverty and needs have emerged, multiplying the number of marginalised children and young people.

Along with witness and visibility, we need to be creative in providing young people with the chance to encounter their inner selves and a merciful God who calls them to be happy by being of service to others. We want to accompany and care for the new shoots of Marist life, budding in those young people who are connecting with the gift of the charism. We want to open our doors to share our brotherhood, prayer and mission with them.



Marcellin knew how to listen to the intuitions of the Spirit within himself, in a challenging context, and was able to respond with generosity and passion. Mary, our Good Mother, was his constant inspiration. Today we can count on this same inspiration and are being invited to respond to the challenges of our day.

May we be able to rekindle and pass on the gift of the charism we have received!

Happy Feast of Saint Marcellin!

Br. Ernesto Sanchez Barba, Superior General
6th June 2022

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AFRICA

LAY PEOPLE AND BROTHERS REFLECT ON LAY MARIST VOCATION



On 17th May, 2022, the African Lay and Brothers Commission had their meeting with the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC) through online. The purpose of the meeting was to intimate the Provincial Superiors about the progress, challenges and way forward with regards to the Lay Marist vocation in Africa. Secondly, to seek for their regular support in animation of Lay Marist in Africa and thirdly, to share with them about the International Forum on the Lay Marist vocation.

Br. Elias Odinaka Iwu, the co-coordinator of the African Lay and Brothers Commission who moderated the meeting intimated the Provincial Superiors on the progress and challenges of Lay Marist in Africa, as he took his time to thank the Provincial Superiors for their efforts in supporting Lay Marist in their various Administrative Units (AU's). He requested them to extend their support to the African Lay and Brothers Commission (AL&BC).

Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa (General Councilor), shared more on the International Forum on the vocation of the Lay Marist. Each member of the Commission used the opportunity to talk about the progress, challenges, and way forward on Lay Marist vocation in their various Administrative Units.

All the Provincial Superiors who spoke thanked the coordinator, Br. Elias Odinaka Iwu and his team for the good services they are rendering in coordinating Lay Marist in Africa. They admitted truly that Africa has long way to go comparing to other

Regions of the world but submitted that we must work according to our own pace.

The Provincial Superiors thanked the Commission for carrying them along in whatever they are doing and for inviting them in their meeting.

Br. Sylvain, in his closing remarks thanked the Provincial Superiors on behalf of the General Councilors, for their availability and urged them to continue to support the Lay Marist vocation in their various Administrative Unit's and in African Region.

People that were present at the meeting:

- Mrs. Alida Bodomanitra (Madagascar)
- Br. Valentin Djawu (PACE)
- Dr. Dennis Khasu (Southern Africa)
- Br. Ivo Njongai (West Africa)
- Br. John Bwanali (Southern Africa)
- Br. Elias Odinaka Iwu (Nigeria)
- Mr. Samuel Adu-Nontwiri (West Africa)
- Br. Nobert Mwila (Provincial, Southern Africa)
- Br. Michel Maminiana (Provincial Madagascar)
- Br. Cyprian Gandeabo (Provincial, West African)
- Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa (General Councilor)

Brothers Vincent Uchenna Abadom (Provincial, Nigeria) and Babey Venceslas Baindekeli (Provincial, PACE) were not able to participate at the meeting due to Community work but sent representatives.

marist world

GENERAL HOUSE: MEETING OF THE FMSI BOARD



ROMANIA: BROTHERS ÓSCAR MARTÍN AND VALDÍCER CIVA FACHI VISIT THE LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY OF MOINESTI



MADAGASCAR: LYCÉE CATHOLIQUE ST JOSEPH – ANTANRANANA



PORTUGAL: COLÉGIO MARISTA DE CARCAVELOS



CANADA: DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CANADA IN VALCARTIER



PERU: COLEGIO SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

LAY MARIST VOCATION

WHERE ARE WE AT THIS MOMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM PROCESS?

At this moment we are reaching the final part of stage 2 of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation. This stage has included the study and deepening in each Administrative Unit of the themes proposed by the Forum, at a personal and community level. The dynamics have been developed in small groups formed by Brothers, mixed communities, laypeople, fraternities of the CMMF or other movements. In some Administrative Units there has already been a Provincial/District Meeting or a similar face-to-face or virtual event in which representatives of the local phase have participated. In other AUs this activity will soon be developed. Each Administrative Unit is organizing this experience according to its reality. In this step, the three representatives (two lay people and one brother) have been selected to attend the International Forum. Their participation will be in November 2022 (Rome, in person) and November 2024 (virtual). This Stage 2 ends on June 30, 2022, date in which the Provincial Teams of Lay Animation will send to the Secretariat



of the Laity their answers to the questions of each one of the objectives. The answers are the results of the whole process of local and provincial/district reflection that will be worked out by the participants of the International Forum. Sharing 13 – Lay Marist Newsletter: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

Raúl Amaya, Director of the Secretariat for the Laity



CENTRAL AMERICA

THE ASSEMBLY OF THE FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION



On May 14 and 15, we lived a deep experience of communion organized by the Provincial Commission for the Laity. Brothers and lay people we meet in El Salvador for the Provincial Assembly of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation. Representatives of each country – 25 lay people and 9 brothers lived a time of grace -, who took the voice of all those who participated in the reflection on the issues proposed by the Secretariat of the Laity, as a path for the International Forum. We fulfilled the realization of the Provincial synthesis of the 4 themes of the International Forum: Vocation, formative itineraries, charismatic links, and associative structures.

We were able to verify that on the part of the laity there is a conviction in the option of living the Marist charism. More and more lay people are aware that living the Marist charism is a matter of vocation, and for this reason, we must live a process of personal discernment to recognize the call. A vocation that invites us to follow Jesus in the style of Mary. Like those who, feeling themselves heirs to the charism of Saint Marcellin, have taught us to know, love and live a Marist life with a clear commitment to the most vulnerable. And together with them, we understand that this path that we follow within Marist Spirituality has to be one of communion, living the creative experience of community,

which launches us on the mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved.

Steps as a Global Charismatic Family

We recognize that this is not done alone, that the mission is enriched when we organize ourselves, and that's how it arises among us the need to articulate ourselves, to move as an important part of the Marist charismatic family. That's why I ask you:

In your Provinces: Have you taken steps to articulate yourself as lay Marists? Do you feel this desire to create structures that facilitate the experience of the Marist charism based on personal commitment for the benefit of others? What is needed for the associative structure to function, despite being made up of different countries and cultures? How do you think a Champagnat Marist association should function at Provincial level?

We finished the Meeting of the Forum with the Eucharist, where the Provincial, Br Hipólito Pérez sent Nohemy Pinto, Marcos Mercado, Br Juan Carlos Bolaños and myself, Ana Saborío, as representatives of the Province of Central America to the International Forum of the Lay Marist Vocation to be held in Rome in November.

Ana Saborio

AUSTRALIA

The Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat began the III National Assembly on June 7, with an online forum. It will continue with a second forum scheduled for July 27, which will culminate in a virtual/face-to-face meeting from August 26 to 28.

PROVINCE L'HERMITAGE

More than a thousand people linked to the Marist charism from all over Catalonia participated in the traditional pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Montserrat, which takes place in May. Organized by the mission team, the meeting was attended by youth movements (Fajmacor and CMS), local pastoral teams, social works, Marist associations and schools.

**BRAZIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA**

Brother Deivis, Provincial, participated in the regional meeting of bishops and the conference of religious. The participants reflected on the Global Educational Pact and on the Vocational Year that is promoted in the Church of Brazil, starting on November 20.

CORAZÓN SOLIDARIO

Within the framework of Laudato Si' Week, at the end of May, Marists from the Arco Norte and América Sur regions met virtually to present the initiative of the Integral Ecology Bulletin, by the thematic group of Integral Ecology, formed in the Second Assembly of the Marist Network of International Solidarity.

BRAZIL

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

In Tabatinga, on the triple border -Brazil, Colombia and Peru-, a mixed community of Brothers and lay people carries out challenging work with the indigenous and riverine communities of the region, as well as with the immigrants arriving in Brazilian territory. From May 21 to 24, the community was visited by the provincials of Brazil and the Province of Santa Maria de los Andes. Brothers José de Assis Elias de Brito (Brasil Centro-Norte), Benê de Oliveira (Brasil Centro-Sul), Deiveis Fischer (Brasil Sul-Amazônia) and Pablo Gonzalez Franco (Santa Maria de los Andes) were there to reaffirm the importance of the Marist presence in this region, to visit and listen to the members, as well as to the bishop of the diocese.

**Place of mission and living the Marist charism**

For Brother José de Assis Elias de Brito, the community of Tabatinga is full of meaning: "To be present on a frontier where it is necessary to support and attend to the needy and isolated communities means a lot to us. It is an appropriate place for our charism, because the poorest of the poor are there. Reaffirming our presence in this geographical and existential frontier means guaranteeing Champagnat's mission", he mentioned. The provincials were able to get to know the life and work of the four members of the community: Mayra Gutiérrez Márquez and the married couple, Marcio Guerreiro and Patricia Borja, from Mexico; and Brother Luke Fong from the District of the Pacific.

The Marist mission in the Amazon region

also responds to the calls of the VII Provincial Chapter, which asked the Province to witness with prophecy to the Marist charism, in addition to strengthening the option for the poorest in the construction of global citizenship. "There is much to do, and that is why Champagnat's mission is so important in this context. As provincials of these territories, we need to contribute with the Institute to make this mission viable," concluded Brother Assisi, Provincial of the Brasil Centro-Norte.

For Marcio Guerreiro, "the Marist presence in this triple frontier is very significant and of great importance for the volunteers and people we have met. We learn a lot and give a little of what little we have, in the face of so many challenges".

The Brothers Provincial were with some families helped by the community (photo), participated in the celebration of Mass and developed proposals for the advancement of the work in this international community.

With the support and close accompaniment of the leaders of the South America Region, the community of the Lavalla200> project of Tabatinga continues its mission where the Marist charism is most needed: among the least favored, who live in adverse realities and difficult access.

GENERAL HOUSE

INSTITUTE OFFERS GIER PROGRAM 2022



The Institute, through the Secretariat of Brothers Today, is offering the Gier Program from June 1 to June 30 as part of the ongoing formation of brothers who made final vows in the last 5 years.

Coinciding with the Year of Marist Vocations, this program aims to help the recently finally professed brother to rediscover the original passion that inspired him to be a consecrated religious man. As a result of this rediscovery, there is a renewing commitment in his life vocation and in the vitality of the Institute.

Named after the river Gier, along whose banks Marcellin built the Hermitage, it will be conducted in Rome for the first 15 days and the rest will be done in the Hermitage in France. The program provides brothers with the opportunity to:

- To live a powerful community experience with brothers of similar age group and stage of life.

- To journey as a global charismatic family with a variety of language and culture.
- To witness the fruits of the Holy Spirit through the Universal Church.
- To learn of the animation of the Marist Institute and to listen the spirituality of the heart that motivates the general administration.
- To rekindle the brother's original passion for his vocation through visiting the land of Marcellin and to recognize Mary's presence in the history of the Institute.
- To nurture confidence in each of the brothers to be passionate promoters of Marist Life in all its expressions.
- To cultivate the sense of ongoing formation for brothers at all stages of life.

The Gier Program 2022 draws the participation of 22 brothers from different administrative units. It is animated by a team is composed of Br. Tony Leon, Br. Jose Miguel Caballero, Br. Ángel Medina and Br. Lindley Sionosa.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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