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# MARIST NEWS

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

## GENERAL HOUSEL

# GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

The laity and brothers of the General House met all morning on June 17 to complete the process of the local phase of the International Forum on the Marist Vocation. The entire General Council also participated. Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, concluded the process, thanking everyone for their participation and emphasizing that there is room for everyone at the La Valla table.

The proposed process consisted of seven meetings, during which the four objectives proposed by the Secretariat



## general administration

■ This week, the General Council holds the last week of plenary. Topics include the 'Laudato Si' project for General Administration, Economic General Affairs, evaluation of the General Administration from the General Conference, schedule for the coming months and Regular Council.

■ On Sunday, Brother Ernesto and his Council received at the General House the group of 8 people who participate in the Training Program for International and Intercultural Communities, in Manziána.

■ On Monday started the meeting of the International Commission on Marist Spiritual Patrimony. The general councillors, brothers João Carlos and Óscar, together with the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, brothers Ángel and Lindley, accompany the group made up of 10 members, under the coordination of Brother Antonio Ramalho.

■ A group of 19 European leaders conclude at the General House their training course promoted by the region, which consists of 5 stages. During the training, from Monday to Friday, they will have the opportunity to dialogue with the General Council and the different secretariats and departments

of the General Administration. The Secretariat for Education and Evangelization oversees the organization of the meeting in Rome.

■ On Monday, FMSI met online with the South African Three2six project team to develop strategies for 2023.

■ On Monday and Tuesday, Br Ángel Diego, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, participated in the meeting of the BICE management team in Paris.

■ Brothers João Carlos and Ben participated, on Tuesday and Wednesday, in the meeting of the Provincials of Europe, held in Alcalá de Henares, Spain.

■ On Wednesday, Brothers Lindley and Ángel met with the European Vocation Ministry Team to coordinate some vocation promotion initiatives at the regional level.

■ From this Saturday until June 29, the community of the General Council will take a few days to relax by the sea, in Silvi Marina.

of the Laity were discussed: The Marist vocation and the vocation of laypeople, Pathways and processes of formation and mentoring, Bonding and belonging to the Marist charism Civil and canonical structures of association.

In the same way, there was a special meeting to celebrate the beginning of the Year of Marist Vocations on May 20.

The team that prepared the process was formed by Andrea Rossi and Luiz Da Rosa and by Brothers João Carlos do Prado, Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, Luis Daniel Herrera and Lindley Sionosa. The meetings counted on the participation of several people who helped to pray and reflect on the proposed themes. Among them were Manu, from the Secretariat of the Laity, and Gianluca, from the mixed community of Giugliano. Luiz da Rosa will represent the General Administration at the face-to-face Forum to be held in Rome in November.

The main objective of the last meeting was to elaborate a synthesis that will be sent to the Secretariat of the Laity as a

contribution of the General Administration to the process of global reflection on the lay Marist vocation.

Among the topics discussed, the following stand out:

- To continue with the promotion of meetings that allow to deepen the Marist vocation and in particular the lay Marist vocation.
- To propose a formation based on common elements and not on pre-established models.
- To carry out actions of solidarity that put into practice the Marist charism.
- To clearly define the different levels of bonding and belonging proposed: professional collaboration, mission, life and spirituality.

The final meeting concluded with the Eucharist celebrated in the chapel of the General House and with lunch in the garden, where each participant brought a dish to share.

## EAST TIMOR

# “COME AND SEE” PROGRAM IN BAUCAU

The Marists in Timor Leste welcomed fourteen potential candidates from various districts across the country to Casa Marista Teulale, for a 1 week “Come and See” program. The gathering provided each young man with an opportunity to:

- experience Marist community life for one week
- explore vocation and mission
- learn about the vocation and identity of a religious brother
- come to know about the life, charism and spirituality of Fr Champagnat
- become aware of our Marist mission – both local and international
- experience Marist Brotherhood through the testimonies of our Timorese brothers
- begin understanding vocational discernment
- participate in a simple community service project with children.

The meeting was supported by the wider community of brothers in Baucau who supported Brothers Lecio Heckler, Matthew Green and Greg McDonald with presentations on a variety of topics. Also the six young brothers, who are on teaching practicum at the moment, left the group with a very fine video presenting their own personal vocation stories and some solid responses to a variety of typical vocation questions.



The week concluded with an evening prayer and barbecue together with plenty of Timorese music and singing.

The formation team will now take some time to discern who we will invite into the Aspirancy program which commences in July.

## ONGOING FORMATION

## GIER PROGRAM CONCLUDES FIRST PART

The Gier Program, an ongoing formation program promoted by the Secretariat of Brothers Today, finished its first part on the 15th of June at the General House. On the 16th, the group traveled by bus to the Hermitage where the brothers will get to know and experience the birthplace of St. Marcellin and of the Institute.

In total, 22 brothers who made final vows in the last five years are participating in the program. They come from 15 countries and 13 administrative units. Br. Tony Leon, Br. Jose Miguel Caballero, Br. Angel Medina and Br. Lindley Sionosa comprise the team.

The 15 days spent in Rome gave the brothers an opportunity to meet with and listen to the members of the General Council and get to know the functioning and service of the general administration in the animation of the life and mission of the Institute. They also visited certain tourist sites and pilgrimage places in the Eternal City, including Assisi. They were able to participate in the Pope's Audience on June 8 and visit the statue of St. Marcellin in the Vatican. That same day they also visited the Catacombs of Domitilla that allowed direct contact



with the origins of the Church and the first Christians.

Above all, they built community in sharing life, praying together, and accompanying one another as brothers.

The group acknowledges the services of Br. Jose Grande from the District of Asia, who served as translator for the first half of the program. Gratitude also goes to the General Council led by Br. Ernesto, the brothers of General House Community, as well as the different secretariats and departments.

The Gier Program will run up to the 30th of June.

## SRI LANKA

## MARIS STELLA COLLEGE CELEBRATES CENTENARY

Marist of Sri Lanka celebrated on June 18 the centenary of Maris Stella College, in Negombo. Marist Brothers founded the Maris Stella College in 1922, after their arrival to Sri Lanka in 1911.



It was Archbishop of Colombo, Reverend Anthony Coudert, who transferred to the Marist Brothers the property to establish on it a Catholic College for boys. The event was broadcasted live on YouTube.

20 JUNE

# WORLD REFUGEE DAY

“Arise, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt”. The Bible tells us, in the Gospel according to St Matthew (Mt 2:13-14), that Joseph was told by an angel of the Lord to flee to Egypt, together with Mary and the newborn Jesus. “After they had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Arise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you; for Herod will seek the child to kill him. And Joseph arose and took the child and his mother by night and fled into Egypt”.



Sadly, human history is littered with STORIES of people having to leave their homes, their families, their lands, their lives... to go and live in the new, the unknown. And we say STORIES with capital letters because behind them are the lives of people who have suffered and are suffering dislodgment and vulnerability.

Every 20th June, the United Nations commemorates World Refugee Day. As Marists of Champagnat, we too today want to remember the people who are forced to leave their homeland and start a new life far from their homes., Together with the United Nations, we want to make this situation known, we want to take the side of those who are suffering.

World News mostly tells us about people who have had to flee the barbarity of war in Ukraine. It is not just this country. There are too many situations of war, injustice, hunger... that drive thousands of people to abandon their lives in search of a life of peace and dignity.

Sometimes, without realizing it, we can be immersed in the thought that there are first-class and second-class refugees. Why do the media tell us about the war in Ukraine and not in other parts of our world? Why are some leaders in favour of welcoming some refugees based on where they come from? Are we not also falling into the trap of distinguishing people by where they come from, or by their creed, or by the colour of their skin? World Refugee Day 2022 reminds us that it should not matter who these people are, what religion they believe in,

where they come from, when and how or why they have been forced to flee.

Pope Francis, in *Fratelli Tutti* (11), tells us that we are always on the way, that we must fight every day to achieve justice and solidarity. We continue to see the need to continue this path in the newspapers and the media. The world is often broken by pain and suffering of those who can only flee for their lives and those of their loved ones.

Also, the 22nd General Chapter of the Marist Brothers draws our attention to the need to “make a decisive commitment to defend” the dignity of refugees and migrants, seeking their inclusion in society. As Marists of Champagnat we are called to respond to this desire of the Chapter. We have admirable projects that try to help thousands of displaced people in these situations. Let us think, for example, of the “Fratelli” project that has been going on for years in Lebanon, initiatives that help to find work, that offer medical care, that provide psychological support services, and above all initiatives aimed at providing a suitable educational space adapted to personal characteristics and needs.

We cannot stand still, we cannot take refuge in the “I” and forget the “we”, which is where the true dignity of all human beings lies.

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola  
Director of the **Secretariat of Solidarity**

marist world

FRANCE: GIER PROGRAM – LAVALLA

BOLIVIA: MARIST YOUTH LEADERS

EAST TIMOR: VOCATION MINISTRY



GUATEMALA: ARCO NORTE REGION LAY TEAM

BRAZIL: COLÉGIO MARISTA CRICIÚMA

GENERAL HOUSE: TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES

UNITED STATES

LAYPEOPLE COMMITMENT CEREMONY

Sixty-two new Marists of Champagnat were minted on Sunday, June 5, at the Province-wide commitment ceremony and prayer. This second formation cohort joins a group of fifty from last year's Cohort 1.

Groups gathered at Marist High School in Chicago, St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens, and the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus. These groups were joined via Zoom by people from Kentucky, Louisiana, Texas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Florida, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and as far away as Prince Edward Island in Canada! The prayer was led by Maureen Hagan, with Br. Dan O'Riordan, Provincial, conducting the actual commitment ceremony. Erin Kelly in Chicago gifted them by singing the Marist rendition of 'Hallelujah', accompanied by Br. Hank Hammer on the piano.



Each new Marist of Champagnat received the cross signifying their commitment, as well as a copy of 'Walking With Mary', authored by Br. Dan O'Riordan.

A joyous atmosphere pervaded the Province, whether in person or on Zoom. Many companions were able to greet each other in person for the first time. [More pictures here](#)

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL  
**INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR  
 FOR MARIST SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

As part of the activities of Champagnat Global Open Network, our Marist Global Network of Schools, the celebration of the feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat was held on June 8th and 14th with all the principals of Marist schools around the world. The celebration took place in the framework of an international webinar entitled: **WHAT MAKES A SCHOOL MARIST?**

The event was inaugurated by Brother Superior General, Ernesto Sánchez, who, in addition to thanking all the directors for the key role they are playing in maintaining Marcellin’s dream, wished all those present that the network we are building will help us to “look beyond”, like Marcellin. To look beyond the moment in which we live, beyond our borders and help us to feel more and more like a Global Family. The central moment of the webinar was developed by three Marists of Champagnat who responded, from their experiences and contexts to the question of what for them makes a school Marist.

After the presentations, it was very enriching to discuss the various contributions and questions that participants from all over the world sent in via the webinar chat. Ben Consigli, General Councillor, link with the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, was kind enough to conclude this significant meeting with a final reflection on the excellence



If you were unable to attend the webinar and wish to follow it on a live webcast, please visit:  
[https://youtu.be/d\\_20JsHXalk](https://youtu.be/d_20JsHXalk)

of our educational establishments which is based on the Gospel values that have Mary as the point of reference.

The webinar, led by Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of the Institute’s Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, was a milestone among the activities being carried out by Champagnat Global. It was the first time that an activity was organised bringing together all the principals of the almost 600 Marist schools around the world. Words and songs of children and young people from a Marist school brought joy, tenderness, and enthusiasm to all the participants.



See more details in the latest Champagnat Global Network newsletter

## BROTHER WALFRID

## NEW RESEARCH ON FOUNDER OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB

In 2017 Michael Connolly, a research student at Stirling University in Scotland, was awarded a bursary to investigate the life and work of Brother Walfrid (Andrew Kerins, 1840 – 1915), who was best known as the Founder of Celtic Football Club in 1887/1888. Michael was awarded a PhD for his research in February 2022. As a result of original research in archives in Ireland, Scotland, London and St. Genis- Laval, France, Michael has been able to construct a narrative of Brother Walfrid's life from his childhood in Ireland during the years of the Great Famine (1845 – 52), to his decision to emigrate to Glasgow at 15 years of age to seek work, his participation in night classes run by the Marist Brothers, and his decision to join the Brothers, which led to his novitiate in Beaucamps in 1864.

Michael Connolly presents detailed information about Brother Walfrid's early years as a teacher in Glasgow, and shows how his early experiences of poverty and lack of education led to membership of an order dedicated to the education of poor children and the alleviation of poverty. Walfrid also desired to support the Irish community in Glasgow which was struggling to emerge from poverty and discrimination. Football emerged in the late nineteenth century as a way of providing leisure and entertainment for the masses. Brother Walfrid saw the potential of football to support the Irish Catholic community and to raise money to provide meals for poor children in the East End of Glasgow. Celtic Football Club quickly met with success in Scotland and became a focus of pride for the Irish Catholic community.

Brother Walfrid moved to London in 1892 and worked in schools there until 1906. Connolly shows that he continued to show concern for poor children, raising money to pay for uniforms. He also continued to promote football as



a healthy way for these young people to use their energy and build relationships with each other.

At sixty-six years of age, Brother Walfrid's leadership and organisational skills were called upon when he was asked to go to Grove Ferry in Kent, where the French Brothers had established a school as a result of the Combes Laws which resulted in the expulsion of religious orders from France. He retired to Dumfries in 1912, where he died three years later on 17th April 1915. He maintained his connection with Celtic after he left Glasgow, and in his later years he received a telegram

every Saturday to inform him about the results of that day's match. He is commemorated with statues in his home town of Ballymote in Ireland, and outside Celtic Park in Glasgow, reminding the players, staff, and fans about Celtic's original charitable purpose: to provide food for poor children. Celtic continues Walfrid's charitable work through the Celtic Foundation.

Michael Connolly provides a narrative of the work of the Marist Brothers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which provides a fuller picture than we had previously of the early pioneering Marist Brothers in Scotland and England. He successfully demonstrates that the foundation of Celtic FC was consistent with the three core features of Walfrid's life: his religious vocation, his desire to care for poor children, and his love of sport. He could see the potential of football to provide a healthy focus for the energies of young people and, more importantly, to raise money to feed poor children. We are in Michael's debt for this thorough and inspiring biography, as well as for unearthing a great deal of new information about the work of the Marist Brothers in Scotland and England. Michael is currently working to arrange for publication of his research so that it can be shared with a wider audience.

## MARIST SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY

# MARIST NOTEBOOKS 40

The International Commission of Marist Patrimony has just published the 40th edition of Marist Notebooks. It also presents a survey in order to know the users' experience and to look for new ideas so as to enrich the next editions:

### Complete survey

The Commission has also conducted interviews with some of the authors of the articles published in the last issue, which can be [consulted here](#). Download PDF – Marist Notebooks 40: [English](#) [Español](#) [Français](#) [Português](#)

The editorial, signed by Brothers Antonio Ramalho, President of the Commission, and André Lanfrey, Coordinator of the publication, follows below.



The heritage commission decided that this number 40 of the Cahiers Maristes would devote a special feature to Marist spirituality. And in fact, four articles approach this subject from different angles. The most fundamental, on the presence and love of God (Br. Michael Green), places this aspect of our spirituality within a long spiritual tradition. It is taken from a more extensive study, which is available in full on [Champagnat.org](#). The study on “The Spirit of the Institute” (Br. A. Lanfrey) attempts to show that this expression is to a large extent equivalent to the more recent concept of Marist spirituality. Brother [Antonio Martínez Estaún](#) has devoted his work to a Marist virtue that is difficult to define: modesty. Finally, Brother [Afonso Murad](#) invites us to a theological discernment on Marian devotion,

which is very useful today, even for religious. The following two articles are consistent with each other since they both deal with the Institute as an institution concerned with preserving its memory and history. The article by M. [Flores Sánchez](#) deals with this question at the level of the Chilean province. The second (F. A. Lanfrey & Adrien Mercier) outlines an administrative history of the institute by researching the sources of the large Access computer file developed at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries. These two articles therefore invite us to become more aware of the memory revolution that is taking place before our eyes, allowing many investigations but also generating new problems.

The two documents commented on are also very similar in subject and date since they deal with Br. François' stay in Rome in 1858. They reveal to us many things about the state of mind of the Institute after the General Chapter of 1852-54; about the personality of Brother François, which is still not well known; about the Roman environment of the time and about the delicate relations between the Fathers and the Marist Brothers. More globally, these documents show how problematic was for the Institute the passage from the time of the foundation to that of its structuring as a body governed by a rule, constitutions and the tutelary authority of Rome. Finally, we thought it would be useful to give some brief information on publications or events of patrimonial interest.



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