



## AFRICA

# THE AFRICAN MISSION COMMISSION MEETS IN NAIROBI

After a lengthy wait for the first opportunity to hold a physical meeting, the African Mission Commission finally managed to hold its first in-person meeting from the time of the pandemic from 29th June to 6th July 2022 in Karen, Nairobi – Kenya. This meeting, coming after a very long time due to the pandemic, was very important because it was the first time to meet in person with two members that have recently been added to the Commission. Besides, it was necessary to meet and share experiences that have in a way negatively affected the smooth implementation of the Commission's planned activities due to Covid-19.



## general administration

- From Sunday to Wednesday, the International Commission Brothers Today met in Manziana, with the participation of the directors of the Secretariat and Brother Óscar, General Councilor.
- From Sunday until Thursday, the Enlarged Secretariat of Laity met, with the participation of General Councilors João Carlos and Sylvain. The meeting is being held in Rome, at the Nostra Signora Madre della Misericordia house, the venue for the Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, in November.
- On Wednesday, the meeting of the International Council for Economic Affairs begun at the General House. Brothers Jorge Gaio, Econome General, and Goyo Linacero are participating. The meeting ends on Friday and takes up the strategic plan of the General Economat, taking into account the recommendations of the last General Conference.
- On Wednesday, the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization promoted a meeting with the Ad Hoc team for the construction of the Global Network of Marist Youth Ministry. Brother Ben, General Councilor, and the directors of the Secretariat, Brothers Carlos Alberto and Mark, participated.
- On Friday, Brothers Ernesto, Superior General, and Óscar, General Councilor, will meet with the group of candidates destined for the **Lavalla200** and Fratelli Projects, who are following the formation program in Manziana.
- On Saturday, the secretariats of the Laity and Brothers Today will meet at the General House. In addition to the respective directors, the link councillors with the Marist Life Area, Brothers Óscar, Sylvain and João Carlos will be present.

**Key Reflection Points, Proposals and Decisions**

Marist Life and Mission on the African Region is need-driven as enshrined in the Strategic Plan (2017 – 2022) that focuses on four main priority areas namely; Child Rights and Safeguarding, Marist Youth Ministry, Communication, and Transformative and Servant Leadership Formation. At the just-ended meeting, the Commission spent most of the time to deeply listen to reports from Administrative Units with interest on the level of implementation of the Strategic Plan. It became clear from the discussion that while Administrative Units have made some positive strides in different areas at varying degrees, there still remains an enormous amount of work to be carried out in the four priority areas covered by the Strategic Plan so as to yield the expected outcomes. This necessitated a critical review of the Strategic Plan which led to a proposal for further extension of the current Plan from 2022 to 2025 upon CSAC’s authorization. The Commission urges AUs to harness results achieved so far and reinforce full implementation of revised activities by propelling different groups and individuals into immediate action.

The Commission also reflected on a few proposals that require urgent attention as follows:

- The Commission is working with relevant authorities and teams to encourage the Region’s participation at the planned online Provincial MYM Coordinators meeting organized by the Secretariat for Evangelization and Education scheduled for 19th July 2022.
- In the same vein, the Commission is also advocating for the Region’s participation at the planned Marist

Youth gathering in Lisbon, Portugal in July 2023 and World Youth Day in August 2023.

- There are plans to conduct an online meeting on the Marist Global Network of Schools later this year.
- The New Horizon II project being carried out in the Province of Southern Africa has just entered its third and final year. We look forward to a fruitful end and sustainability of positive outcomes achieved so far. The Commission will be engaging FMSI office in Rome to look at possibilities of replicating that intervention to other AUs within the Region that face similar challenges too.

**Membership of African Mission Commission**

Currently, the membership of the Commission is as follows:

- Southern Africa – Br. Francis Jumbe, Chairperson
- West Africa – Br. Isaac Kwame Frimpong, Vice Chairperson
- Madagascar – Br. Michel Maminiaina & Link Provincial Nigeria – Br. Mark Iwu
- Central East Africa (PACE) – Br. Michel Longena Bokolu
- Ex-Officio Members
- Secretariat for Evangelization and Education:
- Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas (Director)
- Br. Mark Omede (Co-Director)

**Vote of thanks**

The Commission extended a word of thanks to its founding members (Br Ifeanyi Mbaegu and Br John Kusi-Mensah) who have been recently replaced in the Commission, for their long years of selfless service to the Commission in particular and the Region as a whole. Their wise and dynamic

leadership steered the Commission to where it is today. We cannot thank them enough! May God grant them abundant grace in their other roles and responsibilities.

The Commission remains grateful to the support that CSAC offers in support of the works of the Commission. It is hoped that the continued engagement with CSAC will facilitate the realization and growth of Marist Life and Mission in our Region. The difficult times of the pandemic has taught the Commission some lessons. The Commission will continue to learn through prevailing experiences and discern the most appropriate way to move on with CSAC’s dreams and aspirations in alignment with Marist global view.

Members of the Commission continue to appreciate the unwavering material and expert support it receives from the Secretariat for Evangelization and Education. Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas (Beto) and Mark Omede always accompany the Commission in its reflections and decisions, and steer members of the Commission into action so as to make some giant steps in order to move side by side with Mission Commissions in other Marist Regions of the world.

**Re-statement of Purpose**

The Commission remains resolute in its commitment to providing the strategic discernment and thinking in the areas of Marist Life and Mission in conformity with the goals and aspirations of CSAC in alignment with the global Marist strategic direction.

In Jesus, Mary,  
Joseph and Champagnat.

Br Francis Jumbe AMC Chairperson

**NOVIATIE TAMONTAKA**

Br. Joe Walton, originally from the Province of South Africa and now a Member of the Marist District of Asia, has been appointed as Novice Master at the Inter-Regional International Novitiate in Philippines. He replaces Brother Pepito. Br. Devasiri, from South Asia, has also joined the staff of the Novitiate. Later in the year, Br Jone Seduadua, from the District of the Pacific, will join the Novitiate Team.

**USA PROVINCE**

The Province recently hired Sam King to assist in responding to the Call to be in Solidarity with our Common Home. He will specifically work in developing realistic responses and action steps to the goals of Pope Francis' Laudato Si' Action Platform. Sam will ensure that all Marist Ministries in United States will develop clear goals in responding more deeply to embracing and living an Integral Ecology.

**NORANDINA**

The Provincial Council is animating in Cali, Colombia, the provincial meeting of the Vocational Forum on Lay Marist Vocation, which brings together about 30 participants. The meeting is characterized by the sharing of experiences of the national forums, held previously in Venezuela, Ecuador, and Colombia.

**COMPOSTELA**

A group of Marist educators is on pilgrimage to the Marist places where Champagnat's charism was born.



**BRAZIL**

**LAVALLA200> TABATINGA**



In Tabatinga, on the triple border -Brazil, Colombia and Peru-, a mixed community of Brothers and lay people carry out challenging work with the indigenous and riverine communities of the region, as well as with the immigrants arriving in Brazilian territory.

The community members are: Mayra Gutiérrez Márquez (México), the married couple, Marcio Guerreiro and Patricia Borja (Brazil), and Br. Luke Fong, from the District of the Pacific. They live the mission where the Marist charism is most needed: among the least favored, who live in adverse realities and difficult access.

**Here down, Br. Luke share some news from their live in that of the Lavalla200> project.**

Living in a mix community of Brothers and Lay here in Tabatinga is something very important to the local Church and to the local people. It gave us the opportunity to serve the neediest by giving ourselves in their service. The new mixed way of life involving Brothers and Lay Marists forming a community and working together, contributing to the continuation of the Marist charism, is something very important in our community living.

Lavalla200>, in Tabatinga, has been a space of very rich experience for us, Brothers and Lay. We have open hearts to build fraternal community, founded on a spiritual life well nourished by prayer, the Eucharist and participation in the local Church. It is to build together a mission project that combines the Marist charism with local needs. We always keep in mind that the work belongs to God, it is for Him and through Him that we are here. This is certainly what will differentiate us from being members of an NGO. Without a spirituality based on the Word of God, it would be very difficult to have a fruitful experience. It would be difficult to be happy, to forma a happy community, let alone to give an authentic witness.

Ir. Luke Fong



## SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY

## CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO EQUALITY

The first article of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights states that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” This article highlights and reinforces human dignity, human rights, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination for everyone. No one should be deprived of development opportunities because of where they were born, what they believe, or whether they have a disability. Unfortunately, today, there are still situations of exploitation and oppression in which human beings including children are treated as objects.

All children, irrespective of their differences, need all including governments and parents to cherish, respect, nurture and protect them from harm to facilitate their growth and development. Unfortunately, inequality in society perpetuates privileged positions on the socio-political and economic ladder and hampers unprivileged children's equal rights to development.

The responsibility of ensuring that children with disabilities or those born of de facto unions or out of wedlock should enjoy equal rights in relation to those born from married couples lie with the states. When the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted in 1989, states pledged to improve the living conditions of children in every country. Yet many children, especially girls in the developing countries, do not enjoy their rights due to gender discrimination.

Schools and families have an important role to play in promoting children's rights. Through impartial instruction teachers can model human equality just by giving students their fair share of attention as they interact with them. Similarly, parents have the duty to give equal love and attention to their children by appreciating their personalities and consistently giving them quality one-on-one time, celebrating their uniqueness, showing them love and giving them quality and genuine compliments.

As Marists of Champagnat, we continue to hold firm to Cham-



pagnat's principle that to educate children well, we must love them all equally by dedicating ourselves entirely to their instruction and character formation. The 22nd General Chapter also invites us to be present in more significant ways and continue responding to the cry of children and young people living on the margins of life.

The Church's teaching on centrality of the human person invites us to reflect on the following questions: What kind of dignity is there without the possibility of freely expressing one's thought or professing one's religious faith? Can there be dignity without a clear juridical framework which limits the rule of force and enables the rule of law to prevail over the power of tyranny? Can men and women ever enjoy dignity if they are subjected to all types of discrimination? What dignity can a person ever hope to find when he or she lacks food and the essentials for survival and, worse yet, when they lack the work which confers dignity? Certainly, these questions remind us that promoting the dignity of the person means recognizing that human beings possess inalienable rights which no one should take away arbitrarily.

Br. Francis Lukong – [Secretariat of Solidarity](#)

marist world

ITALY: EXTENDED SECRETARIAT OF LAITY



PHILIPPINES: INTER-REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE AT TAMONTAKA



AUSTRALIA: MARIST BROTHERS JUBILIARIANS RENEWING THEIR VOWS IN MELBOURNE



THAILAND: MARIST LEARNING CENTER, SAMPRHAN



FRANCE: NEW COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE OF L'HERMITAGE



COLOMBIA: SPIRITUAL RETREAT OF THE NORANDINA PROVINCE BROTHERS

GENERAL HOUSE

FMSI PUBLISHES ITS 2021 SOCIAL REPORT

The **Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI)**, an NGO of the General Administration, has just published its Social Report 2021, with details of projects it carried out in different countries around the world.

The report aims to provide a clear and comprehensive overview of how FMSI implements its stated principles in the contexts where it operates. It also gives an overview of the main initiatives promoted by FMSI in the past year. It provides a list of the projects funded in the different countries where the Marist Foundation is present. It also mentions and explains the areas of intervention, mainly related to advocacy and Child Rights.

During 2021, FMSI has worked in different countries in Europe, South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. It has focused its work on programmes that improve the quality of life and well-being of children living on the peripheries in the areas of education, health, nutrition, child protection and welfare.



“Today, more than ever, FMSI remains committed to providing unconditional support to all vulnerable children,” said Andrea Rossi, director of FMSI, speaking about the achievements and challenges of the Marist Foundation.

Download the 2021 Annual FMSI Report: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Italiano](#)

ARCO NORTE

# REGIONAL MEETING OF LAY FORMATORS

From 14th to 17th June 2022, the extended Lay Formation Team of the Arco Norte Region met at the Marist Formation Centre in Guatemala City to conclude the work that began in May 2020 in an online format. During this period, the regional team has been reflecting, discerning and planning the best way to animate lay Marists who are bringing the dream of Marcellin Champagnat and the first Brothers to life in the region.

The representatives of the provinces of the region came together in a climate of dialogue and reflection, but, above all, of great joy and hope for the future of the lay Marists of the region.

During the meeting, it was possible to share the new challenges and realities facing laypeople in the different administrative units of the region in this post-pandemic period; and also, the new styles of animation that have resulted from changes to some of the Brother Provincials and their councils.

The main objective of this meeting was to formulate a strategic plan for the pastoral care of Marist laypeople, focusing on four important areas: communion, formation, vocation and organisation. To this end, during the meeting, there was also an opportunity to hear about the planning of the region, the work of the secretariat and what is happening in regard to the initial and ongoing formation of the Brothers, spirituality and finances.

Our gratitude goes to Brother Hipólito Pérez Gómez and through him to the Province of Central America for their warm welcome which really made us feel at home. To the Brother Provincials and their pastoral teams for facilitating our travel and ensuring the participation of all the administrative units of the region; to the Bureau of the Laity for their accompaniment throughout; to Brother Rodrigo, executive secretary of CRAN for his close and co-ordinating presence; to Claudia Rojas for



the organisation and sense of community we experienced; and finally to all those who participated because, although we are leaving with many follow-up tasks, we are also leaving full of dreams, joy and hope, knowing that we are building and leading the Marist Family of the region of Arco Norte.

### The participants

These are the Province representatives who attended the meeting: Br. Félix Roldán and Jacques Boudrias from the District of Canada; Matt Fallon and Antonio Cantú from the United States; Beatriz Coronado Estudillo and Bibiana Enríquez Rodríguez from México Central; Abigail Fernanda Ruíz Cuevas and Alfredo de Jesús Rodríguez Márquez from México Occidental; Nohemy Pinto and Ana Isabel Saborio Jenkins from Central America; Margarita Espinoza Torres from Norandina; Raúl Amaya Rivera, Director of the Secretariat of the Laity of the Institute; Br. Rodrigo Espinosa Larracochea, Executive Secretary of the Arco Norte Regional Committee; Claudia Rojas Carvajal, Laity Coordinator of the Arco Norte Region.



### Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto:comunica@fms.it)

**Website**

<http://www.champagnat.org>

**YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

**Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

**Twitter**

[https://twitter.com/fms\\_champagnat](https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat)