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MARIST NEWS

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LOOKING BEYOND

VII CHAPTER OF THE MARIST PROVINCE OF THE HERMITAGE

The Province of L'Hermitage held its VII Provincial Chapter from 3 to 7 July at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage in France, with the theme "Looking beyond". During the event, Br. Gabriel Villa-Real began his three-year term as Provincial and the members of the new Provincial Council were elected: Brothers Jaume Parés, Xavier Giné, Ramon Rúbies, André Déculty, Pau Tristany and Rafa Escolà. Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ben Consigli, General Councillors, attended the Chapter, accompanying the Brothers and lay capitulants.



general administration

- The International Commission of the New Formation Guide is meeting on July 18-22 at the General House to continue the work which began in late 2020. In this meeting, the commission is transitioning from the listening phase to putting together the core elements of the new formation guide. The ICNFG is composed of Brothers Óscar Martín (General Council), João Carlos do Prado (General Council), Graham Neist (Australia), Fabien Bulaimu (PACE), Ataide José de Lima (Brasil Centro-Norte), Francisco Garcia, Cesar Rojas (Norandina), Père Ferre (Hermitage), Angel Medina and Lindley Sionosa (Secretariat Brothers Today).
- During the week, Brother Ben, General Councilor link with the Europe Region, holds conversations with expert consultants in view of the regional restructuring process.
- On Tuesday, the Superior General, Br. Ernesto, participated in the Assembly of the Superiors of the Administrative Units of the Marianists.
- On the same day, Brother Ben, General Councilor,

Carlos Alberto and Mark (Secretariat of Education and Evangelization) met the coordinators of the Marist Youth Ministry programs of the Institute to discuss a future Global Network of Marist Youth Ministry.

- The Brothers Today Secretariat presented the Year of Marist Vocations to the brothers participating in the ongoing Mentors Program on Wednesday. Along with the presentation, Br. Lindley and Br. Angel also facilitated a reflection on the theme of vocation and being Marist today.
- On Thursday and Friday, Br. Ernesto will be with the group preparing to join the Fratelli and LaValla200> projects. The course of formation will end with the sending off, Friday, in the basilica of Fourvière, France.
- The International Commission of the New Formation Guide (ICNFG), as part of its timetable, will meet with the participants of the ongoing Mentors program on Thursday to reflect together on Marist formation today and for the future. This encounter is hoped to help the ICNFG in the task that they are doing at hand.

At the opening of the Chapter, Br Ernesto Sanchez recalled that “service in the province must be done with a prophetic outlook” and invited the brothers to be a beacon of hope in a troubled world.

In his speech, **Br Gabriel** thanked all the Brothers of the Province, the Superior General and Br Pere Ferré, outgoing Provincial: “Thank you, Pere, for your example of leadership (...). In the most complex situations as well as in the most simple and ordinary ones, you have always shown a special sensitivity and kindness for people. Thank you for everything I have been able to learn at your side,” he said. For his part, Brother Pere also thanked all the people who worked alongside him and assisted him during his term of office.

Global family

Br Ernesto spoke about the challenge facing Marist Brothers and Lay Marists today: “I believe that the great challenge is for us to feel that we are truly a global Marist family. That implies going beyond the local, provincial, even regional vision. We have to see ourselves as a continent, because this work, as Champagnat intuitively understood, is for all dioceses. We are all at the same point!”, said the



Superior General in a video message.

For his part, Br João Carlos do Prado, spoke about the meaning of being a global family and what this implies in the Marist world ([see video](#)). Similarly, Br. Ben Consigli, pointed out that “we need to go beyond geographical and existential boundaries, where God is asking us to be and to do” ([see video](#)).

The lay people invited to the Chapter also had the opportunity to participate and answer the question: “Looking further ahead, what are your intuitions, what do you think the future will be like? [See the video of the participation of the Laity.](#)”

During the chapter, the report of the Provincial Council (2019-2022) was released, in which the work of the different governing bodies and the animation of the Province were highlighted; and were made suggestions for the next three years.

As part of the development of the event, the participants had moments of personal and group reflection to share and talk about future perspectives and certainties. There were also moments of prayer, Eucharist and a visit to La Valla.

Photos: VII provincial chapter

**THANK YOU, BROTHER DOUGLAS!
REST IN PEACE!**

We thank God for the gift of Brother Douglas Welsh’s life and for the service he gave to the Institute’s communication for several years, translating into English the texts we publish in our communication channels.

Douglas passed away in Scotland on July 17. May the Lord reward him for his availability and dedication.



ITALY

The 2021-2022 academic year marks 90 years of Marist presence in Giugliano. In this time, the Marist Brothers have brought education, culture, love and solidarity to the city. Ninety years of a significant mission in a reality that has always welcomed the Marist charism.

COMPOSTELA

38 teachers and five accompaniers from Portugal and Spain are at the Institute's Mother Community at the Hermitage, France, to conclude the training course "Hermitage School for Educators", begun before the Covid-19 pandemic.

NORANDINA

40 confreres from the Colombia sector had their annual spiritual retreat in the beginning of the month. "Fidelity to the end" and "Religious life is a matter of love" were some of the topics discussed by Sister Liliana Franco Echeverri, Provincial Superior of the Company of Mary, who directed the retreat during 5 days of fraternity and prayer.

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

Members of the Mission Team of the Chile Sector carried out a formation for 43 educators of the Marist institutions of Bolivia, on the educational approach of Learning and Service. The activity took place in the beginning of July at the Marist Spirituality Center in Santa Cruz de La Sierra.



GENERAL HOUSE

BR. JOSÉ SÁNCHEZ BRAVO APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT OF EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION



The Superior General and his Council have appointed Br José Sánchez Bravo, from **Mexico Central**, as the new Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation for a period of three years. He will take up this role from January 2023, when he will replace Br Carlos Alberto Rojas of Norandina.

The Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, together with the General Council, works on various initiatives in the field of Marist mission at the global level. These include the networks of schools, universities, publishing houses and Marist youth ministry. The Secretariat is also coordinating the updating of the text on Marist Education, the "Stand Up, Speak Up & Act" project to encourage the participation and empowerment of children and young people, activities related to the Global Education Pact, preparing the Third International Marist Mission Assembly.

Since January 2017, the Directors of the Secretariat have been Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas (Norandina) and Mark Omede (Nigeria), with the support of Javier Llamas (Schools Network Project Manager), Diugar Madera (Assistant) and Luis Perez (IT volunteer).

H. José Sánchez Bravo

Br Pepe was born in Puebla (Mexico) in 1973. He studied at the Marist University of San Luis Potosí. His life as a brother has been closely linked to youth ministry. Br. Basilio Rueda was his novitiate master.

After his perpetual profession on 28 May 2005, he has served in the educational communities of San Luis Potosí, Celaya and Uruapan, as a teacher, youth minister and school principal.

He was Provincial of Mexico Central from 2015 to 2021. He was also president of the Conference of Religious of Mexico from 2017 to 2021 and vice president of CLAR – Latin American and Caribbean Conference of Religious, from 2018 to 2021.

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL AGORÁ GROUP COORDINATORS MEETING

AGORÁ is the tool that allows the meeting and interaction between the Marist educators of the Global Network of Schools. AGORÁ is a platform that allows the creation of groups of educators from different parts of the world to talk, debate and work on initiatives of common interest. **Each group** has one or several coordinators who encourage the internal dynamics to follow:

On 5th July, convened by the team of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, the leaders of the AGORÁ groups met online to share their work experience. Coming from 9 countries, 20 of the leaders belonging to the 11 groups that currently make up the platform participated. The central part of the meeting was developed around a dynamic in which 4 questions were answered through a participatory Padlet. Some of the responses were:

What aspects of Champagnat Global have inspired you the most so far?

- Ease of international connection.
- Global family feeling.
- Great opportunities for our schools.

What feelings have been generated in you by being a pioneer of Champagnat Global?

- Empowerment to carry out the direction of the group.
- Emotion and at the same time some anxiety about responsibility.

What positive aspects have you discovered in the group work that you encourage?



- Knowledge of other people and their diversity.
- Contagious energy through building new relationships.
- Hope that what we are sowing will bear fruit.

In what do you think we should grow in the coming months so that the work of the groups approaches the ideal?

- Introduce the Network.
- Generate a structure that allows combining times.
- Promote exchange and knowledge between groups.

Once the moment of sharing was over, Javier Llamas, Project Manager of Champagnat Global, encouraged people to participate in the personal introduction **forum at Ágora**: and to take advantage of the platform's tools to boost interaction.

Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, concluded the meeting by thanking Mr. Pep Buetas for his su-

port in the dynamics of work during the meeting and the good spirit that is being created among those who are doing the work as pioneers in the development of the Network. At the same time, he commented on the possibility of rotating the leadership role over time and that other members assume the leading of the groups.

Finally, all the participants received information about the face-to-face meeting of CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL that will take place from November 28 to December 7, 2022, in Mexico. Under the motto: "Stronger Together". This gathering is expected to finish the building phase and define the roadmap to be followed in the network of schools define its next stage 2023-2025 in a participatory manner.

Global Network Marist Schools

Champagnat Global is a space to promote communication and educational synergy, "a place where we all belong". If you want to get involved, **find out and contact us**.

marist world

SOUTH AFRICA: FIRST PROFESSIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA PROVINCE



SPAIN: BROTHERS FROM THE PROVINCES OF COMPOSTELA, IBERICA AND MEDITERRANEA GATHERED IN EL ESCORIAL



ITALY: MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF BROTHERS TODAY



BRAZIL: SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT FRATERNITY OF UBERLÂNDIA – (MG)



SYRIA: BLUE MARISTS OF ALEPPIO



FRANCE: "HERMITAGE ESCUELA DE EDUCADORES" FROM COMPOSTELA IN LA VALLA

UNITED STATES

MEETING OF THE MARIST SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

More than 60 members of the USA Marist School communities gathered at San Alfonso Retreat Center from 10 to 13 July for this year's Marist Leadership Institute section. The group consisted of Presidents, Principals, School Board members, and members of each school's evangelization efforts. The "Marist Leadership Institute" was led by Br. Hank Hammer and Br. Tom Schady of the Office of Marist Ministries with assistance from Matt Fallon, Maureen Hagan, and Br. Owen Ormsby.



The meeting included an open session with our Provincial Council. There was also chance to meet the group that took part in the Province Marial Retreat.

Both the MLI and the retreat group gathered for common liturgies and prayers which all had Marial themes in keeping with the Province-wide 'Year of Mary'.

GHANA

THREE NEW PROFESSED BROTHERS IN THE INSTITUTE

Three new Brothers were added to the Institute, when Brothers Ebenezer Owusu-Ansah Arthur (Ghana), Alvine Shiyntum (Cameroon), and Cletus Anekwe Chijioke (Nigeria) consecrated themselves to the Lord on Saturday, 9th July 2022, in Ghana. While Brothers Ebenezer and Alvine belong to the Province of West Africa, Br. Cletus belongs to the Province of Nigeria.

During the mass attended by many religious, priests and lay faithful, Br. Vincent Abadom, the Provincial of Nigeria, received the Vows on behalf of the Superior General. In his homily, Most Rev. John Yaw Afoakwa, the Bishop of the Diocese of Obuasi, asked the young Brothers to rejoice, that the Lord has found them worthy to be called to work in His vineyard. The Bishop also encouraged them to make their uniqueness and talents available as precious stones for building the kingdom of God. He lamented the current trend of some religious men and women in the habit of amassing wealth and a growing appetite for materialism. He reminded them about Christ's assertion that foxes have holes and birds, their nest but the son of man has no place to lay his head (Matt 8:20). He maintained that a deep understanding of this statement is key to embracing and following the poor Christ with an undivided heart.

Rev. Fr. William Opoku Boateng, the parish priest in his wel-



come address reminded the young brothers not to see their consecration as an end of their spiritual journey but as its beginning. He thus encouraged them to be committed to prayer, to listen to God always, and to rely on the holy spirit for support and inspiration.

The newly professed brothers will go to their families for a short holiday, and they will then join the Marist International Centre (MIC) in Kenya, where they will undergo their four-year scholastic formation.

SPAIN

FORMATION ON HOW TO LIVE ADULTHOOD IN FRATERNITY AND HOPE

From July 1 to 6, a formation session for brothers on retirement age was held at the Marist house of El Escorial. Twenty-three brothers from three Provinces: Compostela, Ibérica and Mediterránea participated.

The formation was coordinated by the team formed by Vicky Irigaray, with the theme: "Living adulthood in fraternity and hope. The community, encounter and rest" and Carmen Maganto, "Communication and expression of emotions in Community".

It has been 4 full days in which there have been talks, workshops, moments of personal reflection and group sharing, and times of prayer and joyful living in fraternity.



GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARIST NETWORK OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeting of the Governing Council of the International Marist Network of Higher Education

The first meeting of the new Governing Council of the Marist International Network of Higher Education was held (online) on 8 July 2022. Present were: Br. Marcelo Bonhemberger (PUCRS – Brazil), Ana Gabriela Aguirre Franco (Marist University of Mexico City – Mexico), Br. Arnel Alfanta S. (Notre Dame of Kidapawan College – Philippines), Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal (Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation – General House), Fabiano Incerti (PUCPR – Brazil), Silvia Vargas Salazar (Marist University Valladolid – Mexico), Br. Osuji Gregory Ekene (Marist Polytechnic Enugu – Nigeria), João Fett (PUCRS – Brazil), Br. Manuir Mentges (PUCRS – Brazil), Br. Ben Consigli (General Councillor – General House), Br. José Sánchez Bravo (Director-elect of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation – General House), Daiana Kessler (Interpreter – PUCRS – Brazil).

Under the leadership of the new president of the Marist International Network of Higher Education (RIMES), Brother Marcelo Bonhemberger (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul – PUCRS – Brazil), relevant issues were discussed related to the new executive structure of RIMES, elected at its 10th Assembly, which took place from 26 to 29 April 2022.

New executive structure

The new executive structure consists of two councils: the Governing Council and the Finance Council. The members of the respective councils are as follows:



Governing Council:

- Br. Marcelo Bonhemberger (PUCRS – Brazil)
- Ana Gabriela Aguirre Franco (Universidad Marista de la Ciudad De Mexico – Mexico)
- Br. Arnel S. (Notre Dame of Kidapawan College – Philippines)
- Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal (Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation – General House)

Finance Council:

- Fabiano Incerti (PUCPR – Brazil)
- Silvia Vargas Salazar (Universidad Marista Valladolid – México)
- Br. Osuji Gregory Ekene (Marist Polytechnic Enugu – Nigeria)

After a reflection on the message of Pope Francis to the participants in the General Conference of

the Marist Brothers in March 2022, there was a moment of thanking Br Manuir and the other members of the Executive Committee of the previous administration. This was followed by the introduc-

tion of the new Executive Secretary of RIMES, João Fett, Pastoral Analyst of the Pro-Rectorate of Institutional Identity at PUCRS, Brazil.

Brother Ben Consigli, on behalf of the General Government of the Institute, thanked the previous administration and wished the new one success in its work, pointing to the vitality and relevance of the Marist mission in the field of higher education, and mentioning the important contribution that RIMES is invited to offer to the Marist world, asking for God’s blessings for this new moment.

Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas referred to how Marist Institute is currently engaged in revising its self-understanding in terms of its global educational mission. This involves a constant renewal in our

ways of living the Marist charism, especially in the context of the works of higher education.

The key deliberations of the last

assembly were quickly reviewed. The situation of the legal registration of RIMES as a Brazilian public body was then reported on. A general timeline for the year 2022 was proposed for reflection.



Marist International Network of
HIGHER EDUCATION

SECRETARIATY OF SOLIDARITY

CHILDREN’S RIGHTS TO NATIONALITY

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken... (Joseph) He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child” (Luke 2, 1.5).

More than 2,000 years later, we still find situations where men and women, and children, lack nationality. Nationality is a right; it should be an effective right of every person. The United Nations advocates that every child, from the moment of birth, has the right to acquire a nationality. A nationality can be obtained by the place of birth or by the place of residence.

Not having a nationality can mean that the boy or girl lives in a situation of social exclusion, which will hinder their access to other fundamental rights such as education or health. Sadly, even today and for different reasons, there are children who lack this fundamental right. Boys and girls who become stateless.

Nationality is a right that is part of a person’s identity, as well as name and surname, the gender and date of birth. All this allows people to acquire an identity within a specific society. This lack leads to the impossibility of being a full part of the life of society.

We know that the causes of statelessness can be various (parental conditions, belonging to certain ethnic groups...); and the most common is that caused by parents who do not go to the Vital Statistics Office to register their newborns.

Sometimes, as happened to Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, thousands of people are forced to emigrate, to seek a better life in other countries. Many of these people, in addition to having to leave their homes, their lands, are forced to live without recognition by the State where they arrive, due to the legal and institutional barriers that the countries establish. For this reason, although they have a nationality, they have difficulties in creating their own personal identity, which is so necessary for full personal development.



We, Marists of Champagnat, have to continue working for the elimination of any type of border, we are called to be builders of bridges between people, between social groups, between States.

Pope Francis, in the encyclical Fratelli Tutti, reminds us of the need to eliminate barriers, to walk beyond them. He reminds us how these borders, many times, violate human dignity, how borders entail the absence of rights for people, especially the most vulnerable, including girls and boys.

In the parable of the “Good Samaritan” we are reminded of the Christian way of proceeding, the way of caring for our “neighbour”, a close one whom we sometimes discover lying in the ditches of life, on the peripheries of the world. Helping those who need it is an inalienable Christian attitude.

Many Marists, brothers, lay people, are working with people without documentation, especially with children and young people. Thank you for your testimony. This is the path, making visible those who are “hidden” in our societies, developing actions that promote the full development of the most vulnerable in our environments, being the “prophetic voice” and the “merciful action” of God in our world.

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola
 Director of the Secretariaty of Solidarity



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