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BLUE MARISTS

LETTER FROM ALEPPO NO 44: ALL THAT FOR THIS!

The world has never seen such an outpouring of solidarity like the one shown toward the Ukrainian people. Countries, especially Western ones, international associations, UN agencies, NGOs and individuals have acted quickly and with extreme generosity to relieve the suffering of refugees, displaced persons and the wounded. They were encouraged by media correspondents who, from the first days of the conflict, reported that they were meeting in Ukraine “people like us, who dress like us, who live in towns that look like ours...”. As if alleviating suffering depends on such criteria! Without getting into a political controversy,



we can still say that this war could have been avoided.

As the war in Afghanistan could have been avoided which ended with a pathetic withdrawal of American troops after causing hundreds of thousands of deaths and costing trillions of dollars. “All that for this,” said a columnist!!!

As could have been avoided the one triggered in Syria more than 11 years ago, and which has not ended. The war and sanctions have ruined the country and impoverished the population. This was, without a doubt, the true pur-

general administration

■ The Chapter of the District of Asia will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, August 16-19. Brothers Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, Josep Maria and Sylvain, General Councilors, will participate in the General Council. Before the Chapter, on August 10, the brothers of the General Council, along with the District Superior, Brother Canisio José Willrich, had the opportunity to meet with the temporarily professed brothers of the District. They also participated in the annual retreat (August 11-13).

■ On Tuesday, Francisco Javier Llamas, project director of the Marist Global Network of Schools, participated in a meeting on internationalization programs with the Colégio Ipanema of Brazil Sul-Amazônia.

■ Brothers Óscar Martín, General Councilor, and Valdí-

cer Fachi, CMI Director, visited the LaValla200> community in Holguín, Cuba, until the middle of this week.

■ During this week, Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, has been working with the directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, Brothers Carlos Alberto and Mark, defining some lines of action for the different projects carried out by the Secretariat.

■ On Saturday, the directors of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, Brothers Carlos Alberto and Mark, speak with the coordinators of MYM from Nigeria and the Pacific.

■ Next weekend, Brother Ernesto will visit the community of Pailin and on August 24 the Lavalla School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

pose of the war. It caused the death of 500,000 people and the suffering of hundreds of thousands of injured and amputees. It has pushed 5 million to take refuge in neighboring countries, 1 million to migrate to the West and 8 million to leave their homes. Three wars that we could and should have avoided.

Behind the false alibis and the fallacious pretexts to start these wars, there were unacceptable geopolitical reasons, condemnable Machiavellianism and shameful cynicism.

Neither war nor peace

There has been almost no fighting in Syria for several years, but this state of “neither war nor peace” is unsustainable. The war caused destruction, but the absence of peace prevents reconstruction and reconciliation; And as someone said: “Frozen conflicts, which are often insoluble conflicts, inexorably end up heating up”.

The economic situation in Syria is catastrophic. 82% of the population lives below the poverty level; 60% are food insecure; the unemployment rate is impressive; inflation is skyrocketing; most families cannot make ends meet; the Syrian currency has lost 90% of its value; prices are increasing every day. Scarcity aggravates poverty: shortage, and therefore, rationing of bread, gasoline, electricity and many basic necessities.

The Blue Marists’ mission is critical. Faced with this aggravation of the sufferings of our fellow citizens, our mission, as Blue Marists, is even more critical. We are supported by many international associations and by many friends. We are grateful to them. Thanks to their moral and financial support, we are able to maintain all our aid and relief projects and all our educational and development programs.

There are still many displaced families in Aleppo itself. We continue to distribute 832 monthly food baskets to

the most vulnerable families and to pay the rent for 200 families who still cannot return home.

One hundred and fifty people take advantage of our medical program each month to pay for expensive surgeries, prescriptions for chronic conditions or very expensive CT scans.

Our “Drop of Milk” project continues the monthly distribution of the milk necessary for the growth of 3,000 children and infants. Our “Sharing Bread” project offers a daily hot meal to 230 seniors over 80-year-old who live alone and have no one left to support them.

Migration

We want young people to stay in Syria and not to migrate. The country and the society need them. We are saddened to know that thousands of Syrian doctors have migrated to Germany and France. Yesterday, I received a message from a friend and fellow gastroenterologist and endoscopist who informed me that he emigrated to France a few months ago. And yet, he had a fine reputation, was very competent and had a busy practice. To my astonishment and my questions, he replied that he thought about the future of his children. Yes, because of the war, Syria has lost its elite, all those academics, engineers, computer scientists and doctors, who have studied and been trained for free in Syrian universities, who could have participated in the reconstruction of the country but who moved to the Gulf countries or to Europe; these countries which profit for free from this skilled labor trained in Syria but which, hypocritically, complain about this immigration which is nevertheless essential to their economy or their well-being.

This summer, many Syrians who had left the country to settle elsewhere returned to spend their “holidays” in Syria. They came to inspect their homes which they left in a hurry, to put their affairs in order and to complete



CRUZ DEL SUR

Last Tuesday, through an online meeting (<https://youtu.be/ShC4QRQ7dII>), the Province inaugurated a listening process entitled "ReConocerNos", putting into practice a recommendation of the last Provincial Chapter that invited brothers and laity to build together the Life and Mission Project of the Marists of Champagnat of the Province. The process will end in the Easter Season of 2023.

BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL

On August 10, a formation meeting was held for Marist leaders on the theme of Vocation Animation. Brother Márcio Costa, from the Province of Brazil Centro-Norte, participated in the meeting and explained the concept of vocation, mentioned its different types, and commented on the vocational itinerary. The participants were able to discuss how it would be possible to carry out concrete actions of vocational animation in Marist centers.

UNITED STATES

Young people from nine of the USA Marist schools were trained during the second-annual Marist Leadership camp in Indiana to lead retreats this school year for all Freshmen students in their respective schools based on the five Marist Pillars.



administrative formalities. Alas, they left; Unfortunately, few are those who return permanently.

For our young people to stay, they must have a job. This is why three of our programs are intended for this purpose. Our Marist Institute for Training "MIT" trains adults and allows them to acquire skills in different fields.

The Micro-Projects program funds micro-projects provided that they are feasible and sustainable. In 6 years, we have financed more than 200 projects. Unfortunately, despite the training offered to the candidates and the accompaniment and follow-up by Marist Blue mentors, the success of these micro-projects is not evident. The economic crisis, the inflation and the high cost of rents and products are causing the failure of certain projects which, at the start, were promising. On the other hand, there were many great achievements and successes; I think of T.J. who opened a car mechanic shop, A.B. who makes small ladders and stepladders, S.A. and A.C. who now have a barber-shop. Pope Francis, in his prayer intention in August, while saluting the courage, creativity and efforts of small entrepreneurs, asked to pray for them so that they "can find the necessary means to continue their activity, at the service of the communities where they live".

Other Blue Marists' programs

As for the Vocational Training program, it allows us to engage our young people as apprentices with professionals to learn a trade. Twenty people have already completed their training and 20 others are in the process of learning. The young R.E. learned in one year (while his apprenticeship was to last 18 months) the repair and maintenance of cellphones;

his boss told us that he had nothing more to teach him and that he can now be his own boss and fly on his own.

Heartmade continues and develops its activity and multiplies the products to achieve self-financing. Sixteen women find a job there by creating women's clothes from leftover fabrics.

Since the beginning of our mission, we create a project when we feel there is a need; and we close projects when their « raison d'être » no longer exists. This is how we have just stopped the "I Learn to Grow" project. On the other hand, "I Want to Learn" continues its mission of education and instruction of 120 children from 3 to 6 years old.

Sowing Hope

After 11 years of suffering, drama, migration and deprivation, we find it difficult to live and convey our Marist motto: "Sowing Hope". Yet, it is so necessary; the people around us need it. We still do not see the light at the end of the tunnel. The great powers have other priorities and the Syrian issue is no longer a priority for them. Syria has become "a forgotten country". As for the regional powers, they are using the Syrian conflict to advance their pawns in the region. Fortunately, some Arab countries and others have gone beyond the Manichaeian reasoning that there are good on one side and bad on the other, and have reestablished their relations with Syria. Provided that Western countries do the same so that a dialogue begins as the prelude to the settlement of the conflict and to peace.

Aleppo, August 10, 2022

Dr Nabil Antaki, for the Blue Marists

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY AUGUST 15: PATRONAL FEAST OF THE INSTITUTE

The Church celebrated the feast of the Assumption of Mary on 15 August. This day was also the patronal feast of the Institute. For Marcellin Champagnat, Mary, the Good Mother, was his constant inspiration. And he wanted his holy ministry to begin on the feast of the Assumption.

In the book "Life of Father Champagnat", p. 332-334. we read that Marcellin Champagnat "faithful to his resolution of always going to Jesus through Mary, on leaving the seminary after ordination, he made his way to Fourvières in order to consecrate his ministry to the Blessed Virgin; and each time that business took him to Lyon, he visited the shrine of Fourvières to renew that offering and that consecration, at Mary's feet.

When he was appointed curate of La Valla, he went there on a Saturday and wanted his holy ministry to begin on the feast of the Assumption so that Mary might bless its first fruits and herself present them to her divine Son. That is the way he acted all his life, offering and entrusting to Mary all his plans and works, and he would begin them only after prolonged prayer for her blessing. Every day, he would go and pay homage to the Blessed Virgin.

BR. ERNESTO, SUPERIOR GENERAL

WE JOYFULLY CELEBRATE MARY'S JOURNEY

On August 15, Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, we joyfully celebrate Mary's journey of faith and hope. She continues to be our inspiration, as she has been from the origins of our Institute, and as she has been, indeed, for the whole Church from its very beginning. The life of Jesus himself was influenced by the closeness and tenderness of his mother, Mary, as well as by her spirit of faith, openness and availability to God.

On this day, we join in the Magnificat which she sings eternally: "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my saviour, for he has looked upon his servant in her lowliness..." (Lk 1:46-48).

Referring to Mary during the Audience held at the end of the General Conference, Pope Francis

said to us:

[Marcellin Champagnat] was guided by the example of the Virgin Mary, our "Good Mother", as he used to say: Mary was an insignificant woman from a remote village, but her heart looked beyond; she looked forward to the Kingdom of God, she was open. And this shines through in the Magnificat, where God's plan of salvation resounds through the voice of this humble servant. What could be more beautiful and more effective than the Magnificat for educating a girl or boy to be open to God and God's plan of love? The Magnificat contains a vision of life and history; it is a school of faith and prayer, which frees people from being closed in on themselves and from any spiritualising. It shows the joy of believing, hoping and loving inspired by the Gospel of Christ.

The celebration of 15th August, the patronal feast of the Institute (Const.

50. 3), is a beautiful occasion to contemplate Mary's heart and to see if we too are opening our hearts to the presence of God and to God's continual calls: to try to recognise and set aside the attachments of our ego, which often have a hold on us, so as to make room for God; to go beyond our fears and insecurities, throwing ourselves generously into serving those who need it most; to look back over and meditate in our hearts the situations and challenges that we encounter in present-day contexts (cf. Lk 2:19), so as to respond to them in a prophetic and hopeful manner.

She inspires us and walks alongside us on this journey. I wish everyone a happy Marian feast today!

Br. Ernesto Sánchez
Superior General

marist world

CUBA: HOLGUÍN COMMUNITY WITH BROTHERS ÓSCAR AND FACHI



AUSTRALIA: 25 YEARS OF THE MARIST COLLEGE EMERALD



FRANCE: PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROGRAM "MENTORS" IN FOURVIÈRE



MEDITERRÁNEA: BR. ALBERTO VIZCAYA RENEWS HIS VOWS



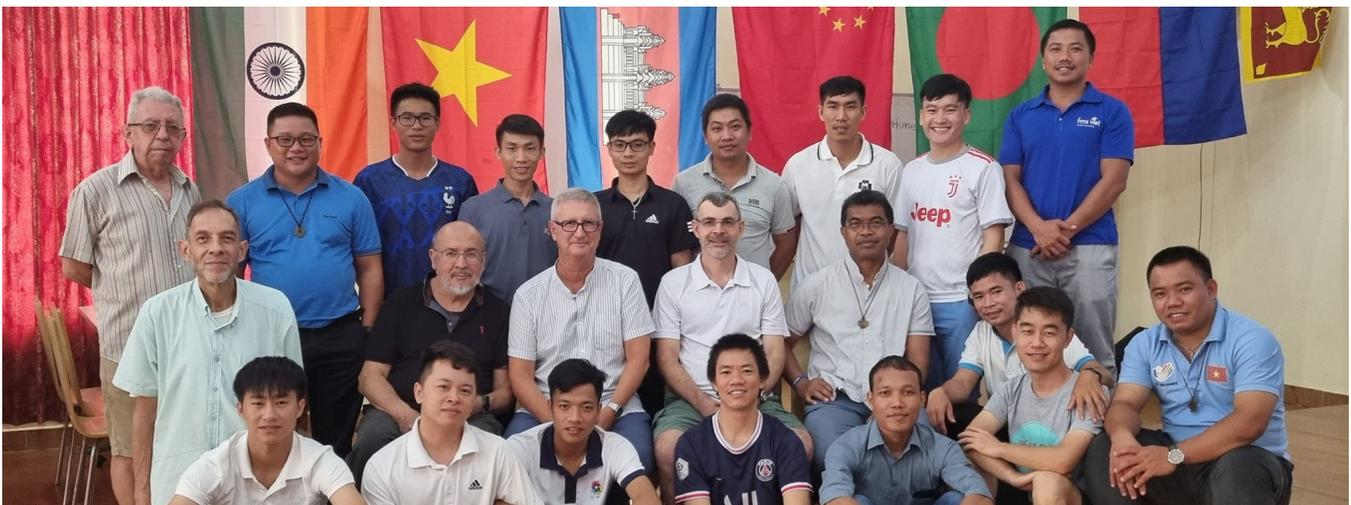
REP. D. OF CONGO: ASSEMBLY OF BROTHERS IN KISANGANI



VENEZUELA: 70° ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLEGE CHAMPAGNAT IN CARACAS

MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA MEETING OF YOUNG BROTHERS

16 young temporary professed Brothers of the Marist District of Asia gathered on August 10 at the Pastoral Center of Phnom Penh Dioceses, in Cambodia with Br. Canísio José Willrich (District Leader), Brothers Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, Josep Maria Soterias (General Councilors) and Br. Juan Castro (observer). The young brothers, who came from Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, and Thailand, met under the motto 'Faces of Hope', in accordance with the MDA chapter theme, that takes place from the 16 till 19 August. ([Read more](#)).



AMÉRICA CENTRAL

MEETING ON THE ST. MARCELLIN'S SPIRITUALITY

On July 17, 120 people, lay people and brothers of the Province of America Central, participated in the second Marist “Oasis” formation of this year, which was held virtually, with the theme “The Night of the Spirit: the abandonment or failure of a founder”.

The formation, organized by members of the Laity and Brothers’ Life Commissions, was aimed at retracing and understanding the spirituality of Marcellin Champagnat, and discovering his struggles, victories, failures, foundation and ongoing conversion.

With this topic, the Province completes the 5 themes proposed as part of the formation in the Marist Charism. Manuel Mesonero, well known for his books on the spirituality of St. Marcellin Champagnat and his research on the Marist charism,” said Brother Rodrigo Cuesta, in charge of formation.

“We thank Brother Manuel Mesonero and all those who

have faithfully and lovingly participated in these five meetings that have allowed us to go through and gather something of the spirit of our Founder, from his family origins and the origins of his charism to his total abandonment to God. The feelings expressed by the participants speak to us of satisfaction, of newness, of depth in the Marist journey. For most of them it helped them to feel more Marist, more committed, with the desire to continue to drink from this rich charism that Marcellin has given to us. And that it has touched their hearts and filled them with joy and peace. There is still a way to go for each of the participants. In the end, the general feeling is one of gratitude,” said Brother Rodrigo at the conclusion of the meeting.



EAST CENTRAL AFRICA

FIRST PROFESSION IN SAVE, RWANDA

Three brothers made their first profession in the Institute on August 2, after completing their formation at the novitiate in Save, Rwanda. The new confreres belong to the Province of East Central Africa: Blaise Niyonzima (Rwanda), Emmanuel Ndayambaje (Rwanda) and Jean Claude Kokomungu (Dem. Rep. Congo).

In addition to the new confreres, three novices have completed their first year of formation, two from Rwanda and one from Madagascar. During this period, they are having a community experience before beginning their second year on September 28. This date will mark the entry into the novitiate of 12 novices, who will begin their first year.

The Save Novitiate is a formation house of the provinces of Madagascar and East Central Africa. The formation team is made up of Brothers Fabien Bulaimu Poyo (DRC), Jean Luc Randriatahina (Madagascar) and Louis De Gonzague Karambizi (Rwanda).



AMÉRICA SUR REGION

MEETING BURSARS NETWORK

The provincial bursars who are part of the Network of Commissaries of the South America Region met from July 26 to 29 at the Marist Champagnat Center in Curitiba, in the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, with the purpose of sharing challenges, good practices, and opportunities for synergy.

The General Bursar of the Institute, Br. Jorge Gaio, also attended the event and emphasized that this rapprochement between the provinces is important for the vitality of the works. He also mentioned that “We have to look to the future and start planning for it now because that future will soon arrive and we need to be prepared...”. “A networking effort that joins forces in the economic and financial strategic points that guarantee the sustainability of the Mission”. The Bursar also recalled the priorities listed during the last Conference of Provincials, held in Rome in March, which could serve as a guide for the work of the Network of Bursars of the South America Region.

During the event, the bursars of the provinces – meeting in person after two years – presented a summary of their projects. And they shared their challenges and initiatives so that they can be replicated in the network.

Transparency and dialogue

Since many of the representatives of the provinces have recently assumed the role of Bursars – from the Provincial Chapters – the Curitiba



meeting marks, in fact, a new moment of planning for the Network of South American Bursars.

According to Brother Délcio Balestrin, Bursar of the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, the participation of the General Bursar of the Institute has been fundamental. “We appreciate the transparency with which the important data on Marist global action has been presented to us”, he mentioned. On the other hand, he suggested that the topics discussed at the meeting of the Network be shared with the Provincial Councils. “This will ensure alignment and that all planning and execution of projects and initiatives make sense for everyone,” he emphasized.

The suggestion was endorsed by the Secretary of the Region, Leonardo Soares, who said that “the Network has the fundamental role of making all this work, which is articulated in groups in the units and works, available to the public. It is a way to reflect on all the instances and articulations that are taking place, acting in the present to transform the future.

Schedules for 2023 and 2024

At the end of the meeting, the Network of Economatos of the South America Region mentioned the next steps for networking. Such as prioritization, finalization, and project inclusion. As well as its developments, follow-up of initiatives and indicators, in addition to guiding the agendas for the years 2023 and 2024. A second meeting of the Network has already been scheduled to be held virtually in November 2022.



NETWORK OF THE MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc committee on the Network of Marist Youth Ministry took place on the 13th of July 2022 via zoom. The General Council appointed this committee to support the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization in the construction of the global Network to serve the evangelizing mission of the Institute.

This meeting was an opportunity for members to know themselves and to listen to each other sharing their experiences of Marist life and the mission to children and young people.

The Director of the Secretariat, Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas welcomed the participants and gave the background to the task assigned to the committee by the general council. He emphasized that the team

members will bring on board experiences and knowledge from the field to enrich the global youth ministry.

The presence of Brother Ben Consigli, a member of the General Council and the link to the Secretariat added feather to the gathering. He took the committee down the lane beginning from the call of the General Chapter and equally highlighted how important the task of the committee is, to the formation of the network for Marist youth ministry. He thanked the members for their willingness and availability to be part of an ad hoc team to study the question of building a global network of MYM. The members were equally reminded of the call of the XXII General Chapter “To journey with children and young people living on the margins of life”.

The team after listening to the address, shared on the various topics that will help their work in preparing the launch of the Marist Youth Ministry Network. The family spirit witnessed during this first



meeting serves as motivation to the continuity of the agenda for the next meeting.

The Secretariat for Education and Evangelization shared the document from the global survey with the members and they are to reflect on some pertinent questions in readiness for the next meeting.

They will reconvene soon to continue the sharing on how best to build the global MYM network.

Ad Hoc Committee Members

Br. Euclides Nangolo - Southern Africa – Africa, Br. Daniel Martin - Central America – Arco Norte, Mr. Wilter Friaes East Asia – Asia, Mr. Fernando Ocana Rus- Mediterranean – Europe, Mr. Edwin Baker - Australia – Oceania, Mrs. Laura Miño - Santa María de los Andes – South America, Bro. Miguel F Ribeiro- CIMM – Brazil, Secretary of E&E General House.

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL MISSION AMONG THE INDIGENOUS OF TARAHUMARA

Following the teachings of Marcellin Champagnat, to “educate and love”, the Marists of the Mexico Occidental Province promote the mission among the indigenous children and youth of the Tarahumara community, in Chihuahua, Mexico. The Marist brothers arrived in the Sierra Tarahumara in 1961 to take charge of a boarding school for native primary school children. And since then, they have promoted education and support for the ‘local

children and youth,' through their presence, volunteering and the work of lay Marists, such as María Marcelina Bustillos Romero, a Tarahumara teacher, who is in charge of the Marist boarding school. Next, we present a part of her testimony, which tells us about her Marist vocation.

Marcelino has accompanied my life

I got to know the Marist Brothers, thanks to my maternal grandfather who was called Juan Bautista Romero, who said that "he had met new friends in 1976". At first, when the Brothers arrived in Norogachi, they were not accepted or well received by the Rarámuri, because previously they did not want the mestizos. At that time my grandfather

was Siríame (traditional indigenous Governor of the community). They appeared together with the authorities and they shared the work they wanted to do, talk

about God, help the sick, teach people to read and write. Therefore, my grandfather began to give them the opportunity to do their activities, and he asked the Rarámuri people to let them work and see how they did it.

I was a student of the religious of Norogachi when I was little girl. I remember Brother Agustín Navarro, who was my teacher in fifth grade and Brother Joaquín Barba in sixth grade, from both of them I learned more about Marcelino, especially the 'service', and it is about this that his first Marist friends spoke to my grandfather. And then I understood the origin of my name (Marcelina), in honor of the first Marists who gave their lives serving in Tarahumara and with the help of my grandfather they served the community.

In 2010 I was elected Indigenous Governor, the highest authority that we call Siríame, one of those responsible was Brother Carlos Preciado, he always told me "It would be nice if you served and helped your community like Siríame when you grow up." He always gave me advice and encouraged me to do things in the best way, and I was the first woman in Tarahumara to hold the position.

With the passage of time, it was Brother Carlos himself who invited me to help and accompany the young people when I handed over the position of Indigenous Governor, I was not prepared to help the young people, I had studied nursing, but not education, however Seeing the need of my people moved me to accept and I started working with the Marists, as head of the boarding school.



This is something of how Marcellin has accompanied my life, but for me the most important thing is that the Brothers continue to have experien-

ces like Marcellin's in order to be close to young people, to be able to accompany them because they need them, especially with the boarding school and the schools that help a lot with education in the Sierra. For me it is very important to rescue all the value and work that Marcelino did, because although he was not a Rarámuri, his life and heart are very similar, he was poor like us, he served his people in the field and had faith in God and a great love for Mary Our Good Mother, which inspired him to guide the young.

Today more than ever, we must continue sowing and fighting as Marists for a Sierra without violence, in peace and with great hope that it can be achieved through education.

UMBRASIL

VOCATIONAL WEEK 2022

In line with the Year of Marist Vocations and with the Vocation Month in Brazil, which is celebrated every year in August, the brothers and lay people of the 3 Marist Provinces of the country launched a Marist Vocations Week 2022. This year the theme will be: “Marists of Champagnat: Committed to Caring for Life” and the motto of the week is: “Let’s dare to care for life!” The Vocation Week is inspired by the words of the Gospel: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (Jn 10:10).

The Vocations Week promoted by the Marists of Brazil is a good time to strengthen a Culture of Vocations among the brothers, lay people, collaborators, Marist ministries and communities. The proposal is that each Marist ministry carries out some activities during a week, which can begin or end on the third Sunday of the month, a date within the month of vocations, traditionally dedicated to the vocation of Consecrated Life.

The week aims to unite efforts, foster integration and synergy between the three provinces of Brazil around the theme of vocations.

These are the specific objectives of Vocation Week 2022:

- Raise awareness in Marist ministries and communities about building a culture of vocations;
- To give visibility to the vocation and presence of brothers and lay Marists among young people, in order to encourage them as they pursue their life project;
- Promote the vocation of the religious brother, encouraging young people to participate in Marist vocational groups;
- Encourage brothers, those in formation, and lay Ma-



- rists, to engage in vocational awakening and accompaniment as an expression of their own vocation;
- To mobilise Marist ministries for reflection on vocations, strengthening the interface between classroom and pastoral work.

BROTHERS FROM THE POST-NOVITIATE

III MEETING OF THE REGION AMÉRICA SUR

From July 13 to 24, the South America Region held the third Post-Novitiate meeting of the formative process that seeks to accompany young Brothers in temporary vows. The itinerary took place in the city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, with the participation of 26 Brothers from Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay.



The formation process began in the Region in 2020 and consists of three itineraries that respond to the axes proposed in the Region's initial formation plan: consecration, fraternity, and mission.

In the third meeting, which had as its theme "Marist Mission", the participants had the opportunity to deepen the Marist charism from its mission of "Making Jesus Christ known and loved" showing the world the face of Jesus-Brother. During the activity it was possible to get to know the Marist presence in Belo Horizonte and its cultural richness; there was a space for prayer and interiority through the rule of life guided by Brother Isidro Azpeleta. A workshop on the Mission of the outward-focused Church was also held, led by theologian Tania Mayer; above all, there was an intense experience of community sharing.

On July 23, the synthesis of the experience took place. It was a prayerful moment that invited the young Brothers to reflect on what they carry in their hearts to continue to promote their vocation in the places of mission and motivated them to dream about the next meetings. In the community sharing, the experience of the fraternity from the care of the other, the meetings, community walks, and informal dialogues were highlighted, since they allowed them to get to know each other, and at the same time, to know the personal and cultural richness of each one; they also considered important the spiritual moments of prayers and celebrations.

The third meeting concluded with much joy and some challenges for the participants, who are looking forward to the next meeting in Peru. During the event, the two

young Brothers who will make up the new team that will accompany the following experience were also elected.

May Jesus, Mary, our Good Mother, and Fr. Champagnat continue to guide the Region's journey to care for and generate Marist life.

[Photos of the meeting](#)



ASSAMBLY OF MISSION OF MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

About 40 brothers from the Province Mexico Occidental participated in the Brothers' Assembly, which was held at the Casa de Encuentros Maristas, Encarnación de Díaz, Jalisco, on July 24 and 25. Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, General Councilors, were present at the meeting.

The dialogue and reflections revolved around "Rediscovering the passion that leads us to be brothers today", a theme related to the Year of Marist Vocations, which invites to the vocational culture in the different contexts where Marist communities develop. Among other topics were also discussed: Community Life, Vocation Animation, the Mission of the Brother and Being a Marist Brother today, integrated into the new current reality.



During the meeting, the brothers shared their teamwork and presented the projects they are carrying out.

Br Luis Enrique Rodríguez Santana, Provincial of Western Mexico, stated: "We are convinced that we are the guardians of a charism that we want to keep alive. We are convinced that there are still young people with the desire to spend their lives following the path traced by our Founder."

Likewise, Br Jean Mance Louis-Jeune mentioned that "this reunion makes us more brothers by sharing our being Brothers, bringing us closer to the reality of this year lived, making us more familiar with our fraternal journey".

Br. David Castillo, who renewed his vows during the

event, said "we recognize the importance of taking care of our own vocation, so we suggest spaces for accompaniment, formation and recreation during the year. We have the invitation to accompany and care for vocations".

After the conclusion of the Assembly, on July 26, the brothers, the two general councilors and the laity of Western Mexico participated in the second session of the XX Provincial Chapter.

Subsequently, on July 27 and 28, the Marist brothers of Mexico Occidental met with the brothers of Mexico Central to participate together in the Interprovincial Council, which took place at the Casa de Descanso Maristas in Tepoztlán, Morelos.

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

COORDINATORS OF MYM AND EVANGELIZATION

The 19th of July 2022 witnessed a historic gathering via zoom of the Coordinators of Marist Youth Ministry and Evangelization from all the provinces and districts of the Institute.

Organized by the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, the gathering was divided into two sessions: the morning session for participants from Africa, Asia, and Oceania while the afternoon session of the same day for participants from America Sur, Arco Norte, and Europe.

This gathering aimed at continuing the sharing on the building of the global network of Marist Youth Ministry centered on three key questions:

- What are your expectations and feelings regarding a Global Network of MYM?
- How do you imagine belonging to a Global Network of MYM could help/support your ministry?
- How do you think the Global Network of MYM should work? for who?

The expectations and feeling from the two sessions showed that coordinators are Excited and would hope that it provides a space for building bridges and con-



nections between young people and between the coordinators, it will help to build the global family and supports openness to diversity, an opportunities to expose this important area and to migrate from the local to the global, and it will create enthusiasm with the possibility of creating new horizons; building new paths and



knowing how MYM is done in other places.

Belonging to this type of network will help the institute in many ways they said, for example, a connection to something bigger, a wider vision providing motivation and encouragement, it will encourage the Sharing of resources, programs and personnel and a place for young people and coordinators to gather.

Apart from the above, it will offer a platform for sharing Marists best practices, an opportunity to bring to the fore what MYM is all about and to show that MYM is an enriching experience and to have input and sharing from other regions will only make the experience richer, it will help to develop a Marist online MYM training course which offers a Certificate in MYM as this would aim to empower the coordinators with the course focusing on the principles of MYM rather than the content.

For the young people themselves, it will offer them the possibility of belonging to a broad, global Marist community, to enrich their growth processes wherever they

are (e.g., for young people who migrate). Sharing resources and experiences, with autonomy based on contacts with other pastoral coordinators (self-convening beyond waiting only for general meetings).

On the question of the workings of the network and to who it should be addressed to, the general opinion of the coordinators is that it should aim at both young people and coordinators, probably separate areas as it would give a voice to young people.

It was clearly mentioned that while online platform is very helpful, participants may need to look at other ways of participation since connectivity in some places could be difficult and maybe the other networks, such as Champagnat Global, need to be interconnected with this new Network so that synergies can be built.

The gathering also shared information on the International Gathering of Marist Youth in Lisbon 2023 with the theme "INTO THE DEEP".



New Council of the Marist District of Asia: Brothers Jiji Dhasan, Paco García, Canisio Willrich (Leader), Juan Castro, Cong Nguyen, George Valle.



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