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MARIST NEWS

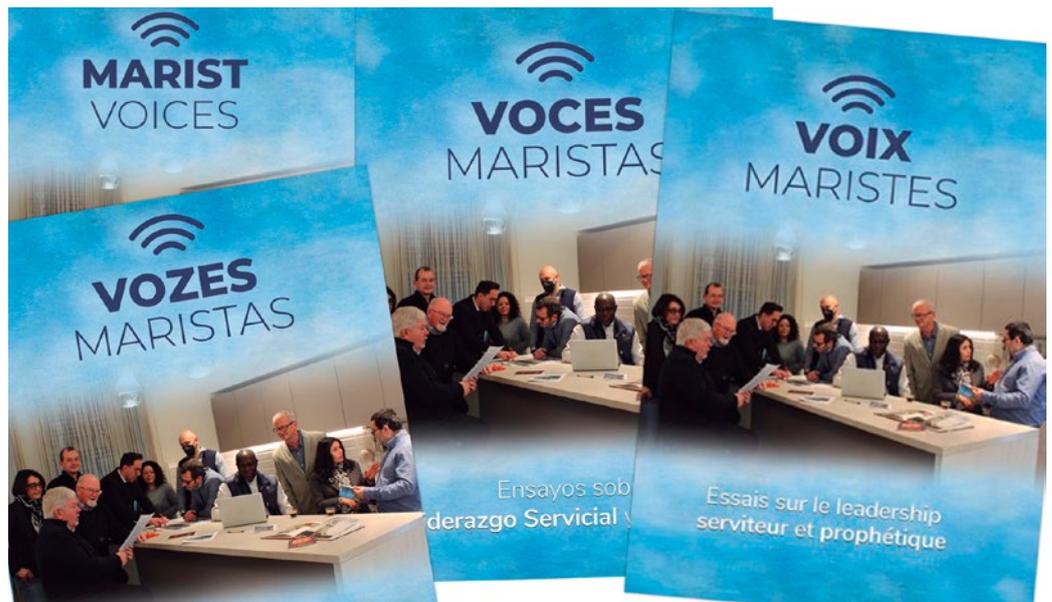
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MARIST VOICES

ESSAYS ON SERVANT AND PROPHETIC LEADERSHIP

The book Marist Voices: Essays on Servant and Prophetic Leadership, launched during the General Conference, the 10 March 2022, talks specifically about the Marist leadership and seeks to reflect on the request of the last General Chapter that underlined that “For a new beginning, we believe in governance that favours prophetic servant leadership and closely accompanies Marist life and mission.”

The work is the result of an initiative by the General Government, which found it convenient to have in writing, the theme of leadership, reflections, experiences, and concrete ideas related to Marist leadership and that these can serve as an invitation, motivation, consultation and reference for the Marist world. The brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, Ben Consigli and Ken McDonald, General Councilors, were in charge of the project.



The work of preparation of the edition was coordinated by Br. Gregorio Linaero, Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, with the collaboration of the Department of Communication for the General House and of Central America. The book has 22 chapters, divided into 5 parts: vision, characteristics of prophetic and servant leadership, skills, trails and foundations, and perspecti-

ves training. The foreword by Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, introduces the work, while the preface, written by brothers Luis Carlos, Ben and Ken, sets out the objectives. The General Administration has ordered the printing of some volumes, delivered to the Administrative Units. The digital version of the work can be downloaded at this link: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

general administration

- The Chapter of the South Asia Province began on Wednesday in Negombo, Sri Lanka. It will end on Sunday, August 28. The link councilors with the Asia Region, Brothers Josep Maria and Sylvain, are present.
- On Wednesday, Brother Ernesto, Superior General, visited the Lavalla School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

- Next weekend will conclude the formation program dedicated to the Brothers who accompany the young Brothers in the Institute. Twenty-two participants from different Provinces, accompanied by Brothers Antonio Peralta, Xavi Barceló and Michael Sexton, the Institute's ongoing formation team, have been at the General House and in France since July 4.

AUGUST 23

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION

Slavery is a condition in which one human being is considered a property of another. This situation has existed since ancient times. The slave trade involved the capture, selling, and buying of people. The largest number ever taken in the period between the 1st and the mid-20th century was from sub-Saharan Africa. The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition falls every year on August 23 to continue addressing the root causes of slavery. This day was chosen by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to mark the first anti-slave trade uprising which took place on the night of August 22 to 23, 1791 in Haiti.



The slave trade across the Saharan desert, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean started in the 7th century. From then until its abolition, more than 6 million slaves were shipped from sub-Saharan Africa to North Africa, the Middle East and India. Similarly, the trans-Atlantic slave trade between the 15th the mid-19th centuries transported approximately 12.8 million slaves from Africa to America. This figure does not include the estimated 4 million Africans who died during the raids and transportation or in the seasoning camps in the Caribbean. Although the British government had outlawed slave trade in her colonies in 1807, slavery persisted until its final abolition in 1838.

Today, slavery continues in many ways. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern slavery. Through physical and psychological violence, people are forced to provide service. Servitude takes many forms including debt bondage, child labour, kidnapping for ransom, servile forms of marriage, and the use of children in armed conflicts. The most common form of modern slavery is human trafficking. This is the use of violence, threats or coercion to transport, recruit, or harbour

people to exploit them for purposes such as forced prostitution, domestic servitude, forced labour, coercion, forced marriage or organ removal.

The Catholic Church condemns modern slavery and invites all including organizations to work hard to eliminate it. Pope Francis has affirmed that slavery, in all its forms, is wrong because no human being is another's property. For this reason, he condemns human trafficking and enterprises that enslave human beings. He continuously exhorts Catholics and all people of good will to combat crimes against humanity. In his general message on human trafficking, he identified its root causes as economic, environmental, ethical, and political and called for action against it by launching an Interfaith Global Freedom Network in 2014 to eradicate modern slavery.

In response to Pope Francis' call to go to the peripheries, we Marist Brothers, in solidarity with other religious congregations, continue to intensify our commitment to the mission of evangelization and education by responding to emergency situations, advocating for children's rights, and assisting migrants and refugees to defend their dignity. As Marists of Champagnat, we continue to raise awareness of modern slavery, combat human trafficking, seek justice for those who are victims and strive to be the voice of the voiceless.

Brother Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity

SOUTH ASIA

The Province started its Chapter this Wednesday 24 August in Sri Lanka. Brothers Josep Maria and Sylvain, represent the General Council. Br. Graham Neist, from Australia, is the facilitator. At the Chapter, Br Nicholas Fernando will replace Br Mervyn Pereira as Provincial.

CANADA

Brothers Dan O’Riordan (USA), Gaston Robert (Canada), Luis Enrique Rodriguez (México Occidental), and Luis Felipe Gonzalez (México Central) met in Canada as the Governing Council of the District of Canada.

**NORANDINA**

30 brothers met in Cali, Colombia, from August 21 to 23, for the presentation of the Formation Plan “Pathways of Marist Education”, to be developed from 2023 to 2025.

SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY

A Província Brasil Centro-Norte está promovendo sessões de formação que percorrerão os conteúdos e intersecções da obra do Ir. João Batista Furet, biógrafo de Champagnat, com novos escritos sobre Champagnat e a Espiritualidade Marista. A iniciativa se realiza por ocasião dos 150 anos de falecimento do biógrafo de São Marcelino. The first meeting took place on Monday and the next ones will be on September 19 and October 24. Link for registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/b2U308hAHX>

AUSTRALIA

THE III ASSEMBLY OF MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT IS WELL UNDERWAY



The III Assembly of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat will hold its third meeting from August 26 – 28, in “blended in-person/online” mode, with the theme: ‘Known and Loved – That you may shine among them like the stars’.

The III Assembly is well and truly underway. The initial online forums were held on 7 June and 27 July. Both were met with great enthusiasm.

The meetings expected to be an experience inspirational and life-giving for all concerned. This aspiration is reflected in the theme. ‘Known and Loved – That you may shine among them like the stars’. This scriptural reference alludes to the Members of Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat, and their desire to be their best selves – both individually and together, as an Association”.

Talking about how the process unfolds,

Michael Evison, Chair, National Assembly Working Party, said: “Fundamentally, we are challenged to ponder: Why do we associate? What is our vocation in doing so? What are we longing for? This, then, naturally flows over to the whole area of mission: How are we called to ‘be’ in the world? What is our unique gift to the Church, to the world, to life? In responding to the promptings of the Spirit, it is vital that we do so as ‘family’, not as an institution.

Members must truly own the process, with future directions set by the Membership – rather than a ‘top-down’ approach. It is a time to not be weighed down by too many preconceived ideas. As Br Graham Neist says, ‘Free of any burden, you can be a gift to the process’. He also reminds us that the work of the Spirit in our evolving universe is always to create, to heal, to form and to ‘make whole’. This is surely a very strong intimation of what our work needs to be”, concluded Michael Evison Chair.

SOUTH KOREA

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARIST PRESENCE



After almost a year of waiting for the right conditions regarding the pandemic, the Marists of Korea finally gathered in Seoul to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first two groups of Marist Brothers in Korea. In fact, the first four Mexican Brothers (Enrique Ruiz, Jesús Rodríguez, Sergio Gutiérrez and Manuel Villarreal) arrived in the country on September 13th, 1971, and were followed by

Brothers Héctor Villarreal, Eduardo Ramírez, Ricardo Piña and Juan Castro in the summer of 1972.

At present, there are 5 communities in Korea. Two of them are in Seoul, one in Ansan, a fourth in Chungju and the fifth is in Jechon. Br. Alfredo Herrera, from the Japan-Korea Sector, tells us below how they celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Marist presence in Korea.

“The Thanksgiving Mass celebrated in the auditorium of our house in Seoul was presided by Most Rev. Peter Jeong Soon Take, Archbishop of Seoul. Five other priests joined to concelebrate. Br. Provincial, Allan de Castro and Br. Vice-provincial Rommel Ocasiones came from the Philippines to take part in the celebration. It was Br. Allan’s first canonical visit to the Sector. Many Brothers, relatives, friends and benefactors from the different moments of this long series of years accompanied us during this happy day which was highlighted by the presence of some of the founding Brothers (Eduardo, Checo and Juan) who came from México and the Philippines where they are living and working at present. Br. Enrique, the superior of the original group could not

come following the advice of his cardiologists. Instead, he sent a simple but heartfelt message to the Korean Brothers and the participants present during the commemoration celebration. Br. Enrique expressed gratitude to the brothers of the Province of Mexico Central for their continuous support and encouragement to the Marist presence in this country. He remembered our three Korean Brothers who have gone before us to the Father’s House and emotionally gave thanks to the Korean Brothers for their faith and courage to follow St. Marcellin’s dream. In his message he also thanked all our friends and benefactors, especially the Guadalupe Fathers who accompanied and helped us during the first years in the country. Bro. Enrique invited the

brothers to live with passion and courage the charism and mission for which they have joined the Marist Brothers Congregation. Br. Provincial, Allan de Castro also thanked the brothers for their generosity and invited us to be faithful and creative in responding today to the challenges and needs of the young of our time. Archbishop Peter Jeong in his homily pointed out the importance, relevance and need of the BROTHER’s vocation as healing presence in a world marked by polarization and indifference. He encouraged us to keep on showing Jesus’ brotherly care for the poor and forgotten children and youth, sustaining and promoting life, and thus following the inspiration that the Holy Spirit bestowed on St. Marcellin Champagnat”.

marist world

ARGENTINA
RENEW OF VOWS OF BR. PABLO RIFARACCI



BRASIL CENTRO-SUL
VIVEMAR 2022 - FLORIANÓPOLIS



AUSTRALIA: MARIST ASSOCIATION FAMILY IN MELBOURNE



FRANCE
MARISTS FROM HUELVA VISIT FOURVIÈRE



MÉXICO
UNIVERSIDAD MARISTA VALLADOLID –
MICOACÁN, MORELIA



CAMBODIA: BR. ERNESTO VISITS THE MARIST
COMMUNITY OF PAILIN

CRUZ DEL SUR
MEETING OF BROTHERS AND LAY LEADERS

On August 6, a meeting was held between the community of Brothers and lay leaders of Uruguay Marist Province Cruz del Sur, motivated by the call of the Year of Marist Vocations, that “to witness to the ongoing relevance of the Marist charism, we must first rediscover the original passion that inspired us to be Marists. Therefore, the Year is an opportunity for each brother, lay person and Marist community to reflect on, appreciate, celebrate and share their own vocation story.

The meeting began with a moment of prayer with hands in the dough. It continued with a reflection on some of Marcellin’s letters “in communion” with the document “Being a Lay Marist” and ended with a beautiful celebration around the bread that had been kneaded at the beginning of the day.



The participants returned to their homes with a great satisfaction of having shared their lives, remembering the past, celebrating the meeting and dreaming of new paths with hope.

LAVALLA200>, ROMANIA

AFTER ITS WELCOME, THE MARIST CENTER OF MOINESTI OBTAINS A LICENSE UNTIL 2026

The Marist Center of Moinesti, in Romania, managed by the **La-Valla200> community**, which helps children with family and school problems, has successfully completed its first year of full activity in July 2022, without the interruptions of the pandemic. And after two and a half years of opening, the Day Center has reached its full potential and obtained a license valid until May 2026.

The Marist House, which currently houses 17 children, aims to promote better integration of children from 6 to 15 years of age in the school, family, and social environment, through a process of development, to prevent early school leaving and social exclusion.

Although the Marist Center started its activities on January the 27th, 2020, it was not able to operate actively due to the restrictions of the pandemic. However, the Marist Brothers and lay Marists of the Moinesti community continued to work and offered the children their spaces, their teams of experts (social worker, psychologist, and expert educators), and daily support, starting at 8.00 a.m., during the extended months of the school online.

Then in May 2021, when the children returned to the classroom, the Marists took the opportunity to propose a drawing contest in the three schools of Moinesti. The initiative was very well received, and the awarding of prizes allowed the Marists to come into direct contact with the teachers and school leaders to talk about the Marist Center. Very soon, new children became part of the 2021 summer program, and in September of the same year, requests from parents and guardians increased. Eventually, a waiting list had to be created. The Marist Center had begun to be recognized by the people and schools of the city.

With the assistance of the staff and members of the Marist



community, the children participate in extracurricular, socio-educational, artistic, and recreational activities, with a personalized and periodically verified program. In addition, the children receive a daily hot catered meal in collaboration with a local restaurant.

Br. Mario Meuti, from the Moinesti Community, tells us about the Center and how it has positively influenced the children: "Little by little, we saw the children grow and improve in their character and in their relationships with each other, in fact, we decided to make a 2-day excursion with everyone, eating and sleeping outdoors. Great satisfaction for the children, the families, and ours too!

At the end of the year, more than one teacher praised us for seeing obvious improvements in the school and the children's behavior. The questionnaire, filled out by parents before the school's final party in July, confirmed that we were on the right path... We would like to be able to do more, to increase the number of children benefiting, but for the moment it is not possible due to space issues. The next challenge is also to increase recognition by the authorities and public institutions, to receive funding that will allow us not to depend exclusively on the Marist solidarity of the European Provinces," concluded Mario from the Lavalla200> Community in Moinesti.

MARISTS VOLUNTEERS

MARIST COMMUNITY AND NGOD SED ARE PRESENT IN BOLIVIA

The **NGO SED**, of the Champagnat Marists of Spain, promotes education and evangelization in Bolivia through its volunteers and different projects and works aimed towards helping those most in need.

Br. Gregorio Bartolomé, from the **Province of Mediterránea**, was in Roboré (Santa Cruz) along with Rocío and Javier, two volunteers who accompanied him. The following is a summary of the testimony of Brother Gregorio, a SED volunteer.

“It has been an intense week of listening, meeting, and communication, in which we have talked about their needs and how they have lived through the years of the pandemic.

An important issue we are discussing is how the group of volunteers and SED can continue to collaborate with the needs of the rural communities. At the time of the meeting, we are already planning some initiatives that we will share with the Marist Brothers of Bolivia, the technical staff, SED management, and the volunteer group. The members of the team who are currently on the ground (Rocío, Javier and I) will try to formulate some outline to give it structure.

We are very pleased and feel tremendously satisfied with the experience. It is hard to walk for a whole day on dusty roads, from house to house, with the wind in our faces and the heat often suffocating, but meeting our families in their homes, sharing their food made with the greatest affection, their lemon soda or coffee, is something that is full of meaning and sweetness.



The hugs from the elderly and the children are signs of infinite, sincere affection and the joy of the encounter. We feel that God and our Good Mother have given us this opportunity to share much more than just time, because in conversations feelings and situations arise that are normally shared with someone who loves you and wants to know about the other.

Only volunteers who have lived this experience can know and imagine how many times we are asked about each of the volunteers from previous years, about the details of each one of them, such as personal and family matters.

Greetings from the Brothers of the Marist community of Roboré, as they have always offered us their home and their warm welcome”.

Gregorio Bartolomé | Marist Brother and SED volunteer

CELAM AND CLAR - COLOMBIA

MARISTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DIPLOMA IN PROTECTION OF MINORS SPONSORED BY CELAM

The Bishops' Council of Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAM), together with the Latin American Confederation of Religious (CLAR), is developing a Diploma Course, "The Care and Protection of Children, Adolescents and Vulnerable Persons". Their aim is to form a learning community to develop methodologies and promote a culture of child and adolescent protection.



The training which began on 1 August and will continue until 25 November, is being held in person at the CELAM headquarters in Bogotá, Colombia.

Cesar Henriquez Leiva, a Marist Brother from the Province of América Central, is a member of the team of coordinators. He is also a teacher and has worked for the last 16 years in the promotion and defence of child rights, as well as in the creation of national commissions by the conferences of religious in the countries of his province.

In the first module of the diploma course, entitled "Childhood", the students of the Marist school "Los Naranjos", located in the south of the Colombian capital, were invited to participate in a discussion about child rights. The visitors

were invited to listen to the children to know their reality better as they work on developing a culture of child care and protection inside and outside the school environment.

As a result of this dialogue, it became clear that children and young people need to be listened to and assisted in monitoring their emotions, as a strategy to provide a safe space for them; likewise, the students expressed their concern for the care of the environment and training in ecological issues.

"This has been a significant experience allowing us to go beyond the theory. Giving children a voice, added an experiential dimension to the training and gave focus to our discussion about safe spaces for minors" said Brother Jose Alberto Galvis Quintero, a participant of the diploma course representing the Marist Province of Norandina.



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