



Year **XV** - Number **746** | **21 SEPTEMBER 2022**

# MARIST NEWS

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

## GENERAL HOUSE

# INTERNATIONAL FORMATION COURSE FOR LEADERS ANIMATORS OF THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

During the first semester of this 2022, the International Formation Course for Leaders Animators of the Lay Marist Vocation, promoted by the Secretariat of the Laity of the Institute, was developed. It is the second edition of this course, after the one held in Rome in 2015. The novelty is that it was developed entirely virtually, with simultaneous translation into the four languages of the Institute, over several months and covered all the Administrative Units. More than one hundred laymen, laywomen and brothers were trained.



## general administration

■ On September 18, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, participated virtually in the meeting of Brother Superiors of the Mediterránea Community, presided over by the Provincial, Br. Aureliano García Manzanal.

■ September 19, the Brothers Today Secretariat will meet with the On-Going Formation Team composed of Xavier Barceló, Michael Sexton and Ataíde de Lima to finalize the proposal for ongoing formation for 2023-2025. The link councilors, Oscar Martín and Joao do Prado will also be in attendance. The proposal will then be presented to the General Council for approval.

■ From September 19 to 23, the Marist International Solidarity Network working groups are meeting to make progress on their objectives. The meetings are held in groups divided by language, Portuguese and Spanish, and separately French and English. The 5 Working Groups are: Education in Solidarity, Children's Rights, Social Works, Ecology, and NGOs/ Foundations.

■ September 21, Br. Lindley will travel to Asia on September 21. First, he will be in the Philippines for the jubilee celebration of several brothers and a vocation encounter with brothers and laity. Then, he will visit the Tudella Novitiate in Sri Lanka, in time for the first profes-

sion ceremony on October 7. Finally, he will be with the young brothers of the Asia and Oceania who are doing the Preparation for Perpetual Profession in Malaysia. The same day, Br. Angel will travel to Chile. There he will be part of the animation team of the America Sur Regional Formation Program for Vocation Animators on September 26 – 30.

■ September 21, Brothers Ben Consigli, Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Beto Rojas and Mark Omede will meet online with the team which is revising the Institute's educational document: In the Footsteps of St Marcellin Champagnat. And the same day they will also meet the Marist involved with Champagnat Global.

■ September 22, the general Council will meet with the De La Salle General Council at the De La Salle General House.

■ From September 29 to 26, Br. Valdicer Fachi, Director of CMI will be in Lilongwe, Malawi in order to take the first steps for the opening of the new Lavalla200> Community. And from September 29 to October 1, Br. Valdicer Fachi, Director of CMI will be in Atlantis, Cape Town, South Africa to visit the Lavalla200> Community of Atlantis.

■ Last weekend, the General Administration community was in Ariccia to prepare the 2022-23 community project.

**The general objectives of this International Course were:**

1. To train lay men and women to assume responsibilities of animation in lay formative processes at all levels (local, provincial and international).
2. To motivate for the co-responsibility of the lay processes of the Institute, in harmony with the Secretariat.
3. To promote an approach to the current theological thinking of the Church in relation to the laity.
4. To help in the awareness of the call to be mystics and prophets as lay animators.
5. To favor the understanding and experience of spiritual itineraries for vocational processes.
6. To create awareness and international unity of the Marist laity.

The experiences were organized in two large groups divided by regions. The first group was made up of the regions of Africa, Asia and Europe, who began the meetings in January. The second group was made up of Oceania, Arco Norte and South America, who began the formative experience in March.

**Topics offered**

The topics offered were:

1. Theology of the laity and lay Marist vocation: Vatican Council II, Ecclesiology and Theology of the Laity. In-depth study of our Marist reference documents on the lay Marist vocation.
2. Leadership and animation of the lay Marist vocation: The person and role of the leader, leadership competencies and tools, servant leadership. Accompaniment of itineraries, personal, community, provincial processes and how it is concretized in our provinces.
3. Lines of the future in the lay Marist vocation: Lay Marist vocation for mission: society, family, Church, Marist congregation. Spirituality: interiority, ecological conversion,

contemplation, integration of life. Future horizons of the lay Marist vocation.

One of the important fruits was the possibility of interaction between different realities and cultures, which strengthened us as a Global Charismatic Family and brought richness thanks to the diversity of views and experiences.

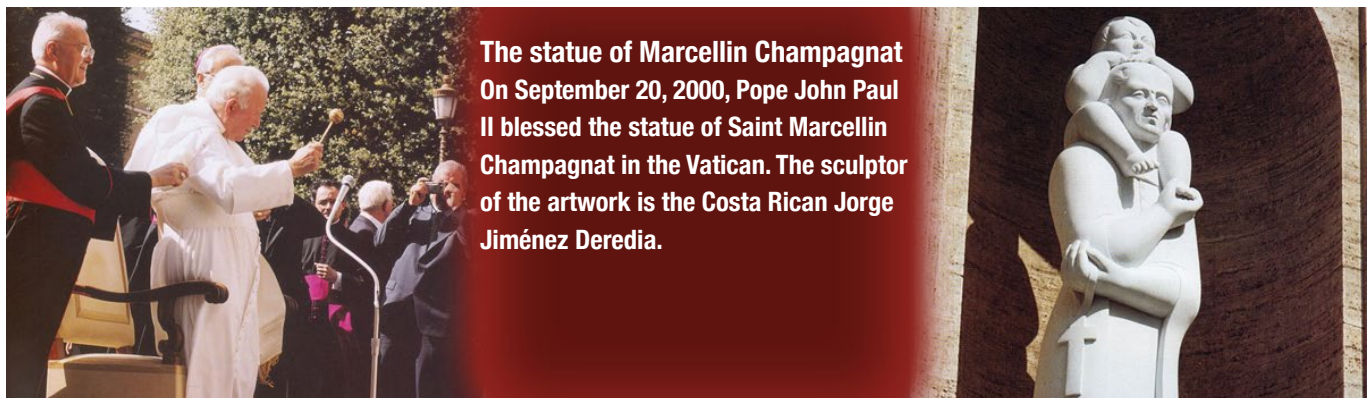
In September we are receiving the last projects of lay vocational animation by Administrative Unit, practical work that is a requirement to obtain the certificate that certifies participation in the course. We hope to be able to share with everyone these materials, which can be interesting contributions for other realities of the Institute.

**Facilitators**

We are especially grateful to the facilitators who animated the formative themes together with the Secretariat of the Laity. They gave generously of their time and effort to prepare in detail the assigned modules and thus deliver an excellent formation rooted in experience. They did so with a deep sense of mission, co-responsibility and hope for our future. The facilitators were: Joao Luis Fedel and Adalgisa Oliveira (married couple, Brasil Centro-Sul), Chema Pérez-Soba and Silvia Martínez (married couple, Ibérica); Nohemy Pinto (América Central); Ana Saborío (América Central); Ana Sarrate (Ibérica); Ernesto Reyes (Santa María de los Andes); Tony Clarke (Australia); Br. Ismar Portilla (Norandina); Brother Graham Neist (Australia); Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (Vicar General); Brother Ernesto Sánchez (Superior General).

We trust that the Lord and our Good Mother will continue to encourage us in the animation of the Marist charism and vocation and will give us the strength and confidence to continue to walk where His will leads us.

Agnes Reyes, Manuel Gómez and Raúl Amaya



**The statue of Marcellin Champagnat**  
 On September 20, 2000, Pope John Paul II blessed the statue of Saint Marcellin Champagnat in the Vatican. The sculptor of the artwork is the Costa Rican Jorge Jiménez Deredia.

**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

In South Africa, the Marist Brothers have joined forces with Marist Colleges to organize a series of webinars regarding students' Online Safety and Digital WellBeing, which was run from September 14 to 28. The sessions covered topics such as cyberbullying, Gaming and pornography. [Click to view Webinars](#)

**AUSTRALIA**

A new online formation program will explore Fratelli Tutti with Marists of Champagnat from the diverse regions of Melanesia, Oceania, Australia and Asia, experiencing what it truly means to walk together as brothers and sisters in our regional Marist family. Fratelli Tutti will be run through October and November 2022. Details here <https://buff.ly/3BrWmH8> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IQ1x0ot424>

**EAST ASIA**

After 2 weeks of online Marist preparation program for final vows, ten young Marist Brothers from China, Korea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vietnam have finally gathered in person at Champagnat Youth Centre in Malaysia. For the next 4 weeks, they will explore the vows and the realities of living consecrated life today. They begin the week with the theme - Simple Living - the vow of poverty.

**MEDITERRANEA**

This weekend seven brothers celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Guardamar del Segura (Alicante). They are Brothers Vicente García Pérez, Ramón Rodríguez Mayor, Ventura Pérez Marín, José Antonio Franco Francos, Javier Salazar Celis, Alejandro Tobar García y Alberto Lázaro Gómez. In a simple ceremony full of memories and thanksgiving, the brothers expressed their gratitude to God for their life and their extensive Marist presence.

**BRAZIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA****MEETING OF THE MARIST COMMUNITIES OF AMAZONIA**

From September 10 to 12, the Meeting of the Marist Communities of Amazonia was held on the theme "Let us dare to live with hope in Amazonia". The formation, promoted by the Province of **Brasil Sul-Amazônia**, took place in Manaus.

The event was attended by 19 participants, including brothers and lay men and women from the cities of Cruzeiro do Sul and Rio Gregório (state of Acre); Boa Vista, state of Roraima; Manaus, Tabatinga, Lábrea, and Camaruã (state of Amazonas); and Sinop (Mato Grosso). Also present at the meeting was the Provincial, Br. Devis Fischer.

For Brother Antônio Raí, of the Marist Community of Boa Mãe, in Sinop, the meeting promoted the exchange and sharing of good practices carried out in Amazonia: "it was an opportunity to share and get to know the service carried out by the laity and brothers of this region, besides being able to be together as a charismatic family".

To favor the integration of the Marist Communities of Amazonia and project the future of the Marist mission in this region, with audacity and hope, Danilo Bezerra, of the Marist Community of Boa Vista, emphasizes: "It was an excellent

meeting! As brothers and sisters we nourish our vocation and project our mission with audacity, courage, and hope".

Laura de La Maza, lay Marist of the La-Valla200> Community of Tabatinga, was grateful for her participation: "I want to express my gratitude for the invitation to participate for the first time in the Marist Meeting of the Amazon Region. It has been a unique opportunity, where I have been able to meet personally several brothers working in the region, I have heard valuable experiences of life and missionary activities in different contexts, which have enriched my knowledge and have given me new ideas and new dreams to put into practice in our realities".

As a result of the reflections and participation, those in attendance signed a commitment to work more and more in favor of children, adolescents, and youth, education, integral ecology, and the culture of good living.

Devis Fischer, Provincial and president of the Marist Network, concluded by emphasizing that "the meeting of the Marist Communities of Amazonia was a moment to live fraternity, share life and listen to the voice of the Spirit that guides us, perceiving life and the challenges that are presented in this territory".

GENERAL HOUSE

# BR JOÃO CARLOS DO PRADO PRESENTS HIS DOCTORAL THESIS ON THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN THE MARIST INSTITUTE

On 14 September Br João Carlos do Prado, General Councillor, presented his thesis for the award of a doctorate at St Mary’s University, Twickenham (London), England.

The thesis is entitled: “Revitalizing global, prophetic and collaborative leadership and the charism of the Institute of the Marist Brothers: Challenges and Opportunities”. The research towards a PhD consists of a case study using a mix of methodologies and explores the essential elements for the Institute of the Marist Brothers to form prophetic and collaborative leaders who can contribute to the vitality and continuity of the Marist charism. To this end, the study examines the overall leadership role that the General Council plays in ensuring the formation of prophetic and collaborative leaders. Furthermore, the study identifies the current strengths, challenges and opportunities in the processes used to form Marist leaders.

Key themes of the literature review include the charism and leadership of Marcellin Champagnat in founding the Institute of the Marist Brothers, the Marist charism, the concepts of global, prophetic and collaborative leadership, and relevant formative processes.

The study employs a mix of methodologies involving various means of data collection and analysis, both quantitative and qualitative, and bringing together different points of view on the topic under study. The research relied on a quantitative and qualitative on-line questionnaire, answered by 57 participants (brothers and lay Marists) representing 26 Administrative Units from the five continents and the Extended Secretariat of Laity. In addition, the members of the General Council of the Marist Institute participated in face-to-face semi-structured interviews.

The survey results identified the key role of the General Council as promoter and facilitator of leadership formation at the global level, as well as the strengths, challenges and windows



of opportunity available to the Marist Institute to ensure the future of the Marist charism.

The study finds that while progress has been made, considerable effort is still required on the part of the Institute for the formation of current and future Marist leaders. It also confirms the need to do more about sharing knowledge of the Marist charism and vision and direction for its future of among leaders, and especially lay leaders. Also the need to ensure their spiritual care and accompaniment and the enhancement of processes of formation offered to them.

The study points to the urgency of defining and implementing global Institute policies and guidelines for the formation of current leaders and for the attraction and preparation of new leaders. It concludes by promoting the formation of prophetic and collaborative global leaders by strengthening the communion of brothers and lay people and their co-responsibility for the Marist charism, as well as the need to define their place and role in Marist life and mission.

All this will require greater coordination and considerable commitment on the part of brothers and lay Marists engaged in Marist life and mission at all levels and regions of the Institute.

marist world

ITALY: GENERAL ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS PREPARE A COMMUNITY PROJECT IN ARICCIA



UNITED STATES: BR. ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ WITH NOVICES IN NEW YORK



NICARAGUA: COLEGIO MARISTA SAN FRANCISCO: CELEBRATION OF THE 201 ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE



MEXICO: PRESENTATION OF THE GOOD PILGRIM MOTHER TO THE MARIST FAMILIES



SPAIN: FIRST MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL HR TEAM AT THE MARIST BROTHERS' SCHOOL IN VALENCIA.



MALAYSIA: MARIST PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR FINAL VOWS AT CHAMPAGNAT YOUTH CENTRE

CRUZ DEL SUR PROVINCE  
BROTHERS' ASSEMBLY IN LUJÁN

From September 8 to 10, a group of 25 brothers from the Cruz del Sur Province met in the assembly in Luján, Argentina.

The meeting was held to "take time for mutual listening and fruitful dialogue" and to "accompany each other to look together at the present, connect with our history and visualize the future."

On the first day, in a dynamic prepared by a team of brothers, laymen, and women, each participant was invited to focus on our present as Marists, appreciating the gift of each one of those present.

During the second day, a meeting was held that addressed the theme of BEING brothers, recovering the history that brings them together, sharing their personal and community experiences, and embracing their identity as consecrated persons.

On the third day, from a "framework of reality", the brothers glimpsed the short-term future to project Marist's life and mission based on certainties and hopes.



Three symbols were present: an apron, a mirror, and a towel. Signs that awakened and deepened the reflections and the experience of the assembly's journey. The assembly was an opportunity to fraternize, listen to each other and try to transform the issues of concern with concrete actions. All this is part of the "ReConocerNos" (ReKnowUs) process being carried out by the Cruz del Sur Province.



CENTRAL AMERICA PROVINCE

# INTERCOMMUNITY MEETING ON MARIST VOCATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The Marist communities of El Salvador and Guatemala, of the Central America Province, held the second intercommunity meeting on August 27 and 28, respectively, under the theme of the Year of Marist Vocations, “Caring for and generating Marist life.”

At the request of the Provincial Brothers’ Life Commission, the event was animated by Brother Omar Peña, provincial coordinator of vocation and youth ministry.

Three community dialogues were considered as a proposal, with the objective of “Developing a community dialogue on our effective involvement in vocation ministry, both in a broad and specific sense, through a community configuration that accurately reflects the Gospel values around which every Christian life project is configured and proposes ways to accompany its development”.

The meeting of Marist communities took place in an atmosphere of fraternity, joy, and dialogue. There were moments of reflection, sharing, and prayer. The three dialogues on vocation ministry were developed as follows:

- The first dialogue was an approach to the experience of Marist community life as a privileged environment for the proclamation of the Gospel, which allowed each communi-



ty to identify in its dynamics “the best” to offer to children, and young people.

- The second dialogue was an approach to the emerging youth sensitivity through the community experience as a privileged pedagogy for the development of the vocational sense, through listening to the young people of the Marist Youth Ministry in Mejicanos (El Salvador), the young postulants and scholastic brothers, and a recent study on the new experiences of community life with young people.
- The third dialogue addressed the problem of language and communication with children and young people when we talk about our vocation as brothers. A communitarian proposal was made to take concrete actions aimed at solving the problem.

To conclude, Brother Omar invited all those present to participate in the next colloquium on vocation ministry to be held in March 2023.



**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)