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# MARIST NEWS

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

A PROPHETIC SERVANT LEADERSHIP

## IN-PERSON PHASE OF THE FORMATION PROGRAMME FOR MARIST LEADERS



On 3 October, the in-person phase of the Formation Programme on Servant and Prophetic Leadership began at Porto Alegre. It will end on 14 October. The training, sponsored by the General Administration of the Marist Institute under the patronage of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do

Sul (PUCRS), is being conducted in keeping with the Message of the XXII General Chapter (Colombia – 2017) which asks for “a prophetic servant leadership, one that closely accompanies Marist life and mission”. And it suggests that “at all levels of government, structures should be created and/or strengthened



### general administration

■ The session of the course for Marist leaders began on Monday in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and Gregorio Linacero, Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, were present at the inauguration. The course is attended by 62 participants from 19 countries. Councilors Ken, Josep Maria and Ben will participate in the online sessions. Br. Ernesto, Superior General, will be present at the closing ceremony on the 14th.

■ Two of the three groups of elderly brothers who participate in the ongoing formation program are currently at the General House. The francophone group, which is based at the Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, has meetings this week with Br. Ernesto and Br. On Friday, the Anglophone group, which is in Manziana, will also be at the General House. Brothers Ken and

João Carlos do Prado, General Councilors, began this Tuesday their visit to the Province of Western Mexico, which will end on the 19th.

■ From Monday to Wednesday, Br. Oscar, General Councilor, visited the Marist communities of Uruguay. Sylvain, also Councilor in charge of liaison with the South America Region, arrived in Argentina to visit together the Province of Cruz del Sur.

■ On Friday, Br. Ben, General Councilor, will be in line with the group of confreres from Oceania and Asia, who are preparing for perpetual profession in the Institute in Malaysia.

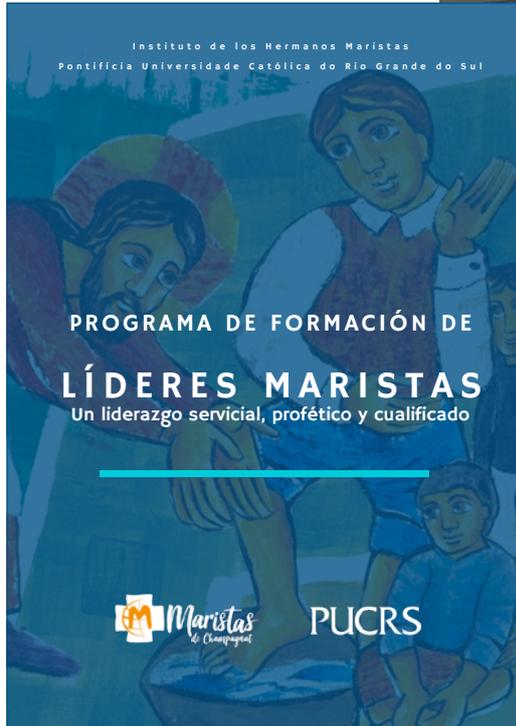
■ Br. Valdicer, director of the CMI Department, will visit the Lavalla200> community in Tabatinga on Saturday. He will then go to Colombia, where he will visit the new Fratelli community in Maicao.

where all Marists share leadership and responsibility for life and mission”.

The programme began on 13 May in an on-line format (Formation program for Marist leaders begins – Champagnat). The course is being offered in Spanish and Portuguese and has 62 participants, laypeople and Marist Brothers, involved in leadership in their AUs or who are preparing to take on strategic mission responsibilities. They represent 13 Administrative Units, coming from 19 countries of America, Europe and Africa. Another program is planned for an English- and French-speaking group next year.

Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, is participating in the full programme of the in-person phase. Br Oscar Martín from the General Council will also be present, while Brothers Josep María Soteras, Ben Consigli and Ken McDonald are attending online. Br Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, will be present at the closing of the course.

During the last 5 months, participants have followed ten study modules and had the opportunity to acquire relevant theoretical knowledge. During these days in Porto Alegre, the studies will



be supplemented by practical experience and visits to places where the learning is being applied and participants can dialogue with the teachers.

**See the links below for further information**

- [Launch of the programme \(27 March\)](#)
- [Start of the online phase \(13 May\)](#)
- Information pamphlet (PDF) [Español](#) | [Português](#)
- [Publication of “Marist Voices: Essays on Prophetic and Servant Leadership”](#)
- [Photos on Facebook](#)



**TUDELLA NOVITIATE**

On October 7, 9 novices will make their first profession at the novitiate in Sri Lanka. The new Brothers are from Bangladesh (1), Vietnam (2) and East Timor (6). The celebration will be live streamed directly on Facebook; <https://www.facebook.com/maristinsl/>

**PORTUGAL**

The Province of Compostela has created the Mission Team of Portugal, which met for the first time on September 27. It was a day dedicated to planning the year and making decisions on different topics, from the pedagogical, economic, pastoral and formative fields.

**BRAZIL**

Registrations are now open for the Manaus 2022 Vocational School, which will be held in Manaus from November 11 to 15. It is a project carried out in collaboration with the Provinces of Brasil Centro-Norte and Brasil Sul-Amazônia, the Conference of Bishops, the Conference of Religious and the PUC of Brasilia. For 15 years, it has been offering theoretical and experiential formation for vocational animators. registrations can be made through the following link; <https://bit.ly/3S-QOICx>

**UNITED STATES**

The Province promotes two meetings to present the Laudato Si' Action Platform, based on Pope Francis' encyclical on integral ecology. The program "Living Laudato Si'", will invite participants to take concrete actions in their daily lives. The first meeting will be held on October 8 and the second on November 2, via Zoom, at the following link; <https://bit.ly/3SRByjd>

**SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES****PROVINCE PROMOTES VOCATIONAL ASSEMBLIES**

Within the framework of the Year of Marist Vocations, the Peruvian sector of the Province of Santa María de Los Andes held its Vocation Assembly from September 16 to 18 in Lima, Peru.

The event was attended by 32 people representing the 11 educational works of the country, schools, and universities. Participants included brothers, professors, directors, members of the university pastoral, representatives of lay communities, and young people.

This is the first vocational assembly of the Province of Santa María de Los Andes, which has chosen to initiate a process of reflection on vocational animation, and as part of this, has planned to develop three assemblies, one in each sector of the Province: Peru, Bolivia, and Chile.

Each assembly will bring together people from different areas of participation in the sectors and will be a space for listening, gratitude, and weaving dreams for the future that will allow charismatic sustainability and vitality in the Province.

This first meeting, held in an atmosphere of joy and reciprocity, was an opportunity

to meet and get to know each other personally after the pandemic.

The guide prepared by the Secretariat Brothers Today for this year of Marist vocations illuminated the spaces of the meeting and encouraged the participants to discover the original passion; to value the complementarity of the lay vocations and the Brothers; to glimpse some proposals for the future, either as a Marist sector or as a province, on the theme of animation and vocation promotion.

Reflections were made on those "doors that are closing and those that are opening as a possibility".

More than offering a theoretical vocational framework, we focused on dialogue and sharing, which allowed us to get to know the diverse realities in which Marists are present. We also sought to respond to these environments.

At the end of the meeting, all attendees left with the commitment to care for and generate life from their areas of participation (home, work, environment) and with the conviction that we all have a vocation and we encourage it among our children, adolescents, and young people.

BRAZIL

# MARISTS ATTEND A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF RELIGIOUS BROTHERS

From 22nd to 25th of September, 26 brothers from the three Provinces of Brazil attended the VI Assembly of Religious Brothers organised by the Conference of Religious of Brazil, held in Belem in the north of the country.

The event took place in the Marist College of Our Lady of Nazareth, with the theme “In the river of life, Brothers embody a life-giving mission for the sake of the Kingdom”. 102 brothers from 22 congregations took part.

The overall aim of the Assembly was to reflect on the vocation of Brothers and the diversity of their mission across the whole of life. The specific objectives were: to identify the mission of Religious Brothers today, in church and society; to explore approaches to professionalisation and consecrated life; to dialogue on the challenges of aging and fraternal life in community.

The logo for the gathering was designed by Br. Luiz Carlos Lima from the Province of **Brazil Centro-Norte**. This contains elements from the Amazon of a variety of rivers, with one branching off, a sign of hope, life and brotherhood. It shows, as well, three people in conversation around a table; also seeds and a heart, the red colour of which



symbolises those who defend life and universal brotherhood among us and with all of creation.

The topic of care for our Common Home was also taken up by Br. João Gutemberg, executive secretary of REPAM, the Pan-Amazon Church Network. Br. João, from the Province of **Brazil Sul-Amazônia**, stated that “Brothers are called to universal brotherhood, including our connection with all of God’s creatures”.

For Br. Valdir Gugiel, from the Province of **Brazil Centro-Sul**, taking part in this assembly “was an inspiring journey undertaken together to experience a joyful sense of fellowship in our Mission, to be brothers”.

For the final message of the Assembly, [click here](#)

For the complete report [see on the Vatican website](#)

3 OCTOBER

## WORLD HABITAT DAY

**W**orld Habitat Day is an opportunity to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and to raise awareness of the importance of shelter. In 1985, the United Nations General Assembly established it through Resolution 40/202, and it was first celebrated in 1986 with the theme “Shelter is My Right” to highlight the importance of the basic right of adequate

shelter. On World Habitat Days, civil society groups and activists lift their voices to help people in need of decent and affordable housing. This year, 2022, it is commemorated on October 3, under the theme “Mind the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind”. This theme examines patterns that improve housing standards.

Research on patterns of urban growth reveals that by 1950 Europe and South and North America had 70% of their population living in cities while Africa and Asia had 40% and 48% respectively. It is estimated that by 2050, the world’s urban population would be more than 70%. Currently, more than 52% of the world’s population live in big cities. Consequently, social inequality is increasing especially in the developing countries with the existence of a form of urbanization that contrasts a rich well-equipped centre with poor, crowded, unsafe slums.

By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Member States pledged to fast-track progress for the furthest behind. The pledge to leave no one behind is a commitment to end extreme poverty and underdevelopment in all its forms and to act explicitly to ensure that those who have been left behind can catch up to those who have experienced greater progress. It is for this reason that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 11), is titled ‘sustainable cities and communities’ to ‘make cities inclusive, safe,



resilient and sustainable’ by advocating for the inclusion of adequate and affordable housing, including upgrading slums. This is an invitation to governments to solve the problem of housing by focusing on social and public housing by building smaller homes, controlling rent, buying land and real estate, and focusing on the construction of affordable housing instead of luxury homes.

As we celebrate World Habitat Day, let us draw inspiration from Brother Ernesto’s circular “Homes of Light” to understand the essence of human habitat as a home where we get all the material and spiritual care and comfort for our survival and wellbeing. People who live in urban slums risk losing the sense of self-worth as they experience difficulties in accessing spiritual and material resources. Regarding this, Pope Francis, during the Symposium on “Sustainable Cities, on July 22, 2015, exhorted world mayors to overcome social exclusion and marginalization in urban settings and bring about integral improvement in the quality of human life. He encouraged them to give priority to the most vulnerable people and slums by providing necessary social services to enable family life to flourish. He equally urged them to stop thinking of urban settings as many peripheries organized around one centre but rather as neighbourhoods, side by side to each other and thus provide them access to the same standard of socio-economic and cultural services.

Br. Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity

STAR OF THE SEA

# MORE THAN 150 YEARS OF MARIST PRESENCE IN SAMOA

Samoa is an island country in Oceania and is part of the District of the Pacific. From December 8th, it will become part of the new Province Star of the Sea. The Marist Brothers arrived there more than 150 years ago, in 1871. Currently there are two communities of Brothers in Samoa. One at the primary school, in Mulivai and one at St Joseph's College, the secondary school in Alafua.

Br. Siasoi Ioane is Principal and Community Leader at Mulivai and lives there with Br. Anitelea. This community is also the pre-Novitiate formation house, and a Postulant, Robert, is in residence currently. On the other hand, Br. Afa Afaese is Principal at Alafua and resides there with Br. Sefo Une, Community Leader, and Br. Julio Suaesi, who is now retired.

### Marist Ministries and Schools

The first school in what is now the Marist Brothers District of the Pacific was, in fact, opened in Samoa when two Brothers arrived in Apia on 14 April 1871 to open a school at Saleufi on 1 May that year.

The conditions endured by these Brothers led them to withdraw from Samoa in 1877 and the school closed. However, a new community arrived on 18 August 1888 and the school was re-opened near the church at Mulivai, Apia, on 4 September, but confined to Europeans. In 1890 one of the original Brothers retur-

ned to Samoa and was put in charge of a school for Samoans built on the Brothers' land near the European school.

During 1947 discussions were held by the government about establishing secondary schooling in Apia and the Brothers began planning their own secondary school and raising funds for it. In February 1950 a suitable building was erected, and St Joseph's High School was blessed and officially opened on 25 November.

This high school was renamed St Joseph's College on its transfer to Lotopa at the beginning of 1960. The College was transferred to its present site at Alafua in 1988.

### Formation

Annual staff formation programmes are delivered to staff of the two marist schools during the orientation week at the beginning of the year. The hope is to produce a local formation programme to incorporate all members of the wider Champagnat Marist family in the near future.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Current Leader of the District of the Pacific, Br John Hazelman, is Samoan and based in Auckland. Another Samoan, Br Steve Vaea, is currently in the Philippines undertaking post-Novitiate University studies.

[See pictures](#)



marist world

SOUTH SUDAN: BROTHERS S. OKON VÍCTOR AND J. MAMMAH, MEMBERS OF THE SOLIDARITY SJTH SOUTH SUDAN PROJECT, WITH BR. EMILI TURÚ



COMPOSTELA: CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS



INDIA: OPERATION RAINBOW



CHILE: MEETING OF VOCATIONAL ANIMATORS OF THE REGION AMÉRICA SUR



HUNGARY: MARIST SCHOOL IN KARCAG



CHILE: CHILEAN MARIST DELEGATION AT MARISTAK'S FACILITIES IN SPAIN

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

MEETING OF THE EXTENDED PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Adopting the theme “living the charism in a synodal way”, the members of the Extended Council of the Province of Santa María de los Andes met in Peru from 12 to 14 September: the Provincial Council and the teams and commissions of the three countries that make up the Administrative Unit – Bolivia, Chile and Peru. The purpose of the meeting, held in Lima, was to evaluate the progress of the Province and to plan next steps.

During the three days of work, discussions covered strategic plans, regional developments, whole province perspectives, and ideas for the short and long term future of each sector and the whole province; all of this in the light of the General Conference and in step with the Region. It was a meeting of intense reflection, but above all of fraternal dialogue, mutual recognition among the sectors of the province, and forward planning.

Since the meeting began on 12 September, the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, the participants attended Mass and arranged a dinner in thanksgiving for the Society of Mary, with



the Marist Fathers and the Marist Missionary Sisters residing in Lima joining us.

This province meeting was the first to be held in person after the two years of the pandemic. It should be noted that the Provincial Council held its regular meeting in the days before and after the meeting.



MALAYSIA

# PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR PERPETUAL PROFESSION 2022 FOR BROTHERS OF ASIA AND OCEANIA

This program truly expresses trust in God’s Providence amidst doubts and uncertainties.

Since the last preparation program for the brothers of Asia and Oceania in 2019 in Lomeri, Fiji, plans were underway to organise the following experience in 2021. However, the uncertainty of the pandemic forced a postponement.

The new venue at Champagnat Youth Centre in Port Dickson, Malaysia, brought new variabilities, mainly the challenge of securing visas beyond 30 days for some participants. The team of Brs Bryan Davis, Alfredo Herrera and Tony Leon decided to create a program in two parts: 2 weeks online and four weeks face to face to respond to this issue, respecting the reality that the program will be conducted in a Muslim country.

Br. Andrew Chan became a vital team member with his local knowledge and skills in organising all the local needs before the team’s arrival and participants.

**The number of participants settled into a total of 11, with the following brothers committing to this 2-phase program:**

1. Abraham King – Province of East Asia – Korea
2. Cyril Sumugat – Province of East Asia – Philippines
3. Engel Freed Java – Province of East Asia – Philippines
4. Jick de Leon – Province of East Asia – Philippines
5. Hudson Horoto – Province of Australia – Solomon Islands
6. Raphael Fakaia – Province of Australia – Solomon Island/ Vanuatu
7. Anitelea Fidow – District of the Pacific – Samoa
8. Bao Nguyen Viet – Marist District of Asia – Vietnam
9. Thuan Pham – Marist District of Asia – Vietnam
10. Tri Nguyen Van – Marist District of Asia – Vietnam
11. GuangZhao Zhang – Marist District of Asia – China

**Online phase – 5-15 September 2022**

The first week of the program’s online phase saw each parti-



cipant sharing their Vocational Quest Story since leaving the novitiate. It was humbling to witness the courage of these young men sharing their strength and vulnerability in their continuing discernment during their first years of Marist apostolic life.

The second week online involved several themes pertinent to the realities of being brothers today. We were graced with the following speakers and their respective strengths:

- Dr Katrina Anderson – Wellbeing and Religious Life
- Nathan Ahearne – Shared Marist Life
- Br. Ben Consigli – Safe Guarding Children
- Br. Jeff Crowe & Br. Jonnel Sisneros – Interculturality & LaValla 200

**Meeting in Malaysia – 18 September – 13 October 2022**

After two weeks of the online experience, it was with great delight that we welcomed the participants in person to the Champagnat Youth Centre on the 17th September. God’s providence continued to grace the program with the resolution of several immigration challenges and with a case of Dengue fever!

The 11 young brothers joyfully reconnected, having known each other from their time together at MAPAC. The sharing of their vocation quest stories a fortnight earlier immensely assisted in this process.

The group is now at the halfway point of the 6-week program.



The first week together focused on SIMPLE LIVING – The vow of Poverty was ably led by a local priest Fr Nicholas Hoh OCD. At the end of the week, Br. Josep Maria Soteras zoomed in from Rome to focus on the Marist expression of poverty through our new Constitution and Rule of Life.

In the coming weeks, the theme of CONTEMPLATIVE LISTENING – The vow of Obedience will be shared by Fr Alvin Ng SJ, followed by the Marist input by Br. Tony Clark. The theme of LOVING RELATIONSHIP – Sr Linda Lizardo RC will conduct the vow of Chastity with the Marist focus by Br. Ben Consigli.

The final week will be a week of synthesis from each participant.

There is no Marist community connected to Champagnat Youth Centre. However, Br. Andrew had organised a gracious family who has given their time to support this program. They are the

family of the resident coordinator Rickey John. Hence a particular word of thanks to Haily, Rosalinda, Reedlee and Robby for your delicious and supportive presence. The presence of Br. Paul Ching also graces us. They are another example of God's Providence in this venture.

When faced with the uncertainties of the foreign territories of a post-pandemic world in a Muslim country, the miracle of this current preparation program in Port Dickson truly expresses God's providence. Please keep our young men preparing for their final vows in your prayers; they are surrounded by marvellous companions from beyond their familiar cultures. May we, too, be their marvellous companions and a sign of God's providence.

Brothers Bryan Davis and Tony Leon  
26 September 2022

Photos

## CENTRAL MEXICO

# PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BR. LUIS RENÉ

The Marist Brothers of the **Province of Central Mexico** celebrated the perpetual profession of Br. Luis René Reynoso Sánchez on September 24 at the Instituto Queretano San Javier in Mexico. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Father Jesús Aparicio. The Provincial, Brother Luis Felipe González, received the vows on behalf of the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez.

Present at the ceremony were the Provincial Councilors, about 40 Brothers from different communities of the Province and their families and friends. Also present were the directors and lay Marist collaborators of the Instituto Queretano, the Colegio Mexico Roma and the Instituto Mexico and the directors and students and members of various communities (Chiapas, Pachuca, Mexico City, San Luis Potosi, Irapuato, Uruapan, Guerrero).

Brother René reaffirmed the importance of community life and being a sign of joy for others, and said: "During these years, I have realized that the most important part for me has been service, especially among children, adolescents and young people. It has become clear to me that it is not easy and therefore I have been reaffirming that God has filled my heart and has given continuous response in my journey."

"Thank God for the call made, thank you, René, for your generous yes. We unite ourselves in prayer with you and we will be accompanying you in your decision," said Brother Oscar Israel Soubervielle, of the Vocation Ministry of Central Mexico.



### Brother René's Marist trajectory

- Postulancy – Aguascalientes – 2010-2012
- Novitiate – Morelia – 2012-2014
- First Vows – 21 Dec 2014
- Colegio México Roma – 2015-2016
- Instituto México Secundaria – 2016-2017
- Colegio México Acoxa – 2017-2018
- Bachillerato Asunción Ixtaltepec – 2018-2021
- Amores Community – 2021-2022
- Instituto Hidalguense – 2022

ONGOING FORMATION

# FRENCH-SPEAKING 3RD AGE PROGRAM REPORT ON THE 3RD AND 4TH WEEKS

Heritage and Gratitude

To experience a short renewal program of 2 months is a bit like life itself: the stages have different paces and often overlap with one another. Thus, after a brief look into our past and a period of retreat that we are currently enjoying, we have been invited during this third week to “take a dive” into the spiritual roots for living a full, consecrated Marist life.

To begin, Br Antoine Kazindu led us through a process of reviewing our inner journey, our spiritual life and personal prayer at the heart of and in touch with our daily lives. This gave us the chance to take stock of this essential dimension of our lives as we visited the very sources of the Marist adventure, “around the table” of La Valla and at the feet of Our Lady of Pity.

As Marists, our spiritual life has been shaped by the person of Marcellin of course, but also by his first disciples. This was the message of Br Alain Delorme with his great love for those who have gone before us and with his infectious style of communication as a 90 year old (he celebrated his birthday with us).



At the end of our Hermitage stay, we headed to Rome (26 September), the current centre of Marist life. There we linked up with the 3rd Age group of Spanish- and Portuguese speakers to spend two days together in the footsteps of the “Poverello of Assisi”. This gave us the occasion to look back over our own way of following Christ and how we have ‘written’ our own Laudato Si’. Before we set out, we spent some time in prayer together and sharing our “Dreams” for ourselves and for Marists, because life continues to beckon!

Br. Gilles Hogues

**Three groups simultaneously**

The **3rd Age Program** is a two-month sabbatical experience (3 September – 31 October 2022) for religious brothers who are in or approaching the phase of life after middle age when a person is in active retirement. An important dimension of the program is the sabbath experience. The first opportunity it offers, therefore, is for each brother to rest. The second dimension of the program is to offer an experience of genuine renewal for each brother, especially focusing on what lies ahead. Third, as brothers we seek to be a community together for these two months.

On the occasion of the Year of Marist Vocations and to celebrate the fidelity offered to the Institute by our older brothers, the program will be conducted in three groups simultaneously, although in different venues: Spanish/Portuguese in the General House, English in Manziana and French in the Hermitage.

The brothers of all three groups will have a chance to be together twice. First, from 26 September to 08 October, they will have joint activities in the General House in Rome. Then, from 11 to 23 October, in the Hermitage.



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