



Year **XV** - Number **751** | **26 OCTOBER 2022**

MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG

BRAZIL

CONCLUSION OF THE FORMATIVE PROGRAM OF MARIST LEADERSHIP

The Formation Program for the Global Leadership of the Marist Institute ended on October 14 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and was attended by Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, who spoke about the importance of presence in the exercise of the Servant and Prophetic Leadership. Also present was the Vicar General, Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez. During the day, Br. Afonso Murad, from the Brasil Centro-Norte Province, and Gustavo Balbinot, adviser of the area of spirituality of the Rede Marista (Brazil Sul-Amazônia), addressed the theme of spirituality in the exercise of Marist leadership. →



general administration

- Brothers Ben and João Carlos, General Councillors links with the Region of Europe, on Monday and Tuesday took part in the meeting of the Regional Council of the Provincials of Europe in Cordoba, Spain.
- On Monday, Brother Valdicer, CMI director, began an accompaniment visit to the Fratelli Project in Lebanon, where he will be until November 2.
- On Monday and Tuesday, Brother Ángel Diego, director of the Bureau of Solidarity, participated in the meeting of the extended commission of the Corazón Solidario network in Bogotá, Colombia.
- From Monday to Thursday, Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, participated in the meeting of the Educational Councils of Peru, Province of Santa María de los Andes.
- On Tuesday, Br. Lindley, Assistant Director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, attended the meeting of the religious brothers in Rome at the General House of the Christian Brothers (Edmund Rice).
- On Wednesday, Brother Josep María, General Councilor, gave a conference entitled "Spirituality in the Rule of Life of the Marist Brothers," during the second workshop on Historical and Spiritual Patrimony 2022, held online, sponsored by the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul.
- On the same day, the Secretariat of Education and Evan-

gelization, through Brothers Carlos Alberto, Mark and Pepe, together with Diugar, took part in the online meeting of the Ad Hoc Team of Marist Youth Ministry.

- Also on Wednesday, Brothers Carlos Alberto and Mark took part in the meeting with the other branches of the Marist family in the preparatory meeting for the International Marist Youth Meeting 2023 in Lisbon
- Also on Wednesday, there was a meeting of the regional managers of institutional communication with Luiz da Rosa, director of communications for the Institute.
- The International Commission for Marist Spiritual Patrimony met online on Wednesday with the presence of Councilors Óscar and João Carlos and the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Ángel and Lindley.
- Starting Wednesday, Br Ángel Diego visits Marist educational works in Bogotá, Medellín and Maicao, in Colombia.
- On Friday there will be a meeting of the Council of Economic Affairs, in which Brother Ben and, from the Econome General, Brothers Jorge and Goyo and Flavia will participate.
- Next Sunday, the three groups of the 3rd age will conclude the formation program that started on September 3rd at the same time in three different places: Hermitage (French), Manziana (English) and General House (Portuguese and Spanish).

Also present at the solemn closing act were Brothers Deivis Fischer, Provincial of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, Evilázio Teixeira and Manuir Mentges, who are respectively Rector and Vice-Rector of **PUCRS**. Also present were the teachers who participated in the training program and, virtually, several provincial brothers and some members of the International Marist Mission Commission.

The formative program was recognized with a continuous formation diploma for each of the participants. In addition, a copy of the La Valla table was delivered, as a symbol and reminder of Marist origins, and the fraternity as a sign of identity.

After the closing ceremony, everyone participated in the sending Eucharist and a fellowship dinner.

Formation Programme for Marist leaders

The program had two stages. The first was carried out online: eleven theoretical modules were developed over four months, which tried to systematize the topics covered in the book

MARIST VOICES and other contents of interest. The second stage was face-to-face and tried to resume the content of the eleven modules from a more experiential perspective.

Participated in this course: 61 people from 19 countries in Europe (4), Africa (2) and America (13), belonging to thirteen Marist provinces. Of this group, 18 were brothers and 43 were lay people. It was developed in Spanish and Portuguese.

This formative program of MARIST LEADERSHIP was organized by the General Administration and the **Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul** (PUCRS).

The General Council will continue to promote reflection and experiences that allow progress in the promotion of the Servant and Prophetic Leadership, according to the recommendation of the last General Chapter.

We deeply thank the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, the PUCRS authorities, all the people and teams of the University and the General Administration, for their efforts and support in organizing this training program.

PROVINCE OF NORANDINA

MEETING OF EVANGELIZATION LEADERS

The provincial evangelization team met in Bogota, **Colombia**, where in addition to strengthening the bonds of friendship and closeness among the coordinators of the Youth Ministry, the plans and processes of formation of animators of each country were socialized. The meeting took place from October 3 to 7, where the members of the evangelization team of Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia defined the guidelines for the elaboration of the provincial plan for the formation of animators, in order to work in the same line on the outline and the formative areas of the plan.

Likewise, the main challenges faced by the province within the youth pastoral were discussed, such as the need to understand and know the specific needs faced by children and young people at present, in response to the calls of the provincial chapter.

One of the topics discussed was the Year of Marist Vocations, being this a motivating element in the work developed with the children and young people who are part of the youth



movements (Tiemar, Semar, Remar, Amigos en Marcha and Gama).

At the end of the meeting, roles were recognized and the next projects and formation strategies in the area of evangelization were defined, having the "synodality" as a base element, an initiative of Pope Francis that invites everybody to "walk the road together".

NEW ZEALAND

The board of Marcellin College, Auckland, announce the appointment of Mrs Maria Prescott, as the new Principal. The note says: "In Maria we see the future of our school, she brings with her an invaluable set of leadership skills and experience as a successful senior leader. Most importantly, we see in Maria a true Marist heart and spirit in how she approaches life, family, and work."

CRUZ DEL SUR

Educators from the Francisco Cacicque Supaz School and the CEC of Nueva Pompeya, Chaco, participated in the Meeting of Indigenous Communities in Asunción, Paraguay, and a fashion show with native products with approximately 30 designers and artisans.

EUROPE

The Region has stated the Course of Directive Funcion. 28 educators from Compostela, Ibérica, L'Hermitage and Mediterránea participated in the first week, from October 17 to 21, in Xaudaró. There will be other two weeks in January and March, when the program ends.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

From October 13 to 15, in Fortaleza, the Vitalize Meeting took place, one more stage in the vocational discernment process of young men who wish to embrace Marist religious life. Two of these young men, Bruno Gabriel Figueiredo Cardoso and Vani Ison da Silva Sousa, began, after this meeting, the process of formation in the Province.

PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA

UNICEF RECOGNIZES THE WORK ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS OF THE MARIST CENTERS



On October 19, 12 centers of the Marist Province of Compostela received recognition from UNICEF as "centers of reference in education for children's rights and global citizenship". This program recognizes schools that work in education from the perspective of children's rights. UNICEF establishes three levels of recognition. Of the Marist schools in Compostela, 4 have reached level 3, excellent (Centro Cultural Vallisoletano, Champagnat de Salamanca, Santa María de Ourense and Santa María de Tui); 2 have reached level 2, advanced (Ntra. Sra. De la Fuencisla de Segovia and Cristo Rey de A Coruña); and the rest have reached level 1, initial (la Inmaculada de Valladolid, San José de León, Liceo Castilla de Burgos, colegio Castilla de Palencia, el Pilar de Vigo and la Inmaculada de Lugo). The participating schools involve the entire educational community in the work of four areas: knowledge and promotion of children's rights, child protection, school climate, and the promotion of spaces for children's participation in decision-making in schools.

With this recognition, UNICEF values the schools' track record in the defense of children's rights, that they are included in their educational project and annual programming, and that at least one teacher receives specific training. The recognition is updated every two years and includes an action plan and a self-evaluation of the school conducted by UNICEF. In addition, the 14 educational centers of the Marist Compostela Province in Castilla y León, Asturias and Galicia and UNICEF Spanish Committee have had a collaboration agreement since 2021 to promote and disseminate children's rights and global citizenship; establish formulas for child, youth and family participation in education, promote World Children's Day and other actions and activities promoted by UNICEF. This recognition by UNICEF is part of the daily work of the Marist Province of Compostela and all its centers for the protection of children, the defense of the rights of children, adolescents and young people and the promotion of their development in safe environments.

STAR OF THE SEA

NAVIGATING NEW WATERS TOGETHER

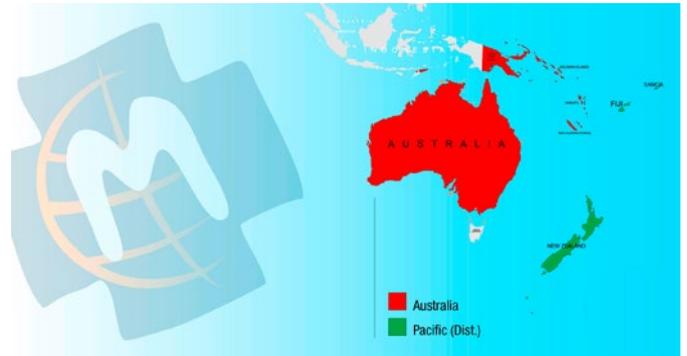
The new “Star of the Sea” Province will be inaugurated on 8 December 2022, during its first Chapter, that will be held in Mittagong, Australia, from 8 to 15 December 2022.

On 10 May 2021, Br. Ernesto, Superior General, communicated to the brothers of the Province of Australia and District of the Pacific that, from 8 December 2022, the two Administrative Units will be the Marist Brothers **Star of the Sea Province**. Br. Peter Carroll was appointed as **first Provincial** of the new Administrative Unity.

The theme selected for the Chapter is Navigating New Waters Together. Appropriately, it uses nautical imagery and emphasises the necessity of working together to chart a way forward into the future.

In recent months, the Steering Committee has met regularly and there have been three meetings of Delegates. Others are planned prior to the Chapter.

The Delegates meetings have been focussed on becoming familiar with one another so that there is a real sense of fraternity at the Chapter, and the third task above: identifying the key



priorities for the first three years of the Province and suggesting ways in which these issues can be effectively addressed and promoted.

“Brothers and Marist Friends, please pray for our new Marist Family in the Asia-Pacific area. It is first and foremost a family of faith. It’s development and future will be dependent on the faith of its members, its shared fraternity and strong commitment to Marist service.”, said Br Peter Carroll on the Star Messenger newsletter, edition 6.

PROVINCE OF IBÉRICA

PRINCIPALS FROM CHILE VISIT THE MARISTAK DURANGO SCHOOL

The Maristak Durango school of the **Province of Ibérica** was visited by twenty directors and specialists from four Marist technical schools in **Chile**. It was an opportunity to show the richness represented by the project of the Marist Network of Schools, Champagnat Global, which aims to build a “collaborative network that connects and encourages Marist schools to walk together”. This proposal has made it possible to connect the Chilean Marist schools of Hermano Fernando, Nuestra Sra. de Andacollo, Marcelino Champagnat and Diego Echeverría with a Marist center in Spain, seeking to share experiences and good practices. Twenty people traveled from Chile to Durango to learn about good practices in the field of active-collaborative methodologies based on challenges, of which the Maristak Durango center is a reference.



The experience took place from September 26 to 30. The delegation from the four centers, headed by their Principals, lived the teaching experience first-hand, living together with the teachers in the classrooms. Each person from Chile was accompanied by a person from the Spanish school, which favored the exchange of knowledge and enriching experiences.

HUNGARY

BEING A MISSIONARY: “YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES”

Br. Pau Tristany de Juan, of the Province of L'Hermitage, lives his Marist charism in Hungary. He has written an article in the news bulletin of the [religious of Catalonia \(Horeb n. 584\)](#) in connection with the theme of the celebration of World Mission Day (Sunday, October 23, 2022) on the missionary vocation. We reproduce below the article.

Whenever people ask me about my missionary vocation, I feel uncomfortable because I don't know if I really have a missionary vocation. It is assumed that since I live far from the place where I was born I AM a missionary. But since I was very young, when I entered the Marists, I was “far” from home. My question is whether being a missionary is just a matter of distance.

For my mother being far away meant that she could not see me every week since she lived some kilometers away from Barcelona. Now that I live in Hungary and work with disadvantaged children and young people, especially with gypsies, many of my Marist Brothers also say that I live far away, not only geographically, but also with another language, in other culture, tradition... But the truth is that I feel at home. In Europe cultural differences are relative, we all have very similar origins and traditions. And regarding the addressees of my mission I don't find it easier or more difficult to work with the poor or the rich.

Whenever I try to justify why it is difficult for me to accept that I am a missionary, quotes from the Gospel come to mind. It is really the Gospel that motivates me and its message is what I try to do and follow every day. I suppose any religious does too. Jesus was able to deal with lepers and with Pharisees, with prostitutes and with Roman centurions. Any person is worthy that we work for their dignity. The physician is not needed by those who are well, but by those who are sick (Mk 2:17).

As religious, have we forgotten that we have chosen to follow Christ who says that “foxes have holes and birds have nests,



but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (Mt 8:20)? That is why I consider that I do not have a “home” where I belong. My home is where I find Christ and this can be anywhere and with any human community. On the other hand, I have many doubts about what it means to be a missionary. Isn't Therese of Lisieux the patroness of the missions, who never left her convent? Isn't it true that the religious vocation is to follow Christ in a concrete mission (contemplation, preaching, education, health, etc.)? Then why are some of us treated as missionaries and not others? If the motto of this year's World Mission Day is “You shall be my witnesses” is it not up to all religious to be witnesses of Jesus and his Gospel wherever we are?

I encourage all religious, regardless of where they live, that on this day we feel like missionaries, to be witnesses of Christ and his love wherever we are.

[Pope Francis' message for World Mission Sunday 2022](#)

MARIST VOLUNTEER

BR. FABRÍCIO BASSO – LAVALLA200> MOUNT DRUITT COMMUNITY (2020-2022)

Brother Fabrício is from the Province [Brasil Sul-Amazônia](#) and this year he finishes his mission in [Australia](#), where he has been since January 2020, living in the international community of Mount Druitt. Here below we reproduce the testimony of his experience as volunteer of the Project LaValla200>



At the end of another cycle in my journey as a Marist, it is necessary to remember what I have lived in the last three years. I have a lot to thank you for. It was an amazing and challenging experience. It was an atypical year, not just for the choices made. We went through a global pandemic, and the news began to announce a war, among other more particular situations, but life goes on during turbulence. Every day, it is imperative that we make new choices and each one, in its own way, can work so that we have a better world, starting with the exact place where we are.

On January 8, 2020, I arrived in Sydney, where I joined the Mount Druitt International community, with two other Marist brothers, Lawrence, Australian, and Jonnel, Filipino, as well as a Mexican couple, Argie and Rodrigo. We formed a community, sharing life and mission in suburban Sydney. The neighbourhood we live in is made up of workers from all over the world and Australia's largest Aboriginal community. Mount Druitt is known as a violent site and faces many prejudices, several young people need to declare to live elsewhere so they can get work.

This beginning was particularly difficult because until now I had no mastery of the language, I could understand very little or almost nothing of what they spoke to me. Although challenging, I understood the reality of thousands of people, whom every year are forced to leave their country and migrate in search of

decent living conditions. Although difficult, adversity became an opportunity, both in the community and in the spaces in which we operate, everyone struggled to teach me something, which brought me closer to people. After the first few months, it was already adapted to the new reality.



Here in Mount Druitt, we chose to exercise our apostolate in three spaces, but not limited to them. First, in the community, we seek to live simply, always seeking consensus in our choices and respecting the particularities of each member. From Monday to Friday, we dedicate ourselves as teachers to the Marist Learning Zone (MLZ), a social centre created in partnership between the Marist Brothers of Australia and the Diocese of Parramatta Education sector. At MLZ, we serve young people who do not adapt to formal school daily, helping them

recover learning and self-confidence. We also assist at the Baabayn Aboriginal Centre, in various activities such as events, and Homework Club for children and youth groups.

Acting as a teacher was challenging because I did not have full mastery of the language and never played this function, but we always have something to share. I was able to work with students in physics, mathematics, robotics, photography and



marist world

MADAGASCAR: CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS IN ANTSIRABE



INDIA: MARCELLIN TRUST – RAINBOW



ECUADOR: MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF NORANDINA



CHILE: NATIONAL MEETING OF THE MARCHA MOVEMENT AT THE DIEGO ECHEVERRÍA SCHOOL IN QUILLOTA



SPAIN: YOUTH OF GRUPOS MARCHA SJP



FRANCE: COLLÈGE SAINT LOUIS: DELIVERY OF DIPLOMAS

art. My first idea of the mission was closely linked to doing, but at the end of this period, I see that this aspect is not essential.

Through prayer and contemplation of reality and, above all, in daily sharing with the other members of the community, I was able to resignify my goals and understanding of what it is to be a Marist missionary. Today, I see that those with whom I have lived are not recipients of my apostolate, on the contrary, they are path and truth, actively contributing to my process of self-knowledge, acceptance and personal growth. Gradually, I realized that the great contribution I can be in this space is not about bringing something new or unheard of, but about simply being together, sharing what I can and, above all, learning. This is a simple and powerful truth.

Over the years, the community has changed. Argie and Rodrigo returned to Mexico in the second half of 2020. After a long wait, Ruben and Silvia, from Spain, joined the community in February 2022. And Brother Jonnel finished his experiment at the end of 2021. Currently, there are four of us, Ruben and Silvia, Brother Lawrence and I. The dynamic is simple, just being open to welcoming those who arrive, adapting and always seeking to learn and share, is an enriching experience. Living with people

from different cultures always aggregates and assists in personal and community growth.

It was a great achievement to be part of this project. It is exciting to realize that those, who have often not been welcomed in many spaces, are able to welcome so well. I am not just talking about the students, the Aboriginal community of Mount Druitt, who during their history passed by countless situations of operation, rejection, and abandonment, which show more openness to welcoming and accepting me.

During these three years, many experiences profoundly impacted my way of perceiving life and choices. Among them are daily living with people who are a great example of generosity and surrender and wonderful companions who respond actively and effectively to the call to live Marist spirituality. I am deeply grateful to all who have given me opportunities this experience. I encourage everyone who feels called to be part of this global family, whether in an international community or in its daily apostolate, to devote themselves to people, especially children and young people, as Champagnat dreamed. It is worth it, it transforms the lives of those who say yes and those to whom we are sent.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

MARIST PRESENCE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The first Marist Brothers came to the Solomon Islands from France in 1845. Brothers, Hyacinth, Genade, Aristride and Optat, accompanied Bishop Jean Epalle and their 9 Society of Mary companions when they attempted to establish a mission. The Marist missionaries' early years in the Solomons were dangerous and dispiriting. After just five years, Brother Hyacinthe

was dead, killed by the local people on San Christobal Island, and the other three had fallen ill and needed to be repatriated to Sydney. The Mission closed in 1852.

Eighty-six years later, at the invitation of Bishop Jean Marie Aubin S.M. three Australian Marist Brothers, John Roberts, Ephrem Stevens and James Thrift sailed from Sydney on 2 August 1938 to lead the school at Makina on Marau Sound. Few years later, in response to an appeal by Brother Provincial for volunteers for the new Mission in Chabai ou Bougainville Island: Brothers Augustine Mannes, Donatus Fitzgerald and Ervan McDonough were chosen and left Sydney July 1941.

War came to the Pacific in December



1941 and fighting spread to the Solomon Islands soon after. The Brothers on Marau were temporarily imprisoned by the Japanese but eventually evacuated to Australia. Their confreres on Bougainville were not so fortunate. Following the end of World War II, in 1946, the Brothers returned to the Solomon Islands and opened the school at Tenaru, which still exists today.

After years of consolidation, development at Tenaru and the profession of vows by local Brothers, the Marists opened schools at Vanga Point, a Rural Training Centre, and at Rokera on the Island of Malaita. The Brothers' education ministry and community at Rokera closed in 1990. In 1989 the Brothers established an outreach community at Avuavu on

the remote coast of Guadalcanal. It was short lived and closed in 1993. The Brothers withdrew from Vanga Point in 2020.

At present, there is one community of three Brothers in Honiara. One Brother is studying at the National University and two are involved in the St Joseph's Catholic Secondary School, in Tenaru.

The Institute has also the Laumanas Formation Centre. It has been the centre of initial formation for the Melanesian Brothers since 1988. During the COVID crisis, it was also a temporary Novitiate. It is hoped that it will resume its original purpose in the near future, as well as provide opportunities for Lay Marist formation.



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