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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

FMSI CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

FM^{SI} – the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity – commemorated its 15th Anniversary of work for children's and adolescents' rights through a special event in the General House, held on October 21. The celebration was an opportunity to share the activities and objectives achieved by the Foundation in its first 15 years, through the projects and interventions carried out all over the world.

It was attended by supporters and partners, Marist Brothers and Laity – who have enabled the Foundation to implement development, emergency, and advocacy projects over the years. During his intervention, Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior



Fondazione Marista
per la Solidarietà
Internazionale Onlus

FMSI

Per il Bene dei Bambini

General, said "We are happy to celebrate FMSI's 15 years of activity. We know that in various parts of the world we have similar organizations in the Institute at national or regional level, and the FMSI in Rome tries to be in contact with all of them. FMSI, together with the Secretariat of Solidarity are of



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3° PHASE

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

general administration

- From Monday to Wednesday, General Councilors Ben, Ken and Óscar attended the meeting of the International Commission on Child Protection at the General House.
- On Monday, the formation program for the brothers of the third age (Spanish and Portuguese), who have been at the General House since the beginning of September, came to an end. The programs in l'Hermitage (French) and Manziana (English) have also ended.
- During the beginning of the week, Brother Valdicer, CMI director, continued his visit to the Fratelli Project in Lebanon.
- On Wednesday the regular meeting of the General Council was held.
- Brother Ángel Diego, director of the Bureau of Solidarity, this week visited the interprovincial novitiate in Medellín and the new community of the Fratelli Project in Maicao, Colombia.
- On Thursday, Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, partici-

- ated in the International Assembly of the La Salle Mission in Rome.
- On Friday begins the face-to-face meeting of the Forum on the Marist Lay Vocation, which will be attended by the entire General Council and the directors of the Secretariat of Laity and the Secretariat Brothers Today, as well as the participants arriving from all over the Marist world.
- From Friday until November 8, the meeting of the African Mission Commission takes place, in view of the promotion of the New Horizons project in the Province of Madagascar. The meeting takes place in Nairobi, in the presence of Brother Mark, Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, and Andrea, Director of FMSI.
- On Friday, Brothers Jorge Gaio and Goyo, of the Econome General's Office, will travel to the Philippines, where next week they will take part in the meeting of the CIAE.

great support to the Institute. They help us to be a prophetic voice and to respond concretely to the needs of those who live on the margins of today's society. Thanks to everyone for the support and collaboration”.

For his part, Br Ken McDonald, President of FMSI, thanked Br Ernesto and the members of the General Council for their constant support. He also thanked to FMSI Staff, the Board and the Partners and Donors. Speaking about FMSI's solidary trajectory, Br Ken said that FMSI has worked in favour of migrant children, refugees and victims of violence, Through Solidarity, Advocacy and Emergency Projects. “During its 15 year of history, FMSI has supported over 400 projects in 65 countries, raised 9,000,000 Euros in funding for these projects and submitted 57 reports on child rights through various mechanisms in the United Nations”, highlighted.

Outstanding presentations marked the anniversary of FMSI. Among them, the participation of Dr. Nabil, representing the Blue Marists, who spoke about the solidarity vocation in Aleppo; Br. Valcicer Fachi, director of the CMI, who illustrated the opportunity to transform society through inter-congregational collaboration, which is carried out through the Fratelli project; and Brother Ángel Diego, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, that coordinates the advocacy initiatives together with FMSI. “FMSI wants to continue along this path: works to ensure a better future for those who will be the future of our world. Proud of our achievements, we wish to share them with those who have supported us over the years, helping us to make FMSI what it is today”, said Andrea Rossi, Director of FMSI.

FMSI Awards

During the event, FMSI presented the “Marist Program of the Year” award to the “Marcellin Juvenile Justice Program” (in Philippines), which aims to offer new reception opportunities as alternatives to prison for the social inclusion of minors at risk and in conflict with the Law. Br. Crispin, Executive Director of the Marcellin Foundation, said: “With your help and with the support of FMSI, we have been able to give a second chance; sometimes many other possibilities, and a better future for children and young people at risk”.

Agnes Reyes, (Volunteer program coordinator of Marcellin Foundation projects) accepted the award and said: “We thank FMSI for the full support and technical assistance for the implementation of the project”.

The “A Better World for Children” prize was awarded to the “MAISHA MAPYA – A New Life”, founded in the north of Chivu (Eastern Congo), by the group of volunteers “Heart Without Borders”. The project is aimed at boys and girls who are victims of numerous traumas such as separation from their parent,



the forced escape from their villages, the dispersion of the community of reference, and being the victim of armed conflict, exploitation and forced recruitment.

Professor Cristina Castelli, who withdrew the award, said that, from the beginning, the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity has always been close to BICE (first institution that with its potential and its values has contributed to this great association), and that like BICE (Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance), it also has the good of children as its objective”. The “A Better World for Children” award aims to be a regular event of FMSI and will be awarded each year to the most commendable projects.

Marist Foundation for International Solidarity

The Foundation, founded in 2007, has a clear vision: a world in which childhood is recognised and protected. For this reason, the Marist Foundation works to recognize that childhood should be respected, guaranteed, and free from violence and fear. FMSI is committed to a world where minors are accepted as active members of individual communities and of the whole society. Consistent with these intentions, FMSI's mission is expressed through targeted actions aimed at promoting the full development of the potential of each child – especially the most vulnerable and marginalised – through the planning and implementation of solidarity, education and advocacy projects. The Marist Foundation promotes change in government policies and programmes for the benefit of those who live on the margins of society. It advocates and brings to the attention of society important humanitarian issues to reach a shared resolution mediating with those who hold decision-making power in the society. This work implies undertaking and pursuing multiple avenues to reach and influence relevant decisions affecting children.

The Board of Directors of FMSI is composed by: Br. Ken McDonald, Presidente (General Council FMS); Maria Inmaculada Maillo (Spagna); Br. Jorge Gaio (General Bursar FMS); Angela Matulli (Italia); Rebecca Jane Bromhead (Australia); Br. Fortune Chiedzo Chakasara (Zimbabwe).

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

A FORUM ON PROPHETIC AND SERVANT LEADERSHIP FOR LEADERS



The Casa de Mendes, in Rio de Janeiro, welcomed the leaders of the **Province of Brasil Centro-Norte** from the 17 to 21 October for a Marist Leadership Forum. Aimed at directors and their deputies of the schools and colleges of the province, this formation session of time together in a brotherly atmosphere focussed on an analysis of the situation of the country concerning education, what it means to be Marist and becoming more familiar with resources important for the rebirth of the charism. The event, attended by the Superior General, Br Ernesto Sánchez, and the Provincial, Brother José de Assis de Brito, provided an opportunity to glimpse new possibilities for our Marist works, while respecting our current reality and our goals.

At the start of the Forum, Br Ernesto spoke to the leaders of the importance

of a spirituality of the heart and of the co-responsibility of brothers and laypeople for the mission bequeathed by St Marcellin Champagnat. “In carrying out our mission we also share life. An administrator who is not transparent loses credibility. Leadership requires generosity”, Br Ernesto insisted. This vision was also taken up by the Provincial, Br José de Assis. In his address to the directors, he pointed to the charism as something essential for leaders, the new movements and public commitments happening across the Institute. He presented his analysis of the contemporary situation facing education leaders: “The leader needs to have a hopeful outlook, to listen, to have empathy and to maintain healthy and emotionally well-balanced relationships”, underlined Br José de Assis.

The event included discussions of topics

relevant to the exercise of leadership and times for faith-sharing and fellowship. Among the topics discussed were innovation and sustainability. There was also small group work, the awarding of the best moments of the year and a pilgrimage to the national sanctuary of Aparecida do Norte, dedicated to Our Lady of Aparecida.

By means of a **letter** at the end of the meeting, the directors committed themselves to strive for greater serenity, lightness and wisdom to face daily pressures; to strengthen their mission of educating and evangelising by being a point of reference for the young; to embed a feeling of belonging in their educational community; to value the multicultural character of their school as a feature of the Marist curriculum that respects distinctive regional traditions.

ECUADOR

NATIONAL SOLIDARITY MEETING

Between October 20 and 22, the National Solidarity Meeting of this country was held in Loja – Ecuador, Norandina Province. The coordinators of each locality participated: Santo Domingo, Quevedo, Quito, Macará, Catacocha and Loja. In this space of fraternity the different Marist projects of solidarity in Loja were visited: ITS DAB Technology, Medical Center of the UEF DAB, social works of the Father Julio Villarroel Shelter, Daniel Alvarez Sanchez Home for the Elderly and short and long term projects. There was the opportunity to visit the Sanctuary of the Virgin of El Cisne. In addition to these activities, the projects executed, those under development and future proposals were socialized.

Another aspect that was reviewed were the processes of volunteering in Ecuador, Interprovincial and International; as well as the Code of Ethics, Routes and Protocols for the defense,



guarantee and protection of children and adolescents. The meeting was led by Brother Antonio Pérez Valdeón, National Coordinator of Solidarity.

ITALY

3RD PHASE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

The Secretariat of the Laity of the Marist Institute will welcome 100 participants from across the world in Rome, from 4 to 11 November 2022, to discernment about the Lay Marist Vocation.

The International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation is a process of dialogue and discernment to which all Administrative Units are invited and which will run over four years. The intention is to provide answers to a series of questions being asked by lay Marists in different parts of the world.

This process of reflection and discernment has as its central focus the vocation of the lay Marist, its formation and accompaniment, the possible ways of bonding to the charism, and reflection on the organization of the laity in associative structure (civil and/or canonical). It is a dialogue on the present of the Marist laity, the future we dream of, and the communion with the Brothers for a greater vitality of the charism.

The second phase of the Forum concluded in July with the local and Province gatherings. The third phase will take place in Rome, the Residential International Forum, with representatives from all the Administrative Units.

The meeting starts on November 4th and will end on November 11th, 2022. It will be held at the Spiritual Retreat House Nostra Signora Madre della Misericordia.

For that meeting, the Secretariat of Laity has set the following orientation and objectives:



Together as lay women, lay men, and brothers, around Mary and Marcellin and in harmony with the Holy Spirit, we want to:

- To live a deep experience of the Global Christian Family in communion, co-responsibility, and spirit of discernment.
- To become aware of the Marist laity's current reality and plan for its future.
- To reflect on the contributions of the Administrative Units to the four objectives of the International Forum, with emphasis on objectives 3 and 4.
- To seek consensus on the key themes for the future of the Marist laity, based on the four objectives of the Forum, to be deepened, elaborated, and decided at the virtual Forum of 2024.
- Suggest ways to plan and organize the next steps of the Forum for the years 2023 and 2024: teams, themes, deadlines, and methodology.

[Further Information](#)

L'HERMITAGE

9 MARIST SCHOOLS IN CATALONIA RECOGNIZED AS CENTERS OF REFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS EDUCATION



UNICEF has recognized 9 Marist schools in **Catalonia** as referents in education for children's rights. This is a recognition for schools that work in education from the perspective of children's rights.

The fundamental objective of the community of Marist educators is to place children and their rights in a privileged and prominent place in school life, which must be guided by the principles of inclusion, equity, solidarity and quality. In the same way, it has to contribute to provide teaching with the dimensions of globality and interdependence, characteristic of today's world, and essential in the formation of children and adolescents as global citizens.

The **Marist schools of Catalonia** have made a commitment to integrate the rights of the child in the planning and in the daily school life. This determination has existed for some time for two reasons. On the one hand, because of the Marist vocation to always work in a network, whether it is one's own network or a network based on affinities in objectives. And, on the other hand, for the clear intention of exposing and showing the work before international organizations that guarantee that the work

process itself is a standardized process. The Marist community values that others who have made the journey before or who do it from a global perspective confirm that it is certainly being done in an optimal way.

Through this program, **UNICEF** offers training in Children's Rights to the teaching staff of the educational centers, also promoting the existence of mechanisms for child and adolescent participation in the center. In addition, the program promotes the creation of spaces for the protection and well-being of students and the improvement of the school climate through coexistence and cohesion of the educational community.

Collaborating with **UNICEF** requires a degree of involvement in order to face each year with increasing levels of commitment that bring increasingly profound changes in key aspects of our Educational Project.

In **Catalonia** there are as many as 22 educational centers that are recognized by **UNICEF** as referents in education in children's rights, and almost half of them belong to the Marist network.

EUROPE REGION

MISSION COUNCILS AND YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM PLAN MISSION IN EUROPE



The members of the Mission Council and the Youth Ministry Team of the **Europe Region** have developed new goals and meetings this month with the aim of advancing on issues related to Marist Mission and Ministry.

Mission Council

On October 3 and 4, 2022, the Mission Council of the Marist Region of Europe met in Alcalá de Henares. The Council welcomed Brother Pau Tristany de Juan, representing the **Province of L'Hermitage**, and Brother Román Álvarez as representative of the **Province of Compostela**.

At this meeting the Mission Council had several items on the agenda, including the approval of the new members of the Mission Teams and proposals for the appointment of some coordinators for the Youth Ministry and Education Teams. The European Mission Council (EMC) has also been working on the review and planning of the next training course for future European mission leaders.

On the other hand, Eladio Díez, a member of the annual educational theme team, joined the meeting with the council

to present the visual proposals for the 2023-2024 theme. The Council also exchanged impressions on the procedures of its own functioning and the link that should be strengthened with the coordinators of the Mission teams.

Youth Pastoral Team

This past Monday, October 10, the European Youth Pastoral Team met by videoconference. This meeting was an opportunity to meet and introduce Fernando Ocaña, who until then was the coordinator, among the members of the team.

As for the topics and the work that the team addressed, different issues stand out, such as the review of the Marist Youth Meeting of Guardamar that took place in August 2022. In addition, the proposal to be made to the MEC for the creation of a European Commission for the Animation of Marist Youth.

It was also an opportunity to be in contact with Brother Angel Medina, Director of the Secretariat Brothers Today, and to be able to talk about the theme of the Year of Marist Vocations that began this June 2022.

Article extracted from "**Marist Region of Europe**"

marist world

FRANCE: COMMUNITY OF NOTRE DAME DE L'HERMITAGE



MADAGASCAR: CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS IN FIANARANTSOA



BRAZIL: VOCATIONAL MINISTRY IN THE PROVINCE BRASIL CENTRO-SUL



SPAIN: XX HERMITAGE, SCHOOL OF EDUCATORS



MEXICO: COLEGIO PEDRO MARTÍNEZ VÁZQUEZ, IRAPUATO



SPAIN: MARCHA COMPOSTELA - VALLADOLID

BRAZIL

INTERPROVINCIAL PROJECT IN AMAZONIA OFFERS MUSICAL FORMATION FOR CHILDREN

The Marist Mission in Amazonia is an initiative of the three Marist Provinces of Brazil, which counts on the support of other congregations, as well as the action of religious and lay volunteers who work in the region. In April 2022, the Marist Community of Labrea took over, together with the Parish of Saint Francis and Saint Sebastian, at the mouth of the Tapauá River, the Project of Formation of Teachers of the Indigenous Villages which are on the banks of the Tapauá, Cuniuá and Piranha Rivers. Brothers Nilvo Luiz Favretto and Ronilton Neves Santos were sent to accomplish this mission. They live in Santo Antônio do Camaruã and, besides the project with the teachers from the indigenous

villages, they animate the Pastoral Care, celebrate with the community, give school tutoring and adult literacy classes.

In this context, the project “Nos Acordes Desse Rio” (In the Chords of this River) was born. It is a musical initiation program, with theoretical and practical guitar lessons for children, teenagers and young people from the communities of Foz do Tapauá and Camaruã. The ob-



jective of the project is to bring culture, knowledge, strengthen musical talents and teach how to play an instrument, so that the communities can use it in local celebrations, liturgical animation, and pastoral meetings.

28 OCTOBER: MEMORY OF THE FR. CHAMPAGNAT'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE YOUNG MONTAGNE

The encounter with the young Montagne was an event that profoundly marked Father Champagnat's life, and clearly brought about the birth of the Marist Institute. Traditionally, on October 28th the memory of this meeting is celebrated. It is a reminder of the importance and urgency of our mission, as relevant today as it was in Father Champagnat's time.

Inspired by our Founder, who walked for several hours from La Valla to this place, we feel the same call to get going and meet the new Montagnes of today, wherever they may be.

"What burned in Father Champagnat's heart as he made his way back to La Valla after encountering the young Montagne? What energy pulsed through him, leading him to found the Institute just a few months later? We might ask,



are we not called to travel this same road again, allowing ourselves to be deeply challenged by the situation of the young Montagne of today?" (Br. Emili Turú).

Marcellin Champagnat meets the Young Montagne (Furet)

"Something happened in a clearly providential manner, to dispel Father Champagnat's misgivings and make him decide to go about setting up the Society of Brothers without further delay. He was summoned to a hamlet, one day, in order to hear a sick boy's confession. As usual, he set out at once. Before proceeding with the confession, he put a few questions to make sure that he was sufficiently instructed to receive the sacraments. To his great surprise, the child knew nothing about the principal mysteries and, in fact, did not even know whether God existed. Greatly upset at finding a twelve-year-old in such ignorance and fearing that he would die in such a state, he sat down beside him to teach him the mysteries and truths necessary for salvation. It took him two hours for the instruction and confession. It was extremely difficult to impart, even the most fundamental truths, to a child who was so sick that he scarcely grasped what was being said.

Having heard his confession and helped him make several acts of love of God and of contrition as preparation for death, the

priest left him, to minister to a sick person in an adjoining house. As he went out, he asked after the sick youth, to be told by his tearful parents that he had died a moment after the priest's departure. Then he felt an upsurge of joy at having been there so opportunely, but it was mingled with a shudder of dread at the danger run by the poor boy, whom he had perhaps just snatched from the gates of hell.

He went home overwhelmed by those feelings and saying over and over to himself: "How many children are in the same predicament every day, exposed to the same dangers because they have no-one to teach them the truths of faith!" Then he became obsessed, with overwhelming intensity, by the thought of founding a Society of Brothers to obviate such disasters through the Christian education of children. The result was that he went off to see John-Mary Granjon and tell him everything that he planned to do. He explained to him all the good that his projected Institute was capable of achieving and asked him if he would like to be part of it and dedicate himself to the education of children." (Life of blessed Marcellin Joseph Benedict Champagnat – Br. Jean-Baptiste Furet – 1856).

LAVALLA200>

REGINA BIASIBETTI: 4 YEARS OF SERVICE IN SYRACUSE

Regina Biasibetti, known as Nina, lived for almost 4 years in the international Lavalla200> community in Syracuse. She comes from the Brazil South-Amazon Province and arrived in Italy in November 2018. She returned to Brazil last July. In what follows, she shares with us some aspects of her experience that stood out for her.



Having had a couple of prior short experiences of local and international volunteering, I felt a call to go on a longer mission experience with very vulnerable people. I wanted to dedicate 100% of my time to this while living in a Marist community and sharing in ministry with other members of the community. I felt restless, a flame burning very strongly within. As a lay person, I saw that the Lavalla200> project offered me the possibility I was after.

Life in community, and that in an intercultural and international context, was one of the central points of my time on mission. We lived together as brothers and lay people under the same roof. It was very enriching; you learn a lot from each other's personality, their life experience and points of view. Another central point was our ministry, of doing and being. Being present to people in need – mostly migrants, but others as well. Being a reference point, one that was safe and reliable. People trusted us and our work a lot; we managed to build many bridges, to be a beacon for so many people, always retaining our simplicity, our Marian way of being.

The key words that best capture my experience in Italy are: care, ministry, culture, presence, communion, dignity and welcome. The lessons that I would highlight are respect for differences and not judging the choices and options of others. Each heart brings a universe, a sea of experiences, feelings and reasons.

The most important occasions for me were when we shared our life stories, what led so many people to leave their homes, families and countries of origin to migrate, to start from scratch in other lands. Each person's story is valuable, rich, and sacred. It was so beautiful and precious for me to play a small part in those journeys.

Those years meant meeting different faces of Jesus. He spoke other languages, had a different skin tone, came from poor and dangerous places, from wars, from large families... He struggled a lot to be in a safer and more prosperous land; he had a lot of hope. My time as a missionary in Syracuse enabled

me to be more deeply and personally present in people's lives, to BE with them. It was transforming for me.

Among the challenges I experienced during this period, I would highlight: Language: to succeed in listening, understanding, speaking, writing, communicating. Words carry layers of meaning and knowing how to express yourself is very important, especially as we had to help other foreigners. Mastering Italian was essential.

- Living in community: respecting differences of culture, opinion and personality. Managing to make decisions about community or ministry with so many points of view expressed was at times very difficult and complicated; it required patience, reflection, discernment and calm.
- Finding your place: you arrive in your new home; you study and learn the language; you get to know how to communicate; and the next step is to act, to get to know the reality, to see possibilities to offer your talents or what you might learn/improve for the sake of your ministry.
- Loneliness: you miss friends and family, expressions of affection and tenderness. It is not a constant feeling because you meet so many people who are there for you, a shoulder to lean on, ears to listen ... but homesickness certainly remains a companion along the way.

After the journey I have made, I have come to realise that paying attention to what the heart is saying is fundamental. If you are feeling restless, if you feel a pulsating desire inside to depart, to be of help somewhere, to give of yourself, don't be indifferent! Listen to yourself! There are so many people in need of help, so many projects, so many opportunities... The harvest is really plentiful, and we are capable of doing so many things!

If you are interested in dedicating a significant amount of time in a Lavalla200> community, please contact your provincial or write to cmi@fms.it. [Read more here.](#)

GENERAL HOUSE

MARK O'FARREL APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT OF LAITY



The Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, and the General Council have appointed, on 2 November 2022, Mark O'Farrel (Australia) as assistant director of the Secretariat of Laity for a period of three years. He begins this assignment on 1st January 2023, and will replace Agnes Reyes (East Asia), who has been Assistant Director since 2017. Mark O'Farrell will work in conjunction with Raul Amaya (Santa Maria de los Andes), director of the Secretariat, and Manu Gomez, assistant director, (Mediterranea) together with the Extended Secretariat of Laity.

Mark O'Farrel

Mark was born in Canberra and grew up in a large Catholic family being educated by the Brothers first at Marist College, Pearce for primary years and then high school at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.

He is from the Province of Australia and lives in Sydney with his wife Fiona, also a teacher and teenage daughter Samantha. He is 54 years old and currently works in adult formation for Marist Schools Australia. Prior to this appointment, Mark worked for over twenty years as a Religious Education teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal in Marist schools.

He has a great love of learning and has completed a post graduate study in Religious Education, Educational Leadership and Theology.

His formation journey has been blessed with many encounters which have helped shape and nurture his Marist vocation since school. This has included a joint formation experience, solidarity immersions, a pilgrimage to Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, Rome and the Holy Land, spiritual accompaniment program and International Lay Animators course to name a few.

Mark has been a member of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat for four years, part of the spiritual family of St Marcellin in Australia with members who seek to live out their vocation in ways that are inspired by Marist spirituality and values.

His current ministry work with the Marist Mission and Life Formation Team has engaged his love of history and spirituality writing online formation programs in scripture and Marist spirituality to share with Marists worldwide to help foster and deepen their spiritual formation journey.



MALAWI

FINAL VOWS OF BROTHERS MISHECK, RAPHAEL AND STEVEN



The Southern Africa Marist Brothers celebrated on 22nd October, in Dedza, Malawi, the final vows of Brothers Misheck Mkanthama, Raphael Time and Steven Chinso-
lo. Members of the local Church, Brothers, family members and lay from all communities and schools in Malawi as well as representatives from South Africa and Zambia streamed to Marist Secondary School to witness the profession. The three made their final vows before Br Norbert Mwila; the Provincial of the Province of Southern Africa; delegate of the Superior General, Br Ernesto Sánchez. The celebration was led by Monsignor John Chithonje; the Vicar of the Catholic Diocese of Dedza. A joyful atmosphere gripped the congregation throughout the celebration. In their speeches, the main celebrant (Monsignor John Chithonje), the Provincial and the representative of the parents challenged the three Brothers and all of us to remain faithful to our vows and promises and be exemplary in our way of life as a way of attracting more vocations to Marist life. The Parish Priest acknowledged the great impact that Marist

Brothers have played over the many years of their Presence in the Parish and the Diocese of Dedza; and urged them to continue doing quietly what they know best for the glory of God. The last celebration of final vows in Malawi was in 2016. And for the Marists of Champagnat in Malawi, this celebration provided an opportune time to thank God for his unwavering love and faithfulness. The celebration was a very gratifying day; a day endowed with grace, and one that will remain in the hearts of the three Brothers who made their final commitment to the Lord, and also to all those who witnessed the events of the day. Undoubtedly, this celebration will remain a source of renewed hope to Marist Life in Malawi and in the Province of Southern Africa.

In an age where long-term commitments are becoming a rare experience, and at a time when the gospel of prosperity seems to take centre-stage, we remain very grateful to God who has inspired the three Brothers to make their final commitment. We pray and look forward to more vocations to Marist Brotherhood.

PERU

BR. LUIS CARLOS, VICAR GENERAL, VISITS THE MARISTS OF PERU

Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, visited the Peru Sector of the Province of Santa Maria de los Andes from 18 to 26 October. During his stay, he took the opportunity to meet with various authorities and to visit some schools in the capital.

During the first two days of his stay, Br. Luis Carlos shared ideas with the executive councils of the ten school works of the country, who had gathered at the Champagnat Residence, after two years of meeting online, to plan for 2023. Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez addressed the theme of servant and prophetic leadership, adding to the quality of the services they are currently providing.

On 21 October, Br Luis Carlos met with the authorities and lecturers at the Marcellin Champagnat University, and later with the Mission and Life Council of the country. On both occasions, the Vicar General encouraged the Brothers and lay people in their leadership and care to continue to generate Marist life. And on 22 October, he had a combined meeting with lay communities and fraternities.

Over the weekend, Br Luis Carlos also met with the Brothers and lay communities. In the community of Miraflores, 11 Brothers from 4 communities came together: Miraflores, Sagrada



Familia, Huacho and Chosica. During this meeting, the Vicar General shared some information about the Institute and the General Conference. He also encouraged the Brothers in their lives and mission to be hopeful as they considered their future. Besides this meeting, Br Luis Carlos visited the Sagrada Familia community to greet and congratulate Brother José Tico, who will be 100 years old on 18 November, a wonderful sign of his generosity and dedication to the Marist mission in Peru.

The Vicar General also visited the schools of San José del Callao, Santa Maria de los Andes in Villa Maria del Triunfo and San Luis de Barranco. In each of these schools, he interacted with the youngest children, the students in their final year of school and the leadership teams, in an atmosphere of listening, joy and friendliness.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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