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# MARIST NEWS

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## XVI MESSAGE FROM THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

### MARCELLIN INSPIRES OUR MISSION

The XVI message from the Marist International Mission Commission, with the title of Marcellin inspires our mission, invite to “feel the joy of inheriting the beautiful legacy of Marcellin Champagnat, our Father and Founder, and that of the first Brothers. They are an inspiration to us, encouraging us to listen to the Spirit, to discern present realities and to act according to the will of God.”

The text, prepared by Brother Gregorio Linacero, on behalf of the International Commission, highlights the “spiritual patrimony received that we must pass on”, and recalls that “this transmission is the continuation of a spirit that is alive and that allows us to reinforce the vocational dimension of both the brothers and lay men and lay women, as well as to continue building the Kingdom of God in society and in the Church with a characteristic Marist flavor.”

In the same way, the message highlights the role of Marists – brothers and laypeople together – as continuators of Champagnat’s intuitions, “in fidelity to the Gospel, we show attitudes of welcome and preference for those on the margins of society, and we work for the inclusion of



## general administration

- On Monday, brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley, directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, participated in the virtual meeting of the commission that is working on the revision of the Formation Guide document.
- On Monday, the meeting of the Network of Centers of Marist Memory of the Region of South America began with the participation of Dorotea Cinanni, director of the archives of the General House, and Br. Guillermo, Postulator General.
- Since last Saturday, brothers Ben and Josep Maria, liaison councilors for the Oceania Region, have been visiting Australia. They were in Perth and visited Alice Springs and Santa Teresa, before heading to the other side of Australia, where they will visit Melbourne and Bendigo, and then Sydney, where the first chapter of the new Star of the Sea Province will be held, and which begins the December 8.
- Brothers Ken and João Carlos, liaison councilors with the Arco Norte Region, will be visiting the Province of México Central until Saturday.
- Since last week, Brother Óscar has been visiting the Province of Brazil Centro-Sul.
- On Tuesday, the brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley participated in the online meeting of the Brothers Today Commission of the Europe Region.
- From Monday to Friday, the directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, brothers Ángel Diego and Francis, visit the Marist mission in El Salvador and Guatemala.
- Since last week, Rita Pala, a member of the FMSI team, has been in Bolivia to supervise the project “Rights of children and women in Bolivia: follow-up of the recommendations of the UN bodies”.
- From Wednesday to Friday, Br. Ernesto, Superior General, will participate in the Assembly of the Union of Superiors General, in Rome. On Friday, the superiors will meet the Pope Francis.
- Starting on Wednesday, Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, will visit the Province of Central Mexico.
- Since Friday, Br. Xavier Barceló, from the ongoing formation team of the General Administration, has been following the provincial retreat for Central America in El Salvador.
- On Saturday, the annual meeting of Brothers is held in Rome, which will be attended by about 80 Brothers from different congregations. The directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat are part of the team that organizes the meeting every year. Several brothers from the General House, among them Br. Ernesto, will participate in the meeting.
- On the 26th, the transition from the Pacific District to the new Star of the Sea Province will take place. The celebration will be online, and will include the participation of brothers Ernesto, Luis Carlos, Ben and Josep Maria.

people and respect for their dignity.”

In the document, the commission encourages Marists to follow their own style of mission, inspired by Mary, the Good Mother: “She models in us a way of being and living the faith”. The text also speaks about the “significant presence” of the Marists, and points out that “this presence, as well as being physical, must be emotional and spiritual”.

- Through this XVI message, the International Commission calls on all Marists “to be witnesses (parable and prophecy) for the Church:

- in the face of a culture of violence and separation, propose the value of fraternity.
- in the face of a culture of segregation and discarding, propose the value of the option for the marginalized of society and of the Church.
- in the face of a culture of individualism and isolation, propose the value of integral care, both for people and for the environment.”

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## MEXICO

# MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY NETWORK

The Executive Committee of the Marist International Solidarity Network met in Mexico City from 14 to 18 November to continue its networking.

This meeting had three fundamental objectives:

- Advance in the work of updating the Network’s documents.
- Strengthen and organise the different Working Groups.
- Hold a face-to-face meeting of the members of the Committee, after the years of the pandemic.

The Executive Committee is made up of representatives from each of the Regions of the Institute, as well as the two Brothers who form the Solidarity Secretariat. A total of 8 members attended the meeting: Socorro Álvarez (Mexico Central), Analía Ruggeri (Cruz del Sur), Maryury Morales (Norandina), Joe Nacianceno (East Asia), Javier Salazar (**SED-Spain**), Andrea Rossi (**FMSI-Rome**), and Brothers Francis Lukong and Ángel Diego, directors of the Solidarity Secretariat.

During the first three days, the meeting was joined by Brother Ken McDonald, General Councillor, as the link with the area of solidarity; also present were Brother Luis Felipe, Provincial of Mexico Central, and Brother Rodrigo Espinosa, responsible for Mission in the Province of Mexico Central and Secretary General of the Arco Norte Region.

The first part of the work focused on a review of the five documents that are key to all the activity of the Network: the Strategic Plan, Functions Manual, Glossary, Operational Action Plan and MoU. During the work, each of the documents were studied individually, following a methodology that goes from personal reflection to large group sharing (time for personal re-reading, sharing by language groups and assembly).

The second part of the work has been focused on the Working Groups of the Network, looking at how to offer some guidelines to guide the progress of these Groups, taking into account their



specific reality and in sync with the rest of the Network.

Throughout the week’s work there were various moments to encourage personal encounters and exchanges between all the participants. A highlight was our contact with the reality of the province of Central Mexico, through a meeting with the Mission Team and a visit to the Miravalles educational centre.

**“We are born to cooperate with each other, just as each of our feet, hands, eyelids and teeth has a counterpart.”**

**(Marcus Aurelius)**

As a summary of the week’s experiences, we can signal the great progress in work proposed for the different areas, as well as the good atmosphere among all the participants of the meeting. With joy we have been able to bring to life the thought presented at the beginning

of this article. We have enjoyed working together as a diverse group in order to succeed in our common goal of growing as a Global Family.

This short summary also serves to thank the brothers and lay people of the province of Mexico Central for their welcome and for their help in making this meeting such a success.

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola  
Director of the **Secretariat of Solidarity**

## UNITED STATES

The two novices of the Province, Rob Dittus and Ryan Richter, traveled to Medellín, Colombia to join other novices from the Arco Norte región. They spent two weeks at the Internacional Novitiate La Valla getting to know brothers and novices from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Colombia — joining them in prayer, ministry, and community.

## PACIFIC DISTRICT

On Saturday, November 21, Marists from Fiji, New Zealand, Kiribati and Samoa will come together online for a celebration marking the District's transition to Star of the Sea Province, opening on December 8, spanning the District and Province of Australia.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

The provincial leaders of youth and vocational ministry participated in a pastoral meeting on formation, innovation, and leadership, from November 14 to 17, in Guatemala. The objective was to know and learn more about the processes of significant experiences, vision, innovation, and mission to strengthen the pastoral processes.

## NORANDINA

The team of the laity of Colombia has met in Popayán, from November 8 to 14. The schedule included the visit of the five fraternities of the city; the evaluation of the strategic plan outlined for this year, dedicated to the care and cultivation of Marist vocations; and the meeting of 24 lay Marist animators, community leaders in the country.

## COLOMBIA

## MARIST EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE PROVINCE OF NORANDINA



The Department of Marist Educational Ministry of the Province of Norandina, in alliance with the Pontifical Javeriana University of Bogota, Colombia, recently conducted a diploma course on “Marist Educational Leadership”. There were 127 participants, including principals, coordinators, administrators and teachers from the Marist schools of Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia itself.

This programme ran for 130 hours in all and was carried out in three phases, two of them face-to-face and one virtual, thus treating 5 important modules related to leadership:

- Module I: Theological – Pastoral dimensions.
- Module II: Marist Charism.
- Module III: Socio-emotional skills and their management within schools.
- Module IV: Educational administration and legislation.
- Module V: Educational management.

Starting in 2021, this training included three cohorts:

- 13 September, 2021 – 12 November, 2021.
- 28 March, 2022 – 20 May, 2022.
- 5 September, 2022 – 4 November, 2022.

For the directors of the Javeriana University, this alliance with the Marist Community provided a means of following through on the proposal of Pope Francis regarding a Global Education Pact, which seeks to contribute to the formation of all children and young people in the world.

Br Leonardo Yepes Núñez, National Education Coordinator in Colombia, says that the aim of the programme has been to form leaders capable of having a transforming impact in the field of educational ministry through our networking at both province and international levels.



STAR OF THE SEA

# MARIST PRESENCE IN VANUATU

Vanuatu is a Melanesian country in Oceania and comprises about 80 islands. Marist Fathers first arrived in Vanuatu in 1887. Some years later, the Brothers opened a school in Port Vila in 1905. Due to a number of factors, it closed after only 8 years. The Brothers returned in 1991 to conduct a vocational centre, the St Martin De Porres Centre at Lololima. This was staffed by Brothers from New Caledonia, mostly French. They withdrew in 2010.

Currently, four Brothers comprise the community at Espiritu Santo (or just Santo). Three are born in Vanuatu and one is a Solomon Islander. The Brothers' House is located at 'Lycee et College Technique St Michel', which is a diocesan school. The Brothers are involved in teaching, both in the academic and technical sections, administration, boarding and the school development projects. In 2020 the savagery of Cyclone Harold destroyed much of the school and the Brothers' house. With the assistance of AMS and the Province the school has been repaired and rebuilt, and a new Brothers' house constructed.

'Lycee et College Technique St Michel' is a co-educational school and technical college from Years 7 to 12 governed by the Diocese. It has both academic and technical strands. The Technical section helps students develop their skills so they can



find employment in fields such as joinery, mechanics, cooking, hospitality, sewing and housekeeping. It is important to remember that the necrology of Oceania Marist Province shows that more than 60 Marist missionaries, now deceased, worked in the Region of Vanuatu. A Marist group exists with the name Champagnat Marist Family. It consists of Brothers, teachers and students. Now 15 teachers and over 60 students, boys and girls, are involved. The purpose of the group is to deepen the Marist Spirit and strengthen spiritual awareness and life within the school. The group also does outreach work with the sick in the parish and the nearby local communities. It gathers for prayer and helps animate Masses in the Parish.

EUROPA

# REGION PROMOTES COURSE IN GUIDING FUNCTION

From November 7 to 11 took place the first section of the course 'Formation for Guidance Counselors' of the school year 2022- 2023 within the scope of **Marist Europe**.

Five educators from the **Province of Compostela**, five from the **Province of Ibérica** and nine from the **Province of Mediterránea** participated in the first stage. The common objective is to give a better orientation based on Marist pedagogy.

More than 35 hours of formation were shared, including dynamics of vocational, academic and competency orientation as



the main axes of the formation that took place in Valladolid, in the Champagnat Marist Residence. The participants have shared lear-

ning and good common life experiences. The second week of the course will take place in March in El Escorial.

## marist world

CÔTE DIVOIRE: COLLÈGE MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT, KORHOGO



GHANA: OUR GOOD MOTHER SCHOOL, ASHALAJA



BRAZIL: BR. ÓSCAR, GENERAL COUNCILOR, VISITS THE BRASIL CENTRO-SUL PROVINCE



MEXICO: BROTHERS JOÃO CARLOS AND KEN VISIT THE PROVINCE OF MÉXICO CENTRAL



SPAIN: COLEGIO CHAMBERÍ



COLOMBIA: MYM VOLUNTEERS FROM THE MARIST INSTITUTIONS OF POPAYÁN AND CALI.

## PROVINCE OF IBERICA XVII MARIST EDUCATORS' DAY

More than 600 educators from different Marist schools in Spain, from the **Province of Iberica**, attended the XVII Marist Educators' Day, which was held on 5 November in the Marist schools of Santa María de Toledo and San José de Logroño.

"Now is the time to smile: challenges of education in times of uncertainty" was the title of the conference, which was led by Antonio Ferreira and Loli García, psychology experts, who spoke about the field of education in times of uncertainty. In keeping with the theme of the conference, two well-known comedians also took part: Diego Arjona, in Toledo, and Sergio Encinas, in Logroño.

During the day, the educators – coming from Euskadi, Aragón, La Rioja, Navarra, Castilla La Mancha, Madrid and the province of Cáceres in Extremadura – had the opportunity to stop and become aware of their feelings and emotions about the COVID period, and to check if they are addressing them in a healthy and effective way.



In addition, the finalist projects of the III, IV and V Provincial Competition for best educational practices were presented during the day, with time available to learn about the winning projects from their creators. The event ended with the presentation of the work camps proposed for the summer of 2023 to teachers and workers of the Marist works by the Marist NGO **ONGD SED**.



# 25 NOVEMBER: THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The United Nations defines violence against women as ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.’ Statistics based on this, reveal that about 736 million women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence or harassment at least once in their life. Stories of rape, sexual coercion, trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation, school gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, cyber-harassment as well as psychological violence experienced by women politicians are common. The situation is worse in patriarchal societies.

Hoping that the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing would draw the world’s attention to the plight of women, Pope John Paul II, in his letter of May 26, 1995, to Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, told her that the Church has always demonstrated high regard for women in action and in word by providing them education and health care. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action for women’s empowerment did answer the Pope’s prayer and caught the world’s attention.

## November 25

In 1999, the UN General Assembly declared November 25 as the International Day to raise public awareness of gender-based violence across the world. Progress in this direction has taken place in the industrialized and developed countries. Women in these countries can fight for their rights because gender inequality and violence against them are no longer tolerated. Unfortunately, this is not the case in the developing countries where women remain silent to harmful social and gender norms which justify gender inequality practices such as men’s authority to discipline women and children or public shaming of female adulterers.

The Catholic Church condemns all forms of violence against



women because they have negative repercussions for children. Research shows that over fifty percent of men who abuse their wives also beat their children, and that children who grow up in violent homes are more likely to become abusers and perpetuate a vicious cycle of violence. To redress gender inequality, the Church teaches that women and men are equal in dignity and rights and presents Jesus’ compassionate and respectful attitude towards women as the Christian perspective to raise awareness of gender-based violence. On several occasions, Pope Francis condemned violence against women referring to it as satanic and an insult to God. In one of his homilies about ‘Motherhood and Women’, he invited everybody to promote mothers and protect women.

## Gender equality promotes by Marists

As educators and advocates of Child Rights, we, Marists of Champagnat, promote gender equality in our schools. We believe that children should grow up with the spirit of love and respect for one another. Champagnat always insisted that equality ought to be the hallmark of Marist schools and characterize all aspects of the children’s education. His educational principle of ‘to educate children well, one must love them and love them all equally’ continues to inspire our educational approach. This principle invites us to see in all our students only their conduct, love them and treat them all as our children.

Brother Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity




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