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MARIST NEWS

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



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Dear Marists of Champagnat,
This Christmas, may we connect deeply with the gift of peace that Jesus brings us:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give it to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled; be not afraid (Jn 14,27).

In so many places and in so many situations that we live in today's world, we need to embrace this gift of peace and be artisans of peace in our communities, families, and schools.

The peace of Jesus is first of all his gift, the fruit of charity. It is never a human conquest; and starting from this gift, it is the harmonic ensemble of one's relationships, with God, with oneself, with others and with creation (Pope Francis to the Superiors General, 26 November 2022).

With Mary, may we welcome Jesus and His peace in the depths of our hearts, and with Marcellin, may we live with passion the mission of making Him known and loved throughout 2023, the 206th year of the foundation of our Institute.

Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General

general administration

- Since last Sunday, Brother Óscar Vicario, General Councillor, has been in Belo Horizonte, where he is animating the retreat of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, with the theme of "living passionately our being Marists today". The retreat finishes on Saturday.
- Also beginning on Sunday is the visit of Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, to the international community of Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, together with the leaders of the Province of l'Hermitage. The visit ends on Thursday.
- On Monday, Brothers Josep Maria and Ben, General Councillors, met with the leaders of the 4 Administrative Units of Asia and Oceania, via Zoom.
- On the same day, Brother Carlos Alberto, Director of the

Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, participated in the meeting in preparation for the III Congress of Marist Youth Ministry, to be held in January in Rio de Janeiro.

- On Wednesday, there was an online meeting on the revision of the document In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat. The team is coordinated by the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization (Brothers Carlos Alberto and Mark) and includes the participation of other members of the General Administration: Brothers Luis Carlos, Ben, Ángel Diego and Valdicer.

- On Thursday, Brother Carlos Alberto participates in an online meeting with leaders of the Marist Youth Ministry of the América Sur Region.

STAR OF THE SEA

FIRST PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The new province Star of the Sea was inaugurated on 8 December 2022 and the first Provincial Chapter took place from 9 to 14 December, in Mittagong, Australia. Brother Peter Carroll assumed as Provincial and the chapter indicated as members of the Provincial Council Brothers Darren Burge, Graham Neist, Gregory McDonald (Vice Provincial), John Hazelman, Peter Horide and Sefo Une. Present from the General Government were Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, Josep-Maria Soteras and Ben Consigli, Councillors General.

The creation of the new Province was communicated on 10 May 2011 by the Superior General, who informed the brothers of the Province of Australia and the District of the Pacific that the two Administrative Units would form the new Province. The Star of the Sea Province consists of 11 countries: Australia, Cambodia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Samoa.

First provincial Chapter

At the opening chapter under the theme “Navigating New Waters Together,” Brother Ernesto began his presentation by thanking John Hazelman and Peter Carroll for their leadership of the Province of Australia and the District of the Pacific over the past three years.

In his presentation Br. Peter, Provincial, said: “We are part of one global Marist family, and it is the urgings of the Holy Spirit and the Call of the General Chapter that brings us here. It is a hopeful move for the future”.

For his part, Br. Darren Burge, Chair of the Steering Committee said: “The province begins its journey. From the delegates at this Chapter, it will need ‘genuine and active listening’. What does God want of us? How and where will Mary guide us?”

This Chapter reviewed various issues/areas raised by the Working Groups in order to assist the incoming Council. More information

The second and third day were devoted to the Election Process for the Provincial Council and to the key areas to which the council should give its energies. Chapter Working Groups were set up and the areas named were:

- Brothers Together (pastoral care)
- Formation Together (Brothers and Lay)
- Mission – the broad areas of education and integral ecology.
- Health and Wellbeing
- Wounded Healers – the impact of the sexual abuse crisis on the Brothers and their morale.

During the fourth day time was spent with discussions on the



Province Finance. This flowed into Work Groups with focus on areas that included health and wellbeing, communications, integral ecology, formation, mission and education, ministries, safeguarding, shared Marist life and vocations.

The fifth day focused on the discernment about commitments and priorities for the next 18 months. It was divided in 3 Session: Shared Marist Life (Brothers and Lay Together). This session was focused on the question: What are the needs of Communities, Ministries and living and praying together, across the province and in each of the Countries? To assist with this there was a panel made up of invited people who have been at meetings and gatherings working in this area: Nathan Ahearne and Elizabeth Falconer from the Marist and Life Formation Team, Br. Siasiloane (Samoa) and Br Barry Burns (New Zealand).

Leadership. This session returned to the issue of Leadership in the Star of the Sea Province and built on discussions from earlier in the Chapter. It was led by Br. Peter Carroll. On the other hand, delegates discussed the issues at their table groups, and provided feedback.

Documents to be approved. Three documents were tabled for Approval by the Chapter.

Province Norms for the Second Provincial Chapter 2025; Rules of Procedure for the Second Provincial Chapter 2025 and Code of Conduct.

The final day of the Star of the Sea Chapter began with Recollection Time. The scripture event chosen as the basis of this recollection was the Road to Emmaus. Time was then spent in personal and group reflection. The focus was what kind of Marist Brotherhood to be in that part of the world, and what do Marist Brothers desire for this Province?

In the closing comments, the General Councillors present to the Chapter, Brothers Ben Consigli and Josep Maria Soteras, considered 3 important aspects: Assume and continue to assume the goodwill of the Brothers and Sisters; Communication is crucial and Prayer.

The Chapter concluded with Mass and a meal of celebration and thanks. The Commissioning Ceremony can [be viewed on YouTube](#)

[Further information about Star of the Sea Chapter](#)

MEXICO

Brothers Víctor Franco Méndez (México Central) and Cristóbal Tovias Fraga (México Occidental) made their first profession on December 17, in Querétaro.



ASIA

On December 10, four brothers from Vietnam renewed their vows of religious life: Peter Bao, Anthony Pham Thuan, Joh Hung, and Joseph Thuong.



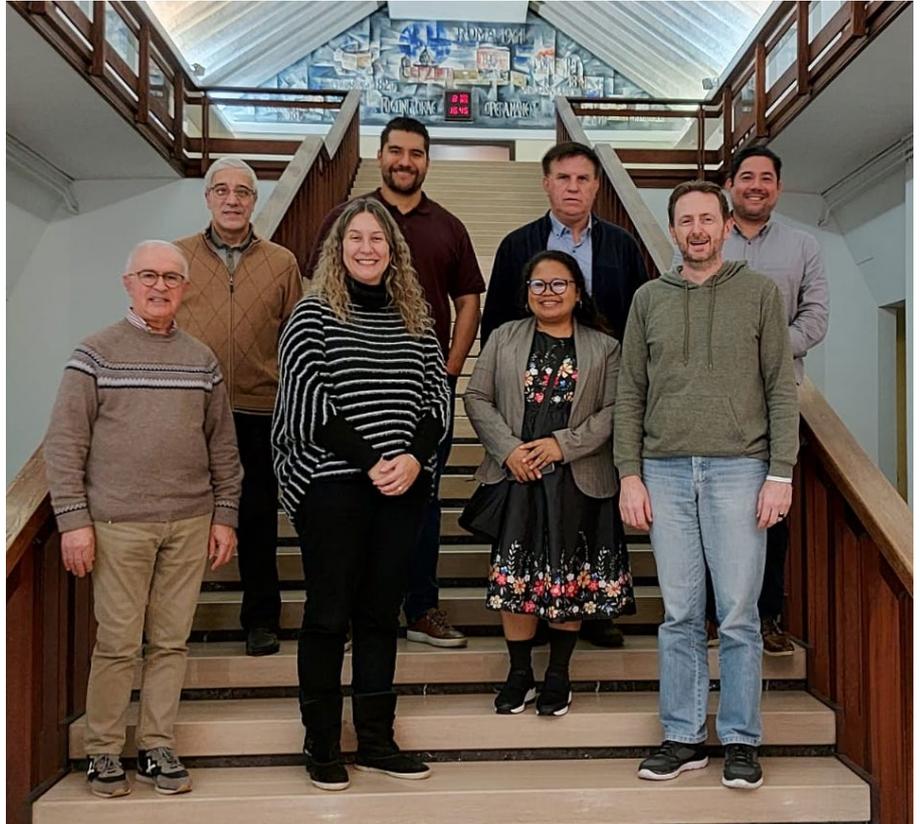
BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

The Provincial Retreat in Florianópolis was marked by the perpetual profession of Br. Edicarlos Pereira Coelho, the first profession of Br José Augusto Wendler and the renewal of vows of Brothers Bruno, Carlos, Nathan and Rafael. You can watch the celebration [at this link](#)



GENERAL HOUSE

TEAM WORKS ON THE ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL PART OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDE



With the approval of the new Constitutions and Statutes of the Institute, it is necessary to draw up an Administrative Guide that takes into account the changes. This normative and, at times, orienting instrument must guide the governance and management of the various aspects that govern the life and mission of the Institute.

The Administrative Guide has two main sections: one refers to those aspects that regulate the life of the Marist Brothers and the form of organization of the administrative units; the other concerns the economic and financial management of the congregation.

The first part is under the responsibility

of the Brother Secretary General while the second is the responsibility of the Econome General.

From December 5 to 8, a team met at the General House to begin the work that is the responsibility of the Econome General. This team, under the direction of Brother Jorge Gaio, Econome General, is composed of Alfie Custodio (East Asia), Rosangela Specht (Brasil Centro-Sul), Alejandro Cáceres (América Central), Citizen Tamatimu (Star of the Sea), Br. Alfonso Fernández (Iberica), Br. Innocent Iloabueke (Nigeria) and Br. Gregorio Linacero (General Administration).

This work will be carried out in stages and is expected to be completed by 2025.



MEXICO

PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL VISIT SCHOOLS IN MEXICO



The essence of Network Champagnat Global lies in the school, that is why the reflection can never be separated from the daily life of the school and that is the reason why the International Gathering of the Marist Global Network of Schools, in Mexico, had a second very significant moment dedicated to the visit of some of the school works of the two Marist Provinces.

For logistical reasons, the participants of the gathering were divided into three groups who had a wonderful experience of getting closer to the school, as we will briefly describe below:

Experience visit to Querétaro, Celaya and Irapuato (Province of México Central)

The group had the opportunity to visit the Marist Institute of Querétaro. They were welcomed by the management and students of the different stages of the school, sharing a moment of depth around the question of how to dream the world and how to realise this dream as Marists.

The group was also received by the authorities and students of the Marist University of Querétaro and were able to visit the facilities to know how the University works.

On the second day, the visitors went to the Marist school of Celaya, where they were able to enjoy an enriching sharing with some of the students of the centre and then to the school of Irapuato where they visited the most representative areas of the school. In the interiority room, they presented the different children's and youth movements that the school has.

Experience visit to Mexico City and Toluca (Province of Central Mexico)

A second group had the opportunity to visit the Mexico Institute in Toluca on 5th December. Welcomed by educators and stu-

dents, they discussed what we would say and ask of Marcellin today, all agreeing in the certainty that Marcellin would be happy to see how his project has built a global and extended family. The visit continued by learning about an innovation programme of the school using the incorporation of a technological platform KNOTION, which allows each student, either individually or through collaborative work teams, to develop a personalised and diverse learning path, based on challenges to be completed.

On Tuesday 6th, the visit focused on the Miravalles School, a school that lives its insertion in a marginalised neighbourhood, where the work of the community is the key to the organisation and improvement of its quality of life. The group witnessed a school that is inclusive in many ways, especially open to students with disabilities, who have found in Miravalles a family space that welcomes and cares for them.

Finally, the tour ended at the Instituto Mexico Secundaria in the heart of Mexico City, where they met with teachers and students, sharing their experiences of learning and teaching in times of pandemic, and what unites them in the Marist Mission. After lunch, they continued to share games and recreational activities that helped the visiting team to know more about the school, and also to know each other in those common themes that make us a great Marist global family.

Visit to Cocula and Guadalajara (Province of Mexico occidental)

Those who visited some of the works of the Province of Mexico occidental started their tour in a school located in a small town near Guadalajara called Cocula. In addition to the welcome and friendship of all the students, the visiting group was impressed by the Montagne programme where the school tries to incorpo-

rate and accompany children without possibilities, helping them in their professional, human and spiritual growth. The visitors continued with a visit to the Cervantes Costa Rica school in Guadalajara, a Marist educational space of excellence where the students demonstrated through their leadership and protagonism that the integral formation they receive prepares them to face their future with the right tools. On the second day, the group was received at the facilities of the Colegio Cervantes and the Marist University located in Loma Bonita (Guadalajara), where it was also very interesting to learn how the Marist philosophy is responding to higher education.

Finally, the group was divided into two parts in order to get to know two very impressive works that respond to very vulnerable realities: On the one hand, it was very pleasing to share with the students of the Champagnat School located in a very needy colony on the outskirts of the city of Guadalajara. It is striking to know how the students and their mothers are empowered to be the subjects of their own history. To add to the experience, those who visited the Ma-

rist Children and Youth Centre located in Villas de Guadalupe, in a marginalised area of Guadalajara, learned about the harsh reality of children who find themselves in a situation of poverty and marginalisation that does not allow them to attend public schools and thanks to the Marist centre they can be cared for. Inclusion, excellence, innovation, family spirit, protagonism of young people, empowerment of women... are some of the words that sum up a wonderful experience of encounter with our school reality.

Fotos



PHILIPPINES MARIST ASIA PACIFIC CENTER REOPENS IN JANUARY WITH 11 SCHOLASTICS

The newly formed formation team of the Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) had first face-to-face meeting on December 16-19 at the Immaculate Conception Novitiate in Tamontaka, Philippines. Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today were part of this meeting. The formation team is composed of Brothers Dominador Santiago (Rector), Ray Arthur, Devasiri Fernando, Jone Seduadua and Joseph Walton. Br. Allan de Castro, Provincial of East Asia, was present during the first session to welcome the formators on behalf of the Asia-Oceania leaders. MAPAC, which closed for over a year because of the pandemic, will start receiving brothers in post-novitiate in January 2023.



The meeting of the formation team was to get organized, review the formation program and prepare for the arrival of the 11 scholastics coming from different countries in Asia and Oceania.

GENERAL HOUSE

EDUCATING FOR PEACE – XVII MESSAGE FROM THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

The XVII message of the Marist International Mission Commission, entitled “ Educating for Peace: A need and an invaluable option”, emphasizes the Marist educational culture throughout the history, where the Marist Brothers have been spreading the Good News through the integration of human and gospel values.



The message, written by Br. Farancis Rahmat, on behalf of the International Commission, talks about the importance of education for peace in a “troubled, wounded and uncertain world,” where “peace remains our only hope as well as option to cultivate minds and hearts of children and youth to live in peace, love and joy”.

In the document, the values that the Marists promote in the different areas of their mission are emphasized, to promote integration and inclusion, respecting social and cultural diversity, socio-economic and political differences.

In this line, the values that promote peace through education are highlighted:

- Integration, not segregation
- A culture of encounter
- A sense of hope for coexistence
- Human rights advocacy

- Safe and peaceful spaces for youth
 - Leadership for peace and celebration
- In relation to prepare the students with critical democratic education to contribute to building a peaceful world, the message makes the following proposals:
- Fostering the culture of encounter and peace
 - Integrating global citizenship into our educational and training plans
 - To deepen a value-based and formation-oriented education
 - Focusing on marginalised
 - Participatory education for peace

Referring to educational and evangelistic programs that entail reception, inclusion, integration of children and youth, the commission mentions some actions or strategies that all Marists can follow to promote education for peace:

- Awareness
- Allocation of resources
- Curriculum
- Develop initiatives
- Participation of youth

In the conclusion of the XVII message of the International Marist Mission Commission, Br. Farancis emphasizes that “The task of education for peace is important as well as urgent, and it can be achieved only if we journey together as a global Marist family”.

PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)
[Other Messages](#)

NIGERIA

12 NEW POSTULANTS IN ORLU

On December 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Provincial of the Marist Province of Nigeria, Br. Vincent Uchenna Abadom, joyfully welcomed 12 new postulants. They come from different States in Nigeria to begin their initial formation of becoming religious in the Institute.

The postulants will stay in the Marist Formation Centre, Orlu, for two years before preceding to the Novitiate in Ghana. The formation team in the Postulate is composed of Brother Elias Odoh (Postulant Master), Christian Mbam, Vitus Osuji and Nicolas Obiefule.



marist world

PUERTO RICO: LAY GROUP GIER



SPAIN: COLEGIO CHAMBERÍ – ADVENT CONCERT



GUATEMALA: EVANGELIZATION TEAM AND YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK OF ARCO NORTE



COLOMBIA: MARIST COLLABORATORS IN THE AREA OF EVANGELIZATION – PASTO



SPAIN: MARIST SCHOOLS OF CATALUNYA RECOGNIZED AS REFERENCE CENTRE FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN



PHILIPPINES: TAMONTAKA NOVITIATE

ZAMBIA SOUTHERN AFRICA PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Southern Africa Province held its IX Chapter from December 7 to 10 in Lusaka, Zambia. During the event, Brother Emmanuel Mwanalirenji-Gunduloni began his term as Provincial, replacing Brother Norbert Mwila, Provincial since 2016. Present from the General Government were Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Ken McDonald, General Councilor.

The Chapter participants elected the six Brothers who will form the Provincial Council, assisting Brother Emmanuel in the leadership of Southern Africa: José Ebo João Francisco (Angola), Francis Jumbe (Malawi), Gemusse Dias (Mozambique), John Bwanali (South Africa), Patrick Bwalya (Zambia), Jacob Mutingwende (Zimbabwe).

The Southern Africa Province is composed of six countries: South Africa, Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



CHRISTMAS 2022

RUBERVAL MONTEIRO DA SILVA, OSB

From the Communications Office, on behalf of the General Administration of the Institute, we asked Father Ruberval Monteiro da Silva, a Benedictine, to prepare a Christmas Card. Fr. Ruberval is professor at St. Anselmo, Rome, where he teaches art, symbolic language and liturgy. He shares with us the explanation of the card he has prepared.

The inspiration is that of the oldest image of the nativity scene, which consisted only of the manger in the form of an altar, the Child in a girdle like those also used for the dead, and the ox and the donkey. We find it on sarcophagi from the 4th century onwards. The explicit quotation comes from the apocryphal

“Pseudo-Matthew” (XIV, 1) where it says:

Three days after the birth of OLJC, the blessed mother came out of the cave, entered a stable and laid the child in a manger, where the ox and the ass worshipped him. Then was fulfilled what the prophet Isaiah had said, “The ox recognized his owner, and the ass his master’s manger.” The animals themselves held him in their bosom and worshipped him.



Christmas Message of the Superior General

Then was fulfilled what the prophet Habakkuk had said, in the words, ‘You will be made known in the midst of two animals.’ Joseph and Mary remained in the same place for three days.

In Isaiah 1:3 we find:

The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner’s manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand’

The animals would be the first to worship the Lord, and after the shepherds, the poor of Israel.

We thought of adding young people as shepherds because the Marist charism consists precisely in leading them to Christ, guided by the star Mary. In a certain way, we learn from the simple eyes of both the young human beings and the humble animals to recognize the One who has nourished us with Himself.

The Communications Office of the General Administration wishes everyone a happy and Holy Christmas. We renew our wish that in 2023, the 206th year of the Institute, we will continue to spread the Good News of Christ, who was born child in Bethlehem.



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