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MARIST NEWS

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EAST CENTRAL AFRICA

CHILD SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTION IN THE PROVINCE



From 12 to 15 December, in the city of Kigali (Rwanda), 23 Marist leaders from across the Province East Central Africa held a meeting on Child Safeguarding and Protection.

The meeting was, on one hand, the culmination of a 3-year journey with the presentation of the "Provincial Policy on Child Safeguarding", and on the other hand, the launching pad for its implementation in all Marist apostolates and communities as we begin the year 2023.

Brothers Brendan Geary (West Central Europe) and John Ngigi (Salesian), who have accompanied the Province during the provincial journey, coordinated the assembly and the participants also benefited with the valuable input from Brother Ken McDonalds (General Councilor) on Marist

standards and best practices on Safeguarding and the eye opening experiences of Mrs. Theresa Mema, an advocate of women rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As a Brother pointed out towards the end of the assembly: "the week has been an experience, where we have been through a process of awareness, conversion and conviction."

Brother Kiko Baeza, Econome Provincial and charged for the Child Safeguarding & Protection in the Province affirmed: "We come out of our assembly knowing that we still have a long way to go, however committed to ensure our apostolates are safe havens for the children and young people entrusted to our care."



EAST ASIA PROVINCE

MARIST FAMILY ENCOUNTER OF THE PROVINCE

The Vocations Committee of the East Asia Province spearheaded by Br. Rommel C. Ocasiones, organized a gathering of Lay and Brothers for the 2nd Marist Family Encounter held last December 22, 2022, at the East Asia Province Center, Lagao, Philippines. Around 77 brothers and laity gathered face to face at the venue and 15 others from the various parts of East Asia Province met in Zoom. The theme was "Caring for and sharing our Marists vocations!".



The program for the day was facilitated by the Directors of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, engaging the participants into the process of reflecting, sharing, and celebrating Marist life. This event is in line with the celebration of the Year of Marist Vocations with its theme: Caring for and Generating Marist Life.

Br. Lindley presented the goals of the year's celebration: (1) Rediscovering the original passion that inspired us to be Marists, (2) Promoting and nourishing the diversity of Marist life and recognizing and supporting distinctive vocational paths;

(3) Encouraging vocation among young people and (4) There is great value in being Marists today. These goals guided the content and process of the gathering.

The event ended with heartfelt affirmations that it was, indeed, an enriching and meaningful encounter. When participants were asked to reflect on the great value of being Marists today, Princess Joy Ferrer Dicto has this to say: "our missions that are still on fire keeps us going so we can reach out to more people and communities, letting Marcellin, Mary and Jesus be known to all. This I believe is the great value of being Marist today."

NIGERIA

MISSION ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE

On December 20th, 2022, about 54 key personnel of the Marist ministries in the Province gathered at the Marist Provincial House, Enugu for a Mission Assembly with the theme of "Looking Beyond in our Marist Nigeria". The overarching objectives of the Assembly were:

- To look at the realities of the world and the Marist mission in Nigeria from different levels and looming beyond for a more efficient and effective services to children and young people;
- To proffer solutions and way forward on some issues that were raised.



AMÉRICA SUR

SITE OF THE REGION

The América Sur Region completed 6 years of existence and each day it gains strength by implementing projects and initiatives that strengthen the Marist mission in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Peru, Chile, and Bolivia, in the most diverse areas of activity. With the objective of giving visibility to this journey, a new communication channel was launched: the [site of the Region](#).

By accessing [this page](#), you will be able to read articles, publications, watch videos, and get to know other content organized into sections: Region, Content, News, Global Family, and Calendar.



Soon the site will also have a collaborative work platform that will help the teams in their projects.

COLOMBIA

THE MARISTS CARRIED OUT CHRISTMAS MISSIONS IN THEIR SOCIAL WORKS

The Marist Brothers and the Marist Solidarity Area of Colombia (Province of Norandina) carried out, from December 16 to 24, activities and Christmas novenas in the social works "A heart without bounds" (in Maicao), the Pastoral Services Center "Casa Loma" and the Champagnat Community Center "La Paz" (in Bogotá).

As part of the "A heart without bounds" project, in Maicao, several Marist brothers and lay people met at the house of the Fratelli Project to carry out Christmas activities in favor of almost 300 boys/girls from two peripheral neighborhoods of the place (La Pista y Paiguaxhi). The brothers Ernesto Da Costa, Hernán Darío Casanova, Juan Pablo Burgos and Antidio Bolívar accompanied this Christmas mission.

For its part, the Pastoral Services Center "Casa Loma" promoted Christmas novenas, moments of prayer, reflection, integration and entertainment for almost 350 children and young people. Some parents, volunteers from the Champagnat School in Bogotá and residents participated in these activities. The brothers Javier Bometon, Cristian Sandoval and Alexnnys Flores accompanied this Christmas mission.



In the same way, the Champagnat Community Center "La Paz" also carried out several activities with the motto "Caring for the planet at Christmas – Jesus arrives with joy and prosperity". Almost 250 children, young people and older adults participated. As part of the celebrations, for nine days, attendees did catechism, crafts with recycled materials, leisure activities, shared snacks and sang Christmas carols. Likewise, they reflected on the calls of Pope Francis, in his Encyclical Laudato Si'. At the end of the activities, the Champagnat Community Center gave the children and young people a school kit in a colored bag to remind them that, like Champagnat, the Marists also love the Earth.

MARISTS FOR UKRAINE

A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN AT GLOBAL LEVEL IN FAVOR OF THE UKRAINE POPULATION



En his Christmas' message, Brother Ernesto, Superior General, highlighted the gift of peace that Jesus brings us. Unfortunately, that is not a reality in many parts of the world. That is why we invite us "to embrace this gift of peace and be artisans of peace in our communities, families, and schools". Promoted by the Secretariat of Solidarity, the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization and FMSI at Global level, the campaign is an invitation of the Marist Institute to continue to raise awareness of the painful realities of our world (wars, hunger, migration) and take action in favor of the most in need. The "Comunità di Sant'Egidio", in Ukraine since 1991, is partner in this campaign.

Sant'Egidio in Ukraine

Ukraine's energy infrastructure has come under attack, leaving millions without power. As temperatures drop below freezing around the country, millions need support.

As the Marists are not present in the country, the Institute count on the partnership with Sant'Egidio to deliver its help. Sant'Egidio, since the beginning of the war, delivered food aid, 850 tons of humanitarian aid and distributed medicines and medical supplies to 150 Ukrainian medical facilities, mainly located in the eastern and southern regions that are more involved in the war operations. Two operational warehouses have been opened in Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk. From Lviv, humanitarian aid is delivered to the whole country, and notably to the war-affected southern and eastern regions.

Marist Global Campaign of Solidarity with Ukraine

The campaign is aimed at raising funds among the Marist

Administrative Units, schools, social works and institutions at global level. Launched at Christmas 2022, it will be implemented throughout the winter (December 2022 – May 2023). Funds would be channeled through FMSI and transferred to Sant'Egidio. In parallel, collection of items could be implemented in the General House: Blankets and sleeping bags, warm linen, warm clothes, medicines and medical supplies. All Marists of Champagnat are invited to pray for Peace in the world at this Christmas time and take action in favor of the Ukraine population.

Call for action

You can help sending your contributions in two ways:

1. Bank transfer

Deposit to the current account in the name of:

Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale Onlus
Banca Etica
BIC/SWIFT: CCRTIT2T84A
IBAN: IT81S0501803200000017082033

2. Credit Card / Paypal

<http://bitly.ws/y94X>

If you prefer, you can organize in your own reality a fundraising campaign and sent your contributions through the General Administration.

BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL

ASSEMBLY AND RETREAT OF THE PROVINCE

Almost 80 people, including brothers and lay Marists, gathered at the 2022 Provincial Assembly of the **Brasil Centro-Sul Province**, which was held in Florianópolis at the beginning of December. The meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the main initiatives in the areas of identity, mission, and vocation, of the religious organization and the ministry areas. And reinforce the priorities of the Province for the triennium.

See [here](#) the outstanding news and the testimonials of some participants.

After the Assembly, the brothers of the Province continued to participate in the retreat, encouraged by Br. Óscar Martín, Councillor General, liaison with the Region of America Sur. Likewise, the participants were able to celebrate together the ceremony of the first vows of Br. José Augusto Wendler and the perpetual vows of Br. Edicarlos Coelho.



And the renewal of vows of Brothers Bruno Marcondes, Carlos Henrique Oliveira, Nathan Costa and Rafael Fernandes.

CENTRAL AMERICA

PROVINCIAL RETREAT

With the motto: "Cultivating a fruitful silence", the **Marists of the Province of América Central** held their annual retreat at the end of November (El Salvador) and early December (Guatemala). In El Salvador the retreat was at the Hermitage retreat center in Mejicanos. In El Salvador, this year, in addition to 29 Brothers, 10 lay Marists participated, all as one Marist family.



There were 4 full days of silence, reflection, celebration, communion, and personal and group encounters among brothers. The dynamic of the retreat was a moment of silent prayer at the beginning of the day, led by the animator of the retreat, Brother Xavier Barceló, a member of the Ongoing Formation team of the General Administration.

In the afternoon, another moment of prayer with the silent gaze

of Mary who always invited the participants to look at her Son Jesus, at reality, and at the community. The participants also took part in a prayer workshop. The Eucharist motivated the brothers and laity to accept what they had experienced and to close the day with a greater Marist vocation.

"Silence, prayer and contemplation would be the synthesis of the retreat this year 2022," said Brother Rodrigo Cuesta.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE RETREAT OF THE PROVINCE

About eighty Marist Brothers gathered in Belo Horizonte from December 18 to 24 to reflect on what it means to be a Marist Brother and how to continue confidently and perseveringly in the mission of being faithful to the precepts of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

The retreat was animated by Brother Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councilor link for the "América Sur" Region, with the theme "Living passionately our being Marist today".

During the retreat two events stood out: the official opening of a new Marist community in Januária, state of Minas Gerais, and the perpetual profession of Brother Leonardo Stoch, who on December 23rd definitively embraced consecrated life as a Marist Brother.



EUROPE

MEETING OF BROTHERS UNDER 60

About 50 Marist Brothers under the age of 60 from the five Marist Provinces of the [Region of Europa](#) gathered at the General House in Rome, Italy, from December 6 to 11, in order to encourage their daily vocational journey and to share together as a Family.

In a video message, Brother Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, greeted the Brothers of Europe and encouraged them to live their vocation with passion and consistency. "Brothers, I invite you to ask yourself how our life is today where we are, in our community, in our apostolate, and how coherent we

are with the Marist values. And let us not forget that it is Mary who accompanies us, who inspires us," the Superior General stressed in [his message](#).

The Papal audience, the Mass of the Immaculate Conception with the General House Community, the virtual meeting with Brother Ernesto Sánchez, the visit to the Archives at the General House, the meeting with those responsible for the Secretariat of Solidarity, [FMSI](#) and CMI, the outings and group trips and other activities strengthened Marist ties.

"We Brothers feel called to live the charisma of Saint Marcellin Champagnat with a common objective: 'looking beyond', starting from our local and/or provincial realities", emphasized together the participants of the meeting, whose slogan was "now it is time to enjoy, share and listen to each other for a long time".

It is worth mentioning that the coordination team has been preparing this meeting since 2019, and initially Lebanon had been thought of as the host country, but the situation of the country did not allow this choice.



marist world

SPAIN: BROTHERS FROM CATALUNYA IN THE MONESTIR DE LES AVELLANES



IBERICA PROVINCE CELEBRATES THE LIVES OF THE JUBILARIANS BROTHERS: 50, 60, 70 AND 75 YEARS



CAMEROON: PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BR. YENWONG CYLAS MBVNJO



FRANCE: VICAR GENERAL VISITS THE HERMITAGE COMMUNITY



PHILIPPINES: MEETING OF YOUNG BROTHERS AND ASPIRANTS IN LAKE SEBU



NIGERIA: LAY MARISTS CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE MARIST MISSION

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

From November 18-20, a total of 19 brothers and lay Marists from the Province of West Central Europe, as well as 4 brothers and lay Marists invited from the Province of L'Hermitage, gathered in Furth, Germany, to share a Provincial Assembly.

On August 15, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, communicated to the two Provinces that the present Province of West Central Europe will become a district dependent on the Province of L'Hermitage for canonical purposes as of October 2023.

Following the first meeting of the Provincial Councils of the two Marist Provinces, which took place in Dublin in September, this assembly marks a new stage in the journey that was opened in common.

During this Assembly, the participants were able to learn more about the lived realities of the two provinces, with their challenges and priorities for the future. The first step of that new stage consists in fostering relationships and mutual knowledge in order to consolidate trust, with a view to developing a collaboration which, in the long term, should allow the development



and continuity of Marist life and mission in the countries with Marist presence, with fewer brothers and more lay people in positions of responsibility.

The second part of the meeting allowed the participants to deepen the themes that will be worked on in the coming months: communication, continuity of dialogue, priorities regarding the mission, the elaboration of the Statutes of the future District, etc.

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

RETREAT OF BROTHERS

Early eighty Marist Brothers met at Spacio LaValla, in Guadalajara, Jalisco (**Mexico Occidental**), from December 26 to 30, with the motto "Relight the Fire". Although the meeting was face-to-face, the Brothers of "Casa Champagnat" and "Casa Chuburná" participated virtually, through Zoom.

During his speech, Br. Luis Enrique Rodríguez Santana, Provincial of México Occidental spoke about "the importance of the presence of the Brothers in their Social Works, their work in the mission and invited them to let their light shine to give life and hope", and stressed that "we have to work so that good things happen". At the retreat was also the Provincial of Mexico Central, Br. Luis Felipe González, who accompanied the Brothers of Mexico Occidental in their Retreat and shared his experiences during the third and fourth day of activities.

The retreat was organized by the Brothers Formation Area, which is part of the Nucleus of Charism and Marist Life of the Province. Among the speakers were Brother Luis Felipe González Ruiz, Provincial of Central Mexico, and Sister Juana Ángeles Zárate Celedón, from the Carmelitas del Sagrado Corazón congregation, who spoke about the value of being a Marist Brother within the Synodal Church from a vision listening, dialogue and discernment to continue promoting the mission.

During the retreat, the brothers reflected on walking together and having "community life from the perspective of synodality and the Mission." They also shared talks, moments of prayer and work by age group.

The retreat concluded with the closing Mass and thanksgiving for the Religious professions of the Brother Jubilarians, who continue to generate Marist life through their identity and mission.

- 50 years: the brothers Mauricio

Guerrero Lara and Eliseo López Villafuerte.

- 60 years: Brother Rafael Herrera López.
- 70 years: The brothers Aureliano Branbiña De la Mora, Francisco Gmo. Casanova Incháurreguie, José Antonio Espinoza Medina and Juan María Frías Godoy.
- 75 years old: The brothers Humberto A. Álvarez Ruesga, Manuel Luis Hernández Gaona and Francisco Javier Toral Martín del Campo.

[Brother Jubilarians' video](#)



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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