

XVIII MESSAGE OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

SCHOOL CATECHISM, EDUCATION IN THE FAITH

MISSION

COMMISSION

he XVIII message of the International Marist Mission Commission, entitled "School catechism, education in the faith and sacramental care", highlights "the evangelizing practice" of the Marists in their educational works, with the aim of transmitting God's love and making Jesus Christ known and loved by all.

The message, prepared by Leonardo Humberto Soares, on behalf of the International Marist Mission Commission, emphasizes the need to "constitute educational communities that harmonise faith, culture and life in the midst of a turbulent world with different emerging realities". And

likewise, it recalls

"how the Marist mission is based, from its origin, on actions that promote and are articulated with catechesis, education in the faith and sacramental care."



In the document, Leonardo, executive secretary of the America Sur Region, encourages the Marists in the face of "the pains of society and the challenges of catechesis." And he raises some questions:

- How can we involve families in the faith journey of their children?
- How can we use technology to open new spaces for reflection on religiosity and faith?
- How can we create an experience of welcome in a journey of religious formation that responds to our changing times?

general administration

- From Monday to Friday, the Marist International Mission Commission meets at the General House. The team, led by the Vicar General, Brother Luis Carlos, includes several members of the General Administration and others who represent regions and fronts of the Marist mission.
- Brother João Carlos do Prado, General Councilor, accom-

panied the annual retreat of the Province of Central Mexico from January 2 to 6.

Brother Lindley, Assistant Director of the Secretariat Brothers Today, is in the Philippines accompanying the young brothers in the resumption of the activities of MAPAC, center of formation for Brothers of the post-novitiate of the regions of Asia and Oceania.

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In the subject of catechesis, the message proposes to the Marists the challenge of taking up this diversity, to seek a specific response to the local and, at the same time, to understand and welcome the global dimension. Given that "From this perspective, a catechesis is born as a mosaic of various specific faces, but which find unity in a semblance of Jesus Christ."

The International Commission invites the Marists to read and adapt the principles and reflections presented here to their own context and make the most of them. And through this message, he asks all the Marist Brothers and lay people "to continue to build a house of light and to be passionately involved in the creation of a family life open to all, as Marists of Champagnat. The International Commission, made up of brothers and lay people, has taken on the task of reflecting on the centrality of the Marist mission in today's world.

If you would like to share your ideas, reflections or experiences with the Commission following this message, you can write to the email fms.cimm@fms.it

At this link you will find all the messages that the Commission has published since January 2021.

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Brother Balbino Juárez, who died last June, was one of the guests to discuss this topic. The Commission remembers his life and is grateful for his gift of a fruitful and full life, always doing good with full hands, giving himself to children and young people and offering a great service of catechetical formation to the Latin American Church.

EAST ASIA PROVINCE

MARIST CYBERSECURITY TRAINERS SERVED 425 YOUTH

NICEF reported in 2019 that 70% of youth globally are victims of online violence, cyberbullying, and digital harassment. This data surged given the pandemic context. As an emerging need of the time, the Child Protection and Youth Desk of the East Asia Province connected with the CyberquardiansPH to access the training on cybersecurity given by **ASEAN Foundation** and Microsoft. The Marist participants were certified as cybersecurity trainers upon completion of the program.

From the initial target of 300 disadvantaged youth, the Marist Cybersecurity Trainers were able to train a total of 425 youth. Training venues were in Marcellin Foundation, Notre Dame of Marbel University, Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, Holy Cross Parish Calumpang and in St. Nino Parish of the Diocese of Marbel, in Philippines.

The said program was designed for the youth participants to



gain awareness on the current online threats affecting children and the young; appreciate the importance of cybersecurity and the community in empowering the youth and to engage program participants to take action in co-creating safer cyberspace for children and the young.

Santa María de los Andes

The members of the Executive Councils of the twelve Marist schools and the Animation Areas of the Chile Sector met in Limache from January 9 to 12 to analyze their role as Marist leaders. The Provincial, Br. Pablo González, spoke on the "Role of the leader in Marist Life and Mission in the present educational scenario".

WEST AFRICA

Br. Yenwong Cylas Mbivnjo made his perpetual profession at the Institute on December 20, in Cameroon.



Compostela > Peru

A group of students from the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca began the year in the Amazon jungle of Peru, where they are participating in a volunteer experience to train teachers for 8 local native communities. They will return to Spain in early February.

Brasil Centro-Norte

The first session of 2023 of the Marist Vocation School will be held from January 23rd to 28th. Its objective is to offer experiential theoretical formation for vocation animators. It will have as themes: Youth - conceptions and concepts; a Latin American look at Vocation Animation: Awareness and Self-Care in Vocation Animation; Listening to Youth and Planning for Vocation Animation.

MEXICO OCCIDENTAL

MARIST HAITI SECTOR RETREAT

rom December 25 to 30, the Marist Brothers of Haiti (Province of México Occidental) held their Sector Retreat. Thirty-three brothers and seven novices were present and carried out activities of prayer, reflection and meditation.



On December 29, during the retreat, Brother Mayliko Livette pronounced his perpetual vows with his family and guests.

The celebration, whose central message was "to encourage us to fix our attention on Jesus", was celebrated by Father Jean Marie Bontemps, Redemptorist priest.

PROVINCE OF NORANDINA

RETREAT FOR BROTHERS

he Brothers of the **Province of Norandina**, Venezuela sector, met from December 19-23 at the Marist Meeting House of Los Teques, where they experienced their annual Spiritual Retreat centered on "The path of spirituality in our Marist vocation", directed by Brother Patricio Pino, of the Province of Santa María de los Andes.

At the end of the meeting, during the Eucharist, Brothers Andrés Robles and Michael Anamá renewed their religious vows for one year. During this same celebration, Brother John Arrieta shared his motivations for his new mission experience that he will carry out in Ghana for three years.



PFRU

MARISTS OF SULLANA AT THE SIDE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The School San José Obrero, in Sullana, Peru, of the Province of Santa María de los Andes, celebrated, last year, 50 years of activities. In 2007, the school inaugurated the "Montagne classroom" and opened its doors to blind children. At the end of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the College, Brother Bernardino Pascual Juárez shares here below a road traveled with an attitude full of joy and satisfaction at the personal, community, and civic levels.

e have welcomed your proposal to send two Brothers to direct a school for the deaf and dumb in your city. It fits in perfectly with the plan of our institution, which is entirely devoted to the education of children in whatever situation they may find themselves" (Marcellin Champagnat, letter 323: 22 January 1840).

Like the vision that Marcellin had in La Valla, we have dreamed, in Sullana, Peru, a project that promotes human rights in an atmosphere in which we provide channels of integration,

education and development for children, young people and families in special situations of social exclusion.

Inclusive Education means that all children and young people, with or without disabilities, learn together in the various regular educational institutions and with appropriate supports; this, with the purpose "to reduce learning barriers so that everyone has opportunities" to receive a quality education, respecting the different abilities, generating spaces of openness that motivate the active participation of its members.

At the side of children and youth with disabilities

Under this principle, the school "San José Obrero" of Sullana has been involved in an educational task, developing various activities and strategies that are very useful to achieve significant and quality learning, where the different abilities and educational needs of children and young people with disabilities are considered and respected.



More than fifteen years have passed since we had the satisfaction of sharing life with the first deaf and blind children in our Educational Institution. In that trajectory, we have accumulated experiences and knowledge regarding the education of children with special educational needs, specifically in hearing and visual disabilities.

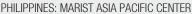
With satisfaction we look at our history today and show the achievements and progress of some children who were once our students and today preach with attitude and example, perseverance and good spirit that "everything is possible if you set your mind to it", as Milagros Cruz Arrese, our former student who is now studying law at the University, says.

Committed teachers and students

Committed to the search for innovative initiatives and proposals, this project develops a series of activities aimed at achieving among our students, without disabilities, the learning of sign

marist world

INDIA: MARCELLIN TRUST — OPERATION RAINBOW PROJECT













GHANA: POSTULANCY HOUSE, AHWIREN



FIJI: MARIST FAMILY AT THE VATUWAQA COMMUNITY IN SUVA CELEBRATES THE **FOUNDATION DAY**



THAILAND: MIGRANT SECONDARY PROGRAMME

language for the deaf community and Braille reading and writing for the blind, all with the aim of continuing to shorten the communication barriers both in the educational environment and outside it; thus we are reducing all forms of exclusion and marginalization with these "underprivileged children".

Consequently, the Project "We improve communication to shorten barriers and open new routes" seeks to improve communication among all members of the educational community through the learning of Braille reading and writing and sign language, a way to transcend in time and space. Children

and young people are already committed, voluntarily, to feel and live in their own flesh what children with disabilities can feel and live. This is a new and challenging situation that, in the spirit of Marcellin Champagnat, we joyfully attend to:

We promote the participation of students, in number of 100, to assume various leading roles, which generate change in the field of inclusive education in order to achieve better



communication-socialization between reqular students and students with visual-hearing disabilities.

- 2. We responsibly share the project with parents to quarantee its execution.
- We incorporate basic Braille literacy and sign language activities (greetings and names) in the learning sessions, where all students perform the same activity, in the same way, at the same time and with the same materials.
- We compile and share reliable information about students with disabilities who have passed through our school as a way of encouragement.

It is an opportune time to thank God through the great Master and Teacher of all children. Marcellin Champagnat: to thank Him for his presence and protection over Brothers, teachers, young people, children and families who today share these Marist Institutional joys.

> Br. Bernardino Pascual Juárez Province Santa María de los Andes – Peru



SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY

CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO FOOD

am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." (Jn 6:51)

If we look closely at the rights of children, we will see that one of these rights is the right to food. The Convention on the Rights of the Child presents us with a whole catalogue of elements that we must take into consideration when we refer to children, and how to adapt to their reality.

As Marists of Champagnat, we unite ourselves to these principles which, as citizens of the world, are proposed to us. And not only do we unite with them, but we want to make them a reality, inspired by Christian and Marist values.

When the United Nations speaks of children, it refers to those who have not reached the age of eighteen. We Marists include in these considerations other vulnerable people in our societies. Moreover, even though we are not a participating State, directly represented at the UN, we want to be involved in the accomplishment of universally recognized rights, within the framework of our concrete realities and at the institutional level. Together with the States, we also commit ourselves to respecting "the rights set out... and their application to each child" entrusted to us in our educational works. We also make sure that we take "all necessary means to guarantee that the child is truly protected" always, everywhere and in all situations. We want to continue to listen to "the cry of children and young people, especially those who are voiceless and homeless" (XXII General Chapter).

We are aware that our commitment to the transformation of the world is more relevant than ever. Inadequate nutrition is a reality for millions of boys and girls. Marists are present in many settings, offering better nutrition to children and young people. It is enough to know or to visit some of these places to realize the great work that is already being done. Can we continue to be a significant presence for those in need? We all know the



answer! Yes, we can, and we must be faithful to the charism entrusted to us by Marcellin. Yes, we can and must continue to work for those who are most vulnerable. Yes, we can and must continue to develop initiatives that respond to the needs, including food, of children and young people in our communities.

In his circular Homes of Light, Brother Ernesto makes a good reference to the communities. He invites us to be "truly homes of light that care for life and generate new life". And he invites us to take the means to achieve this, so that our communities (we could see a broader meaning, like our educational communities) are an environment where we can respond to the spiritual, but also material needs of those who are our reason for being, those who are at the heart of our mission: children and young people.

Yes! Our mission as Christian educators implies contributing to a suitable and appropriate diet for all the boys and girls who attend our works. In addition, following the wishes of our founder, we also want to ensure the "spiritual nourishment" of each one. Convinced that Jesus, the Christ, is "the living bread that came down from heaven", we continue, through our commitment, to "make Jesus Christ known and loved", as Marcellin asks all of us Marists.

> Br. Ángel Diego Garcia Otaola Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity



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