



Year **XV** - Number **763** | 18 JANUARY 2023

MARIST NEWS

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

GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

The International Mission Commission met at the General House from January 9 to 13.

The team, coordinated by the Vicar General, Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, is made up of members of the General Administration's Mission Area, representatives of the 6 regions and the Institute's networks. Its composition and current format was modified at the beginning of 2018. It has had annual face-to-face meetings in 2019 and 2020. During the Pandemic until now, it has been working monthly on-line meetings with different formats. This meeting in 2023 counted with the participation of 20 people.

The purpose of the Marist International Mission Commission is to achieve a passionate commitment with an innovative Marist Mission without borders with our reflection and initiatives, in a global perspective.

Its goals are:

- Actively contribute to the development of the Global Charismatic Family in the field of mission.
- Reflect on the needs, trends, and current realities of the Marist mission in the world to propose significant responses through lines of action, strategies, initiatives, and



enlightening documents.

- Facilitate the ongoing reflection, implementation and updating of the initiatives of the Strategic Planning of the General Administration (2017-2025) in dynamic response to the 22nd General Chapter Calls.
- Reflect on the processes of the Marist Mission at the global level and its effective articulation (global networks, global topics, etc.) and make proposals to the General Council.
- Promote the integration and coordination of the different leaders and leaders of the Marist mission (secretariats,

general administration

■ Brother Ángel Medina, director of the Secretariat Brothers Today, is in Peru, taking part in the meeting of brothers from the Post-Novitiate of the América Sur Region.

■ On Thursday the regional assembly of the provincial councils of Africa will begin. Brothers Ernesto, Superior General, the link councillors for the region, Ken and Óscar, and Gregorio, assistant to the Econome General and Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration

will participate from the General Administration. The meeting ends on the 24th.

■ This week, Sara Coz, after a stage period, began her contract of collaboration with the General Administration as Assistant of Communication.

■ Next Sunday, Brother Ben, General Councilor, meets with the committee in charge of drafting a proposed statute for the future District of West Central Europe.

- departments, regions, networks, provinces).
- Contribute with recommendations and suggestions for the development of initiatives, programs and projects related to the Mission Area.

All the reflection that the Commission has done in these last years on the Marist mission, with online meetings that also include the presence of invited persons, has resulted in 18 messages. All the messages are available on the Institute's website and will soon be published in a single volume.

Learning, consolidation, and innovation for our Marist Mission

The meeting in the General House was a unique opportunity to reflect on several themes and define strategies for the near future. On the first day, which also included an intervention by Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, the participants focused on listening to what life calls the Institute to do. They also reflected on the journey made by the regions, trying to identify the current situation and coordinate future steps in terms of “regionalization”.

This theme was taken up again the following day, which had as its core the discussion on emerging needs, identifying where the present reality challenges the Marist mission and how to respond to them.

On Wednesday, January 11, the team dealt with the theme of networks, focusing on learning, coordination, language, and the future related to this theme. The processes lived by the networks Champagnat Global (schools), CPVs (Volunteers), MYM (Youth) and Solidarity were highlighted. Time was also devoted



to analyzing the relationship between the church and global processes, among others, in the areas of education, ecology and economy.

On the fourth day of the meeting, attention was placed on the next Mission Assembly (III MIMA), to be held in 2024. The commission indicated suggestions to the preparatory commission, which will soon begin the work of preparation for this event. Also discussed were proposals in the line of leadership development, sustainability, and vitality of the Mission. Time was also dedicated to an analysis and approval of the document “Stand Up, Speak Up and Act”, presented by the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization.

Finally, on the last day of the meeting, January 13, the Commission defined the path for the next 3 years, highlighting its role in the projects in the area of mission present in the Strategic Plan of the General Administration and its connection with the Regions, Networks and Secretariats.

PEOPLE WHO TOOK PART IN THE MEETING

General Administration

- Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez – General Vicar
- Br. Ben Consigli – General Councilor
- Br. Ken McDonald – General Councilor
- Br. Jorge Gaio – Econome General
- Br. Gregorio Linacero Melón – Assistant to the Econome General and Project Manager of the General Administration’s Strategic Plan
- Br. José Sánchez Bravo – Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization

- Br. Mark Omede – Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization
- Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola – Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity
- Br. Francis Lukong – Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity
- Andrea Rossi – Director FMSI
- Br. Valdicer Fachi – Director CMI

Representing the Regions

- Christophe Schiestse (Europe)
- Leonardo Soares (América Sur)
- Br. Francis Jumbe (Africa)
- Br. Rodrigo Espinosa (Arco Norte)

- Br. Francis King (Asia)
- Br. Kevin Wanden (Oceania)

Networks

- Br. Marcelo Bonhemberger (Universities)
- Br. Miguel Fernandes Ribeiro (Marist Youth Ministry)
- Analía Ruggeri (Solidarity)

* Br. Teófilo Minga did the simultaneous translation for the group.

[Photos en FaceBook](#)

UNITED STATES

The third formation cohort for laypeople has begun with an Opening Prayer on Founder’s Day, Jan 2nd. 45 people and their companions were welcomed to this period of pondering and discernment. The webinars will begin in February and go through April. The people who have already committed to Marists Charism, the ongoing formation groups are continuing to meet.

AMÉRICA SUR

From January 12 to 28, a Post-novitiate meeting is being held in Lima and Chosica (Peru), with the participation of young Brothers in temporary profession. During the meeting they will have opportunities for fraternity, mission and spirituality and will reinforce their experience as Marists. The participants are from Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. They also receive the presence of specialists in different areas for their formation.



NORANDINA

From January 11-13, the Evangelization team of Colombia met at the provincial house in Bogota to plan pastoral activities for the first half of the year and to draw up the profile of the Marist animator, which will contribute to the ecclesial formation document. At the opening of the meeting, they were accompanied by Brother Julián Olmo, provincial counselor.

EAST ASIA

LAITY LEADERS STRENGTHEN ANIMATION PRIORITIES FOR 2023



On January 6, Ms. Elma Rafil, Chair of the Laity Committee, convened a meeting of all laity leaders of animation of the Philippine Sector of the Province East Asia. Coming from different Marist communities across the Philippines, it was an apt exercise to begin the meeting with a sharing of personal stories. All participants shared what was the most significant positive experience they had in 2022 and what do they look forward to in 2023. Key agenda were discussed during the meeting. First was the sharing of the message of the Asian representatives of the International Forum on the Vocation of Marist Laity by Marjorie

Rañeses. It was followed by the review of the Statement of the 6th Provincial Chapter. From these resources, the team of leaders identified and prioritized major activities to implement for 2023 as follows: Revitalization of the Friends of Marcellin, strengthen the MarEx group, come up with training for lay animators and propose a Province-wide Joint Formation Program. Dates were identified for the implementation of these priority activities. With each one assuring support, the meeting ended with a note of excitement for the new year, looking beyond new endeavors, promising to generate new hopes.

RIMES

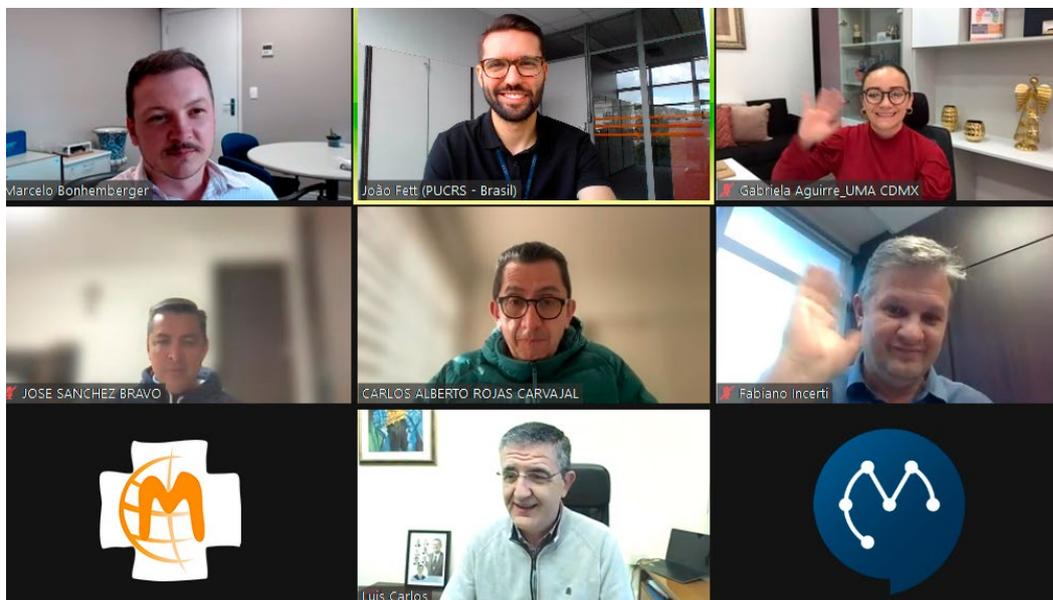
MARIST INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAKES POSITIVE BALANCE OF 2022

Reflect on the impact of strengthening and making the Marist Institutions of Higher Education world-renowned. It is with this motivation that the Director Board of the **Marist International Network of Higher Education (RIMES)** welcomes the challenges for 2023 based on a balance of the activities that were carried out during the previous year. This was precisely the theme of their last meeting, which included the presence of the Vicar General of the Marist Institution, Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco, and the director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization of the Marist Institute, Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas.

Br. Luis Carlos understands **RIMES's** operation as an innovative segment of the marist mission in the active pursuit of addressing the needs of young people when it comes to professional and vocational qualification. According to him, "the Institute expects a prominent leadership of the Network to expand conceptual and practical milestones of education and evangelization, in response to the necessities of the youth; a youth that opens up to a professional world which is constantly changing and surrounded by highly complex sociocultural and religious realities."

Guided by the educational tradition inspired by Saint Marcellin Champagnat's dream, **RIMES** offers answers to these challenges presented by reality, creating an international network which believes in a joint journey towards global strengthening of marist higher education in the world. An example of this is the several movements for relationship and promotion of connections with communicators and leaderships from partner Universities and the inter-congregational rapprochement with other higher education international networks.

To Br. Rojas, Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization till December 2022, "the horizon that opens up for



the Network in the following years is exciting and encouraging: giving a new meaning to the Marist Institute's charisma, 200 years after being founded, renewing its presence in higher education. The only thing left to do is to take action and continue to trust that this is the work of Jesus and Mary."

The path taken in 2022 served as a foundation for what is hoped to be developed in 2023. For Br. Marcelo Bonhemberger, President of **RIMES**, the last year was marked by a close operation alongside administrators of over 20 marist universities from 10 countries. This rapprochement brought significant progress in establishing discussions regarding the promotion of innovation, development and transformation in higher education. "In 2022, **RIMES** stood out because of the advancement of a strategic plan for the coming years, because of the commitment of its partners, and because of its role in the comprehensive training of members of the Institutions of Higher Education (IES) they are a part of," Br. Marcelo points out.

According to Ana Gabriela Aguirre Franco, Vice-president of **RIMES** and rector of the Marist University of Mexico City, the strategies for internationalization and promotion of cooperation culture were established based on projects which bring together education, research and services offered to the community.

"It is important that in 2023 we continue to develop organizational culture courses and to prepare the current leaders who

marist world

COLOMBIA: COLOMBIA EVANGELIZATION TEAM



SPAIN: YOUTH ASSOCIATION ZABALIK ESQUAK DE MARISTAK BILBAO



SPAIN: COLEGIO CHAMBERÍ



PARAGUAY: MARIST YOUTH MOVEMENT IN ITS FIRST ANNUAL MEETING



CÔTE D'IVOIRE: CELEBRATION AT PRIMARY SCHOOL OF BOUAKÉ



PROVINCIA OESTE, SRI LANKA: MARIST VOCATION CAMP – NEGOMBO

contribute to the educational marist tradition. This will strengthen corporative identity ties between the three main elements: the brand, the work team, and, mainly, our educational community,” Ana Gabriela states.

For João Fett, **RIMES's** Executive Secretary, investing in the quality of relationships with the primary interlocutors was a core commitment made by the Director Board. “We prioritize the strengthening of ties with our partner institutions, especially with their leaderships and communicators, with the hope of letting our purpose be known and establishing our personality as a Network. The possibilities of rapprochement and exchange with other confessional networks of higher education were equally favorable,” he stresses.

In November, **RIMES** took part in the XIII Meeting of the Association of La Salle Universities, discussing the protagonism in the future of higher education and the cooperation between confessional networks as a promising path to follow.

Synergistic paths for 2023

In 2023, **RIMES** intends on strengthening even more the ties with partner institutions, showing them the added value and

the advantages of being a part of an International Network with a broad and diverse scope of operation, consolidated in several countries. For this year, the work plan stipulates the short, medium and long-term development of strategic projects, like mapping centers of excellence in partner institutions, creating a program to form leaderships and implement a sustainable model for funding of the Network. Actions directed at communication and relationship are also expected, enabling visibility and expansion of operations before strategic interlocutors.

About the Marist International Network of Higher Education

The Marist International Network of Higher Education (**RIMES**) consists in the union of over 20 institutions and, in accordance with the premises of the General Administration of the Institute of the Marist Brothers, in Rome, intends to create connections of synergy and operations in its mission spaces. Having been founded in 2004, this network aims at creating opportunities of partnerships, qualification and joint projects, maximizing operations in higher education in over 10 countries.

Learn more about the Network here.

COMPOSTELA

MEETING OF THE PROVINCE



Brothers, affiliates, and lay Marists. of the **Province of Compostela** met on January 2 in Salamanca to celebrate as a family the 19th anniversary of the constitution of the province. Among those present was Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor.

During the provincial meeting, some provincial issues were discussed:

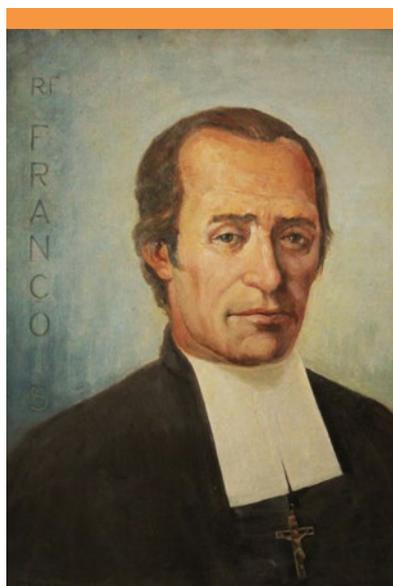
- The Provincial, Br Máximo Blanco Morán, presented the 6 master lines of the Province for this three-year period.
- Brothers Raúl Blanco and Antonio Leal, from the provincial council, reported on the development of the spirit of solidarity through the works and social projects promoted by the Montagne and Champagnat foundations, as well as the Lar Marista de Ermesinde.
- Br. Lisardo Miranda, Provincial Councillor, spoke about the Lay Marist Vocation Forum, held recently in Rome.
- Br. Tomás Briongos explained the present reality and future perspectives of the Marist work in Honduras.

At the meeting, the province celebrated the life of Jubilarian Brothers: Santiago Fernández, Pepe Calleja and Alberto García celebrated (60th anniversary); and Jacin-

to Escudero celebrated (50th anniversary). Br. Máximo gave the jubilarians the traditional gifts: a sculpture of the Virgin, work of Br. Santamarta, to the brothers who celebrated 60 years of religious life, and the Gold Badge of the Province to Br. Jacinto.

The Eucharist was held at the Champagnat College and was presided over by Don Paco Buitrago, a former student of the Salamanca College.

The meeting ended with a meal together in the school dining room, and thanks to the “Brothers Today” Team that organized the day of fraternity and Marist life, on the occasion of the 206th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation.



Br. François, First Superior of the Marist Institute

On January 22nd we remember Brother François, who after the death of St. Marcellin Champagnat, was the living image of the Founder. On 22 January 1881, he died on his knees while reciting the Angelus. The whole neighbourhood said: “The saint is dead”. For 20 years he was Superior General of the Marist Brothers. He inherited from Marcellin a congregation of 280 members and handed it over to Brother Louis Marie, his successor, with more than two thousand brothers. From 1860 he was at the Hermitage, the Marist sanctuary built by Marcellin. Superior of the house, he was for all a model of prayer and interior life.

[READ MORE](#)

WEST AFRICA

FINAL PROFESSIONS

The Province of West Africa, last December, had the grace to have two Brothers consagrated definitely as Marist Bothers: Br. Yenwong Cylas, in Cameroon, and Br. Mantobaye Kimmingar François, in Tchad.

Final Profession of Br. François

On the 11th of December 2022 the Final Profession of Brother Mantobaye Kimmingar François was held at the Saint François Xavier Parish of Koumra, in Tchad. This Mass was celebrated by the Vicar General of the Diocese of Sarh. Also present to witness the ceremony was the Provincial Superior, Brother Cyprian Gandebo, the members of the Marist Community of Koumra, some Priests, some Religious Sisters and hundreds of Lay people. It was the first of its kind for a ceremony of such magnitude to be held in that Parish since its foundation.

**Final Profession of Brother Cylas**

In Cameroon, the profession of Br Yenwong Cylas took place on 20th December 2022, when Hundreds of people gathered in St Albert's Comprehensive College chapel. The Holy Mass was presided over by the Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Bamenda, Cornelius Esua with the presence of Br. Cyprian Gandebo, Provincial. The occasion was graced with the presence of traditional Rulers, consecrated persons, students, well-wishers and the family and friends of the Br Cylas.

The Prelate in his homily highlighted the importance and the value there is in consecrating oneself to the Lord through the Evangelical Counsels in this modern era of consumerism and self-seeking pleasure. He also, encouraged the Brothers to fully live their calling as Brothers and be prophets of their time. By this, he reminded the Brothers that their vocation is more in the being than in the doing. He tinted the importance of the religious Brother in the church and in the world and was saddened by their timid number in the world. He urged the congregation to support Br Cylas with prayers and their generosity.



The Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council of Bawum, in a speech in praised the Brothers for their hard work in the vicinity among children and the youths, especially in education. Br Cyprian Gandebo, fms, the Provincial of the Marist Province of West Africa, concluded the speeches with a vote of thanks.

The day drew its curtain with an agape meal for all which was accompanied with presentations and traditional dances. In the same celebration was celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Religious Vows of Br Kevin Ngoran.

MADAGASCAR

FINAL PROFESSION OF BR. LANTOHERY ANGELIN



Brother Lantohery Angelin Rasandratriinaia, known as Brother Lanto, made his profession of perpetual vows on January 8, 2023 in the parish church of Faratsiho, Madagascar. Marist Brothers from different communities, lay Marists, families of the Brothers, several guests and the Christians of the region came to honor this celebration. As Brother Lanto is from the community of Antsiranana, a delegation also came from afar for this occasion.

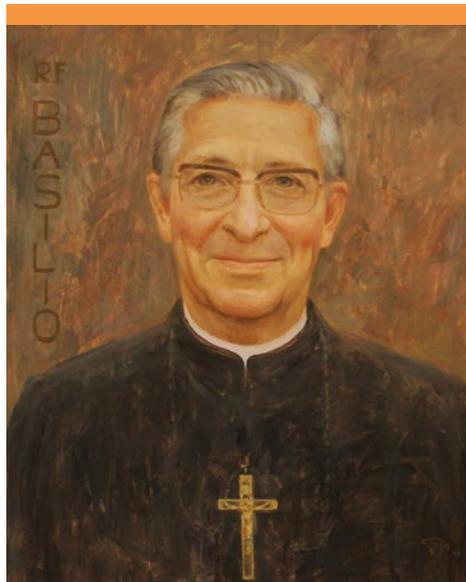
The ceremony took place during a mass led by the Diocesan Administrator, Father Jeannot Martial Andrianandrainy. The mass was well prepared by the group of the choir of the Champagnat school of Antananarivo under the leadership of the liturgical commission with the brothers Alexandre, Jean Aimé and Ernest.

In his homily, the Diocesan Administrator took up the sentence from the Holy Scripture, taken from 1Cor 13:3 that Br. Lanto chose for his profession:

“If I do not have charity, I gain nothing”.

Before continuing with the Mass, Br. Lanto declared his firm will to consecrate himself to Jesus Christ forever, through the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, in the Congregation of the Marist Brothers.

The mass was followed by a fraternal meal with the guests in the big hall of the parish. With the animation of the Champagnat choir group, the celebration continued throughout the afternoon to the joy of all.



Br. Basilio Rueda

On 21 January we celebrate the anniversary of the death of Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán, Servant of God (1924-1996). Superior of the Marist Institute from 1967 to 1985, Br. Basilio was one of the most widely listened to and balanced leaders of the years of the Conciliar Renewal, not only in the Institute of the Marist Brothers but in religious life in general.

During the course of his life, Br Basilio put into practice what he so desired: “To Burn my life for Christ and for my Congregation”.

[READ MORE](#)

PROVINCIA STAR OF THE SEA

2023 POSTULANCY BEGINS AT BAUCAU

On January 8, in Baucau, in the formation House 'Casa Marista', six Timorese aspirants commenced the postulancy program. In February, a seventh postulant from Bougainville will join the group.

The first week of the postulancy was a time of orientation and included meeting their English teachers. The English program is intensive for the first 6 months and involves learning online using Zoom and Google Classroom with their three teachers who are all from the Philippines.



Star of the Sea Province hopes that this formation house become an international postulancy, looking forward to welcoming other postulants from the province in future years.

The postulants are all generous and sincere young men, keen to learn and explore their religious vocation. The program runs for 15 months with candidates continuing on to the novitiate in Sri Lanka.

MÉXICO CENTRAL

ANNUAL RETREAT OF BROTHERS

The **Province of Central Mexico** held its annual retreat for brothers from January 2 to 6, under the direction and animation of Br. João Carlos Do Prado, General Councillor. The retreat began with a Eucharist on January 2 at noon, within the framework of the 206th anniversary of the founding of the Institute. The meeting celebrated the life and anniversary of the jubilarian brothers: Mauricio Guerrero and Eliseo López (50th anniversary); Antonio Espinosa (70th anniversary) and Francisco Javier Toral (75th anniversary).

Br. João Carlos, during the days of the meeting, helped the brothers to deepen the chapters of the new Constitutions and some elements of the Rule of Life of the brothers. The retreat, carried out face-to-face after two years, took place in an atmosphere of tranquillity, harmony, and much fraternity



thanks to the coordination of the commission of brothers and the participation of all the attending brothers. On the last day of the retreat, the brothers from the province of temporary vows renewed their religious profession.

INDIA

MARCELLIN TRUST – OPERATION RAINBOW PROJECT CELEBRATED THE PONGAL

Marcellin Trust – Operation Rainbow Project that work to reduce the fear and isolation experienced by families affected by HIV in Trichy, India, celebrated the Pongal last 8th January. About 70 families, nearly 180 people, participated in the celebration.

Pongal celebration is one of the popular festivals celebrated grandly by people in Tamil Nadu. It is generally known as the festival of thanksgiving by farmers who thank Sun God, mother Earth and cattle who play major role in farming and harvesting. It is also a celebration of prosperity which comes with good harvest. It is celebrated for four days. People cook Pongal – sweet rice and offer it to Sun God and cattle.

Parents and children enthusiastically took part in various games and the winners were awarded. Some families enjoyed cooking Pongal. Many participated in a drawing competition. There were many special guests and the Rainbow children and students of Bishop Heber College enthused the crowd through their dances and activities.

Reducing the fear and isolation experienced by families affected by HIV in Trichy

Of the 65 million people living in the state of Tamil Nadu, approximately 650,000 are HIV positive. Of these, one in seven is a child under the age of 14. These people are some of the most neglected in society because of their poor knowledge about the virus and its effects. Because of the stigma associated with the



disease, many families don't access the services that can assist in managing the illness and its resulting hardships.

Operation Rainbow, was established in 2003 by the Marist Brothers to provide support to families and children affected by HIV. It works with families in their own settings and assists them access resources available within their local communities.

Operation Rainbow provides families and individuals with community support that enables them to live with dignity. This support is provided through home visits, free medical seminars, counselling and HIV awareness courses. An ongoing initiative of Operation Rainbow is the monthly Rainbow Family Gathering. This event gathers together those in the community who are being supported by the program, which helps to reduce the isolation that these families often feel.

Your help can be done through the Australian Marist Solidarity, in this link.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat