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# MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | [WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG](http://WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG)

## MARIST SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY

### MARIST SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCED FOR DECEMBER

**A** new event on the Marist calendar was launched in Rome this week. To be known as the “**Marist Symposium**”, it will be held at the General House at the beginning of December 2023.

An initiative of the International Commission for Marist Spiritual Patrimony, with the support of the General Council and the Brothers Today Secretariat, the conference promises to be an important gathering that will involve speakers and participants from all parts of the Marist world.



## general administration

- From Sunday to Wednesday, the directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today participated in the meeting of the Commission of Brothers Today of Arco Norte, which took place in Guatemala.
- On Monday and Tuesday, a meeting of the administration team of the Bureau International Catholique de la Enfance was held in Paris, with the participation of Br. Ángel Diego, Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity. Afterwards, Br. Ángel will spend a few days in Geneva, where he will meet with various partner organizations in the field of solidarity.
- The Regional Assembly of Provincial Councils of Africa ended on Tuesday. Present from the General Administration were Brothers Ernesto, Superior General, the link councillors for the region, Brothers Ken and Óscar, Brother Jorge, Econome General, and Brother Gregorio, assistant to the Econome General and Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration.
- On Tuesday, Brothers Óscar, General Councilor, and Valdicer, CMI Director, participated in the meeting of the Council of the Fratelli Project, in the House of the De La Salle Brothers.
- On Wednesday, the Executive Committee of the Marist International Solidarity Network held a virtual meeting, attended by the directors of the Secretariat, Brothers Ángel Diego and Francis. The team is preparing the next meetings of the 5

working groups and regional meetings.

- From Thursday to Saturday, a meeting will take place in Lisbon with representatives of the 4 branches of the Marist Family in preparation for the International Marist Youth Meeting next July. Representing the Institute will be Brothers José Sánchez and Mark, from the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization.
- On Thursday the 3rd National Congress of Marist Youth Ministry in Brazil will begin in Rio de Janeiro. Brothers Ernesto, Superior General, and Luis Carlos, Vicar General, are participating by means of recorded messages. On Saturday, Brothers José and Mark from the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization are participating virtually.
- On the same day, the Regional Assembly for Arco Norte begins in Guatemala, and will end on the 31st. Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, João and Ken, link councillors for the region, are participating in the meeting.
- On Friday, Brother Ángel Diego will meet with representatives from Norandina to organize the Universal Periodic Revision concerning Colombia.
- On Sunday, Brother Ben, General Councilor, will participate in the meeting of the Committee that is preparing the Statutes of the future District of West Central Europe.

According to the chair of the Planning Committee, Br Michael Green, the **symposium** will make an important contribution towards preserving and enhancing the vitality and integrity of the Marist way into the future.

“We are hoping to bring together a broad and rich group of Marists, people who are involved in research, writing, animation, leadership and formation,” said Br Michael who has been a member of the International Commission since its inception twenty years ago.

Br. Michael said that it was the view of the Commission, and of the General Council, that this is an event whose time has come.

“The title of the **2023 Marist Symposium is Sources and Streams**. Our topics will cover Marist history and spirituality, Marist education and formation, and the leadership and animation of Marist mission and life more generally,” explained Br. Michael.

“The nature and structure of the symposium will be that of a typical academic or professional conference of just a few days. Each day there will be several papers and some workshops, as well as opportunity for people to listen and discuss, and to get to know one another and to network.”

One quite important element for the organisers is the invitation

to young and emerging Marist scholars, formators and future leaders who can have the opportunity of meeting face-to-face with more experienced Marist authors, researchers and animators.

“For this reason, it will be an in-person event, rather than online,” Br. Michael added. “Video recordings will be available afterwards as well as translated papers, but a major aspect of the dynamic is for people to meet together.”

The Commission hopes that the **Marist Symposium** will become a regular feature of the international Marist calendar. Already, two symposia have been scheduled – the first one in Rome this year (4-9 December), and the second in April 2025, probably at l’Hermitage in France.

Over the next few weeks, the Planning Committee is keen to receive expressions of interest from potential presenters for the **2023 Symposium**.

Br Michael said that, while some speakers have been finalised, there is still space for others. Anyone who is interested is welcome to contact Br Michael directly: [michael.green@marists.org.au](mailto:michael.green@marists.org.au).

Registrations for attendance will be opened a little later in 2023.



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

4-9 December 2023  
Marist Brothers  
General House, Rome



Sources  
&  
Streams

MARIST SYMPOSIUM 2023

The Marist Symposium is a biennial five-day, in-person, academic conference, organised by the International Spiritual Patrimony Commission of the Marist Brothers. It will cover topics in Marist history, Marist spirituality, and Marist education and mission. 2023 will be the inaugural symposium.



## BRAZIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

From January 18 to 20, the rector, Br. Evilázio Teixeira, and the vice-rector of PUCRS, Br. Br. Manuir Mentges, participated in the XXI International Colloquium on University Management, held in Loja, Ecuador, which had as its theme Challenges of Higher Education Management in Latin America and the Caribbean post-pandemic: Innovation, Integration and Interculturality.

## MARIST LEADERS

Every year, the Region of Europe promotes formation for leadership teams, held in several stages during the year. This year's group is experiencing the second week, during which they try to define what a leader should be like and what qualities they should have.

## AMÉRICA CENTRAL

This year the Marists of the Province are celebrating 100 years of presence in this part of the Continent. Brother Hipólito Pérez, Provincial, has just sent a video message for this celebration. <https://youtu.be/fVvrfGOftOY>

## EUROPE

The Mission Council of the region met in Godella (Valencia), on the occasion of the Regional Coordination Assembly, to analyze the educational action in the five provinces of the continent, to review and determine joint actions to continue networking and moving forward together.

## SOUTH KOREA

# MARIST BROTHERS JECHON COMMUNITY

The Marist community in Jechon opened in 2004 under the Diocese of Wonju, Korea. An interesting characteristic of the place is that a couple of the so called "holy places" of Korea are not far from the community place. The holy place of Baeron is one of the most important because of its great spiritual significance as the fountain head of the spread of Catholicism in Korea. It also served as a hiding place where Christians made some earthenware to survive, thus escaping the persecution of 1866. In 1904 the church of Yongsomak was built and it remains one of the oldest churches built in the country.

The community of Jechon is formed by three Brothers: Br. Timothy Song, Br. Anthony Choi, and Br. Abraham Kang. They strive to discover God's presence in nature, to respect and care for each



other, and to build a loving community that welcomes other people as they witness to them God's love.

The apostolate of the community there is multifaceted: during the warm seasons the Brothers run a retreat house that receives all kinds of people, but especially some groups of children and youth who love to have their retreats in the midst of nature. The community's responsibility is to clean, wash, cook, and support the groups that use its facility. The Brothers also do some farming in the land surrounding their house and by doing so, they keep alive the Founder's desire and encouragement for the Brothers to love and do manual work.

During the cold winter season, the members join the community in Chungju to work together with disabled adults making certificate cases, guest books, and different kinds of stationery. These rather younger adults are former students of the marist vocational training center for young people with intellectual disabilities.

PHILIPPINES

# 75 YEARS OF MARIST PRESENCE



It was in 1948, when four pioneering American Brothers set foot in the country and planted the Marist mission in Cotabato. This year, 2023, marks celebrating the DIAMOND JUBILEE (75 years) for the Philippine Marist Brothers.

An article in the book "Daring in Hope, Fifty Years of Marist Presence in the Philippines" explains how the American Brothers arrived in Philippines.



"In 1945, shortly after the Japanese invaders had left the country, especially in Mindanao, the Marist Brothers received a renewed urgent appeal from the Oblate Fathers. This was to help in bringing the blessings of Catholic education to the boys and girls who lived in their diocese of Cotabato, located on one of the southernmost islands of the Philippine archipelago.

In answer to this appeal Br. Louis Omer Duprez, who was then Provincial of the American Province, flew to Cotabato in 1947 to make an on-the-spot survey of the condition in that far-off place. He recalled: 'Measured in terms of teaching facilities or material worth, Cotabato is one of the most forlorn spots on the face of the globe. But the people are good and the need for Catholic teaching is great. Working with the good Oblate Fathers there is a great opportunity for apostolic

marist world

BRAZIL: COLÉGIO PARANAENSE COMMUNITY, CURITIBA



SAMOA: ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, ALAFUA, SAMOA STAFF



AUSTRALIA: COMMUNITY LAVALLA200> OF MOUNT DRUITT



SOUTH AFRICA: SACRED HEART COLLEGE JOHANNESBURG



UNITED STATES: CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST MARIST SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING OF THE YEAR.



PERU: MEETING OF POST-NOVIATE BROTHERS OF THE AMÉRICA SUR REGION

work among untold numbers of God's children in a land that almost seems to have been forgotten.' The Provincial Council of the USA approved the establishment of the Mission and in 1948 a call was issued for volunteers to serve in this new and distant field. Out of a host of volunteers, four Brothers were selected to form the nucleus of this first Mission. There were Br. Maurus James Doherty from St. Ann's High School in New York;



Br. Peter Leonard Thommen, from Central High School of Lawrence, Mass; Br. Humbert Damian Teston, also from St. Ann's HS, and Br. Herbert Daniel, from St. Agnes High School, New York City.

With the establishment of the Notre Dame High School in Cotabato, the American Province of the Marist Brothers began its first foreign mission activity" (Daring in Hope. Fifty Years of Marist Presence in the Philippines)".

## L'HERMITAGE

# MARISTS OF CATALONIA AND EDELVIVES PROJECT TO PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

On January 19, the Marists of Catalonia and the Edelvives Foundation of the Province of L'Hermitage presented the project "Romper el Silencio" (Breaking the Silence), an educational material to raise awareness among children and young people about sexual abuse and prevent them from being abused. The project was exhibited at the Palau Macaya in Barcelona, with the participation of more than 100 people working in the field of childhood.

B. Gabriel Villa-Real, Provincial of L'Hermitage, expressed his satisfaction at opening this project to the Society, in favor of empowering children and young people through the advocacy of their rights. He contextualized the process of the change of culture that we are experiencing as an institution and as a society in the face of sexual abuse.

Javier Cendoya, general director of Edelvives Group, remarked that the development and sharing of these materials by the Marists and Baula "is an exercise of commitment, coherence, and courage".

Representing the Marists, Llorenç Claramunt, director of the Marist Educational Works in Catalonia and member of the Child Protection Team, pointed out that all the materials of the project were developed from a work commissioned by the Marist Institute, in 2011, to protect children. And since 2013, the educational staff of the Marist Province has been trained in this area.

Ester Cabanes, general director of Child and Adolescent Care of Catalonia, pointed out that this material "will help children not to suffer sexual abuse and will empower them to know what is right and wrong, and to express themselves and identify whom they can ask for help if they need it".



The event was also attended by two high school students from Maristas Sants-Les Corts (Bartomeu Tortellà and Siyi Cheng), who participated in the tutorials and worked first-hand with the materials.

## ” Breaking the silence “

The “Romper el silencio” project incorporates tools for educators to work with boys and girls in the protection and prevention of possible risk behaviors. It also proposes how to report and/or denounce any situation in which they may find themselves the materials can be incorporated into any campaign organized in schools, social works, leisure movements, sports clubs, or organizations and institutions working with children and young people in the prevention of sexual abuse.

The material consists of thirty-four sessions: six in Early Childhood Education, fifteen in Primary Education, eight in Secondary Education, and four in Baccalaureate, designed to work on the prevention of sexual abuse of children and young people. The material will be available online through a license, just like any other digital book, on the bauladigital.cat platform.

## CHILE

## MEETING OF THE MARIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Board of Directors of the Marist schools and the Animations Areas of the **Chile Sector** (Santa María de los Andes Province) met in Limache, from January 9 to 12. The objectives were to analyze their role as leaders of the Marist Life and Mission; value the importance of fraternal reunion and share learning experiences in line with the emphasis of the provincial Master Lines.



On the first day, Br. Pablo González, Provincial, spoke about the "Role of the leader of the Marist Life and Mission in the current educational scenario". The day ended with an activity organized by the Life Area of the sector on the Common Project that the twelve Marist schools in Chile have.

The second day was focused on Integral Ecology, inclusion, leadership, and the Marist charismatic identity. Br. Álvaro Sepúlveda addressed the theme "Integral Ecology" and outlined the achievements in this area and presented the goals for 2023. For his part, Raúl Amaya, director of the Secretariat of the Laity of the Marist Institute, spoke about how to reform the Marist charismatic identity, valuing what is proper to each vocation of Brother or Lay person. Along the same lines, the coordinator of the Education team of the sectoral Mission Area, Claudio Arellano, invited the participants of the meeting to promote the charismatic identity of the leaders of the Marist mission of the province.

On the third day, directors were invited to promote a vocational culture; the rights of children, adolescents and the youth; networking and pedagogical innovation. The reflections were provided by Ronald Güimenez, member of the Mission Area of the sector; Bernardo Abad, Sector Administrator; Santiago Vasconcello, from the sector's Education team.

On the last day, the Sector Life and Mission delegate, Ernesto Reyes, presented the final conclusions and projection for the year 2023 of the Marist schools in Chile.

Before concluding the meeting, the participants shared their opinions, reviewed the commitments acquired during these days and the lessons learned by the Board of Directors and members of the Animation Areas.

The day ended with a sending Eucharist, where thanks were given to the Lord for all that had been experienced and to Marcelino and the Good Mother for continuing to mediate in the works of the Chile Sector.


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