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MARIST NEWS

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suffering from the war for years, many houses have collapsed. People refuse to return to their homes for fear of another earthquake. The Marist center has opened its doors and welcomes more than 100 families.

Br. Jorge Sabe, who lives in the Marist community of Aleppo, said in an interview on the morning news program of Antena 3 Noticias on the 7th morning that the situation in the Syrian city of Aleppo is “catastrophic”: “There are many buildings that fell yesterday. Many buildings have been emptied to save people. We are in an apocalyptic situation, really apocalyptic”. He adds, “People are under the rubble. The sirens have

not stopped. The hospitals are overflowing... This morning I saw a number of corpses placed outside a public hospital because there was no possibility of having them inside the hospital...”.

Br. Jorge emphasizes that it is “very cold” in Aleppo. In addition, “there is no light and the people have lost all hope because, after so many years of war, the earthquake also comes to announce that we are unfortunate. This is the reality of the situation in the city of Aleppo. You cannot imagine the catastrophic situation in which the city finds itself,” he adds.

[Join the Institute's fund-raising appeal](#)

Following the severe earthquake that struck Syria and Turkey on the night of February 5-6, the situation remains dramatic.

FMSI, on behalf of the Marist Institute, is leading the Marist response to this emergency. [It has already launched an appeal for funds.](#) The contributions will be sent to the Marists in Aleppo who are helping the stricken population.

“We feel deep sorrow with the families and communities affected by the recent earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, we extend our sympathy and solidarity,” said Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General. In Aleppo, where the Blue Marists have been helping the population

general administration

■ The “Senderos” Formation Program began last Sunday in Manziána. Coordinated by the ongoing formation team of the Institute (Brothers Ataíde, Michael and Xavi), the group of participants is made up of 19 Brothers from different provinces. Aimed at Brothers between 40 and 55 years of age, the formation program ends on April 29. Some brothers from the General Administration attended the opening celebration. Next weekend, the participants will be at the General House to meet with the General Administration community.

■ The General Council began its plenary sessions on Monday, February 6. During the first few days, information was shared about the visits made to the Provinces and Districts in the past months. The Council is also planning the meeting of Provincials and District Superiors to be held in March. From Thursday to Tuesday, the 14th, the “collaborative week” will be held in which the General Council, the Secretariats, CMI and the communications department will exchange topics of animation.

■ On Monday, Brothers Pat, Goyo (General Administration) and Xavi Gine (L'Hermitage) worked on the proposal regulations for the association Fraters Maristen Internationaal, created in 2021, together with Gier International, to help the Congregation and the Administrative Units in their various needs from the juridical point of view.

■ On Wednesday, the directors of the Secretariat of Laity, at the General House, meet with Br. João, General Councilor, and Luiz, director of the communication department, to align issues related to the promotion of the lay Marist vocation.

■ On the same day, Br. Ernesto, Superior General, animated a webinar, via zoom, with the theme “Culture of Vocation”, promoted by the Secretariat Brothers Today. The meeting had a section in English and other in Spanish.

■ On Saturday, Br. Ben, General Councilor, participates in the online meeting of the team preparing the proposed statutes for the future District of West Central Europe.

REGION OF AFRICA

ASSEMBLY OF MARIST PROVINCIALS AND THEIR COUNCILS

The African Assembly of Marist Provincials and their Councils was held from 19th to 24th January in Nairobi, Kenya, under the motto ‘Marist fraternity in communion, walking together in mission’. The meeting had the participation of the 5 Provincials and their councillors for the Region: Br. Michel Mami (Madagascar), Br. Vincent Abadom (Nigeria), Br. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji (Southern Africa), Br. Venceslas Baindekeli Beimoyato (East Central Africa), and Br. Cyprian Gandebo (West Africa). 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.

“It is the first Assembly of Provincial Councils, convoked by the Conference of Provincials of the Region of Africa”, highlighted Br. Ernesto. And he adds: “It has been lived in an atmosphere of fraternal dialogue and listening to the Spirit, looking for those points and areas in which they can create synergy as a Region to support each other. The desire and interest in caring for the life of the young confreres is evident in a Region that currently has half of the confreres in temporary vows in the Institute”.

According to Br. Oscar, the meeting “has been a time of shared reflection, deepening and discernment. Africa is growing in number of Brothers and, little by little, is growing as a region. It has been a time for dreaming and planning, for making progress on important regionalization issues, and for thinking a lot about the Marist future, especially in the areas of initial formation and mission.”

For his part, Br. Vincent Abadom, Provincial of Nigeria and President of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent, wished that the African Marist region could journey together as Marist Africa.



The participants of the Assembly worked as a team using the “U Theory” methodology. This process generated eight themes, four of which were taken as main priorities for the African region.

The Four Main Priority Areas:

- Review current administrative structures so that they better facilitate (a) future Marist mission and collaboration, and (b) sharing human resources across the region.
- Re-imagine MIC (the formation community) so that the formation experiences for young brothers respond more effectively to the realities and dreams of young brothers and better ensures joyful human formation and mission focused religious life formation.
- Develop a variety of programs and pathways (including MIUC) that better facilitate engagement of young brothers in Marist Ministry with a strong mission spirit across the different ministry realities of the region.
- Investigate and implement a shared common project.

For Br. Ken, General councillor, the meeting “was a wonderful experience of joint discernment. In an atmosphere of engaging with God’s Spirit and listening to each other the assembly established the priorities that will move the Region of Africa forward into the future. It was an experience of working together for the benefit of the future viability and vitality of Marist Life and Mission in Africa.”

Brother Graham Neist, from Australia, was the facilitator of the Assembly.

6 FEBRUARY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND CUTTING

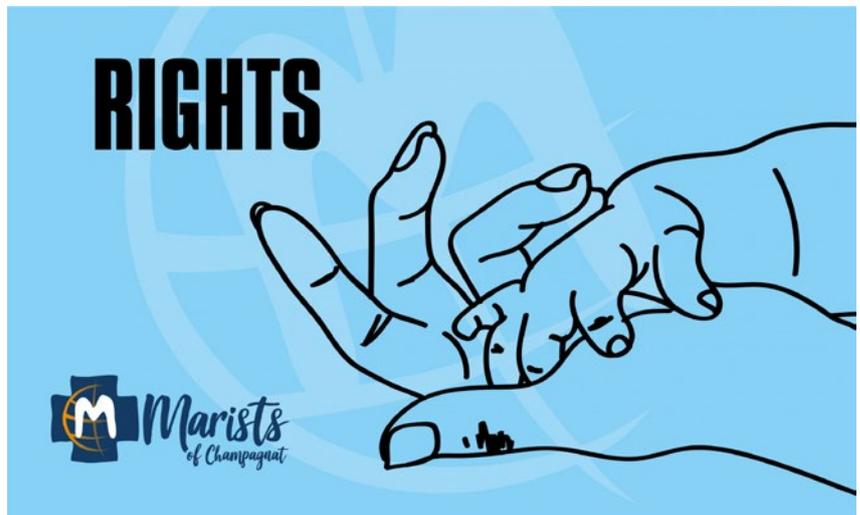
"So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good". (Gen 1:27-28a.31)

How is it possible that human beings can dare to contradict God's designs? As I began to reflect on this subject, this question came to my mind. A question that perhaps we should ask ourselves every day, in our relationships, in the way we understand human nature, in the way we understand the value of the body. If God, in His immense goodness, creates us like Himself... If God, absolute wisdom, made us equal... Who are we to propose a different way of considering the human body?

The issue we are dealing with on this occasion is not just a physical question but goes beyond the physical. We are talking about real equality, about a man not deciding what a woman should be or do or think or say... It is about recognizing what God wanted and still wants for human beings: universal brotherhood.

Pope Francis, in [Fratelli Tutti](#), clearly denounces the fact that many women do not have the same full dignity as men. In this way, many women join the group of those excluded from our societies (children, migrants, the disabled, the elderly...). It is true that many societies are taking decisive steps in favour of the most vulnerable. However, it is no less true that these are achievements that must continue to be nurtured, strengthened, and developed.

The Syro-Phoenician woman, as the Gospel tells us (Mk 7:24-30), relates a unique story in the Gospels, which can only be compared to the figure of Mary, the Virgin. We are dealing with a woman and a foreigner, who intercedes for her daughter before Jesus. Jesus, initially, does not seem to take her into consideration and does not want to pay any attention to her. It is logical! She is a woman and a foreigner! In the concept of the time, in Israel, a woman was not given consideration, and even less so if she was a foreigner. The Jews were not even supposed to talk to them. Jesus gives us a great lesson, to which we should always be attentive in our lives. Jesus allows himself to



be challenged by the needs of the most vulnerable, regardless of who they are, regardless of their social status, regardless of whether they are women or foreigners. For Jesus, God's love reaches out to all, especially to the most vulnerable in society.

If Jesus, the Son of God, allows himself to be challenged by a woman in need, should we not do the same? Our charism encourages us to take the side of the vulnerable, the needy, especially children and young people. We cannot run away from the painful situations in our world. As Marists we are working on several projects that also serve women, as a way of empowering them and their children. We know that securing women's rights often results in a stronger family, in more and better educated children. Sometimes we cannot reach out to this vulnerable group, but we can collaborate directly with other organizations that do reach them.

The 22nd General Chapter invites us to "avoid paternalistic approaches and empower the voiceless". Are they represented in our teams, are they taken into account when educating their children in our works, do we allow ourselves to be challenged by them and by those who live on the geographical and existential peripheries?

Our world wants and needs us, brothers and lay people, committed to the equality of all human beings, committed to making the voices of the most needy heard, committed to being "all brothers".

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola – Secretariat for Solidarity

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES PROVINCE

LAY MARISTS FOUNDED A SCHOOL TO EDUCATE AND EVANGELIZE

After six years of voluntary help, pastoral activities, visits to the sick and itinerant support in the Sullana desert, in Peru, a group of autonomous Marist laymen managed to create, in 2022, a school with mission and vision Marists, to educate children and young people in vulnerable situations, to do pastoral work and to continue helping the community.

The idea of creating the school arose in 2019 during “a Sunday celebration on the sand, barely protected from the wind and the sun, in company with the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Spirit (in the person of Sister Angélica),

when some children with a sheet of the liturgy in their hands asked: What does it say here, brother? Who is Jesus?” It was precisely at that moment when the three teachers, with Marist training, committed themselves to creating a Marist-style school, inspired by the experience lived by Saint Marcellin in the house of La Valla.

Below, we present a part of the article sent by Brother Bernardino Pascual Juárez, from the Peru Sector (Santa María de los Andes Province), which narrates the missionary journey – from 2016 until now – of the teachers with a Marist vocation in Piura.



“We need Brothers for the school” said Champagnat. “We need a school so that these children receive catechism. and the minimum scholastic knowledge”, said the teachers. There was no place, and like Father Champagnat in La Valla who bought a poor house, they bought with part of their salary some vacant land that the desert generously gives away, to be used in the development of educational activities, pastorals, visits to the sick, and support to the community, which until then were itinerant. “Providence is present in our Project”, they say confidently, as Marcellin repeated so many times in difficulties.

May 2021

The house of prayer was finished with everyone’s efforts. The celebrations of the liturgy for children began. The school environments were adapting, thinking of Providence, of their modest shared salaries, of the brothers and lay Marists of the Peru Sector, who joyfully saw the growth of a true evangelical work. Inspired by Father Champagnat, the house of prayer bears the name of La Valla – Good Mother.

2022

In this year an autonomous and non-profit Association arises, which is organized around the education of children and young people “La Valla del Chira” (Sullana river), headed and supported by the aforementioned teachers, those who without losing the Marist essence continue their mission expanding in an urban peripheral zone embedded in the desert, through the Alternative Basic Education Center (n° 2) with mission and Ma-

rist vision, so that children, youth and adults finish their primary and secondary studies.

It is worth noting some poor environments, however, these are welcoming, cheerful and arranged with some small contributions from the Santa Rosa Marist College in terms of furniture, and the support of several volunteer teachers from the San José Obrero Marist College.

But worthy of praise is the effort and strength in its entirety of the mentioned laymen, and members of the local community in which the work is inserted; all valued and blessed by the presence of the Brothers of the Sullana Community: Ornelio, Hugo and Bernardino, representing the Peru Sector of the Santa María de los Andes Province, who, since they became aware of this work, wanted to be present collaborating in this evangelical mission.

2023

Currently, the mission continues, and the center enjoys true happiness, forming the children in values to fulfill the great call and desire of Champagnat: “To form good Christians and virtuous citizens.”

The names of the participants in this adventure are not so important, although I mention them as a testimony of faith and determination: teachers Wilmer Exequiel, Juan Miguel and Alan Joao, who together with Champagnat dare to shout with conviction: « I cannot see a child without having a strong desire to tell him how good it is to live, how great is the love of God in our regard ».

marist world

GREECE: VISIT OF LEONTEIOS SCHOOL STUDENTS TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN ATHENS



FRANCE: MEETING OF LEADERS OF THE EDUCATIONAL CENTERS OF THE PROVINCE OF L'HERMITAGE



COLOMBIA: PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF MARIST LIFE COORDINATORS IN CALI



SPAIN: 139 YOUNG MARISTS AT THE GRUPOS MARCHA ENCOUNTER.



CAMBODIA: LAVALLA TEACHING STAFF IN KANDAL



BOLIVIA: ENCOUNTER OF THE SECRETARIAT OF MARIST LIFE AND MISSION

EAST ASIA PROVINCE

MEETING OF THE TEAM BROTHERS TODAY

Last January 25–27, eighty-nine (89) new mission partners of *Notre Dame of Marbel University*, in Philippines, gathered at the Bro. Renato Cruz Convention Hall for the initial Marist Lay Formation Program. The said program was facilitated by Elma B. Rafil and Andres O. Magallanes.

Individual and group activities, reflections, and sharing paved

the way to a deeper understanding of the life of the Founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat, and his gifts to the Church. Other formation themes include understanding of the Marist charism and the living out of the Marist culture.

Appreciating one's gifts and coming up with each group's mission statement were some of the highlights of the event. One of the groups stated that they aim to live life in the way of Marcellin, while another expressed that their goal is to become pilgrims of hope through Marist education and passion for service.



The participants enjoyed the group dynamics and sharing and listening to each other's personal concerns.

From this initial formation, a continuing program is being prepared that will allow the nurturing of the growth of Marist life.



AFRICA REGION

MEETING OF PROVINCIAL BURSARS

Provincial Bursars from Africa Region gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, from the 25th to the 27th of January 2023. The aim of the meeting was to share on how the management of temporal goods can lead to sustainability of Marist life and mission.

Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, was present in the opening session and reminded all present that networking either at regional or international level is very important for the effective management of our resources. He harped on the need for transparency and responsibility and prayed that the sessions will lead to a change in mindsets which was already being experienced.

Br. Jorge Gaio, General Econome, Br. Gregorio Linacero, Assistant to the Econome General and Br. José Augusto Junior, from the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, accompanied the regional bursars leading different sessions with very important information and activities that will enhance their work.

Br Junior facilitated the sessions on sustainability project pointing out the work that has been done so far. He emphatically noted that an evaluation of the risks and opportunities, feedback to provinces, and development guide were crucial to effective implementation of the sustainability plan. He stressed the need for all the local teams to collaborate with the technical sustainability teams to work on strategic plans with strong KPIs.

Bearing in mind that statistics are pivotal in financial decision-making, the Econome General, Br. Jorge, encouraged the bursars present to provide the required data into the three online platforms. He informed Bursars of GIER and FRATERS – juridical bodies charged with assisting the General administration in handling legal issues.

Br Gregorio’s presentation was mainly on the guidelines on the management of our temporal goods as spelled out in the constitutions, vademecum, canon law and in the policies and procedures. He insisted on the need of competent professionals in council of



economic affairs to assist in decision making.

The participants shared about statistics, stories about Marist mission and financial data from the administrative units of the region. This was used to benchmark and learn from each others in running affair of the Provinces. It was also an opportunity to map forward areas of collaboration.

The Administrator for MIC – Br Innocent Iloabueke highlighted initiatives that can strengthen collaboration and networking like ensuring effective supervision and supervision of country bursars to ensure accountability and transparency. On assets, good practices like having Marist Schools in our property, owning MIC as a projects and intensification of the formation of young Brothers on basic accounting principles.

In a joint session with Conference of Superiors of African Continent (CSAC) the Bursars made some suggestions to the Superiors to ensure follow up and implementation of decision taken, and consequently transformation in the management of temporal goods.

The Jan 2023 session is over, but the sharing of experiences, reflections, and recommendations must be owned, thus leading to finding new pathways and new horizons for the sustainability of life and mission in an organization that has a mission – sustainably making Jesus Known and loved.

BANGLADESH

LIVING IN AN INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY

Br. Alex, who lives in Bangladesh, belongs to the Province of South Asia, but since 2008 he is a missionary in the Marist District of Asia. In the last Newsletter of the Marist Province of South Asia, he shared some impression of his being a member of the MDA. The next training program for International and Intercultural Communities will take place from May 24 to July 5, 2023. Interested people may contact the Brother Provincial or District Superior, or the Superior General directly, introducing themselves and explaining their motivation and their desire to commit themselves to one of the Institute's Projects or initiatives. It is possible to contact CMI, in case of doubts, using the following e-mail address: cmi@fms.it
Here follow the words of Br. Alex.



South Asia Province sent me happily to the Ad Gentes Program in 2007. After the preparation from 2008 to 2016 I was able to find a new mission with the Santal tribal children in West Bengal (Talit community and Hostel) along with other brothers. It was a good experience to begin a new mission for the poor and needy children. Later, I was asked by the General administration to move to the Bangladesh School Community. While I was waiting for the missionary visa to Bangladesh, a short period of doing a mission with the migrants' students and Thailand for 4 months, and the formation ministry in Davao Postulancy for 4 months. Once the Visa was ready, I moved to Bangladesh 2017 April to the school community for two years. Then I was asked to take the leadership of Candidates and Aspirancy house Mymensingh, the present one. I am very thankful to God for his blessings and guidance though I went through so many obstacles to reach something good in the mission. I learned more in this missionary life than what I expected.

At present, in the community we are three brothers, Br. Cesar from Mexico, Br. Robert from Local diocese of Mymensingh – Bangladesh who is doing his degree in B.A. English in Dhaka

city and staying with Holy Cross Fathers and I. Also, we have 2 Aspirants at this moment and both from the same diocese. Maybe in a few weeks we are expecting some more candidates and incoming Aspirants... (hopefully) who are waiting for their academic results. Actually, we have been living in a small, rented house for the last 10 years. This year we have a plan to buy a new piece of land for our own and build a good formation house and community building soon if God allows us. Sometimes we have a good number of boys in the house... this picture shows a big group which I experienced last three years in this house. Among them two of them are postulants in Davao, four become aspirants, but due to their personal problems, they left the formation, one candidate who is doing his second-year college (Class 12). Many young boys came and left for a few reasons. Many of them came for the purpose of their studies. Some find the place is not enough, being in the rented house, and not much for them to play or work, so they feel something very indifferent to compare with the other formation houses. So, the finding of the new place may help the boys to feel something helpful to continue their formation with future hope.

FRATELLI PROJECT - LEBANON

FMSI'S EFFORTS TO HELP SYRIAN AND IRAQI REFUGEE CHILDREN

The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity, established by the Institute of the Marist in 2007, works in the world for the rights of children and adolescents to ensure them better living conditions. For years, FMSI has been present in the Middle East, particularly in Syria and Lebanon. In Syria, FMSI is committed with the Blu Marists to aid all those individuals who, despite the war, have remained in their country. Among the Syrian population, many have decided to seek shelter in neighbouring Lebanon, where FMSI supports the Fratelli Project to provide them with access to basic needs, ensuring adequate education, safe shelter and, more importantly, creating a bridge between refugees and Lebanese communities. FMSI participated in a competition organized by the Istituto Ganasini. The competition was reserved for the most virtuous projects in the field of refugee assistance. The Fratelli Project, presented by FMSI, won a prize worth 5.000 Euros which will be entirely dedicated to the implementation of the Project on the ground.

The refugees in Middle East

The war in Syria, which began in 2011, has generated a social, political, economic and humanitarian crisis in the Middle East that involves, in addition to Syria, countries that have taken in refugees fleeing the conflict. One and a half million refugees have settled in Lebanon, with catastrophic consequences for the country, which has a very high number of refugees relative to the national population. The massive arrival of refugees has destabilized Lebanon's already fragile social services-schools, hospitals, water and electricity supply, garbage and sewage collection-quickly reaching the limits of their capacity. Thousands of Syrian families live in overcrowded housing in Lebanon, and about one-third of families live in semi-abandoned buildings where housing conditions are quite precarious. The unemployment rate is high and economic income is almost zero. This situation of uncertainty is exacerbated by the inability to obtain documents that allow legal residence in the country.

Fratelli Project

Fleeing conflict and persecution, Syrian and Iraqi refugee



children in Lebanon are often isolated due to cultural and linguistic diversity and are educationally disadvantaged. For all the aforementioned reasons, in 2015, the two congregations of Marist Brothers and Lasallian Brothers devised the "Fratelli Project," through which the beneficiary children have the opportunity to grow up in stable and diverse communities where pluralism is welcomed and peace is promoted by intentionally welcoming Christians and Muslims, girls and boys, Shiites and Sunnis, Syrians, Iraqis and Lebanese, and providing them with quality holistic education. Children and youth can build their personalities, gain confidence and learn to communicate and live with others through school activities such as art, sports and team games. These activities are complemented by activities related to the themes of peace, children's rights and protection, art workshops, and field trips. Fratelli promotes inclusion and social, emotional and moral development through its various programmes for over a thousand refugees. These programmes guarantee all children equal opportunities for a better future through socialisation and training activities. Specifically, programmes are offered on child education and development, basic literacy and numeracy, youth empowerment, nutritional support and meeting basic needs. Quality pre-primary education is the foundation of a child's journey: every stage of subsequent education is based on its success. Indeed, children enrolled in at least one year of pre-primary education are more likely to develop the critical skills needed to succeed in school and less likely to drop out. No less important, as adults, they contribute to peaceful societies and prosperous economies.

For this reason, the Fratelli Project is fully dedicated to marginalised groups that would otherwise have no opportunity to access these services, provided in a familiar and welcoming environment. The project offers vulnerable children socio-educational support to provide them with a basic level of education that guarantees them access to the Lebanese public education system. The preparatory preparation for school that Fratelli provides allows the children to enter the Lebanese public system, supporting and accompanying them in overcoming their difficulties, including language, mathematics and science. Thanks to the presence of the psychologist,

the displaced children and their families are helped to overcome the trauma of violence and exile, as well as their current state of uncertainty in Lebanon.

From an approach based on children's rights, considering primary and urgent needs, the children grow up in a safe and supportive environment where they can express themselves freely, have psychosocial support, learn and develop skills for their future autonomy. The [Fratelli Project](#) therefore represents a long-term investment in a better future for hundreds of refugees and vulnerable children.

SOUTH AFRICA

THREE2SIX PROJECT FILLS THE EDUCATIONAL GAP FOR REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

Since 2008, the [Three2Six](#) Education Project has filled the educational gap for thousands of refugees and migrant children in South Africa. It has operated as an afternoon bridging education project teaching its students three hours a day. Now, the [Three2Six](#) project has embarked on an exciting new chapter with a full curriculum that benefits children from a full day at school.

In addition to a full curriculum, the [Three2Six](#) children also have a comprehensive extra-mural programme which includes netball, swimming, basketball, and judo. During the year, they will also go on excursions and camps.

Another exciting development is the integration of the [Three2Six](#) children with the students of their new host school, [Dominican Convent School](#), with whom they learn in the classroom. This will foster social cohesion between local and refugee children, which is critical in a context of rampant xenophobia in the country.

The [Three2Six](#) children have adapted extremely well to their new school environment at Dominican Convent School.

The other services offered to the [Three2Six](#) students haven't changed. They still receive meals every day, are being safely transported to and from the project, and are given textbooks, stationery, and uniforms. Where needed, the children will also benefit from psychosocial support from the project to ensure their emotional welfare and to support their learning.

In order to increase its students' prospects of integrating into mainstream schooling, [Three2Six](#) has added an additional year



before the children exit the project, which allows for a smoother transition. The project will also continue to advocate for the right to education of all children and where possible assist its students with the other obstacles they may face when trying to join a high school.

Three2Six Project

The [Three2Six](#) refugee children's education project is a Catholic, Marist institutions in Southern Africa. It has been operating since 2008, supporting refugee and migrant children who have been denied access to public schooling in South Africa.

The [Three2Six](#) project was founded at [Sacred Heart College](#) and later extended to [Observatory Girls' Primary](#), in 2010, and Holy Family College, in 2018.

The project name comes from the study schedule (from 3pm to 6pm) because [Three2Six](#) has been working 3 hours a day as an afternoon bridging education project, focused on three subjects (English, Maths and Life Skills).

More information [on this link](#).

BRAZIL

MARIST VOCATION SCHOOL 2023

The Marist Vocation School 2023, a proposal of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte to the Church of Brazil, this year brought together about sixty participants from different religious congregations. The meeting took place in Brasilia from the 23rd to the 28th of January. It was a face-to-face meeting, after two years of pandemic.

In the program of the meeting, aimed at vocation animators, religious men and women, lay people, priests and seminarians, there were lectures, group dynamics, workshops, round tables and production of scripts, which encouraged the participants to reflect on Vocation Animation in their spaces and congregations.

Youth and vocations was the theme of this year's Vocation School, provoking the participants to go out and meet young people with vocations in the places where they live and in the spaces where they work. The question how to awaken the religious vocation in young people was the basis of the whole event, generating reflections for the different congregations, who want to be closer and understand the universe of young people.

These are some of the themes dealt with during the meeting, addressed by professionals: youth, conceptions and contexts; a Latin American look at vocation animation; awareness and care of self in vocation animation; listening to youth and planning for vocation animation.

The January meeting was the first of two meetings. The second will take place in July, online. Until then, the participants will reflect on the subjects treated in the first meeting and will be able to bring new proposals and other looks to vocation animation.



Marist Vocation School

The Marist Vocation School is promoted by the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, in partnership with the Conference of Religious of Brazil and the Catholic University of Brasilia, which issues certificates of participation. Since the project began, 15 years ago, the Vocational School has received about a thousand participants from all over Brazil and the world.

The innovative project is a way to meet the demand of the vocation animation processes and offers the participants self-knowledge, understanding and preparation, both in the personal and professional spheres.

In 2022, the Marist Vocational School had its vocational actions recognized by Rogate Magazine, a reference publication in the segment. On May 1, 2022, the Vocational School, represented by Brother Fabrício Barbosa, received the Rogate Trophy in a ceremony in São Paulo.



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