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# MARIST NEWS

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



## PRAYER FOR PEACE AND FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER

today at the centre of our mission. This initiative wanted to join them all. This small grain of sand has been framed in the meeting, in Rome, of the General Council together with the Secretariats and Departments of the General Administration. It was an initiative designed for the whole Marist Institute (brothers, laity, children and young people), via zoom and live on YouTube. In the morning the prayer was conducted in English and in the afternoon in Spanish, with translations into the other languages.

A special moment was the participation, from Aleppo, of Br. Georges Sabe, who has accompanied, together with the Blue Marists, the suffering Syrian people

On Tuesday, February 14, the General Administration and FMSI have invited the entire Institute to participate in a small moment of prayer for peace and for those who suffer in the world (wars, natural disasters, violence, migration...).

In many parts of the Marist Institute, Marists of Champagnat are taking concrete actions that put those who suffer most in our world

throughout these years of war and is now at the side of the victims of the earthquake. Br. Jorge sent a message in the form of a prayer.



[ENGLISH](#)

[SPANISH](#)

## general administration

■ On Tuesday the traditional “Collaborative Week” concluded: a meeting between the General Council and the directors of the secretariats and departments of the General Administration. The General Council will continue to meet in “Plenary Session” until the end of the month.

■ The entire community of the General House met twice on Tuesday to pray for peace and for all those who suffer, especially those affected by the war in Ukraine and the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

■ From Wednesday to Saturday the Brothers Today International Commission meets in Rome.

■ That same day, the meeting of the team that is preparing the new edition of the Marist Educational Mission document begins. This meeting runs until February 21 and has the participation of the Secretariats of Education, Mission and Solidarity. And also Brother Ben, General Councilor.

■ On Wednesday, Br. Ángel Diego, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, meets online with the CCIIG Administrative Team.

■ Also, on Wednesday the visit of accompaniment and animation of the Lavalla200 community of Tabatinga, Brazil begins, carried out by Br. Valdicer, director of the CMI Department.

■ On Friday, the first meeting of the Preparatory Commission for the III International Assembly of the Marist Mission will be held online, which will take place next year in Spain. It will be coordinated by Br. José Sánchez, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, and Br. Ángel Diego will also be present.

■ On Saturday, FMSI holds the third training meeting on development of projects for people from Latin America who work in solidarity. It has the participation of the FMSI team and the directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, brothers Francis and Ángel Diego.

# Prayer of Br. Georges Sabe

Lord Jesus, again I wake up in the morning, my eyes are turned towards your people, our people, a forsaken people, a lost people, a people who don't know where to go.

Why, Lord, why the war, why the poverty, why is nature angry, why the war, why the poverty, why is nature angry?

Lord, I have no words to tell you what I am feeling. You know much better what I live inside me. Give me your heart, Lord, to open mine a little more.

Mary, you have taught me to go in haste to the neediest. I am on the street, running, seeking to bring a little warmth, a little strength and above all, above all, a little love.

Lord, help me. I know that many in this world are looking towards my people, towards my land. Thank you for their solidarity.

Lord, today, the human being within each one of us is giving life. Do you remember, Lord, one day, a certain Bartimaeus ran to you? You invited him to come. With my friend Bartimaeus I repeat Lord. I want to run to You and through You to every person.

I have no more words, Lord. My heart is silent. You alone know what I am going through.

Amen

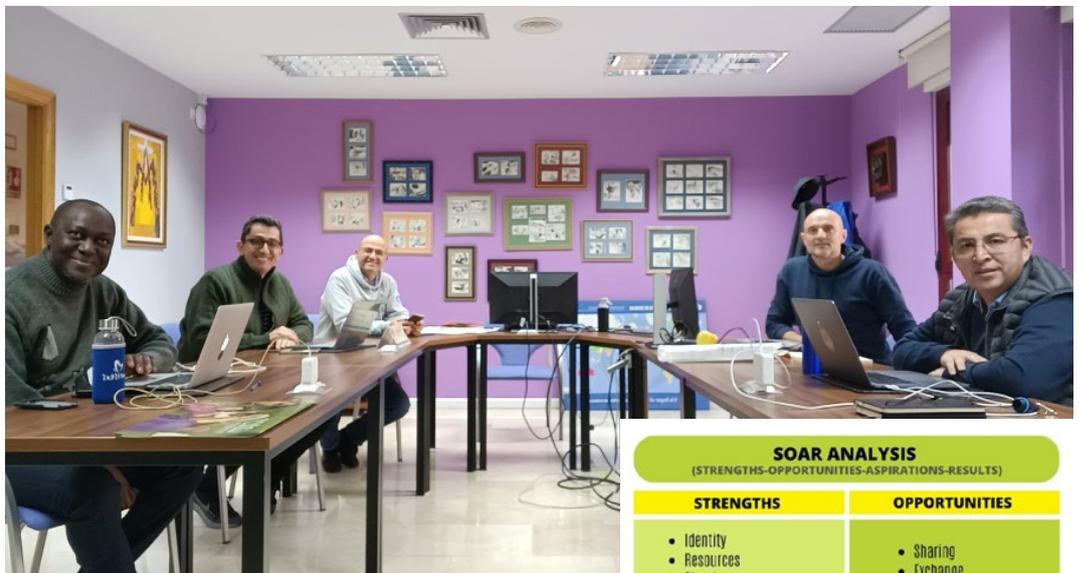
## MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

# CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL PLANNING 2023-25

During the first week of February the Champagnat Global team met at its headquarters in Madrid to plan for the period 2023-25.

In the planning process it has been very important to consider many of the suggestions that came out of the meeting in Mexico 2022 which you can read in the final part of [the itinerary of The Marist Global Network of Schools](#) and which can be summarized in the following FOAR analysis in which the expected outcomes for the next phase of the network were specified.

The meeting outlined the strategic objectives and projects, as well as many initiatives to realize the aims. Soon, it will be with the advisory committee and all the education coordinators with whom the 2023-25 roadmap will be collaboratively finalized.



SOAR ANALYSIS (STRENGTHS-OPPORTUNITIES-ASPIRATIONS-RESULTS)	
STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identity</li> <li>Resources</li> <li>Structure</li> <li>Expertise</li> <li>Commitment</li> <li>Internationality</li> <li>Diversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing</li> <li>Exchange</li> <li>Connecting</li> <li>Grow</li> <li>Training</li> <li>Strengthening</li> </ul>
ASPIRATIONS	RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The network is known.</li> <li>Agorà works.</li> <li>The schools are connected.</li> <li>The network has an animation and management structure.</li> <li>The coordinators work together.</li> <li>Educators are connected.</li> <li>The network is useful for the pupils.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>THE NETWORK IS KNOWN AND SCHOOLS ARE PARTICIPATING.</li> <li>AGORA IS FUNCTIONING AS A SPACE FOR EXCHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT.</li> <li>WE HAVE SOME PROJECT WITH VISIBLE IMPACT.</li> <li>THE NETWORK HAS AN ORGANISATIONAL AND ANIMATION STRUCTURE.</li> </ul>

**MEXICO OCCIDENTAL**

From February 2 to 5, the “National GAMA Meeting” was held in the city of Aguascalientes. During these days, the high school students reflected on the vocation as a call to put themselves at the service of others.

**COLOMBIA**

The Provincials of Mexico Central, Mexico Occidental, America Central and Norandina visited the La Valla Novitiate in Medellín and shared information and opinions on the Arco Norte Regional Assembly held in Guatemala. They also encouraged the novices with some significant experiences of the year of vocations in each of the four Provinces.

**WEST CENTRAL EUROPE**

The Province of Central West Europe has retook up youth volunteering, and currently has three new volunteers in Mindelheim, Germany. They have come from Uganda to join Furth's three veteran volunteers. They are all being trained by the Cmi (Collaboration for International Mission) team.

**AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY**

Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) visited the Little Kings Movement recently with Br Tony Burrows who was visiting from La Valla Cambodia. The Little Kings community have collaborated with AMS for many years and for the last 6 years have also been making a significant annual contribution to the work of La Valla Project.

**CRUZ DEL SUR****PROVINCE PROMOTES THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD'S CONSULTATION**

After having participated in the first consultation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Cruz del Sur Province invites now children and young people to give their opinion on the first project of guidelines, launched by the UN, for governments to protect the environmental rights of children. The project, known as General Comment No. 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change, will be launched in 2023.

The project, known as General Comment No. 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change, will be launched in 2023. The draft is based on the contributions of 7,416 children from 103 countries and hundreds in the global community from the first set of consultations hosted by the Committee.

The Province participated in the first consultation with young people from Colegio Inmaculada together with other boys, girls, adolescents and young people from

the “World Movement for Children”, and on this occasion promotes the call for the Second set of consultations on the project: from 15 November 2022 to 15 February 2023.

Children and young people can participate through an online Questionnaire with questions based on key themes within the draft General Comment No. 26 or by organizing workshops. The results will help the Committee to review the first draft, to ensure that the final version best reflects the views and ideas of the people concerned. The final version of General Comment No. 26 will also be available in a version adapted for children.

In addition, contributions will be used to create a “Children's Global Charter on Children's Rights, the Environment and Climate Change”, an inspiring message from children and young people around the world about their vision of a safe, healthy and sustainable world that respects their rights.

GENERAL HOUSE

# INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO BROTHER FRANÇOIS AT THE GENERAL HOUSE

An exhibition in honour of the first Marist Superior General, Brother Francisco, was inaugurated on February 10, in the Champagnat Room of the General House. The exhibition, organized by the General Postulator of the Institute, Brother Guillermo José Villarreal Cavazos, aims to promote the life and work of Brother Francisco, whose canonization process is underway. Present at the inauguration were the author of the 8 portraits of Br. Francisco, Br. Ángel Ignacio Martínez, and the former postulator, Br. Antonio M. Estaún, a profound knower of Br. Francisco's biography. The inauguration was also accompanied by the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, the general councillors, the brothers and lay people of the General House. The exhibition will be open to the public until April.

Opening the event, Brother Guillermo, Postulator General, said: "Br Francisco, along with others, is a Marist model for deepening our spirituality. His life shows us Marist spirituality and relationship with God. He can testify to us what Marcelino wanted from us."

In his speech, the Superior General, Brother Ernesto, spoke about the mystical dimension of Brother Francis' life, and said that "he is the best heir of Champagnat's charisma."

During his participation, Br. Ángel Ignacio Martínez, author of the paintings, spoke about his works and said that his inspiration began in 2019 while he was taking the "Ongoing Formation Program" at the General House: "I entered the office of Br. Antonio (postulator at the time) and observed that there were some posters of Br. Francisco (on the occasion of the peregrination Pilgrimage with Brother Francisco), and I asked: "can I contribute something?" The Postulator replied: "just do it and we'll see it." And in response, Brother Ángel made 8 canvases of Brother Francisco, which are now on display.

In his speech, Br. Estaún valued the works of Br. Ángel, and mentioned that: "his work is a new contribution, especially due to the description of the context in which he places the figure of Brother Francisco. And therefore, his hand as an artist adds to the effort to publicize the little-known facets of the figure of Br. Francisco." "For



the action he took as superior of an important religious association, and also as a spiritual person who has left us abundant writings, he deserves to be studied for

himself and to be better valued than he has been up to now", expressed Br. Antonio, highlighting the figure of Br. Francisco, his fame for holiness and his virtues.

Referring to the characteristics of the portraits of the First Superior General, the author of the paintings said: "I have kept his broad forehead. His entrances in the front. His hairstyle, vintage French style. The pronounced eyelids and his fixed gaze. The lower curve of his nose, like when he was young. His lips a little tight. His chin pronounced, and mentum strong".

At the end of the inauguration, Brother Guillermo invited everyone to visit the exhibition located in the "corridor of the Superiors General" and ended by saying that: "We commemorate the brothers who are models of holiness for us, through the witness of their life of faith and passion for the Gospel." (Constitutions and Statutes 50.7)

## marist world

HONDURAS: EUCHARIST FOR THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR OF LA INMACULADA INSTITUTE



SPAIN: MARIST COMMUNITY ANIMATORS' REUNION FROM ANDALUSIA AND BADAJOZ



MEXICO: INTERDISCIPLINARY TERRARIUM PROJECT IN VERACRUZ.



GENERAL HOUSE - SECRETARIAT OF LAITY



COLOMBIA: LA VALLA MARIST NOVITIATE OF MEDELLÍN



GENERAL HOUSE – COLLABORATIVE WEEK

## ARCO NORTE MEETING OF BURSARS

After the Regional Assembly of Arco Norte, which took place in Guatemala from January 27-31 at the Marist Formation Center, the Provincial Administrators of the Arco Norte Region met at the Provincial Residence in Guatemala, from February 1-3.

Representatives of the five Administrative Units of the Region participated: Dioneira Abril Latriglia representing Brother Laurentino Albala (Province of Norandina); Brother Manuel Matilla (Province of América Central); Brother Melesio Tiscareño (Province of México Occidental); Brother Jorge Carbajal and Brother Juan Jesús Franco Hernández (Province of México Central); Brother Hank Sammon (Province of the United States); Brother Félix Roldán (District of Canada). Br. Rodrigo Espinosa Larracochea, Executive Secretary of the region,



and Brothers Jorge Gaio and Gregorio Linacero, from the General Economato, also participated. Gilbert Barillas was the translator.

PROVINCE OF L'HERMITAGE

# MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARIST EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



The Representatives of the Marist Educational Institutions of the province of L'Hermitage met from January 31 to February 3 at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, in France. A hundred Brothers and Lay Marists from the provinces of L'Hermitage and West Central Europe participated in the meeting. Also present were Br. Emili Turú, former Superior General of the Marist Brothers, and current secretary of the USG; Brother Gabriel Villa-Real, Provincial of L'Hermitage; Brother Robert Thunus, Provincial of West Central Europe; and Brother Ben Consigli, General Councilor.

"Leadership, child protection, the Marist vocation and the Champagnat Global School Network" were some of the topics discussed during ROE 2023 (Reunion of Educational Works).

Referring to the meeting, the Provincial of L'Hermitage, Br. Gabriel Villa-Real, recalled that they are making a journey together, as a global family, and expressed a joint invitation from the provincials: "to live this new stage as an opportunity to look the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to welcome the future with hope".

Likewise, Br. Emili Turú, former Superior General of the Marist Brothers, spoke to the attendees about leadership and spirituality. And he reflected on four factors that help to live well in adverse situations: "Humility, because we plant seeds and we know that one day there will be fruit; the importance of community, where we can hear the voices of support and those of challenge; fidelity, which is more important than success; and the acceptance of apparent failure."

For his part, Br. Ben Consigli, General Councilor, spoke about "The heroic leader: Manager for mission". "Marist leadership comes

from within. It is more important who I am than what I do. This is part of our DNA. Marist leadership begins with self-leadership", he mentioned.

During his speech, Br. Robert Thunus, Provincial of Central-West Europe, thanked for the opportunity to meet everyone and stressed the importance of joining forces for the future, since the Central-West Europe province will become a district of the L'Hermitage Province from the month of October of this year.

From the laity, Pep Buetas, Marta Portas, Danai Anagnostopoulou and Br. Jaume Parés spoke about the Marist vocation and presented two experiences: the Year of Marist Vocations and the International Forum on the lay Marist vocation.

A new provincial project on the rights of children and their Protection was also presented at the meeting. The initiative is led by Lorenc Claramunt, director of the Marist Educational Works in Catalonia, and Raimon Novell, coordinator of the Catalonia Marist Child Protection Team.

Referring to the project, Br. Xavier Giné, Vicar Provincial, said that it "touches the heart of our mission."

The Marists from the province who attended the Champagnat Global meeting in Mexico also participated in the meeting: Christophe Schietse, Pep Buetas, Joan Pratdepadua and Despoina Tsaousi. This was "an opportunity to discover the possibilities we have, and fall in love with the project and the network," said Pep Buetas. For his part, Br. Joan Pratdepadua, urged the attendees to get to know the website and to participate in some of the projects.

## IBERICA PROVINCE

## SOCIAL FORUM OF THE MARISTS OF IBÉRICA: HOME AND FAMILY



In times of metaverse, artificial intelligence and other technological progress, the virtuality of new technologies cannot make us fall into the temptation of giving up the fraternal encounter, face to face. It is not about rejecting new technologies, their usefulness is undeniable, but it is about not overlooking that the most important thing is still being close: looking one another straight in the eye to chat, listening to each other to share experiences, touching to hug us, to hug each other, feeling very close and sharing life.

This is what the Forum “A vueltas con lo Social” consists of, which is organized by the Social Ministry team of the [Iberica Marist Province](#). Nine are the editions that have been held so far. This event becomes a meeting place to channel all the social sensitivity that exists in our province. A space that has three objectives: to create a community around the Marist social identity, to raise awareness about the new realities of poverty and need, and to find an opportunity to encourage personal commitment in individual and collective social action.

The Social Forum is a reunion with our family. It is in community where we find the inspiration to value some of the most important things of our mission as a Marist family: helping those most in need and going out in search of the Montagnes of today. We meet again with the firm belief that together we are stronger and that among us we weave networks that make us move forward, be more creative and daring to be attentive and act in the face of new social realities and the people who make them up. Seeing each other and sharing makes us loyal to the intention to go further, to go to the social peripheries and to revitalize our commitment to those most in need.

The Forum is a moment of reunion, something that always evokes home, that place more mental than physical where we live in fraternity with our family. In fact, in fraternal families no one is left behind. For this reason, those who need it most are at the centre of everything, because they are the light that guides us in the mission.

Here I take up a few words from our Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, which are collected in his writing “[Homes of light](#)”:

“We are being called to care for life and to generate new life in moments of great fragility and vulnerability in the world. We will manage if we work together, in a spirit of self-giving and solidarity with those most in need, and place more importance than ever on relational, social and community factors.” These words of the Superior General fully coincide with the spirit of the Social Forum.

In conclusion, we need to create homes and for this we need plots and lots on which to build. The Social Forum is one of those lots to create a fraternal and supportive Christian community. The Forum as a building is based on the Marist charism and its social identity, these are the pillars of this house. This home has several rooms that materialize in the enormous diversity of local communities and social realities; a charismatic family, welcoming and with social sensitivity.

The Social Forum has been and continues to be an opportunity to create community and family.

Ángel de Pedro, Provincial Social Ministry Team

## SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY

## CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO HEALTH

Children's entitlement to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health is clearly stated in article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also recognize it. Furthermore, the imperative to improve children's health is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with references to children in most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets.

Children are vulnerable and more at risk to illness and health complications than adults. At every stage of their development, they have specific needs and different health risks. Hence, they require extra attention to enjoy the best possible state of health. Moreover, investing in children's health is one of the most important things societies can do to build a better future. Children's overall wellbeing is closely linked to other fundamental human rights including access to potable water, nutrition, essential medicine, adequate hygiene and appropriate health services.

As duty-bearers, States are obliged by articles 24 and 12 of the CRC to ensure that children enjoy their right to health. This involves extending beyond healthcare services to health-related education and information, freedom from harmful traditional practices and access to underlying conditions for health such as immunization, potable water, adequate environmental sanitation and nutritious food as well as adopting measures to reduce infant mortality and increase life expectancy. Children's health should be interpreted in its broadest sense to embrace their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, psychological, and social wellbeing. Parents are also expected to provide appropriate direction and guidance in a way that does not undermine the ability of children to exercise



their rights to health. Unfortunately, children are often treated as passive right-holders thus denying them the opportunity to participate and express their views freely on matters that affect their health and well-being.

Fulfilling children's right to wellbeing is not the exclusive duty of states and parents but also of all God-fearing people and groups. As Marists Brothers, the Gospel imperatives of compassion for the vulnerable and respect for life convince us that children and young people must be protected from danger and treated with love and respect. Marcellin Champagnat considered any form of neglect of children disgusting so he made every effort to prevent it. Regarding this, the call of the XXII General Chapter to journey with children and young people living on the margins of life invites us to empower them.

Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:16) to teach his disciples to love and care for them. Conscious of this, Marcellin Champagnat constantly reminded Brothers to never forget that children are feeble and need to be treated with kindness, charity, and mercy and be instructed with patience. Our commitment and involvement in Child right Advocacy spring from the Gospel imperatives, Champagnat's attitude towards children, the world-wide recognition and support of the CRC and the clarion call of the XXII General Chapter to give special attention to children and young people who come under our care.

Br. Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity

FMSI

# FMSI PROMOTES MEETINGS ON PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT

FMSI, the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity, an NGO of the General Administration of the Institute, has organized a series of 5 meetings on “Project Cycle Management” for people working in the field of solidarity.

The first meeting was held on 4 February 2023.

The first module of the course, given by Patricia Ynoñan Garcia, Misesan Cara Mentor, focused on the topic: “Project Cycle Management: a brief presentation of what it means” and gave the participants the first tools to understand what it means to write and implement a development project. The course is organised by FMSI together with the Secretariat of Solidarity and the Corazon Solidario network and was attended by 66 members of Corazon Solidario, Brothers, Fathers, Sisters and Lay Marists around the world, De La Salle Brothers, members of the NGOs SED and Apurimac and Scalabrinian Sisters. The aim of this training initiative is to increase the operational skills needed for effective strategic and project planning.

The course began with a short but meaningful sentence: “Projects don’t fail at completion, they fail in their conception”.

which underlines how crucial the design phase of a project proposal, based on the needs of a given territory, is for the successful implementation of the project. The course participants were able to familiarise themselves with some of the terminology used in development cooperation: project cycle management, theory of change, sustainable results.

The next four modules will be implemented on the following four Saturdays and will focus on: How to prepare a proposal: context, problem, results, outputs, indicators; Tools: Logical Framework; Exploring different funding alternatives according to the organisations’ experience; Evaluation of proposals submitted to FMSI.



## FMSI

### Marist Foundation for International Solidarity

The Foundation, founded in 2007, has a clear vision: a world in which childhood is recognised and protected. For this reason, the Marist Foundation works to recognize that childhood should be respected, guaranteed, and free from violence and fear. FMSI is committed to a world where minors are accepted as active members of individual communities and of the whole society. Consistent with these intentions, FMSI’s mission is expressed through targeted actions aimed at promoting the full development of the potential of each child – especially the most vulnerable and marginalised – through the planning and implementation of solidarity, education and advocacy projects. The Marist Foundation promotes change in government policies and programmes for the benefit of those who live on the margins of society. It advocates and brings to the attention of society important humanitarian issues to reach a shared resolution mediating with those who hold decision-making power in the society. This work implies undertaking and pursuing multiple avenues to reach and influence relevant decisions affecting children.

The Board of Directors of FMSI is composed by: Br. Ken McDonald, Presidente (General Council FMS); Maria Inmaculada Maillou (Spagna); Br. Jorge Gaio (General Bursar FMS); Angela Matulli (Italia); Rebecca Jane Bromhead (Australia); Br. Fortune Chiedzo Chakasara (Zimbabwe).



EAST ASIA PROVINCE

# PROVINCE ADVOCATES PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM CYBERTHREATS



**O**n January 20-21, school administrators from the 9 Diocesan schools in Koronadal City participated in the Child Protection-Stop Online Sexual Abuse and exploitation of Children Seminar Workshop held in Lake Sebu. Organized by the East Asia Marist Child and Youth Protection team, the 55 attendees of the event expressed commitment to strengthen advocacy and to do something in their respective schools in keeping children safe from all forms of cybercrimes.

Maria Theresa Biongan Pescadera talked about the law that will strengthen the country's response to addressing the rising vulnerability and victimization of Filipino children by online predators. Leann

Jester Daus Rosali, the Senior High School Principal of Notre Dame of Marbel University, shared on the threats of technology and the internet to students. She engaged the participants to act on the issue by making initiatives to ensure the creation of a cybersafe schools. Br. Crispin P. Betita, FMS stressed the importance of the Child Protection Policy which schools need to strengthen and implement to ensure every child is safe in school. Through the funding support of Misean Cara and the assistance provided by the Institute's foundation FMSI, the Marist East Asia Province is committed to this advocacy of implementing the such Seminar-Workshop for school administrators, parents, and student leaders of the 73 Notre Dame Educational Association.



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**Facebook**

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

**Twitter**

 [https://twitter.com/fms\\_champagnat](https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat)