



Year **XV** - Number **768** | **22 FEBRUARY 2023**

# MARIST NEWS

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

## FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF THE III MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY



Last December, the General Council appointed the commission which will prepare the III Marist International Mission Assembly (MIMA). Following the two meetings already held, in Mendes (2007) and Nairobi (2014), the third MIMA will take place in Spain, from April 8 to 14, 2024. The members of the commission in charge of preparing this event are: Alejandro Mena Goldaraz (Ibérica), Br. Ángel



### general administration

■ Last Friday, the General Council thanked, with a moving ceremony, Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede for their 6 years of service as director and assistant director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization.

■ This week, continuing the plenary session, the Council reflects on various topics related to administration and economy. It continues to prepare for the Provincials' Meeting to be held at the General House in March. It begins the reflection on the next General Chapter. And gives space to other topics such as LaValla200>, Fratelli projects, leadership and indication of personnel for various commissions and services.

■ On Monday, Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, met with Br. Paterno in view of the English version of the Prophetic and Servant Leadership Course to be held in the Philippines.

■ On Tuesday, the meeting of the commission that is preparing the new edition of the document "Marist Educational Mission" ended. The meeting was held at the General House since February 15.

■ On the same day, Br. Angel Diego, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, met online with a team from the Province of Central America to work on the preparation of the Universal Periodic Review on Cuba, which will be presented to the United Nations.

■ Also Tuesday, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley, directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today took part in the meeting "Fratelli

Oggi" of Rome in the General House.

■ On Tuesday and Wednesday in Thailand, Br. Goyo, assistant to the Econome General, participated in a seminar on strategic planning with the MDA, as part of the General Economats's sustainability project.

■ From Tuesday to Saturday, the director of the CMI Department, Br. Valdicer, and the director of FMSI, Andrea Rossi, are making a visit of accompaniment and animation to the community of the Fratelli Project in Maicao, Colombia.

■ On Wednesday, Brothers Ben, Ken and Oscar, General Councilors, will meet to discuss child protection.

■ On Thursday, the meeting of the team that is preparing the new version of the Formation Guide, in charge of the Secretariat Brothers Today, will begin at the General House. The meeting will end on March 1.

■ On Thursday, the directors of the Solidarity of Secretariat, Brothers Ángel Diego and Francis, participate in the online meeting with the "Education in/for Solidarity" working group of the Marist International Solidarity Network.

■ On Saturday, together with the staff of FMSI and the directors of the Solidarity Secretariat, the fourth formation meeting on the implementation of projects will be held for the protagonists of Marist solidarity in Latin America.

Diego García Otaola (General Administration – Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity), Fatima Rodríguez Gonçalves (Brasil Centro-Norte), Javier Llamas (General Administration – Project Manager of the Champagnat Global Network), Br. José Sanchez Bravo (General Administration – Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization), Maria del Socorro Alvarez (México Central), Mark Elliot (Star of the Sea), Br. Maurice Juvence (Madagascar), Monica Villacis (Norandina), Br. Nino Mayor Pizarro (Co-director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization) and Br. Warnakulasuriya Marian Madushan Sasmika (South Asia).

From the General Government, the Mission Area links will follow the commission: Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General; and Brothers Ben Consigli and Ken McDonald, General Councilors.

The Constitutions of the Institute state in number 119 that “the Superior General and his Council, in conjunction with the

Administrative Units and other Marist bodies, make arrangements for an International Mission Assembly, a representative gathering of all Marists, brothers and lay people, who share the responsibility for Marist mission.” About its nature, the same Constitutions underline that it is “an opportunity to share experiences, understand current social realities, discern priorities, and propose future directions and strategies for Marist life and mission around the world” (Const 119.3).

**First meeting of the Commission**

On February 17th there was the first meeting of the commission. During this meeting, held online, the members had the opportunity to get to know each other and to express the expectations they feel inherent in participating in the organization of the III MIMA.

Three online meetings are planned for March and thus the commission will enter into the dynamic of preparing the fundamental meeting for the Marist mission.

PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

**PROVINCIAL MEETING OF COMMUNITY ANIMATORS**

A group of lay people and brothers from the Province of Central America were invited to deepen and reflect on the task of community animation. The meeting took place in El Salvador from February 9 to 12. Accompanied by Vicky Irigaray, a Spanish lay woman with extensive experience in the accompaniment of consecrated life, the group participated in the four-day meeting with great expectations.



The proposed objectives were: to reflect on the daily task; to know and better understand the reality of brothers and sisters in community; to present some clues for a competent helping relationship (that the communities may be spaces that allow growth); to reflect on attitudes and feelings as animators; to break away from the daily routine and share in fraternity; a time to reflect on being animators (from within).

The task of accompaniment that is carried out involves first

of all “preparing my knapsack” to be able to help others, to reconcile “minimally” with oneself, and to accept one’s own reality. It became evident to the group the need to “reinvent” the community because society has changed. . .

A final question left the group with a big task: “As Marist, are you prepared to receive young people in the communities today?”

**SANTA MARIA DE LOS ANDES**

Those responsible for the evangelization front in Bolivia met on February 10 and 11. The purpose of the meeting was to share the activities carried out and to plan the activities for this year.

**MEDITERRÁNEA**

On February 23, at 6:00 PM in Spain, the XIV Cycle of Coffee-Colloquiums of the “Institute of Marist Studies” will be held: “Marist social works of Mediterránea”. The meeting, with free access (<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/026aaccf308444d7bcd8efc-7fab9979>), will allow participants to get to know the relevant social works of the Province in Spain and Italy, as well as their directors and/or coordinators.

**UMBRASIL**

Volumes II and III of the collection on the life of Brother Basilio “Man of God” have recently been published. This is a new edition in Portuguese of a work by Br. Giovanni Bigoto. Br. Basilio, 9th Superior General of the Institute, died in 1996 and, since 2002, the Cause of Canonization is in progress. See the works in this link: <https://umbrasil.org.br/2023/02/umbrasil-lanca-volumes-ii-e-iii-da-colecao-sobre-a-vida-do-ir-basilio-um-homem-de-deus/>

**COMPOSTELA**

Portugal celebrates 75 years of Marist presence during this period. At the beginning of the month the date was celebrated at the Externado Marista in Lisbon. Teachers, parents, students and former students were invited to participate in a Literary Dinner with the theme “The Taste of Words”.

FEBRUARY 1823

**MEMORARE IN THE SNOW**



**MEMORARE**

Remember,  
 O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
 that never was it known  
 that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
 implored thy help,  
 or sought thy intercession  
 was left unaided.  
 Inspired with this confidence,  
 I fly to thee,  
 O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;  
 to thee do I come;  
 before thee I stand,  
 sinful and sorrowful.  
 O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
 despise not my petitions,  
 but in thy mercy hear and answer me.  
 Amen

“Memorare in the Snow”,  
 February 1823

In February 1823, Marcellin Champagnat came close to fainting in the snow, but instead of losing hope, he prayed the “Memorare” and entrusted himself to the Virgin Mary.

This event is celebrated in the Marist World on 15 February with the evocation “Memorare in the Snow” which recalls the exhausted itinerary under the snow that Father Champagnat and Brother Stanislaus made on their way home, after having visited Brother John the Baptist, who was ill.

Realizing that it was impossible to continue and that they were lost, Father Marcellin entrusted himself to Our Lady and began to pray the “Memorare”.

Father Champagnat declared, on several occasions, that if help had not arrived right then, would both have perished and that the Blessed Virgin had snatched them from certain death.”

Prayer in PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

# SPIRITUALITY IN MISSION AND MISSION IN SPIRITUALITY

The XIX message of the Marist International Mission Commission, entitled “Spirituality in mission and mission in spirituality,” want to be a powerful invitation to all those involved in Marist mission to live, express, integrate, and encourage spirituality in every aspect of our action. And it also promotes “That all the spaces of mission transpire and facilitate a vital, contemporary, and Marist spiritual experience that allows everyone a real contact with the Spirit of God and the Gospel, alive and present.”



The message, written by Br. Francis Jumbe, on behalf of the International Marist Mission Commission, recalls that “The spiritual dimension plays a very important role and is intimately linked to our institutional identity.” And he emphasizes two fundamental aspects of the mission: “To make Jesus Christ known and loved” and to help them to be “good Christians and virtuous citizens”, given that the mission of our Marist works is “to help children and young people to have an experience of humanity, faith and vocation.”

The text highlights the need to develop spirituality and interiority as part of a transformative and contemporary educational model: “In Marist formation programmes, the spiritual dimension plays a very important role and is intimately linked to our institutional identity. Our formation programmes respect the human person, foster solidarity, and create opportunities to experience a sense of transcendence.”

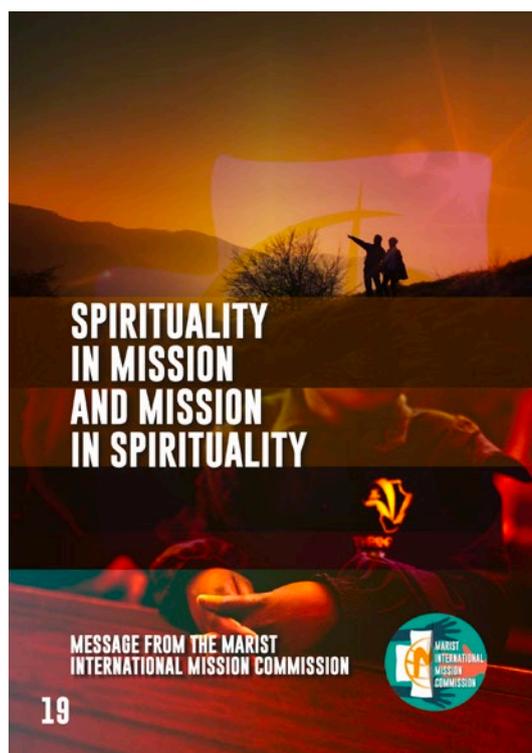
The document appreciates the actions already underway to live

our Marist spirituality but considers that “We still need more space to ensure that the values of the Second Call of the General Chapter help us to live an in-depth, life-transforming spirituality (such as prophecy, mercy, fraternity, interiority, daily life, joy, inclusion, wholeness, witness, unity, etc.).

The message raises the importance of “continuing to continue to creatively renew and facilitate regular formation programmes on spirituality and interiority for faculty, students, children, young people, and staff “And remind each other, all Marists of Champagnat (brothers and laity), to be conscious and consistent in our way of living Marist spirituality.”

Through this 19th message, the International Commission calls all Marists to live the mission prophetically today and highlights that “We are an apostolic Institute. We seek to facilitate an encounter with God and with the Gospel, especially on the part of children and young people. We are convinced that this encounter is transformative and prophetic, meaningful and liberating.”

PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)



marist world

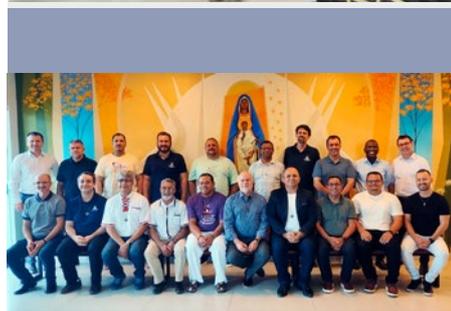
STUDENTS OF THE COLÉGIO MARISTA DE CARCAVELOS VISIT THE GENERAL HOUSE IN ROME



PAPUA NEW GUINEA: BOARD MEMBERS OF THE ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL MABIRI, BOUGAINVILLE



SPAIN: PROVINCIAL ENCOUNTER OF MARISTS OF MEDITERRÁNEA



BRAZIL: 19TH ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST UNION OF BRAZIL



BRAZIL: OUTING OF THE SENIOR BROTHERS OF THE PROVINCE OF BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL



THAILAND: SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE OF MARIST LIFE AND MISSION IN THE DISTRICT OF ASIA

YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS

SUPERIOR GENERAL PARTICIPATES IN A WEBINAR ON THE CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

As part of the celebration of the Year of Marist Vocations, the Secretariat of Brothers Today organized a webinar on February 8 in which Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, spoke about the Culture of Vocations. More than 120 Marists from all over the world connected by Zoom to listen to presentation.

There were two sessions: one at 9:00 AM, Rome Time, in English and one at 9:00 PM, Rome Time, in Spanish.

Br. Ernesto did his presentation for about 45 minutes, highlighting some of the key ideas that he wrote in his Circular, Homes of Light. He explained further the 10 elements necessary for the Marist communities and apostolic works to be able to care for and generate new life.



After the talk, the participants went into breakout groups for the sharing. Back in the plenary later, time was spent to listen to comments and entertain some questions.

## UMBRASIL

## INTEGRATED NETWORK OF BASIC EDUCATION OF THE MARISTS



REDE INTEGRADA DE EDUCAÇÃO  
BÁSICA DO BRASIL MARISTA



The Marist Institute has been promoting networking for some years and invites all the Marists of Champagnat to walk together. Since 2015, the Marists of Brazil have been organized motivated by the Strategic Planning of UMBRASIL, to promote unity, synergy, and complementarity among all the Marist units of Basic Education. And now it is forming the Integrated Network of Basic Education for the Marists of Brazil.

UMBRASIL responds with courage to contemporary challenges by promoting at the national level the mission of transforming society through evangelizing education, solidarity, the promotion and defense of life and the rights of children, adolescents and young people.

Through this initiative, it is much more feasible for the Marists to build innovative educational proposals and expand pedagogical experiences that meet the current needs of society and make possible the necessary transformations for the new times.

The network understands and respects regional particularities and contributes so that the Marist educational proposal can be even more recognized for its quality and excellence on the national stage.

In addition, synergistic governance practices generate resources and results, with a view to connecting people, the sustainability of the Institution, and the continuity of the mission.

The network is made up of 96 socio-educational units, distributed in 61 private schools and 35 social schools. This wishes to be a benchmark in quality Christian religious education, human formation, and promotion of the rights of children and youth, to promote a more just and supportive society, according to the Marist charism.

The Integrated Network of Basic Education of the Marists of Brazil is carried out in two phases of implementation: the first begins with the Provinces of Brasil Centro-Sul and Brasil Sul-Amazônia. In the next stage, it is integrated with the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, which from the beginning has participated in the founding movements and in making strategic decisions.

During the first phase of implementation, the Integrated Network will have three offices: in Curitiba, Porto Alegre and São Paulo. In the second phase there will be 6 regional offices, with offices also in Belo Horizonte, Brasília, and Recife.

"SENDEROS"

## PROGRAM OF ONGOING FORMATION IN MANZIANA

Since February 5th, 18 Brothers from the 6 regions of the Institute have been taking part in the Program of Ongoing Formation "Senderos", aimed at Brothers between the ages of 40 and 55. The purpose of this almost three-month period is to offer Brothers who are halfway through their life journey the opportunity to revisit their personal story, discern the calls of the Spirit, grow in the different dimensions of their life, and renew their response to the calls of the Marist mission today.

The formation program is taking place in Manziana and will conclude on April 29. During this period, besides the proposed themes and the pilgrimage to Assisi that will take place from February 27th to March 4th, a visit to the Marist places in France is planned from March 20th to 31st.

During the first week of the meeting the brothers had the opportunity to visit the brothers who work in the General House and to dialogue with Brother Ernesto Sanchez and his Council, who addressed to all of them words of welcome and vocational encouragement. So far, the topics proposed for reflection by the group have been the following: Nonviolent Communication, Interculturality and mission, Spiritual

Itinerary as sacred ground and Spirituality in maturity. These themes were animated by Br. Ángel Medina, Anna Damas, Br. Michael Sexton, and Br. Emilli Turú, respectively.

The group is accompanied by the permanent formation team of the Institute, composed of Brothers Ataíde José de Lima, Michael Sexton and Xavier Barceló.

The participants in the formation program are: Afaese Afaese (Star of the Sea), Cezar Cavanus (Brasil Centro-Sul), Daniel Chikwendu Anyaoha (Nigeria), Edvaldo Ferreira de Lima (Brasil Centro-Norte), Effah Vincent Arikpo (Nigeria), Finan Valei (Star of the Sea), Francisco Javier Peña de la Maza (México Central), Jean Albert Thomas Randrianantenaina (Madagascar), John Katumbi (Southern Africa), José de Jesús Cisneros Gama (México Occidental), José Rogério da Silva (Brasil Centro-Norte), Juan Carlos Jairo Villarreal Riaño (Norandina), Juan Pablo Hernández Castillo (Mediterránea), Kwang Joon Park (Lawrence) (East Asia), Leonard Brito (Southern Africa), Pierre Joseph Rasolomanana (Marist District of Asia), Salvador Hidalgo del Cano (Compostela), Simon Serero (Star of the Sea).

Fotos



GENERAL HOUSE

# MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF BROTHERS TODAY

The International Commission of Brothers Today met on 15-18 February at the General House in Rome. Organized by the Secretariat of Brothers Today, it was the second face to face meeting following the one held in July last year.

A good portion of the meeting was spent examining initial formation structures and processes across the various regions. Needs and challenges were named. Allocation and training of formation staff was identified as a common challenge across all regions. The alignment and consistency of formation plans both within and across regions was also discussed. It was pleasing to note that there continues to be interest in Marist life and the vocation of Brother. Another item for consideration during the meeting was the Year of Marist Vocations. There have been many initiatives undertaken by the Administrative Units to celebrate and promote Marist life. An important point to come out of discussions was consensus that the “Year of Marist Vocations” should not be closed on June 6, but rather that this moment should be marked, and emphasis placed on continuation and movement to a new phase of “caring for and generating Marist life.”

One way to care for Marist life is provision of opportunities for renewal and on-going formation. With this in mind, the Secretariat of Brothers Today developed plans for the various programs to be offered in the coming years.

The Commission was grateful for the presence of Br Ernesto, Superior General, in the morning of the 18th. In addition to the list that follows, Brothers Óscar Martin and João Carlos do Prado, who are the link councilors with the Secretariat, also form part of the



commission, as the two directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa.

The other members of the commission represent the different regions. They are:

- Br Alphonse Tiamaro (Province of Madagascar – Marist International Center, Nairobi)
- Br Ebel Muteveri (Province of Southern Africa – Marist International Center, Nairobi)
- Br Antonio Leal (Province of Compostela – Portugal)
- Br Fabricio Alves (Province of Brasil Centro Norte – Brasil)
- Br Juan Carlos Bolaños (Province of Arco Norte – Guatemala)
- Br Anselmo Kim Dong-ryeol (District of Asia – Vietnam)
- Br Matthew Green (Star of the Sea Province – Timor-Leste)



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF BROTHER ERNESTO, SUPERIOR GENERAL

On the 21st, brothers and lay people of the General Administration gathered in the Sala Champagnat to celebrate the gift of the life and vocation of Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General of the Marists of Champagnat. The Mass, organized by the General Administration community, was an opportunity to ask God to continue blessing Brother Ernesto with His gifts and to help him in his mission of guiding the Marists in the realization of the ideal of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. After Mass, the celebration continued with lunch.



### Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat)