



## COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA

# 6TH ASSEMBLY OF THE AMERICA SUR REGION

42 members of the Provincial Councils, the Regional Council and guests of the General Administration of the Marist Institute meet in Cochabamba, Bolivia, from 20 to 23 March, to review the journey of the South America Region and agree on the next steps.

The first official day of the Sixth Regional Assembly of the América Sur Region began with a sung prayer led by the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, which was followed by a moment of reflection and interiorisation.

Then the Executive Secretary of the Region, Leonardo Soares, gave a general presentation of the Region, with an account of the progress of recent years, making a comparison in numbers between 2016 and 2022. He also took a moment to explain how the regional initiatives are currently progressing, all of which are in line with the regional Strategic Planning.

Continuing the day, the Vicar General of the Marist Institute, Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, presented the current context of changes in the Marist Institute, highlighting three aspects within the calls of the last chapter: the impetus of life in the year of vocations, issues related to Marist identity, among them the decrease of brothers, the



growth of the Institute and the transformation that requires a different response of how to live religious life in the contemporary world. Brother Luis Carlos invited everyone to reflect on the regionalization strategy defined by the General Government so that the Provinces can help each other. Regionalization is based on a charismatic Family that responds to its regional reality, inviting its evolution, calling for the creation of a community of life and dialogue with a culture of vocation. >>

## general administration

- Last Sunday, General Councilors Brothers Óscar and Ken, links to the Region of Africa, began their visit to the Province of West Africa, which will end on April 22.
- Also on Sunday, Brothers Jorge and Goyo, from the General Economat, began their visit to Sri Lanka and India, which will continue until Easter Saturday.
- Brothers Ben and João, Links Councilors for Europe, continue their visit to the Province of Compostela until April 7. This week they will visit Valladolid, Salamanca, Burgos, Galicia and Tui.
- From Sunday to Friday, Brother Valdicer Fachi, Director of Cmi, will make an accompaniment visit to the Fratelli Project in Lebanon.
- On Monday, Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, gave a talk at the FTD, São Paulo, on Marist Leadership. Then, on Tuesday and Wednesday, in Curitiba, he participated in a seminar on Servant and Prophetic Leadership.
- Brother Ángel Diego, director of the Solidarity Office, finished

his visit to Ghana on Tuesday.

- Brother Mark Omede, for six years Assistant Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, returned to Nigeria on Tuesday, where he will help coordinate the Province's schools.
- On Wednesday, brothers and laity of the General House gathered for another session of Marist deepening meetings, giving space to the work done in the General Archives, with Dorotea Cinanni, and in the Postulator General's Office, with Brother Guillermo.
- Beginning Thursday, Brother Josep Maria, link Councilor for the Region of Asia, will be in the Province of West Asia. He will visit MAPAC and from April 2-8, at Lake Sebu, he will animate the provincial retreat on the Rule of Life and the Year of Marist Vocations.
- On Saturday, the group of Brothers following the "Senderos" Formation Program in Manziana will return from France, where they have been visiting Marist places for 10 days.

Then, Brother Patricio Pino led a moment of integration, in which the participants were invited to dialogue and learn more about the reality of the Region and the Provinces that compose it (Brasil Centro-Norte, Brasil Centro-Sul, Brasil Sul-Amazônia, Cruz del Sur and Santa María de los Andes).

After lunch, and in line with what was presented by the Vicar General, Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor of the Institute, asked a series of questions about the regionalisation of América Sur. In his presentation, he spoke about the statutes, the principles, and reviewed the Region's Vision 2022, asking those present how it has progressed, highlighting Charism, Leadership, Integration and Cooperation as the main values. He also discussed the priorities and challenges facing the region and the priorities of each of the five Provinces. Br. Óscar stressed that people must be placed at the center and that the next Strategic Plan must allow the region to reach them. He invited everyone to keep in mind four areas of regional development: formation, educational networks, economy, and communities.

Following the program, Br. Gregorio Linacero of the General Administration spoke about the interconnection of the region with the initiatives of the Institute, reviewing the existing Marist Secretariats and Networks. Br.

Gregorio emphasized that the regionalization process is aligned with the Strategic Plan of the General Administration and the importance of new leadership for its success. The América Sur region has representatives in almost all of the Institute's initiatives, generating links of collaboration and availability.

In the afternoon, the thematic sessions began, where participants were divided into seven working groups to discuss and listen to the different topics. Br. Isidro Azeleta, invited those present to reflect on the main challenge of each province in this area and what priority the region should have in the next 5 years. The second topic was Regional Spirituality, animated by Gustavo Balbinot.

The first day ended with a Eucharist.

## SECOND DAY – MARCH 21

The second day was marked by the work of the thematic tables and the connection with the Global Networks of the Marist Institute, in the key of the Global Family.

The day began with a prayer led by the Province of Cruz del Sur,

about the biblical story of Jesus' healing of a paralytic.

### Year of Marist Vocations

Then, following the dynamics of the first day, the thematic tables continued. Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor, invited the participants to know the reality of Vocation Promotion in the Institute, to care for life and generate new life. "To generate life in the Mission, we need to look beyond, to build an educational and evangelizing vision that highlights the spiritual dimension of education," Brother Óscar emphasized.

The following questions were then put for discussion at the tables: "Do I live my Marist life in happiness and show it? How do we help in the animation of vocations and in the care for Marist life, especially for the young brothers?"

### Network of Laity of the Region

Continuing the day, the third thematic table dealt with the Lay Marists of the Region. Pepe Jaime Rocabado presented the historical context of the Lay Network of the Region. The network is composed of Fraternities and Lay Communities, which group about 1800 people, including parents, former parents, former students, couples, employees, etc.

The Laity Network is defined as an instance that generates synergies around the formation and accompaniment itineraries of the lay Marist vocation, reinforcing the vitality of the Charism. They have 4 main projects: working with young lay people, generating a repository, along with proposals for formation and virtual accompaniment.

Jaime presented a video of the Laity Network, and then went on to a reflection by boards on the state of the laity in the Provinces and in the region.

### Marist Solidarity

The fourth thematic table focused on Solidarity in the Region, Analía Ruggeri, began her talk by presenting the structure of the Institute's network and where the region is located. She pointed out that Solidarity is "taking care of life, which is imposed every day." In this context, the Marist Heart in Solidarity network was highlighted, which has been working in solidarity throughout America for 18 years, seeking to respond to emerging realities from a human rights approach through different projects, such as Service Learning, Integral Ecology, and spaces for dialogue for children and young people. The roundtables were invited to discuss what they know about the network and what they need to know.

### Spirituality

In the afternoon, the fourth round table discussed Spirituality,



Gustavo Balbinot presented the development of spirituality throughout the history of the region, and also asked Brother Gonzalo Santa Coloma, from the Cruz del Sur Province, to comment on what dignifies the encounter with God, to which the brother pointed out that “the greatest encounter with God occurs after forgiveness, the basis of Christian spirituality and the true feeling of the Father’s love. The question was then put to the tables: “What projects can be implemented together to achieve transformations in Marist life?”



**American Conference of Provincials**

Leaving the group work, the Assembly made a video call to Brother Hipólito Pérez Gómez, who made a presentation about the American Conference of Provincials (CAP), reviewing its origins, trajectory and conformation, which has allowed to give stability to the Latin American search processes in their historical contexts. Today it is a space of collaboration that facilitates the follow-up of initiatives in terms of solidarity, spirituality and renewal of perpetual vows, generating a link between the regions of Arco Norte and South America. Among the future projects under consideration by CAP, the proposal of a Common American Novitiate stands out.

**Secretariat of Education and Evangelization**

Afterwards, Brother Pepe Sanchez gave an introduction to the Global Networks of the Institute, mainly Pastoral and Schools. The Global Network of Schools is called Champagnat Global, which has been built up over the past few years, having its first face-to-face meeting this year in Mexico City. Champagnat Global is a meeting place for school communities to have the opportunity to achieve global influence and to promote exchange and innovation by connecting our schools. The initiative has a space on its website called “Agora” where different schools can share educational material and continue to generate connections through thematic groups. On Youth Ministry, Brother Pepe spoke about the Marist Youth Ministry Network, an initiative of the General Government, which seeks to foster synergy and interaction among youth ministry actors in the Institute by providing coordinators with a common project to act as a Global Family and create a forum for sharing materials and experiences. The projects have been detailed to encourage the connection and involvement of young people in the initiative.

**Arco Norte Region**

The final presentation of the day was made by Brother Rodrigo

Espinoza, Executive Secretary of the Marist Arco Norte Region, who gave a presentation on his region, which has 6 Administrative Units present in 14 countries. Arco Norte took its first steps in 2016 and has consolidated its strategic plan for 2020. Each of the teams and initiatives working in the region was presented, in a structure very similar to that of South America.

The second day ended with a prayer prepared by the Cruz del Sur Province.

**THIRD DAY – MARCH 22**

The third day, March 22, began with breakfast and then headed to the Cristo de la Concordia, a pilgrimage site, from where a panoramic view of the city can be appreciated. The participants then visited other tourist attractions, allowing them to learn more about the Bolivian culture that is part of the rich and diverse regional heritage.

**Mission of Consecrated Life in a Synodal Church**

After lunch, the first module of the afternoon dealt with the Mission of Consecrated Life in a Synodal Church, led by Father Alejandro Marina, program advisor and synodal pathway in the Archdiocese of Cochabamba.

Alejandro explained that the concept of the synodal Church means that the Church is a community on pilgrimage together towards the Kingdom of God. To introduce synodality, he quoted a message of Pope Francis in which he invites us to dream of a missionary option capable of transforming everything. He then asked those present to dialogue with those close to them about what they believe they should change as Marists in order to go on pilgrimage in community. We are invited to be a missionary Church going out, reaching out to young people in an open way of thinking and dialogue.

**South America Region during 2022**

Continuing the work, the Executive Secretary of the region Leonardo



Soares presented the Projects and Results of the South America Region during 2022. He detailed the progress of each of the regional initiatives. The premises for the region are also maintained, such as strengthening the Consecrated Life and the Laity, stop duplicating projects, avoid overloading the agenda of Brothers and Laity, reduce costs, do not interfere in the local projects of the Provinces and act with a methodology of execution of projects, so that they reach the works.

Leonardo also gave a presentation on the Marist Union of Brazil (UM-BRASIL), a body that supports and connects the Brazilian Provinces and is at the service of the region. Its work is proposed along the lines of strengthening Identity, Mission and Vocation, Religious Organization and Communications and Public Relations. Then the new Regional Strategic Planning Proposal is presented.

The day ended with a moment of prayer by the Marist Province of Brasil Centro Norte (PMBCN) and a celebration that included the presentation of a series of folkloric dances performed by Marist students from the schools of Cochabamba.

## CUARTO DÍA – MARCH 23

The morning began with a moment of prayer led by the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, followed by personal time to read and analyze the synthesis of the regional projects proposed for the year 2023, referring to Marist Apostolic Spirituality, Personal Development Plan, Marist Intelligence Hub, Agenda and Shared Communication, Vocational Animation, Financial Sustainability, Regional Solidarity, Internships and the project of Exchanges and Experiences.

### Project Analysis

After the personal time, a work of analysis of the Projects presen-

ted by Thematic Tables was carried out, which lasted throughout the morning, where the assembly members were able to dialogue and reflect together, to contribute suggestions to the objectives, expected results, resources used and for the work plan of each of the proposals.

After lunch, the Provincial Councils met to make a synthesis and make considerations on the proposal of Projects of the Region, to then share with the plenary of the Assembly. Following this, the voting and Operational Orientations took place.

### Regional Budget 2023 and Region coordinator

In the afternoon, the Executive Secretary of América Sur, Leonardo Soares, presented the Regional Budget 2023, pointing out the main expenses and financing for the work of the region. This was followed by an evaluation of the Assembly, which was very well appreciated by all participants.

The Assembly marked the end of the term of Brother Pablo González, Provincial of Santa María de los Andes, as Provincial coordinator of the region, handing over the position to Brother José de Assis de Brito of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, who will hold the position for the next two years. Br. Pablo thanked everyone for the trust placed in him during his term and the opportunity to learn more about the various Provinces.

The Assembly ended with a moment of prayer and sending forth organized by the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, in which the participants thanked God and the Good Mother for these fruitful days of work and fraternity that strengthen the regional journey as a Global Marist Family, with special thanks to the Province of Santa María de los Andes for the welcome and organization of the Assembly together with the Regional Committee.



GHANA

# WORKSHOP FOR THE CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION OF WEST AFRICA

From the 20 March to the 24 March the province of West Africa held a workshop organized by the Child Protection Commission of the Province in Ghana with the aim to continue the development of the Province Child Safeguarding Policy.

The meeting was facilitated by Br. Ken McDonald, General Councilor, and Br. Angel Diego, Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity. The Institute's Child Safeguarding Standards was used as a guiding document in the development West Africa Province Child Safeguarding Policy.

Priority was given to ensure that the Province Policy was suited to the various contexts of the Province's ministries.

In the near future, the province commission will finalize the policy and promote it in the province's schools.

The participants in the meeting were: Brothers Cyprian Gandebo (Provincial), Simon Kanjam, Augustine Naatey, Gilbert Dakora, Philip Nifaasie, Joseph Asante, Daniel Taylor, Celestine Tayu, Succes Ngardoum, Etienne Balma, Cho Nchang, Valenti-



ne Meyanui, and Habib Wiysenyuy.

The West Africa Province is present in five countries: Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Liberia.

COMPOSTELA

# GENERAL COUNCILORS VISIT MARISTS OF THE PROVINCE



Brothers João Carlos de Prado and Ben Consigli, General Councilors links with the European Region, are visiting the Province of Compostela until April 7. During this first week they got to know the social and educational works of the Province in Portugal accompanied by Brother Provincial, Máximo Blanco. The visit began at the Lar Marista de Ermesinde where the director, Paulo Pacheco, showed them the facilities of this house specialized in children and young people at social risk, with disabilities and/or

chronic illnesses. The general councilors visited the Lar and had a meeting with the educators to learn about their daily mission.

They also had the opportunity to visit the Casa de Crianza de Tires, a shelter for the children of prisoners and children in situations of exclusion, belonging to the Champagnat Foundation, where they met with its director, Bárbara Gardete, to learn about the Foundation's other projects in Portugal.

The councilors also visited the two Marist schools in Portugal. On Wednesday they were at the College of Carcavelos and on Thursday at the Marist Externato in Lisbon. In both cases they held various meetings to get to know and experience the educational essence of the centers.

In addition, the presence of the two General Councilors in Portugal coincided with the celebration of the General Meeting of Administrators of Educational Works of the Province of Compostela in which they participated and where they were also able to meet with the Economic Team of Educational Works.

The visit to Portugal was concluded on March 24, in the community of Vouzela. Brothers Ben and João Carlos will remain in the Province of Compostela until April 7.

Fotos

## SOUTH AFRICA

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A SPORTING ‘ASSISTANT’ BUT NEVER AN ‘ATHLETE’

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been making remarkable progress in various fields, including medicine, finance and transportation. However, some people believe that AI can also replace natural human ability on the sports field. While AI can provide valuable insight and help athletes improve their performance, it cannot replace the natural instincts and creativity of human athletes.

AI lacks the natural instincts that human athletes possess. Athletes develop their instincts over years of training and experience. They can anticipate the movements of their opponents, make split-second decisions and adjust their movements accordingly. AI, on the other hand, is programmed to make decisions based on data and algorithms. While AI can analyse vast amounts of data and identify patterns, it cannot replicate the natural instincts that human athletes possess.

Sports require creativity and adaptability, which are unique skills to human athletes. While AI can process data and identify patterns, it cannot think outside of the box or come up with creative solutions to problems. In sports, athletes often face unexpected situations that require them to think on their feet and come up with innovative solutions. For example, a basketball player may need to improvise a shot in the face of a sudden defensive move. AI cannot replicate this creativity and adaptability.

Sports are emotional and psychological experiences and AI lacks emotional intelligence. Athletes experience a range of emotions, including excitement, fear and anxiety, which can affect their performance. Coaches and teammates play a significant role in managing these emotions and motivating athletes to perform at their best. AI, however, cannot read emotions or provide the emotional support that human athletes require.

Sports require physical ability, that is exclusive to human athletes. While AI can provide insight into an athlete’s performance, it cannot replicate the physical attributes that make an athlete successful. For example, a sprinter’s speed or a basketball player’s jumping ability cannot be replicated by AI. Human athletes possess exclusive



physical abilities that allow them to excel in their respective sports. Whether we are on the field or court, we thrive on human connection and community. Fans connect with athletes and teams on an emotional level and sports bring people together from all walks of life. AI cannot replicate this human connection and community. While AI can provide insight into an athlete’s performance and help fans engage with the sport in new ways, it cannot replace the emotional connection that fans have with their favourite athletes and teams.

In conclusion, while AI can provide valuable insight and help athletes improve their performance, it cannot replace the natural instincts, creativity, adaptability, emotional intelligence and the physical ability of human athletes. Sports are about human connection, community and the unique abilities of athletes. AI can provide a valuable tool for coaches, trainers, and analysts, but it cannot replicate the human experience of sports. As technology continues to advance, we must remember the importance of the human experience and the unique qualities that make us who we are.

It took me twenty seconds to generate this article on the AI platform, ChatGPT. However, it took me ten years of training; provided by dedicated coaches and many hours of practice, to perfect a winning drop kick in the last twenty seconds of a Marist Brothers Linmeyer first-team championship winning game.

There will most definitely be a place for Artificial Intelligence in education in the future, but there is nothing artificial about your natural ability, hard work and dedication to your sport.

Craig Winfield – [Marist Brothers Linmeyer](#)  
High School Extra-Curricular Coordinator

## MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA

In India was completed the Child Protection Policy Training for Staff of Chetana Tribal Boys' Hostel. The initiative was financed by Australian Marist Solidarity. The hostel provides accommodation and access to education for Santali Tribal children in Talit. The aim of the intervention is to enable them to break the cycle of poverty that the community face.

## NIGERIA

On the Solemnly of Annunciation of the Lord, 25th March, 2023, Young Brothers, temporary Professed, gather at the Provincial House for an interactive meeting with the Provincial and also to reflect on their current state as temporary Professed Brothers.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

The cyclone Freddy affected severely Malawi. Almost 500 people have died in the flooding, and ten thousands of people have lost their homes. The devastating effects of the cyclone have been dire also for the education system, affecting schools and educational establishments, while some schools have been turned into camps for displaced communities. The Marist Brothers in Malawi are already supporting their communities, providing them food and a safe shelter and are constantly in contact with FMSI team who immediately committed to helping the Brothers to support the Malawi population.

## UNITED STATES

The Province celebrated the Annunciation on March 25 with the entrance of two new novices: David Freiler and Miguel Garcia. Two other novices, Robert Dittus and Ryan Richter, are in the final months of their Novitiate experience.

## FRANCE

# BROTHER ANTONIO RAMALHO APPOINTED SUPERIOR OF THE COMMUNITY OF NOTRE-DAME DE L'HERMITAGE



The General Council, in dialogue with the Provincial of the Hermitage Province, has appointed Brother Antonio Ramalho, of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, as the new superior of the community of Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage in France. He will replace Brother Maurice Berquet, the present superior, in July 2023.

The Mother House of the Institute, which celebrates 200 years of existence in 2025, is an international community, dedicated to welcoming Marist groups in particular, but also Christian communities in general.

The present community is composed of Brothers Benito Arbués (L'Hermitage), Demosthenes Calabria (East Asia), Eladi Gallego (L'Hermitage), José Antonio Molina (L'Hermitage), Maurice Berquet (L'Hermitage), Maurice Goutagny (L'Hermitage), Maurice Paul Razanandro (Madagascar), Miquel Cubeles (L'Hermitage) and Rafael Ferreira (Brasil Centro-Norte). Brother Maurice, in these few words, tells us what it means to live in this special place for the Marist charism: "To be part of the Hermitage community

is mainly to live three experiences: to live in the reliquary of Father Champagnat; as Brother François said: everything in the house speaks of him! To live fraternity without frontiers in a community that we build day after day with our differences of language, culture and history. To live welcoming and accompanying pilgrims, the heart of our mission!"

Br Antonio Ramalho was born in Maceió, Brazil. He has degrees in Philosophy (Pernambuco) and Theology (Louvain, Belgium). In the Province he has been educator, formator and Provincial for 12 years. He was General Councillor for two mandates, from 2001 to 2017. He currently lives in the formation community of Vila Velha, Province Brasil Centro-Norte.

GENERAL HOUSE

# INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF MARIST PUBLISHING HOUSES

The meeting of the International Network of Marist Publishing Houses was held at the General House, March 15-16, sponsored by the General Administration and the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization. The meeting was attended by representatives of the three Marist Publishing Houses: Brother Román Álvarez, Mr. Javier Cendoya and Mr. Alberto Pazos of EDELVIVES; Brother Vanderlei Siqueira and Mr. Ricardo Tavarez of ETD. The GRAM publishing house was represented by Brother Raúl Schönfeld, Provincial of Cruz del Sur. Also present were the Provincials of Brasil Centro-Sul, Brother Benê de Oliveira, and of Ibérica, Brother Abel Muñoz. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and Ben Consigli were present on behalf of the General Council. Also present were Brothers Jorge Gao and Gregorio Linacero from the Economato; Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and José Sánchez represented the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization.

In his presentation, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, thanked the three Marist Publishing Houses for their presence and constant support: “Thank you for the solidarity you offer to various projects in different parts of the Marist world and also for the support you give to the events of the Institute, as well as to other organizations and Congregations. I am particularly grateful for your service of leadership. I invite you to continue to walk in line with the Global Marist Family, following the invitation of the XXII General Chapter”.

Luis Carlos, Vicar General, said that “strengthening the publishing houses is a primary objective of the Network, together with the capacity to share experiences, rethink management models and seek new spaces for services and new projects”, and stressed that “the publishing houses contribute to the schools with contents, didactic methodologies, learning theories and, transversally, with a set of principles and values that enrich the proposal of our schools, support the work of the educators and strengthen the didactic and value identity”.

José Sánchez, director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, explained that it was an opportunity to “recall the milestones



achieved in our journey as a network, to share the plans of each publishing house and to glimpse the challenges for each publishing house and for the Marist mission. All this with the aim of finding points of collaboration and synergy in favor of the mission of each publishing house and that of the Institute.”

The meeting of the publishing houses responds to the call to consolidate the Institute’s mission networks in order to strengthen the global family. Among its

priorities are:

- To evaluate the progress of the Marist International Network of Publishing Houses in line with the directives of the XXII General Chapter, the X General Conference and the challenges facing the Marist mission at different levels.
- To strengthen the bonds of union, trust and solidarity among the organizations and participants in the dynamics of the Network.
- To reflect and outline together the place and role of the Network within the mission of the Institute and from the perspective of the global charismatic family.
- To review and advance in the updating of the statutes of the Network in order to define more clearly its objectives.

The meeting had moments of prayer in the mornings, the Eucharist on March 15 and a Marian moment at noon.

**marist world**

BANGLADESH: FMSI TEAM MEETING WITH 15 TEACHERS OF ST. MARCELLIN SCHOOL IN GIASNOGOR



CUBA: LAVALLA200> HOLGUÍN



INDIA: CHILD PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING – CHETANA TRIBAL BOYS' HOSTEL



SPAIN: FORMATION PROGRAM OF THE INTERIORITY EDUCATION PROJECT IN LAREDO



NIGER: YOUNG BROTHERS, TEMPORARY PROFESSED, GATHER AT THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE



RWANDA: NOVITIATE OF SAVE

PARAGUAY

**PROTECTION POLICIES OF THE MARIST SOLIDARITY HEART INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK**

Members of the Working Group on Protection Policies of the Inter-American Marist Solidarity Heart Network participated, in Paraguay, at the II Latin American Congress of the Center for the Protection of Minors in Latin America and Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic University, dedicated to “Effective management of the sexual abuse process through care, information and communication”. The meeting was held from March 14 to 16.

In an environment of synodality, members of the Marist Working Group from Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Mexico could learn, exchange and update on the efforts made as a Church to provide an adequate response to the sexual abuse reality.

Thanks to these spaces, such as the Global Family and the Marists of Champagnat continue to strive to make their communities



safe for everyone, especially the most vulnerable children and young people. For more information about this section, click here: <https://cepromelat.com/congreso-latinoamericano/>

GENERAL HOUSE

# ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAM “SENDEROS” IN MARIST PLACES

The Brothers who are participating in the Ongoing Formation program “Senderos” 2023 continue the journey which began on February 5 in Manziana. For all the 18 Brothers, who form a multicultural community coming from the 6 Regions of the Institute, this meeting is a privileged time of living together and, above all, of vocational invigoration. In addition to the opportunity of living together and getting to know brothers from different cultures, the privileged moments of silence and prayer, the proposed themes for reflection and personal evaluation, and the sharing of life are spaces of vocational animation that enrich everyone. In this beautiful coexistence they feel that Champagnat’s dream is becoming a reality in the history that they share together.

After the pilgrimage to Assisi at the beginning of March, where they got to know a little more about the life of Saint Francis, the brothers, on their return to Manziana, were motivated by Brothers Joe McKee, former Vicar General of the Institute, and Joaquim Erra (Superior General of the Hospitaller Brothers of Saint John of God) to pray, deepen and evaluate, respectively, their own vocational journey, based on the following themes: Affectivity in the consecrated life and Self-care and integrated life.

### In the Marist Places

From March 20 to 30 they make a pilgrimage to the Marist places in France. During these days they experience the high point of the meeting. In the house of Notre-Dame de l’Hermitage, where Champagnat’s heart beats, and in many other significant places of Marist origins, such as La Valla and Rosey, each one is being invited to listen attentively to the challenges of Marcellin Champagnat. The Nise Dominus, so often repeated to Champagnat’s first disciples, continues to echo and to invite them to live religious consecration with confidence and fullness, as a gift to be shared between brothers, children, young people and lay Marists.



The house built on the rock recalls Marcellin’s faith in Providence, his confidence in the Good Mother, his courage in the face of uncertainty, his love for the Brothers, and his intrepidity in committing himself to the formation of a large family. This enthuses the participants and, at the same time, invites them to respond with audacity to the challenges posed for the actualization of his charism and mission. Marcellin is even now colling people to go beyond their limits, living, sharing and witnessing with generosity and simplicity, at the heart of the Church, the brotherhood that we have received as a gift. (RL 41, 70, 71)

The house of L’Hermitage is an icon of Marist history which, by its magnitude and especially its simplicity, challenges everyone to live, personally and communally, the desire of Marcellin Champagnat expressed in his Spiritual Testament: “May it be said of the Little Brothers of Mary as of the first Christians, ‘See how they love one another’”.

After the visit to the Marist places, the participants return in Italy, where they continue their ongoing formation meeting at Casa de Manziana, accompanied by the Institute’s ongoing formation team, formed by Brothers Ataíde José de Lima, Michael Sexton and Xavier Barceló.



### 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>

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