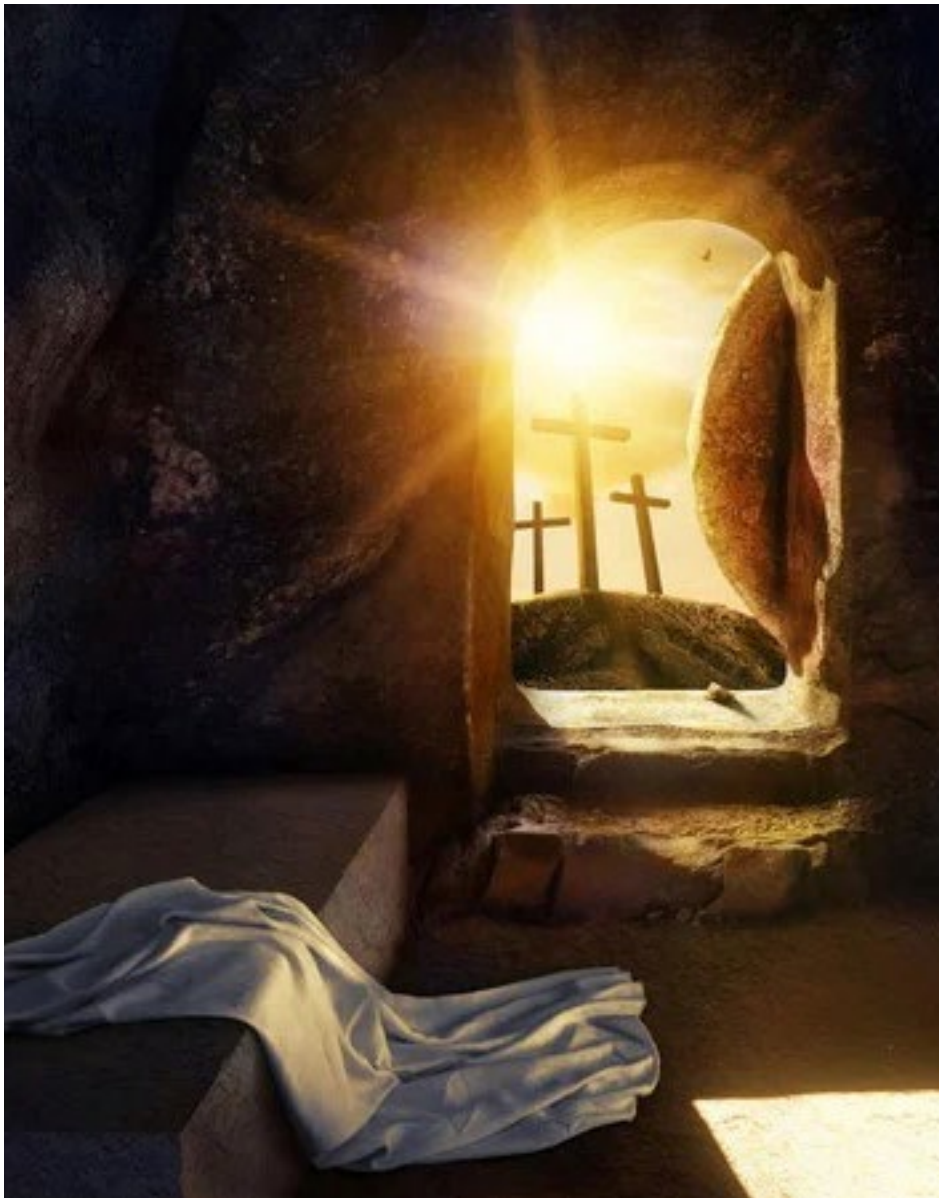




Year **XV** - Number **774** | **6 APRIL 2023**

MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG



When we approach the Easter mystery in depth, we discover and welcome the presence of God in our lives, who accompanies us continually, both in moments of uncertainty and suffering, as well as in moments of joy and happiness. Jesus, on the cross shortly before his death, after expressing his sense of abandonment, said with complete confidence: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” (Lk 23:46). On the third day, Jesus lives! And the light of his resurrection shines in the world, illuminating the fears and shadows, and encouraging the disciples to proclaim the Good News. This Easter, may the resurrection nourish our hope and encourage us to bear witness to the risen Jesus with passion and compassion in the service of others.
Happy Easter!

Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba,
Superior general

general administration

- From Sunday to Holy Saturday, Br. Josep Maria, General Councillor, animates in East Asia, Philippines, the provincial retreat on the Rule of Life and the Year of Marist Vocations.
- Brothers Ken and Óscar, general councilors, continue their visit in the West Africa Province. This week, Br. Óscar will be in the Ivory Coast and Br. Ken in Liberia. The visit will end on April 22.
- From Monday to Wednesday, Br. Valdicer, director of the CMI, meets at the General House with Rosa Schiaffino, from the Province of Mediterránea, to prepare the formation program for

international and intercultural communities, which will take place from the 24th of May until July 5, in Rome and the last week at the Hermitage.

- As of Wednesday, Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, will participate in the “Youth Easter” at the Monestir De Les Avellanes, in Spain.
- On Good Friday, brothers Ben and João Carlos, general councilors, end their visit to the Province of Compostela. During the week they are going to visit Valladolid, Esmoriz and Tui.

MEXICO

XXVI FRATERNITIES ENCOUNTER OF THE CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT OF THE MARIST FAMILY

The 17 Fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (MCFM) of the Provinces of México Central and México Occidental met from March 24 to 26 to participate in the XXVI Provincial Encounter of Fraternities. 125 members of the MCFM gathered at the Juan Pablo II pastoral house in San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco, motivated by the motto “Beacons of Hope in Today’s World”. Luis Enrique Rodríguez, Provincial of Western Mexico, and Br. Luis Felipe González, Provincial of Central Mexico, were present at the meeting. In addition, Ana Saborio, from the Extended Secretariat of the Laity of the Province of Central America.



In a video message to the participants, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, greeted everyone and invited them to be inspired by Mary and Champagnat. “We are celebrating the year of Marist vocations, with the motto of caring for and generating Marist life. So how do we take care of ourselves? and what do we do to generate new life? We do this through testimony and through actions. I invite you to live this year with courage and profundity,” said Br. Ernesto, as he concluded his message and thanked “everyone for their dedication, their commitment and for being part of this global charismatic family”.



At the meeting, the brothers and lay Marists reflected on the lay Marist vocation, the global family, discernment, bonding, and current issues in the Institute.

The annual MCFM meeting has been held in person after three years, due to health protocols caused by the pandemic.

COLOMBIA

THE ENCOUNTER OF LAYMEN AND LAYWOMEN WITH A PUBLIC LINKAGE

Participants came from different parts of Colombia, Norandina Province, 20 laymen and women with a public link to the Marist charism, met in Cali, Colombia, from March 17 to 20 to reflect on the topic: “Where is the strength of my linkage?”.



This space of integration allowed those present to strengthen the charism of the lay Marist, in the light of the calls of the VII Provincial Chapter.

On the first day, the participants reflected on the centrality of Jesus in their lives, on being Lay Marists, and on Mary as a wonderful companion on their journey.

On the second day, emphasis was placed on the importance of vocation, The “Formula of public linkage” and the circular of Br. Ernesto “Homes of Light” were examined to deepen the motivation behind the decision to join the charism and the promotion

of this charism.

The event culminated with a Eucharist to celebrate what had been experienced during the three days. Afterward, symbols and individual charts were offered.

In the context of the event, the assembly proposed some ideas to project the Marist Laity’s journey during 2023.

HERMITAGE

MEETING OF EDUCATORS OF MARIST SOCIAL WORKS OF CATALONIA IN BARCELONA



"Who takes care of the caregiver?". This was the motto of the Meeting of educators of the Marist social works of Catalonia, which was held on Friday, March 17 at the Maristes Anna Ravell school in Barcelona, and which wanted to emphasize the care of people and teams during a complicated time.

After the director's acknowledgments of the Marist social works of Barcelona, Helena Bové, hostess of the event, the Marist Brothers inaugurated the encounter Lluís Serra and Gabriel Villa-Real, Provincial of L'Hermitage, and Brígida Ceballos, technician, Barcelona City Council.

Brother Lluís Serra made a historical review of Marist social works and went back to 1990 when Asociación Compartir was created. Referring to the task of social work educators, he recalled that "giving and receiving are the systole and diastole of social action. From this perspective, professionals and volunteers realize that they also need to receive attention to explore their inner selves, strengthen their actions, work better as a team, avoid unhealthy conditions, improve their training, and contribute from humility... If they do not fill the water bottle they will not be able to offer water to others".

Brígida Ceballos, on the other hand, highlighted the work carried out by the entities of the City Council, "a work of high technical complexity" and remarked that one of the challenges

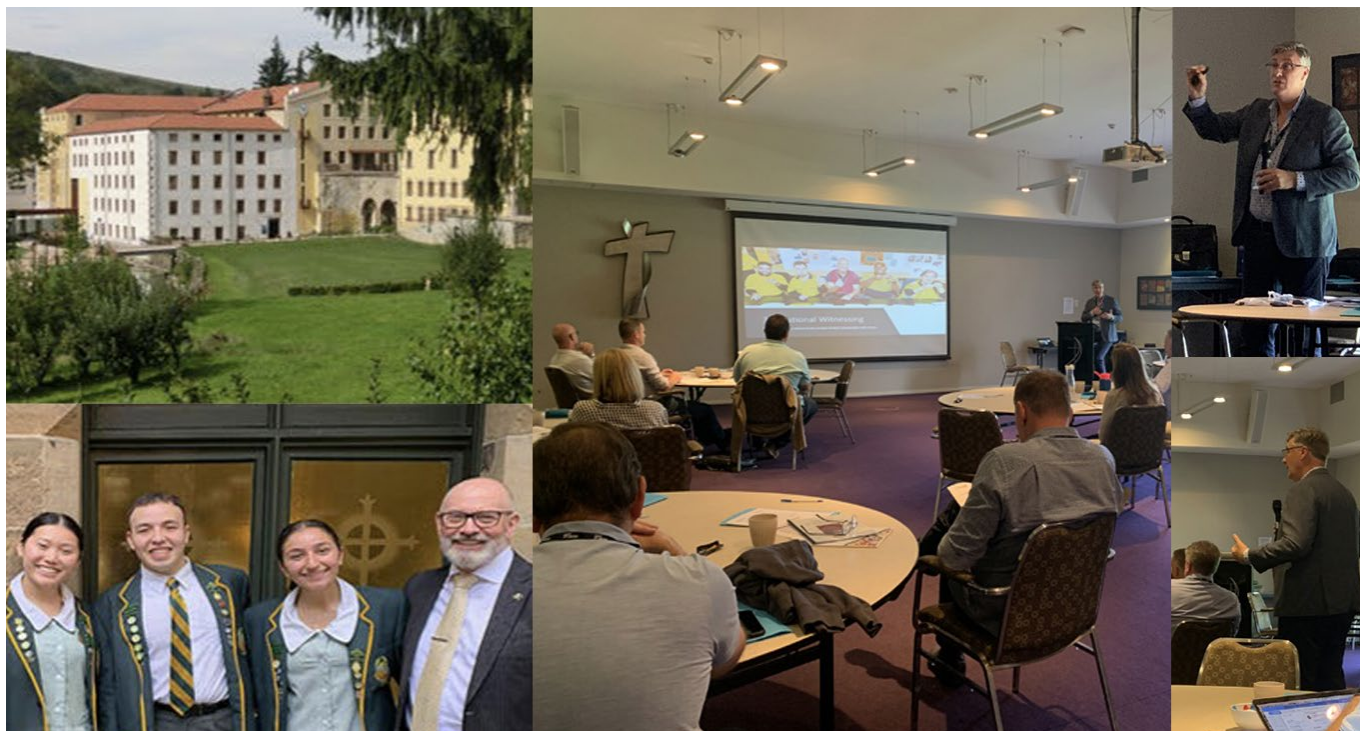
of the Barcelona City Council is "to continue to offer lines of work and support to projects".

To conclude the speeches, Brother Gabriel Villa-Real, Provincial, recalled the path and the good work that has been done in the last 20 years and the firm and decisive commitment that has been taken as an institution for social work. He also thanked each of the educators for their daily work: "Thank you for your courage because your daily life means living in direct contact with fragility, and for that, you must have courage. And in this context, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that we must take care of those who take care of others. And to take care of oneself, to know how to express it in words, and to feel what we feel. To feel connected with others and to know how to disconnect to reconnect".

The day continued with a dynamic talk by Oriol Julià, entitled "We accompany ourselves by feeling to accompany with meaning. Spaces for equipment care", which shook the attendees and was followed by workshops on the care of people and equipment: healing words, laughter, emotions, common home, and laughter... After lunch, the General Director of the Champagnat Foundation, Loreto Rubio, shared a moment with the educators to talk about the strategic lines of the institution, and the day ended with a playful space for educators with the aim of networking and getting to know the people of the social works better.

AUSTRALIA

MEETING OF THE MARIST PRINCIPALS IN MITTAGONG



In March, the Principals of the 54 Marist schools of the Province of Australia gathered for a conference at The Hermitage, Mittagong, near Sydney. It was the first time in this way since 2019. 60% of participants were either new to the role of Principal or were leading a different school in 2019. As usual, the 2023 Conference was a mixture of formation, discussion of current priorities and directions, and also a time to enhance everyone’s mutual knowledge and collegiality as Marist leaders.

Marist School of Australia Regional Director, Dr John Kyle-Robinson provided the key note and led conversations exploring the question: How do teachers in Catholic secondary schools experience the New Evangelisation?

The topic was the basis of John’s highly acclaimed research over a period of 10 years. John’s scholarship identified the richness and importance of the word evangelisation, citing the different nuances and emphases of Popes, from John XXIII to Francis today. Research literature from across the globe was synthesised, validating observations and aligning with lived experiences shared in Australia. Importantly the findings and recommendations of the research provided stimulus for animated discussion, debate, inspiration, and encouragement for the dedicated school leaders. From the vast richness of the research findings and recommenda-

tions, John highlighted the following:

The primary agenda of the New Evangelisation is understood as witness. “Witnesses” are personally committed to Jesus and cultivate a spirituality informed by the values of the Gospel. Consequently, they implement the New Evangelisation by living Christian values authentically and, when appropriate, inviting colleagues and students respectfully to share spirituality.

“This research clearly affirms the integrated nature of our work and activity in Catholic schools. We Marists do not disassociate spiritual formation from professional learning”, affirmed Frank Malloy, National director of the Marist School of Australia.

The major focus on “evangelisation”, led by Dr John Kyle-Robinson, affirmed again the impact of committed teachers and staff in the lives of Marist students.

In collaboration with the MSA Head of Governance, Risk and Legal, Ms Elizabeth Gallagher, Brother David Hall, Chair of the MSA Ltd Board, led a discussion on the Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry into religious schooling from a national Catholic perspective. “As Chair of the Board, the direct engagement in this forum proved to be a rich opportunity to connect with those in leadership of our Australian Marist schools” Br. David said.

CENTRAL MEXICO

The Province and the Marist University of Querétaro invite you to the V Youth Encounter on Care for our Common Home that will take place from May 3 to 4 in the city of Querétaro. On this occasion the theme of the meeting will be Transformative Solidarity. [More information here.](#)

BRAZIL

The first Marist Historical and Spiritual Heritage Workshop (PHEM) of 2023 will be held on April 11 and 12. Carried out online, its theme is Education for Interiority. On this occasion, the book *Educating from the paradigm of interiority*, authored by Brother Juan-Moral Barrio, will be launched. Registration must be done on the Farol 1817 portal, [available here.](#)

COMPOSTELA

The ICT Coordinators of the schools of the Province held the second annual meeting at the end of March. The virtual event had the objective of promoting the Digital Teaching Competence among the teachers of the Marist educational centers. During the event were reviewed the tasks that will be carried out throughout the last quarter of the 2022-23 academic year.

MEDITERRANEA

The animation team of the Marist charism invited the entire community of Giugliano, in Italy, to a day of retreat and sharing, in preparation for Easter.

**SPAIN**

SECOND WEEK OF THE VISIT OF THE GENERAL COUNSELLORS IN COMPOSTELA



The second week of the institutional visit to the Marist Province of Compostela of the General Councilors, Brothers João Carlos de Prado and Ben Consigli, was centered in Castilla y León where they visited various works and met with communities of brothers and lay people.

After visits to [Portugal](#), the Councilors arrived in Valladolid on Saturday, March 25, where they met with the brothers of the communities of the city at the Marist Champagnat Residence. There they also met with the participants in the Itinerary of Marist Life with whom they analyzed the role of the laity and of the groups as generators of Marist life.

On Monday the General Councilors took part in the last day of the formation of spokespersons that has been taking place in Compostela during the 2022-2023 academic year, where they shared the keys to the management of communica-

tion in the Marist Institute.

The visit continued in Salamanca where they visited the Champagnat School, which was in the midst of its festivities, and the Marist University College (CUM) where they also met with the community. From there they went to Burgos where they visited the Residence-Hostel of Miraflores, and the garden cared for by the brothers, and the Colegio Liceo Castilla. There they were shown, among other things, the Museum of Minerals where Br. Gregorio Acero, its creator, who died at the end of last year, is remembered.

The week concluded in Leon with a visit to the city, the San Jose school and the Champagnat residence where they met with the brothers.

Portugal, Castile and Leon... and now on to Galicia. Bon voyage councilors!

[Photos](#)

SYRIA

MARIST SOLIDARITY GIVES HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF ALEPPO

Five minutes after the first earthquake shook Aleppo on February 6, a WhatsApp message arrived to this group of 155 Blue Marist volunteers. “If you are safe, come to the center, we need you.” 15 minutes after the earthquake, all the volunteers were at the Marist Blue Center, ready to immediately welcome more than 1,000 frightened, freezing, and desperate people. The earthquake shook Aleppo

in the middle of winter, and many people fled to the streets barefoot, in the darkness of a city that only has two hours of electricity a day. The trauma for most people, after years of war, was terrible. The volunteer network is the beating heart of the Marist organizational engine: a team of educators and social workers engaged in 14 projects that reach out to the poorest and most vulnerable areas of Aleppo.

On March 2, the “I want to learn” project, an educational program for 120 children between the ages of 3 and 5, was resumed. Buses leave the center at 9 a.m. to pick up children living in the most difficult areas of the city, such as Bustan Alkaser, Al Sahlin and Khaldieh. They arrive at the center, where they are welcomed by volunteers who, after a universal prayer (in the center, volunteers and children are Christians and Muslims), begin music, games, drawing activities, gymnastics and the distribution of drinks and hot meals. An oasis of happiness, and joy, for the children but also for the volunteers who breathe in the air that positive energy they need to overcome this difficult time. “You don’t know how important it is to finally have this energy around us again. It is an immense joy that gives you the strength to go on”, says Br. George Sabé.

This program is now resuming, for the first time since February 6. But aid to the people of Aleppo has never stopped:

The delivery of food packages to 832 families in Aleppo, the distribution of powdered milk to over 3,000 children, the home delivery of 250 hot meals for the elderly left alone, resilience programs together with Realmonte onlus to over 500 children and youths (the latter continued in the form of home delivery for about a quarter of the beneficiaries even immediately after the earthquake).

Now, more than ever, there is a great need for Blue Marists in Aleppo.



After the war, the covid, the sanctions that have reduced a population to extreme poverty, and the cholera epidemic of November 2022, now we add this tremendous earthquake. 90% of Syrians live below the poverty line, in Aleppo, there are 2 hours of electricity per day, and some neighborhoods are without electricity all day. Gasoline is rationed (50 liters per year per family). The average salary of those who work is USD 30 per month, barely enough to buy food. There are still many families living on the street, in tents, waiting for their houses to be renovated or at least deemed fit for habitation. So many children who, instead of going to school, are forced to work.

International cooperation, especially UNICEF, is active in Aleppo with some important programs, such as catching up on school years for children who missed a year or two after covid and cholera. But this is not enough. Today, if you ask 100 Syrians what their dream is, 99 will answer to leave the country. It is impossible to talk about reconstruction in a country under international sanctions. “Sanctions have turned the Syrian people into beggars,” says Dr. Nabil Antaki, a doctor from Aleppo who has always collaborated with the Blue Marists.

The temporary lifting of Western sanctions, the opening of an international collaboration table to coordinate the emergency response, and the creation of all necessary humanitarian aid corridors are challenges to which the international community, even after the immense tragedy of this earthquake, has failed to respond.

Hopefully, it will now be possible to discuss the possible review of the sanctions. Meanwhile, the big blue heart of the Blue Marists will continue to beat in Aleppo, giving hope and support to thousands of people.

Andrea Rossi – [FMSI](#) Director

marist world

COMMUNITY ANIMATORS' ENCOUNTER IN LUJÁN.



PHILIPPINES: MARIST FAMILY LENTEN RECOLLECTION – MARIST ASIA SPIRITUALITY AND MISSION CENTER



SYRIA: BLUE MARIST WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



BRAZIL: BCS PROPHETIC SERVANT LEADERSHIP COURSE



PHILIPPINES: FIRST VOWS IN TAMONTAKA



CHILE: FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR OF MARIST DIRECTORS IN SANTIAGO

SPAIN

YOUNG PILGRIMS FROM THE IBERIAN PROVINCE PARTICIPATE IN THE “JAVIERADA 2023”

Last March 11, 250 pilgrims from all over the Iberian Province gathered in Navarra to participate in the “Javierada 2023”. After three years since the last pilgrimage, the illusion has remained intact, and the school of Sarriguren welcomed the arrival of buses full of young people to live this experience.

On Friday, 10 March, they arrived in the city of Pamplona, where they enjoyed a stroll through the center and discovered the streets through which the Sanfermines take place, the city’s hallmark. After lunch and some rest time, they went to school. There they met their fellow travelers, shared their knowledge about St. Francis Xavier and his mission and brought to their prayer all that was to come.

On Saturday, 11 March, the real adventure began: almost 22 km of pilgrimage between Nardués and the Castle of Javier. The day dawned perfect for the walk, mixing sun, clouds and some sporadic showers. After a comforting hot chocolate and broth for lunch, they returned to the route, to reach the castle of Javier, where they



shared together the Eucharist of thanksgiving with thousands of other pilgrims.

This “Javierada” of reunion has served to become aware that they are part of a huge family, the family of the Church, and that the encounter is a source of life.

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

MARIST YOUTH LAITY IN THE PROVINCE

On March 18 and 19, in Curitiba, twelve young people took part in the meeting on Marist youth laity, which had as its objective the organization of the next steps of the movement in the Province Brasil Centro-Sul. It was the first face-to-face meeting of Marist youth in the Province since the beginning of the pandemic.

During the first day of the event, the young people were reminded about the essential foundations of the Marist laity and what inspires the journey of the groups, who continue together like the disciples of Emmaus, also inspired to be salt of the earth and light of the world.



The five essential elements of the Marist Youth Laity are:

- We are young (public)
- We live the Marist pillars (fraternity, spirituality and mission)
- Any path does not suit us (personal and community life project)
- We move (ongoing formation)
- We walk together (accompaniment)

João Fedel, responsible for lay activity in the Province, presented how the lay groups are organized in the América Sur region. Josmari Pauzer, Identity and Mission analyst of the Province, presented the space that young people can occupy in Marist life and mission. The participants also presented their local realities, virtues and difficulties.

During the meeting, the participants were able to have contact with young brothers and other lay people, in a rich sharing among all those who live the charism transmitted by Champagnat.

Reference Document of the Young Laity

One of the main goals of the meeting was to advance in the elaboration of the Reference Document for the Young Laity. The

group worked on the elaboration of guidelines and orientations that will serve as a theoretical reference for the young laity, in order to facilitate the formation of new lay groups and the continuity of the already existing groups.

The document, which has been in preparation for some time, was taken for discussion and improvement during the event. Flavia Meireles Israel, one of the leaders of the meeting, emphasizes the value of the shared construction by young people. "The meeting was important in the process of writing the document to share, edit and engage the participants in the Marist Youth Laity groups."

The Province's youth expert, Diogo Galline, emphasizes the importance of the document produced by young people. "There is the desire that this proposal can reach the Marist youth, so that it can be a sign of welcome for those who intend to live the Marist charism in their respective life projects", he affirms. After this stage, the material will be further refined and consulted with experts, with the future intention of being a reference and consultation document for young lay groups.



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