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MARIST NEWS

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RESPONSES TO MARIST LIFE AND MISSION

IMMERSION EXPERIENCES OF PROVINCIAL BURSARS

During the first semester of this year, the Econome General's Office is promoting immersion experiences for the treasurers of the Administrative Units who meet in inter-regional groups with the following objectives: to foster links and cooperation by strengthening the sense of belonging to a Global Family; to share experiences and best practices towards sustainability; to explore key strategies and processes of governance and management; to enable learning and interaction between people from different realities; to encourage a broader and more innovative outlook; to seek innovative and creative responses to Marist life and mission.

The experience of these meetings will help make more effective the meeting of the Bursars of the Institute that will be held in France, at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, from October 9 to 12, 2023, organized by the Econome General and the International Council for Economic Affairs (CIAE), in which the bursars of the Administrative Units and a lay person from the team or from the Council for Economic Affairs will participate.

For the first semester of this year, 6 meetings have been organized:

- March 05 to 11: East Asia, General Santos, Philippines (Visiting Provinces: Southern Africa, Africa Centre Est, MDA, West Africa)



- March 20 to 26: América Central, Guatemala and El Salvador (Visiting Provinces: Brasil Centro-Norte, Cruz del Sur, L'Hermitage, Mediterránea, Santa María de los Andes)
- March 26-31: Brasil Centro-Sul, Curitiba (Visiting Provinces: Compostela, Ibérica, México Central, Norandina)
- April 10-15: Nigeria (Visiting Provinces: Madagascar, South Asia and East Asia)
- April 24-29: L'Hermitage, Barcelona, Spain (Visiting Provinces: Brasil Centro-Sul, Nigeria, Star of the Sea, West Central Europe, United States)
- May 15-19: Compostela, Valladolid, Spain (Visiting Provinces: Central America, Brasil Sul-Amazônia, Canada, and Mexico Occidental)

The accompanying photo shows the participants of the first meeting, held in the Philippines in March.

general administration

■ Brothers Ken and Óscar, general councillors, continue their visit in the West Africa Province. This week, they are in Ghana. The visit will end on April 22.

■ On Tuesday, Br. José Sánchez, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, participated in the online meeting of the Council of the International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC).

■ That same day, the directors of the Hermanos Hoy Secretariat, Ángel Medina and Lindley, met with the team preparing the program for trainers, which will take place in 2024.

■ Also on Tuesday, it was held the Tutti Fratelli meeting with the religious brothers of Rome. The meeting was held in the house of the Brothers of the Holy Family. The brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley participated.

FRANCE

BROTHER FRANÇOIS OPENS THE DOORS OF HIS HOUSE TO GOD'S PEOPLE



Venerable Brother François, successor of Father Champagnat, is considered as “the living image of Marcellin”. But, with the responsibility of a disciple, he is at the same time faithful and creative. He will be the man for solid structures: Common Rules. A man of conviction: this is his way of listening to the Spirit and to the signs of the times. His art of governing and loving drives the pace of growth of the Institute. With a life given and consumed by the Kingdom, he resigned at the age of fifty-two.



Following a tradition of more than two decades, on Wednesday of Holy Week, a Eucharist was celebrated in the house of Brother François Rivat, in Maissonnettes (France). About 60 people from Saint-Chamond and the villages of the region took part. The Marist communities of La Valla and Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage were also present. On that occasion, a novena to Venerable Brother François was begun for the cure of a person suffering from cancer. During the celebration, some people gave testimony of their relationship with Brother François. After the Mass, there was a time of fraternization and sharing of a snack.

COMPOSTELA

THE VISIT OF THE GENERAL COUNCILLORS TO THE PROVINCE COMES TO AN END

The General Councillors of the Marist Institute, links with the Region of Europe, Brothers João Carlos de Prado and Ben Consigli, have completed their visit to the Province of Compostela on Holy Thursday, travelling through Galicia and taking part in the celebrations of Marist Youth and Easter of Life. Throughout three weeks, they were able to get a deep knowledge of the reality of the Province. They approached Marist life and mission with closeness, dedication and affection, encouraging the Marists of the Province to “look beyond each one of us” as a global Marist family. During these weeks Brothers João Carlos and Ben met with practically all the brothers and communities and got to know the Marist mission works in Spain and Portugal. The General Councillors visited schools, social works and projects, colleges, etc. They held meetings with young people and teams, taking part in meetings such as those of the administrators of the institutions or of the assembly of social works. The General Councillors also met with the Provincial Council and the Mission Council, with some of the management teams of



the institutions they passed through, and with community leaders. They thanked everyone for Compostela’s “welcome and openness” to the Marist Institute. They were able to see what is being done, Marcellin’s dream today in Compostela, and invited the Marists of the Province to care for Marist life and mission in all areas.

[Fotos](#)

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE MISSION

VISIT OF THE ECONOME GENERAL AND HIS ASSISTANT TO INDIA SECTOR



The Econome General of Institute and his Assistant, Br. Jorge Gaio and Gregorio (Goyo) Linacero, visited the Marist Mission in India from 3 to 8 April. It was a significant event for the Marist Brothers in India. Their visit was marked by their eagerness to witness the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat being lived out among children and young people in rural villages. During their stay, they visited mission places of the Marist Brothers, met the Brothers, listened to their experiences and encouraged them in their mission.

The primary purpose of their visit was to discuss two aspects of the Marist Brothers' life and mission, particularly solidarity and sustainability of the mission in the emerging new situations and realities locally and globally. The Brothers were invited to have a clear focus and direction for the future to sustain both the mission and the life of the Brothers. Brothers Jorge and Goyo emphasized that the focus on solidarity and sustainability was crucial in keeping the spirit of Champagnat alive.

During their five-day visit, they visited communities, schools, and social projects where the Marist Brothers worked. They

were given a traditional welcome in the schools, which was an excellent opportunity for everyone to see the spirit of Champagnat alive. The Econome General of Institute and his Assistant were impressed by the work done by the Marist Brothers in India and the impact it had on the children and young people in the rural villages. The Brothers' dedication and commitment to their mission were inspiring.

The visit of the Econome General of Institute and his Assistant was an occasion for the Brothers to reflect on their mission, their role in society and the challenges they face. The discussion on solidarity and sustainability of the mission helped the Brothers to re-evaluate their priorities and to focus on what was essential to keep the spirit of Champagnat alive.

In conclusion, the visit of Brothers Jorge and Goyo in India Sector was an opportunity for the Marist Brothers in India to renew their commitment to their mission. The visit was marked by a spirit of encouragement, reflection and a shared vision for the future.

Br. Raja Kumar

EAST ASIA

PROVINCE ENGAGES IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

On March 17-18, the persons in charge of the different commissions, committees, ministries, and desks of the East Asia Province were convened to review once again the strategic plan of the current administration and to set priorities for the next two years. The venue of the said meeting was the Marist Asian Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu.

Dr. Alma Hordista and Dr. Andres Magallanes were the key facilitators directing the group to engage in discussions to find synergy in the implementation of priorities of each respective area.

The Oversight Team presented the working draft for the articulation of the Vision-Mission. Br. Manny de Leon presented the proposed Organigram, and Dr. Magallanes explained the Operational Flow Chart important in the work synergy.

The action points drawn from the discussions were, among others, the sending of the draft of the vision-mission statement,



organigram, and operational chart to all brothers and laity for them to provide feedback for improvements and allow an experience of owning the process prior to the finalization of the said documents. Time would be needed to fine-tune the final form of the documents.

Br. Allan de Castro, Provincial Superior, enjoins everyone to take part in this important process affecting the life of the East Asia Province.

MALAYSIA

NURTURING SEEDS OF MARIST LIFE IN PORT DICKSON

Last March 20-23, a Marist Lay Gathering was held in Port Dickson, Malaysia. The formation session was participated by the laity from Malaysia and Philippines. Following the theme on “sharing, dreaming and journeying together as Marists”, participants were given input and sharing process on the following themes: Maristology: Following the Footsteps of St. Marcellin; Marist Laity: Life and Mission; and the last session was a workshop of dreaming together the direction of laity. It was inspiring to have the presence of our brothers who joined during the first day. Br. Robert Teoh, Br. Paul Chin and Br. Anthony Cheng enriched the group with the sharing of their own experiences and hopes for the growth of laity life in Malaysia.

Ms. Elma Rafil, member of the Extended Secretariat of the Laity, looks forward to facilitating a similar gathering in other places of Asia where Marist life has just begun.



SED

It is now available the 100th issue of the magazine of the NGO of the Marists of Spain “*Sed Solidarios*”. The interview with Br. Georges Sabe of the Blue Marists of Aleppo stands out, which offers details about the emergency situation caused by the earthquake, and what the future of the country looks like.

UNITED STATES

Later this month, the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus will be hosting the first Province Earth Day Weekend for students from our USA Marist Schools. One of the Keynote sessions on Earth Day - Saturday, April 22nd - will be available via Zoom.

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

A new Irish Commission has been formed to begin a process of handing over patronage of the Irish schools to a new body. Part of the brief of the Commission is to review possible suitable options and to make recommendations to the Irish Marist Brothers Trust.

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

On Wednesday, April 5, the Sector of Life, through the Laity Team, began a discernment process for 18 lay men and women from the Champagnat Movements of the Marist Family and Lay Marists of Champagnat, who wish to deepen the experience of the Marist vocation.

L'HERMITAGE

In Catalonia, in El Collell, it was held the meeting of “Centro Marista de Scouts”. 650 children and young people and more than 100 monitors participated. Marcellin’s dream lives on in these young people who are critical, committed, open to others, capable of loving and living together.

EAST ASIA**TEN BROTHERS MADE THEIR FIRST PROFESSION AT TAMONTAKA NOVITIATE IN PHILIPPINES**

On the feast of the Annunciation 25 March 2023 ten brothers made their first profession at Tamontaka Novitiate, in Philippines. The young Brothers are from East Timor (6), Vietnam (2) and India (2). Brother Peter Carol, provincial of the Star of the Sea, received the vows of the brothers from East Timor. Brother Canisio Willrich, the Superior of the Marist District of Asia, received the vows of the Brothers from India and Vietnam. Br. Allan De Castro, Provincial of East Asia was also present. The young brother chose as their motto for the celebration “Here I am Lord. I come to do your will”, from Psalm 40.

With the formators, Brothers Wency Paterno, Devasiri Fernando and Joe Walton (novice master), many people from the local Parish took part in the celebration, that was celebrated by Father Ronal, OMI.

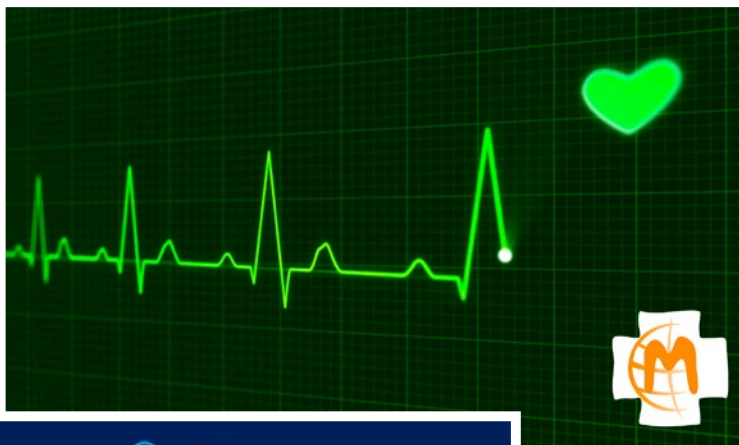
Many Brothers took part in the celebration: Brother Ted, a past formator of the novitiate and representatives from the communities where the brothers had their community experience. Many families came from the Upi, a town in the hills, to be with the brothers who had spent some time with them during their emersion experience. Also other neighbours formation houses, the postulancy of the OMI their novitiate and the novitiate of the sisters, went to celebrate with the Marists of Champagnat.

The new professed Brothers are: Feliciano, Jefferiono, Rogerio, Joel, Norberto, Damiano, Mai, Cuong, Manoj and Augustin. They were the last novices of the Tamontaka Novitiate. From May, the provinces of Asia and Oceania will have all novices in the novitiate of Tedella, Sri Lanka.

HEALTH FOR ALL

WORLD HEALTH DAY

By defining health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, the World Health Organization (WHO) envisages the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health for everyone. To achieve this, WHO works hard to fight communicable diseases across the globe. WHO's foundation on April 7, 1948, is commemorated every year as World Health Day to raise global health awareness. This year, as WHO celebrates its 75th anniversary, it takes the opportunity to look back on public health successes that have improved quality of life since 1948.



Halfdan Mahler defines health as a state of wellbeing which enables a person to lead a socially and economically productive life. From this perspective, he points out that malnutrition, ignorance, contaminated drinking water, germ-infested housing, and lack of doctors, hospital beds, drugs, as well as vaccines are health obstacles which must be removed to make progress in medical care. As medical care services alone cannot bring health to people's homes, removing obstacles of health involves providing them with a higher standard of living to promote their broad-based development. 'Health for All' is not just an ideal but an organizing principle for everyone to attain the highest possible standard of health.



to support charitable healthcare activities and services.

Regarding medical remedies, the Church teaches that everyone has the duty to care for his or her own health and that those who provide care must

do so conscientiously. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reiterates this by stating that life and physical health are precious gifts from God and so, we must take care of them. Hence, the Church condemns the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco, medicine, and drugs because they damage human health and life. From this perspective, the Church considers the clandestine production of and trafficking in drugs as direct co-operation in evil.

Since 1948, WHO's vaccination programs contributed to the eradication of smallpox in 1979, the reduction in polio infections and the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic in 2003. The focus now is on tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria, coronavirus, the prevention of chronic diseases and long-term illnesses. Besides WHO, the Catholic Church is equally preoccupied about world health. The Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care is charged with spreading, explaining, and defending the teaching of the Church on health issues. The Pontifical Council also studies concrete programs and initiatives of health care policies at both international and national levels to understand their implications for the Church's teaching about health care. The Catholic Church teaches that a sense of solidarity with our fellow citizens should prompt us to have concern for their wellbeing. This implies acting individually and corporately

Schools also have a big role to play in promoting world health. Unfortunately, many education systems in the world focus on academic attainment and neglect students' health and wellbeing. Champagnat was sensitive to the spiritual and educational needs of the children of his time, especially their religious ignorance and the situations of neglect. His attitude in this regard continues to inspire Marist educators to be attentive to their students' overall wellbeing to empower them to promote their own mental and physical health. As we celebrate World Health Day, let us engage in making Marist schools health promoting environments by constantly strengthening their capacity as beneficial settings for learning health habits and skills.

Br. Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity

marist world

CHILE: EXPLICIT EVANGELIZATION COORDINATORS' MEETING IN SANTIAGO



FIJI: SUVA GRAMMAR SCHOOL CATHOLIC STUDENTS RETREAT PROGRAM



SPAIN: VALLADOLID



GENERAL HOUSE: EASTER IN THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION



SPAIN: YOUTH EASTER CELEBRATION OF MARISTAS IBERICA



CHILE: HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION AT THE MARIST ANIMATION HOUSE IN SANTIAGO

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

MEETING OF COMMUNITY ANIMATORS OF THE PROVINCE

On March 30 and 31, the Meeting of Community Animators of the Marist Province of Brazil Centro-Sul took place in Curitiba.

In the first part of the meeting, the participants shared how their communities are organized and what initiatives they have taken for the year. They also discussed how they work and what pastoral activities they carry out.

In a symbolic way, the Brothers gathered around the La Valla Table, present in the Marist Memorial space. Another activity that took place during the meeting was the sharing on the construction of the Community Life Project 2023. In the evaluation, the Brothers praised the orientations given by the Consecrated Life Team, which helped the communities to build a community project that had as its focus the priorities of the Province for the triennium. The Brothers also made a visit to the "Casa Francisco e Clara", a project located in the community of Vila Torres, where they were invited to make a commitment to support the project. In the final part of the meeting, there were presentations from



the areas of communication, vocation animation, services of the Religious Organization and the Protection Committee of the Province. The Brothers were also able to present their needs and demands for each area, in order to work together. The next meeting of the Brothers Community Animators will take place next November.

SRI LANKA

FOUR NOVICES MADE THEIR FIRST PROFESSION AT THE INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE IN TUDELLA

Four brothers professed their first vows on March 25 at the International Novitiate in Tudella, Sri Lanka. Nicholas Fernando, Provincial of the South Asia Province, received the vows on behalf of the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sanchez. The brothers expressed their commitment to God and to the Marist Congregation with the motto: "May it be done to me according to your word" (Lc 1:38).

The 4 novices who made their first profession are:

- Ronaldo da Costa (Timor-Leste), of the Province of Star of the Sea
- Ruas Ferreira (Timor-Leste), from the Province of Star of the Sea
- Elijah Watehou (Solomon Islands), from the Province of Star of the Sea
- Sujith Dileepa Alwis (Sri Lanka), from the Province of Star of the Sea

The event was attended by 210 Marists: 110 in person and 100 virtually ([video in FaceBook](#)). Raymond Kingsley Wickramasinghe, Bishop of the Diocese of Galle, presided over the celebration. Also concelebrating were Fathers Rodrigo, OMI, and Father Susith Milroy, Salesian, relative of the Sri Lankan novice. The brothers from Sri Lanka were present in a special way, as well as the brothers of the Novitiate Advisory Team: Br. Paul Kane, Provincial Secretary of the Star of the Sea Province, Br. Juan Castro from the Marist District of Asia (MDA) and Br. Noel Fonseca from Sri Lanka.

The 4 newly professed brothers came from different countries because they could not join the [previous group of novices due to the pandemic](#). These brothers made their first phase of the novitiate virtually, coordinated by the Master of Novices. Finally, after



overcoming long waiting times, internet and visa problems, and the reopening of the airports, the four of them were able to travel to Sri Lanka and begin the novitiate formation in person.

Tudella International Novitiate, Sri Lanka

In the Tudella novitiate, 8 novices will complete the first year of formation: 5 from Timor Leste (Star of the Sea Province) and 3 from the Marist District of Asia (2 from Vietnam and 1 from Cambodia). In May they will begin their second year of novitiate.

The novitiate year begins on May 3 and 5 new novices will join the 8 second-year novices: 3 from the Marist District of Asia, 1 from Sri Lanka (South Asia Province), and 1 from Papua New Guinea (Star of the Sea Province).

The formators are Brothers Real from Canada, Rod from Australia, and Francisco "Paco" Garcia from the Marist District of Asia. Two other brothers from South Asia will be part of the community of formators.




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