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MARISTNEWS

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NOTRE-DAME DE L'HERMITAGE

II ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCIAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS NETWORK

The II Assembly of the Provincial Volunteer Coordinators Network (CPVs) takes place from April 17 to 21, 2023, at Notre-Dame de L'Hermitage, in France. The Provincial Volunteer Coordinators, formally appointed by the Provincial or District Superior, will participate. Also present are the brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, Valdicer Fachi, director of the Department of Collaboration for International Mission (Cmi), Ángel Diego, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, and Flaminia Filanci, assistant of the CMI Department. Participating as invited guests are Priscila Staniski and Juliano Burkert, from the Brasil Centro-Sul Province, responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Nexus System, a Marist volunteer management system.



Provincial Volunteer Coordinators Network

The first Assembly of the network was held at the General House, in 2019. The Assembly and the Executive Council ensure the func-

general administration

- The 2nd Assembly of the CPV Network started on Monday at the Hermitage to conclude on Friday. From the General Administration, the Assembly was attended by Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, Valdicer Fachi, Director of the Department of Collaboration for the International Mission (CMI), and Ángel Diego, Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity.
- Brothers Ken and Oscar, General Councilors, continue their visit to the Province of West Africa until Sunday. During this week they will be at the novitiate in Kumasi and in Accra, Ghana.
- The ongoing formation program Pathways continues in Manziana until April 29. On Monday, participants met with Brother Ernesto, Superior General and on Tuesday with Brother José Sánchez, from the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization. On Thursday, Br. Lindley, from the Brothers Today Secretariat, will speak to the participants about the

Marist Vocation Year.

- On Monday, those in charge of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Angel and Lindley, met with Brothers Tony Leon and José Miguel Caballero, who are in charge of the Gier formation program to be held in June. An initial online meeting was held on Tuesday with the participants in this continuing education program.
- On Wednesday, the leaders of the Brothers Today Secretariat met with Brother Michael Green at the General House, to prepare the Symposium on Marist Spiritual Patrimony to be held in Rome in December.
- On Friday, Brothers José Sánchez and Niño Pizarro, directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, together with Javier Llamas and Diugar Madera, will participate in the online meeting with the commission that is preparing the III MIMA, which will take place in April 2024 in Spain.

tioning of the Network. The Council is made up of members of the General Administration network and a Provincial Volunteer Coordinator from each region, appointed by the Regional Conference of Provincials for a period of 3 years.

The Network of CPVs is international in nature and responds to the need to unite efforts in the field of interprovincial volunteering, sharing good practices, improving processes, and unifying languages and methodologies, both for sending and receiving volunteers. This network seeks to contribute effectively to the construction of a culture of solidarity and encounter in favour of the neediest and excluded.

This Network has the following objectives:

- Promote and encourage interprovincial and provincial volunteering in the Administrative Units of the Institute.
- Provide PCVs with an expanded vision of Marist life and mission, helping them to develop an international mindset and be globally available.
- Create convergence in language, vision, and procedures.
- Share materials, experiences, and good practices.
- Ensure the promotion, dissemination, and empowerment of volunteering at the Institute.
- Work in synergy and collaboration with the Marist organizations involved in volunteering.

PHILIPPINES

ANNUAL RETREAT OF EAST ASIA PROVINCE



The one-week retreat of the East Asia Province Brothers was held in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines, from April 3 to 8, 2023. Brothers from different communities joined the retreat, conducted by Brother Joseph Soterias, General Councillor. There were around fifty Brothers present during the retreat.

The theme of the retreat was on the Brothers' Rule of Life. Based on what was presented to the group, there were four tenets on which the Brothers needed to understand and perform. The four tenets were *Lectio, Meditatio, Oratio, et Contemplatio*. These were ways and means for the Brothers to reconnect themselves with the present apart from the past and the future.

The last afternoon of the retreat was devoted to the Sector Assembly. Br. Allan de Castro, the current Provincial, presented the sector's situation at the present time. Br. Danilo Sevilla, the

province economer, showed the financial situation of the sector. Br. Rommel Occasiones highlighted the Formation Commission's activities and plans. Br. Manuel de Leon reported on the Ministry Commission's accomplishments and present activities.

The last activity of the retreat happened during the Easter Vigil mass presided by Fr. Romeo Buenaobra, an 84-year-old diocesan priest. This was the renewal of vows of the four Filipino Brothers of the Philippine sector, two Brothers from the Marist District of Asia (MDA) and two Brothers from Star of the Sea Province. The Filipino Brothers were Bro. Jick de Leon, Br. Jay-jay Escudero, Engel Freed Java and Dave Romar Rano. The Brothers from MDA were Br. Pedro and Br. Rubel, while the Brothers from Star of the Sea were Br. Steve and Br. Petero. All the perpetually Brothers devotionally renewed their vows as part of the activity. Two aspirants, Jude and Jake joined the Brothers during the retreat.

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

ASSEMBLIES OF THE JURIDICAL ENTITIES OF THE PROVINCE

On April 16 and 17, the legal entities of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul met in Curitiba for ordinary and extraordinary general assemblies. The legal entities involved were ABEC, APC and UCE. There was also an Ordinary and Extraordinary Provincial Assembly of the Religious Organization of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul.

The main objective of the meeting was to accompany the achievements and results of the juridical entities of the Province for the year 2022.



According to Br. Benê de Oliveira, Provincial, all this is “the fruit of the work of the Brothers and of the many leaders and their

teams, all committed to the growth and development of our apostolic fronts and of the Marist mission of the Province”.

CHILE

INTER-AMERICAN CORAZÓN SOLIDARIO NETWORK MEMBERS MEETING

Members of the Inter-American Corazón Solidario Network from Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, and Argentina who make up the Regional Thematic Group “Service-Learning” met at the beginning of April for the first virtual meeting of the year, to find a path of solidarity in the Americas.

The Regional Thematic Group “Service-Learning” continues to work to evangelize, encourage and accompany solidarity from a rights-based approach, the promotion of solidarity practices from the academic curriculum. It operates as a learning community that aims to share good practices and join efforts for the implementation of Service-Learning in Marist educational works in the Americas.



The meeting focused on the organization and definition of the year's working groups around three important axes: Training, Systematization of Service-Learning Experiences in the Americas, and the First International Seminar on Marist Service-Learning organized by the Solidarity Heart Network.

VATICAN

18TH APRIL 1999: CANONIZATION OF FATHER CHAMPAGNAT

A heart that knows no bounds

On the 18th of April 1999, San Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Institute of the Marist Brothers, was canonized in the Vatican. "Dear young people who have come to express your devotion to the spirit of education given by Fr Champagnat, I encourage you to remain faithful in the path to which you are called by God", Pope John Paul II said, in his welcoming speech to the pilgrims of different parts of the world, assembling in Rome for the canonization of Father Champagnat.



The Marist family experienced the canonization as a special occasion, under the slogan "A heart that knows no bounds". For the Marists of Champagnat, the canonization of Father Champagnat was "the official recognition of the Church that our Founder was a Saint, raised up by the Holy Spirit to help all those following in his footsteps on the road to sanctity. Also, he can be recognised as a reference point for our own lives, as a sure intercessor with God", just as Brother Gabriele Andreucci, General Postulator, mentioned at that time.

The miracle of Father Champagnat

The Marist Saint, raised to the altar after the recognition of a miracle: the inexplicable cure of Brother Heriberto Weber, whom the doctors, in May of 1976, diagnosed "with an early, unknown growth which was transferring to the lungs", and which they declared incurable.

At that time, on hearing the news, the Brothers and students of the province of Uruguay – where the sick Brother resided – began a novena to ask for the intercession of Blessed Champagnat. When the devout Brothers and students finished their period of prayers, Brother Heriberto recovered and felt better. The miracle happened on 26th July 1976: the x-rays and medical analysis demonstrated that the illness had disappeared.

Before the miracle, Brothers Agustín Carazo postulated the cause in 1985. On 26th June 1997, the experts, medical members of the Consultation considered that Brother Heriber-

to's illness was due "to serious pulmonary affection characterized by bilateral nodular dissemination leading to marked insufficiency in breathing with serious consequences for his general health", and they concluded that such a cure was scientifically inexplicable.

One year later, on 20th February 1998, the Commission of Theologians of the Congregation for Holy Causes, recognized the cure of Brother Heriberto Weber as something preternatural and it attributed it to the intercession of Blessed Marcellin Champagnat. The Ordinary Congregation of Eminent Cardinals and Bishops expressed unanimously, on 2nd June 1998, that it was an authentic miracle, and it was decreed as such, by the Pope John Paul II, on July 3rd 1998.

Months later, the Pontiff would determine 18th April 1999 as the date for the canonization of Marcellin Champagnat. The much sought-after day had arrived!

Pope John Paul II invites us to give thanks to God "We can give thanks for the numerous disciples of Fr Champagnat who faithfully fulfilled their mission (...) I cordially grant my Apostolic Blessing to all the faithful here and to all the Marist Brothers of the world, to those who work with them in the educational field and to all the young people who benefit from their apostolate", the Pope expressed, two decades ago, in St. Peter's Square, when canonizing the father founder of the Marists: Blessed and Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

GENERAL HOUSE

BR. ERNESTO, SUPERIOR GENERAL, REMEMBERS THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONISATION OF ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

On April 18, we joyfully remember the 24th anniversary of the canonisation of our Founder. On that day, three new saints were glorified for the Church and for the world, and it happened at Easter time.

Pope John Paul II said in his homily: « The desire to bear witness to Jesus arises in the hearts of believers from their personal encounter with him. This is what happened with the three new saints whom today I have the joy of raising to the glory of the altars: Marcellin Benoît Champagnat, Giovanni Calabria and Agostina Livia Pietrantoni. They opened their eyes to the signs of Christ's presence: they adored him and received him in the Eucharist; they loved him in their neediest brethren; they recognised the signs of his saving plan in the events of daily life. »

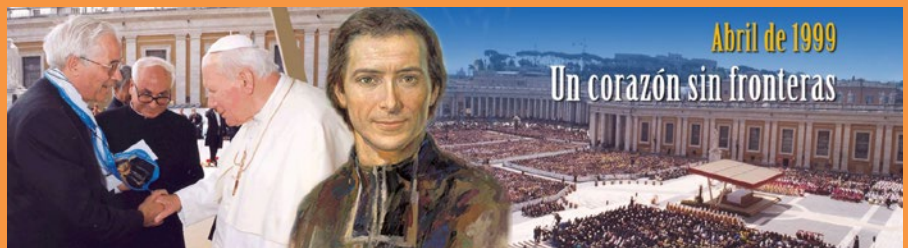
Referring more directly to Champagnat, he said: « St Marcellin proclaimed the Gospel with a burning heart. He was sensitive to the spiritual and educational needs of his time, especially to religious ignorance and the situations of neglect experienced in a particular way by the young. (...) Let us ask the Lord to give us a heart that burns like that of Marcellin Champagnat, to recognise him and to be his witnesses. »

The great gift of the charism that the Spirit has given us through Saint Marcellin and so many brothers and lay people throughout history is still alive today. We are co-responsible and co-creators of this gift in the present and with a view to the future.



Next year, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Champagnat's canonisation, we will remember that 200 years ago, in May 1824, the foundation stone of N.D. de l'Hermitage was blessed, thus beginning the construction of this house that has been so significant for our Institute. What significance do these events hold for us today? How do we view the present and the future, in the light of the vision that Marcellin and the first Marists had in their day?

Letter of Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, to the Brother Provincials, District Leaders and their Councils – 18 April 2023



On April 18, 1999, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Pope John Paul II canonized Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Institute of the Marist Brothers, and recognized him as a saint of the universal Church. (See details [here](#)).

PHILIPPINES

MARIST ASIA CONFERENCE MEETING IN MAPAC



On April 11-13 took place the meeting of the Marist Asia Conference/Council (MAC) in MAPAC, Philippines. After more than four years, the members were able to meet again face to face. New members joined MAC which is composed by the Administrative Unites leaders and deputy leaders, the rector of MAPAC, two lay people and Br. Josep Maria Soteras, representing the General Council.

It was a time to know each other and to share the meaningful experiences/learnings of the past years. The participants had the opportunity to have an overview of the life and mission of the 3 Administrative unites in Asia, which gave them a better picture of the Marist presence and mission in Asia.

One of the main task of the meeting was to review the Marist Asia Strategic Plan for 2023-2025 adjusting it to the context in which the Marists live today, focusing on the needs for the Region. 3 committees were established: Marist Life, Mission and Marist Services. The teams will help to coordinate common activities of the region for the coming years.

The MAC members had a moment online with Br. Faran-

cis, from Pakistan (link for Mission in Asia), to listen to his experience and suggestion on how best to promote the Marist mission in Asia. A second moment online was with Andrea Rossi, director of FMSI, proposing a training programme on Project Management and Fundraising for Asia region.

The last day was focus on the Asia Plan. There was a dynamic facilitated by Br. Josep Maria to share ideas, feelings and reflect about reconfiguration of the Asian Region. A calendar was proposed for some leaders to visit the region, which will help to know better the reality, to listen to the Brothers and Lay about their perception of Marist life and mission in Asia.

The Scholastics from MAPAC had also the opportunity to express their ideas about this topic.

“The fraternal spirit was inspiring us to continue our journey, looking beyond our own Administrative Unities and taking steps towards greater vitality and co-responsibility of the Marist family in Asia”, concluded Br. Canisio Willrich, leader of the Marist District of Asia.

marist world

CÔTE D'IVOIRE: BR. ÓSCAR MARTÍN, GENERAL COUNCILOR, VISITS THE MARIST SCHOOL IN KORHOGO



BRAZIL: MARIST COMMUNITY OF UBERABA



PHILIPPINES: MAPAC (MARIST ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER)



SPAIN: COLEGIO MARISTA LA INMACULADA IN VALLADOLID



GENERAL HOUSE: MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRATERS MARISTEN INTERNATIONAAL (INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ENTITY)



MEXICO: MARIST VOCATIONAL MISSIONS 2023 IN ENCARNACION DE DIAZ, JALISCO

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

MARIST ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMME

Following on from the West Central Europe Province Gathering in Guardamar in June 2022, which was based on the theme of accompaniment, Marists in the province were invited to participate in the program launched in 2023. The primary aim of the program is to skill Marists to accompany and nourish other Marists faith journey and ministry work. Participants on the program represent Ireland, Scotland, Germany Belgium and The Netherlands.

The program is led by Darren Burge, Vice Provincial of the Marist Brothers Star of the Sea Province (Oceania) and supported by Aisling Demaison, Director of Marist Mission in West Central Europe. It is currently online sessions until May 2023 and this will prepare participants for the three-day residential program in The Netherlands.

The residential program will deepen the accompaniment skills



learned and will focus on the practical application of them in a school or project. Each participant will be accompanied in their work as an accompanier for two years following the program.

COMPOSTELA PROVINCE

HOLY WEEK RETREAT FOR BROTHERS IN COMPOSTELA



Thirty Brothers from the Compostela Province gathered at the Marist Residence in Valladolid for the Holy Week Retreat 2023. Br. Lindley Sionosa, Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, facilitated the retreat, which focused on the Year of Marist Vocations and the theme "Caring for and Generating Marist Life."

The retreat sessions began on Easter Monday, April 3, through Easter Sunday, April 9. Each day there were two presentations, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The rest of the time was devoted to personal reflection and reading the supplementary materials, which included references to the Rule of Life and the Constitutions.

One of the most important aspects of the retreat was that the brothers recalled, reflected on, and shared their respective vocation stories. It was reinforced by the simple gesture of remembering the significant persons who were part of those stories.

Deepening the experience of the spirituality of the heart also marked the retreat. Each morning, the brothers gathered in the chapel for a contemplative moment. Breakfast and lunch were eaten in silence to maintain the reflective atmosphere.

In addition, the brothers were fully immersed in celebrating the different liturgies of Holy Week. The Brothers of the Residence community joined in these celebrations.

The Brothers of the Champagnat Residence of Leon connected online during the conferences.

In the final session, Br. Lindley invited the Brothers to look beyond, to continue to care for and generate Marist life, and to always trust that the Good Mother "will not let the work she began in Marcellin perish".

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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

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