



## PROVINCE VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

# SECOND ASSEMBLY OF THE NETWORK OF CPVS

The Second Assembly of the Network of Provincial Volunteer Coordinators was held from 17 to 21 April 2023 at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage in France.

The International Network of Provincial Volunteer Coordinators (CPV) of the Marist Institute responds to the need to pool efforts in the field of volunteering by sharing best practices, improving processes and fostering a common language and methodology for both sending and receiving volunteers.



### A brief history of the CPV Network

- In 2012, the Secretariat for Collaboration for Mission International (CMI) was created to develop an interprovincial Marist volunteer service.

- The Provincials and District Superiors, in 2014, appointed the first Province Volunteer Coordinators (CPVs), who act as points of reference with the CMI. They coordinate international volunteering for their Province (in some cases volunteering within their own Province as well).

## general administration

- Br. Oscar Martin, General Councilor, has begun his visit to the Province of Afrique Centre-Est. During this week he will be in Kenya and Tanzania.
- From Monday to Thursday, Brothers Jorge Gaio and Gregorio Linacero, from the General Commissary, are participating in the CIAE meeting in São Paulo.
- Br. Josep Maria Soterias, General Councilor, continues, until Sunday, the visit to the Marist communities of Asia.
- Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ben Consigli, General Councilors, continue their visit to the Province of the Hermitage, which will end on May 19. During this week they are visiting the

communities in France.

- Members of the Curitiba team working on the IT systems for the General Administration are at the General House to monitor the development of these systems. Juliano Burkert stayed until Tuesday and Priscila Staniski will stay until the end of the month.
- On Thursday, Br. José Sánchez, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, participates online in the meeting with the commission that is preparing the III MIMA.
- From Friday to Sunday, Brothers Ben and João Carlos will participate in the meeting of the Provincial Councils of West Central Europe and L'Hermitage in Paris.



- In January 2016 the NEXUS system was put into operation. This is a management tool for interprovincial volunteering, developed in collaboration with the Marist Province of Brazil Centro-Sul.
- In 2017, the XXII General Chapter challenged the Institute to “journey together as a global family” and to build Marist mission networks.
- In 2018, when the General Administration was drawing up its strategic plan, the General Council approved the establishment of the Volunteers’ Network.
- In 2019, from 25 to 29 November, the first meeting of the CPVs was held, with the launching of the Network of Province Volunteer Coordinators. Its mission is “to work as a network to promote and encourage volunteering in the Marist Institute for the most needy and excluded. In this way, to contribute to the construction of a culture of solidarity in a spirit of global availability”.



**Second Assembly of the CPV Network**

The Network met for its Second Assembly at the Hermitage from 17 to 21 April 2023. It was attended by the Volunteer Coordinators of the Provinces and Districts, plus representatives of the General Administration, and had as guests the developers of the new NEXUS – Marist Volunteer Management System.

The Assembly was marked by a strong spirit of participation and collaboration in the search for new ways of volunteering. Lapping up the origins and springs of the Institute was certainly inspiring and moved the heart of each of the participants.

In his opening words, Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, emphasized: “Each one of us is a participant and collaborator in a greater mission, the mission of God in the world and for the world. Based on this conviction, we feel that the volunteer journey is as human as it is divine, as existential as it is spiritual, as immanent as it is transcendent. Every volunteer brings seeds of hope in his or her life, an existential journey and a spiritual path – there may be strong awareness of this or little or none at all, but it is nevertheless very real. Hence the importance of caring for volunteers, of working on

and strengthening their sense of vocation, of opening doors so that those who want their time to be an experience of the Gospel and a spiritual experience can have it happen.”

Br Luis Carlos also highlighted the benefits of acting globally and networking in the field of volunteering:

1. We want a prophetic network that is a platform for sharing content, experiences, projects and steps in volunteering.
2. We want a fraternal network that helps us build bridges of collaboration between our various Marist, church and social contexts.
3. We want an responsive network that encourages us to be connected to world problems related to solidarity, children, ecology, human rights, in order to strengthen awareness and advocacy.
4. We want an open network that is a meeting point for local and provincial volunteers to connect with other Marist experiences.
5. We want an international network that provides a setting to promote international volunteering.
6. We want a stimulating network that activates our imagination, pools our collective knowledge and helps us develop global initiatives.
7. We want an active Network that inspires volunteering locally and in the province.

The Assembly began its work with an analysis of the current situation and the impacts of the pandemic on Marist mission and more specifically on volunteering.



**COCHABAMBA NOVITIATE – BOLIVIA**

Within the framework of the formative meetings with the novitiate of Cochabamba, held on April 28, the novices developed the theme “Marist Apostolic Spirituality: mission shared with others: LaValla200>, Fratelli Project and Blue Marists”. Br. Isidro Azpeleta discussed the Marist Lay Forum 2022; Br. Donovan spoke about his experience in Lebanon; and Pablo and Laura joined remotely from the LaValla200> Community in Cuba.

**COMPOSTELA**

The XXIX Marist Olympics 2023 in Lisbon concluded at the end of April. During the Olympiad, which lasted three days, the participants from the different Marist schools shared competitions, cultural visits, games, and the Marist spirit.

**NORANDINA**

The first workshop “From La Valla to L’Hermitage” was held from April 18 to 20, 2023 in the Educational Units of Ecuador: Catacocha, Macará, and Régimen Costa. This topic responds to the training plan that is being implemented at the provincial level.

**EUROPE**

The participants of this year’s course for European managers met from April 23 to 28 at the Monasterio de Las Avellanas to participate in the third week of training. The training was also held at the school in Lleida, where the participants discussed the theme of the Marist mission. They also visited the Marist social work in La Mariola.

The PPCs had the opportunity to undergo training in the use of the new NEXUS system) which is characterized by facilitating the management of Marist volunteers and by being a platform for ideas and a space for sharing best practices.

Another important feature was training in Competences and Skills for Intercultural Living and Global Availability, which aims to “encourage and promote the development of initiatives, programs or training courses that include aspects of global availability, intercultural living and social skills for collaborative work at all levels of the Institute”. The CPVs, besides having a better global understanding of the topic, received suggestions and methodological tools to develop formation processes with volunteers and Host Communities.

The Assembly participants evaluated the priorities set for the Network in 2019, highlighting the progress made as well as the challenges for the future. The 5 Priorities of the Network for the years 2023-2024 were defined:

1. Consolidate the Network through strategies of empowerment, communication, organization, and collaboration. This will require: holding regular regional meetings of CPVs; organizing our work as a global network; creating strategies for collaboration with other areas of Marist life and mission.
2. Promote global volunteering and encourage Marist communities to host volunteers. To this end: have a plan for promoting volunteering at the network

level; motivate and invite Marist communities to become host communities for volunteers; publicize, profile and give visibility to Marist volunteering.

3. Provide training opportunities for Marist volunteers: For this purpose: provide information about volunteering for Marist communities; create a training program at global level for volunteers and host communities; prepare volunteers for the challenges of intercultural life.
4. Ensure that the Host Communities are suitable to receive volunteers. For this: prepare at least one Host Community per AU; draw up a guide so that the CPVs can accompany the Communities throughout the volunteering cycle.
5. Research and suggest possibilities for financing volunteering (create a centralized/ international/ shared fund). To this end, look for possibilities of financing Marist volunteering with: financial support from government agencies; from agencies that send volunteers; from Provinces; and through fundraising schemes.



**VOLUNTEERING**  
*Marist*

According to Br Valdicer Fachi, Director of the CMI, “The Assembly was a special moment for seeing opportunities and possibilities for promoting and consolidating volunteering in the Marist Institute. Volunteers are a vital force and an expression of adherence to the Marist charism. Let us hope that in all the AUs there will be space for the promotion, training and accompaniment of volunteers for Marist mission”.

[Photos in facebook](#)

MADAGASCAR

# TWENTY ASPIRANTS TO MARIST RELIGIOUS LIFE

Twenty young aspirants attended Marist formation sessions in the province of Madagascar: one in Antsirabe on April 14 and 15, 2023, at Saint Joseph's College, and another at Saint Champagnat High School in Tananarive on April 22.



The training sessions are organized every year for the young people who will be admitted to the postulancy. This time, the formation of the aspirants was organized by Brother Alexandre Rakotomalala, responsible for vocation promotion for the Province, Brother Ernest and other brothers who helped with the animation.

The aspirants will enter the postulancy of Fianarantsoa next October. At present, the Province of Madagascar counts with 17 candidates to the Marist religious life: 14 Postulancies, of which 6 in 2nd year. 3 Novices (in Save), of which 1 is in its second year. And 7 young brothers are in formation at MIC in Nairobi.

BRAZIL

# MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The International Council on Economic Affairs is meeting in São Paulo, Brazil, from May 1 to 4. The meeting is being held at the FTD Publishing House.

The topics being discussed are: preparation for the meeting of treasurers, which will take place in October 2023, in Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, France; the development of the Administrative Guide and the Financial Model of the Institute.

The participants in the meeting are: Alfie Custodio (East Asia – Philippines), Bernard Kenna (*Star of the Sea – Australia*), Br. Lucky Paul (Nigeria), Br. Xavi Giné (*L'Hermitage*), Yvo Cadaval (*Brasil*



*Sul-Amazônia*), and Brothers Jorge Gaio, Econome General, and Gregorio Linacero, Assistant Econome General. Invited people are: Br. Delcio Balestrin, Everson Oliveira and Rosangela Specht from the Province of *Brasil Centro-Sul*.

## GENERAL HOUSE

## CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION

“When we walk we are always ‘falling’, and we have to make an effort to find our balance” (Juan José Millás and Juan Luis Arsuaga – *La vida contada por un sapiens a un neardenthal*).

When we talk about education we are talking about a process, a continuum, a path that we could say lasts a lifetime. For this reason, we can agree with the phrase that introduces this article. In every process of learning, of education, new learning provokes in the person a constant search for balance. As educators, as Marists, we are always in search of “balance”, in search of giving stability to the children and young people whom we want to help in their education.

Education, in its broadest sense, is about giving children and young people the tools they need to develop fully. A development that has to include all areas of the personality. And yes, this is one of the essential objectives of Marist education, especially among those who have more difficulties in accessing this right recognised by the United Nations.

The United Nations, in article 26 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), recalls this right of every human being. Children and young people are the main focus of our efforts in education, although we Marists are also committed to the education of adults who did not have the opportunity when they were children or young people. There is no lack of Marist presences that help young adults, mothers, migrants... There are projects especially focused on the education of girls, who often have greater difficulty in accessing school.

Marcellin, from the beginning of the foundation of the Marist Institute, explained clearly what education was all about: “To educate children you have to love them, and love them all equally”. And we could go on with the invitation to adopt the necessary means to provide them with the tools for that purpose.

In this sense, our role as educators, as leaders in a Christian and Marist education, and therefore in an integral education, obliges us to “put ourselves in the shoes of the other”, as Bro-



ther Emili Turú (Superior General, 2009-2017) reminded us in his writing ‘He gave us the name of Mary’. Because to educate, because to love, it is necessary to “connect the realm of ideas and reason, but also the world of affection” (Br. Óscar Martín, General Councillor).

Educators and catechists, this is what Marcellin wanted us to be. To educate in science, in knowledge, in society, in faith, in spirituality... To educate to the full. This continues to be our challenge today, in the 21st century.

Marcellin “devoted himself to the education and evangelisation of young people, giving priority to the most abandoned” (Circular Br Ernesto Hogares de Luz). This continues to be our priority today, in the 21st century.

We end this article by recalling the words of Br Ernesto, in his circular, wishing that “every mission that we carry out be a space of light, which replicates and multiplies the experience of a home of light... with young people”. A light that illuminates our journey and that of our young people, which is none other than that of the Risen Christ. A light that balances us as persons, as Christians and as Marists.

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola  
Director of the Solidarity Secretariat



## GENERAL HOUSE

## MAY 1: INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

The first of May is a national public holiday in many countries to celebrate International Workers' Day. This event started with trade union activities in the late 19th century pushing for an eight-hour working day. Today, the focus is on the right to work which is enshrined in article 23.1 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). It is also recognized in international human rights law, included in part III article 6.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in article 15 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, Patron of the Universal Church and Patron of Workers is also celebrated on the first of May. Pope Pius XII instituted this feast in 1955 to encourage devotion to Saint Joseph. The Catholic Church teaches that Saint Joseph was a man of integrity, and profound worker. As foster father of Jesus and carpenter, he shared in the divine plan of salvation and thus is a model of family care and the dignity of human work.

International Workers' Day is a time to pause and reflect on the meaning of work. In [Laborem Exercens](#) (On Human Work), Pope John Paul II, inter alia, says, that the value of human work does not depend on the kind of work done but on the one doing the work. Human work must be for service to mankind and for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31). In this sense, Martin Luther King, Jr. encouraged excellence in human work when he said, "If a man is called to be a street-sweeper, he should sweep ... so well that all the host of heaven and earth will pause to say,

'here lived a great street-sweeper who did his job well.'"

Saint Marcellin Champagnat was a great man of God who shone with zeal for work. Many images show him with his

sleeves rolled up ready for work and mission. He learned the value of hard work from his father as he followed him everywhere doing farm work. His passion for work was revealed in the various ways by which he educated himself, ministered to parishioners, founded his religious family and undertook all his projects. He equally affirmed his total dedication to work in his letters such as when he wrote, "there is no sacrifice which I am not ready to make to educating young people".

For us, Marists of Champagnat, love of work is about encouraging young people to strive to do their best and to experience the joy of their successes. In a society affected by consumerism and excess, we choose to train the young people to discover the dignity of work. Through our example, we teach them that work is a powerful means of self-fulfillment, giving purpose and meaning to life, and of contributing to the general economic, social,

and cultural well-being. In this way, everyone becomes a "co-creator", continuing the work of creation in our turn, with joy and hope.

Brother Francis Lukong – [Secretariat of Solidarity](#)



marist world

BRAZIL: FRATERNITY GOOD MOTHER OF SURUBIM OF THE CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT OF THE MARIST FAMILY



AUSTRALIA: CELEBRATION OF 130 YEARS OF MARIST PRESENCE IN BENDIGO



PORTUGAL: MARISTAS OLYMPICS LISBON 2023



MEXICO: VOCATIONAL MISSION OF MARIST YOUTH IN JALISCO



BRASIL: ENCUENTRO DE COMUNIDADES DE LA PROVINCIA BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE



JAPAN: MARIST KOBE COMMUNITY

APRIL 29

MEMORY OF BR. MOISÉS CISNEROS RODRÍGUEZ

On April 29, the Institute celebrates the memory of Brother Moisés Cisneros Rodríguez, assassinated that day, in 1991, in Colonia Santa Isabel, Guatemala, at the age of 45. With his violent death he left the memory of his dedication and self-giving to the simple people of Ateos, Chichi and Zone 6; memory of the intense concern for the young brothers of his community and of his 25 years as an apostle among Central American children and youth. From his faithfulness up to his death, he confirmed the Gospel verse: "If the grain of wheat does not fall to the ground and die, it is unfruitful, but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Brother Moisés Cisneros was born on 12 August 1945 in Quintana de Raneros (León), Spain, to a family who knew how to instill in all of its children a deep sense of life and of the Catholic faith, a legacy that was already a family tradition and way of life. He began his apostolate in El Salvador at the San Alfonso School. During his time at the Liceo Salvadoreño, he



made a beautiful projection in the community of Atehuán. He was founder of the community of Chichicastenango. Being director of the Marist School of Guatemala, in zone 6, he was assassinated in his office on 29 April 1991. In May 2017, the then General Council, in the person of Br. Emili Turú, Superior General, assumed responsibility for the cause of martyrdom of Brother Moisés Cisneros Rodríguez.



EDUCATION AND EVANGELIZATION

# THE MARIST NETWORK OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION HOLDS A WEBINAR ON EVANGELIZING ACTION

On May 4 the Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education (RIMES) will hold a webinar on the theme of the document “Marist Evangelizing Action in Higher Education”.

The online event will have the participation of the authors of this institutional document that guides pastoral action in the Marist educational spaces of higher education. On this occasion, brothers John McMahon (Marist Tertiary Australia) and Rogério Mateucci (PUC Paraná) will review the main aspects of the document and will have the comments of John Hickey (Marist Tertiary Australia), Marcial Maçaneiro and Fabiano Incerti (PUC Paraná).

The webinar will be broadcast via Zoom, at 6:00 p.m. (Brasilia time), and it is intended for leaders, employees and students linked to the pastoral care of the Higher Education institutions associated with RIMES.

Those interested can participate through this link, using the access password: 029830 and the webinar ID: 961 5067 9825

### Marist Evangelizing Action in Higher Education

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

Kindle-Amazon: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Português](#)



**Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education**

The Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education consists of the current union of 27 institutions that, in harmony with the premises of the General Administration of the Institute of the Marist Brothers in Rome, seek to create connections of synergy and action in their areas of mission.

Founded in 2004, this network aims to create opportunities for partnership, formation and joint projects, strengthening action in higher education in more than 10 countries. [More information](#)

The logo for the Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education. It consists of a dark blue circle containing a white stylized 'M' shape formed by interconnected nodes and lines, resembling a network or a map.

### Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fms.it](mailto:comunica@fms.it)

Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

Twitter

[https://twitter.com/fms\\_champagnat](https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat)