



## XX MESSAGE OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

# THE INTEGRAL HEALTH OF THE YOUNG GENERATIONS

The XX message of the Marist International Mission Commission, entitled “The integral health of the young generations: a Marist educational commitment”, addresses the challenge of the Marist educational mission for the integral care of the young generations; and exhorts the “Heirs of Champagnat’s legacy” to be “promoters of life, and life in abundance, in the face of the multiplicity of conflicts, situations of abandonment, vulnerability and suffering that generated all kinds of illnesses and even the death of children and young people.” The message, written by Br. Marcelo Bonhemberger, Patrícia Espíndola de Lima Teixeira and Luiz Gustavo Santos Tessaro, on behalf of the International Marist Mission Commission, highlights the importance of knowing the dramas that today’s children and young people imprisoned in their interiority, “to provide opportunities for healthier daily environments.” The message urges “to abandon the individualistic understanding of health, which leads to the conclusion that the only way out is to wait and refer when situations become serious (reinforcing a conception of illness as a private subjective experience, isolated from the context).”



In the same way, the document mentions that “if the commitment is to improve the health of young people youth health through education, there is also a need for clarity in our thinking and joint practices.” And it emphasizes that “the educational and training spaces – with all the actors involved, the relationships established, the norms and policies, the physical structures – in themselves already configure a favourable or unfavourable environment for health to flourish. The Marist text stresses the need to build links that promote and prevent health; identifies the main initiatives present in the Marist spaces, and in parallel, it proposes 12 actions to (co-)create emotionally healthy educational and working environments.

Through this XX message, the International Commission points out that the “agenda of socio-emotional health should not be closed in on itself but should be discussed and cared for by us Marists. Together with our Superior General of the Marist Institute, we are encouraged to look beyond through the systemic of care, since “Our educational mission, with young people and those most in need, assumes a fundamental value in these times.”

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## general administration

- Brothers Ben and João Carlos, link councilors with the Europe Region, continue their visit in the province of l’Hermitage. This week they visit the College of Lagny-sur-Marne, in France; and also, the two communities and educational centers of Greece.
- Brother Pepe, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, will participate until Saturday in the meeting of the Africa Mission Commission, in Nairobi.
- The link councilors with the Africa Region continue their visit

in the East Central Africa Province. Br. Óscar was in Tanzania until Tuesday; and since Wednesday, he is visiting Rwanda together with Br. Ken.

- From Tuesday to Sunday, Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, will be in the Philippines, at Notre Dame of Marbel University, together with the team that is preparing the second edition, in English and French, of the Formation Program “Marist Leaders – Servant, prophetic and qualified leadership”.

## GENERAL HOUSE

## CAUSE OF BR. LYCARION

The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints has set the date for Brother Lycarion's congress of theologians for June 13, 2023. This is one of the least known causes of the Institute, and Brother Guillermo Villarreal, Postulator General, in a recent letter to the Provincials and District Superiors, requested the Marist World assistance in bringing it to light. The goal is for all brothers, collaborators, lay Marists, and students in your administrative unit to be aware of this cause.

**Brief biography of Brother Lycarion**

The Servant of God François Benjamin May, born in Switzerland in 1870, entered the Marist Brothers Institute at the novitiate in Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux (France) on May 2, 1888 and made his perpetual profession on August 15, 1893.

He was sent to Spain, where he learned Spanish and studied to be able to teach. He was then assigned to Arceniega (Álava), where he directed a junior seminary for future Marist Brothers. Later, he was appointed director of the San José Workers' Patronage located in the populous neighborhood of San Andrés de Palomar, in Barcelona, where he was brutally murdered during the so-called Tragic Week of Barcelona on July 27, 1909 at the age of 39.

**Process of Brother Lycarion**

The first process for Brother Lycarion began in Barcelona on July 1, 1966. On November 11, 1967, the Diocesan Process was closed, and on November 15, 1967, the transcript of the process was sent to the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

However, the process was halted as Pope Paul VI, since 1964, fearing that the memory of the martyrs would be used for political and publicity purposes, suspended all processes of Spanish martyrs. It was not until the papacy of His Holiness John Paul II that they were reactivated, when in 1994 he called for the memory of the martyrs to be revived as a testimony of reconciliation in the apostolic letter *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*.

Additionally, when the Code of Canon law was modified and the Apostolic Constitution *Divinus Perfectionis Magister* was published in 1983, it was requested that all cases, such as that of Brother Lycarion, that had not obtained a decree of legal validity, had to undergo supplementary diocesan investigation, directed by a historical commission before being able to request recognition of legal validity.

On January 17, 1997, Brother Gabriele Andreucci, requested to the Most Reverend Cardinal Ricard María Carles Gordó, to open an informative process on Brother Lycarion in order to complete the investigation. Specifically, he requested the appointment of some experts historians who would complete the information according to the Normae of 1983.



On October 10, 1997, the Commission of History Experts was established, and on November 25, 1997, the tribunal was established in Barcelona.

The History Commission concluded its work on November 27, 2000, and the tribunal was closed on February 27, 2001.

On March 1, 2001, the opening of the acts and delivery to the postulation of the second duplicate was requested. On July 18, 2001, the request for the decree of legal validity of the ordinary process was made, which would have been granted on March 22, 2002.

At the same time, on November 11, 1994, the family house of Brother Alfano in Vase de Hône, Aosta was acquired by the Institute.

In the summer of 2001, Brother Andreucci was replaced by Brother Bigotto as Postulator General. Brother Bigotto continued the cause of Brother Lycarion. On April 3, 2002, it was requested that the cause be joined with the Cause of Brother Eusebio and companion martyrs. The congregation replied, on April 17, that the two causes must be considered distinct and autonomous.

On January 21, 2014, Rev. Daniel Ols stopped being the relator and Fr. Simon Alfredo, OSB was appointed in his place.

On May 28, 2018, Brother Antonio Martínez requested the appointment of a new relator for the process of Brother Lycarion. Mons. José Jaime Brosel Gavilá was appointed as relator on June 1, 2018.

Given the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Positio was studied without the historical consultation taking place. According to this procedure, each consultant made their contribution in writing.

The objections presented were answered and approved by the General Relator. In December 2022, the date of the celebration of the Congress of Theologians was announced.

[More information can be obtained from the Institute's website.](#)

BANGLADESH

# MARIST BROTHERS MINISTRY WORK AT THE GIASNOGOR COMMUNITY

The Giasnogor community in Bangladesh, Marist District of Asia, is composed of three brothers from three different continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe. They are Brothers Vigilio Bwalya (Zambia), Marti Enrich (Spain) and George Valle (Philippines) who are directly involved in administering the School Saint Marcellin, built for the children of the workers of the tea plantations, who live in poor conditions.

Br. Marti is the current principal of the school; Br. Vigilio is the coordinator, school /community bursar, and community leader. And Br. George is a part-time English teacher, a basketball trainer, and a full-time itinerant vocation promoter. The three brothers are working under the diocese of Sylhet with about twenty thousand registered Catholics. Reverend Shorot Gomez, the former rector of the major seminary in the capital of Dhaka, is the current administering diocesan bishop.

The Marist Brothers also work in collaboration with the Marist Missionary Sister, represented by Sr. Shakuntola Arjun, as the overall in-charge of the hostel for girls. Her lay assistant is Pinky Mankhin. Kotrim Yang works for the boys with Sumon Hembrom as his assistant.

This year, in January 2023, Topu Mondol, a newly professed young Bangladeshi brother, who was on his way to MAPAC after First Profession, worked in the community during the first week of the opening of classes.

Talking about the ministry in the Community, Br. George says: "This type of mission work is so tiresome, however, after the



end of each day I am HAPPY, at PEACE, and feels so good to pray! Fear not, come and see."

## The Saint Marcellin Secondary School

School Saint Marcellin has 401 students enrolled from classes 6 to 10. There are sixteen teachers and three non-teaching staff. The school is primarily intended for the children of the tea garden workers who cannot afford to send their kids for further studies after class 5 or primary level due to financial constraints, distance, security among girls, and accessibility. The Campus has four main buildings with the school as the first from the main gate northwest and adjacent to it is the boys' hostel then followed by the Brothers' house and the girls' hostel southwest, after the mini-football field. Across the seasonal river, opposite of the girls' hostel or southeast around 200 meters, is the diocesan minor seminary. Recently, the third floor of the hostel for girls was completed and was occupied in January by twenty girls, a day before the opening of classes in January 2023. Boys occupied the second-floor auditorium of the school.

## Giasnogor's people background

There are 5 Punjis (villages) in Giasnogor alone with, more or less, 400 families in each Punji and an average of five members per family residing as workers only. Out of the 401 enrolled students, 113 are from the Garro tribe, 69 Bengali, 49 Urang, 45 Kashia, and 15 Karia, and the rest are distributed almost evenly among the remaining tribes. Historically speaking and according to the records of enrolled students at the school in 2021, there are 37 tribes working in the garden who are originally from India. The tea owners and planters during the British occupation between 1700 and 1947 were lured to come to Bangladesh because of the abundance of golden-leaf plants growing everywhere.

news in brief

### ROMANIA

The Marists of Romania celebrated their 25th anniversary of Marist presence in the country. The Marist Brothers arrived on April 28, 1998. Since 2004 they have been working in Bucharest with abandoned or needy children, in the "San Marcellin Champagnat" drop-in shelter. Until July 2020 they also managed the Frații Mariști day center. And in 2018, they started a new presence in Moinesti, with the "Maristi" day center.

### CHILE

Under the motto "Integral Ecology and protagonist participation" the directors of the Student Centers of the twelve schools of the Chile Sector (Santa María de los Andes) met from May 3 to 5 at the Colegio Marista de Las Compañías, in the city of The Serena. There were workshops focused on Integral Ecology, protagonist participation and Marist Values. It was organized by the sectorial team of Solidarity of the Mission Area.



FRANCE

# 8 MAY, ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BROTHER HENRI VERGÈS

On the occasion of the anniversary of the death of Brother Henri Vergès, on 8 May 1994, in Algiers, here are some reflections written for Brother Alain Delorme which will help the reader to keep alive the memory of this brother who, for 25 years, gave his life in the service of Algerian youth, beatified with 18 other martyrs of Algeria, religious men and women, on 8 December 2018 in Oran. See here other resources on Brother Henri Vergès.

## BROTHER HENRI VERGÈS, A VULNERABLE MAN

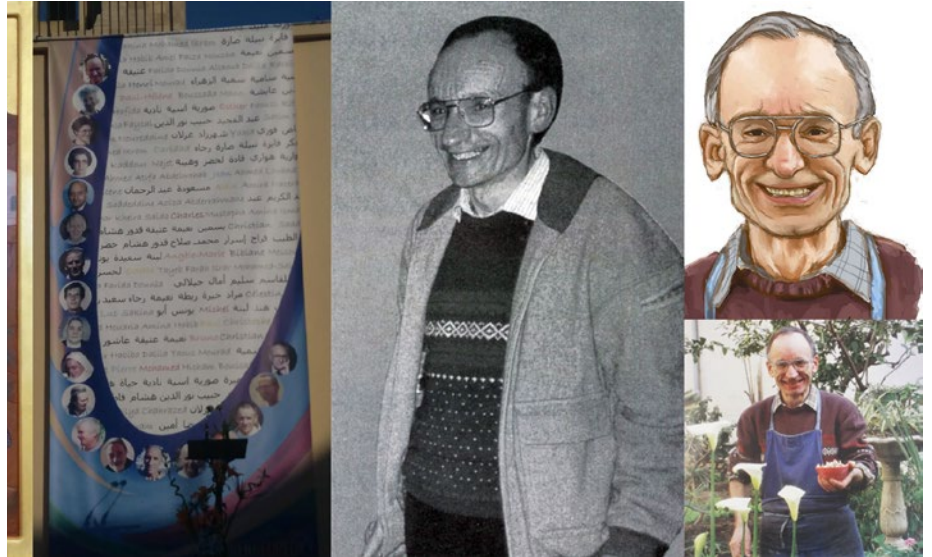
### The life and martyrdom of Henri Vergès from the angle of vulnerability

The one who “offers to take”, who forgets himself in order to open his heart to others, is vulnerable. Brother Henri Vergès, through his commitment to religious life, lived only for the Lord and the proclamation of the Gospel. He was a “wounded” man, the exact opposite of those of whom Charles Péguy speaks: “Who do not cover themselves with grace, because not being wounded, they are not vulnerable”. (Morals and grace)

Henri knew the vulnerability of the “old man” in him. At the end of eight years of interior simplicity during his service in the novitiate, he saw in this trial “a minimum to subdue in me what is in the old man” and he added: “On the other hand, it was a providential time on all levels. God be praised for this time in the desert! »

He knew he was vulnerable to death. His friend Bélaïd testifies: “On March 25, 1994, I met Henri Vergès for the last time. I was alone with him in his office in Algiers. I told him: “Mr. Vergès, you are in a red-light district; you are under constant threat; Are you aware that death is watching you day and night? He stopped his work, because he was covering a book, and he said to me: “Listen, my choice was made in 1948. I offered my life to God. My destiny is in the hands of the Almighty.” He was sincere and he concluded with a slight smile, “Believe me, I am not thinking about my safety”. When I left him, I was worried for his life and I didn’t know that this was a farewell visit”.

Christian de Chergé, in a homily on July 17, 1994, presents the death of Brother Henri and Sister Paul-Hélène in the following way: “Those who claimed responsibility for their murder could not appropriate their death. It belonged to an Other, like everything else, and for a long time. “It’s part of the contract,” laughed Henri, “and it will be whenever He wants. It’s not going to stop us from living, all the same!”



### F. Henri in a Muslim environment

At Christmas 1989, Henri described his Algerian journey for a Spanish magazine on the occasion of the bicentenary of the birth of Marcellin Champagnat. He ends as follows: “In summary, it is my Marist commitment that has allowed me, despite my limitations, to insert myself harmoniously into the Muslim milieu, and my life in this milieu, in turn, has made me more deeply a Marist Christian. God be praised! ».

Henri’s heart “offered hold” to his students and their families, to the people of the neighbourhood, to the Algerian people whose nationality he had asked for. Christian de Chergé, in the homily already quoted, writes: “Henri was also looking towards Islam which never ceased to allow itself to be questioned, from within a quest for God always on the alert. “I allow myself to be questioned, and I question, I destabilize the other a little, and the other destabilizes me... It is like Mary, I do not understand, but I look out. What the little ones have grasped, it’s wonderful. The scientists are blocking my business.”

Bishop Henri Teissier, in his preface to Robert Masson’s book: “Henri Vergès, a Christian in the house of Islam”, notes: “His life as a Marist religious and educator became a life in Muslim Algeria, for the Algerians and with the Algerians. The rise of danger, of which he was well aware, did not change this fundamental orientation, but added to it a desire for spiritual solidarity with Islam and the Muslims whose Ribat would help him to bring out all the

meaning. His friendships, especially with Brother Christian, the monks and other members of the Ribat, deepened this call in him.

Henri, whose heart remained wounded at the sight of the poverty of his pupils, tried, he wrote, “to better grasp the humble means offered to me day by day in the reality of the things offered to me so that these young people may feel through me a Presence that loves them and calls them by the best of themselves”.

**Witness to the love of Christ**

On the occasion of the centenary of the arrival of the Marist Brothers in Algeria (1891-1991), he ended his presentation

as follows: “We give thanks, with the Virgin Mary, in a trusting availability, at the heart of a Church whose humble condition of servant in Love we fraternally espouse”.

At the end of the funeral Mass on May 12, 1994, at Notre-Dame d’Afrique, Cardinal Duval addressed these few words from the heart to the congregation, where there were many Muslims: “Dear Brother Henri and the admirable Sister Paul-Hélène, were authentic witnesses to the love of Christ, of the absolute disinterestedness of the Church and of fidelity to the Algerian people.

The first two of the 19 martyrs beatified in Oran, on 8 December 2018, rest in the cemetery of El Harrach, near Algiers.

Brother Alain Delorme

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

**PROVINCIAL MEETING OF COMMUNITIES OF THE PROVINCE**

With the presence of 80 brothers, the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte held the provincial meeting of communities from April 28 to May 1, in Caucaia, State of Ceará. The meeting was marked by dynamics, moments of spirituality and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Province. It was also a propitious moment for the Institution to build new strategic horizons. During the event there were also discussions on governance, administration, signs of prophecy and vocation, as well as the challenges of the mission in the contemporary world.



One of the highlights of the activities was the reflection on the process of personal and institutional conversion. The activity led by the Provincial, Br. José de Assis Elias de Brito, sought to raise awareness about the recognition that the present times demand more efficient responses in the world of children, adolescents and young people; and “to widen the spaces of mission, without removing from the horizon our evangelizing and apostolic charism”. Br. Assis

also highlighted the cultural transformation of the Province, respecting principles, beliefs, values and behaviors of its associate members.

“Every congregation, every province, has its own culture. But it is its foundational charism, that defines the way of conducting the mission, the living of the spirituality and the lifestyle of its members. But we need to look beyond this to advance in the reflection and implementation of a canonical reconfiguration, based on criteria of vitality, viability and sustainability of life and mission”, affirmed the Provincial.



## BROTHERS BETWEEN 40 AND 55

## END OF THE “MID-LIFE” PROGRAMME IN MANZIANA

The 2023 session of the “Mid-Life” ongoing formation programme for Brothers between 40 and 55 finished on 29 April in Manziana. At the final celebration, in addition to the eighteen participants and the Institute’s ongoing formation team, Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and other brothers from the General Administration were present.

The closing Mass, presided over by a chaplain of the General House, Fr Luis Alfredo, began with a welcome by Br Afaese Afaese, who spoke of feeling deeply grateful for all that has been provided and experienced during the course of this programme. He said, “Each one of us had the opportunity to share our personal experience in this Senderos/Midlife

programme. Over the past three months, God has been at work in our lives through personal and community prayer, the topics presented by the speakers, through accompaniment, sharing in small fraternities and in our pilgrimage to some historical places here in Italy and France, especially those related to our origins.”

Expressing the feelings of the group he also paraphrased article 13 of the Constitutions, saying that this article “... speaks of a Covenant of love, in which God calls each one of us by name and leads us into the desert and there speaks to our hearts. During this formation programme, God has touched our innermost being, our essence. God’s Spirit worked ceaselessly in us, leading us to conversion and making us grow in love in order to entrust us with God’s mission. All that happened has expressed God’s freely-given love relationship with us and revitalised our consecration. We felt that the covenant of love, in which God makes a commitment to us and we to God, was made very real through this beautiful experience.

The last week of the Formation Program was marked by moments of evaluation, personal syntheses and a lot of sharing. The overall feeling expressed in these activities was one of gratitude for what had been experienced, gratitude for the generous presence of God in the life of each one, and a sincere desire to continue to follow Jesus Christ as a consecrated Marist.

In our three months of living together as brothers, our community in Manziana was very international and multicultural. The Brothers had the opportunity to share their life and mission; to



talk about the dreams that move and motivate their consecration as Marists of Champagnat.

For this reason, feelings of gratitude overflowed at this time of thanksgiving. Br Afaese said: “... we thank those who have helped us in deepening our commitment to God and to those entrusted to our care. We bring all these people to this Eucharist, appreciative of their prayers and support...” In particular, we thank “... Br Ernesto Sanchez and his Council; the Provincials and our Brothers of the Province; the Brothers of the General House; the presenters and translators; our relatives, friends and employees of the house and the Brothers who coordinated our programme: Brs Xavier, Ataide and Michael.”

We can say that this ongoing formation programme has given us room to grow and deepen our love relationship with God. The same God who loved us, called us and consecrated us, continues to act in our lives, forming us, inspiring us to continue moving forward towards new horizons. This encounter which is now coming to an end is an expression of the care of God and of our other brothers for our lives and our vocation. At the end of the celebration, Br Luis Carlos, on behalf of the Superior General and his Council, presented a small icon of the Annunciation as a reminder of the personal response of each one to God’s call, and thanked everyone for their commitment to their own formation. According to him, opportunities such as these are very important for our vocational maturing and so it is always a joy to know that the Brothers have made the most of this beautiful experience to further enhance their consecration and mission.

marist world

SPAIN: THIRD WEEK OF TRAINING FOR EUROPEAN MANAGERS IN LES AVELLANES



KENYA: BROTHER ÓSCAR MARTÍN, GENERAL COUNCILOR, VISITS THE BROTHERS IN ORORE



SPAIN: MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY CENTER, BARCELONA



NIGERIA: 4TH MATRICULATION CEREMONY OF THE MARIST POLYTECHNIC ENUGU



MEXICO: 60 YEARS OF THE INSTITUTO MORELOS, URUAPAN



TANZANIA: POSTULANTS IN MWANZA

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

PROVINCE CREATES A SERIES OF PODCASTS THAT SPEAK ABOUT VOCATION

The Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul has made available a series, in podcast format, reflecting on themes inherent in the Marist vocation. The project has six episodes, divided into two blocks. The first brings a format of conversation about the great themes of the Marist Way, which are: We Are Vocation, Specific Vocations and Vocational Itinerary. And the second block is presented in a format for use in meetings and personal reflections. Each conversation counts with guests who are references in dealing with the themes approached and helps in the dialogue with other materials and initiatives on the theme of Vocation.

The production of the podcasts is an initiative of the Province's Communication and Marketing Team, in partnership with the Marist Memorial and "Farol 1817" teams.

All the content is based on edition 8 of the publication "Caminhar Marista" (Marist Journeying), a collection which aims at promoting reflections on spirituality through short stories, important religious



phrases, extracts from documents of Marist history, biblical fragments, among others.

The collection 'Caminhar Marista' is available at this link.

The podcast episodes can be accessed at this link.

AMERICA SUR

# MEETING OF BROTHERS FROM 61 TO 75 YEARS OF AGE FROM THE REGION

From April 12 to 15, in Veranópolis, Province Brasil Sul-Amazônia, the Meeting of Brothers from 61 to 75 years of age from the region of South America was held. The meeting was attended by 49 Brothers. The objective of the meeting was to bring together the Brothers of the region, providing spaces to strengthen fraternity, as well as to deepen their experience of God in the personal encounter with Him and in daily life. Among the topics reflected on were: active aging and integral health; remembering the first love; celebrating the Marist life journey, starting from our relationship with Jesus, Mary and Champagnat; the Rule of Life and building the future with hope. It was a wonderful experience for the Brothers to meet so many other Brothers from the 5 Provinces that are part of the Region



and to establish fraternal relationships, promoting sharing and dreaming together of a promising future.

AUSTRALIA

# MARIAN LECTURE PROMOTED BY THE MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

The Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat invites you to join a Marian Lecture, on May 16, with the title A REVOLUTION OF TENDERNESS. It will be a conversation with moral theologian and ethicist, Dr Medi Volpe. She will take up what it means to be a Christian in the 21st Century through being revolutionaries of love and tenderness in living our daily lives.



Medi is Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics, Durham University, England, and Director of Research at Wesley House, Cambridge. She is a researcher, author and mother of four children, including a daughter with Down Syndrome. Her writing brings contemporary theological themes into conversation with voices from the classical Christian tradition. The meeting will be at 6:00 PM

Australian Eastern Standard Time (10:00 AM Rome time)  
[You can register here](#)



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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

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