



YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS: CLOSURE AND CONTINUITY

The Brothers Today Secretariat published a guide and other resources for the “closure and continuity”, on June 6, of the Year of Marist Vocations, inaugurated on May 20, 2022. Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, directors of the Secretariat, affirmed that “more than being a closure, we would like to give emphasis on CONTINUITY; we give a new impetus to the inspiration and the movement that was awakened around vocation ministry in the Institute, from what we have discovered in and lived in ‘caring for and generating Marist Life’.”

The resources prepared by the Secretariat consist of a guide for the “closure and continuity”, a proposal for nine days of prayer and reflection leading to the feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat (28 may – 05 june 2023)

and a celebration for June 6, the feast of the founder of the Marist Institute.



caring for and generating
MARIST LIFE
YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS
20 MAY 2022 - 06 JUNE 2023

The secretariat has underlined the objectives of this year’s feast of June 6:

- Thanking the Good Mother for “coming to our aid and not allowing the lamp to be extinguished”.
- Honoring Marcellin Champagnat, to whom God first gave the charism and in whom the wonderful adventure of Marist life began.
- Calling to mind and being grateful for how Marist Life has flourished over the last 200 years, beginning with Marcellin,



general administration

■ Brothers Ken McDonald and Oscar Vicario, Link Councilors with the Africa Region, continue their visit to the Province of East Central Africa. In recent days they have visited Marist communities in Rwanda, and as of Friday they will begin their visit to communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

■ From Monday to Wednesday, Brothers Jorge Gaio and Gregorio Linacero met in Mexico with the board of Gier International Corporation. Also attending the meeting was Br. Pat McNamara, community superior of the General House.

■ On Tuesday, Andrea Rossi, director of FMSI, Brothers Ángel Diego and Francis (Secretariat of Solidarity) attended the meeting of the Inter-American Solidarity Network Corazón Solidario. Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, greeted the participants at the beginning of the meeting.

■ On Wednesday, Br Ángel Diego, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, met online with the CCIIG Board.

■ On the same day, at the General House, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley, directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, led the formation session for brothers and lay people of the General Administration. The meeting had as its theme “Mary and Marcellin among us”.

■ On Thursday the executive committee of the Marist International Solidarity Network will meet online. The meeting is organized by the Secretariat of Solidarity.

■ Friday concludes the visit of Brothers João Carlos and Ben, General Councilors links with the region of Europe, to the Province of Hermitage. Last weekend they were in Greece and during the last few days they have visited some works and communities in France.

■ Until Saturday, the directors of the Secretariat of Solidarity, Brothers Ángel Diego and Francis, will visit the Marist mission in Vietnam.

followed by the first brothers, and spreading extensively through the countless men and women who live the charism and continue the mission to this day.

- Being profoundly thankful for the gift of our vocation as Marist brothers and Marist lay men and women.
- Responding actively, affectively, and creatively to the invitation to “look beyond”, to continue what was started during the year.

During this year we have rediscovered the **original passion** that inspired us to be Marists; thus, making us proclaim, **“there is great value in being Marist today!”**

The materials for the celebration of the feast of St. Marcellin and the “closure and continuity” of the Year of Marist Vocations are available [at this link](#).

20 MAY 1789

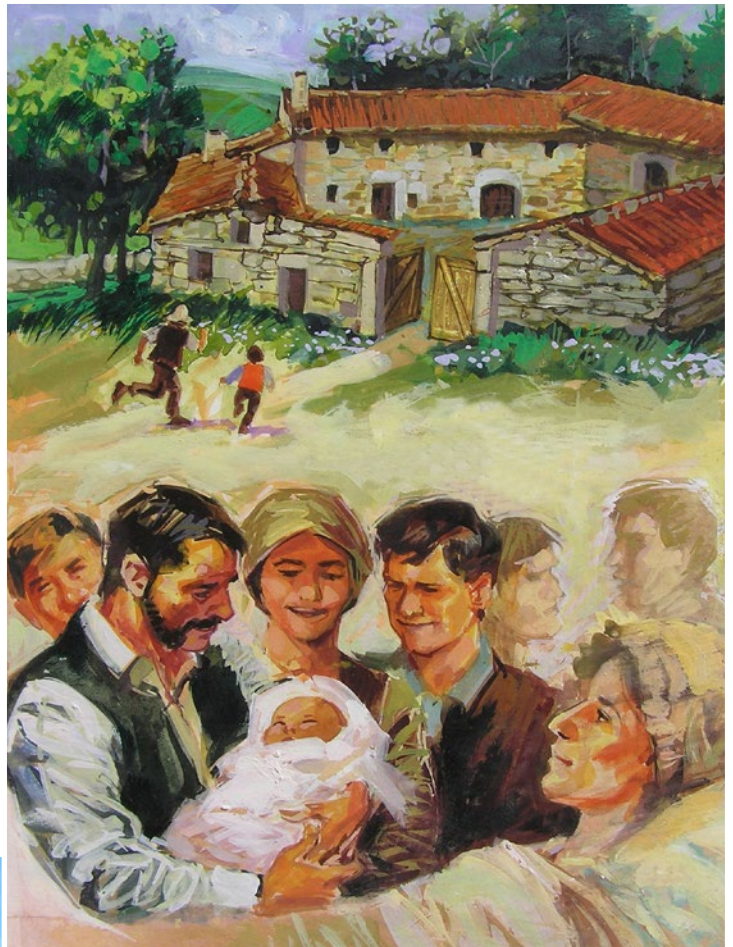
BIRTH OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

On May 20, 1789 – the year the French Revolution began – Marcellin Joseph Benito Champagnat was born. The place is a modest house built with stones, in the village of Rosey, which is now the property of the commune of Marlhes, 900 metres above sea level, located in the rural canton of Saint-Genest Malifaux. The largest urban centre is 23 km away, in Saint-Etienne, on the south-eastern border of the Department of Loire. At that time, approximately 2,700 inhabitants lived in Marlhes. This was a region that was cold and not very fertile, and when Champagnat was born, there was a high rate of infant mortality (30% of annual deaths) and also a very high rate of youth mortality.

About 60% of the population were farmers. It is in this typical rural context that we find the family of Jean-Baptiste Champagnat, the father of Marcellin, a small merchant and farmer, who came to hold public office during the Revolution. His mother, Marie-Thérèse Chirat, was a housewife and took care of the couple’s nine children. After Marcellin, the tenth child was born.

Years later, Father Marcellin Champagnat would recall his childhood in the request for recognition of the Institute sent to King Louis-Philippe. The letter reads as follows:

“Born in the canton of St. Genêt Malifaux, department of the Loire, it was only with infinite difficulty that I was able to read due to a lack of qualified teachers: from that moment I felt the urgent need for an institution which could, with less expense, do in the rural areas what the Brothers of the Christian Schools do in the cities” (Letters, No. 34)
Virtual pilgrimate to ROSEY > <http://q-r.to/bak66P>



BRAZIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

The first edition of the Pedagogical-Pastoral Forum of the Marist Social Centres took place on 4 May, organised by the Solidarity Area of the Rede Marista. The event - which seeks to mobilise projects and practices to strengthen evangelising education in the Marist Social Centres - was held online and 21 people attended. The second edition will take place in the first half of June.

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

The XXVII national meeting of youth groups of the Apostolic High School Movement was held in Monterrey, May 4-7, organized by the Colegio Franco Guadalupe. The main objective was to “reorient our gaze”, promoting an inclusive relationship with everyone. The meeting promoted interior reflection to embrace the attitudes of Marist life: closeness, compassion and commitment.

MEDITERRÁNEA

Students from the Marist school in Malaga participated on May 12 in the solidarity race “Drops” promoted by UNICEF in educational centers to raise awareness about the right of the world’s children to safe drinking water.

NIGERIA

Brother Elias Iwu, from the Extended Bureau of the Laity, animated a retreat for the educators of Sacred Heart Marist College, in Ejule, Nigeria.



RED GLOBAL MARISTA DE ESCUELAS

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA



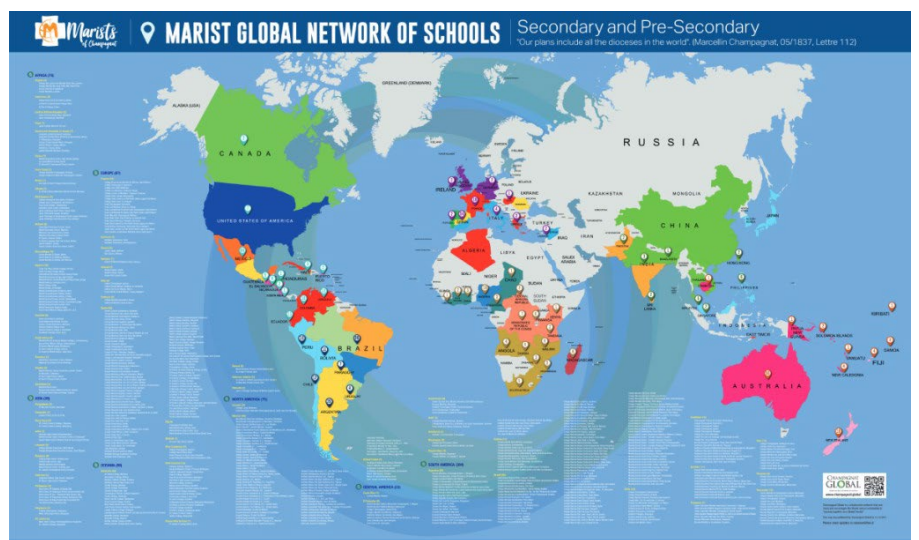
Champagnat Global in its essence is a network: the Marist Global Network of Schools. It was created with the aim of communicating and walking together as a school family.

Our network has as its meeting point the Champagnat Global portal that has an AGORÁ platform, which allows you to join a community (members), publish news (activity), be part of interaction groups... as you can see in the following video.

And from now on, we take a step further, using a tool such as social networks to try to make our network, Champagnat Global, more likely to be disseminated, known and used in all our Marist school environments.

If you are interested in keeping up to date with Champagnat Global, you can now also do so through their social networks: WELCOME!

Facebook – Twitter – Instagram – LinkedIn



COMPOSTELA

MEETING OF THE PORTUGUESE MARIST FAMILY

With the motto “Smiling from the heart... yesterday, today and tomorrow” the meeting of the Portuguese Marist Family took place at Fatima, as part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Marist presence in Portugal, Compostela Province.

The 6th May brought together all those who, from schools, social works and communities of Marist Brothers in Portugal, wanted to go on pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Fatima and thus, as a family, to celebrate the traditional annual meeting of the Portuguese Marist Family.

As in previous years, this meeting was preceded by various initiatives and moments that included one or two days of walking/pilgrimage for students and parents of the schools, as well as, on May 5, at 9:30 p.m., the celebration of the Via Lucis at Valinhos, in Fatima.

The program for May 6 included the celebration of the Eucharist in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity at 11:00 am, followed by a cultural afternoon at the Paul VI Center at 2:30 pm,



with presentations prepared by the schools, social works and communities on the 75 years of Marist presence in Portugal. It was a day of joy, celebration, family reunion and celebration of the Marist Life that beats in the hearts of thousands of people, with being Marist of Champagnat being the bond that unites us.

HERMITAGE

GENERAL COUNCILLORS VISIT COMMUNITIES IN ATHENS

Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ben Consigli, General Councillors of the Marist Institute and links with the Region of Europe, were in Greece (Province of L’Hermitage) on 11 and 12 May to visit the two Marist institutions in the country, in Athens and Nea Smyrni.

Brothers Ben and João Carlos visited the two schools and were informed about the structure, the functioning, the pedagogical work and the social offer of the Marist schools in the country. The Councillors also met with the students of all grades and the staff of the schools Léonin of Néa Smyrni and Léonin of Athens (<https://leonteios.edu.gr/nea-smyrni/nea-episkepsi-genikon-symboylon-tis-marianis-adelfotitas-sti-leonteio-sholi-athinon-sti>).

The visit of the two Brothers of the General Government also aimed at reviving among the Marists of Greece the feeling that they are part of a global Marist family with a common educational vision on the five continents.



visited the Marists and the works of the Hermitage Province. The visit began in Catalonia, where they went to Barcelona, Rubi, Mataró and Lleida. It continued in France (Aubenas, Lagny, Lyon, Marseille, Paris and Saint Paul-Trois-Châteaux) and continued in Greece, finishing in the last days, again in France (Lyon y Marseille).

Visit to the Province of L’Hermitage

From April 24th to May 19th, Brothers Ben and João Carlos

Fotos en FaceBook

SOUTH ASIA

COMMUNITY LEADERS MEETING IN SRI LANKA

The community leaders in Sri Lanka sector, Province of South Asia, met at the beginning of April, at the Provincial house, to discuss how they can give more vitality and animation to the members in their respective communities, with Nick leading us in a prayerful session. It was a small group composed by five brothers: Nick, Lal, Chamara, Sales and Noel.

The opinions and discussions of the meetings were based on the analysis of two reflections: "The community is for brothers an experience more than a place." (Homes of Light – Br.

Ernesto, Superior General). And "The tragic betrayal of consecrated life that occurs when we give our heart away generously at the time of first profession and then take it back bit by bit, with each passing year" (Make Jesus Known and Lovzed – Br. Sean Sammon-Former Superior General). Likewise, it was considered some reflections mostly based on the Constitutions articles 37, 97, 143, 144, and 145.

During the meeting the brothers dwelt on some sentences and clauses in the constitutions on community prayers. In addition, they also spent some time to reflect on what they can do to maintain and promote quality Marist Community living in their respective communities and as a whole in the province.

These were their 25 reflections shared:

- Keep the brothers comfortable, give them sufficient food according to each one's needs.
- Listen to them.
- Organize good housekeeping, neatness and cleanliness in and out of the house in an aesthetic sense, if possible, get the support and help of our friends.
- Spending some quality time with brothers.
- Prayerful atmosphere, which is conducive to reflection in our houses attract our visitors.
- Sharing life with brothers once a week is a good practice.
- Regular community meetings once a month is suggested.
- Share the responsibility of household chores with brothers.
- Remain open to brothers and others visiting our houses.
- Enjoy community activities.
- Grow in community prayer and prayerful reflection.
- Accept each other with respect and dignity. as a valuable human being.
- Sharing with and caring for others
- Travel an extra mile with those in need of our support.
- Not to criticize others behind their back with one another or worse still with outsiders.
- Always safeguard the good name of members even in their weaknesses.
- Invite others for prayers even if they don't respond positively.
- Appreciate each and everybody on their success, however small they are,
- Talk to people directly about their weaknesses in order to help them out. That way they would not get offended.
- Celebrate brothers' special occasions and days important for them.
- Pray for brothers in private or in common prayers.
- Welcome brothers' family members and friends on cordial way.
- Inquire about brothers' health and well-being, particularly in their distress.
- Show interest in their work and apostolate, share yours with them.
- Show that you have confidence and trust in brothers.



BRAZIL

MARISTS PROMOTE THE FIGHT AGAINST ABUSE AND SEXUAL EXPLOARATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

On May 18, Brazil celebrates the National Day to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. To promote the qualification of professionals (from different areas) and of the Marist Brothers in the field of protection of children, adolescents and young people, the Counseling on Protection of the Child and Adolescent of "Rede Marista" (Brasil Sul-Amazônia) is developing two training initiatives that will take place in May.



Certification in Protection, Care and Management of children and adolescents victims of sexual violence

This is a free course offered by the PUCRS, in collaboration with the Counseling on Protection and the Law School. It is an online course in Portuguese. [More information in this link](#)

Marist Conference about Confronting Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse

This webinar is held annually by the Counseling on Protection with topics related to child and youth sexual violence. This year, the theme will be on violence, abuse and sexual exploitation of

children and youth in an online environment. The event will take place on May 25. Three experts from different areas will speak about the impacts of this type of sexual exploitation on the lives of children and young people. [More information in this link](#)

Brasil Centro-Sul

The Marist Group, on May 5, was one of the sponsors of a Live promoted by the Conference of Religious of Brazil (CRB), which highlighted the work that the Catholic Church is doing in favor of the defense and protection of vulnerable people. The video is available on the [CRB YouTube channel](#).



marist world

MEXICO: XXVII NATIONAL MEETING OF "MAS GROUPS"



RWANDA: BROTHERS OSCAR AND KEN, GENERAL COUNCILORS, VISIT THE COMMUNITY OF BYIMANA



FRANCE: BROTHERS JOÃO CARLOS AND BEN, GENERAL COUNCILORS, VISIT THE MARIST IN AUBENAS



JAPAN: MARIST COMMUNITY IN KOBE



CHILE: RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS FESTIVAL AT COLEGIO MARISTA SANTIAGO



SPAIN: PROVINCIAL SPORTS EVENT IN LA RIOJA

ECUADOR

SOLIDARITY ACTIONS IN SANTO DOMINGO

Brother Antonio Pérez Valdeon, coordinator of solidarity in Ecuador, *Norandina Province*, visited the Piera Grazia Bruccoleri Educational Institution, located in the rural area of Santo Domingo. There he shared with the solidarity team to whom he expressed his closeness and encouraged them to continue undertaking solidarity actions with the community in the area.

The Piera Grazia Bruccoleri Educational Institution, with 299 students, is located 11 km from the urban area of Santo Domingo, a city located on the coast of Ecuador, 133 km from Quito, the capital of the country.

The Piera Grazia Solidarity team is made up of 24 students in grades 1,2,3 of secondary school, who, together with their teachers, lead the project "Sharing Golden Dreams", which consists of attending to a group of 32 elderly people and accompanying them with recreational activities, visiting their homes to learn about their reality and being present at the medical sessions held by the health center.

Among the topics discussed, Brother Antonio encour-

aged to apply the methodology "Learning + Service", which allows to combine the realities of the area with the academic activity developed with children and young people of the institution; on the other hand, he stressed the importance of institutional awareness in the promotion and defense of the rights of children, as well as the formation of the institutional ecological group framed in the proposal of the encyclical "Laudato Si'".



CANADA

“MISSION M” AT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT SECONDARY SCHOOL

Last April, 36 students from the 1st and 2nd grades of the Marcellin-Champagnat Secondary School (ESMC), Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Canada, participated in the “Mission M”. “M” for Marist, Marcellin, Mary... and Me. “Mission M” is a youth ministry activity of the District of Canada aimed at offering young people between 12 and 14 the opportunity to meet, reflect and relax. This period of reflection was made possible thanks to many volunteers, including nine 5th grade students from MCHS who led the various activities and seven adults who helped prepare the meals and assisted in the various moments of reflection. The theme of “Mission M” was “The Marist Flame”. The mission of the participants was to rekindle the Marist flame at MCHS, which in recent years has been slowly flickering out. By taking part in the proposed activities, the different sub-groups earned a small flame. On this, the sub-group wrote a Marist value that was associated with the activity. In this way, the young people had experiences of solidarity, communication, listening, interiority, trust and fraternity. At the very end of the activity, each sub-group was invited to share the values they had discovered. Through their reflections on Marist values, the young people were rekindling the Marist flame at MCHS. Afterwards, a candle was given to each participant. This candle, with all its symbolism, reminded them of the flame that is within them,

that they have to take care of and let shine. The song “This little light of mine” by the GroupMusic band accompanied the young people throughout the event.

The Candle Symbol

Violet-coloured wax and essence of violet oil were used to remind participants of the three values associated with the three violets: humility, modesty and simplicity. A “Mission M” sticker was stuck on the container as a reminder of the event. When the candle is lit, the flame represents the flame within them, the flame that they must let shine to illuminate our world.



SPAIN

DAY OF CONVIVIALITY IN THE PROVINCE OF IBÉRICA

On the 22nd April, at Talavera, the Marist Day of Conviviality of the Province of Ibérica was held, with a large participation of people from the different community realities closest to the Province: from Madrid to Navalморal, brothers, fraternities and members of Marist meeting groups had a day of conviviality and formation that promoted knowledge and shared reflection. The main theme this year was “The charismatic family of Champagnat”. In the morning there was an in-depth study of what a charismatic family is, what this reality means within the Church, and what steps are being taken in the Marist world, especially since the last General Chapter, in which it was stated that one of the five great objectives of the Marists of Champagnat was to “create a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope in this turbulent world”. The afternoon workshops aimed to approach this approach in a more plastic and experiential way: one of the workshops brought



the participants closer to the origin of the Marist family with an interiority activity based on the spirituality of Marcellin and the first Brothers; and the other workshop presented the different activities and proposals that, for some time now, have been generating the reality of family among the Marists of Champagnat.

Marist Lay Team, Iberia Province

EAST ASIA

EAST ASIA PROVINCE PROMOTES CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

With the aim of protecting Children and Youth in the East Asia Province, the Marist Brothers and Laypeople have held two important seminars in April: A Seminar-Workshop on the Protection of Children and Youth Against Cybercrimes and another Seminar on Anti-Osaec Advocacy to enhance child safety and protection in schools.

Seminar-Workshop on the Protection of Children and Youth Against Cybercrimes

Following the program, from April 28 to 29, around 50 administrators coming from the NDEA member schools of General Santos and Allah Valley Cluster and from a private institution, Ramon Magsaysay Memorial College (RMMC) met at the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu, Philippines, to participate in the Seminar-Workshop on the Protection of Children and Youth Against Cybercrimes.

On behalf of the Provincial, Br. Ernie Sentina, FMS, expressed gratitude to all the participants and enjoined all to continue working for the best interest of children and youth in need. While Br. Crispin Betita shared the policies and protocols for reporting cases.

The program began with the welcome message of Dr. Evelyn Dollete, NDEA Executive Director. Ms. Leann Jester Daus Rosali, Principal of Notre Dame of Marbel University, Senior High School, shared the theme Creating Cybersafe Schools. Br. Crispin Betita shared the policies and protocols for reporting cases. The key Resource Person, Raena Marie P. Asistores, Member of the International Justice Mission (IJM) shared her expertise on The Law on Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC).

Seminar on anti-OSAEC

On the other hand, on April 22, 68 people participated in the seminar on anti-OSAEC advocacy organized by the Child and Youth Protection Desk of East Asia Province, in collaboration with the Notre Dame Educational Association (NDEA) and Misean Cara (Mission Support from Ireland) through FM-SI-Rome. The seminar-workshop for student leaders on the Cyber Youth Empowerment

Program was held at Notre Dame of Cotabato Instructional Media Center, Cotabato City, Philippines.

The training addressed a wide range of subjects, including Stop Online Sexual Abuse and Child Exploitation Advocacy Program Rationale, Workshop on Reality Awareness and the Urgent Call to Action, Advocacy: Stop Online Sexual Abuse and Child Exploitation (OSAEC), Case Reporting Protocols, Review of the school's existing Child Protection Policy, Cybersecurity Tips, and a workshop on How Can We Make Schools Cybersafe.

Br. Crispin P. Betita, FMS, East Asia Province's Child, and Youth Protection coordinator, along with the facilitators and some school administrators, praised this student-led initiative for its proactive approach to child protection and emphasis on empowering young people to take the lead in protecting their peers.

School leaders that attended the seminar-workshop could make their schools a model for other schools wanting to build a safer and more supportive learning environment for children through initiatives like these.

Both seminars were rated successful by attendees, who commended the organizers, facilitators, student leaders, and moderators for their dedication to promoting child safety and protection.



16 MAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEACEFUL LIFE WITH PEACE

"**B**ecome a prophet of the Good News: denounce injustice, work for peace" (Rule of Life, 32).

A few years ago, in December 2017, the UN decided to declare 16 May as the "International Day for Coexistence in Peace". A day to remember one of the essential principles and rights of every human being: to live and live together in peace. Our world today, as so often throughout history, is plagued by wars, armed conflicts and violence in many countries and regions. Our response today, as so often throughout our Marist history, must be plagued by responses of peace, understanding, dialogue, and love for our brothers and sisters. The XXII General Chapter invited us, and invites us, to be builders of bridges, of understanding, of positive and horizontal relationships. An invitation that entails the effort for harmony and understanding from the concrete of our lives, but that must transcend our small frontiers of daily life to reach the universal sense of fraternity. A fraternity that Jesus taught us two thousand years ago, and that Pope Francis reminded us of in Fratelli Tutti.

We need to try to accept differences, to respect others, to listen to their opinions, to recognize that "my brother and sister" also have their own opinions. We need to sit together, to dialogue, to remain open and attentive, to sincerely appreciate the other, even those who seem to be our enemies. Jesus of Nazareth invited us to have the courage to live and transmit this way of relating to each other, based on tolerance, acceptance, and solidarity. Literature, and cinema, have reminded us how sincere peaceful co-existence is possible, despite divisions and differences. It suffices to recall here the brilliant story told by John Boyne in his famous novel *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. What if we learn from the two protagonists of this story? What if we allow ourselves to be challenged by the tender and transparent gaze of Bruno and Shmuel?

In recent months we seem to have already forgotten the terrible pandemic we have been living through for more than two



years. It has taught us some lessons that can also help us to live together in peace. Fidel Aizpurúa, a Capuchin Franciscan, wrote an article entitled 'The storm roared, the gale passed'. In it he reminded us how the pandemic had taught us "social weakness [...] and the necessary collaboration [...] fraternity in fragility and solidarity with the most fragile". I believe that these words can be enlightening in our daily life as an Institute. As Marists of Champagnat we are called to begin with the concrete and then move to the global. We remember what the text of Matthew's Gospel tells us: "So if, when you bring your gift to the altar, you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift right there before the altar and go first to make peace with your brother. Then you can return to the altar and present your offering". (Mt 5:23-24). And we also remember what Father Champagnat told us: "All the dioceses of the world are part of our plans". We are a Global Family, we are bridge builders, we are defenders of the culture of peace and non-violence, we are brothers and sisters to all human beings, especially the most vulnerable.

There is work to be done, yes. We have the resources to help in this task, too. Let us unite, as a Global Family. Let us join with those who promote peace, in our Church, in our society, in our world.

Br Ángel Diego García Otaola
Director of the Solidarity Secretariat



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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

Facebook

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

Twitter

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat