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MARIST NEWS

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MESSAGE OF BR. ERNESTO SANCHEZ TO THE FEAST OF ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT CHAMPAGNAT, A MAN WITH ATTENTIVE EARS AND A DARING HEART

6th June 2023

Dear Marists of Champagnat,

This June 6th we are happy to celebrate once again the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. As always, it is an important occasion to give thanks for the life and mission of our Founder and for the gift of the Marist charism which has been entrusted to us. This is a gift of the Spirit to the Church and to the world, something life-giving which we are being called - in our turn - to keep alive and share.

Our Institute has an amazing history, and we are part of it. Our story began with a young priest, just 27 years old, who was able to read the signs of the times, discern the promptings of the Spirit, and forge ahead with a creative response. In a post-revolutionary context, Marcellin



became aware of the needs of the young people of La Valla and its surroundings

and confirmed his intuition of founding an Institute dedicated to the education and evangelisation of young people, particularly the most vulnerable and the most in need, which he had sensed during his seminary days.

Marcellin, a leader who cared for life and generated new Marist life

History reminds us that, in the early days of the Institute at La Valla, Marcellin's time was taken up with the running of the brothers' house where he spent his free time and any other moments he could spare from his parish duties. At some point, he recognised that there was just not enough time to provide this fledgling community of religious educators with the accompaniment it needed. So, moved by the great



general administration

- This week, on Tuesday, the Gier formation program began at the General House for brothers up to 5 years of perpetual profession. The program is directed by the Brothers Today Secretariat and Brothers Tony Leon and José Miguel Caballero.
- On Monday, Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, Valdicer, director of Cmi, and Ángel Diego, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, participated in the online meeting of the CPV Network Board of Directors.
- On the same day, Br. Angel Diego and Andrea Rossi attended the FMSI Board of Directors meeting.
- On Tuesday, Brothers Luis Carlos, Ben and Goyo participated in an online event that marked the inauguration of the second edition of the Servant and Prophetic Leadership course, aimed at English and French speaking leaders.
- On Wednesday, Brothers Óscar, General Councilor, and Valdicer, participated in the meeting of the Fratelli Project Council at the General House of Lasallian Brothers.
- On Wednesday, Brothers João Carlos and Ben, General Coun-

cilors, met with the Provincial Council of L'Hermitage to share their visit to the Province.

- On Thursday, the Secretariat of the Laity will hold the first online meeting with the delegates of the Administrative Units that will animate the IV phase of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation. Members of the Extended Secretariat of the Laity will also participate.
- On Friday, Br. Pepe, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, participates in the meeting with the commission that prepares the III MIMA.
- The course for candidates to the international communities begins on Friday. The first phase takes place in Manziana, under the coordination of the Department of International Missionary Collaboration.
- The traditional June plenary session of the General Council begins on Thursday. On Friday and Saturday, the members of the General Government will participate in the meeting of the four Marist congregations in Nemi.

affection he felt for his brothers and by the need to be more present among them as a guide, he decided to live with them. When he told the parish priest about his plans, the pastor spared no effort to dissuade him... Yet, Marcellin knew that becoming one with his "little brothers" and being the first to practice what he was telling them would be the best way to get them to love their vocation. Therefore, with the permission of the bishop, he moved out of the presbytery and took up residence with the brothers. (Cf Life, pp. 76-77).

This initial action of our Founder has left its mark on us. We have inherited a style of leadership from Marcellin which focused on what God was telling him in his heart, as well as on the people in his care. He did not place his needs before this. He was a true 'servant leader,' devoted to caring for life and generating new life, thus the motto we had chosen for this Year of Marist Vocations which began on 20 May 2022.

We can learn from the experience of our Founder who was enthusiastic and determined in how he encouraged, accompanied,

and formed those who felt God's call to live a Marist vocation. In times of crisis, and there were many, he was able to press onwards, showing his total trust in God and in Mary, our Good Mother. Let us not forget that a little over two hundred years ago, between 1819 and 1822, there was a crisis in the lack of new vocations, but then a revival. Marcellin continued to heed the promptings of the Spirit in his heart, and even when problems, obstacles, and resistances came his way, he was able to keep moving forward with great faith and trust, thanks to his "attentive ears and daring heart". He always recognized that this Institute was not his own work, but the work of God and Mary.

These historical memories are a gift and inspiration for us today. We are living through challenging times, in both the Institute and the Church, as well as in the world, and we are invited to give our utmost attention to discern the promptings of the Spirit and to press onwards, as Marcellin did. This means continuing to deepen our

inner lives and spirituality, both personally and as a group. The Constitutions remind us that, "in meditation we foster interior silence that allows us to listen to God in our innermost being." (Const. 48).

As a leader, Marcellin cared for the lives of both the brothers and the children and young people in their ministries. He provided for the care of the communities and schools that were being founded. He paid special attention to the sick, as well as to any vulnerable young person he encountered. His tireless dedication was a source of enthusiasm and commitment in those he met. Through his witness and action, he was able to generate new life.

The Year of Marist Vocations

Throughout this Year of Marist Vocations, various activities have been organised in the Provinces and Districts to increase care for Marist life and to generate new Marist life. A number of ongoing formation programmes have been held for Brothers of all ages. The in-person stage of the International Forum on Lay Marist Vocations was held in Rome this past November, with about one hundred Brothers and Lay Marists attending. New sorts of connections and networks are appearing, aimed at animating Marist life and mission. We have reflected on how to walk with the youth of today and, as an expression of a culture of vocations, we are looking for ways to support each young person in his or her vocational search, paying particular attention to those who feel a Marist vocation. All this with the aim of "rediscovering the original passion that inspired us to be Marist" which leads us to affirm, "There is great value in being a Marist today!"

I thank the Brothers Today and Laity Secretariats for their leadership of this vocational year, as well as all the groups and individuals in Provinces and Districts who have been involved in vocation ministry. Let us continue to work together, sharing ideas and activities, so that we can continue to be a support to each other.

As we conclude this Year of Marist Vocations, I invite you to keep its momentum



going, to continue to care for life enthusiastically and energetically and to look for ways to generate new Marist life. The best way to generate new life is to care for our own vocation and that of others, otherwise it will be unlikely that anything will result from our efforts.

Living our mission in life with passion and creativity

We believe that the gift of the Marist charism is still fresh and relevant in our times, and that we are being called to adapt it to today's world. Let us continue to be open to the promptings of the Spirit, in our present contexts, and through the signs of the times in which we live. Let us not be afraid to welcome what is new and to change and transform what is necessary, both in the way we live our vocation and in the way we

carry out our mission. Young people expect us to be living, transparent witnesses of Jesus who are close to them. We are being called to continue our mission among young people with passion and creativity, trying to make each of our educational and social centres a home of light that cares for life and generates new life. We are called to pursue this dream and this community of Champagnat with enthusiasm and generosity, at the service of those most in need, the young we find today who are suffering because of war, the Covid pandemic, the loss of meaning in life, no opportunities for education, and alienation among others.

In Mary's hands

Let us entrust the life and mission of our Institute to Mary, Our Good Mother. She

continues to be our inspiration: "True to the name that we bear, let Mary shape and inspire your spirituality" (Rule of Life, 28). She was able to discover God's presence within herself and to reflect it outwards in her daily life, feeling strengthened especially in moments of uncertainty and pain. As Marists of Champagnat, Mary encourages us, inspires us, and makes us feel her presence close to us. As Saint Marcellin so often said to us, let us remember that "this is her work." Today, let us feel Saint Marcellin close to us, living on in each of us, inspiring us with his attentive listening and daring heart. Happy Feast of Saint Marcellin!

Br. Ernesto Sanchez Barba, Superior General

Feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat 6th June 2023

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES DIPLOMA IN ECOLOGY

In line with the Message of the XXII General Chapter, which suggests "creating an integral ecological awareness in all our communities and different ministries", the School of Formation of Marist Educators of Chile (Province of Santa María de los Andes) has initiated on April 19 its Diploma in Integral Ecology, which will conclude on August 22. 33 teachers from Marist schools in the country have enrolled in the completely virtual diploma course, which consists of 3 modules divided into different sessions. The diploma aims to make educators aware of the current ecological challenge; to learn about new approaches related to the environmental issue, the richness, complexity and conceptualization of the territory. It also presents a series of experiences on nature, indigenous communities, and other socio-environmental alternatives.

The first module of the Diploma is entitled "The socio-environmental as an approach, rediscovering the environment", and consists of 5 sessions. The first session was led by the Theologian Pedro Pablo Achondo, one of the directors of the Diploma, who gave a general introduction to the contents of the course. The second session dealt with the theme: "The challenge of a time of crisis, the ecological as a problem". The third session dealt with the theme: "New perspectives and approaches to understanding the environment". The fourth session, held



on May 9, dealt with "The territory: richness, complexity and conceptualization".

The Province of Santa Maria de los Andes hopes that, upon graduating from the Diploma in Ecology, the educators will achieve a reflective attitude towards current environmental problems, that they will be able to analyze these social realities and commit themselves to school religious education from the paradigm of Integral Ecology.

The XXII General Chapter asks the Marists to "awaken in ourselves and those around us an ecological awareness that engages us in caring for "our common home".

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

WEBINAR: BUILDING THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION AT THE MARIST SCHOOL

On the occasion of the celebration of Champagnat's feast day in June, the Marist Global Network of Schools proposes a meeting of the international school community to reflect together on how to build the Global Education Compact in the schools of the Institute. The webinar is aimed at all educators in Marist schools who are interested in learning about and promoting the Global Education Compact, the invitation launched by Pope Francis to create an alliance between all those working in the field of education, in order to educate young generations in universal fraternity and in the alliance between humanity and creation.

In addition to hearing from an expert on the implications of the Pact on the education, it will be shared the initiatives that are being developed in the schools to build the Pope's proposal.



To encourage participation, the same webinar will be held on two different dates: the first on 8th June and the second on 15th June.

The Champagnat Global Network invites you to REGISTER, as soon as possible, so that you receive the participation Zoom link.

CHILE

MEETING OF FOUR FRATERNITIES OF THE CMMF

On May 13, four fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family of Chile (CMMF), Santa María de los Andes Province, held an assembly at the "Centro Marista de Espiritualidad". The members of the four fraternities were accompanied by Br. Agustín Carazo. The theme of the meeting was "Promoting the vitality of the Marist charism in the CMMF". There were several moments of dialogue, personal and group reflection, fraternal sharing, and a significant celebration at the end.

In the Province there are thirteen fraternities of the Movement, which was born in 1985, when the General Chapter, aware of the richness of sharing the Marist charism with the laity, promoted the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family.



marist world

ITALY: PASTORAL TEAM OF THE PROVINCE MEDITERRANEA WITH PASTORAL GROUP OF GIUGLIANO



EAST TIMOR: MARIST COMMUNITY PHOTO 2023 WITH PROVINCIAL, BR PETER CARROLL



BOLIVIA: 14 YOUNG PEOPLE BEGAN THEIR PATH OF FORMATION AND ACCOMPANIMENT AS LAY MARISTS



BRAZIL: X INTEGRA CONFSSIONAL MEETING OF FTD EDUCAÇÃO



ECUADOR: NATIONAL MEETING OF EVANGELIZATION



SPAIN: NEW EDUCATORS AND MARIST IDENTITY FORMATION TEAMS

AMÉRICA CENTRAL

BONDING OF LAYPEOPLE TO THE MARIST CHARISM

As part of the celebration of the Year of Marist Vocations and the Centenary of the arrival of the Marist Brothers in Central America, a group of 16 lay people from the Marist communities of Guatemala, Province of América Central, celebrated their bonding to the Marist charism on April 23, in the chapel of the Guatemala High School.

Accompanied by the Marist Brothers of the Sector and their families, the Marists publicly expressed their “Yes” to live Champagnat’s charism. This group of lay people is the first to take this step in the Province of América Central.

The Provincial, Br. Hipólito Pérez, the Provincial Council and the Provincial Laity Commission, as mediators of the process of bonding, welcomed the laypeople and invited them to continue to generate Marist life, based on their specific vocation. “We are convinced that we are making this journey together: brothers and laity in communion”, said the provincial.

The XXI General Chapter recognizes and supports the vocation of the lay Marist: “We believe that it is an invitation of the Spirit to live a new communion of brothers and lay Marists together, bringing greater vitality to the Marist charism and to the mis-



sion in our world”.

The laypeople who expressed their “Yes” are: Alba González de Vásquez, Carlos Solórzano, Claudia Flores, Claudia Juárez de Drummond, Consuelo de Díaz, Erika Reyes, Flor de María Arellano de Porres, Francisco Porres, José Villatoro, Leslie Drummond, Leticia de Juárez, María Elena Contreras de Quan, Ody de Solórzano, Osberto Juárez, Roberto Díaz and Sebastián Vásquez.

GENERAL HOUSE

SECOND EDITION OF SERVANT AND PROPHETIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



On May 30th, the second edition of the Formation Program on Servant and Prophetic Leadership was launched, aimed at the English and French speaking public, promoted by the General Administration of the Institute, in collaboration with Notre Dame of Marbel University in the Philippines.

The first edition, with 61 participants from 19 countries, was held in 2022, in collaboration with the PUC of Porto Alegre, Brazil, for Portuguese and Spanish speaking Marists.

The course is intended for leaders of Marist Administrative Units who work in the strategic areas of mission development, and the second edition has 46 participants in the online phase and 36 in the face-to-face phase.

The objective of this formation program is to prepare Marist leaders, from the perspective of the Servant and Prophetic Leadership, for a conscious mission (education, evangelization, children's rights, governance and management with empowerment), adapted to the current contemporary trends and emerging needs.

This program is an initiative of the General Administration in response to the call of the 22nd General Chapter to develop servant and prophetic leadership accompanying Marist life and mission.

The participants will have a first phase online and a time face-to-face. The online phase will be delivered from May 30, 2023 to October 07, 2023. The face-to-face phase will commence on October 23, 2023 and conclude on November 03, 2023 and will be hosted by the Notre Dame of Marbel University in the Philippines.

Program's content

The Marist Leadership Formation Program will be based on the content of the book "Marist Voices" presented during the General Conference 2022.

The program is distributed in the following blocks:

1. Servant Leadership: Introduction, concept and characteristics.
2. Servant leadership, innovation and change processes.
3. Servant leadership and community building (communication and interpersonal relationships).
4. Servant leadership and project development (processes and tools).
5. Leadership, new normality and networking.
6. Servant leadership, "foresight" and strategic planning.
7. Leadership and co-responsibility (indicator-based evaluation).
8. Servant leadership, ethical and moral foundations (ethical responsibility).
9. Servant leadership and sustainability.
10. Servant leadership: education, mission and pastoral care
11. Servant leadership, spirituality and charismatic identity.

BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL

From May 21 to 24, the 10th Meeting "Integra confesionales" of FTD Education was held, with 183 participants from 95 Religious Congregations dedicated to Catholic Education, under the motto: "Management Performance & Results Excellence", always keeping in mind Mary's spiritual testament to "do whatever Jesus says".

STAR OF THE SEA

On June 1, the Oceania group that participated in the Forum meeting on the Lay Marist Vocation held in Rome last November will have a meeting that will be an opportunity to listen to the representatives of the International Forum, explore the expectations for the Province and consider the movement of the Spirit in the local context.

NORANDINA

The animators of the Evangelization Area of Ecuador, coming from 7 Marist works, held the National Meeting of Evangelization. The event had 3 main objectives: to strengthen integration; to review, analyze and propose ideas that strengthen the journey; and to establish criteria for Marist Children and Youth Ministry.

SOUTH ASIA

Marist Brothers and lay, associate members of the Sri Lanka Sector, participated together in the annual Dharma retreat held May 19-21 at Good Shepherd Convent, Bolawallana.

GIER PROGRAM

ONGOING FORMATION FOR RECENTLY FINALLY PROFESSED BROTHERS



The Institute, through the *Secretariat Brothers Today*, is offering the Gier Program from May 30 to June 30 2023 as part of the ongoing formation of brothers who made final vows in the last 5-7 years.

This program aims to help the recently finally professed brother to rediscover the original passion that inspired him to be a consecrated religious brother. As a result of this rediscovery, there is a renewing commitment in his life vocation and in the vitality of the Institute.

Named after the river Gier, along whose banks Marcellin built the Hermitage, it will be conducted in Rome for the first 15 days and the rest will be done in the Hermitage in France. The program provides brothers with the opportunity to:

- To live a powerful community experience with brothers of similar age group and stage of life.
- To journey as a global charismatic family with a variety of language and culture.
- To witness the fruits of the Holy Spirit through the Universal Church and the global Marist charismatic family.
- To learn of the animation of the Marist Institute and to listen the spirituality of the heart that motivates the general administration.
- To rekindle the brother's original passion for his vocation through visiting the land of Marcellin and to recognize Mary's presence in the history of the Institute.
- To nurture confidence in each of the brothers to be passionate promoters of Marist Life in all its expressions.
- To cultivate the sense of ongoing formation for brothers at all stages of life.

The 2023 Gier Program draws the participation of 18 brothers from 10 countries in 11 Administrative Units. It is animated by a team composed of Br. Tony Leon, Br. Jose Miguel Caballero, Br. Ángel Medina and Br. Lindley Sionosa.

Participants

1. Adán Cantú Solís – México Central
2. Amberoti Nantei – Star of the Sea
3. Antonio Isidro Peralta Aragón – México Central
4. Bone Bruno – Province of West Africa
5. Callistus Shonya – Nigeria
6. Cassiano Lima Monteiro – Brasil Centro-Norte
7. Demilton Barbosa dos Santos – Brasil Centro-Norte
8. Dener Rodrigues de Souza – Brasil Centro-Norte
9. Jean Paul Gununu Muanangani – Pace
10. Jiji Dhasan – Marist District of Asia
11. Jo-an Camandero Legaste – East Asia
12. Joseph Kweku Asante – West Africa
13. Julián Solís Pasos – México Occidental
14. Linus Ihuoma – Nigeria
15. Luis René Reynoso Sánchez – México Central
16. Mulaila Petemoya Edouard – Pace
17. Rafael Fagner Ferreira – Brasil Centro-Sul
18. Rakotomahefa Jean Baptiste – Madagascar

Photos in FB

BEYOND AN IMAGE

SAINT MARCELLIN AND MARY...

At the end of the month of Mary, the Good Mother, we share a text written by Br. José María Ferre, of the Mediterranea Province.

The affection that we feel towards Mary is materialized in pictures, images, and statues that due to various personal circumstances, attract or motivate us.

I don't know if they had any representation of Mary in Marcellin's house. Surely, they had one in the parish. Over time, he became familiar with some Marian images.

We know of the pilgrimage he made with his mother to the shrine of La Louvesc, and to the most popular of Our Lady of Puy, closely linked to the origins of the Society of Mary. His visits to the Fourvière Marian Shrine began during his years as a seminarian in Lyon. There, before the black image of Mary, the promise of the first Marist Fathers was fulfilled, and there Marcellin received the inspiration to found the Marist Brothers. His biography tells us that when he arrived in La Valla as a young priest, he cleaned up the hermitage of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, which was abandoned, and he went there to pour out his heart. His biography tells us that when he arrived in La Valla as a young priest, he cleaned up the hermitage of Our Lady of Dolours, which was abandoned, and he went there to pour out his heart. The image of the Virgin of the Hermitage continues to preside over the chapel of the house that Marcelino built; we know that in her heart-chest there were two ribbons with the names of the brothers who professed, and those who left as missionaries.

In one of his trips Marcellin found an image of Mary, made of plaster, made with a mold and painted by hand. There were several models, but he liked one, perhaps because of the expression of tenderness; he bought it and placed it in his office. This is what has been called the Good Mother. Similar images can still be found in other places, such as in the parish of the famous Curé d'Ars.

With all this, I am inclined to think that Marcellin did not identify



with any specific Marian image. Each of them expressed something of what he felt for Mary. In any of his images, he saw Mary as the good Mother, the resource he turned out to, the model to imitate.

Marcellin taught his brothers to know Mary, to be inspired by her, to imitate her, and to do the same

with the children in the schools. And here I see an openness of spirit that we should not lose.

We know that there are religious groups that identify with and propagate different Marian devotions: Mary Help of Christians, the Salesians: Perpetual Help, the Redemptorists; Good Counsel, the Augustinians; or the Virgen del Carmen or La Merced, etc. There are also congregations that carry specific Marian aspects in their names such as the Assumption, the Immaculate Conception, the Visitation, the Sorrows...

Marcellin gave us the name of Mary. Just like that: simply Mary, the one of the Gospel, the one that the Church venerates, and the people invoke.

He never asked the brothers to propagate a specific image or devotion: he insisted that we get to know it and make it known and loved. And I think this contains great wealth: it prevents us from locking ourselves in a possible "hermeticism" and opens us up to the universal church.

That Mary of the Gospel who inspires us Marists is simply Mary, the woman of a thousand names and a thousand representations, the patroness of our towns, and the one of the hermitages where pilgrims go, the one who fills our calendars, and the one that is offered to us in all kinds of statues and paintings. . Marcellin's Marian experience goes beyond a concrete image; and the challenge that we have is to live this Marian experience, deepen it, update it, purify it and transmit it.



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