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# MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG

CHAMPAGNAT, A MAN WITH ATTENTIVE EARS AND A DARING HEART

## FEAST OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

**B**rothers and lay people from all parts of the world have celebrated these days the feast of the Founder of the Marist Institute, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, who died on June 6, 1840. Also in the General House, brothers and lay people have gathered for the celebration, on Tuesday, at 6:00 PM.

Present at the ceremony were religious from the four Branches of the Marist Family, the brothers of the community of San Leone Magno, the brothers of the Gier ongoing formation program, the participants of the Formation Program for International and Intercultural Communities, the brothers of the communities of the General House, the General Council, and the laity of the General House, accompanied by some relatives.



The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the Superior of the Marist Fathers, Fr. John Larsen, and

was concelebrated by the chaplains of the General Administration, Fr. Ricardo Morales and Fr. Luis Alfredo Serna Gó- >>

## general administration

- On Friday June 2 and Saturday June 3, the General Councils of the four Marist branches met in Nemi. This week, the General Council, gathered in plenary session and dedicated a few days to share about the visits made to some Administrative Units in the past months. It also dedicates a space to study the draft of the updated document "Marist Educational Mission".
- On Tuesday the feast of Father Champagnat was celebrated at the General House, with the presence of the four Marist branches, Brothers of the community of San Leone Magno, Brothers of the Gier Group, participants of the formation program for international and intercultural communities, the laity of the General House, with some of their families, the communities of the General House, and the General Council.
- From Wednesday until next Sunday, the directors of the Secretariat of Solidarity will visit the two Marist communities in Hungary.
- Br. Goyo, assistant to the General Commissary and Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration was in Madagascar last week and this week in Mozambique, accompanying the sustainability projects of the Marist mission and life.
- On Wednesday, the International Mission Commission held a meeting via Zoom. The brothers Luis Carlos, Ben, Jorge, Goyo and the members of the Commission were present.
- On Thursday, the team of the Marist Global Network of Schools promotes the webinar " Building the global compact in the Marist School ". The brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and Ben Consigli participate with the team of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization.
- The General Council's Council for Economic Affairs (CEA) will meet on Friday at the General House. The brothers Jorge, Ben, Goyo, and Flavia will participate.



mez. Referring to Champagnat, Fr. John stressed that Marcellin had a special relationship with Mary, the “Woman full of Spirit, of love”, and he wanted the Marists to share the charism of Mary, the “vocation of Mary”.

In his speech, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, thanked all the Marist brothers and lay people for their presence and collaboration. Referring to Champagnat’s charism, he mentioned that “Marcellin is a gift from the spirit. A gift to the church

and to the world. It is a gift that gives us life, and that we are invited to keep it alive and share it”. Brother Ernesto reminded the Marists of Champagnat of the message he gave on the occasion of the feast of Saint Marcellin, where he mentioned that “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”.

At the conclusion of the celebration, the entire Marist family shared a fraternal dinner together to celebrate the gift of life of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

[Photos on Facebook](#)  
[Live de la Celebración en la Casa General – YouTube](#)

## WORK FOR THE 4TH PHASE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

Organized by the Secretariat of the Laity of the Institute, the first (virtual) meeting of the 24 people who will continue the process of reflection of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, in its phase 4, took place on June 1.

All of them participated in the face-to-face phase held in Rome last November 2022, and have been proposed by the General Council for the work of this phase 4, with some face-to-face and some virtual meetings. This group of lay men and women, plus several brothers from all regions of the Institute, will be addressing some of the topics that emerged in the message “Ruah: Breaths of the Spirit for the Marist Laity”, which will be translated into concrete proposals and answers to some of the questions that arose at the on-site Forum in Rome.

Its work will consist of developing a strategy to reach the Virtual Forum of November 2024 (phase 5) and making a concrete and consensual proposal to be submitted to the General Council and the XIII General Chapter of 2025.

The work dynamics of this working group will involve forming



a single team, working on two reflection areas: the first on identity, training and bonding, and the second on legal structures. Operationally, they will work in five groups. There will also be a collaborative digital platform where each of the people who were delegated by their Administrative Units for last year’s Forum can also make their contributions and suggestions.

The next meeting will be held in person at the General House in Rome from July 6 to 12, 2023.

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

# MARIST VOCATIONS IN HAITI

The Marist Sector of Haiti (Province of México Occidental) is a young mission, full of passion for life and fruitful in vocation. This year, 4 novices made their first profession on June 4 in Cayes (Winshell Chéry, Judener Francique, Robenson Marescot and Widnel François); Three confreres with temporary vows will renew their vows on July 15 and 22, in Jérémie. On August 15, Brother Dukens Médor will celebrate his perpetual vows in Cayes. Br. Jean Mance Louis-Jeune, Superior of the Haiti Sector will receive the renewal of temporary vows, first professions and perpetual vows of the brothers of Haiti, on behalf of the Provincial, Br. Luis Enrique Rodríguez Santana.

In Haiti, there are 3 houses of formation where 10 brothers are working as formators:

- Jérémie (Postulancy): Brothers Junel Pierre, Dimmy Frédéric and Rafael Salvador Álvarez Santana.
- Aux Cayes (Novitiate): Brothers Antonio Cavazos Bueno, Wilguins François and Dukens Médor.



- Port-Au-Prince (Post-novitiate): Brothers Jean Mance Louis-Jeune and Elias Perez Perez- Gustavo Martin Cerda and Mayliko Livette.

The Sector currently has 23 young brothers in temporary vows: 20 in the scholastic (4 in Jérémie and 16 in Port-Au-Prince) and 3 brothers in missionary work (1 in Dame-Marie, 1 in the novitiate and 1 in the postulancy). 6 postulants are in the second year of formation, and 8 novices: 4 in the first year and 4 in the second year, who will make their first profession on June 4.

**GHANA**  
Thanks to the construction of a multi-purpose hall at the Marist Preparatory - Junior High School in Sabin-Akrofrom, around 1,750 primary, middle and high school students will be able to engage in various extra-curricular activities. The building, just completed, will have a positive and significant impact on the entire population, contributing to the cultural development of the community in the area. The project was supported by FMSI.

**NORANDINA**  
Approximately 100 young Marist Brothers and Lay Marists from Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador met virtually on May 5, on the occasion of the eve of the feast of Marcellin Champagnat, to reflect on the International Network of Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) and to define together the network's pathway.



news in brief

L'HERMITAGE

# 40 YEARS OF EKUMENE, MARIST SOCIAL WORK IN BARCELONA

Giving value to the work of Father Domingo Solà and the charisma of Marcellin Champagnat. This is how the celebration of 40 years of Ekumene was commemorated on May 19 in the afternoon, at the House in El Raval neighborhood of Barcelona. Ekumene is a social work in Barcelona that, on the one hand, through volunteering, works in the neighborhood for literacy in Catalan and Spanish. And on the other hand, it makes known the social and cultural reality of welcome among the immigrant population of the neighborhood, through attention, cultural diffusion, and accompaniment.

The celebration, which lasted a couple of hours, focused – from different perspectives – on the people who have shaped the history of the center: an emotional video recalled many of the faces that passed through the center; Through a round table, it was explained how Ekumene lives today, and, through some initial speeches, the work of so many years was appreciated.

During the interventions, we were able to count on the presence of the Government of the Generalitat, represented by Carles Armengol, General Director of Religious Affairs, and Eunice Romero, General Director of Migration, Refugees and Anti-Racism. The importance of the task that Ekumene does was highlighted, from the point of view of the “transformation” of lives, and to move forward and collaborate together as a society. Charo Casas, president of Obra Misionera Ekumene, opened the turn of interventions with a heartfelt memory of the origins of the institution, and thanked the work of so many volunteers who have passed through Ekumene, over the years.

For his part, Gabriel Villa-Real, Provincial of the Maristes L’Hermitage, recalled the Greek origin of the word “Ekumene” (“everyone’s house”). And he highlighted the commitment (firm and determined) that the Marist Brothers made a few years ago with the commitment to assume the management of the direction and coordination of the center.

During the round table, led by Brother Lluís Serra, a young student and collaborator of Ekumene, Homaima Ben Hamouda, expressed that being in the center represents an opportunity for her, even because she has started to teach informatics. Teresa



Dehesa said that she continues to volunteer at her 80 years “because this gives me life”; Marc Vidal, coordinator of Ekumene, expressed his satisfaction to collaborate in the center; the Provincial Vicar of the Maristes L’Hermitage, Brother Xavier Giné, said he felt “happy” to see Ekumene today. And Toni López, Ekumene’s administrator, thanked the volunteers for their work and, recalling the origins of the institution, mentioned that there was a contemporary volunteer of Father Domingo Solà in the audience.

The celebration was closed by Helena Bové and Florenci Bové, current director and

president of the Board, who once again thanked the work of all the people who are and were the history of Ekumene.

The evening’s soundtrack was provided by the Orfeó Atlàntida Youth Choir, conducted by Arnau Roura, and Nuria Roura on piano, who performed a few pieces from their repertoire and ended up making the audience sing “Happy Birthday”, while the candles of the 40 years of history of service to others were blown out. The event was presented by Imma Amadeo, head of the communication of the Marists in Catalonia.



marist world

MALAWI: NEW HORIZONS



SPAIN: MARCHA COORDINATORS' MEETING IN SALAMANCA



URUGUAY: CHAMPAGNAT WEEK ENCOUNTER IN PANDO.



UNITED STATES: 23RD ANNUAL MARIST YOUTH GATHERING IN NY



SPAIN: BURSARS OF AMERICA MEETING IN COMPOSTELA



ITALY: MEETING OF THE 4 BRANCHES OF THE MARIST FAMILY IN NEMI

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BR. DAVID ALEJANDRO CASTILLO MENCHACA

On May 27, the Marist Province of México Occidental celebrated the perpetual profession of Br. David Alejandro Castillo Menchaca, in the chapel of the Marist University of Guadalajara. Br. Luis Enrique Rodríguez, Provincial, received the vows on behalf of the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sanchez Barba.

The celebration was also attended by Br. Luis Felipe González Ruiz, Provincial of México Central, several Marist Brothers, family members and guests.

During the celebration, Br. David spoke about his Marist experience and his desire to sincerely accept Jesus' invitation to him: "It is worthwhile to open our hearts and see God through all those around us. It is worthwhile to listen and to be listened to together with those in need. It is worth spending your life working for children and young people. It is worth working to be the maternal face of the Church. It is worthwhile to be called brother and to feel that I am a brother to all of you," said Br. David.

At the conclusion of the event, Br. Luiz Enrique thanked Br. David for his commitment and reminded him of the three Ma-

rist vows: "to live chastity, which is to live with an open heart, to live with a universal heart that is attentive and available. To live poverty, which is a simple, austere and unpretentious way of life. And to live obedience, which is nothing more than to discern day by day what God wants of you".

The solemn profession of perpetual vows was broadcast live on the [Facebook page](#) of the Mexico Occidental Province.



MALAWI

# CLOSING CEREMONY OF PROJECT NEW HORIZONS IN LILONGWE



## A Milestone in Education and Child Empowerment

On May 26th, an atmosphere of celebration and accomplishment filled the air in the Likuni boys school in Lilongwe, Malawi, as the closing ceremony of Project New Horizons took place. The event was graced by esteemed guests, including the Vicar General Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, the director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, Pepe Sánchez, the director of FMSI Andrea Rossi as well as numerous important local and national authorities, such as the district leader and representative of the Ministry of Education. The national press also gathered to witness and report on this remarkable milestone in education and child empowerment.

Project New Horizons, which commenced in 2019, has made a significant impact on education across six countries: Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. From its inception, the project's objective extended beyond mere awareness-raising activities centered on equity, social justice, and inclusion. While these issues are undoubtedly crucial, the stakeholders involved recognized the need to transform schools into havens for the protection and empowerment of children.

The project was built upon four pillars that served as the foundation for its implementation. Firstly, it aimed to increase access to quality education, particularly for girls from impoverished and marginalized families. Recognizing that education is a fundamen-

tal right, New Horizons prioritized making education accessible to all children.

The second pillar focused on child safeguarding, aiming to strengthen the capacity of Marist Schools to eradicate violence and discrimination against children in both school and community environments. By ensuring the well-being of children, the project



aimed to create safe spaces that foster growth and development.

Enhancing the quality of education stood as the third pillar. New Horizons sought to equip school leaders and teachers with the necessary tools to drive improvements in education standards. By enhancing their capacity, the project aimed to provide a more enriching and responsive educational experience for vulnerable children.

Lastly, the project emphasized the reinforcement of child rights within the educational system. Through advocacy initiatives, the program empowered institutional and governmental actors to protect and uphold the rights of children. This included submitting Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) for Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and South Africa, amplifying the voices of vulnerable children and ensuring their rights were at the forefront of policy discussions.

Project New Horizons embraced a result-oriented approach, considering these four pillars as outcomes to be achieved rather than mere activities to be implemented. This approach led to the development of practical strategies, such as affordable school fees for low-income families and second-chance learning opportunities for children and young adults who had dropped out of school. The project also extended support beyond regular school hours, keeping facilities open to promote continuous learning.

To address child safeguarding, the project worked on improving Child Protection Policies in all 21 schools, empowering teachers and staff to actively prevent violence. Additionally, efforts were made to strengthen governance and ownership at both school and community levels. Capacities were built in school leaders and staff to design education investments and manage community learning environments effectively. Income-generating projects were also implemented to enhance sustainability.

Raising the quality standards of education necessitated enhancing the capabilities of teaching staff. Teachers were provided with the necessary training to deliver curricula that catered to the specific needs of vulnerable children. By empowering educators, New Horizons ensured that children received an education that was relevant and responsive to their unique circumstances.

The project's impact extended beyond Marist schools through a robust stakeholder engagement campaign. By sharing advocacy schemes and tools with non-Marist schools, the project encouraged the adoption of inclusive policies and practices. This approach resulted in a wider reach and positively influenced the quality of education and access to education for vulnerable children. Simultaneously, it contributed to the overall strengthening of the educational system in addressing inequalities.

The closing ceremony of Project New Horizons in Lilongwe,



Malawi, marked a momentous occasion in the pursuit of educational equity and child empowerment. The project's four pillars served as guiding principles, transforming education systems and making a tangible difference in the lives of countless children. As the event concluded, the spirit of collaboration and commitment to creating brighter futures for vulnerable children continued to resonate. Project New Horizons has set a remarkable precedent, inspiring similar initiatives worldwide to prioritize the rights and well-being of children within educational systems.

The success of Project New Horizons can be attributed to the dedicated efforts of its management team, led by the project manager Br. Mark Omede. With his exceptional leadership skills and strategic vision, Br. Mark ensured the smooth coordination and implementation of the project across multiple countries. Working alongside him was the Regional Coordinator Br. Francis Jumbe, whose extensive knowledge of the local context and strong organizational abilities played a pivotal role in driving the project's impact. The financial officer, Br. John Bwanali, assisted by its counterpart at FMSI Marcello Romagnoli, skillfully managed the project's resources, ensuring transparency and accountability in all financial matters. Additionally, the unwavering commitment of the Child Protection Officer, Br. Fortune Chakasara, was instrumental in establishing robust safeguarding measures and ensuring the well-being of children remained at the forefront of the project's activities. Together, this exceptional management team provided the guidance and expertise necessary to bring Project New Horizons to fruition, leaving a lasting legacy of educational transformation and child empowerment in their wake.

Servant and transformational leadership – Discurs of Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General

GENERAL HOUSE

# TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES 2023

The formation program for international and intercultural communities began on June 2, promoted by the Department of International Missionary Collaboration (Cmi). This year there are 11 people who want to discern their call to be part of an intercultural initiative of the Institute.

The coordinators aim to provide participants with a deeper understanding of cultural diversity and make them reflect on the personal challenges they face when living interculturally.

For this reason, they will work on themes that contribute to the formation of interculturality and internationality: panorama of international/intercultural communities, Mission today, Non-violent communication, Communion and co-responsibility, Conflict resolution, Living in an intercultural community: helping people to begin with, Integrative Spirituality, Children's Rights and child protection. More than theoretical, the Program wants to be experiential where each participant concretely lives interculturality in an international environment and acquires tools and subsidies for the future, be it in a Lavalla200> Community or in another Project or initiative of the institute.

Until June 28, the participants will be in Manziana, at Casa Marista and with the



sisters of Cottolengo. In the last week, from June 28 to July 5, they will conclude their training day at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, in France.

The coordination group is formed by Br. Valdicer Fachi, director of the Cmi; Rosa María Schiaffino, Province of Mediterránea; Flaminia Filanci, from the CMI department; Ellene Carla Baettker, translation.

The participants are Brothers and Laity of 7 different nationalities, from 4 different continents of different ages, men and women who share the desire to live their vocation at the service of those most in need in different Projects of the Institute.

### Participants

1. Dieudonné Byenda FMS, PACE
2. Fabiele Storch, West Central Europa
3. Guillermo Moreno FSC, La Salle
4. Helen Chagoma, África Austral
5. Julio Huerta, FMS, Compostela
6. Laura Patricia de la Maza Borja, Brasil Centro-Norte
7. Maggie Gundo, África Austral
8. Márcio Sampaio de Paula, Brasil Centro-Norte
9. Maurice Paul Razanandro, FMS, Madagascar
10. Neimir Paulo Mentges, West Central Europa
11. Zana Yazbeck (Zeina), Mediterránea

Photos



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YouTube

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

Facebook

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

Twitter

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