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# MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | [WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG](http://WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG)

## CANADA

### THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHAMPAGNAT MARIST ASSOCIATION

The third Annual General Assembly of the Association of Champagnat Marists of Canada (AMCC), made up of brothers and lay Marists from the District of Canada, took place on April 22 at the Maison Mariste “Champagnat” in Iberville. At the opening of the meeting, in a spirit of prayer and unity, the participants asked the “Good Mother” to support and accompany them in the adventure of ensuring the Marist presence in Canada.



During the Assembly the members proceeded with the election of the new Administration Council of the Association of the Marists of Champagnat (AMCC). They were elected: Fernando Castro as presi-

dent, Claude Prigent as vice president, Edith Villalon Cordova as secretary, Sillesica del Cid as treasurer, and brother Gilles Lacasse, Ronald Leblanc and Jorge Cuerno as administrators.

Among the activities carried out, the members of the AMCC reflected on the challenges that await them, such as working to create better communication, and sharing activities with the different areas where the



## general administration

■ On Sunday, the ongoing formation course “looking beyond” began in Manizana, aimed at Brothers (between 60 and 65 years old) who are finishing a stage of their life in certain apostolates (school, academic or other) and begin the stage of retirement; and also for those who look to the future seeking to be present and be Marists in new mission fields, according to their possibilities and age. The program will conclude on July 22. On Saturday the group will visit the General House and meet with the General Council.

■ This week, the General Council continues its plenary sessions. During these days, it receives information and reflects on various topics related to economics and administration. The sessions of the legal structures “Gier” and “Fraters” will be held with a regular Council. Ideas will be discussed in relation to the preparation of the next General Chapter.

■ On Monday, the General Council met with the General Council of the Marianists to share on some topics.

■ On Tuesday, Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, participated in the webinar organized by the Marist University Network.

■ This Thursday, the Marist Global Schools Network team promotes the second edition of the webinar “Building the Global Pact in the Marist School”. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and Ben Consigli will participate, together with the team of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization.

■ Throughout the week, from Monday to Friday, the directors of the Solidarity Secretariat are meeting online with the 5 Working Groups to which the Marist Solidarity Network is dedicated: Solidarity Education, Children’s Rights, Social Work, NGOs/Foundation, and Ecology.

■ Br. Pepe Sanchez, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, and Javier Llamas, project manager of the Champagnat Global School Network, will be present at Friday’s meeting of the consultation committee of the Global Champagnat Network.

■ Brothers Juan Castro, Michel Maminiaina, and César Rojas began this week at the General House to prepare for next year’s course, from February to November, in Manizana for new Marist formators.

Marists are present in the district. And, to make the Marist charism known, above all, through the creation of new fraternities and the consolidation of those that are functioning.

Among the objectives, the members hope to be able to assume the mission of service

and commitment in the “Maisonnette à Iberville”, and the “Mission of Santa Teresa d’Avila” in Montreal, place of life and apostolate of the Bonne Mère fraternity, and to seek other opportunities for involvement in the different Marist contexts of the district.

Likewise, they hope to continue streng-

thening ties with the global network of the Institute, and reflect and live together with the Marist Institute, the next Stage of the Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation. And depending on the possibilities, to be able to participate in different activities with the Arco Norte Region and the Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality.

## NORANDINA

# PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BR. ALEXNNYS JOSÉ FLORES ESPINOZA

On June 10, the Province of Norandina celebrated the perpetual profession of Br. Alexnnys José Flores Espinoza, at the Colegio Champagnat de Caracas, in Venezuela. Orlando Escobar, provincial of Norandina, received the vows on behalf of the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sanchez Barba. During the religious profession ceremony, Br. Alexnnys José expressed his desire to follow Jesus as Mary did in the Marist Institute: Mary my gentle and good mother, receive me into the bosom of your great family and help me to be faithful to Jesus, living honestly and committed to the vows that I have just made”, he mentioned.

In his speech, the Provincial thanked everyone for their presence and reminded Br. Alexnnys that simplicity, humility, and modesty are the three Marist virtues, represented by the violet flower, “should be the sign that marks the way and the style in which you relate to others, to nature, to the Lord, and of course, to yourself”. “Today, Saturday, Our Lady’s day, you my brother Alexnnys, express to the Lord Jesus, being all present



and in the network, witnesses, that you want to be a little brother of Mary, happy, and that you will take care and generate life. And not just any kind of life, but a life of fraternity,” said Br. Orlando.

The celebration was attended by several Marist Brothers, family members and guests.

## Br. José Flores Espinoza

Brother Alexnnys José Flores Espinoza was born on June 14, 1994 in the city of Victoria, Caracas, Venezuela. As a child, he spent the first ten years of his life in a religious school with the Conceptionist Missionary Sisters of Education, a Spanish foundation. Here he participated in children’s and youth pastoral movements. The last two years of high school were spent in a secular school. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree, he began a process of vocational accompaniment with a religious sister. For two years, he was in a process of vocational accompaniment at the same time as his university studies, taking a degree in Spanish at the Universidad Pedagógica de San José. He later met the Marist Brothers, who had a school called San José, in the city of Maracay, Venezuela. Upon meeting them, he began his formal process of accompaniment with Br. Carmelo San Millán. He completed his aspirantship at Colegio San José in the city of Maracay, Venezuela. He then did his postulancy in the city of Loja, Ecuador. In 2016, he entered the Interprovincial Novitiate La Valla, in Medellín.

Br. Alexnnys continued his Marist vocation in the Scholasticate Community in Bogotá. In 2022 he obtained his degree in Religious Education from La Salle University in Bogota, Colombia.





## SOUTH KOREA

## PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BR. ABRAHAM KANG



The Marist Brothers of Korea Sector celebrated the perpetual profession of Br. Abraham Kang Min Woo on June 6th at the Parish Church of the Holy Korean Martyrs in Song San Dong in Seoul (East Asia Province).

The celebration, held on the liturgical feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat involved different persons from the parish, all the brothers in Korea, his family, friends, and many good people who support and collaborate with the Brothers in the different apostolates they do in the country.

The celebrant of the Mass and main official witness of the perpetual profession was bishop Job Koo Yobi, auxiliary bishop of Seoul and bishop in charge of religious life in the archdiocese. There were also other 7 concelebrants starting with the Parish priest and his assistant, three Guadalupe Missionary fathers, one Claretian and one Conventual priests.

In the ceremony were present, beside the Brothers living in Korea, Br. Provincial Allan de Castro and Br. Dahn Mijares who came from the Philippines to accompany us in this happy occasion. A Capuchin Brother, friend of Br. Abraham's sang a prayerful and beautiful song after communion, giving a special and inspiring touch to the moment.



Capping the celebration was the fellowship meal shared by many of the guests in an appropriate space within the compound of the same parish.

The Korea Marist brothers thanked to God for the great gift of Br. Abraham in the country. They also expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the parish priest Fr. Michael Jeong Soon Ho who generously allowed them to use the parish facilities for the ceremony. Likewise, they extend their thanks to the parish choir, the Sisters of the parish and the Assistant Priest for their enthusiastic help and collaboration.

Photos FaceBook

## UNITED STATES

## 23RD ANNUAL MARIST YOUTH GATHERING

Over 250 Youth from all the USA Marist schools, young adults, faculty, and members of the youth group from Canada and Mexico gathered at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, from 26 to 29 May, for the 23rd annual Marist Youth Gathering (MYG2023). The theme this year was “Shine Like the Son” launching the third year of the province prayer theme set by Br. Dan O’Riordan which is focused on Jesus.



The participants came from the Roselle Catholic, St. Joseph Regional, Mount St. Michael, Archbishop Molloy, Central Catholic, Marist Chicago, Monsignor Pace, Christopher Columbus, St. Joseph Academy, Marist Catholic – Eugene, Marcellin Champagnat (Canada), St. Mary Magedeline Parish, (Blue Island, IL), St. Francis of Rome Parish (Bronx, NY), St. Michael Parish (Union, NJ), and the Province of Mexico Occidental.

The Liturgy this year was led by Father Richard LaMorte, who previously was the Campus Priest at Marist College before he retired.

Following the opening welcome ceremony, each school set up a booth at the annual “School Fair”, where students went around collecting items from each school present and took the opportunity to know each other. To end the first night of MYG2023, Br. Robert Dittus led the group in a night prayer, inviting each person to write the name of someone who has been a light for them in their school communities on a post-it.

The second day, Ash Johnson, (Guidance Counselor at Mount Saint Michael Academy) and Br. Luis Ramos (Archbishop Molloy High School) presented the first keynote of the weekend, discussing questions such as ‘Who is Jesus and how did we become aware of and connected to him?’, ‘How have we felt Jesus’ love in our lives?’ and ‘Is there a right way to love Jesus?’

Students had the opportunity to attend four different workshop sessions throughout the weekend. Workshop topics included: Embracing Diversity Through Synodality, The Art of Spiritual Discernment, ‘Joy, Grace, and Mary’, Our Marist

Journey, Recharging Our Energy so we can SHINE!, Shine like the Moon, Prioritizing the Priorities!, Fuel to SHINE!, The Son is shining, why aren’t you?, Called -a panel discussion, Music to Shine, and Leading a Group of People. On the other hand, the Marist Young Adult team attended a session called ‘Marist Always’ and the adult team was offered a session on Our Marist DNA.

The third day, on May 28, Br. Ryan Richter presented the second keynote and facilitated a panel discussion centered on how we have made Jesus known and loved in our lives and difficulties we have faced living out this mission. Panelists included Fernando Machado (Christopher Columbus High School), Maureen Hagan (USA Province), Karam Hallak (former Marist Young Adult), Br. Terry (Marist College), and Celeste Solis (Saint Joseph Academy).

Following the program for the 23rd annual Champagnat Games the Students were split into 12 teams! Stations included Izzy Dizzy Relay, Ultimate Frisbee, All Aboard, Water Balloon Volleyball, Alaskan Baseball, Key Punch, and Human Ladder & Ring Toss. In keeping with tradition, Matt Fallon was the winner of this year’s games.

On May 29, during the final keynote presentation of the Gathering, Dr. Darius Penikas (Principal – Archbishop Molloy High School) and Br. Steve Schlitte (Principal – Mount Saint Michael Academy) spoke to the Youth Marist about taking what they learned from the weekend back to their respective schools to continue to SHINE LIKE THE S-O-N; theme that inspired the 23er Marist Youth Gathering.

[Photos](#)



## marist world

ITALY: ONGOING TRAINING COURSE AT MANZIANA



84 STUDENTS OF SACRED HEART MARIST COLLEGE EJULE RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



MEXICO: COLLABORATORS OF THE MARIST WORKS OF THE ZMG AND COCULA ON THE DAY OF THE MARIST COLLABORATOR



SRI LANKA: STARTING THE CANONICAL YEAR OF 5 NOVICES SOUTIN TUDELLA NOVITIATE



AUSTRALIA: ST. PATRICK'S MARIST COLLEGE CELEBRATION IN HONOUR OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



COLOMBIA: CENTRO CHAMPAGNAT LA PAZ

## GENERAL HOUSE

## FMSI PROMOTES PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) held on June 1 the first of the five meetings on the theme "Project Cycle Management".

The first module of the course, addressed by Andrea Rossi, Director of FMSI, focused on the theme: "The logical framework – Results, indicators and monitoring". The course gave the participants the opportunity to receive intermediate level training on Project Cycle Management, in order to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of projects and the Marist Mission in general.

The course was organized by FMSI together with the Secretariat of Solidarity, the Solidarity Heart Network and the NGO SED (Solidaridad, Educación y Desarrollo), and it had the active participation of 55 members of the Solidarity Heart Network, brothers, parents, sisters and lay Marists in the world, members of SED and other organizations and congregations.



The objective of this training initiative is to reinforce the skills of the participants on the preparation of project proposals, the execution and management of projects, financial sustainability, and fundraising planning, in accordance with international requirements.



## PROVINCE OF MEDITERRANEA

## BONDING OF LAYPEOPLE TO THE MARIST CHARISM

For several years a formative itinerary (Being Marist Today) has been developed in the Mediterranea Marist Province, in terms of vocational discernment, with personal accompaniment, for those people who feel called to deepen their vocation as Marists, from their state of lay life. This proposal raises the possibility of making a public commitment to bond to the Marist charism, which is recognized by the Mediterranean Province.

A group of 11 lay people (Anabel Pérez, Alfredo García, Ana Gómez, M<sup>a</sup> Carmen González, Pepe Camposo, Danilo Farneda, Juanvi Gordillo, José Albalá, Antonio Ángel Flores, Koki and Manu Gómez) from the Spanish area of the Province have followed a personalized path in which they have delved into the three dimensions of the Marist charism: spirituality, fraternity and mission. And as a result of this discernment, they have responded to the initiative of the Spirit, the Ruah, to live as lay Marists.

They expressed their response in the framework of the celebration of the Eucharist held on June 4, the feast of the Holy Trinity, on the eve of the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. A celebration full of life, loaded with meaning, with a multitude of symbolisms that helped them to get closer, in a deeper way, to the experience that was wanted to be expressed and shared. At the end of the Eucharist, a simple fraternal banquet was shared with all those who joined the festive celebration.

Welcomed by the Marist community of Granada, in the south of Spain; and accompanied by their families, companions of their fraternities, lay communities, Marist Brothers, and the full Provincial Council, the 11 lay men and women made a promise to live their lay vocation in the style of Mary and Champagnat, pledging to continue the Marist charism in the places where they develop their life and mission. First with a common formula and then with a personal formula, each of them expressed in what concrete way they understood the link to the charism, from a deep experience of God, sharing life with other Champagnat Marists; and at the service of the Mission among the most vulnerable children and youth.



Brother Aureliano García, Provincial of the Mediterranean, accepted their commitments and imposed a simple cross with three violet inlays, a common symbol that the Provinces of Europe have adopted for this sign of lay bond to the Marist charism. In the words he addressed to the newly bonded lay people, and to the entire assembly, he expressed his gratitude for this experience of fraternity, for the Marist vocation that brothers and lay people share today, and for the new time that they are already living in the family charismatic.

As expressed at the beginning of the Eucharist, "As Marists, in the image of the Holy Trinity, we want to deepen the lay-brother communion. A communion that supposes sharing the same following of Jesus, the same radicalism of the Gospel, the same faith, the same baptism, the same charism. Communion becomes vocational complementarity, mutual enrichment, and a joint search for a greater vitality of the charism for today's world. And so, in communion and as a family, as sisters and brothers, we are building the Marian face of the Church."

We remember what is mentioned in number 12 of the document "Gathered around the same table. The vocation of Champagnat's Marist Laity": "We Lay Marists are Christian men and women, who in the course of our life have listened to the call of God to live the charism of Champagnat, and, from our lay state, we respond to it." We give thanks to the good God and our Good Mother, Mary, for this great gift to the Marists of Champagnat in Mediterránea, and the whole world.

PROVINCE L'HERMITAGE

## CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASCUA DE LES AVELLANES IN CATALONIA



### Gratitude, commitment and hope

Marist Brothers, children, families, young people, not-so-young... more than one hundred people gathered on Sunday, June 11 at the Monestir de les Avellanes (Catalonia-L'Hermitage) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pascua de les Avellanes. An event born in 1973 with the desire to proclaim that Jesus is alive, with a young spirit and that has adapted to every context over the years.

During the Eucharist, Br. Gabriel Villa-Real, Provincial of L'Hermitage, expressed the significance of these 50 years with three words: gratitude, commitment and hope", which he described as follows:

"We look back with gratitude on the road traveled by so many young people over the past 50 years. Living the "Pascua de les Avellanes" for 50 years is an opportunity to renew the commitment of the Marist Brothers of the Province of L'Hermitage to youth ministry: to be with young people and accompany them, developing a ministry that is open and capable of integrating everyone, and centered on the Gospel values. Celebrating 50 years is an invitation to look to the future with hope. We want to continue to offer spaces and experiences of life, we want to continue to offer

young people the jewel and the light of the Gospel. Thanks to all the animators, facilitators, companions, brothers, young adults... thanks to all of you who give time and energy to accompany young people and to walk with them. Thank you because your daily commitment brings hope for the future".

The Eucharist is a feast, which had many festive, solemn and emotional moments. One of the most special was the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Pascua de les Avellanes that has been fixed on one of the walls of the monastery. And, as Easter Eucharists are not Eucharists without music, the group Ubuntu was in charge of providing the music for the celebration, with significant songs of the celebrations of these past years. "You will be Champagnat today", "Good Mother", "Beatitudes" or "Som Testimonis de Resurrecció" resounded once again within the walls of the church loved by so many generations.

The Eucharist gave way to a shared meal, during which the party continued, also with Ubuntu, and a repertoire of new and old songs. The farewell song reminded the attendees that "Goodbye is not forever" and encouraged them to return to celebrate every year the resurrection of Christ.



## MADAGASCAR

## TRAINING ON LEADERSHIP AND MARIST CHARISM



A four-day training session on 'Leadership and Marist Charism' took place at the Mahatamana Center in Antsirabe, Madagascar from May 30 to June 2, 2023. The training, promoted aimed to strengthen the skills and knowledge of the leaders in the Marist schools, such as the Headmasters and Deans of Studies. They were joined by the Provincial Counselors, making a total of 22 participants.

The trainers were Mrs. Carmen Murata and Mr. Renato Darui, from the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, who are experts in leadership, strategic planning and

accountability, and Brother Goyo Linaceiro, General Council as Assistant to the Econome General and Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, who shared his insights on the Marist charism and spirituality.

The training was an initiative promoted by the General Administration as a response to the Statagic Plan of the General Government that ask to promote sustainability at all levels of the Institute, fostering responsibility, internal solidarity and interdependence.

The training was interactive and partici-

patory, with group discussions, presentations and reflections.

The participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn from the trainers and from each other. They also felt more motivated and confident to carry out their mission in the seven Marist schools in Madagascar, which serve around 10,130 students. They hoped to apply what they learned to improve the quality of education and the promotion of Marist values in the Province of Madagascar.

H. Camille Ramarosandrana



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