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# MARIST NEWS

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

## INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF MARIST YOUTH

### LISBON, JULY 26 - 31

The young people of the four branches of the Marist Family will gather in Lisbon, from July 26 to 31, to participate together in the International Gathering of Marist Youth (IGMY), with the theme "INTO THE DEEP". The gathering, which since 2008 has

been held a week before World Youth Day, will bring together some 230 young people from all over the world.

Since 2016, the meeting represents a special moment for the Marist family, because sisters, brothers and fathers share life experience with the youth. Members of the General Council of the 4 Marist congregations will be present. Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General of the Marist Brothers, will be present, along with Brothers Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, and General Councilors Ben Consigli, Josep Maria Soterias and Oscar Martin.

An inter-congregational commission has been working on the organization of the meeting since last year. The headquarters of the IGMY, will be at the Colégio Marista de Carcavelos, where the participants will stay from July 26 to 30. There are about 230 subscribers.

On Monday, July 31, at the end of the meeting, the Marist Festival will take place, where, in addition to those registered for the IGMY, >>



## general administration

- This week, the General Council concludes the plenary sessions with meetings held on Monday and Thursday. The Council advances issues related to the XXIII General Chapter and administrative matters. This is also a time to review the calendar of the coming months for the members of the Council. On Thursday the Eucharist will be celebrated together with the International Commission of Spiritual Patrimony. From Friday to Tuesday, June 27, the General Council community will have a few days of community rest.
- Last Thursday, the participants of the Gier Course finished their period at the General House and traveled to France, where they will continue their formative journey until the 30th of this month. The courses in Manziñana, for the international and multicultural communities (until July 5), and the ongoing formation program "Look Beyond", until July 22, also continue.
- The annual meeting of the International Marist Patrimony

Commission is held from Monday to Friday. Br. Óscar, General Councilor, was with the group on Tuesday. Br. Ernesto, Superior General, will be with the group on Thursday.

- Br. Ángel Diego, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, participated in the meeting of the BICE Board of Directors in Paris on Monday and Tuesday.
- Brothers João Carlos and Ben, General Councilors, participated in the Regional Council of Europe, which was held in Paris on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Since Monday, Andrea Rossi, Director of FMSI, has been visiting the Marist community of Aleppo, Syria.
- On Friday, Brothers Juan Castro, Michel Maminiana, Ángel Medina (director of the Secretariat Brothers Today) and César Rojas (online), concluded - at the General House - the first phase of preparation for the Course for Formators, which the Institute is organizing for 2024.

other young Marists who have registered for World Youth Day will be able to participate.

The festival will take place at the Externato Marista in Lisbon, where the young Marists will be staying during WYD. For Champagnat Marists the festival will mark the launch of the Marist Youth Ministry Network.

Interested people can follow coverage of the Gathering on the

website [www.intothedeept2023.org](http://www.intothedeept2023.org) and on Instagram: [www.instagram.com/intothedeept23/](https://www.instagram.com/intothedeept23/) On social media the hashtags #intothedeept #maristfamily #ywd23 will be used.

On the Institute's website there is a [section dedicated](#) to the gathering, where more information is available.

Participants manual – PDF:

[English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

## IBERICA PROVINCE

# MEETING OF THE MARIST FAMILY

In the Iberica Province, it is traditional the annual meeting that the members of the Marist family live with enthusiasm. The headquarters where the gatherings take place are Villalba and Lardero. Distances are the reason for having these two venues.

“Being a Marist” is, among other things, “being and living a family”. This is the image and the memory that all those who gather each year have. Everyone feels they are active members of that “Marist being” around the Good Mother, and with Marcellin. Once again Villalba (May 21) and Lardero (June 4) welcomed the participants. From early on, you could hear the music, and see the inflatables and the stalls... and, above all, you could hear the voices of the children who declared that the party had started. What a joy to see the smiles on the faces of the little ones! Their eyes sparkled as they enjoyed the activities designed especially for them.

The different activities were carried out “slow but steady”: words of welcome, workshops, games, inflatables, activities for children and not so children, and a tour of the different shelves of the schools. And the possibility of discussing with each other the experiences of the year while savoring the delicacies, lovingly prepared for the occasion.

And, at the back, the brothers, teachers, animators, parents and friends... enjoyed the meeting, the fraternal greeting, recalling and sharing stories and experiences, making friends

and colleagues present... family things.

The desire to meet and the emotion, both were felt while the participants gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, which was celebrated at noon. Together with María and Marcelino, they celebrated what “is already lived”: the reunited family. It was a simple celebration but full of meaning, with the offering to Mary, and the sending and blessing of the group of volunteers who will participate in different projects and social work in the summer.

And, around the table, it was a moment to share, in peace and harmony, food, anecdotes, laughter and pauses. The relaxed after-meal for the elderly, and for the young and the children, where modern rhythms, the choreographies of adults and children, harmony, and good will, caused joy and happiness.



**NORANDINA**

The II Marist Spirituality Workshop “From Lavalla to L’Hermitage” was held in Popayán, Colombia, with the participation of 60 teachers and collaborators of the Bicentenary School. The main objective of the meeting, directed by Brothers Carmelo San Millán, Oscar Bolívar and Hernán Gómez, was to share life and reflect on the pedagogical thinking of Marcellin Champagnat.

**FMSI - KENYA**

Kenya is enduring one of the worst droughts in 40 years, according to the government and UN. For this reason, FMSI, together with the Marist Brothers, is implementing an emergency project financed by Misean Cara. The proposal aims to support 250 families with household basic needs.

**SOUTH ASIA**

The annual retreat for the Brothers in India Sector was held at Kotagiri last month. Eleven Brothers participated in the retreat, which was directed by Fr. Gnanadhas. The Brothers enjoyed the hospitality and care of the Salesian Fathers and the workers at the retreat center. It was a chance for them to come together as a community and to support each other.

**USA**

In Esopus, last week, took place the Foundation Stones program, with 5 participants. The program began in 2013 and offers young men a week-long experience to live in community with Brothers and Lay Marists. Each day includes morning and evening prayer, conferences on different aspects of Marist life, service projects on the Esopus property, as well as great meals and several fun activities.

**ITALY**

## ONGOING FORMATION COURSE “LOOKING BEYOND” AT MANZIANA



The ongoing formation course “Looking Beyond” began in Manziana on June 11. It is aimed at Brothers who are finishing a stage of their life in certain apostolates (scholastic, academic or other) and are entering the stage of retirement; and also for those who are looking to the future seeking to be present and be Marists in new fields of mission, according to their possibilities and age. The program will end on July 22 and the participants are accompanied by the Ongoing Formation Team of the Institute, formed by Brothers Xavi Barceló, Michael Sexton and Ataíde José de Lima. Br. Héctor Dessavre, one of the 18 participants, shares some notes on the first day of the course.



A significant moment in life. Rediscover God’s passage through life, to find, in his Love and invitation, the renewal of enthusiasm, the novelty of our being brothers, to respond from our situation to the youth of today.

18 brothers, coming from many latitudes of the planet and with ages ranging from 52 to 74 years of age, have met in Manziana, Italy, where 3 brothers and a team of personnel have welcomed us fraternally, in such a way that we have felt like family from the first moment.

On June 11, Sunday, we started the engines, sharing the Eucharist, and receiving the word of Brother João Carlos

do Prado, as delegate of the Superior General.

The brothers Michael, Xavi and Ataíde, have favored the Marist meeting space, which lays the foundations to live, in depth and with passion, the 6 weeks that God gives us.

We have organized. We are at the starting point, getting ready to live, a strong journey to the interior, strengthened by sharing and community service.

Our different languages are not an obstacle to this fraternal meeting, because, in addition to Memo’s translation help, we have a willing heart to listen and learn together.

## MADAGASCAR

## FIRST PROFESSION OF BR. NESTOR RAFANAMBINANTSOA

Br. Nestor Rafanambinantsoa professed his first vows as Marist Brother on June 10 during the celebration of the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat at the College Saint Joseph, in Antsirabe, Madagascar. Brother Razafimanantsoa made his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience before 2,300 students of Saint Joseph College who attended this ceremony, as well as Marist Brothers from different communities and parents of students.

The mass was presided over by the diocesan administrator, Father Jeannot Martial Andrianandrainy, who recalled the figure and the message of Saint Marcellin Champagnat as a man who dedicated his life to the education of young people.

The Provincial of Madagascar, Br. Michel Maminiaina, received the vows on behalf of the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez. For his part, Br. Razafimanantsoa Nestor received the cross and the book of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers as signs of his belonging to the Marist family. He expressed joy and gratitude to God, Mary and all those who accompanied him on his vocational journey.

It should be noted that the celebration of the feast of Saint Champagnat this year 2023 was also dedicated to a thanksgiv-



ing for the closing of the Year of Marist Vocations which has as its theme 'Caring for and generating MARIST LIFE'. This was an opportunity for young people to discover the beauty and meaning of a life consecrated to service to the Church and to the world, and for the Marist Brothers to renew their commitment to follow Christ in the manner of Mary and Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

## BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

## LAUNCHES PRAYER GUIDES AND SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

The Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Norte launched the trilogy "Coleção Caminhar", prayer itineraries, composed of 3 books whose objective is to animate the spiritual life, inspired by Mary, St. Joseph and St. Marcellin Champagnat. Each book, organized by the Provincial Spirituality Commission, presents a harmonious set of celebrations for the most varied moments of individual and community meditation. The books, in Portuguese – Walking with Mary, Walking with St. Joseph and Walking with Champagnat – have illustrations by Brother Danilo Ferreira Silva and, divided into chapters, contain songs, illuminations, meditations, prayers and questions for reflection. Each chapter also has titles related to each of the three inspirations. This collection can be used in the most diverse mission spaces, in pastoral meetings, events, evangelization and education meetings, with the most diverse audiences.

There are more than 70 prayer guides!

This trilogy is a tribute to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, which will officially take place on December 8, 2023. This series of prayer



guides is also a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Hermitage, in 2024, as a symbol of our union as a global family! And everyone can make use of this collection for personal and communal prayer, with the idea of providing a space-time to deepen affective knowledge about the founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat!

Download PDF: [Walking with Mary](#) | [Walking with St. Joseph](#) | [Walking with Champagnat](#)

## marist world

SYRIA: FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING COURSE WITH THE BLUE MARISTS OF ALEPPO



AUSTRALIA: LAVALLA200&gt; MOUNT DRUITT AT SYDNEY WEST MARIST ASSOCIATION REGIONAL GATHERING



GHANA: FIRST PROFESSIONS IN THE NOVITIATE OF KUMASI



VANUATU: ST MICHEL TECHNICAL COLLEGE, LUGANVILLE



ITALY: FORMATION PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES IN MANZIANA



NETHERLANDS: ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMME 2023 IN THE WESTERHELLING

## SPAIN

## COURSE IN LEADERSHIP ORGANIZED BY THE MARIST REGION OF EUROPE

On June 2, 21 members of the Provinces of Compostela, Ibérica and Mediterránea completed the course in Leadership organized by the Marist Region of Europe in Xaudaró (Madrid). The training, which lasted three full weeks, took place in Madrid and at the Monastery of Les Avellanes.

The objective of the course was:

- To deepen the Marist experience and identity;
- To acquire useful keys to know and understand the global reality of the Marist mission;
- To acquire leadership tools and skills to accompany and energize teams and people;
- To develop the capacity to lead processes of management, change and innovation.

As part of the training, different topics related to the objectives were addressed. Likewise, a round table was held, which dealt with the experiences of three former Marist directors.



Among the activities were also visits to some social works, and part of the time was dedicated to socializing, sharing and learning together.

The subsequent evaluation of the course indicates that the objectives were achieved, that the participants benefited from the topics addressed and the experiences shared by the speakers.

## INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

## BUILDING THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION IN MARIST SCHOOLS

Once again, around the feast of Champagnat and as part of the activities of the Open Network of Champagnat Global, the meeting of the international Marist school community took place in the online modality: “Together to look beyond”, on this occasion with the title: “Building the Global Compact on Education Pact in Marist Schools”.

Br. José Sánchez Bravo, Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, opened the meeting.

The opening was given by Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, who reminded us that our founder had ‘attentive ears and a daring heart’,

looking for the best way to continue to generate Marist life. Thus, he said, the Champagnat Global network is the place where we can continue that mission and connect directly with the educational commitment to which we have been invited by the Pope.

After the opening greeting, the participants were able to

experience a moment of celebration prepared by the Santa Marta Marist School and Social Centre of Brazil. A moving greeting and an inspiring song, “*Marcellin taught*”, helped to commemorate and celebrate the presence of Marcellin and the Marist spirit.

Br. Ben Consigli, General Councillor, liaison with the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, introduced the assembly to the theme of the Global Compact on Education, recalling the commitment we have as a Marist school to the initiative of Pope Francisco. He also reminded us of the African saying: “It takes a whole village to educate a child”, which reflects the need to generate a network, a favourable and global environment that helps to educate us as global citizens.

An excellent lecture by Br Juan Antonio Ojeda (La Salle) on the implications of the Global Compact for schools, focused us on the essence of Pope Francisco’s proposal.

Br. Juan Antonio set out the steps to be able to continue with this commitment, looking and listening humbly to what is happening outside our schools to meet the existing needs; generating a change from the bottom (from the local) to the top (towards the global).

After this conference, the [Marist Notebook of the Global](#)

[Compact on Education](#) was presented, a notebook that brings together different activities and dynamics carried out in the Marist Provinces to promote the seven commitments proposed by the GCE.

Another very enriching moment of the webinar was the presentation by different provincial representatives of some of the activities included in the above-mentioned notebook:

- Mexico Central – Eduardo Preciado presented ‘Revbélate’, an art and culture programme in which students are the real creators.

- The Integrated Schools Network of Brazil. Marista Brasil – Br. Natalino Guilherme shared about the Social Intervention Projects, where they hold a forum for students to present challenges and solutions to different problems in the community.
- Ibérica – Jaime Feo explained

Campus Ibérica, a coexistence activity where students have to solve a challenge of a current and global theme, in a collaborative way.

- Star of the Sea – Mark Elliott introduced us to the programme to improve learning and professional effectiveness where teachers are sent to places like East Timor to teach English, among other things, to teachers in the area.

At the end of the presentations, Angela Mediero, responsible for communication at Champagnat Global, led an interesting moment in which some of the questions and concerns shared in the chat by the participants were discussed.

Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, gave an encouraging farewell message to the school community, encouraging everyone to be agents of change and to try to find spaces of service and freedom and in this way to bring about change through the lived experiences of one another.

We take this opportunity to thank the executive secretary of Champagnat Global, Javier Llamas, for the animation of the meeting, as well as our digital volunteer, Luis Pérez, for all his collaboration with the design and image of the event.

If for some reason you were unable to attend or you wish to watch it on a recorded version, [you can follow it on Youtube](#).



JUNE 19

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

**S**exual violence in conflict, according to the United Nations (UN), refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage, and trafficking for sexual exploitation perpetrated against women and girls, or men and boys directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. To raise awareness, honour victims and survivors and pay tribute to those devoted to eradicating conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), the UN General Assembly in 2015, proclaimed June 19 as an International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. This day is also a reminder to perpetrators that gender-based violence, whatever its form, is intolerable.



Up until the late twentieth century, CRSV was treated as unfortunate collateral damage. Since victims hardly reported it, survivors were ignored by their communities and perpetrators went unpunished. Although the international framework of sexual violence strongly condemns CRSV as a crime against humanity and war crime, it continues with impunity in many war-torn countries because enforcement mechanisms are fragile and do not exist everywhere. However, beginning with the June 2014 London Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, it became clear that CRSV could be stopped under international humanitarian law if the prohibition against sexual abuse is duly enforced, and perpetrators punished. Hence, the 1,700 government representatives who attended the summit resolved to hold the perpetrators accountable, provide support for survivors, handle sexual violence in conflict as a security issue, and cooperate at an international level.

CRSV is not only the concern of the UN and the international community. Many non-governmental organizations and religious groups including the Marist Institute are fully involved in human rights advocacy. Elimination of violence, whatever its form, has been a key topic for the Marist Institute since its foundation. Champagnat was so terrified on seeing his teacher's use of corporal punishment that he refused to go back to school the following day, despite his parents' insistence. Until the end of his life, Champagnat insisted on his educational principle of love all children equally, inculcated in the Marist educators the importance of eradicating physical, sexual or

psychological abuse in schools and forbade violence in their education of children.

While efforts to end CRSV continue, the reflection regarding its root causes is not forgotten. Many people blame patriarchal-socio-cultural societal structures and the circumstances of war as the root cause of CRSV. Without refuting this and based on her social teaching of inherent dignity of each person, the Catholic Church blames humans' failure to treat their own kind as people worthy of respect and love. Hence, she condemns CRSV as a dreadful violent human act which degrades both the victims and perpetrators.

Given the persistence of CRSV in every region of the world, the Church urges that resolving crises through peaceful means would help prevent it. A sense of discipline among armed forces and awareness campaigns respectful of women would also help. While encouraging the adoption and implementation of plans and legislation to hold perpetrators accountable, the Church also encourages that assistance be given to the victims and survivors. Women who are pregnant because of rape should be offered care, support, education, and assistance to meet their material, social and spiritual needs before and after the pregnancy. Furthermore, the Church commends the international community's efforts to increase women's roles in making decisions about conflict prevention and resolution as well as during post-war reconciliation and reconstruction.

Br. Francis Lukong – Secretariat of Solidarity

## FRANCE

## SECOND PHASE OF THE GIER PROGRAM 2023

This year 2023, 18 brothers between the ages of 32 and 42, from 10 countries in America, Africa, Asia and Oceania, who have made their Final Profession in recent years, are participating in the GIER Program. From May 30 to June 14, they lived in Rome and it has put the brothers in contact with Church experiences such as the encounter with the community of Sant'Egidio, the martyrs of the 20th century, the audience with Pope Francis, the Little Sisters of Jesus and the place of Tre Fontane, confluence of twenty centuries of ecclesial journey. It has also opened the Marist horizon, through the relationship with the Communities of the General House, the General Council, the Secretariats of the Institute and its animation mission; especially significant were the interchange with the Marist Missionary Sisters, who welcomed them into their home, and the visit to the San Leone Magno Institute. The richness of the Marist fraternity in an intercultural community, the fraternal dialogues with the brothers who animate the program and the sharing in small fraternities allow the personalization of the experience, the strengthening of the



vocational path and the revitalization of the enthusiasm for Marist life and mission.

#### In the Marist Places

From June 15 to 29, GIER moves from the General House to the Mother House, on the banks of this river that saw the birth and growth of the Institute in this corner of France. This movement from the city of Rome to the quiet sanctuary of the Hermitage, from the head (the general administration) to the heart (our source of motivation to be brothers), is an opportunity for the brothers to reflect and deepen their many experiences. This is done with the music of the Gier in the background, reminding them to allow the Holy Spirit to flow through them in their

respective ministries.

In France, the program will be enriched by the meeting with the Marist communities of L'Hermitage, La Valla and Rosey, and by the contribution on Historic and Spiritual Patrimony of Br. Michael Green in the pilgrimage through the places of our origins...

During these days the GIER brothers will have the opportunity to walk the Champagnat Way between Rosey and L'Hermitage, to meet the Marist Fathers

in La Nelyere, to experience Taizé for a weekend, and to place themselves at the feet of Mary in Fourvière.

In this year of ending and continuity of the Year of Marist Vocations, the participants continue to feel the call to recreate our life as brothers living global fraternity and availability, a spirituality of the heart and attention to emerging needs. The GIER brothers will be able to transmit it through the various leaderships in which they are already involved in their respective provinces.

The program is animated by a team is composed of Br. Tony Leon, Br. Jose Miguel Caballero, Br. Ángel Medina and Br. Lindley Sionosa.

Mas informaciones en esta página  
Fotos en [Facebook](#)



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