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MARISTNEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON MARIST SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY MEETS IN ROME

The Marist Spiritual Patrimony Commission held its ordinary face-to-face meeting from June 19 to 23, in Rome, at the General House. Br. Demosthenes Calabria, from the Province of East Asia, Philippines, and a member of the international community of Notre-Dame de L'Hermitage, participated for the first time. The Commission had the full support of the Brothers Today Secretariat, headed by Br. Ángel Medina. The translation was done by Br. Arsacio Soladana, of the Province of Compostela.

The central theme of these days was the organization of the Heritage Symposium – Fountains and Springs – to be held soon in Rome, from December 4 to 8. The entire organization and the topics to be presented have been defined based on the previous work done by the planning committee, under the coordination of Br. Michael Green.

After considering Marist Notebooks 41, which has just been published, the Commission foresees for 2024 the publication of issue 42, with the Proceedings of the Symposium, and issue 43, with a special dossier on the Hermitage, in preparation for the bicentenary of its inauguration in 2025.

Br. Guillermo, Postulator General, reflected on Br. François Rivat



and presented his current work in the Postulation.

Br. André Lanfrey led a formation morning around a reinterpretation of the origins of the Marist Brothers within the Society of Mary. All the members of the Commission had the opportunity to comment on the initiatives of their region in the field of Spiritual Heritage. Br. Vincent de Paul Kouassi, who presented a program of Marist studies for the houses of formation in Africa, conducted virtually from the MIUC in Nairobi, where he is the Rector. Several meetings were scheduled for the coming year, with the collabo-



general administration

■ From Friday 23 June until last Tuesday, the General Council community had a few days of community rest.

■ From Monday to Friday, Brother Pepe, director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, and Br. Ángel Diego, Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity in Madrid, take part in the meeting of the Commission of the III International Marist Mission Assembly.

■ On Wednesday, Brothers Ben and Josep Maria, General Councilors links with the regions of Oceania and Asia, participate in the meeting with the leaders of the two regions.

■ On Wednesday, the participants in the formation program for international and intercultural communities traveled from Manzia-

na to France, where they will conclude their formative journey on July 5.

■ On Wednesday, Br João Carlos, General Councilor, and Luiz Da Rosa, Director of Communications, took part in the online meeting with the leaders of the groups of Marist communicators who are working on themes inherent to communication in the Institute.

■ Saturday concludes the Gier Formation Program, which began on May 30. The last part of the program takes place at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage in France.

■ From next Sunday until July 5, Brothers Ernesto, Superior General, and João Carlos, General Councilor, will participate in the Assembly of the Norandina Province in Colombia.

ration of the members of the Commission. The Institute's Head of Communications, Luiz da Rosa, also shared his experience and made suggestions in this area, with the support of the Commission to allow easier and more complete access to the Institute's documents and resources.

The General Council was present at two special moments, through the General Councilors Óscar Vicario and João Carlos do Prado. On Thursday 22nd, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, had an hour of conversation with the Commission, and renewed his

confidence and gratitude for the work done. At the end of the day, the entire Commission joined the General Council community for the Eucharist and a time of fraternization. Br. Ernesto took this opportunity to give a special greeting to Br. André Lanfrey for his 80th birthday and to thank him for his decisive contribution in all these 20 years of Patrimony. He will continue to collaborate both in reflection and in the publications of Marist studies, at the invitation of and in harmony with the Patrimony group.

Photos en Facebook

PHILIPPINES

LAUNCHED THE 75TH YEAR OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE MARIST BROTHERS IN PHILIPPINES

With the theme, "Never let the fire in our heart go out!" the Philippine Sector of East Asia Province launched the 75th year of the arrival of the Marist Brothers in the country last June 21, 2023. It was held at Notre Dame of Cotabato Incorporated, the first school of the brothers in the Philippines. Marists of Champagnat, Brothers and Lay, from all communities and mission areas of the sector were present to grace the occasion. It was a day of gratitude remembering the date, 21st June 1948, when the four American Marist Brothers arrived in Cotabato City, Philippines in order to serve new and distant fields. Br. Maurus James Doherty, Br. Peter Leonard Thommen, Br. Humbert Damian Teston and Br. Herbert Daniel formed the nucleus of the first Marist Life and Mission in the Philippines. Today, there are 52 Filipino Marist Brothers who are serving the country, the East Asia Province and the other Administrative Units of the institute.

During his welcome remarks, Br. Allan J. de Castro, Provincial, highlighted that the jubilee is an opportunity to gather and celebrate the humble beginning, the commitment, the dedication, and the love of all the Brothers and Lay in making Jesus known and loved in the way of Mary, our Good Mother. He stressed the significance of thanking God for the visionaries who dreamt and the pioneers who launched Marist Life and Mission in the Philippines particularly those who labored hard during the last 75 years.

Br. James McKnight, who is now the USA and served as missionary in the various schools of the brothers in the Philippines, relayed his message by saying, "What keeps ringing in my



head (as a message on our 75th year in the Philippines) is, REMEMBER WHERE WE CAME FROM." He added, "Yes, we have seen so much 'progress/development' but it is good to remind ourselves where we came from. Remembering our past with sense of gratitude can help you maintain a sense of identity and connection to our Life and Mission as Marists".

Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, also sent a video message to the event. He said...

STAR OF THE SEA

After 3 smaller gatherings across the past six months, 12 potential candidates were invited back to Baucau, Timor Leste, for a week-long Come and See discernment experience. This is the final gathering which allows discerners and formators to consider if these young men have the potential and capacity take a first step into the new world of Marist Initial Formation.

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

On June 22 in Curicó, Chile, the fifth version of the Marist Seminar on Learning and Service was held, with the general objective of recognizing the relationship between the “Integral Ecology Program” and the “Learning + Service Methodology”. The first presentation was given by Brother Álvaro Sepúlveda, a member of the sectoral team of Integral Ecology.

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

137 Marists concluded the “Maristization” processes programmed for this cycle by the team of the Lay Vocational Animation area. In 2024 the second stage will be implemented with those who experienced the first stage, the first stage will also be implemented for those works that did not participate.

SYNOD 2023

On June 26, Br. Emili Turú, former Superior General and current Secretary of the Union of Superiors General, participated in the presentation of the Instrumentum Laboris of the Synod. The event was promoted by the UISG and the video is [available in this link](#).

AUSTRALIA

FAITH FORMATORS' COLLOQUIUM 2023 IN MITTAGONG



FAITH FORMATORS' COLLOQUIUM 2023



Over 60 Marist leaders and Faith Formators from across the Australia gathered at Hermitage in Mittagong, from 18 to 20 June, to participate in the Faith Formators' Colloquium 2023, one of the biggest Marist meetings of the year in the country.

The Colloquium explored the annual Marist Association theme 'Created + Called – a revolution of love and tenderness' and its implications for forming staff and young people. Through modern art, storytelling and reflection, participants went deeper their appreciation of indigenous spirituality and their role as co-creators, contemplated how they are being drawn by God as faith leaders and discover new ways of creating together for mission.

For 3 days the Marists analyse and reflect the following items:

- The Spirituality of being Created+Called: Called to Create (Sr. Hilda Scott, OSB)
- The Mission of being Created+Called (Michael McGirr)
- The Way of Creating together for Ministry (Br Peter Carroll).

The colloquium 2023 was an opportunity for all the Marist Faith Formators to continue growing, discerning, praying and building key people to inspire them to continue the mission of the Marist family when they go back to their local Marist places to breathe new life into.

This was the first major national Faith Formators' gathering in person since 2020.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

"Macondo was then a village of about twenty houses made of mud and hemp, built on the banks of a river with clear waters that tumbled down a bed of polished stones, white and as big as prehistoric eggs." Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

We have written here before, on various occasions, about the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), and explained that they were adopted by the United Nations in 2015, with a period of application until 2030, with the aim of "ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring that people enjoy peace and prosperity". These are undoubtedly ambitious goals, but they are also achievable, especially if we do our bit to make them possible.

They are objectives that can be worked on individually, but which, achieved together, make more sense, and make the overall objective more possible. And this is what we Marists want to continue to work on in the individual and collective pursuit of the 17 proposed objectives...

One might ask: how can we, as educators, collaborate with industry, innovation, and infrastructure? The answer lies in the very question itself, namely through the education of new generations. Educating children, teenagers, and young people about the importance of this objective is in our hands. Educating them not just in theory, but in the practical sense of things. Our children and young people are the future engineers, architects, researchers...

We are faced with a form of development that sometimes dehumanizes people, and whose ultimate objective is the advancement of technology rather than the advancement of human beings. This is where our work as educators comes in: by promoting development that is positive for all, not just for a few, that is sustainable for the environment and for the whole, that is not based solely on immediate effect. In our world, in all our countries, we can see convincing examples of sustainable and



inclusive development, even if, unfortunately, we can detect examples of the opposite.

As Marist educators, Brothers, and lay people, we are called to create a culture of inclusion, of sustainability, of caring for our neighbours and our community. Our educational work encourages technology, access to information, knowledge of the best ways to achieve positive development, ecological awareness in what we do, innovation in all fields of knowledge.

Our presence is likely to be significant in the major cities where many of our works are located. We also have a presence in smaller communities, where the social impact of our presence is sometimes more tangible. Schools, social works, universities... they are all the building blocks of the society of today and tomorrow, based on greater equality and greater care for our common home. To achieve this, we seek to provide them with suitable facilities that help them to develop their potential and reach their full potential.

What is the Church asking of us? What is the Marist Institute inviting us to do? To live the message of the Gospel: where the person will be at the centre of all development, where the most disadvantaged will be given greater consideration and a greater role in participation and action, where communion between man and nature will become an inseparable reality. Do you assume this duty to be Marist today?

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola
Director of the [Secretariat of Solidarity](#)

marist world

BRAZIL: PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF BRAZIL CENTRO-NORTE IN NATAL



AUSTRALIA: MEETING OF THE STAR OF THE SEA'S PROVINCIAL COUNCIL IN BRISBANE



SPAIN: MEETING OF AFFILIATES OF THE IBERIAN PROVINCE



MEXICO: FIRST PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY IN MEXICO CITY



CAMBODIA: 25TH ANNIVERSARY LAVALLA SCHOOL IN KANDAL



EL SALVADOR: 100 YEARS OF MARIST PRESENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

SANTA MARIA DE LOS ANDES

MEETING OF LAY MARISTS OF CHILE

On June 10, the Sectorial Meeting of Lay Marists of Chile, a sector of the Province of Santa María de los Andes, was held at the Marist Spirituality Center of Las Condes, animated by the Sectorial Area of Life.

The objectives of the meeting were to meet, to celebrate the road travelled, to deepen the four aspects of Jesus' way of evangelizing (welcoming – accompanying, animating – associating) and to generate strategies for the promotion of the Lay Movement with the respective co-responsibility of the members of the communities. The meeting began at about 10:00 a.m. with the welcome of the 18 participants, coming from different schools of the country, followed by a prayer led by the Community "Brother Francisco" of Rancagua. Then the community "La Mesa" from Santiago, invited to participate in a playful moment with a fraternal sense.

The work of the second part of the morning focused on the pedagogy of Jesus, experiencing, in a first moment, the first three "Welcome – Accompany – Encourage", and the last one, "Associate", in a second space. These modules were animated by the Director of the Secretariat of Laity of the Marist Institute, Raúl Amaya.



After lunch, the coordinator of the Sectorial Life Area, Rossana Avendaño, invited the laity to generate strategies and co-responsibility through group work, where they were able to visualize the strengths and opportunities that exist to promote the Marist Lay Movement.

SOUTH AFRICA

SACRED HERART COLLEGE: “WE ARE CHAMPAGNAT TODAY”

During the Champagnat Day Mass at Sacred Heart College in South Africa, a girl from Grade 12 wrote a text about the feast, mailing as being marist could be a way of alleviating issues of marginalization. She read it to all gathered and we invite you to read her reflections.

Today, we Marists of Champagnat, are invited to live in unity and to oppose marginalization on a small and large scale. To marginalize someone is to treat individuals or specific groups of people as insignificant and inferior to others. We see people being marginalized in society based on race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender, sexuality and economic status.

We are also guilty of marginalization on a smaller level, we do it at school, in our neighborhoods, and even in our own homes when we exclude people for the core things that make up their identity and make them feel as if they are less than us. These people's rights, voices and humanity are denied, and as a result suffer at the hands of others for their whole lives.

Every single one of us took part in putting together a puzzle for today's mass. Eventually you would have noticed that on every puzzle is a picture of a maze. A maze is representative of this journey of life; there are dead ends, twisting corners that confuse you, and the reward at the end takes forever to reach. I want you to imagine yourself in a literal maze.

Imagine what this journey to the end or the glinting gold will be like. Will it be hard? Frustrating? Frightening? Or will it be easy? Imagine what it will be like if you were in this maze alone. Would it be any better if you were with a group of people? Picture yourself in this maze with a group of people that always exclude you, make you feel like you have no value.

How would you feel? How would you feel when the leader of this group

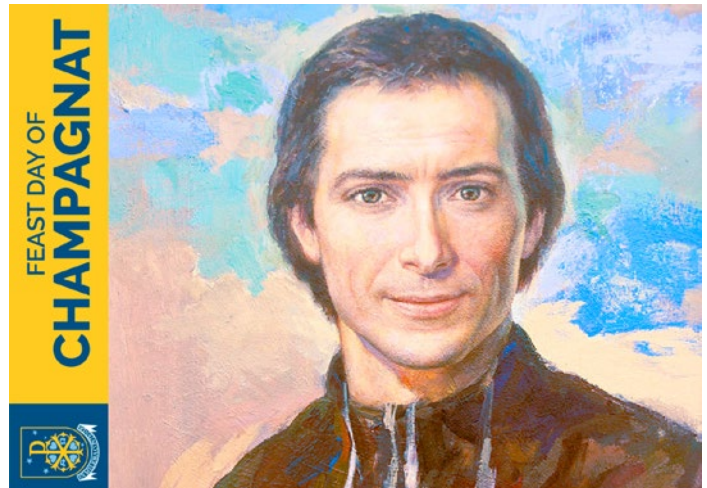
makes sure that everyone does their absolute best to exclude you, dehumanize you, hurt you, and exploit you? It's unfair, right? It's unfair when you're the only one that gets treated this way. Will you endure it the entire time

you are in this huge, spine-chilling maze with people that constantly bury your spirit deeper and deeper? Or will you have the courage and heart to defend yourself against them?

Congratulations, you have just completed a small lesson on empathy!

With a similar perspective, I want you to question why we should bring people from the margins of society closer to us. We need to dig into the humanity that is constantly squashed by the laws and people that use their power over us. While injustice is common, one should never accept justice as common. As humans that are all owned by the earth and the universe, it is our duty to fight injustices like marginalization with all our strength and heart.

As humans that are connected to the earth, we should have love for our earth and its people. And because of this love, we need to exercise our right to criticize each other's actions, hold those in power accountable, and draw people that were cast aside closer to us and our hearts.



This should not just make up our own moral center, but also how we identify as Marists. Being Marist connects us to our spirituality, and from spirituality comes reflection. Reflection is key to helping us realize our role in this journey of life, and it helps us realize what we need to do to create a change in our community and greater society. Without reflection, we become burnt out when we are constantly running towards a world that we want to create. Reflect and regain your fire, spirit, and sight of the path you need to follow and people you give your strength to.

Saint Marcellin Champagnat is an example for alleviating issues of marginalization as he established schools in rural areas where children had no access to education. He made this his entire life's goal. As extensions of Champagnat's work and his vision, and as people that are interconnected with each other, exercise your right to criticize and demand change where you see injustice. We are Champagnat today for ourselves, tomorrow for the world we want to live in, and always in our hearts.

GHANA

RETREAT IN THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

The Marist Brothers living and working in Ghana, Province of West Africa, held their annual retreat from the 17th to the 24th of June 2023. The retreat was animated by Father Anthony a Diocesan Priest and psychologist and had as theme “Caring for and Generating Marist Life”.

“Indeed it was a prayerful moment and a beautiful encounter with the Lord as the retreat animator prepared his inputs very well”, affirmed Br. Cho Nchang. At the end of the retreat Br. Samuel Nkuah renewed his vows while the finally professed Brothers renewed their commitment to the Lord.



SPAIN

TESTIMONY OF A LAY MARIST VOCATION ON SPANISH TELEVISION

The program “Testimonio” on La2 of Televisión Española interviewed José María Pérez-Soba, a lay Marist and professor at the Centro Universitario Cardenal Cisneros, Province of Ibérica.

“We Marists are people who have a gift of the Spirit for the Church and for the world, which is the Marist charism”. In his testimony, José María tells that after Vatican II, the vocational awakening of the laity is fundamental: “It is fundamental to generate lay movements to complete the face of communion of the Church. Together, lay people and Marist religious, we are a sign of the fraternity of God”.

José María also explains what the discernment itineraries of the Iberian Marist Province consist of and the different community options that exist.

“The spirit is calling us. We have a plural world, a world with a



lot of opportunities, but also threats, peripheries to which Pope Francis calls us to be [...] We are called to create, to stand up, to feel joyful and strong from our vocation and to call more people so that this is not the work of a few but of many. [...] For a large body to function, it needs a strong, vigorous heart, which is the one that really pushes the Church into the future”.

The [interview is available at this link](#)

INDIA

OPERATION RAINBOW PROJECT BENEFICIARIES CELEBRATED ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

The Marcellin Trust – Operation Rainbow Project celebrated the life and feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat, on June 25th, in Trichy, India. The event was attended by about 150 people who benefit from the Project, and Marist Brothers and laypeople.

To highlight the Charism of our founder, Br. Raj Kumar showed a video presentation about the life and mission of St. Marcellin Champagnat and how his legacy continues today through the Marist Brothers and their collaborators around the world.

Br. Johnson shared his personal testimony as a Marist Brother and encouraged everyone to follow St. Marcellin's example of generosity and service to others.

Br. Saul also showed another video that focused on the issue of child labor in the world today and how it affects the rights and dignity of children. He urged everyone to be aware of this problem and to do something to stop it.

As part of the Programme, a speech competition for students was conducted on the theme of "St. Marcellin Champagnat: A Model for Today's Youth". The winners were awarded with prizes. Additionally, students who successfully completed 10th and 12th Board Exams were honoured.

The highlight of the event was the cutting of a cake by all the children present – who wished everyone a happy feast day -, and the distribution of rations, medical supplies, and traveling allowance to the beneficiaries of the project.

At the conclusion of the celebration, The Marcellin Trust – Operation Rainbow Project expressed its sincere thanks to all those who supported them in making this event possible, especially



Australian Marist Solidarity for their generous contribution to sustain and empower the lives of needy and vulnerable children in society. Likewise, The Marcellin Trust also thanked all its benefactors and well-wishers for their constant support and help.

Reducing the fear and isolation experienced by families affected by HIV in Trichy

Of the 65 million people living in the state of Tamil Nadu, approximately 650,000 are HIV positive. Of these, one in seven is a child under the age of 14. These people are some of the most neglected in society because of their poor knowledge about the virus and its effects. Because of the stigma associated with the disease, many families don't access the services that can assist in managing the illness and its resulting hardships.

Operation Rainbow, was established in 2003 by the Marist Brothers to provide support to families and children affected by HIV. It works with families in their own settings and assists them access resources available within their local communities. Operation Rainbow provides families and individuals with community support that enables them to live with dignity. This support is provided through home visits, free medical seminars, counselling and HIV awareness courses. An ongoing initiative of Operation Rainbow is the monthly Rainbow Family Gathering. This event gathers together those in the community who are being supported by the program, which helps to reduce the isolation that these families often feel.

Your help can be done through the [Australian Marist Solidarity](#), in [this link](#).



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