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MARISTNEWS

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INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

IDENTITY, FORMATION, ACCOMPANIMENT, BONDING WITH THE CHARISM AND STRUCTURES FOR LAY MARISTS

From July 7-12, a group of about 25 lay Marists and Brothers met at the General House to continue the process of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, which is in its 4th phase. Based on the conclusions of the face-to-face meeting in Rome last November, the group appointed by the General Council was charged with working on the following thematic areas: Identity, formation, accompaniment, bonding with the charism, and civil and canonical structures.

In order to continue the work on the lay Marist vocation, the General Council appointed some representatives of the group who participated in the face-to-face meeting of the third phase in November 2022. These representatives from different realities of the Institute were divided into working groups and the meeting in Rome served as a moment to define the guidelines that will guide the journey of reflection until July 2024. This group will then present to the other representatives of the Marist world the



proposals that will culminate in the document that will be sent to the General Government.

"We are very happy and excited because we feel that the Spirit is with us, challenging us and making us move towards what he wants for us," said Raúl Amaya, director of the Secretariat of Laity. >>

general administration

■ From July 6 to Wednesday, July 12, Brothers Óscar Martín, General Councilor, Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today, were in Nairobi to participate in the meeting of Formators and Vocation Promoters of the Africa Region.

■ Brother Goyo Linacero, assistant to the General Econom and Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, participated in the meeting of the Regional Committee of America Sur in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from Monday to Wednesday.

■ On Wednesday, the meeting of lay people and brothers designated by the General Council to propose a reflection on the 4th phase of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation ended at the General House. Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and Councilors Ben, João Carlos and Josep Maria were present on behalf of the General Council.

■ From next Saturday until July 22, Brothers Óscar Martín, General Councilor, and Valdicer Fachi, Director of the Cmi, with other members of the "Fratelli Council" will visit the Fratelli project in Lebanon.

Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, who also attended the meeting, underlined the role of the Holy Spirit in this process: "We have felt the Spirit. Perhaps in small, humble proportion, but we have felt the emotion of the Spirit of God, as He creates and recreates things, in His generous and constant cycle of creation and life."

The working groups are divided as follows:

- Lay Marist identity: Br. Damiano Forlani (Mediterránea) Mrs. Elma Rafil (East Asia) Mrs. Josmari Pauzer (Brasil Centro-Sul), Mrs. Ana Saborio (América Central), Mr. Marcos Broc (Brasil Sul-Amazônia).
- Formation and accompaniment: Br. Jaime Comabella (Ibérica), Mrs. Ana Gómez (Mediterránea), Mr. Pedro Martí (USA), Mr. Nathan Ahearne (Star of the Sea), Mrs. Alida Bodo-manitra (Madagascar).
- Bonding to the Marist charism: Br. Isidro Azpeleta (Santa María de los Andes), Mrs. Christine Dispa-Lenertz (West Central Europe), Mrs. Ana Sarrate (Ibérica), Mr. Raúl Amaya (Santa María de los Andes).
- Civil structures: Br. Lisardo Garcia (Compostela), Ms. Danai Anagnostopoulou (L'Hermitage), Ms. Nohemy Pinto (America Central), Mr. Mark O'Farrell (Star of the Sea).
- Canonical structures: Br. John Bwanali (Southern Africa), Pep Bueta (L'Hermitage), Ms. Sara Sanchez (Santa Maria de los Andes), Mr. Manu Gomez (Mediterranea).



The General Council also accompanied the work of the group during the days of the meeting in Rome. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Councilors João Carlos do Prado, Josep Maria Soteras and Ben Consigli were present.



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION

"Your sons and daughters will prophesy" — Joel 3,1

The International Forum will be a beautiful four-year journey (2021-2024) of reflection and shared discernment among laypeople, laywomen and brothers. The themes of the Forum are pertinent current and future issues related to the vitality of the charism and our journey of communion as a Global Charismatic Family.

VATICAN

BR. ERNESTO SANCHEZ TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS IN OCTOBER



The Superior General of the Marist Institute, Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba will be one of the 5 representatives of the Union of Superiors General (USG) at the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will take place next October at the Vatican.

Brother Ernesto was elected at the USG last May to participate, together with the Superiors General of the Jesuits, Cistercians, Brothers of the Sacred Heart, and Comboni Missionaries. Together with five Religious Sisters from the UISG, they will be the ten representatives of Religious Life at the Synod. Everyone will have the right to vote, as well as the laypeople who will be at the Synod. "The synodal process is an important time in the Church for listening and dialogue, following the intuitions that the Spirit is dictating to us in our day. "It is a privilege to participate in this October Synodal Assembly and we are all invited to continue to be part of this important movement," said Br. Ernesto.

The synodal assembly will have 363 voting members. "We have sought to include a representation of all of God's people", said Cardinal Mario Grech, general secretary of the synod,

during the presentation of the [list of participants](#) on July 7 at the [Vatican Press Office](#).

Br. Ernesto also participated in the 2018 Synod on Youth, representing the Superiors General. The theme of this synod was "[Young people, faith and vocational discernment](#)"

Synodal Church

The theme of the XVI Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is "Towards a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission ". It is a multi-stage process that started in October 2021 and will end with the second session in 2024. From the Apostolic Constitution *Episcopalis communio* of 2018, the [Synod](#) has become an event in the process, articulated in three successive phases (preparatory, celebratory, and active). The meeting at the Vatican from October 4 to 29 of this year is part of the celebratory phase, coinciding with the Universal Phase, divided into two sessions, October 2023 and October 2024.

Universal Phase to begin with an ecumenical prayer vigil on September 30. Then, from October 1 to 3, the participants will attend a spiritual retreat.

BRAZIL

MARIST VOCATIONAL MARIOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

The Marist Brothers, lay people, collaborators and guests met in Brasília, from June 25 to 29, to participate in the Marist Vocational Mariological Symposium, which had as theme “Marist Vocation: Service and Prophecy”, under the motto: “Good Mother This work is yours.”



The event was attended by more than 80 people, and its main objective was to encourage the Champagnat Marists to rediscover their original passion, inspired by Mary, the Good Mother, to live their prophetic and servant vocation.

Within the framework of the closing of the Year of Marist Vocations, the participants were motivated to think of “Vocation” as a call from God, which is vast and for everyone, considering the different life options. The meeting evoked the figure of Mary as a central theme from the biblical, ecclesial and institutional axes, and had a broad program.

At the inauguration, Br. José de Assis Elias de Brito, Provincial of Brasil Centro-Norte, representing the Superior Council of UMBRASIL, organizer of the meeting, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the event: “This meeting is a great opportunity, we need to get closer to the Mother of God, it is time to rediscover that original passion, strengthen our vocational animation, this is our great commitment.”

The first moment of the Symposium was an inaugural class on the theme Marist Vocation: Service and Prophecy, given by Professor Vinicius Paiva, who urged the participants to think, what would Champagnat do today in the 21st century?

On the second day, Sister Elisabeth Mendes spoke about the figure of Mary as a servant of the Lord and reaffirmed: “She is complete in her loving dedication. She opens herself to the

Word without hesitation and with immense joy in her heart. Maria is an inspiration!” Br. Marcelo Barros presented the conference Provocations: prophets and prophetesses of today, and he spoke about the need for the Church to stop being a ritual religion, and to become a community of faith, which lives and witness to ethical spirituality. -prophecy of Jesus.

On the third day, Fr. Marcial Maçanero spoke about Mary as a woman, Mother of God and of the Church, and he challenged the participants to move from faith in Mary to the faith of Mary. At the end of the day with the theme Vocation for the Church in the world, Sr Maristela Ganassini reflected on the importance of looking at the past with gratitude, living the present with passion and embracing the future with hope.

On the last day, Br. Ivo Strobino presented different images of Mary to the participants and mentioned how they influenced the Spirituality of Marcellin Champagnat. This was an excellent opportunity to understand the inspiration and impact of Mary in the conception of the Marist Institute. At the end of the symposium, Angelo Ricordi spoke about the Marian Profile of the Church: A Specific Vocation of Champagnat’s Marists, from its historical inspiration, with its Marist origins, its theological foundation and focusing on Mary as a symbol of renewal.

The program also included moments of prayer, dynamics, cultural presentations, and a visit to the Shrine of the Mother and Queen of Schoenstatt.

MARIST FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

FMSI PUBLISHES ITS SOCIAL REPORT 2022

The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI), NGOs of the General Administration, has just published its Social Report 2022, showcasing all the projects, support, and collaborations carried out in the past year in several countries worldwide. The publication details the work agenda that FMSI has carried out in 2022 in relation to the rights of children, migrants, refugees, victims of violence and people in situations of poverty and vulnerability. Over the course of 15 years, FMSI has strengthened and reinforced its commitment to guarantee the Fundamental Rights of children, youth and the most disadvantaged populations in the world.

From 2017 to 2022, the Marist NGO has benefited 6,532,158 people, implemented 456 projects, and is present in 67 countries. In 2022, the Foundation implemented some of its actions focused on the rights of children, in a joint venture between the Secretariat for Solidarity and Edmund Rice International, Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance y Centre Catholique International de Genève, of which it is a member.

FMSI also collaborates with the Marist Solidarity Heart Network, and together they produce reports and recommendations addressed to countries undergoing the United Nations Universal Periodic Review. Likewise, the Marist Foundation has also worked with the De La Salle-ETS International Solidarity Foundation, FOCSIV, and the Sant'Egidio Community, in order to implement assistance programs in some areas of the world that have become the epicenter of war and forced migration.

The President of the Marist Foundation for International Solidari-



ty (FMSI), Br. Ken McDonald, general councilor, said in his letter addressed to all friends and supporters of FMSI: "We live in a world where children continue to go hungry, fall ill without adequate medical care, are exploited and abused, and are denied access to the fundamental right to education: this deprivation dramatically accentuates existing inequalities, to the point of reducing the opportunities of those who already had almost none. It is not only a matter of resisting difficulties but of reinventing oneself and transforming one's capabilities to better respond to future events". At the end of his letter, Br. Ken McDonald thanked all the contributors and FMSI staff for their support: "The Foundation would not exist without its ongoing commitment to children. Faithfully following the mission of the foundation and the Marist charism".

Download the FMSI 2022 Annual Report: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Italiano](#)

UNITED STATES

From July 9-12, the first Marist Champagnat Assembly took place in Long Branch, New York. Then, from July 10-14, the Provincial Retreat happens in the same place.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

The second phase of the Marist Vocation School, held from July 3-7, brought together almost 60 participants from different congregations. The formation for vocation animators focused on Youth Identity, Accompaniment and Social Networks as a pathway to vocations.

WEST AFRICA

The Marist Brothers in Cameroon held their annual retreat from June 23rd to 30th in Tatum. It was yet another moment of prayer and reflection and a time of stock taking. Indeed, it was a very good experience that ended with the renewal of vows of 3 Brothers: Etienne, Nobert and Basil.

BROTHERS TODAY

THE INSTITUTE PROPOSES A COURSE FOR FORMATORS IN 2024

In concomitance with the bicentenary of the founding of the mother house of Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, the Institute is offering course for formators called "New Builders of l'Hermitage", which will take place in Manziiana, from February 1 to November 25, 2024.

This initiative of the Institute is based on the suggestion of the General Chapter so that "we reform our processes of initial and ongoing formation and offer at the level of the Institute or Administrative Units new itineraries to take care of our vocation as brothers: accompaniment, attention to the situation and to the vital stage of each brother." The General Conference of 2022 also reaffirmed the need to consolidate and enrich the formation of the brothers in charge of the formation service. This has motivated the decision of the General Council – in collaboration with the Secretariat Brothers Today – to offer this formation program for future and current formators of the postulancy, novitiate and scholasticate.



The course will be in English and Spanish, with simultaneous translation. Each Administrative Unit may send two participating brothers.

Animation team and preparations

The General Council has entrusted Brothers César Rojas (Norandina), Juan Castro (MDA) and Michel Maminiaina (Madagascar)

to form the animation team together with the Secretariat Brothers Today. From June 12 to 23, with Brother Ángel Medina, they were at the General House and worked on this task.

Brother César connected online.

The brothers Juan and Michel, in the following video, present the course and invite all the Administrative Units to participate in this initiative. On the [YouTube channel](#), it is possible to choose the subtitles in your language to follow the message.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

PROVINCE PROPOSES DISCERNMENT ON THE LIFE PROJECT

The Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, in collaboration with the Brazilian Union of Catholic Education, launches a free course on Life Project, which makes up the Esperançar Project, an initiative whose motto is Knowledge within everyone's reach! The course has 15 hours of content, and, upon completion, the student will receive a university extension certificate, by the Catholic University of Brasilia.

Discernment about the life project is not always something that is taken easily. and at the desired time. A life project focuses on future possibilities and, therefore, it is necessary to develop the ability to visualize in advance the life that one wants to have



or lead.

The course presents basic ideas about what a life project is, what the objectives are and how personal strategic planning can be structured, based on the life trajectory and aspirations. In addition to this course, the Esperançar Project offers another 28 learning itineraries, all free and with a university extension certificate. They are aimed at all those who wish to update and continue training. [See in this link](#)

[the free courses available.](#)

For those who wish to make a [vocational discernment for Marist life](#), the province has prepared a free e-book with the 10 steps for vocational discernment.

marist world

COLOMBIA: BR. ERNESTO VISITS THE FRATELLI PROJECT IN MAICAO



SPAIN: CHRISTIAN ANIMATOR COURSE IN LARDE-RO



LAUNCHING OF THE MAGAZINE MESSAGE MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT AT THE GENERAL HOUSE



SPAIN: EUROPE REGION BROTHERS' RETREAT IN MADRID



MEXICO OCCIDENTAL: PROVINCIAL MANAGEMENT INDUCTION MEETING



BRAZIL: MARIST VOCATIONAL SCHOOL 2023

PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA

TEACHERS REINFORCE THEIR ECO AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT

As part of the “Eco2Social” initiative that is part of the Strategic Plan of the Province of Compostela, twenty Marist educators met in Miraflores (Burgos) to develop the ecological framework from an integrating and Christian perspective that promotes care for the common home, responsible consumption and sustainable development in educational communities,

The Spanish expert in ecology and consumption, José Eizaguirre, opened the training days by speaking about Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si’. In his presentation, the expert raised awareness of the real situation of Mother Earth, and focused on personal and social commitment as educators, to seek solutions and contribute to generating a better world.

For her part, Lucía Vázquez focused on the “eco2social” from the Sustainable Development Goals through various activities, workshops, projects and materials such as works of art that serve to reflect on the common home.



Similarly, Javi Arroyo, Alfredo Veiga and Mar González focused everything seen in the eco2social framework of the Province of Compostela and the different areas developed, from the Tutorial Action Plan and communication. During three days, teachers deepened and addressed social issues, ecology, circular economy, sustainable development, Sustainable Development Goals, learning situations and efficient communication to improve and care for our environment.

SPAIN

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR MIMA III

During the week of 25th June to 01st July 2023, the members of the preparatory commission for the III Marist International Mission Assembly (MIMA) met at the Marist house of El Escorial (Madrid-Spain).

The aim of the team meeting was to continue to develop the work of planning the assembly, which has been carried out online since February. The preparatory commission is made up of brothers and lay people from the various regions of the Institute*.

The Mission Assemblies, as stated in article 119.3 of the Constitutions, are an opportunity to share experiences, listen to realities, discern priorities, and propose guidelines and even strategies for Marist life and mission at the global level. Champagnat Marists, brothers and lay people committed to the Marist mission participate in them.

So far, two Mission Assemblies have taken place: one in 2007 in Mendes (Brazil) with the theme: 'One Heart One Mission' and in 2014 in Nairobi (Kenya) with the theme: 'New Marists in Mission'.

The next assembly will be held from 8th to 14th April 2024 in El



Escorial (Spain) under the theme: "We are Global Family".

The mission assemblies foresee a previous work of preparation and a subsequent analysis of conclusions, at the level of the administrative units, provinces, and districts and at the regional level, so that the richness of this experience is not limited to a small number of participants, but can be a space for dialogue, reflection, and growth for all those Marists of Champagnat committed to the mission throughout the Marist work.

The preparatory commission for the III Marist International Mission Assembly (MIMA) intends to take advantage of the Institute's means of communication so that the information, the message, and the experience of this assembly can reach the greatest number of interested people, so we will soon be sharing the channels through which you can be updated.

*MIMAIII Preparatory Commission:

José Sánchez Bravo and Niño Pizarro (Secretariat of Education and Evangelization), Br. Angel Diego García (Secretariat of Solidarity), Br. Alejandro Mena (Province of Ibérica), Mrs. Mónica Villacís (Province of Norandina), Mrs. Fátima Rodríguez (Province of Brasil Centro-Norte), Mrs. Socorro Alvarez, (Province of México Central), Br. Maurice Juvence (Madagascar), Br. Fernando Sasmika (South Asia), Mr. Mark Elliott (Province Star of the Sea), and Mr. Francisco Javier Llamas (Champagnat Global).

NIGERIA

MARIST BICENTENARY COLLEGE STUDENTS INVOLVED IN FUNDING AND ENABLING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

With a project that promotes community finance, a team of students from the Marist Bicentenary College, in Ngor Okpala, Nigeria, won the most prestigious award of “Community Service” given by the Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE) educational program. The young participants are members of the Students Involved in Funding and Enabling Economic Development, and they participated in the national SAGE competition in Abuja from 25th to 28th June, with their project “Community Finance Project.”



The community finance project is an online platform with the core mission of connecting people to people with disabilities through crowd funding. The group of students known as SIEFED created this platform based on the obstacles to financial stability face by people with disabilities. As the most socially responsible project at the competition the SIEFED team won the most prestigious award of “Community Service.”

How the Project Works

According to the team, they identify people with disability, get to know them, then they galvanized them into various economic co-operative groups based on their skill sets and interest, then with the help of their teachers, parents, and volunteers, they provide entrepreneurship or literary training for the various co-operatives. “At the end of the training, approved co-operatives with viable business plan, are put up on the community finance platform in our website for crowd funding. One can donate through the website or our mobile app available for download in Google Play Store. All transactions are encrypted so that card information cannot be obtained by

anyone on the internet. Our project is online and paperless therefore a very environmentally friendly social enterprise,” said the team.

The group of students known as SIEFED (Students Involved in Funding and Enabling Economic Development) are creating awareness and inviting people, governments, donor agencies etc support their business by donating to help people with disability so they can meet their target income by the end of the year 2023.

Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship

SAGE is an educational program initiated at the California State University Chico USA in 2002) that currently operate in all the continents of the world. The SAGE mission is to help create the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders whose innovations and social enterprises address the major unmet needs of our global community. SAGE program engages young people in a hands-on learning process on how to create wealth, help others and their communities.

FRANCE

NEW PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE INSTITUTE



After five weeks, the Formation Program for International and Intercultural Communities ended. The Program started in Manziána (02/06/2023) and ended at the Hermitage (05/07/2023). Brothers and lay people of 7 different nationalities (11 participants and 2 coordinators – Brother Valdicer Fachi and Rosa Schiaffino), from 4 different continents, of different ages, men and women who share the desire to live their vocation in the service of the most needy in the different projects of the Institute, participated in the Program. Undoubtedly, the Program helped each participant to discern motivations for international and intercultural life and mission, to value cultural diversity and to understand the personal challenges of intercultural life. It also contributed to the development of competencies, skills and a spirituality marked by an intercultural environment.

At the end of the Program, during the final celebration on July 5, Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, on behalf of Brother Superior General, Ernesto Sánchez, sent the new members of the Lavalla200> Communities and confirmed the others for their continued participation in one of the Institute's International and Intercultural Projects.

- Laura Patricia de la Maza Borja and Márcio Sampaio de Paula, both from the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, were

sent to the Lavalla200> Community of Tabatinga.

- With the approval of the General Council, the Lavalla200> Community of Malawi will open in the second half of 2023. Brother Dieudonné Byenda (PACE) and Maggie Gundo (Province of Southern Africa) were sent to this community. Brother Frédéric Nadji Ngarsandje (Province of West Africa) and Liz Igoy (Province of East Asia) will also be part of the community.
- Zana Yazbeck (Lebanese) and Helen Chagoma (Province of Southern Africa) were sent as volunteers to the Fratelli Libano Project. Brother Guillermo Moreno, FSC, will also continue his mission in Fratelli Lebanon.
- For the Fratelli Maicao Project in Colombia, Brother Julio Huerta from the Province of Compostela, was sent to continue the mission.
- The continuity of Brother Maurice Paul Razanandro, from the Province of Madagascar, was confirmed for the Hermitage Community.
- Neimir Paulo Mentges and Fabieli Storch, from Brazil, will continue their mission in Mindelheim (Germany).

We wish all the participants a happy return to their places of origin and that they may contribute to the development of life and mission in the places to which they have been sent, thus contributing to the realization of Champagnat's dream: "all the Dioceses of the World enter into our plans".

MEXICO

MISSION ASSEMBLY IN THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL MEXICO

The Marists of the Province of México Central met from June 21 to 24 in the city of Querétaro to hold the Provincial Assembly of Mission and outline the future of the mission co-responsibly.

172 delegates, including students, teachers, parents, administrative and service personnel, directors, brothers, counselors, and members of the provincial teams represented the voices of thousands of Marists united through common reflection and dialogue.



Starting from an analysis of the national and international context in different spheres: political, economic, social and cultural, the Marists recognized the current strengths of the Marist mission in the province, and also the areas of opportunity to subsequently outline the desired future. This great provincial dream includes realities such as:

1. An inclusive education that views difference as wealth; based on listening, dialogue, participation, respect and care, which generates community.
2. Critical reflection, awareness of local and global reality. And the experience of values from organized action for the care of people and the common home.
3. Youth leadership and transforming solidarity as the axis of educational processes.
4. The construction of affective and effective communication.

5. The practice of the SDGs.
6. Listening to all communities to resolve problems among all.
7. Bring to life the Marist transversal axes: spirituality, transformative solidarity, participation and leadership of children and youth, inclusion, care for the common home.

Likewise, a proposal was made to invite society in general to:

- Make a team working in community, and actively cooperating.
- Be vanguard.
- Contribute from everyday life and small actions.

As a province, it has been confirmed the option to favor intentional spaces for listening and dialogue that allow co-responsibility in the Marist mission. After this beautiful experience of Pentecost, it is time to systematize the shared ideas, return the fruits of this experience to the local assemblies, and propose consistent paths towards the expressed dream in each provincial reality.

MADAGASCAR

CHILD SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTION TRAINING IN MARIST SCHOOLS

To raise awareness and train educational actors in the rights of the child, a series of training sessions on the safeguarding and protection of children has been organized since the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year by the Marist Brothers in Madagascar. The beneficiaries of the formation are 660 educators and teachers from different schools, Marist and non-Marist, in several regions of the country. The last two sessions took place from June 24 to 30, 2023 in Antsiranana and Antsirabe.

The training aims to strengthen the capacities and skills of participants on the principles and issues of children's rights, such as non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to health, to education, protection, etc. Through interactive and participatory activities, participants learned to identify situations



of risk or violation of children's rights, to adopt attitudes and practices respectful of these rights, and to put in place preventive and alert when necessary. The training will thus contribute to creating an educational environment more favorable to the integral development of the child.

GENERAL HOUSE

ANTICIPATION BUILDS FOR THE MARIST SYMPOSIUM

The inaugural Marist Symposium, to be held in Rome later this year, is shaping up to be an important event for Marists from around the world. Chair of the Planning Committee, Br Michael Green, told Marist News that interest in the Symposium is very high, with between 90 and 100 people expected to gather at the General House during the first week of December 2023: "They will be hearing from 18 different speakers who will come from a range of academic disciplines and a wide experience of the Marist world," said Br Michael.

"Among them are people with expertise in Marist history, Marist spirituality, Marist education and mission, as well as in leadership, animation and formation."

Br Michael explained that the first purpose of the Symposium is for Marist scholars, writers and leaders to meet one another, and to have the opportunity to share their research and experience with one another. During each of the five days, there will be several presentations and time for discussion and mutual enrichment. The Symposium will take the form of a typical academic or professional conference.

The event is being organised by the International Commission for Marist Spiritual Patrimony which held its annual in-person meeting in Rome during the third week of June. During the week, detailed preparations for the Symposium were progressed.

Br Michael advises that the formal registration process will begin in the coming days. Letters will be sent to Provincials and Marist leaders to seek their nominations for participants, and then these people will be contacted individually by the Symposium organisers.

"We are hoping for a broad range of Marist people to come," said Brother Michael. "The Symposium is certainly not only for



researchers and writers, but for anyone who has responsibilities in leading and animating Marist life and mission, or for the formation of people in Marist spirituality."

One group that the Commission is especially keen to see attend are younger people who may become the Marist thinkers and scholars of the future.

"It is so important that we nurture the next generation people who will be able to serve the Marist world through their research, their ideas, and their writing. For any movement to keep its vitality, its integrity and its relevance, it needs to maintain its scholarship and to develop fresh insights and discourse," Br Michael said.

The Commission hopes that this Symposium, and others to be held in the future, will help to strengthen international, intercultural and intergenerational networks, all with the aim of enhancing Marist life and mission in today's world.

The Marist Symposium, with the title "Sources and Streams", will be held at the General House between 3 and 8 December. For further information, contact Br Ángel Medina: amedina@fms.it.



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