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MARIST NEWS

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

AFRICA REGION

MEETING OF FORMATORS AND VOCATION ANIMATORS

From July 6 to 12, about 40 Brothers from the 5 Provinces of the Africa Region gathered for a meeting of formators and vocation promoters in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was organized by the African Formation Commission and the Secretariat of Brothers Today. Some Provincials of the Region were present, together with Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor, and Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, Directors of the Secretariat of Brothers Today.

"It is time to build Marist life together, in diversity and coordination, respecting differences, but walking together as a Region. And it is time to be bold in taking care of vocations, in renewing

the itineraries and in responding to the present needs", affirmed Br. Óscar. "Let us commit ourselves to a renewed formation for the growth of Marist life in Africa, using courageous means to generate the abundant life that Jesus challenged us to promote and share", added the General Councilor link with the Africa Region.

The meeting was an intense time of reflection, dialogue and fruitful discernment. The first three days were dedicated to getting to know and share the reality and face the challenge of "Caring for Marist life" in Africa. Then, the next three days were oriented to "Generating new Marist life". A privileged instrument for this



general administration

- Brothers Óscar, General Councilor, and Valdicer, Director of Cmi, together with other members of the Fratelli Council, are visiting the Fratelli Project in Lebanon, until Friday.
- From Sunday until next Monday, Brother Goyo Linacero, assistant to the General Econome, together with Brother Libardo Garzón, will be in Canada following the management of the Bedford Fund.
- The team that is working in the revision of the document In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat will be in Rome from

July 20-24. It includes Brothers Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and Ben Consigli, General Councilor.

- Having finished last week the meeting with the formators and vocation animators of Africa in Nairobi, during this week Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, directors of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, are visiting some formation communities on the continent. Brother Lindley is in Mozambique visiting the novitiate in Matola, while Brother Ángel is in Kumasi visiting the novitiate and postulancy in Ghana.

deepening was the meetings by formative stages (Vocations, Postulancy, Novitiate, Post-novitiate) and also the meetings by Provinces.

The previous meeting of this type had been held in July 2017, and now is the time for a serious reflection and renewal of the formative processes that the Marist reality of Africa needs today and for the future.

The group has concluded that it is time to build Marist life together, in diversity and coordination, respecting the differences, but walking as a Region. And it is time to be daring in caring for vocations, in renewing the itineraries and in responding to the needs of the people of Africa.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- **NETWORK.** To get to know and establish connections among the brothers in the vocation and formation ministries in the region.
- **PRIMACY OF VOCATIONS MINISTRY.** To re-affirm the value and importance of Vocations Ministry in the Institute and in the Church today.
- **GLOBAL FAMILY.** To acquire a global perspective, especially

in vocation and formation, and to reinforce the sense of global family.

- **CARING FOR MARIST LIFE.** To recognize that the ministries of vocation animation and formation begin with oneself, in the care of one's vocation, and in the care of the vocation of our companion Marists (Brothers and lay) and of young people whom we accompany.
- **CONTINUITY.** To build on the initiatives that are already in place on the region, such as the Formation Colloquium of 2017 and the Regional Assembly in February 2023.
- **MAKING VOCATION ANIMATION AND FORMATION PROCESSES RELEVANT.** To gain a deeper insight into the realities of young people in Africa today for us to adapt well our approaches in vocations promotion and formation.
- **COLLECTIVE WISDOM.** To listen to and learn from the experiences of our scholastics.
- **CONCRETE APPLICATIONS.** To share the vocation ministry and formation plans of each administrative unit, and/or encourage one another to develop and/or strengthen them.
- **JOURNEYING AS A REGION.** To explore the way for the African Formation Commission to develop a vision of Formation and Vocation Animation for the region.

[Photos in Facebook](#)

BRASIL

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMÉRICA SUR

On July 10-12, the Regional Committee of América Sur met in Porto Alegre, Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia. It is made up of two people from each of the five Administrative Units that make up the Region, together with the coordinating Provincial, Brother Deivis Alexandre Fischer, of the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, and the Executive Secretary, Leonardo Soares. The general objective of the meeting was to strengthen the Marist way in the Region. In particular, the following topics were discussed:

- the internal regulations of the Region
- the alignment of the last regional assembly with the council and the statutes of the Region.
- the construction of the Region's strategic plan based on the five strategic objectives of the Region.
- articulation with the General Administration.

Some of the priorities highlighted are: spirituality, vocation



animation, solidarity, initial and ongoing formation and youth ministry.

Br. Goyo Linacero, assistant to the General Economy and Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration, also attended the meeting.

SYRIA

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE BLUE MARISTS IN ALEPPO

Syria, already devastated by war and the economic hardship resulting from it and the international sanctions imposed, was hardly hit by a terrible 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 6 February at 04:17 local time.

According to the latest UNICEF report published in March 2022, 6.5 million children are living in vulnerable conditions, including more than 3 million who are displaced.



The economic situation of families is extremely vulnerable: more than 90 per cent of the Syrian population lives in poverty, with about 85 per cent of displaced families forced into debt. In fact, the average price of the food basket increased by 97 per cent from December 2020 to December 2021, leaving 12 million people (54 per cent of the population) severely food insecure. 20% of Syrian children under the age of 5 are chronically or acutely malnourished.

The worsening living conditions particularly affect children. 1 out of every 3 families report that their children show signs of psychological distress and 17% of displaced families in Syria have one or more children out of the school system, making a total of approximately 2.45 million Syrian children (40% are girls) who do not go to school. Among the causes, there is also a major shortage of facilities: 1 in every 3 schools in the territory cannot be used because they have been destroyed, damaged, house displaced families or are used for military purposes.

To cope with these difficulties, the Blue Marist centre in Aleppo, thanks to a network of 155 volunteers, Christians and Muslims, works daily to support the Syrian population.

The work of the volunteers has never stopped, even after the difficulties that arose during the earthquake. On the contrary, their work increased, day after day.

Marist Foundation for International Solidarity – ‘Earthquake Syria’ campaign

In June, two staff members of the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) travelled to Aleppo and had the opportunity to monitor several projects funded through the ‘Earthquake Syria’ campaign. The campaign was launched on February 7th, 2023 to support the mission in Aleppo in this emergency time. To date, 365,369.09€ have been collected from a total of 533 donors.

The fundraising campaign aimed to respond quickly to the initial phase of the earthquake and the following state of humanitarian emergency through targeted interventions, including:

- Distribution of 5,194 food parcels
- Distribution of powdered milk to children under 11 years of age and special infant formula for infants under 1 year of age
- Distribution of 48,596 hot meals to people displaced by the earthquake and who found shelter in the centre during the first emergency phase
- Psycho-social support to people in a vulnerable condition who had been living in a war-torn country for years before the earthquake, with special attention to children
- Distribution of clothing, diapers, blankets.

Having overcome the initial post-emergency phase, the Blue Marists have fully resumed all their activities, and to date, all programs have fully restarted.

FRANCE

EUROPEAN RETREAT FOR BROTHERS AT NOTRE-DAME DE L'HERMITAGE

The Brothers Today Team of the Europe Region convoked a European Retreat for Brothers at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, July 5-10, 2023. 17 brothers from Spain, Italy, and Portugal came to the "waters of the Gier".

The theme of the reflection and prayer was centered on these three topics: consecration to God, in the company of the brothers, for the mission. The meeting was animated by brothers

Michel Morel, Eladio Gallego, Rafael Ferreira, and Maurice Goutagny. Brother Benito Arbués accompanied the group during the tour of the exhibition and the various significant areas of the house. At the end of the tour, he reminded us that Marcellin is no longer here, he has risen from the dead; In these places, only his footprints remain, he awaits us in the places where the Marist mission is being carried out.

As a tree planted along the streams of living waters of grace, which hinted at the sonorous flow of the Gier, during these short days we have known God's love for us and have believed in Him (1Jn 4,16) and, together, we have walked in the faith that leads us to our God.

We went on a pilgrimage to La Valla where we visited the rooms of the house accompanied by the brothers of the community who live in this privileged place of the Institute and gathered around the fraternity table. Jesus, the reason for our lives is the Lord and his Spirit gives to all, we sing with Kairoi, the musical group that knew how to embody our spirituality in their songs. We went to the hermitage of La Pitié where Champagnat used to go on pilgrimage when vocations were scarce. The pilgrims also prayed: Touch the hearts of young people, Mother, so that they will respond to God's call. The day concluded in the parish church of La Valla.

On Saturday, July 8, we lived in a desert atmosphere around the Hermitage as we watched Marcellin gather the brothers



for his retreat and create a true community. Nuestra vocación de hermano la vivimos en comunidad. The reflection process was completed with an eye on the mission: We have been called and consecrated by God and for Him in a community of brothers and in fidelity to the mission as priests, prophets, and kings. Three dimensions of the mission were deepened: Christ's mission in me, Christ's mission to me, and Christ's mission with me. The mass was celebrated in the large church with Champagnat and many faithful who gathered to accompany the brothers of the Hermitage community.

On Monday, July 10, the group made a pilgrimage to Ro-sey where Marcellin spent his childhood and discovered his vocational call. Here again today, a spiritual pathway is opening up for the hearts of Marists that will lead us to occupy the first three places that Champagnat desired for his Little Brothers. Today, a spiritual pathway is opening up for the hearts of Marists, leading us to occupy the first three places that Champagnat desired for his Little Brothers (RV 10, 11, 25).

Next to Champagnat's reliquary, with a heart full of joy, the religious vows were renewed with the firm decision to follow Jesus faithful to the evangelical counsels. And we left happily for our homes with our hearts full of gratitude to God and to the brothers who organized the event, accompanied us during the event, and welcomed us at the Hermitage.

Br. AMEstaún

COMPOSTELA

Between July 10 and 16, a group of 35 brothers and lay people made a few days of retreat with Fr. Fidel Aizpurúa, Capuchin. This retreat helped the participants to reflect on the culture of vocations from emblematic biblical characters and their spirituality, deepening their understanding of Christian spirituality and the following of Jesus, as well as the Marist charism.

REGION AMÉRICA SUR

Brothers Guillermo Rivera, from Santa María de los Andes, Pablo Rifarachi, from Cruz del Sur, and Danilson Maia and Clebio Pereira, from Brasil Centro-Norte, shared a significant formative and fraternal experience in Argentina, which is vital for the delineation of common paths for the Region. The meeting, which took place between July 1 and 9, had two parts, one in Buenos Aires and the other in Rosario.

STAR OF THE SEA

Next Saturday and Sunday, two online meetings of the Brothers of the Province are planned. The purpose of the meeting is to inform, connect the Brothers of the 11 countries that make up the Province and build a sense of community and fraternity. The central themes will be synodality and the Provincial Code of Conduct.

AFRICA CENTRE EAST

Last Sunday, the Marist community of Nyakato, Mwanza, Tanzania, celebrated the perpetual profession of Brother Kalumo David. On the same occasion, Brother Placide Uwiragiye made his first religious profession in the Institute and Brothers Constantine, Titus, Ignace and Jean renewed their religious vows. It was also a time to celebrate the Marist vocation of Brother Malisaba Straton, who celebrates 50 years of religious life.

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

PUCPR PARTICIPATES IN THE ORGANIZATION OF A CONGRESS ON COMPACT ON EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS



Reflexiones en tiempos de crisis: democracia, sociedad y naturaleza desde la perspectiva de los DDHH.



Held entirely online, the International Congress on Compact on Education and Human Rights took place on June 29 and 30, 2023 and had as its theme 'Reflections in times of crisis: democracy, society and nature'. The initiative was organized by the Silva Henríquez Catholic University (Chile), the University of Notre Dame (USA) and the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (Brazil), three institutions that make up the scientific committee of the Global Compact on Education with the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

The main objective of the Congress was to promote the sharing of knowledge and academic experiences on Human Rights, but also to revive among researchers and institutions what had been advocated in the Apostolic Constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*: "Every Catholic University, as a university, is an academic community which, in a rigorous and critical fashion, assists in the protection and advancement of human dignity and of a cultural heritage through research, teaching and various services offered to the local, national and international communities" (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, 12). In fact, the

theme of dignity and human rights emerges as one of the five pillars that underpin the idea of university from the perspective of the Global Education Pact.

The event had 300 registrants and 76 communications from Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Colombia, Spain and Italy. In the program, the thematic axes included 1) People-based education with a focus on human rights; 2) Youth, politics and society; 3) Gender, intersectionality and violence: studies and/or experiences on the impact of gender-based violence; 4) Indigenous peoples, environment and climate crisis and 5) Human rights and memory.

Initially conceived by three universities from different countries, the event became even more diverse and dynamic by bringing together people from many other institutions and nationalities.

At the end of the event, the creation of an international network of researchers in Education and Human Rights was announced, with the aim of ensuring permanent dialog on the subject and promoting cooperation between people and institutions. More than 30 signatories are already part of the initiative.

PHILIPPINES

MARIST EDUCATORS' CONGRESS 2023



The Marist Education Council (MEC) of Philippines, Province East Asia, held the 2023 Marist Educators' Congress on June 29-July 1, 2023 in Santos City, Philippines. This congress, which carried the theme, "Marist Identity in Education: Agent of Goodness for the World," was a gathering of Marist educational institutions in the Philippines. It was participated by Marist educators and guests and invited personalities from different sectors.

The first day was the opening of the congress and beginning of highbrow speeches. The morning session commenced with a Eucharistic Celebration which was then followed by the program proper, where delegates from different Marist institutions were welcomed, Marist symbols were presented, and esteemed personalities both from Marist and non-Marist communities took the stage to deliver their special messages. On the spotlight was the video-recorded special message from Br. Ernesto Sanchez Barba, Superior General. His message centered on encouraging Marists to be more committed in carrying out the mission of St. Marcellin in the Philippines, to the needy in particular, and on challenging Marists to look for ways to move forward and become more relevant to the ever-changing times.

The afternoon of Day 1 session featured a keynote speech that delved on the congress's core topic, Marists as Agents of

Goodness for the World, and the two TED Talks, one focused on Marist Identity, and another, Awareness of Marist Identities. Program Proper was formally closed with an Evening Prayer. Day 1 of the congress was made lovelier with the Marist Magical Night, where participants donned their formal or smart clothes, showed their glamour, socialized with fellow Marists, enjoyed gastronomic feast, and danced their hearts out in the beat of "Kulturang Marista".

Day 2 of the congress, which also started with a Eucharistic Celebration, centered on providing more-up-to-date information about Marist-related programs and activities and engaging in vibrant well-packaged talks. In the morning, updated information about the programs and services of the Notre Dame Educational Association, Inc. was presented. This was followed by a talk on Journeying as One Marist Community, which shed light on the foundations of Marist community and essential elements to maintain the Marist as Community. This talk, furthermore, elucidated that the Marist Community in a journey is composed of tireless searchers for meaning, has preference for the poor children and the young, are known as bearers of hope, and are radical in taking actions to the concerns of our common home. This talk was then followed by engaging conversations where participants shared about journeying together as Marist Community. The morning session culminated with a presentation on the year-long celebra- >>

marist world

COLOMBIA: VISIT OF BR. ERNESTO, SUPERIOR GENERAL TO THE COMMUNITY OF MAICAO



LEBANON: FRATELLI COUNCIL VISITS THE FRATELLI PROJECT IN LEBANON



BRAZIL: MARIST FORMATIVE COMMUNITY AT COLÉGIO PARANAENSE, CURITIBA



THAILAND: MARIST CENTRE FOR MIGRANTS, SAMUT SAKHON



MOZAMBIQUE: NOVICES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA PROVINCE, IN MATOLA



GUATEMALA: FIRST PROFESSION OF BR. GERSON ALEXANDER POOC ASIG

tion of the Marist Presence in the Philippines, which was then followed by a Marist prayer.

In the afternoon of Day 2, four brilliant lectures jam-packed with research-based ideas, education-related issues, environmental-relevant concerns, and youth-related information were served. The plenary talk on UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focused on those that are relevant to education, namely SGD 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth), SGD 9 (Advocacy, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SGD 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). This talk foregrounded that SDGs are relevant policy framework that can be used as a reference for institution-policy formation. The next talk spotlighted the Challenges of Quality Education. Informed by the PISA 2018 Test Results, this talk uncovered the place of the Philippines in terms of literacy. It outlined specific challenges to the quality of education in the Philippines and offered suggestions to alleviate the problems these challenges may cause. Moving on, what followed was a tripartite talk on Challenges of Climate Action. Presentations and discussions focused on a wealth of ideas about what climate change is, what the challenges are, and how the school may take part in the work to lessen, if not arrest environmental crises. The

talk on Issues Affecting Young People completed the roll of talks for the second day of the congress. It emphasized the importance of understanding the youth or students based on their unique sociological and cultural context rather than what western studies revealed. As various challenges have been confronting the youth of today, this talk ended with a challenge and hope for Catholic Schools to be Spaces for New Evangelization. The afternoon session of Day 2 ended with an evening prayer.

The Day 3, which began with a Marist prayer, served as a wrap-up of the three-day congress. On this day, the Congress Statement was presented to the participants to solicit comments and suggestions for refinement. The over-all synthesis and closing message were also delivered. This day culminated with a Eucharistic Celebration, a thanksgiving for a very fruitful three-day Marist Educators' Congress. Overall, the Marist Educators' Congress provided an enriching experience for all participants, fostered meaningful discussions on Marist identity, and shared innovative ideas on improving Marist educational landscapes. The event indeed served as driving force of Marist goodness for a brighter and more promising world!

PERU

CENTENARY OF THE SAN LUIS DE BARRANCO SCHOOL OF LIMA



The Marists of Peru, of the Province of Santa María de los Andes, are celebrating this year the centenary of the San Luis School in Barranco, Lima. The work was founded thirteen years after the arrival of the first Marist Brothers in Peru, in 1923.

Br. Pablo González Franco, the Provincial of Santa María de los Andes, the brothers and Marist leaders of the Peru sector, the members of the Marist Animation Community of the country, the directors of the Marist works, some civil authorities of the district of Barranco, the entire educational community of the San Luis school, representatives of parents, former students, and teachers were present for the celebration of the central day, June 21.

The Eucharistic Mass took place at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, presided by Monsignor Juan José Salaverry, auxiliary bishop of Lima, and concelebrated by the school chaplain, Father César Núñez, a Marist priest, and three priests who are former students of the school.

From Rome, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, also joined in the celebration. And through a video message, he greeted and congratulated all the Marists of the Province of Santa María

de los Andes and the Peru sector for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Marist School San Luis de Barranco. The Superior General also greeted the school's principal, management team, teachers, students, and parents. "This celebration is a beautiful occasion to thank so many people who have dedicated themselves to the service of education in these one hundred years, from the founding to the present day. I believe that they have been able to move forward with commitment and dedication, even in difficult times. Along with gratitude for celebrating 100 years. I think it is a great opportunity to look at and evaluate how the dream of Saint Marcellin Champagnat is being lived today in this school and other schools in the country and the province. We also thank Mary, our Good Mother, for her closeness and accompaniment throughout these one hundred years. Congratulations, we are together with you throughout this celebration"

In his speech, Br. Pablo González Franco, Provincial of Santa María de los Andes, highlighted the praiseworthy work of the San Luis School over the years and remarked that "plans to educate children and youth are long-term plans, for 100 years. And that in this centenary where we have remembered the history of the school with its people and works, mainly the grati-



tude for what we have lived, the 100 fruitful years that precede us, but above all the commitment to build a future because we are heirs of a dream and protagonists of a new beginning ..."

The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a protocol ceremony with artistic performances, a shared poem, dances, a choir, and an orchestra. The event concluded with a cake and the singing of the birthday song, animated by the school's youngest students.

On the occasion of its 100th anniversary, the educational community of Colegio San Luis de Barranco (directors, collaborators, students, parents' representatives, alumni, and former teachers) began the central feast on June 21 – the feast of St. Luis Gonzaga – but plans to celebrate it throughout 2023.

San Luis Marista College

The planning of the foundation began on December 26, 1922, when Br. Luis, a member of the first Marist community in Peru, from Callao, Peru, decided to found the community, and

writes a letter to the Archbishop of Lima stating that "he has received the order to initiate the necessary steps to obtain the authorization to open a school of first and second education in Barranco". Three days later, the Vicar General, Sanchez Diaz, responded positively to the request, initiating the project.

Among the promoters of the construction of the San Luis school were Brothers Gedeón, Froilán María, and Emilio Valentín, three distinguished Marists from Saint Joseph's College in the district of Callao, who arrived in Barranco on February 6, 1923, to receive the keys from Mrs. Pazos Varela of the first building located at 132 Ermita Street.

The work of these brothers was mainly preparatory, considering that the three founding brothers of the school arrived from Chile at the beginning of March 1923. They were Brothers Plácido Luis and Bruno Andrés, who took over as director and assistant director, respectively, followed by Brother Enrique Luis. The first students began their studies on March 12, 1923.

Fotos en Facebook

MARIST YOUTH IN PORTUGAL

Into the Deep is the motto that the young people have chosen for the 2023 meeting of about 230 young people linked to the 4 branches of the Marist Family. The meeting, as is tradition, takes place on the eve of World Youth Day and welcomes representatives of the Marist Youth Ministry of the congregations of Marist Sisters (SM and SMSM), Marist Fathers (SM) and Marist Brothers (FMS).

"We want it to be a space that helps us to care for life, to nourish it," said Brother José Sánchez Bravo, director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization. He continued: "We want to do our part so that there are more young people who follow Jesus like Mary; more young people who are bearers of the Good News of God's unconditional love manifested in the life of Jesus and his community."

The young people will be welcomed by the Marist family of Portugal at the Marist College of Carcavelos. On the last day of the International Marist Youth Meeting, the Marist Festival will take place at the Marist Externato in Lisbon. Also invited to this final meeting are other Marist young people who will participate in WYD alone, about 750 young people from all over the world. "We are looking forward to meeting, welcoming and accompanying the participants on this pilgrimage experience", said Brother Rui Pires, from the team organizing the meeting. He added: "We are preparing everything so that those who arrive will feel at home".

The Marist Institute, through the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, will take advantage of the occasion, on July 31, to launch the Marist Youth Ministry Network.

Along with the Superiors General of the Marist Congregations, Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Councilors Ben Consigli, Josep Maria Soteras and Óscar Martín will be present on behalf of the Marist Institute.

You can find further info in [that link](#).



GENERAL HOUSE

MARIST NOTEBOOKS 41

Issue 41 of *Marist Notebooks* was recently published. Below we reproduce the presentation made by Brothers Antonio Ramalho and André Lanfrey, of the International Commission of the Marist Patrimony, which coordinates the publication.

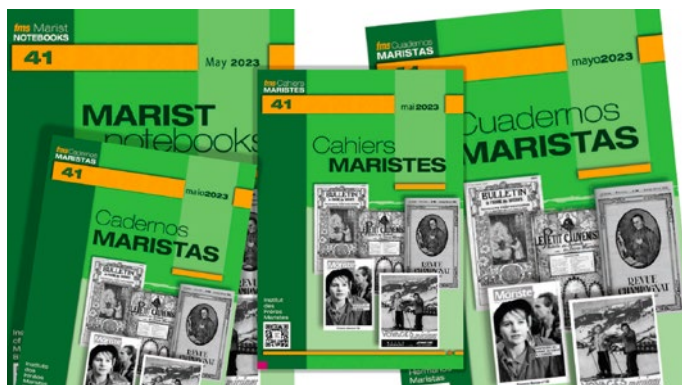
Editorial

Brother Antonio Carlos Ramalho y H. André Lanfrey

Although this is the *Year of Marist Vocations*, this issue will only indirectly evoke this topic by dealing with our Marist mission in various territories, provinces and times. In fact, many of the authors speak of the collective Marist vocation. Br. Georges Cellier reminds us that the territory of the Ardèche was a place of massive recruitment, then of sending Brothers from the Provinces of St Paul and Aubenas to the four corners of the world. Br. Gérard Cuinet evokes the golden age of the Province of Constantinople where Europe and the Middle East meet, of which the Brothers of Greece are still the heirs today. Br. Michael Green refers us to two other Marist territories born in the 19th century: Australia and Ireland. The new Andean Province mentioned by Francisco J. Flores Sánchez and Korea, founded by brothers from Mexico, remind us of a new phase of mission in the 20th century in a world that was already very different to that of the 19th.

In the Marist vocation there is not only the diversity of provinces and territories; there is also that of activities. Without having consulted each other, several authors speak to us of extracurricular activities that are too often forgotten: in particular reviews such as *Présence Mariste* in France, the distant successor to the *Bulletin de l'œuvre de jувénats* (Br. André Lanfrey) or *Stella Maris* mentioned by Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún, which published the *Circulars of the superiors* in Spanish. In such activities, there is a whole area which deserves to be more appreciated and explored. Also worthy of greater attention are works at the forefront of art, science and pedagogy, such as the herbarium preserved in Pamplona, presented to us by Brother Victor Pastor.

For once, there are a limited number of articles on our origins and on important personalities in *this issue*. But we believe that they are being discussed from a relatively original angle. Thus, the article on the legal recognition of the Institute presents



the founder as a political-religious personality, an angle from which we are not used to considering him. The letter of Brother François to the director of the school in Breteuil near Paris (Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún) is composed of high spirituality and realism. Is it not a good example of what we would call today prophetic and servant leadership?

A new feature, to conclude. Since *issue 40* of *Marist Notebooks* (2022), you may have noticed that we have included a technological feature called QR Code (Quick Response Code). This feature allows access to additional content: on the cover, the QR Code invites you to a quick poll about the profile of the reader and the path taken by *Marist Notebooks* around the world. We will be grateful to those who take part in this survey. At the opening of each article, the QR Code goes to a video that presents the author and his motivations.

To access this interactive content in the printed notebook, point your smartphone camera at the QR Code and click on the suggested link. For the digital version of the notebook, click on the code.

We hope you enjoy the novelty and feel motivated to interact with us.

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