



Year **XVI** - Number **790** | **26 JULY 2023**

# MARISTNEWS

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

## GENERAL HOUSE

### THE ONGOING FORMATION COURSE “LOOKING BEYOND” COMES TO AN END

On July 22, the ongoing formation course “Looking Beyond” ended in Manziana. It was 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 mission fields, according to their possibilities and age. Eighteen Brothers have participated, since June 11, accompanied by the Ongoing Formation Team of the Institute, formed by Brothers Xavi Barceló, Michael Sexton and Ataíde José de Lima.

Brother Hector Dessavre, on behalf of the participants, shares some notes on the conclusion of the course.

“The train has arrived at a station”. After 6 weeks of traveling together through our personal stories, discovering the beauty of God’s work in the life of each one of us, and sharing the joy of feeling loved and sent by Him; 18 brothers from the 5 continents of the planet, we have concluded this adventure and now new and unexpected Marist surprises await us.

Accompanied by Brothers Michael, Xavi and Ataíde, we



## general administration

■ The meeting of some members of the Commission for the Revision of the Marist Education Mission Document ended on Monday at the General House. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Ben Consigli of the General Council participated. Also present were Br. Joe McKee, Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas, John Kyle-Robinson and Amaya Espuelas Ruiz (online).

■ The International Meeting of Marist Youth, organized by the 4 branches of the Marist Family, will be held in Lisbon from Wednesday until next Monday (26-31 July). From the General Administration, the following will be present: Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Luis Carlos, Ben Consigli, Jose Maria Soteras and Óscar

Martín, from the General Council; Brothers Pepe Sánchez, Mark Omede and Carlos Alberto Rojas, from the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization; Luiz Da Rosa, from the Communications Department.

■ Next Sunday, the General Administration community will bid farewell to Br. Francis Lukong, Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity for the past 3 years. Br. Francis returns to the Province of West Africa and will be a member of the Douala community in Cameroon.

■ Br. João Carlos do Prado, General Councilor, is visiting the District of Canada until July 30.

entered into the contemplation of our persons who, chronologically, are approaching the time of the official retreat, but, in our spirit, we experienced the renewed and meaningful impulse of the Marist call and consecration that indicate to us new and important ways of carrying out the work for the Kingdom in the Marist style.

We look beyond and renew our mission as Marist Brothers, with a presence among youth, rich in wisdom, experience and grace. Our

being Marist Brothers gains depth and impetus from within; our being, beyond the quantity of our doing, is the lamp set on high that illuminates and helps others to walk their own path.

Encouraged by the profound experience of the mercy that God has had with each one of us, we want to set out, to go to “our own stations”, and to proclaim how good the Lord has been and how good he is, always.

[Photos](#)

## TANZANIA

# MARIST FEAST IN THE PROVINCE OF EAST CENTRAL AFRICA

**O**n July 16, the Marist province of PACE joyfully had a very colourful celebration with first professions, renew of vows, final profession, and a golden jubilee of Marist Life. The feast was celebrated in the Marist community of Nyakato, Mwanza, Tanzania.

Br. David Kalumoo, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, made his final profession as Marist Brother. The novice UWIRAGIYE Placide made his first profession in the Institute. Brothers Constantine Simon mayunga (Tanzania), Titus Emerikwa(Kenya), Duhirwe Jean nepomscene (Rwanda) and Ignace Mbaruramye(Rwanda) renewed their vows as Marist Brother for another period of time.

Another important moment was the testimony of Marist life of Brother Malisaba Straton (Ruanda), who celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Religious Life.

The Provincial Superior of PACE, Br. Venceslas Baindekeli Beimoyato, reminded the celebrant brothers that the fraternity life is the opportune time to learn how to become others Champagnat and therefore be ready to live his Charism.





## FRANCE

## JULY 23: ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOURVIÈRE PROMISE

On July 23, 1816, the day after their ordination, a group of young priests, full of enthusiasm, travelled to the shrine of Fourvière in Lyon, France.

At the feet of our Lady, in the small chapel, next to the current Basilica, they promised to establish the Society of Mary.

From the beginning, the first Marists conceived the Society of Mary as a large tree with different branches: priests, brothers, sisters and lay people.

The origins of the Society of Mary remind us that, as religious and laity, we come together for mission, and are called to be the Marian face of the Church through our particular way of being and building Church.

## Fourvière Pledge

23 July 1816

All for the greater glory of God and the greater honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus. We the undersigned, striving to work together for the greater glory of God and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus, assert and declare our sincere intention and firm will of consecrating ourselves at the first opportunity to founding the pious congregation of Mary-ists. That is why by the present act and our signatures, in so far as we can, we irrevocably dedicate ourselves and all our goods to the Society of the blessed Virgin.

We do this not childishly or lightly or for some human motive or the hope of material benefit, but seriously, maturely, having taken advice, having weighed everything before God, solely for the greater Glory of God and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus.

We pledge ourselves to accept all sufferings, trials, inconveniences, and if needs be, torture, because we can do all things in Christ Jesus who strengthens us and to whom we hereby promise fidelity in the bosom of our holy mother the Roman Catholic Church, cleaving with all our strength to its supreme head the Roman Pontiff and to our most reverend bishop, the ordinary, that we may be good ministers of Jesus Christ, nourished by the words of faith and by the wholesome teaching which by his grace we have received. We trust that under the reign of our most Christian king, the friend of peace and religion, this institute will shortly come to light and we solemnly promise that we shall spend ourselves and all we have in saving souls in every way under the very august name of the Virgin Mary and with her help.

And may the holy and immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary be praised.

Amen





## BRAZIL

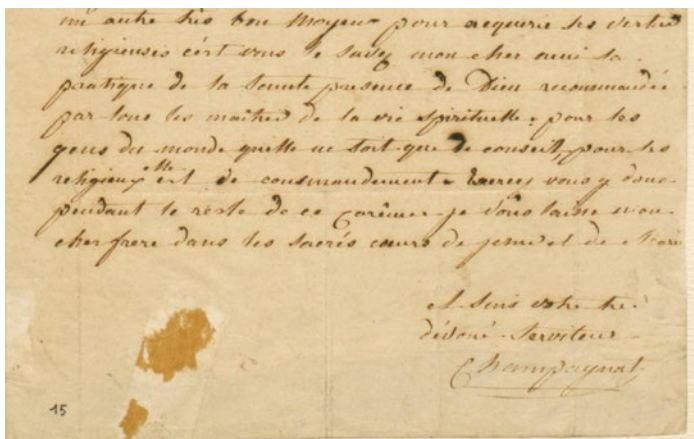
## STUDY SESSIONS ON ST. MARCELLIN'S MANUSCRIPTS

The Province of Brazil Centro-Sul organizes this year's second Workshop on Marist Historical and Spiritual Patrimony (PHEM), which will be held virtually on August 16 and 17, from 15:00 to 17:00 hours (Brazil time). The theme of this second meeting will be "The Founder's Manuscripts". Registration can be completed by [clicking on this link](#).

The first day of the workshop will focus on establishing a panoramic view of the manuscripts of Father Champagnat (1812-1840). The conference will be opened by Br. Patricio Pina, a researcher of the Province of Santa María de los Andes.

On the second day, Angelo Ricordi, researcher, and expert in the area of Identity, Mission, and Vocation of the Province of Brazil Centro-Sul, will present some extracts of selected texts from the manuscripts of Marcellin Champagnat, based on the theological and ecclesial context of France.

The first workshop of the year took place in April and its theme was Education for Interiority.



## PHEM Workshops

For more than 10 years, the PHEM Workshops have been a space for discussion and deepening of unpublished topics or thematic sections of the Marist Historical and Spiritual Patrimony. They broaden the understanding of the development of the Marist charism, spirituality, and mission in history, and inspire the current practices of our institution. The workshops are part of the short courses "Memorial Marista" offers.

## MEXICO

## ASSEMBLY OF MEXICO OCCIDENTAL

From July 15 to 17, in Guadalajara, an Assembly of Brothers of the Province of Mexico Occidental was held. Thirty-seven brothers gathered, including two representatives from the Haiti sector.

The topics of Mission, the role of the brother, the provincial structure and government were discussed.

The need for dialogue and freedom of expression was emphasized. It was a very pleasant and fraternal atmosphere.

Some of the important points were to explain the changes in the presence of brothers in the schools and works of the province, the role and structure of the mission council and the appointment of persons to leadership positions.



INDIA

## MARISTS CELEBRATE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY IN TRICHY



Brothers and staff of the Marcellin Trust - Operation Rainbow Project, in Trichy, and the Servite College of Education for Women, in Thogaimalai, in India, celebrated on July 16 the “Educational Development Day” at St. Marcellin Community Hall, in Trichy, Uyyakondan Thirumalai.

The event was held to commemorate the 121st birth anniversary of Kamarajar, a former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who shared the same vision as St. Marcellin Champagnat and was a staunch advocate for education of rural children and young people.

The distinguished guests included Sr. Dr. Poorana Sheela, Principal of Servite College for Women, Sr. Bernathath, Secretary, Fr. Abraham Quily, SAC., Br. Jeffrey Crowe, Br. Johnson Gnanasekar, and Mr. Johnson Sathiyanaatha, a retired teacher, who delivered the facilitation address, and Mrs. Monica as the Master of Ceremony, assisted by Miss Swathi and Abdulla.

The event began with a tribute to Kamarajar, followed by a lamp lighting ceremony and a prayer song. Students from Servite College of Education for Women, Operation Rainbow

Project, and Holy Cross College, in Trichy, showcased various cultural events such as dance and singing performances. Students also highlighted through their interventions Kamarajar’s contributions and sacrifices for the betterment of children and people in Tamil Nadu.

A highlight of the event was the distribution of study materials, school uniforms, and scholarships to children at the Rainbow Project. Students received notebooks, school bags, wrappers, stationery kits, writing pads, geometry boxes, among other items. There were also competitions for students with special prizes. The event concluded with lunch and the distribution of rations and medicines to participants.

The organizers – Brothers, Rainbow staff, and Marcellin Club members – were commended for their efforts in making the event a memorable and wonderful experience.

On his part, Br. Rajakumar Soosai thanked to the benefactors and project partners for their long-standing support and extending solidarity to children in most need”.

Operation Rainbow



## MADAGASCAR

# INTERNATIONAL PROJECT HELPS TRAIN EDUCATORS IN 7 MARIST SCHOOLS

In Madagascar, due to the lack of means of transport, animators cannot travel to reach the schools. As a result, the group of educators and teachers of the Marist Schools do not receive training. This affects the chances of children and young people to receive a better education. The problem of lack of training among educators and teachers has been solved thanks to the purchasing of a vehicle that will allow animators to visit all schools despite the distance and carry out the annual calendar of activities and training. Thanks to the training received by the educators, Marist Schools students could benefit from a better education. Educators need pedagogical and educational support to be able to supervise children in a better way and to provide them with quality education. The distance among Schools is great and most of the roads in Madagascar are in bad conditions.

Improving educational mission and providing pedagogical assistance

For this reason, FMSI, thanks to the support of the Marist Brothers' General Administration, the Maristen Solidarität International e.V. and the MIVA Austria, has implemented the Project "Improving educational mission and providing pedagogical assistance to the teachers and students of seven Marist Schools in Madagascar by acquiring a transport vehicle". Project's goal is to facilitate the mobility of animators to visit Marist schools in order to train educators and teachers on quality education. For educators who have been in the school for more than five years, teaching methods have changed and they need further training. Project's direct beneficiaries are educators and teachers of the Marist schools in Madagascar. Indirect beneficiaries are 10.130 students. The design of the training program has been based on the demands of schools that have already involved educators. The implementation of the project took into account the expectations of participants in training. Animators have to travel to visit the 7 schools; for this reason, the mean of transport has been fundamental for the implementation of the project. Improving education is a way to fight poverty, especially in a Country like Madagascar. Animators worked with other organizations that are involved in the field of education. Marist Schools in Madagascar work with the Ministry of Education through CISCO and DREN (Organization of educational fo-



llow-ups by the government) and with the National Directorate of Catholic Education (DINEC) and Diocesan Directorate of Catholic Education.

Project is contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal No. 4, "access to quality education", with a special focus on Target 4.c "By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States". Teachers are the key to achieving all the SDG 4 targets because the equity gap in education is exacerbated by the shortage and uneven distribution of professionally trained teachers, especially in areas in disadvantaged conditions.

The use of the car for educational purpose has solved some challenges that the Team had in the past:

geographical distance, the schools are now unified in a single network, that is to say a certain uniformity must be applied in teaching practices;  
the lack of training among educators and teachers will be resolved;

Thanks to the support received by the Donors, the impact of the project will be great in term of the quality of education for the 10.130 children in the Marist schools. The Marist Brothers have implemented the activities related to educational training in the schools and the project will contribute to the promotion of the Mission of the Marist Brothers in the Country.



## marist world

MEXICO: ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST BROTHERS OF THE PROVINCE OF MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL



ITALY: SUMMER CAMP IN THE CIAO – LAVAL-LA200> SIRACUSA



PHILIPPINES: MARIST LAY FORMATION FACILITATORS' TRAINING



UNITED STATES: FIRST PROFESSION OF BROTHERS ROBERT DITTUS AND RYAN RICHTER IN ESOPUS



AUSTRALIA: MARISTS GATHERED IN MITTAGONG



SPAIN: RETREAT OF THE BROTHERS OF THE IBERICA PROVINCE IN EL ESCORIAL

**THE INTO DEEP**

**PORTUGAL 26-31/07/2023**

**#INTOTHEDEEP #MARISTFAMILY #YWD23**

## NIGERIA

## BR. MARK OKOLO OMEDE APPOINTED AS PROVINCIAL

In a letter dated July 15, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, informed the Brothers in Nigeria that General Council has decided to appoint Br. Mark Okolo Omede as Provincial of Nigeria for a first mandate of three years. Br. Mark will begin his mandate at the Provincial Chapter that will be celebrated from 9 to 13 January 2024.

In the same letter, Br. Ernesto expressed his gratitude and that of the General Council to Br. Vincent Uchenna ABADOM for the service he has offered to the Institute as Provincial during the last 6 years: "thank you, Vincent, for all your efforts in accompanying the Province, caring for life and mission with devotedness and good organization. Thank you also for your commitment at the Regional level in Africa, serving as the coordinator of CSAC during the last two years."

**Brother Mark Okolo Omede**

Br. Mark was born in 1973, in Agala Ateh, Kogi State in Nigeria. He made his first profession as a Marist Brother in 1998. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Education degree in Religious Studies and Geography from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Bachelor of education in Missiology from the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome, a Master of Education degree in Educational Administration and Planning, and a Ph.D in Educational Administration and Planning. Over the years, he has served as a secondary school teacher, Director of Religious Education and Catechesis, Dean of student affairs, Principal of schools and the first Registrar of the Marist Polytechnic in Enugu, Nigeria. He has served his Province as chairman of Marist Schools Management Board, a Provincial councilor, and a member of Marist Tertiary Institution Commission. He has also served as a President of the Religious men and Women association in



Idah Diocese in Kogi State, Nigeria. In 2017, He was appointed as the assistant Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization of the Institute, in Rome.

Back to his Province in the beginning of 2023, he is now assisting the coordination of the Schools in the Province of Nigeria.

**Institute of the Marist Brothers General House**

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