



Year **XIV** - Number **791** | **4 AUGUST 2023**

MARISTNEWS

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

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

LAUNCHING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF MYM

On July 31, during the Marist Festival, on the eve of World Youth Day, the International Network of Marist Youth Ministry was launched in Lisbon. "With the International Network of MYM, we want to foster synergy and promote the interaction of all those involved, providing a broad vision of Marist life and mission through a common project. This is being part of a Global Charismatic Family", said Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General.

The network is the fruit of a process of several decades. Recently a commission, led by the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, worked for this launch, the first stage of a process that will continue towards the implementation of guidelines and lines of action. The team that worked on the construction of this network was formed by representatives of various Administrative Units. The final team was formed by: Brother José Sánchez Bravo (Brother Pepe, Director of >>



general administration

■ Brother Niño Pizarro, from the Philippines, has just arrived in the community. of the General Administration. He will work with Brother José Sánchez, Pepe, as the new Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization.

■ At the beginning of the Week, various members of the General Council and of the General Administration

participated in the Lisbon Marist Festival, which brought together about a thousand young Marists. Brother Ernesto, Superior General, and Brother Pepe also participate in the World Youth Day activities, until August 6.

■ Since Saturday, Br. Valdicer Fachi, director of the CMI Department, has been visiting the LaValla200> community in Tabatinga, Brazil.

the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization), Br. Daniel Martín (America Central), Diogo Luiz Santana (Brazil Centro-Sul), Br. Euclides Nangolo (Southern Africa), Fernando Ocana Rus (Mediterránea), Laura Alejandra Miño Perez Santa María de los Andes), Miguel Fernandes Ribeiro (Brazil Centro-Sul), Omar Iván Chacón Meza (Mexico Central), Wilter C. Friaes (East Asia).

The event held in Lisbon, broadcast live to the whole Institute, was held in the context of the International Gathering of Marist Youth, Into the Deep. The moments of animation and speeches were moderated by young people from the European MYM team and Brother Pepe opened the event: "that our Marist youth can continue to be connected, no matter where they are. This is our dream". Representing the General Government of the Institute were Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and the General Councilors, Ben Consigli, Josep Maria Soteras and Óscar Martín.



Brother Ernesto began by introducing the Superiors General of the Marist Family who were present at the meeting. He then recalled his youth, when he participated in Guadalajara, Mexico, in the MYM, which

helped him to connect better with God, with others, with himself and with solidarity. He concluded by hoping that this network will help everyone to connect with so many young people throughout the world in the inspiration that



St. Marcellin Champagnat had from Mary. Brother Luis Carlos, for his part, recalled that the Network was born from the request of the General Chapter to build a Marist world in a global way. Finally, Brother Ben motivated the young people by saying "You are the future". And he added: "We were told to look beyond, and you will help us to get there".

Also present were Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede, who until the end of last year were the directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, and who were the protagonists in initiating the process. They recalled the objectives of the Network: to form leaders who transform the world, to build bridges and to innovate in pastoral care.

Miguel Fernandes Riberio and Diogo Luiz Santana Galline, from the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, represented the commission and explained the process that took place to arrive at the international event to launch the Network.

This is the fifth pastoral network that the Institute has created in recent years. There were already the Network of Universities, Publishers, Solidarity and Schools.

INTO THE DEEP



From July 26 to 30, 230 people gathered at the Colégio Marista de Carcavelos for the [International Gathering of Marist Youth](#), with representatives of the 4 congregations of the Marist Family. Then, on the 31st, the Marist Festival took place at the Externato Marista de Lisboa, with about 1,000 young people. The next issue of Marist News will be dedicated exclusively to this event.

CAMBODIA

Students from the LaValla Village participated in the preliminary rounds of the Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities 2023. At the same time, the Village hosted students from several NGOs to assist with their participation in the competition.

PHILIPPINES

60 personnel from Notre Dame of Jolo High School Kasulutan participated in "Sharing of Marist life" from July 25 to 26. Ermida Ismael and Mary June Gonzales were the key facilitators of the event. Were also present Br. Aljon and Br. Jhong Acosta, Director of the school.

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

From the 16th to the 20th October, Champagnat Global Week will take place, a space for communication, meeting and interaction of the international Marist school community that takes place at a specific time of the year. The first edition for those who are interested in learning around what it means to form global citizens in our educational reality ([read more](#))

NORANDINA**PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY**

About 80 brothers from the 3 countries that make up the Norandina Province (Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia) met from July 1 to 9 to participate in the provincial assembly, and later in the annual spiritual retreat. Present at the assembly were Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General, and Br. Joao Carlos Do Prado, General Councillor.

During the first days, held at Casa Villa Marianella (Chinauta – Cundinamarca), Colombia, the brothers had moments of reflection and formation that helped them to strengthen co-responsibility with "provincial journey" and the Institute, as a global family.

Likewise, the brothers shared their experiences with the Superior General, and spoke about the different realities and challenges present in the Marist mission places. After the assembly, on July 5, the brothers held the Annual Spiritual Retreat, guided by Br. Juan Carlos Bolaños Viscarra, from the America Central Province, who oriented his talks around the Marist Communities that care for and welcome life.

At the conclusion of the retreat, the Eucharist of the jubilee brothers was celebrated, and they were honoured by remembering the most significant moments of their lives and their Marist journey. As part of the celebration, the jubilee brothers offered a rose to the Good Mother, in thanksgiving for being a guide in the vocation to religious life. The jubilee brothers were: Abdón Alvear Benavides – 70 years | Saturnino González Bajo – 60 years | Diego Antón Campo – 50 years | Antonio Pérez Valdeón – 50 years | Leonardo Yepes Núñez – 25 years | Carlos Saúl Corzo Uribe – 25 years | Robinson Moná Moncada – 25 years.

The celebration of the Eucharist, was presided over by Fr. Manuel Lalangui from Ecuador.



UNITED STATES

BROTHERS ROBERT DITTUS AND RYAN RICHTER
TOOK FIRST VOWS

Marist Brothers Robert Dittus and Ryan Richter professed their first vows during a ceremony held July 23 at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus, NY. They professed the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, committing themselves for one year according to the Constitutions of the Little Brothers of Mary.

“Brothers, on the day you entered the Novitiate, you received the habit of the Little Brothers of Mary, given to our first Brothers by our founder St. Marcellin. Today, you will receive cords with three knots. A symbol of your commitment to follow Christ — poor, chaste, and obedient” said Brother Daniel O’Riordan, Provincial of United States, as he accepted Robert and Ryan’s vows.

Br. Rob said “The work that the Brothers are doing is work that I find myself called to do. The Brothers have a great sense of community, not only amongst themselves, but in the larger communities they are a part of.”

Br. Ryan recalled “In the Marist communities and ministries we visited I felt immediately at home. The sense of community, mission, and passion these Brothers held was inspiring. I fell in love and I had to try it out.”

Brothers Robert Dittus and Ryan Richter

Brothers Robert and Ryan entered the Marist Brothers Postulancy in September 2020 and lived in community with Brothers in the Bronx, NY. They became Novices to the Marist Brothers on September 12, 2021, and lived



at the Marist Brothers Novitiate on the campus of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY with the late Brother Sean Sammon serving as the Master of Novices. In the fall of 2022, they moved to the Saint Barnabas Community in the Bronx, NY, where Br. Don Bisson served as Master of Novices.

This fall, Br. Robert Dittus will move to Miami, FL and teach religion at Christopher Columbus High School, and Br. Ryan Richter will move to Brownsville, TX and teach religion at Saint Joseph Academy. During the next year they will continue to discern their calls to a lifetime commitment as Marist Brothers.

The Marist Brothers in USA

Today, The Marist Brothers Province of the USA is comprised of over 130 Brothers and numerous Lay Marists who serve as educators, counselors, spiritual directors, retreat coordinators, campus ministers, social workers, youth leaders, as well as advocates for those who are marginalized in society. Marist Ministries in the United States include seven owned Marist high schools, work in several Diocesan schools, two summer camps, a retreat center, parish work, retreat work, spiritual accompaniment, work with at-risk youth, young adult ministries, hospital chaplaincy, prison ministry, as well as work within university campuses.



SUPERIOR GENERAL IN COLOMBIA

BR. ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ VISITED THE 'HEART WITHOUT BOUNDS' PROJECT IN MAICAO

Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, accompanied by brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Miguel Santos, visited "Corazón Sin Fronteras" project in Maicao, Colombia on July 7. The Marist house benefits minors, children of Venezuelan migrant families and Colombians who live in situations of poverty.

75 children and adolescents, representatives and the staff of the project welcomed the Marist Brothers with joy, in a festive atmosphere. During his visit, the Superior General interacted with everyone present, but above all the children, and he was informed about the formation

process that children receive from the first moment they participate in the 'Heart Without Borders' project.

Later, Br. Ernesto, together with 13 adolescents, who are part of the pro-

ject, toured "La Pista", the migrant settlement in Maicao, where "Heart without bounds" is located. On his way, the Superior General observed the living conditions of the families, who lack adequate housing, basic services, and lack of food.



At the end of Brother Ernesto's visit, several leaders of the settlement expressed to the representatives of Heart without bounds their needs and achievements obtained thanks to the help of the Marist project and

NGOs, which have benefited about 14,000 families, who live in the area.

The Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI) is also present in "La Pista" and develops educational and technological programs for the children and adolescents of the Maris House.

"Heart without bounds" currently has the help of international organizations such as UNHCR, Save the Children, UNICEF, War Child, OIM and World Vision. And local institutions such as the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF), University of La Guajira, National Learning Service (SENA), Santa Teresita

School, El Carmen Educational Institution, and San José Hospital.

On June 6, 2023, "Heart Without Borders" celebrated its fourth anniversary.

UNITED STATES

FIRST MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT ASSEMBLY

The Marist Brothers of the United States province held their First Marists of Champagnat Assembly in Long Branch, NJ, from July 9 to 12. The theme of the meeting was: Making Jesus known and loved. The event was attended by 44 lay people and 19 Brothers.

The main purpose of the assembly was to bring people together, from all regions of the country, to gather, share, pray

and learn. One important goal was to get feedback on how the Lay Marist Council has been operating so far. They also needed feedback on how to move into the future: structures and finances.

The keynote on Monday morning was presented by Fr. Robin Ryan, who spoke about the importan-



marist world

PORTUGAL: VISIT THE WORKS OF THE CHAMPAGNAT FOUNDATION



GENERAL HOUSE: FAREWELL TO BR. FRANCIS LUKONG



CAMBOYA: LAVALLA VILLAGE STUDENTS AT THE GLOBAL IT CHALLENGE



ECUADOR: ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT "GENERATING LIFE"



FILIPPINES SHARING OF MARIST LIFE MEETING IN ND KASULUTAN



PORTUGAL: YOUNG PEOPLE AND BROTHERS IN THE WYD IN LISBON

ce of friendship with Jesus. The keynote on Tuesday was presented by the Mission Committee of the Lay Marist Council. They invited speakers from last summer's mission trips to share their experiences. They then presented options for future service and encouraged local groups to form and continue to do service together.

The Provincial, Br. Dan O'Riordan, affirmed the work so far and acknowledged that in the past three years they have added over 120 Marists of Champagnat, thus doubling the size of the Province. For his part, Director of Lay Marists, Maureen Hagan, expressed gratitude for all that has occurred over the last three years. Br Dan and Maureen both also affirmed the hard work of the Council and the assembly committee, chaired by Matt Fallon.

The conclusion of the assembly was to continue meeting in local and regional groups to continue to find ways to connect to the mission of making Jesus known and loved. There will also be a summary sent to all Marists of Champagnat USA. Maureen Hagan will be meeting with local groups via Zoom to continue to get feedback on the issues of structure and finance.

The participants of the assembly hope to have another assembly in 2-3 years. In the meantime, they will stay connected with various opportunities for ongoing formation, online retreats, and prayers, as well as local group gatherings. After the assembly, from July 10 to 14, the provincial retreat took place in the same assembly place and with the same theme: Making Jesus known and loved.



"CORAZÓN SOLIDARIO" NETWORK MEETING OF THE COORDINATING COMMISSION

The Coordinating Commission of the Marist Inter-American "Corazón Solidario" Network met from July 3 to 6 in Buenos Aires (Province of Cruz del Sur) to exchange perspectives and views on the situation of the Network, to analyze the articulation of its activities with other organisms of the General Administration: FMSI (Marist Foundation for International Solidarity), MISN (Marist International Solidarity Network) and the Cmi department (Collaboration for Mission International).

The coordinators of the America Sur Region, Leonardo Soares, and of the Arco Norte Region, Brother Rodrigo Espinoza, were present at the face-to-face meeting. Two coordinators from the America Sur Commission (Analía Ruggeri from Argentina and Clemilson Graciano from Brazil) and



two from the Arco Norte Commission (Maryury Morales from Colombia and Enrique Escobar from Mexico) also participated.

During the working days, the participants evaluated the functioning of the regional processes, agreed on priority tasks, established axes and actions, promoted new formative paths and began to envision the

VII Meeting of the Network. Likewise, they designed a calendar in which they projected a Learning Seminar on Transformative Solidarity for 2024.

On July 6, all the participants had a community immersion experience and visited the "San Luis" School in La Plata and the "Br. Miguel Angel Isla" Community Center in the same city.

AMÉRICA CENTRAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG LEADERS



The School of Leaders 3 took place from July 12 to 19 in Guatemala, Province of Central America, under the motto "Disciples of Jesus, evangelizers among young people". The meeting brought together 62 young people from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala who are currently developing their leadership in youth ministry movements in the Ma-

rist Province of Central America.

During this formative meeting, the young people participated in various activities focused on: strengthening their pastoral leadership, learning about the Provincial Pastoral Model, listening to the testimony of other people who work with young people >>

outside the pastoral field, and making the culture of the country of origin known. And they closed with a Night of Art and Prayer.

During the development of the School for Leaders 3, the participants had the opportunity to participate in the Eucharistic celebration of the first religious profession of Brother Gerson Pooc who shared his joy of being a Marist and encouraged the young people to continue building their life project.

In addition to learning new tools, the School for Leaders 3 was a space for the different young Marists in the province to connect with each other, share their experiences and challenges, and encourage each other in their journey of service.

It is worth mentioning that a group of pastoral coordinators also participated in this meeting, who serve the mission in the Marist educational centers of the Central America Province.

GUATEMALA

FIRST RELIGIOUS PROFESSION OF BR. GERSON ALEXANDER POOC ASIG

Brother Gerson Alexander Pooc Asig, of the Province of Central America, celebrated his first religious profession on July 15 in Guatemala. The Provincial, Brother Hipólito Pérez Gómez, received the vows on behalf of Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General.

Brother Gerson, who has committed himself to being a Marist Brother, expressed his feelings at this fundamental moment in his life in this way: "Being here today makes me feel grateful. The motivations that impel me to choose this lifestyle as a Brother are: the desire to continue to know myself, to give myself in an authentic way to the construction of the Kingdom of God in community".

Br. Gerson Alexandre Pooc Asig

Brother Gerson was born on July 8, 1998 in San Luis, Guatemala. As part of his religious journey, he

participated in the youth ministry groups of his parish. Later, he came into contact with the Marist Brothers through Brother Edgardo López, who proposed him to enter the Aspirancy process in July 2017. He began personal accompaniment and had a time of community and apostolic experience in the community of Mejicanos, El Salvador, in 2018.

He entered the Postulancy at San José Formation House, Guatemala in January 2019. Gernson then entered the La Valla Interprovincial Novitiate in Medellín, Colombia, on February 2, 2021.



During the last two and a half years he has lived a process of deepening, interior growth and consolidation of his vocational option.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat