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MARIST NEWS

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ARGENTINA

CRUZ DEL SUR CONCLUDED THE SYNODAL ASSEMBLY



The Cruz del Sur province concluded on August 5 the ReConocerNos Assembly, a Synod Time that seeks to promote dialogue, listening and discernment among the Marists of the province. The assembly was held from August 3 to 5 at Villa Marista San José, in Luján, Argentina, one year after its launch in 2022.

More than 180 members of the Marist Community from different parts of the Cruz del Sur Province participated: 26 Brothers, 5 Lay Communities, 62 Leadership Teams, 10 students, 15 young Marists, 42 members of the Provincial Animation and 21 Frequent Participants.

During the synodal assembly, the Marists unanimously lived the charism of Champagnat that brought them together.

They were three intense days, whose vibration will continue to accompany them until the pending phase of analysis is concluded, and the voting on the lines of action that the Assembly will envisage and will guide the path for the next few years.

In a fraternal atmosphere and active exchange of ideas, the Marist meeting fostered among its members a singular experience as a vital community, a community of communities in the Church. A time of joyful presence, of dialogues and different perspectives. Also, a time of longing, repairing gestures, hope and committed and inclusive participation.

The process began in 2022, with a time of broad and profound listening, animated by the Spirit in all areas of the province.

general administration

■ August represents the central period of summer vacation in Italy. Activities in the General Administration are reduced, and brothers and collaborators take time off or take the opportunity for language courses. Among the members of the General Council team, Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, and Br. Luis Daniel, Secretary General, are currently in Rome.

■ Br. Niño Mayor Pizarro, who is the new Assistant Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, joined

the General Administration team at the beginning of August. He is native of the Philippines and belongs to the East Asia Province.

■ Brother Óscar, General Councilor, together with Brother Valdicer, Director of Cmi, and the members of the Fratelli Council, will visit the community of Project Fratelli in Maicao, Colombia, until Thursday. Afterwards, Andrea Rossi, Director of FMSI will visit the Marist projects in that same locality.

15 DE AGOSTO

PATRONAL FEAST OF THE INSTITUTE

The Church celebrates the feast of the Assumption of Mary on 15 August. This day is also the patronal feast of the Institute. For Marcellin Champagnat, Mary, the Good Mother, was his constant inspiration. And he wanted his holy ministry to begin on the feast of the Assumption.

In the book *Life of Father Champagnat*, we read that Marcellin Champagnat “faithful to his resolution of always going to Jesus through Mary, on leaving the seminary after ordination, he made his way to Fourvières in order to consecrate his ministry to the Blessed Virgin; and each time that business took him to Lyon, he visited the shrine of Fourvières to renew that offering and that consecration, at Mary’s feet.

When he was appointed curate of La Valla, he went there on a Saturday and wanted his holy ministry

to begin on the feast of the Assumption so that Mary might bless its first fruits and herself present them to her divine Son. That is the way he acted all his life, offering and entrusting to Mary all his plans and works, and he would begin them only after prolonged prayer for her blessing. Every day, during his visits to the Blessed Sacrament he would go and pay homage to the Blessed Virgin. Yet that wasn’t enough to satisfy his piety. In his own room, he erected a small altar on which he placed her statue. There, at all hours of the day, he sent up fervent prayers to her, and often remained long hours prostrate at her feet.”

The Constitutions of the Institute recommend who “We celebrate Marial feast days in the spirit of the liturgy, in particular the Assumption, the patronal feast of the Institute” (50.3).

In his *Spiritual Testament*, Saint Marcellin recommends “that a tender and filial love for our Good Mother never fail you in all the changes of time and circumstance. Proclaim her love in every place, as far as lies in your power. She is the first Superior of the whole Society.”

Particularly in Brazil, this day has great importance for Marist Life and Mission, as it is celebrated as “Day of the Marist”.



GENERAL HOUSE

RESTORATION OF THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS OF THE MAIN CHAPEL

The Main Chapel of the General House is well known in the Marist world, since with its dome and cross on top, it is an important monument that recalls the Marist mission, focused on making known Christ's love for humanity. The General House complex was inaugurated in 1961, the same year that the artist Giovanni D'Aloisio, who died in 2016, made the stained-glass windows of the dome, and the cross on the door at the entrance of the chapel, made of bronze. The stained-glass windows of the dome, with Marian symbols on an abstract background, favour the colour blue and evoke the invocations of the Lauretan Litanies. After 60 years of its installation, the stained-glass windows showed evidence of significant deterioration. The glasses were bent on the inside, and the oxidized lead, used as a moulding, did not guarantee safety, and caused some fragments of the material to fall. In addition, the stained-glass windows had no external protection, and they



were exposed to weather conditions that caused the accumulation of dirt, both outside and inside.

The General Administration contacted Samuele Pulcini, the Italian artist living in Saint Etienne, France, to assess the situation and carry out the restoration. The work was carried out in 4 phases for each group of stained-glass windows: panel reconstruction; cleaning of the fragments and replacement

of damaged glasses; assembly of glasses in new lead frames; and placement of the new structure, installation of protective glasses and restored stained glass windows.

Samuele Pulcini is originally from Albano Laziale and trained in the art studio of Domus DEI Rome". He learned from different masters the art of fire-painted stained glass, the "Dallas glass" technique, working with fiberglass and the realization of mosaics. In 2012, together with his wife and six children, he was sent by Pope Benedict XVI to a mission in the diocese of Saint Etienne, in France, where he currently lives and works in his own workshop, carrying out new works and restoring everything. the world.

COSTA RICA

BONDING OF LAYPEOPLE TO THE MARIST CHARISM IN AMERICA CENTRAL

A group of eight lay Marists from the Costa Rica sector, from Central America Province, celebrated their bonding to the Marist charism on July 23, anniversary of the *Fourvière Promise*. Accompanied by the Marist Brothers of the Sector and their families, the Marists publicly expressed their "Yes" to live Champagnat's charism. The Provincial, Br. Hipólito Pérez, welcomed the lay-people and invited them to continue to generate Marist life.

The faces of this Marist renaissance in Costa Rica are Marcela Patricia Fonseca Garita, Ana Lucrecia Madrigal Segura, Patricia Salas Sánchez, Wendy Bolaños Zamora, Daniel Arrieta Álvarez, Olivia Janeth Zeledón Rodríguez, Lynnette Venegas Ávila y Ana Isabel Saborío Jenkins.

During the celebration, the laity committed themselves to caring for and spreading the Marist charism, a path of life marked by



simplicity, humility, and love for education.

During the celebration, the eight lay people also mentioned their gratitude to all the Marists, Brothers and lay people, who accompanied them on their vocational journey, strengthening their faith and their commitment.

It is important to note that after the first bonding of laypeople from Guatemala, this group from Costa Rica is the second to take this step in the America Central Province.

INDIA

THE MARIST BROTHERS' PROJECT IN WEST BENGAL

Improving the education of Santali girls and boys through study centers and promoting gender equality



The state of West Bengal, India, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and diverse communities. However, the region faces numerous socio-economic challenges, particularly among marginalized communities like the Santal minority. Historically reliant on hunting for sustenance, the Santals have been compelled to turn to agriculture due to the ever-increasing population and dwindling resources. As agricultural labourers, they earn less than \$3 a day, leaving them vulnerable to social exclusion and poverty. Unemployment among the Santal youth has been rising, leading to an alarming rise in drug and alcohol addiction. Moreover, access to quality education remains a significant concern for the Santals, as illiteracy rates are high, especially among women and those living in remote and economically vulnerable villages.

Recognizing these struggles, the Marist Brothers of India are embarking on a mission to address these challenges by

launching these itinerant classes project. This visionary project seeks to promote human development through education, with a specific focus on empowering students with fundamental skills in reading, writing, English, Mathematics, and Bengali classes. Additionally, the project strives to equip the youth with essential skills that will enable them to pursue self-employment opportunities or secure positions in both private and government sectors.

Educational opportunities to remote areas

The main goal of the Marist Brothers' Project is to extend educational opportunities to remote areas where access to formal institutions is limited or non-existent. By providing itinerant classes in these communities, the project ensures that the benefits of education reach every corner of the region. Furthermore, the project is committed to eradicating all forms of discrimination based on caste, tribe, gender, or

social status. Emphasizing inclusivity, the Marist Brothers strive to uplift communities in vulnerable conditions and foster a sense of unity and acceptance among the students. The project also emphasizes the cultivation of leadership skills among students. By involving them in various classes and activities, encouraging active participation in local and regional institutions and nurturing social and political awareness. Not less important, through education, the project empowers the youth, particularly those in vulnerable conditions, by providing them with avenues for personal and economic growth, equipping them with the tools they need to shape a positive future.

The Marist Brothers' Project will have a profound impact on the lives of the Santal students and the communities they serve. By bringing education to their doorsteps, the project will increase enrollment and retention rates for Santal children in schools. Through the acquisition of essential skills and knowledge, the students are better prepared to overcome the challenges posed by poverty and social exclusion. Moreover, the project's emphasis on inclusivity and equality has fostered a sense of pride and belonging among the Santal students. By valuing their

cultural heritage and recognizing their potential, the project will instill a strong sense of self-esteem and determination among the students.

Beacon of hope

The Marist Brothers' Project is a beacon of hope for the Santal minority in West Bengal. By providing educational opportunities and promoting inclusivity, equality, and leadership skills, the project has become a catalyst for positive change. Through its transformative approach, it aims to empower the youth and enable them to create a better future for themselves and their communities. As the project continues to make a lasting and positive impact, it sets a shining example of how education can be a powerful tool in breaking the cycle of poverty and transforming lives.

Support from FMSI

The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI), an ONG of the General Administration, supports this project, which, through its transformative approach, aims to empower the youth and enable them to create a better future for themselves and their communities.

marist world

THAILAND: MARIST CENTRE FOR MIGRANTS, SAMUT SAKHON



BRAZIL: RETREAT OF THE CMMF IN BRASILIA



SAMOA: MARIST BROTHERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



CHILE: PRESENTATION OF SOCIAL PROJECTS OF COLEGIO MARISTA, SANTIAGO



ITALY: BROTHERS OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION RECEIVE PILGRIMS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA



KIRIBATI: MARIST STUDENTS FROM ST LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL

MEXICO

15TH EDITION OF THE DIPLOMA IN YOUTH MINISTRY

The Marist Province of México Central held the 15th edition of the Diploma in Youth Ministry in Querétaro, from July 17 to 21. The course is a training space that brings together young people interested in following the calls to accompany children, adolescent, and young people. One hundred and nine agents of Youth Ministry participated in this edition of the Diploma, which impart teaching modules on Pastoral Planning, Accompaniment, Creativity, Christology, Youth Realities, Spirituality, Human Development and Marist Pedagogy. The formation seeks to promote evangelizers among children and youth and consolidate the Marist Youth Ministry as a privileged place to dream, where all Children, Adolescents and Youth (CAY) can develop their ideals, hopes and projects. The Marist Youth Ministry of the México Central province

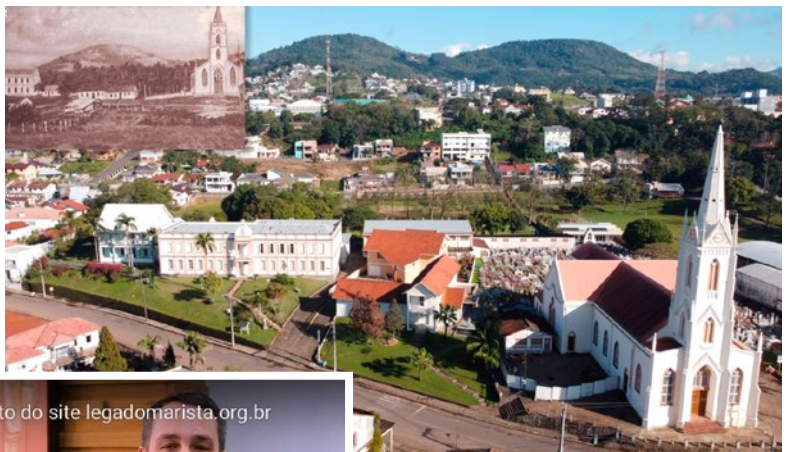


thanked all those who attended and continue to bet on the Youth Ministry: Let us continue to be evangelizers among young people. May our Good Mother guide us with tenderness towards the construction of the Kingdom of God inspired by the values that Jesus teaches us every day. We invite you to continue training and updating to comprehensively accompany children and youth!

BRAZIL

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY AND MEMORY OF THE PROVINCE OF BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

On August 2, the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia launched the website www.legadomarista.org.br, a digital space of the Marist Spirituality and Memory Center (CEMM). The launch coincided with the anniversary of the arrival of the Marist Brothers in southern Brazil, August 2, 1900. The three young French brothers arrived in Bom Princípio, the seat of the CEMM, after a 30-day journey from France. They were Brothers Weibert, Marie Berthaire and Jean Dominici. They responded to the call of Bishop Claudio Ponce de Leon, whose objective was to qualify education in the region, with the installation of a Catholic School. The Memory Center, which seeks to look at the past with gratitude, is now enriched by this digital instrument, an institutional repository that seeks to contribute to the promotion of the charism and the strengthening of the institutional identity, bringing together books, publications, Marist songs, letters of



Champagnat, formative itineraries, among other aids, in addition to presenting the main actions of the Memory Center.

In the video below, you can see, in Portuguese, the message of Brother

Devis Fischer, Provincial of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, on the occasion of the launching of the site.

BRAZIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

BONDING OF LAYPEOPLE TO THE MARIST CHARISM IN THE FRATERNITIES OF THE CMMF IN BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

The lay men and women of the Marist Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia are experiencing a very important moment in their vocational journey. Since the beginning of this year, the members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (CMMF) have been carrying out the Bonding to the Marist charism.

According to the guidelines of the Movement, the desire to be linked to the Marist charism is a personal process of accompanied discernment, which does not mean that the person has a link with the Marist institution. "It is a free and joyful expression. It fosters and strengthens the sense of family and community. The link is to the charism and does not mean legal belonging" (Guidelines of the CMMF, Annex 5). During the first semester of 2023, three Fraternities of the State of Rio Grande do Sul have already made the Marist charismatic attachment. They are: Santa Cruz Fraternity (Santa Cruz do Sul), Brother Rovílio Fraternity (Santa Maria) and Family of Mary Fraternity (Porto Alegre).

For Adelmo Etges, of the Fraternity Family of Mary, among the reasons that led him to bonding to the Marist charism is the desire to live the Marist values in their fullness, having Mary, the Good Mother, and Saint Marcellin Champagnat as models and inspiration. "Among the feelings that have sprung from

this moment are belonging, witness and the joy of participating in a great family that shares values and principles based on the Christian faith and the Church", he evaluates.

Likewise, Everson Belous, of the Fraternity of Brother



Rovilio, recalls that his Marist journey, which began in childhood, brought him closer to the Marist charism which is an inexhaustible source of motivation and inspiration. "As I connected with the charism, I felt a strong connection with shared values and principles. The feeling of belonging to something greater and the commitment to spread these teachings by acting on them in my daily life has strengthened immensely. This feeling is like a flame that warms the heart and drives the search to be more human every day", he explains.

During the next semester, other Fraternities and Lay Marists will also carry out Bonding to the Marist charism.

In Brazil there are 64 fraternities of the Champagnat Movement: 33 in the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, 23 in the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte and 28 in the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul.

III MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY 2024

MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF MIMA III

A meeting was held last August 10 by the Preparatory Commission of the III Marist International Mission Assembly 2024 (MIMA III) that will be held from 8th to 14th April 2024 in El Escorial (Spain) under the theme “We are Global Family”.

The Commission’s meeting was facilitated by Br. José Sánchez Bravo, the director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization and attended by the members of the commission including Br. Niño Pizarro, Assistant Director of the secretariat.

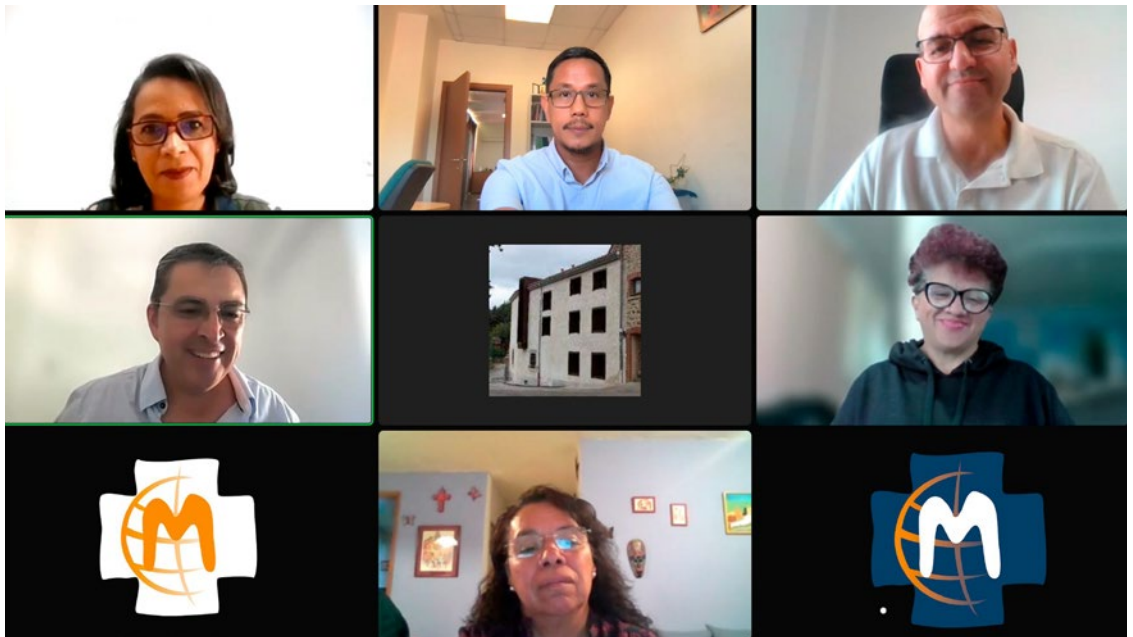
Part of the important things in the agenda that were discussed were the following:

- The review of the written logistics and resources pertaining to the whole preparation of the MIMA III as well as going through who are the responsible persons assigned to each task in the logistics.
- The presentation of the plans of the Ad hoc communication team on how to disseminate or communicate to all Marists of Champagnat in the world the content of the processes and methodology about the upcoming MIMA III. Part of the goals of the team is to create an atmosphere wherein every Marist of Champagnat becomes

aware and actively involved in the whole process of MIMA III. The information will be mainly provided by the Institute’s site and through social media accounts using the hashtag #MIMA24.

- The review of the logo that bears with the theme “We are a global family”.

The members of the Preparatory Commission are: Brothers 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).

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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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