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MARIST NEWS

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MEXICO

THE TWELFTH EDITION OF FORMARME



More than 30 lay people from 17 Marist works in Central and Western Mexico participated in the twelfth Marist formation for lay people “FORMARME”, which took place from July 31 to August 13, 2023, at the Nazareth House

of Prayer, Jesús María, San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

Luis Felipe González, Provincial of México Central, and 8 members of the “Base Community” team coordinated by Br. >>

general administration

■ Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, is in Mexico with his family after the death of his brother Carlos Sanchez Barba last Friday.

■ From Saturday to Wednesday, Br. Angel Diego, Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, visited the educational centers of New Zealand. He will then be in Vanuatu to visit the Marist works until 27 August.

■ On Monday, the meeting of the International Commission that is reworking the Institute's new Training Guide began. The commission is composed of brothers João Carlos do

Prado and Óscar Martín (General Council); Ángel Medina, Lindley Sonosa, and Ataíde de Lima (General Administration); César Rojas (Norandina), Fabien Bulaimu (PACE), Pere Ferre (L'Hermitage), Graham Neist (Star of the Sea) and Paco García (MDA). The commission will meet until September 2.

■ Next Saturday the team preparing next year's course for trainers will meet online. The team is formed by the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley, and Brothers Juan Castro, Michel Razafimandimby, and César Rojas.

Roberto Carrillo Garcia and Prof. Dulce María Carreón Gamiño. The meeting was also attended by the Marist Brothers from the community of San Luis, as well as by Br. Carlos Martínez Lavin (speaker), Br. Enrique Escobar (speaker from the Province of México Occidental), Br. Rodrigo Espinosa (México Central) and Brother Sergio Gutiérrez.

Formarme is an initiative of México Central, destined to lay people of the different Marist works; and it includes members of México Occidental. This life experience is in line with the call of the XXII General Chapter, which calls for the formation of a Marist charismatic family between Brothers and Laity.

Br. Luis Felipe encouraged those present to have a wonderful experience, thanked the organizing team for their work, and

expressed his hope to have more committed lay Marists, who feel co-responsible for the Marist mission and generating new life through personal witness.

FORMARME group 12 had moments of prayer, reflection, study of Father Champagnat's biography, analysis of his letters, Marist pedagogy, spirituality, and the Founder's charism. This experience constitutes a solid formation activity for lay people who are willing to follow a vocational discernment process and develop a joint formation process assumed as a life experience, which responds to the challenges of our world.

Throughout its 11 previous editions, this Marist formation has had more than 400 Lay Marists and Marist Brothers who have lived this experience.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BROTHER JULIANDERSON ANDRÉ RAMOS DA SILVA

Br. Julianderson André Ramos da Silva, of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, made his perpetual religious profession in the Marist Institute on August 13, 2023. On that day, the Church celebrated the liturgical memorial of Santa Dulce de los Pobres, for whom Br. Julianderson has a special admiration.

The Eucharistic celebration took place in the chapel of the Colégio Marista Nossa Senhora de Nazaré, in Belém, where the Marist Brothers have been present for 120 years.

Encouraged by the biblical verse "Wash one another's feet" (John 13:14), Br. Julianderson André, accompanied by his family and friends, supported by his brothers, gave his definitive yes to God, in the Marist family: Here I am, Lord,

to serve with joy and to build with hope!

Br. José de Assis Elias de Brito, Provincial, received the vows in the name of the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sanchez.



GENERAL HOUSE

21 AUGUST: COMMEMORATION AND TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

"Thucydides remains ever relevant. And even more so for those of us who dedicate ourselves in one way or another to human conflicts." (El mal de Corcira, Lorenzo Silva).

Injustice is a concept that we have fully absorbed into our way of understanding life and, also, our Marist mission. It is a concept that we work on in our schools. A concept that, we try to combat and eliminate from our societies, mainly through education. Moreover, we know that injustice has many faces and that is why we speak of this term in the plural.

One of the great injustices and one of the greatest scourges of the various societies where we Marists of Champagnat are present is terrorism. Violent and criminal acts that seek to instil fear in society, sometimes 'justified' as having a political purpose. Terrorism implies suffering, fear, violence, death. Terrorism undermines the rights and freedoms of citizens.

In the same vein, Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, points out that terrorism has become entrenched in our societies, and is sometimes linked to religion (283). In the same document, he proposes that we all act for the common good, as Christians, as Marists: "each of us is called to be a peacemaker, by uniting and not dividing... by opening paths to dialogue" (284). A primary element to which we are called, then, is dialogue, to practice it and to teach it, to pass it on and to live it, personally and in community, with our children and young people and with our families. Let us remember the call of the XXII General Chapter to be bridge-builders.

There is a second element that has to become part of every day life, often even at great effort. We are referring to forgiveness. We know that forgiveness is a distinctive element of Christianity, which Jesus invites us to practise up to "70 times 7" times, as we are reminded in the inspiring text of Matthew (Mt 18:21-35). The first two verses (21 and 22) are explicit, in the face of Peter's direct question to Jesus. The second part of the text recounts a parable that reminds us of real-life situations



"I always wanted to understand why and how an entire society had fallen hostage to such a nightmare. As often happens in such cases, the path was the pursuit of a dream, ill-conceived, ill-planned and unscrupulously served".

El mal de Corcira, Lorenzo Silva

and how, in such situations, we need to be attentive and ready to forgive. Given the significance of forgiveness, it is not surprising to note that the Pope devotes a chapter of *Fratelli Tutti* to forgiveness, to help us better understand its "value and meaning" (236-245).

The United Nations, on the occasion of the "International Day of Commemoration and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism", invites us not to forget those who have suffered the consequences of this injustice, to take their side and the side of those who suffer most in our societies. As educators, we can do this mainly

through education in our schools. Unfortunately, there are many children and young people who have suffered some kind of senseless violence (even if violence never makes sense).

We end this reflection with the words of Pope Francis, this time in *Laudato Si* (213), to remind us of our role as educators in society. The Pope speaks to us about learning in the family context, which we can extend to our educational works. Teaching to say "thank you", and to "apologise": these are "gestures of sincere courtesy that help to build a culture of shared life and respect for what surrounds us".

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola
Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity

SOLOMON ISLANDS

FINAL PROFESSION OF BROTHERS HUDSON HOROTO AND RAPHAEL FAKAIA IN HONIARA

Last 15 August, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patronal Feast of the Institute, Brothers Hudson Horoto and Raphael Fakaia of the Province Star of the Sea, made their final profession as Marist Brothers in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Here down we share the text written by Br. Peter Carroll, Provincial, who receive their vows in name of Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General.



This year our patronal feast-day, the Assumption, was celebrated in a unique and memorable way in the Solomon Islands. There, on Tuesday at St Joseph's High School, Tenaru, Brothers Hudson and Raphael, professed their perpetual vows.

This wasn't a private, quiet, simple event. It took place in front of all the students and staff of the College, local people, family, friends, other Religious and Marist Brothers from across the Province. Special guests of honour were Raphael's aged parents, who travelled over 12 hours from Malaita. The spirits of Hudson's deceased parents were surely with us. Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP was celebrant and represented the broader Church of the Solomon Islands. In all, at least 1,000 people participated in the celebration, and it was indeed a real, vibrant, rich celebration.

The event combined the traditional elements of a final profession liturgy with contemporary music and cultural elements. As you'd expect, the singing and music was beautiful. Hudson himself prepared the students and conducted the practices. It was communal singing at its best, accompanied by dance, processions and pan-pipers. One of the high points was the Responsorial Psalm, the normal one for the Assumption, which was put to music by the singer, a Year 10 girl.

Archbishop Cardone knows the Marists well, having been in the Solomon Islands for 37 years, and his homily reflected this. He spoke positively about our tradition and mission and was most encouraging. Hudson and Raphael started the Mass in traditional costume and, after the pronouncement of their vows, changed into the habit, soutane and cord to receive the symbol of their final vows, the traditional pectoral crucifix. One of the most moving parts of the event came near the end, when Raphael's father presented the 'bride price' in shell money to me. As the eldest, Raphael should be taking on responsibility for the family. The 'bride price' should be paid to the family of his future bride. In presenting me with the 'bride price' Raphael's father symbolically released him from this cultural responsibility and blessed us as his family. I could tell by the reaction of the congregation that they fully appreciated the significance of this act.

Naturally, the celebration didn't conclude with the Mass. Speeches, presentations, refreshments, performances, kai-kai (feast) continued into the late afternoon.

Brothers gathered at Tenaru from across the Province: John Hazelman from Auckland, Anitelea Fidow from Lome-ri, Dominic Tsibuen and Mark Kenatsi from Mabiri, Rodney



Pauru from Madang, Jean Marie Batick from Santo, Simon Serero and Sixtus Winduo from Port Moresby. Francis Marai and Paul Burges from the Bursar's Office were also present as the celebration coincided with a meeting of Community Leaders and Bursars. We joined the local Brothers – Henry, Hudson, Epalle



and Raphael. It was the biggest gathering of Melanesian Brothers since before Covid.

All of us are very grateful to Mr Abraham Hihiru, Principal of St Joseph's, for suspending school for the day, supporting the gathering, making all the facilities of the school available, and offering us such a warm welcome. We also appreciated the generosity and hospitality of the students, staff and local people.

Hudson and Raphael's final profession was a powerful statement, an extraordinary witness, a vibrant symbol of hope and faith. In this way, it was a most fitting celebration of Mary's Assumption.

Br. Peter Carroll – Provincial Star of the Sea

marist world

INDIA: MARY'S ASSUMPTION FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



MEXICO: CENTRAL MEXICO PROVINCE PILGRIMAGE



SYRIA: PSYCHOLOGICAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM IN THE BLUE MARISTES IN ALEPPO



BOLIVIA: MARIST EDUCATORS RETREAT



MEXICO: UNIVERSIDAD MARISTA DE GUADALAJARA



COLOMBIA: SART MEETING NORANDINA PROVINCE

PHILIPPINES

FINAL PROFESSION OF BROTHERS ALJON YONDER AND CYRIL SUMUGAT

With the theme, “Do whatever He tells you” (John 2:5), Br. Aljon I Yonder and Br. Cyril M. Sumugat of the East Asia Province professed their vows perpetually at Notre Dame of Marbel University-Main Campus, Koronadal City, South Cotabato, Philippines, the 12th August.

Attended by their respective family members and Marists of Champagnat from the different mission areas of the brothers in the Philippines, the celebration served as a moment to thank God for the gift of vocation to the Religious Marist Brothers’ way

of life.

Reverend Bishop Charlie Inzon, OMI, of the Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo, presided over the Eucharistic Celebration.

Brothers Aljon and Cyril spent their years as temporary professed brothers on the island of Jolo where they ministered to our Moslem brothers and sisters.

You can read below the message of Br. Allan de Castro, Provincial Superior of Marist East Asia, delivered during the celebration.



On behalf of Marist Brothers of the Schools – East Asia Province – Philippine Sector, it is my joy and privilege to warmly welcome so many of you here, our Marists of Champagnat, on this very special occasion of Br. Aljon I. Yonder and Br. Cyril Sumugat’s Profession of Perpetual Vows. To Aljon and Cyril, we greatly appreciate the presence of your parents, siblings, and your family relatives who are with us today for this celebration.

All of you here have become part of Aljon and Cyril’s vocational journey. Your presence fills us with overflowing joy, gratitude and happiness.

Pope Francis during the celebration of the 59th World Day of Prayer for Vocations with the theme, “Called to Build the Human Family,” said, “Vocation is about making God’s dream come true.” He encourages every person in the Church to give the very best of themselves in this great divine plan!”

May our gathering be a reminder that we are in God’s heart, and as Christians, we do not only receive our vocation INDIVIDUALLY, we are also called TOGETHER. Pope Francis said vocation is “about making God’s dream come true, the great vision of fraternity that Jesus cherished when He prayed to the Father ‘that they may all be one’.”

Fraternal welcome to our Most Reverend Bishop Charlie M. Inzon, OMI – Apostolic Vicar of Jolo Vicariate, our main presider of the Eucharistic Celebration. Bishop, in your own simple ways, thank you for accompanying Brothers Aljon and Cyril during their ministry years in Jolo as temporary professed brothers. Again, we do not receive our vocation INDIVIDUALLY; we are also called TOGETHER. You have walked with us, walked with Aljon and Cyril, through the ups and downs, joys and sorrows of every day.

Your presence with us today not only makes us very happy, but you are also an essential part of our Marist vocation!

MADAGASCAR

31 brothers gathered at the Mahatmana Center in Antsirabe from August 6 to 12 for a provincial retreat on how to live as a true religious person.

SOUTH ASIA

Br. Chamara Hettiarachchi guided a program for 28 young boys and girls aged between 11 to 14 of the St. Nicholas' College of Munnakkare, a fishing hamlet in the famous Negombo Lagoon. The participants encountered an opportunity which paved the way for their future as perfect leaders firstly to the school and thereafter to the larger society.

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

In Recanto Marista do Lami, starting in September, the "Champagnat Photovoltaic Plant" will receive students interested in learning how a solar power plant works. In addition to providing a space for teaching and research activities, the plant will contribute to the environmental and economic sustainability of the Marist mission.

STAR OF THE SEA

Br. Paul Creevey defended and graduated with his Doctorate of Sacred Theology at Catholic University Leuven. Paul's Ph.D. dissertation is entitled: "Who Do You Say I Am" (Jn 20:15): A Literary-Historical-Theological Reading of John 19:38-20:29". Br Paul was awarded a Summa cum laude for the defence component of his dissertation.

VIETNAM

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BROTHERS PETER NGUYEN VIET BAO AND JOSEPH NGUYEN VAN TRI



En the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, 15 August 2023, and the Patronal Feast of the Institute, the Marist Brothers in Vietnam commemorated the second occasion of Perpetual Profession among Vietnamese Brothers. During this significant event, Brothers Peter Nguyen Viet Bao and Joseph Nguyen Van Tri formally undertook their perpetual vows. Br. Canisio, Superior of the Marist District of Asia, received their profession in the name of Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General.

The ceremony was honorable by the presence of Reverend Pierre Nguyen van Tot, the former nuncio in Sri Lanka, who presided over the Eucharistic Celebration. Notably, the Bishop and the Brothers share a longstanding connection back to their Novitiate days in Sri Lanka. In attendance, the families and relatives of the brothers assisted their support to the occasion, there were approximately 250 witnesses who were there to testify to this commitment.

Within this ceremony, an additional three Brothers chose to renew their temporal vows.

It is with profound joy that the Marist District of Asia embraces the abundant graces given upon them by the Lord through the dedication of these newly professed Perpetual Brothers.

Photos in FaceBook

GLOBAL MARIST FAMILY FUND FOR HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

THE EMERGENCY FUND PROJECT FOR THE MARIST SCHOOL OF ANT SIRANANA

In January 2023, Madagascar was hit by a powerful cyclone named Cheneso, causing widespread damage and casualties. The National Bureau of Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC) reported at least 33 deaths and 20 missing as well as considerable damage to infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods.

Among the victims of this disaster was the Marist school of Antsirananana, located at the extreme north of the island. The school suffered from severe damage to its buildings, equipment and materials, affecting its capacity to provide quality education to its 2,300 students. The school is renowned throughout the northern region of Madagascar for its academic performance and excellence. It attracts families from different religions in the region who want to enroll their children in a reputable institution.

To help the Marist school of Antsirananana recover from the damage caused by the cyclone, an Emergency Fund Project from the General House was sent to assist the Saint Joseph School. The project aimed to repair and rebuild the damaged facilities, to replace and replenish the lost equipment and materials, and to support the teachers and staff in their recovery efforts. The project also sought to ensure the safety and well-being of the students by repairing the damage.

Thanks to the support of the Emergency Fund Project, the Marist school of Antsirananana was able to resume its normal operations and continue its mission of providing quality education to its students. Despite the major challenges and disruptions caused by the cyclone, the school achieved remarkable results in the national exams this year 2022-2023: 100% success rate in CEPE (Certificate of Elementary Primary Studies), 95% in BEPC (Certificate of Studies of the First Cycle of Secondary Education)



and 99% in BACC. The success rate in national examinations in public primary and secondary schools throughout Madagascar is 70% and 45% respectively. The Marist school Saint Joseph plays an important role in educating children in this region faced with many socio-economic challenges, especially juvenile delinquency. The project had a significant impact on the lives of the students who benefited from such an emergency fund, which contributed to promoting quality education in the mission of the Marist Brothers in the region.

Global Marist Family Fund for Humanitarian Emergencies

This Fund was approved by the General Council in June 2020 to respond to emerging humanitarian needs in the Marist world. Through this project, the General Administration is answering to the call of the of the XXII General Chapter by asking Marists of Champagnat:

- to grow in solidarity awareness as a Global Family, and
- to be involved in humanitarian projects, by means of fundraising for humanitarian emergencies of our time for basic needs including food, potable water, health/sanitation, and shelter.



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