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MARISTNEWS

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LET JUSTICE AND PEACE FLOW SEASON OF CREATION 2023

From 1 September – the World Day of Prayer for Creation – to 4 October – the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Marist Family around the world joins in the annual ecumenical celebration “Season of Creation”. It invites us to celebrate the beauty and pain of our world, praise and thank God for his love and goodness, and take steps to defend our common home, especially in this time of ecological emergency.

Each year, the Ecumenical Steering Committee that organizes this Time suggests a theme. For 2023 the theme is “Let Justice and Peace Flow.” [In this link you will find all the indications about the Season of Creation.](#)

Season of Creation is a Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home, facilitated by the World Council of Churches, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, ACT Alliance, World Communion of Refor-



Let Justice and Peace Flow Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



■ Br. Angel Diego, director of the Secretariat for Solidarity, is visiting the Star of the Sea Province. This week he was in Australia, where he visited the NGO Australian Marist Solidarity and the Marist 180 Foundation, as well as some Marist works and schools in Sydney.

■ Since Monday, Brothers Jorge Gaio and Goyo Linacero, of the General Treasurer's Office, have been participating in a meeting of the team working on the section on economic management of the new Admin-

istrative Guide (ex Vademecum) of the Institute. The meeting is being held until Friday in Alcalá de Henares, Spain.

■ The General Councilors, Brothers Óscar Martín and João Carlos do Prado, and the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, are participating until Friday in Santiago de Compostela in the meeting of the commission working on the Brothers' Formation Guide.

med Churches, the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, A Rocha, the Lutheran World Federation, Christian Aid, Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network, European Christian Environmental Network.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, challenge us "to provide an approach to ecology which respects our unique place as human beings in this world and our relationship to our surroundings" (*Laudato Si'*).



Along the same lines, the XXII General Chapter of the Marist Brothers invite us to "awaken in ourselves and those around us an ecological awareness that engages us in caring for "our common home".

Initiatives of the Marist Solidarity International Network and *Corazón Solidario* Network

The **Ecology Working Group of the Marist Solidarity International Network**, in partnership with other Marist entities, has organized some online meetings during the Season of Creation. All Champagnat Marists are invited to participate, via Zoom, always at 9 AM in Rome (Zoom Meeting ID: 895 3765 1260 | Passcode:576865).

The **Integral Ecology working group of the Corazón Solidario Network** has also organized a prayer, on the first of September, to open this moment of reflection, at 4 PM in Rome. It is possible to follow this meeting, via zoom, at this link <https://bit.ly/tiempocreacionmarista> (Zoom Meeting ID: 959 6726 4731 | Passcode:040185).

SEASON OF CREATION

September 1st was proclaimed as a day of prayer for the environment by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. The Orthodox church year starts that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. On 4 October, Roman Catholics and other churches from the Western traditions commemorate Francis of Assisi, known to many as the author of the *Canticle of the Creatures*.

The proposal to celebrate a "Time for Creation" during these five weeks was made by the Third European Ecumenical Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Sibiu in 2007. The following year, the WCC Central Committee invited churches to observe "Time for Creation"

through prayers and actions. In 2015, Pope Francis has designated September 1st as a World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation for the worldwide Roman Catholic Church as well.

Throughout the years, major Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Anglican organizations have joined to encourage the 2.2 billion Christians worldwide to pray and act on ecological issues.

In 2016, Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew I released their special messages for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, kicking off the month-long Season of Creation celebrations. Both leaders used

HAITI

On August 14, the perpetual profession of Br. Dukens Médor was celebrated and the temporary vows of 22 brothers were renewed. The ceremony took place at the Marist University Center. Br. Jean Mance Louis-Jeune, head of the Marist Sector of Haiti of the Province of México Occidental, was the provincial delegate to receive the vows at this event. On the same occasion, 5 young men officially began their novitiate at the Cayes novitiate.

**BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA****MARIST EXCHANGE OF THE SOUTH AMERICA REGION AND MEXICO**

More than 50 Marist Educators from the South America Region and Mexico met in Porto Alegre, Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province, from August 15 to 18, to participate in a Marist exchange on Early Childhood Education, based on the philosophy of “Reggio Emilia”, a pedagogy applied after the Second World War in the Italian city of Reggio Emilia, created by the pedagogue Loris Malaguzzi. The internship is part of the “Embracing childhoods” project promoted by the South America Region.

The Marist Program promotes reflection on important concepts emerging from the Curricular Matrices for Early Childhood Education. It also fosters a sense of brotherhood by evoking a common sense of belonging to a work of education and evangelization that transcends borders.

The conference included theoretical and practical presentations, lectures, workshops, classroom experiences, and guided visits to some Marist centers in Porto Alegre.

Participating in the Marist exchange were managers, teachers, and directors of kindergarten and primary schools from Chile, Argentina, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, Mexico, and different regions of Brazil.

At the end of the internship, the teachers thanked the Marist Region of South America and the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia for the Marist exchange that allowed them to connect and grow as a Global Family.

TIMOR LESTE

During the community prayer to commemorate the feast of the Assumption, eleven aspirants were formally welcomed into the formation program and received their Marist cross. They committed themselves to take the first step in discerning the vocation of a Marist Brother during the next five months of the Aspirancy program.

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

During the last weekend, the “Provincial Assembly of the Lay Marist Vocation” took place in Cochabamba, with the participation of 6 brothers and 41 lay people. In July it was done in Peru, in September it will be done in Chile, vitalizing the Lay Marist Vocation.

AMÉRICA CENTRAL

On August 20, in Puerto Rico, six people, driven by an inner passion, decided to join the vibrant Marist mission through a public pledge, promising to be guiding lights in their homes, jobs, and communities.



PROVINCE OF NIGERIA LAUNCHES THE POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS

From 16th to 21st August, 2023, Brothers gathered at the Marist Formation Centre, Orlu, Imo State, for the annual retreat of the Province of Nigeria. Highlights of this year's Annual Retreat was the launching of the Po-

licy on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Persons and the signing of indemnity by all the Brothers in the Province.



Br. Ken Mc Donald, Councillor General and link Councillor to Africa, had an online presentation on Safeguarding of children and Vulnerable Persons.



During the Annual Retreat, Brothers reflected on living a genuine consecrated life in the contemporary Nigerian Society.

PROVINCE OF MADAGASCAR ANNUAL RETREAT INANTSIRABE



Thirty brothers from the Province of Madagascar took part in the annual retreat which took place at the Mahatamana Marist Center in Antsirabe from 06 to 12 August 2023. Father Erick RAHARIVELO, an Assumptionist, led the retreat on the theme "MISSION and SANC-

TIFICATION". Through teachings based on biblical accounts, the preacher insisted on the mission of the consecrated religious as a path to holiness.

At the end of the retreat, the Brothers RANAIVO ANDRIAMADY Roger Giscard and RAM-

BOATIANA Andry Niaina renewed their vows. Brother Maminiaina Michel, Provincial, received them on behalf of Brother Superior General. Brothers in perpetual vows who had participated in the retreat also "renewed" their consecration as a way of expressing their commitment to Marist life and mission.

Marist World

BELGIUM: CELEBRATION OF 70 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE FOR BROTHERS MARCEL AND PIERRE AT GENVAL



CHILE: VISIT OF THE MEXICO CENTRAL DELEGATION AT THE COLEGIO MARISTA DE LA PINTANA



NEW ZEALAND: ANNUAL STAFF FORMATION PROGRAMME 'CHAMPAGNAT IN THE PACIFIC'



KENYA: RENEW OF THE RELIGIOUS VOWS IN THE MIC, NAIROBI



FRANCE: ANIMATORS OF THE IBERIAN PROVINCE AT LA VALLA



EAST TIMOR: NEW STAR OF THE SEA PROVINCE ASPIRANTS

STAR OF THE SEA - MELANESIA MEETING COMMUNITY LEADERS AND BURSARS

Brothers from the Provincial Council and Br. Peter Carroll, Provincial of Star of the Sea, on 16 August, met with our Melanesian Community Leaders and Bursars at St Joseph's High School, Solomon Islands. The meeting started with a prayer at the small Tenaru Cemetery, where three Marist Brothers are buried: Alphonsus Laumanasa, Edwin Meresinihinua, and Mark

Poro. It allowed the participants to remember Mark, in particular, who died during COVID when many were prevented from attending his funeral.

The main topic was community finance and budgeting. The Brothers, however, agreed that it is not possible to separate this topic from other aspects of life as Brothers. Finance and stewardship of the resources

are integrally tied to the fraternity, community, mission, and spirituality. These are the bases on which the Brothers in that region apportion their priorities.

In the end, Brother Peter commented: "It was an interesting and helpful gathering, where many practical issues were raised and discussed. Now, all participants have important follow-up work ahead of them."



MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

MARIST PRESENCE AMONG THE RARÁMURIS OF THE TARAHUMARA SIERRA

The Marist Brothers arrived in the Tarahumara Sierra on 25 January 1961. They have been invited to get to know and learn from the Rarámuri communities and to help in local educational programmes and in the evangelisation of children, young people, adolescents and their communities. Throughout the years that Marists have been present in the Tarahumara, they have succeeded in adopting elements of the local culture and in closely working with the people where schools and communities have been established. Through boarding schools and community schools, they have been able to initiate and conduct programmes of training and evangelisation for children and adolescents based on their own local needs. This has been possible thanks to the many men and women who have devoted a period of their lives as Marist Volunteers in Tarahumara.

This is the background, after 60 years of work in the Mission, to the project of establishing a senior high school. It aims to be an opportunity for young people to share their dreams of personal advancement and to reflect and appreciate their own indigenous identity, culture and tradition, along with training in human rights.

The 'Bachillerato Ichiméame Marista', is a General High School that offers training for work and is affiliated to the Secretary of Education and Sports of the State of Chihuahua. It is located in Creel, in the municipality of Bocoyna, Chihuahua, catering mainly for young Rarámuri from the municipalities of the Tarahumara Sierra (Bocoyna, Batopilas, Guadalupe y Calvo, Urique, Guachochi, Guazapares).

The expression "Ichiméame" means "the sower" in Rarámuri, which is the essence of the project. It aims



to create opportunities for reflection with the students through the school and also its boarding hostel. Due to the distances from their home towns, the students live in the Marist Student House, where projects and workshops have been organised in human, artistic, cultural and above all professional fields, with the aim of providing them with tools and skills for life. The social and economic reality of Tarahumara Sierra, such as drug trafficking, logging and forced displacement, are some of the challenges we are working on. We want to offer the students prospects for shaping plans for their lives and training them as agents in the social transformation of their environment.

"Ichiméame" started in August 2022 with a group of 24 students. On 24 October 2022 a celebration and blessing of the project and a Rarámuri Cross took place in the presence of the Provincials of Mexico Occidental and Mexico Central, Luis Enrique and Luis Felipe, the Bishop of Tarahumara, Juan Manuel González Sandoval, friends and close collaborators.

Marist presence in the Tarahumara region

- Ichiméame Marist High School and Boarding School: situated in Creel, Bocoyna, Chihuahua; 1 group of 24 students (15 females and 9 males)
- Norogachi Marist hostel: situated in Norogachi, Guachochi, Chihuahua – 2 groups of 15 students (Secondary and Higher Secondary).

MARIST ASSOCIATION OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

MARIST FORMATION OF THE COMPANIONING MARIST LIFE PROGRAM IN AUSTRALIA

From August 21 to 27, the Marist Mission and Life Formation Team in Australia, Province Star of the Sea, offered a new Formation of the Companioning Marist Life program to Local Coordinators of the Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat to respond to the basic needs of spiritual formation that emerged from the consultative process of the National Assembly in 2022.

The purpose of the program was to strengthen vocational leadership in the Marist Association by supporting Local Coordinators to lead and animate the life and vitality of Local Association Groups, and to assist them to deepen their own understanding of the Local Group as a vital expression of Marist life and mission.

Companioning Marist Life consisted of two formation sessions with Local Coordinators gathered in small groups either online or in person to examine the Marist Association in Session One as 'A Table of Inclusion' and in Session Two as 'A Stream of Spirituality'. There was time to connect, share stories and experien-



ces of Local Coordinators in different regions and states with time also to reflect on how local groups can continue to foster a greater sense of connection and belonging for members.

The organizers thanked all the Local Coordinators for all they do to keep the Marist Dream alive: Local Coordinators are vital to the operation of the Marist Association at the local level as they gather, organise, animate and do so much more in the nearly fifty places of Australia to support and grow Marist life.

Companioning Marist Life

Arising from the consultative process of the National Assembly in 2022, a clear direction to respond to the basic needs of formation emerged. Recognising the pivotal role of Local Groups in the life and mission of the Marist Association, the Marist Mission and Life Formation team launched Companioning Marist Life, a short program to support the vitality of Local Coordinators.

[Download 'Companioning Marist Life' Here](#)



Alcalá de Henares, Spain: team working on the financial management part of the new Administrative Guide of the Institute (Ex Vademecum)



Santiago de Compostela, Spain: meeting of the commission working on the new Formation Guide for Brothers

31 AUGUST

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

In 2010, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly designated August 31 as the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances to be commemorated annually to raise awareness and prevent it. Enforced Disappearances refer to the illegal abduction and detention of persons by state officials or security forces, armed groups or criminal organizations during conflict and non-conflict situations and the refusal to disclose their fate or whereabouts. In most cases, the victims of this crime are political activists, human rights defenders, journalists, family members or associates of individuals perceived as threats to those in power. They are frequently subjected to torture, inhumane treatment, and even extrajudicial execution.

The UN declared enforced disappearance a crime against humanity and adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2006 as a legal framework to give victims' families the right to demand the truth about the disappearance of their loved ones. Other legal frameworks include the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary

Disappearances (WGEID). The UN also provides technical assistance to states to enhance their capacity to implement legislation, strengthen institutions, train officials, and facilitate cooperation in preventing enforced disappearances. Through Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, the UN documents cases of enforced disappearances, sheds light on the phenomenon and works towards their prevention.

As Marist Brothers, we fight enforced disappearances of people from a human rights perspective. We advocate for the protection and respect of the inherent dignity and worth of every individual.

Our work is grounded in the belief that every person has the right to life, liberty, and security, and that no one should be subjected to arbitrary detention, forced disappearance, or any form of human rights abuse. We work to raise awareness about various human rights situations, provide support to victims and their families and collaborate with other organizations and authorities to prevent and address them.

The Catholic Church strongly condemns the crime of enforced

disappearance of people. Her stance against it is rooted in her commitment to human dignity, justice, and the pursuit of peace. She emphasizes the fundamental principle of the sanctity of life and the inherent worth of every human being. Through her teachings, documents, and statements, the Church advocates for the protection of human rights and the pursuit of justice. In particular, she emphasizes the importance of upholding the right to life and the prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment. She encourages countries to adopt legislation and establish mechanisms to prevent and investigate cases of enforced disappearances and hold those responsible accountable for their actions.

The Church supports efforts to provide justice, truth, and reconciliation for the victims and their families. Furthermore, Pope Francis has consistently spoken out against enforced disappearances, describing them as "an outrage against humanity" and urging governments and authorities to bring an end to them.

Brother Francis Lukong
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