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# MARISTNEWS

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

## MARIST EDUCATIONAL MISSION

# COMMISSION COMPLETES WORK ON THE REVISION

In 2021, a commission was appointed by the Superior General and his Council to revise the document “In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat”, about Marist Educational Mission, approved in 1998 (PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)). That revision reached an exciting milestone on September 7, when the international team presented the final work to the General Council, meeting in plenary session. With this meeting, the commission concluded its work. The virtual meeting was a moment of gratitude, reflection and vision for the future. The General Council has received the text and will now review



## general administration

■ The General Council is holding its last week of plenary sessions. During these days it reviews and approves the draft of the new version of the document Marist Educational Mission received by the Commission that worked on it. It also receives the first draft of the Formation Guide prepared by the commission and the Secretariat of Brothers Today. Reflects on where to place the emphasis and energy in the coming months to support the Administrative Units and the projects of the Secretariats. The reflection on the next meeting of Provincials at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage in March 2024 has begun. The topics related to the appointments continue, among them that of the Preparatory Commission for the XXIII General Chapter. Next week the Council will dedicate 5 days to a Retreat as a Community, in a Monastery outside Rome.

■ A formation meeting for the Arco Norte Region on vocational culture “Caring and Generating Marist Life” began on Monday in Guatemala. Br. Xavi Barceló, from the ongoing formation team of the Institute, will be present. The meeting ends on Thursday.

■ On Monday, Br. Angel Diego, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, met with the team working on the Universal Periodic Review of Vanuatu.

■ From Monday to Wednesday, meetings of the working groups of the Marist International Solidarity Network were held, with the participation of Br. Ángel Diego.

■ Br. Pepe Sanchez, director of the Secretariat for Educa-

tion and Evangelization, met on Monday and Tuesday at the General House with representatives of the team that organized the youth meeting in Lisbon, to analyze the experience.

■ On Tuesday, FMSI promoted a meeting on ethical storytelling guidelines, with an introduction by Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General.

■ On the same day, a meeting of the Economic Affairs Committee was held with the participation of Brothers Ben Consigli, General Councilor, Jorge Gaio (Bursar General), Goyo Linacero, and Flavia Angi (assistants to the Bursar General).

■ Also on Tuesday, there was a meeting of the Board of Directors of the CPV Network, with the participation of Br. Luis Carlos.

■ On Wednesday, with the participation of several members of the General Administration, Br. Luis Carlos coordinates the meeting of the International Commission of the Marist Mission.

■ The group of the area of juridical structures of the delegates of the IV phase of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation met this Tuesday, with the participation of Manu Gómez, assistant Director of the Secretariat of Laity.

■ The virtual meeting of the commission preparing MIMA III will be held on Thursday. It will be held in El Escorial, Spain in April next year.

■ This week, the course participants for English-speaking Brothers of the Third Age, which will take place in Manziana, Rome, starting on the 24th, are arriving in Rome.

and approve it. The revised document will then be published. The document "In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat", which serves as an orienting guide for all Marist educational institutions, had been in the process of revision as of May 25, 2021, when the commission met for the first time. The task force sought to update and enrich the document to reflect the contemporary values and challenges facing Marist education. During the meeting with the General Council, the team highlighted the achievements and presented a summary of the changes and proposals made and highlighted key areas that had been strengthened. Among other aspects, they highlighted the inclusion of a stronger focus on inclusive education, the promotion of environmental sustainability and the adaptation to the technological challenges that have transformed education in recent years. It is noteworthy that in the preparation of the new document, Champagnat Marists in different parts of the world were consulted for their opinion on the proposal.

The closing meeting was attended by members of the team and others who collaborated in the composition and revision of the text presented to the General Council.

These were the members of the Commission: The members of the team are the following: Adriana Kampff (Brasil Sul-Amazônia), Amaya Espuelas (Ibérica), Br. Ángel Diego García (General Administration), Bartolomé Gil Garre (Mediterránea), Br. Ben Consigli (General Council), Ceciliany Alves Feitosa (Brasil Centro-Sul), Br. Hank Hammer (United States), Joan Palma (East Asia), John Robinson (Australia), Brother Luis Carlos Gutierrez (General Council), Brother Michael De Wass (South Asia), Brother Nchang Cho (Afrique Centre-Est), Brother Salvador Hidalgo (Compostela) and Brother Valdicer Fachi (General Administration). Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede, directors of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization until December 2022, coordinated the team.

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Along the way, Brother Joseph McKee (West Central Europe) was invited as an advisor to the process and, in the final phase, Brother Jeffrey Crowe (Star of the Sea) and Brother Carlos Martin Hinojal (Ibérica) provided support in the area of translation.



## NIGERIA

# FINAL PROFESSION OF BR. ANSELM CHUKWU OBINNA

On 16th September, Br. Anselm Chukwu Obinna made his final profession as Marist Brother at Holy Cross Parish, in Uturu, Nigeria. Rev. Solomon Amatu, Bishop of Okigwe Diocese was the celebrant of Eucharistic celebration.

Br. Chukwu Obinna Anselm is currently Dean of Students' Affairs and Teacher at Christ the King Catholic College, Ire – Ekiti State of Nigeria.

At the same occasion, the Province of Nigeria celebrated the end of the Year of Marist Vocation. At the same celebration,



three brothers celebrated their silver jubilee as Marist Brothers: Brothers Vincent Uchenna Abadom, Mark Okolo Omede, and Christian Obioma Onu.



## ANGOLA

## FINAL PROFESSION OF BR. ANGELO MIGUEL

Br. Angelo Miguel, from the Province of Southern Africa, on 9 September made his final profession as Marist Brother in Kwanza, Angola. Br. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji-Gunduloni, Provincial, received his vows in the name of the Superior General.

Brother Angelo lives in Angola and belongs to the Community of N'dalatando.



## COLLABORATION FOR MISSION INTERNACIONAL

## VIDEO ON INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES

With the objective of promoting the participation of Brothers and Laity in International and Intercultural Communities, the Department of Collaboration for Mission Internacional (Cmi) has prepared a video that provides an overview of the special Projects and Initiatives of the Institute that contemplate international, intercultural and intercongregational Communities.

The video can be used in different spaces and different groups of the Administrative Units. Through this visual material the Marist animators can make known what is being done. They can also motivate people to join volunteering and awaken interest in participating in a

Lavalla200> Community or other projects and initiatives of the institute.

For more information or if you have any doubts, please contact [cmi@fms.it](mailto:cmi@fms.it)



## GENERAL HOUSE

# THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETS WITH THE DIRECTORS OF THE SECRETARIATS AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION



From September 11 to 15, the General House hosted Collaborative Week, a traditional meeting of the General Council in September and February with the directors of the Secretariats and Departments of the General Administration. This period during the plenary session of the General Council is a privileged moment to share the service of animation of the Institute and to support the initiatives that each area carries out in the process of leading the Marist mission and life.

Opening the working sessions, Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, underlined the intention that the meeting should not simply be a time for information about the journey, but a space for reflection on what the Institute has experienced in recent years, looking ahead to the next two years, which will be the last of this General Government. In this dynamic, each director had his own presentation space, with a moment of sharing in which the other participants contributed by indicating the areas that needed to be consolidated.

During this meeting, a large amount of time was dedicated to formation. The theme chosen was synodality, the theme of the 2021 – 2024 Synod. Br. Ernesto will take part in the October assemblies this year and the one for 2024. He will represent the religious, having been elected as one of the 5 representatives of the Union of Superiors General. During the first two days of the Collaborative Week, the Superior General presented the group with the challenges of synodality, a topic that is also very useful

for the animation of the Institute. He invited everyone to reflect on the particular methodology of this process, which is “Dialogue in the Spirit”, a method that allows us to move from the “I” to the “we”: it does not lose sight of or erase the personal dimension of the “I”, but recognises it and inserts it into the community dimension. The fundamental question is: “What is happening in the other person and in me, and how is the Lord working here?” The goal is to try and understand others as they are.

The week is also characterized by moments of prayer, dialogue within each secretariat and department and between the three areas (Marist life, mission and services) and the respective link councillors.

In addition to the General Council, the following took part in the meeting: Andrea Rossi (Director of FMSI), Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola (Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity), Dorotea Cinanni (Director of the Archives of the General Administration), Br. Guillermo José Villarreal Cavazos (Postulator General), Br. José Sánchez Bravo – Pepe (Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization), Br. Lindley Sionosa (Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today), Luiz da Rosa (Director of the Communications Department), Manu Jesús Gómez Cid (Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Laity), Mark O’Farrell (Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Laity), Br. Niño Mayor Pizarro (Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization), Raúl Amaya (Director of the Secretariat of Laity) and Br. Valdicer Fachi (Director of the Cmi Department).

[Photos](#)



## marist world

CAMBODIA: LAVALLA FINALISTS OF THE GLOBAL IT CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES



INDIA: INAUGURATION OF THE ST. MARCELLIN COMMUNITY & FORMATION HOUSE IN BARDHAMAN



SPAIN: COMPOSTELA INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES, EDUCATION AND EVANGELIZATION TEAMS



BOLIVIA: YOUNG NOVICES OF THE SOUTH AMERICA REGION INITIAL FORMATION TO MARIST RELIGIOUS LIFE



NETHERLANDS: MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EUROPE, IN NIJMEGEN



ITALY: TUTTI FRATELLI FORMATION PROGRAM FOR MENTORS IN ROME

## ITALY

## CHURCH INVITES TO PARTICIPATE IN UPDATE OF GUIDELINES TO PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (<https://www.tutelaminorum.org/>) is promoting a public consultation to update the Universal Guidelines Framework (UGF), with the goal of strengthening efforts to create a safer environment throughout the Church. The initiative is in line with Pope Francis' call that the task of care and protection is "incumbent on the whole Church" (Apostolic Letter in the form of Motu Proprio: As a Loving Mother, 2016). <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/es/bollettino/pubblico/2016/06/04/motu.html>



### RIGHTS



Click on the following link to participate: <https://www.tutelaminorum.org/survey/>

In Brazil and Latin America, the Brasil Centro-Sul Province is part of the team that developed the communication strategies to invite participation in this survey. Br. Óscar Martín Vicário, General Councillor and member of the International Commission for the Protection of Minors, sends a message to all Marists of Champagnat ([https://youtu.be/nL\\_sC-CiWIOM](https://youtu.be/nL_sC-CiWIOM)): "I am pleased to join this initiative, I invite everyone to participate in this survey because it is a way of working together, as a church, in order to protect children".

16 SEPTEMBER

# INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER

"God wants us to continue his creation ... Human beings can be "humanized" and fully realized when they are inserted in a world that is in a continuous process of creation when they relate to and integrate themselves in work and care for this world that they hold in their hands" (evangelizes amid youth, 65).

This month of September, from day 1, we remember "the season of creation". This celebration and remembrance will last until October 4. Following in this same line, from the Secretariat of Solidarity we want to continue to emphasize themes that remind us of the importance of caring for our common home, as requested by the last General Chapter, and also by the encyclical *Laudato Si*.

September 16 is the "International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer". Many of us have followed with interest the steps that have been taken over the years to prevent further destruction of the ozone layer that protects our planet from the negative consequences of the sun's rays. We recall that back in 1989, the United Nations and the signatories promoted a series of measures to protect our planet and those who inhabit it. Looking back, we discover that the so-called "Montreal Protocol" has been one of the best-implemented international cooperation treaties in the world.

Sometimes we have the feeling that it is difficult to reach international agreements and that the treaties signed by many of our countries are of little use. This is a good example of how it is possible to make progress in caring for the Earth when there is a will and awareness on the part of all, States and individuals. And in the face of this positive reality, we must remain hopeful and aware that it is possible to take firm steps to protect nature, to take care of our common home and of those who live there.

Since the Montreal Protocol was signed, the Marists of Champagnat have taken decisive steps to align our education and our action with the care of our planet, we have put our energies, our resources and our people at



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023



the service of our common home, we have developed programs and activities courageously directed in favor of our world and of those who live in it.

We can take advantage of this international day to reflect on how we can continue to take courageous and determined steps. Yes, we already do, and we are aware of it. But can we take further steps?

Do we have ecological projects in our educational works? Are we making progress in recycling and energy savings? Do we equip our homes and communities with elements that favor energy efficiency? Are we committed to continue caring for and protecting the environment? The answer to these questions is likely to be positive in many cases, and we are pleased about that. Even so, we do not cease in our determination to continue on our path, to continue "humanizing" ourselves, to continue "taking care of this world that we have in our hands".

Therefore, we join the XXII General Chapter in encouraging us to "change the way we live based on an integral ecology," creating "an integral ecological conscience," from our style of government to our personal and concrete actions.

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



## NEWS BRIEFS

**Santa María de los Andes**  
A group of educators, mothers, former students, catechists, and administrators of the Marist works in Bolivia participated in a formation meeting on Marist volunteer work. The formation meeting was held in Santa Cruz, from September 8 to 10.

## STAR OF THE SEA

There are five postulants in the house of formation "Casa Marista" in Timor Leste. In the last weeks, the focus has moved from English language study (Stage 1) to now focusing on vocational discernment with the goal of the candidates continuing onto the novitiate in Sri Lanka (May 2024). In addition, the postulants continue their Saturday morning pastoral experience and catechism classes at the local Catholic primary school.

## WEST AFRICA

Cameroon is one of the six countries of the Province. Since 2018, all the educational establishments run by the Marist Brothers in the English-speaking regions have seen their doors shut in the midst of a severe crisis. Many schools have witnessed staff members and students kidnapping, and some have been killed. In a video, Br. Stephen Kpunga tells how the Marists in Tatum had to redefine and reorient their apostolate to confront the challenges the schools in Cameroon were facing.



## MARIST GLOBAL SCHOOL NETWORK CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL WEEK



**C**HAMPAGNAT GLOBAL is the meeting point for the whole Marist school community to have the opportunity to interact globally and promote activities of interest.

In order to make the Marist Global School Network experience a reality, various types of activities are developed and on this occasion we would like to invite you to participate in the CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL WEEK. The week of 16 to 20 October.

The initiatives that form part of the programme are aimed especially at the principals and teachers of the 600 Marist schools around the world.

According to the interests of each one and according to the programme planned for this year, you will be able to take part in meetings where:

- You will discover how education can be re-imagined.
- You will learn how to carry out exchanges between Marist schools.
- You will learn how to be creative in developing your students' experience of interiority.
- You will have the opportunity to participate and get involved in an international Marist sporting activity.

To find out more and to register, [ENTER HERE](#).

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

## EXTENDED COUNCIL MEETING OF THE PROVINCE



The Extended Provincial Council 2023 of Santa María de los Andes was held September 5-7 in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Together with the Provincial Council, the Life and Mission Councils of the three Sectors – Bolivia, Chile and Peru – that make up the Province participated.

The meeting had among its objectives:

- To contemplate the life of the brothers and lay Marists;
- To observe the journey made in the Marist mission, centered on the quality of education and evangelization;
- To analyze the achievements and difficulties;
- To project the actions as a Province until 2024.

In his speech, the Provincial, Brother Pablo González, emphasized that “the journey of the Institute challenges us today”. He then read a letter sent by the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, to all Provincials, inviting them to reflect on five points of Marist life: Spirituality, Marist Vocation and Stewardship, Emerging Needs, Global Marist Family, and Reconfiguration.

The work of the council began with a moment of integration, which had as its central theme: “how to develop fraternal leadership”.

The Provincial Perspectives, its outlook, and the continuity of the Province’s action plan were also discussed during the conference.

At the end of the last day, the council had a space to think about the South America Region, of which the province of Santa María de los Andes is a part, and the regional Strategic Plan for the region was presented.

The teams of each of the initiatives and networks, in which the representatives of the province of Santa María de los Andes also participate, were presented.

The meeting concluded with a traditional Bolivian cultural presentation.



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