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MARISTNEWS

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ARCO NORTE REGION

A FORMATIVE MEETING ON VOCATION CULTURE

Twenty-two brothers and lay Marists from the Arco Norte Region participated in a regional formation meeting on Vocation Culture, which was held in Guatemala City from September 18-21, with the theme “Caring for and General Marist Life”. The meeting was organized by the Vocation Culture Team of the Arco Norte region, coordinated by Brother Omar Peña, from Central America. Br. Xavier Barceló, a member of the Institute’s ongoing formation team, was present on behalf of the Brothers Today Secretariat.

The formative meeting sought to promote joint and collaborative work related to vocation culture in the six Administrative Units that make up the Arco Norte Region: Central America, Canada, Central Mexico, Western Mexico, Norandina and United States.

The main objective of this initiative was to deepen the vocational dimension of all pastoral and evangelizing action, through formation in vocational culture (theology, spirituality, pedagogy, centrality of the Christian community). In order to achieve this goal, the following thematic nuclei were developed:

- Youth, culture and vocation: anthropological revolution, paradigm shift and hermeneutic key (Br. Juan Antonio Sandoval).
- Young people, culture and vocation: the category “vocation”



in digital culture (Br. Omar Peña).

- Vocational culture: theology, spirituality and pedagogy (Br. Carlos Vélez).
- Structure and methodology of vocation ministry: educational perspectives for the development of vocation ministry in the digital culture (Br. Omar Peña).
- Marist vocation ministry in the Institute: an overview (Br. Xavier Barceló).
- Towards a shared path in Vocation Ministry as a region of Arco Norte (Br. Oscar Souberville – Macua).

At the end of the meeting, the Regional Team for Vocation Culture established some guidelines for vocation animation in the 16 countries of the Arco Norte region.

general administration

- Last weekend, the community of the General House met in Silvi Marina to draw up the Community Project for the year 2023-24.
- The ongoing formation meeting for the Brothers of the Third Age began last Saturday in Manziñana. The 15 participants are accompanied by Brothers Michael Green and Barry Burns from Star of the Sea. The program will end on November 19th.
- From Monday to Friday, the General Council has a retreat at Fonte Avellana, a Camaldolese monastery.
- On Tuesday, Brother Valdicer Fachi, director of the Cmi,

met online with the Fratelli di Maicao community.

- On Wednesday, Brother Fachi shared his experience of Marist volunteering with the Brothers of La Salle in Rome.
- From Wednesday to Friday, Brother Goyo Linacero, Assistant to the Econome General, takes part in the meeting of the Bedford Fund Executive Committee and the Gier International Corporation Commission in Puerto Rico.
- On Saturday, Brothers Óscar Martín, General Councillor, and Fachi take part in the Fratelli Project Council meeting at the General House.

GENERAL HOUSE

MANU GÓMEZ CID APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LAITY



Br Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and the General Council have appointed Manu Gómez Cid, of the Province of Mediterránea, as Director of the Secretariat of the Laity. He will assume this mission from 1 January 2024, replacing Raúl Amaya, from the Province of Santa María de los Andes, who has been director for the last six years.

Manu has been deputy director of the Secretariat since 2020, a role he has performed

at the same time as his service as the coordinator of the Marist Life Council and the Laity Team of his Province.

The Laity Secretariat team includes a director and two deputy directors, as well as the group that forms the Extended Secretariat, with representatives from each region of the Institute.

Manu Gómez Cid is a lay Marist of the Province of Mediterránea who has made a formal commitment to the charism.

He was born in Seville, in the south of Spain. He is the eldest of a large family of five siblings. He has been married to María for 24 years, and they have three sons: Pablo (20), Marcos (18) and Daniel (13).

His whole life has been linked to Marists. He attended Marist schools in Granada, Badajoz and Seville, his home town. The key experience that led him over time to discover the richness of the Marist charism was joining the Friendship and Christian Life Group (GVX) of the former Province of Betica. He came to know the life lived by the brothers through meetings, gatherings, camps, vocational retreats, work camps... These helped in his personal growth and as a follower of Jesus, and he became captivated by the person of Marcellin Champagnat.

He studied Physics at the University of Seville and, on completing his studies, he qualified as a secondary school teacher.

Throughout his university life, he was very involved as a group leader in the GVX and developed his social sensitivity, collaborating in some of the marginalised areas of his city and in rural work camps with other young people and brothers. He joined the Bolivia Project group, linked to the NGO SED, and lived for a year in the Marist community of Comarapa (Bolivia), supervising some development projects in the nearby rural area of Siberia.

On his return from that experience, he began to work as a teacher at the Marist school in Seville, while remaining involved

with both the GVX and the Bolivia Project. It was in this group that he met his wife, María, whom he married in 1999. In 2002 they spent a whole year in a new experience of co-operation in Bolivia, forming part of the mixed community of Comarapa, with four Marist Brothers.

At his school in Seville he served as Pastoral Coordinator for four years, and as Director for another four years. During that last period he was a member of the preparatory commission for the II Marist International Mission Assembly, which took place in Nairobi (Kenya) in 2014.

In recent years he has been on the pastoral team of the Province of Mediterránea, providing animation, formation and support for school staffs and, in a special way, all that touches on Marist Youth Ministry. More recently, as coordinator of the Council of Marist Life and of the Laity Team of his Province, he has been offering his experience and leadership regarding lay vocational discernment, various types of mixed communities, living out Marist spirituality, and all that might help us grow in the charism of Champagnat as brothers and laypeople alike.

This whole experience of close-knit community and of pastoral and social service, is nourished by the life and faith he shares with a group of Marist lay men and women in his city.

From the beginning of 2020 until now, he has combined his work in the Province of Mediterránea with his service as assistant director of the Institute's Secretariat of the Laity



Brother Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, will participate in the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod. On Friday, he will participate in the meeting with the participants representing the religious (USG) and the religious sisters (UISG). On Saturday, the 30th, he will attend the ecumenical vigil in communion with the Synod to be held at the Vatican. Then, from October 1-3, he will participate in a retreat at the 'Fraterna Domus' house for all the members of the Synodal Assembly, which will begin on October 4 and end on October 29.

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

THE CONNECTING RACE BETWEEN MARIST SCHOOLS BEGINS

Sports activities are part of the Marist educational tradition. Within the planning of the CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL WEEK, we wanted to include an activity that will help us to combine the practice of sports with the connection with other Marist schools in the world.

The activity is called:

Champagnat Global Run, and consists of visiting a Marist school, in a virtual way, accumulating kilometers in a physical way. To do this, in the school that wishes to participate in the initiative, a team of participants will be formed (students, teachers, management team, former students, families of students, etc.) This team will choose a school that they want to visit virtually, they will measure the kilometers of distance, organize the way to accumulate the kilometers and arrive at the chosen destination. What will happen next is part of the surprise... The schools that decide to participate will be able to start the activity on the date they wish, over the course of a year and



the duration will depend on the distance between the Marist schools and the organization of the activity.

To learn more about this initiative, we invite you to participate on October 20 in the information session we will have about the Champagnat Global Run.

For more information and registration see the schedule.

SANTA MARIA DE LOS ANDES

TEACHERS FROM THE BOLIVIA SECTOR LEARN ABOUT THE LIFE OF BR. FRANCISCO RIVAT

Marist educators from the different educational works of the Bolivia Sector (Province of Santa María de los Andes) participated in the Patrimonial Formation workshop "Br. Francisco Rivat", which took place from September 1 to 2 at the Marist Spirituality House in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The Postulator General of the Institute, Br. Guillermo Villarreal addressed the issue.

Br. Guillermo presented an overview of the life and work of Brother François Rivat, the sixth Marist Brother, who is in the process of being beatified.

During the days, the participants had moments of reflection and prayer. They also did personal and group work on the life of Brother François: his origin, his childhood, his union with Marcellin, his being a teacher, brother, nurse, Superior General, mystic, and his closeness to Mary.

The teachers of the Marist work in Bolivia also got to know the letters and virtues of Br. François, such as humility, simplicity,

work (the small garden of medicinal plants), his great love for the brothers, and his great capacity to govern the Institute with intuition and generosity, keeping in mind at all times the dream of Marcellin Champagnat, the founder.

The two people in charge of the workshop, Sylvia Pérez and Ricardo Miño, mentioned that "during and after this workshop we discovered a brother who is very human holy, since holiness is nothing more than doing things well, at the right time and place, always being joyful and open to the action of the Spirit as the great Protagonist of the mission".



CENTRAL AMERICA

PROVINCIAL MEETING OF MARIST CATECHISTS

The provincial meeting of Marist catechists of America Central was held on the first two days of September at Liceo Guatemala. The theme focused on growth as catechists. It was an experience of deepening and reflection on the catechist's vocation and the different ways of communicating and transmitting the message of Jesus to young people in Confirmation and First Communion.

The exchange of experiences in the working groups was enriching. All those present, united by the same feeling, worked together contributing ideas and suggesting new things for their communities, focused on achieving a more dynamic and profound catechesis, centered not only on memorizing the themes of the catechism or the prayers but also on understanding and living the Sacrament as a fundamental part of life. During the two days, the participants from the sectors that make up the province had the opportunity to share their experiences with catechists from the different communities of the participa-



ting countries, which allowed them to strengthen their vocation, create bonds of friendship, exchange, and trust, to grow and improve not only as catechists but also as a community.

"To be infected with the enthusiasm of others and to share with others has been to experience with one's own life what Marcellin commands us: 'that it should always be said of the Marists, as it was said of the first Christians: ¡see how they love one another,'" emphasized Sandra García, catechist at Liceo Guatemala.

GANA

MARIST INTERNATIONAL KUMASI NOVITIATE

Five novices began the first year of novitiate in Ghana, last 12th September, during Vesper in the Novitiate Chapel. The new novices belong to the provinces of Nigeria (4) and Madagascar (1). Other 9 novices continue their time of formation in the second year as novice. The new novices are: Ekpe-Magha Simon Andrew (Nigeria), Nwoye Sunday Mathew (Nigeria), Ogbonna Hyacinth Junior (Nigeria), Randimbisoa Nomenjanahary José Ricka (Madagascar) and Tondo Terna Andrew (Nigeria). The Kumasi Novitiate, in Ghana, West Africa province, has some changes in its formation team this year 2023-2024: Br. Obinna from the Province of Nigeria who was the Bursar returned in his Province and Br. Stephen Kunpsa from the Marist Province of West Africa was assigned to replace him.

Three formators follow the novices in this step of formation: Brothers Sylvain Yao (Novice Master), Clement Nwadike,



Michael Kwabena Telewah (vocation director) and John Kusi Mensah.

marist world

BRAZIL: LAY FORMATION IN THE PROVINCE OF BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE



SPAIN: MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY ANIMATORS IN BILBAO



BELGIUM: MARIST COMMITMENT OF MS CHRISTINE DISPA-LENERTZ IN HABAY



ITALY: TUTTI FRATELLI PROGRAM



CAMBODIA: LA VALLA YEAR 6 GRADUATION



VENEZUELA: PILGRIMAGE TO THE MARIAN SANCTUARY OF EL CARRIZAL

EAST ASIA

CHINA SECTOR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Marist Brothers of the China Sector had their Annual Sector Assembly from September 1 to 3. It was held at the Parish Hall of Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Permatang Tinggi, Simpang Ampat, Penang, Malaysia.

The first day was intended as an arrival day since the brothers came from different countries, namely Singapore, West and East Malaysia, and the Philippines. It was participated by 11 brothers who were housed at Homestay Ang Garden in Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Penang, Malaysia.

During the morning of the second day, September 2, the brothers, through the help of the former Marist Juniors of Penang, went on a pilgrimage to Minor Basilica of St. Anne and visited SRJK (C) Kim Sen, the school that used to be administered by the brothers in Bukit Mertajam. In the afternoon, the Parish Priest of the Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church generously allowed the brothers to use their Parish Hall for their Assembly. Br. Anthony Tay, the Sector Coordinator, together with Br. Allan J. de Castro, the Provincial, led the brothers into a meaningful reflection of their life and mission in the province in the midst of their present realities, namely the aging



brothers, the lack of vocation, the presence in school and other ministries and many others.

Jubilee of Br. Joachim Heng

On September 3, the Sector celebrated the Jubilee of Br. Joachim Heng – 60th Year Anniversary of being a Marist Brother. It was attended by the Brothers, Lay Marists, and his own family, relatives, friends, and benefactors. During the reception, he thanked all those who journeyed with him during the last 60 years.

MARIST FAMILY

SR. CRISTINA GIUSTOZZI IS THE NEW SUPERIOR GENERAL OF MARIST MISSIONARY SISTERS

The Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM) have recently concluded their General Chapter which was held in Rome. They celebrate their Teneral Chapter each 7 years. This time, the theme was “walking together on mission with Mary”.

As Superior General was elected Sr. Cristina Giustozzi. She is Italian and was member of the last Council. She will replace, from 16 December, Sr. Georgeanne marie Donavan, elected in March 2016.

Other member of the team are Sr Denise McMahon, Australian missioned in Fiji; Sr Aubierge Amoussou, Benin, missioned in France; And Sr Pelenatita Kieoma Finau, Tongan, missioned in Peru.



MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOL

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS MAKING PROGRESS IN ITS WORK OF ACCOMPANIMENT

During the months of June, July and September, the advisory committee of Champagnat Global has held online meetings with the aim of advising and validating the proposed roadmap of the network, established for the period 2023-25, sharing opinions and suggestions on the initiatives and activities planned for this year, especially Champagnat Global Week, and analysing the proposal for the next face-to-face meeting of Champagnat Global to take place in March 2025.

Having an advisory team of recognised professionals representative of the whole Marist world gives us the confidence of being able to count on an accompaniment in which the proposals and planning of Champagnat Global have the consideration of those who know the Marist reality very well.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 2024 and will focus especially on the evaluation of the activities of the year 2023 and on the progress of the planning of the face-to-face meeting of Champagnat Global 2025.



We at Champagnat Global are very grateful to: Eduardo Preciado (Arco Norte), June Alisson (South America), Patxi García (Europe), Mark Omede (Africa), Manuel de León (Asia), Frank Malloy (Oceania) for their willingness and generous support in driving the network forward.

WEST AFRICA

Br. Germain Bery Beda, from Ivory Coast, was recently recognized as the best administrator of first cycle schools in Bouaké. This is after Collège Privé St Marcellin Champagnat recorded the best performance in the end of year exams in the whole of Bouaké. The school was congratulated not only for Academic excellence but for discipline and the spirit of Solidarity towards the needs of others.

EUROPE

The regional child protection and communications teams met at the Region's headquarters in Madrid to work together on initiatives to create a safe environment and help spread that message.

NORANDINA

From September 14 to 16, the meeting of the national animation teams of Marist life and mission of this country was held in Venezuela, with the participation of 27 people who reflected on and projected the Annual Operational Plan, as well as having formative spaces around "Synodality".

MARIST BRAZIL

On September 22 and 23, the Marist Youth Meeting took place simultaneously in Curitiba and Porto Alegre, involving more than 1,600 participants from the Marist Provinces of Brasil Sul-Amazônia and Brasil Centro-Sul. Driven by the theme "Hearts that beat", it was a great celebration of the culture of solidarity, plurality, youth and the Civilization of Love.

MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA

MARIST COMMUNITY FROM TALIT INAUGURATED A NEW HOUSE



The Marist Talit Community (West Bengal) in India gathered on September 9 to celebrate the inauguration of the new Marcellin House in the Talit village, in Bardhaman. Since 2010, the Marist Brothers work here in favour of the most underprivileged Santali, in particular children and young people who are dropouts or NEETS (Not engaged in Education, Employment or Training).

The event was graced by the presence of the Reverend Elias Frank, Bishop of Asansol, who blessed the house. Brother Canísio Willrich, the Marist District of Asia Leader, bestowed with the honor of cutting the ribbon and officially declaring the house open. The ceremony was also attended by Most Rev. Cyprian Monis, Bishop Emeritis of Asansol, a multitude of priests and religious leaders, Br. Nicholas Fernando, South Asia provincial, Br. Rajakumar, India Sector Leader, members of MDA council, brothers of Talit community and South Asia province, teachers, students, families, relatives, workers, and close friends of the Marist Talit community.

In his speech, Br. Canísio thanked the

Diocese of Asansol for the warm welcome in its beginning, supporting in many ways the establishment of the Marist presence and mission in this place.

Referring to the new house, the district leader said: "This house will accomplish its purpose if, according to our Superior General, it becomes a Home of Light. Creating homes of light means caring for life, generating new life; these are ideas that emerged during our last General Chapter, as part of the call to be a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope, in this turbulent world." Read the speech.

Brother Canísio also thanked to the General Council, the General Administration, the South Asia province, to India sector, to MDA council, and the Talit community, for your dedication, hard work, persistence, and passion to make this dream to become true.

Concluding his message, Brother Canísio said: "This is a house that will help to consolidate our mission, and makes us to look beyond with new dreams, new projects, expanding our presence and mission in India".

PROPHETIC AND SERVANT LEADERSHIP

OTHER MARIST VOICES 1 AND 2: LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION / PROPHETIC IMAGINATION

Inspired by the book “Marist Voices”, the International Commission on Marist Mission launches today publications related to servant and prophetic leadership development in Marist mission. The project is entitled “Other Marist Voices”. A group of Marists, brothers, and lay people will participate, who will share weekly their perceptions and reflections on servant and prophetic leadership, from their Marist mission and action fronts. Two messages will be published every Monday. A

video message from the authors will be published in the original language. All messages and videos will be available [on this link](#).

Other Marist Voices 1 and 2

Following the schedule, two topics will be published this week. The first was written by Br. Álvaro Sepúlveda, Psychologist, from Chile, Province of Santa María de los Andes, and addresses the following topic “Keys to the prophetic imagination” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) VIDEO) – Video, which refers to chapter 9 of Marist Voices (Sentinels of the Dawn: Pre-seeing: The Prophetic Imagination), written by Br. Emili Turú.

The second message was written by Eurico Santos, from Portugal, Province of Compostela, a member of the Provincial Mission Council. Eurico addresses the topic “Leadership and

communication” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) VIDEO which alludes to chapter 13 of Marist Voices (Communication Skills in Prophetic and Servant Leadership), written by Br. Cyprian Gandebo

Servant and prophetic leadership

This initiative is part of the leadership training program that the General Administration is developing to continue to inspire the exercise of responsibility, vitality, and commitment to the Marist mission (Project 16 of the General Administration’s Strategic Plan). the 22-chapter work “Marist Voices: Essays on Servant and Prophetic Leadership” is an initiative that responds to the invitation of the [XXII General Chapter](#) that suggests “identifying and forming leaders, lay and brothers, at all levels, given growing in co-responsibility for Marist life and mission”.

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