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# MARISTNEWS

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

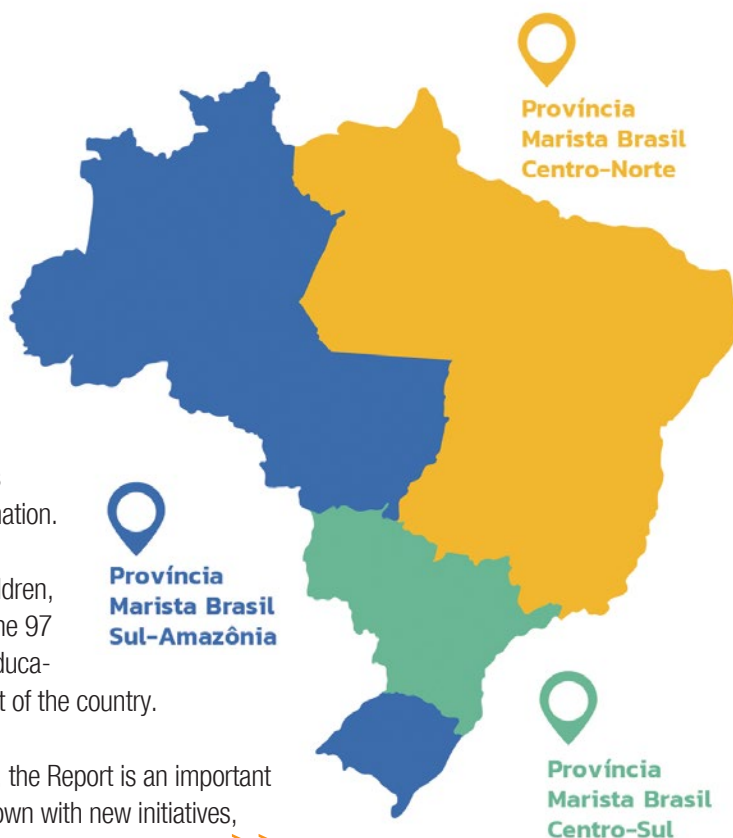
## MARIST UNION OF BRAZIL

### UMBRASIL LAUNCHES 2022 SOCIAL REPORT

On October 5, the Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL) launched the Report with information on Marist activity in Brazil in the areas of Basic Education, Higher Education, Solidarity and Human Rights, Health, Evangelization and Volunteering, Social and Environmental Responsibility, Risk and Compliance, Publishing, Institutional Representation, Marist Historical and Spiritual Heritage, as well as accounting, management, economic and social information.

In 2022, in Brazil, more than 140,000 students, including children, young people and adults, had access to quality education in the 97 Marist schools of Basic Education and the 2 units of Higher Education, which are distributed in 25 states and the Federal District of the country.

For Br. José Augusto Júnior, Director-President of UMBRASIL, the Report is an important instrument for disseminating the Marist mission: "we have grown with new initiatives,



## general administration

■ Brother Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, continues his participation in the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican, which will end on October 29.

■ Br. Óscar Martín, General Councilor, began his visit to the Province of Brazil Centro-Norte on October 5 and will continue until November 12.

■ Br. João Carlos do Prado, General Councilor, has been visiting the Province of Norandina since October 4. Until Saturday he visited the Novitiate of Medellin and, from Sunday until the 16th, he will visit the Marist communities of Ecuador.

■ Last Sunday at MAPAC in Manila, Philippines, the training program for vocational animators from Asia and Oceania began. Br. Lindley Sionosa, associate director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, and Michael Sexton, of the Institute's ongoing formation team, are participating in the organization of the meeting.

■ The international meeting of bursars began on Monday and will be held at the Hermitage until Thursday. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and Ben Consigli were present on behalf of

the General Council. On behalf of the General Commissary, together with the CIAE team, brothers Jorge Gaio and Goyo Linacero, as well as Flavia Angi, will participate.

■ From Thursday to Sunday, Brother Valdicer Fachi will be in Johannesburg accompanying the international volunteer programs developed in the Province of Southern Africa, with a visit to the Three2Six Project.

■ From Friday to Sunday, the Assembly of West Central Europe will be held in Furth, Germany, marking the transition of the Administrative Unit from a province to a district under the Province of the Hermitage. Los Hermanos Luis Carlos y Ben participan en el encuentro en representación del Consejo General. With the participation of Brothers Ben and Luis Carlos, General Councilors.

■ Manu Gómez Cid, Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Laity, will accompany the participants of the "Amanecer" Program from Thursday to Saturday, in the General House, where he will reflect on the lay Marist vocation.

planning and strategies, always with a social commitment and maintaining the values that have brought us this far: solidarity, family spirit, spirituality, interculturality, simplicity, love of work and presence”.

In order to present to stakeholders the achievements, initiatives and joint efforts to strengthen the Marist mission, the annual publication of the Report is carefully monitored by the Working Group made up of representatives of the three Marist Provinces of Brazil (Brasil Centro-Sul, Brasil Centro-Norte and Brasil Sul-Amazônia) and coordinated by UMBRASIL.

The 2022 report is available [at this link](#).



## OTHER MARIST VOICES 5 AND 6

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP AS A TEAM LEADING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Continuing with its publications, Marist International Mission Commission, inspired by the book “Marist Voices”, publishes this Monday two more messages of the project “Other Marist Voices” related to the development of servant and prophetic leadership in the Marist mission.

Other Marist Voices 5 was written by Br. Antonio Maveza Armando, head of school pastoral ministry, from Mozambique, Province of Southern Africa, who addresses the theme “A servant leadership that works as a team” (English | Español | Français | Português) – Video, which refers to chapter 15 of Marist Voices (Collaboration and Team Building), written by Br. Patrick McNamara.

Other Marist Voices 6 was written by Ricardo Tavares, Layman from the Province of Brazil Centro- South, who deals with the



theme “Leading for future generations, ethically, with gratitude, and simplicity” (English | Español | Français | Português) – Video, which refers to chapter 16 of Marist Voices (Biblical Pointers on Fraternity for Leadership Oriented Towards Service), written by Br. Josep Maria Soterias.

### Prophetic and servant leadership

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. All messages and videos will be available [on this link](#).

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”.



## BRAZIL

# COLLABORATORS FROM BRAZIL CENTRO-SUL REFLECT ON MARIST SPIRITUALITY



With the presence of 48 collaborators from the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, from the Mission Fronts, the Marist Group, Religious Organization and Marist Brazil, it was held another edition of Vivemar: an event that celebrates Marist spirituality. The meeting took place in Florianópolis, between September 18 and 22.

Organized by the Directorate of Identity, Mission and Vocation of

the Province, Vivemar ("life marist") aimed to offer Marist collaborators training on the charisma transmitted by Saint Marcellin Champagnat, emphasizing the deepening of spirituality and the encouragement to live the lay vocation.

During the days of the meeting, participants were invited to learn more about the essence of the work started by Champagnat and the first Brothers, and to continue this charisma.

From October 9 to 12, the bursars of the Administrative Units of the Institute meet at the Institute's motherhouse, Notre-Dame de L'Hermitage, in France. It was there that after founding the Institute in La Valla, Saint Marcellin Champagnat saw a new horizon for the Little Brothers of Mary, the construction of the Hermitage in 1825. The theme is 'From La Valla to L'Hermitage - Sustainability, leadership and innovation. "This meeting is an important moment to go into the paths walked by Champagnat", says Brother Jorge Gaio, General Bursar of the Institute.



A special issue of Marist News will be dedicated to the meeting. You can get more information at the following link: <https://champagnat.org/en/meeting-of-bursars-of-the-institute/>



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## ENTREVISTA A JUAN ANTONIO MUÑOZ, VOLUNTARIO EN SIRACUSA

The Intercultural Center for Assistance and Orientation to the migrant population (CIAO), in Syracuse, is the main pastoral activity of the international Marist community LaValla200 of Sicily, Italy, made up of brothers and lay Marists. The center provides education and literacy programs, school reinforcement, legal assistance, and shelter for young immigrants/refugees living in the city and surrounding areas.

Juan Antonio Muñoz Cruz, 27, from the Province of Mediterránea, was a Marist volunteer in Syracuse from September 2022 to August 2023. He is a catechist, a teacher at the Cervantes Marist School in Cordoba and animator of the Christian Life Groups.

In the interview below, Juan Antonio talks about what motivated him to become a Marist, his experience of community life and what he has learned as a volunteer at the Syracuse center.



### What was your first contact with the Marist institution?

My parents put me in a Marist school when I was 6 years old. My father, in fact, was a former student of the Marist school in Cordoba. We lived very close. That's where I got to know the Marists.

### How did you become a Marist?

Well, because I joined the (Marist) youth movement at a very early age. At that time they were already Christian Life Groups, but they had another name. Today I am still part of it as a catechist. For me, being Marist has always been closely linked to being a member of "Groups". I discovered the faith thanks to "Groups". My faith has been built on the pillars and teaching inspired by Marcellin. On the other hand, my work vocation is education, education as an instrument, as a tool that can change the world. And because of that, my being Marist also means being part of a school team, as a teacher.

### Have you always wanted to be a

### teacher?

As a catechist I was very involved in education, and in the end I decided to study for a master's degree in education. I studied it in Jaén, and I was also involved in the pastoral ministry of the Marist school in Jaén. Wherever I go, I try to be involved in something Marist. I could do it in a parish, of course, but if there is a Marist presence, it calls me.

### How did you decide to come here to Syracuse?

I was returning home in the morning and I received a call from a person very close to me, a schoolmate who was also a teacher of mine, and he told me that a brother had called him because he needed a person, a lay person, willing to go to Syracuse. This community is composed of two brothers and two lay men and women. Nina, a laywoman, was leaving at that time.

### What made you say Yes in just a few hours?

I wouldn't say that there was a reason to

say Yes, but that there was no real reason to say No. That is, if you have a short time to make a decision, it is very easy to find the definitive answer in that time, because you really think about the things you have to think about. If my mother asks me for help, I go. If my sister asks me for help, I go. If the Marists ask me for help, I go.

### What were your first moments here like?

I was met at the airport by Ricky and Quique, because Giorgio stayed behind to make a pizza for when I arrived. And from the first minute I felt very natural. I felt welcomed from minute one.

### Juan, how would you define community life?

I am living with the same people with

## marist world

SPAIN  
MEETING OF COMMUNITY LEADERS OF THE  
PROVINCE OF MEDITERRANEA IN GUARDAMAR



SPAIN: RENEWAL OF VOWS OF BR. JOSÉ LUÍS CARVALHO IN SALAMANCA, COMPOSTELA

MADAGASCAR  
SAINT JOSEPH'S MARIST SCHOOL IN ANTSIRA-  
NANA



ECUADOR: BR. JOÃO CARLOS DO PRADO, GENERAL COUNCILOR, MEETS WITH THE BROTHERS OF THE COUNTRY

FILIPINAS: HERMANOS DEL MAPAC RENUEVAN  
LOS VOTOS



BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE: BR. ÓSCAR MARTÍN, GENERAL COUNCILOR, VISITS THE MARIST SCHOOL IN BELÉM

whom I have a shared mission. Therefore, for me, life in community means making every day and every moment part of that mission.

Each one has his individual freedom, his space, and at the same time we look for moments to be together, to continue building that mission, which is not only built in the CIAO, it is also built here at home. Because if we didn't cook every day, and ask each other what dish we like, or make a surprise for someone, or the little details... it wouldn't make sense.

### If you had to highlight a moment of this year...

We always have a community meeting every week. And it is not a meeting to talk about work, the CIAO or the apartments, this is a community meeting, about us. And I keep those moments in particular, where we can share a more intimate moment of community.

### And what is your day-to-day life?

The first thing we do when we get up is to come to prayer, which we have in this space in the living room. We start the day with a very simple time of prayer. One of the things I have discovered in community is that you don't need to get so complicated to pray. And the truth is that I really like that moment. A moment of prayer, then we have breakfast together and we go to the CIAO.

### What do you take with you from this experience in Syracuse?

One of the things I take with me is the reflection that in the past I found excuses for not having moments of prayer, for having too much work, being too busy or whatever, horrible excuses. I've realized that here I am working 24/7 and I find 15 minutes to pray, and not just me, but I share that moment with others. And I also take away... the need to be closer to the brothers. I have a great desire to share moments with the brothers in Cordoba. I have already

thought of some ideas and shared with them, in fact, about how to participate in community life, in a different way from the way I participate here, of course. But I think that as a lay Marist I feel a bit called to that, to try to share time with other people in the Marist world. And I take with me, obviously, the people, all that I experienced here with the people, my brothers in community and so many other things.

From the mission I take with me a change for the life I have planned in Cordoba. I do not know if tomorrow life will take me in other directions, and my service will have to be for my family, of course; but I want to continue to be active in the mission beyond my work.

\*This interview is a summary of the interview conducted by Anabel Abad, head of communications of *Maristas Ibérica*, as a volunteer of *SED*, in July 2023, in Siracusa, Italy. Read the full interview in [Spanish](#).



**BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA**

Last month, Br. Jacob Ignacio Kuhn celebrated 100 years of life and 80 years of religious life. With a beautiful life dedicated to education and the Marist charism: "Being a Marist Brother is easier to live than to define", and "There is no secret to perseverance". And concludes with a sense of gratitude: "I feel completely fulfilled".

**MARISTS EUROPE**

27 participants from 4 Administrative Units of the European Region participated in the training program for those responsible for Pastoral Animation. Some of the topics covered during the formation days were: Christology, ecclesiology, analysis of reality, and pastoral options.

**MEXICO**

On October 7, feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Brothers Luis Enrique Rodríguez Santana and Luis Felipe González Ruiz, Provincials of Mexico, announced that in 2024 the Marists of the country will celebrate the Jubilee Year, commemorating 125 years of Marist presence in Mexico, and 100 years since the birth of Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán.

**EAST ASIA**

The communities in South Korea have undergone a major reorganization this year, as the Provincial and Council wanted to strengthen fraternity and mutual support and revitalize community life. There are now three communities in the country: Seoul, Ansan, and Jechon. The brothers are reinventing ways of living as a community within the complex and diverse circumstances in which their members live and work.

**ARCO NORTE****FORMATION FOR VOCATIONAL ACCOMPANERS FOR LAY PEOPLE**

From September 25 to 27, the first stage of the formation gathering for Vocational Accompaners for Lay People in the Arco Norte Region was held in the city of Cali, Colombia. Participating were 16 lay people from 5 administrative units and the members of the base team of the region formed for this purpose (2 brothers and 4 lay people), in addition to the general coordinator of formation of the laity in the region, Claudia Rojas.

During this time, they shared life, spirituality and formation, as well as tools for personal accompaniment, in a context of simplicity, joy and commitment to the Marist charism. The challenge remains to continue developing the three stages, which each of them has, for 13 months, until October 2024.

The team gives special thanks to the Norandina Province, the community of Brothers of the city of Cali and the San Luis Gonzaga school for their welcome and affection.

**NORANDINA****BROTHERS AND LAITY RECALL THE MARIST WAY LIVED AND GIVEN**

Continuing the year of Marist vocations, the team of lay people of Colombia, Norandina Province, convoked, in the city of Cali, brothers and lay people who have lived vocational processes and who are over 65 years of age, to share and recall the Marist life lived and given. This meeting allowed the so-called "columns of the Province" to remember, thank and transmit those experiences and moments lived from God and that today are reflected in those beautiful faces that frame years well lived of dedication and fidelity to the Charism.

## GENERAL HOUSE

# BROTHER ALPHONSE TIAMARO APPOINTED PROVINCIAL OF MADAGASCAR

**B**r. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and his Council, after studying the consultation of the brothers of the province have appointed Br. Alphonse Tiamaro as the Provincial of Madagascar for a period of three years. Br. Alphonse will begin his mandate during the celebration of the next Provincial Chapter which will take place from the 5th to the 7th of January 2024.

Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, thanked Br. Michel Maminiaina Razafimandimby for his commitment during these six years of leadership in the province, and he also thanked him for his participation and support to the Africa region and the Institute.

In a letter sent to the province on 29 September, Br. Ernesto greeted and thanked the Provincial Council and all those who collaborate in the different provincial animation teams, both brothers and lay people.

## Brother Alphonse Tiamaro

Brother Alphonse was born on May 15, 1978, in Mananjary, Madagascar. He has one sister and five brothers, and he is the second to last in the family. In 1995, after having obtained his baccalaureate (secondary school certificate) he entered the postulate of the Marist Brothers in Fianarantsoa, for his 2-year initial formation. In October 1997 he began his novitiate, and on June 6, 1999, he made his first vows. After the novitiate, he did a four-year scholasticate in Nairobi, known as MIC (Marist International Centre) in Kenya.

In 2003 he returned to Madagascar, and, after a 3-year experience of community life, he pronounced his final vows on December 17, 2006. From 2006 to 2009 he completed a formation of formators course, and he pursued his higher education studies in Nairobi. After his studies, the head of the province appointed him responsible for the postulancy of Ampahidrano Fianarantsoa. Later, in 2012, he left Madagascar to go to Rwanda, and work in the novitiate as a formator, a position he held for 4 years. Then, in September 2016, the brother responsible for the province asked him to reinforce the formation team for young scholastics in Nairobi.

In Nairobi, he developed different activities as an animator and



guide for young brothers, and a professor at the Marist University of Nairobi (MIUC), among other responsibilities.

Since 2019, he has been a member of the International Commission of Brothers Today, representing young people and formators of the MIC.

At the same time, he serves in the CSAC (Conference of Superiors of the African Continent) as a member of the regional commissions. This year, 2023, he has completed seven years as a formator in the MIC, and the brother responsible for the province of Madagascar has once again appointed him responsible for the postulate of Ampahidrano.

The Provincial governs with the help of his Council. His main role is as leader of the religious life and mission of the brothers, promoting the renewal that is always needed. He fosters a strong sense of unity among the brothers and co-ordinates their work. He ensures that plans and programmes are established for the pastoral care of those lay people involved in Marist life and mission. Together with the Superior General, he oversees fidelity to our mission and, as an expression of this, has the primary responsibility for the administration of Province resources. He has direct authority over all the brothers and all the houses of the Province (Constitutions 127)

## GENERAL HOUSE

# ANA ISABEL SABORÍO APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LAITY

The Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, and the General Council have appointed Ana Isabel Saborío Jenkins (Province of América Central) as assistant director of the Secretariat of the Laity for a period of three years. Ana will begin this assignment as of January 1, 2024, and will replace Manu Gómez Cid (Mediterránea), who will assume the position of director of the secretariat.

As of January, the Secretariat of Laity will be formed by Manu Gómez (director), Mark O'Farrell (assistant director) and Ana Saborío (assistant director). The Secretariat, in its mission of animation of the lay marist vocation, is supported by the extended Secretariat, formed, as of January 2024, by Alida Bodomanitra (Africa – Province of Madagascar), Claudia Rojas (Arco Norte – Province of Norandina), Nathan Ahearne (Oceania – Province of Star of the Sea), Marcos Broc (América Sul, Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia) and Rita Silva (Europe, Province of Compostela).

Ana Isabel Saborío Jenkins is a laywoman associated to the Marist charism in the Province of Central America.

She was born in Costa Rica, and is the fourth daughter of seven siblings.

Ana is married to Alonso Martén and has a 31 year old son, Sergio Martén.

For most of her life, since she was a student, Ana has lived the Marist experience.

She has 12 years of experience as a teacher in the Marist School of Alajuela, 4 years as Academic Coordinator of Secondary School and 12 years in the mission of the Direction of the Educational Center.

For the last 15 years, she has been part of the Fraternity Virgen del Pilar.

In 2023, Ana has assumed the Provincial Coordination of the Laity of Central America.

During her Marist life in the Marist School of Alajuela, she has participated in the Commissions of Laity and Education of the Marist Province of Central America. She also coordinates the Synchronous Virtual Masters in Leadership and Educational Management of the Province, in agreement with the Marist University of Guadalajara, and is a member of the Extended Secretariat of the Laity of the Institute.



Throughout 28 years, Ana has lived various experiences of service and ministry in different areas: education, catechesis for children, youth and solidarity, both at the local and provincial level, in the region and in the Institute. Her journey on the lay path has made her deepen and corroborate that Marist life “is a way of life” for which one chooses, and “a particular spirituality from which one drinks daily”.



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