



Year **XVI** - Number **802** | 18 OCTOBER 2023

MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG

GENERAL HOUSE

3RD MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY

In alignment with the spirit of the 22nd General Chapter and the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Hermitage, Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General, wholeheartedly invites Marists of Champagnat from across the world to join us on the path towards the 3rd Marist International Mission Assembly (MIMA III), themed “We are a Global Family” (Letter of invitation of the Superior General). As outlined in the Marist Brothers Constitutions, Article 119.3, the International Assembly serves as a platform to exchange experiences, grasp the current social landscape, discern priorities, and propose future orientations and strategies for our Marist Mission worldwide.

MIMA III is scheduled to take place from April 8-14, 2024, in El Escorial, Madrid, Spain. Each Administrative Unit will nominate representatives, including both Brothers and lay Marists, who are engaged in the mission, education, and evangelization of children and young people, particularly those who are margi-



nalized and in need. However, the journey does not begin on the first day of the Assembly; it begins with each individual's life as a Marist of Champagnat, interwoven with the broader community or workgroup to which they belong. Therefore, all



general administration

■ Champagnat Week was inaugurated on Monday, with various initiatives organized by the Schools Network team and the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization. Br. Ben Consigli, General Councillor, took part in the opening of the activities.

■ Until Friday, a team from FMSI is in Germany visiting agencies that offer aid to solidarity projects.

■ On Monday, Br. João Carlos do Prado, General Councillor, finished his visit to the Norandina Province, having visited the Ecuador sector in recent days. From Thursday, he will begin his visit to the Province of América Central.

■ Br. Óscar Martín, General Councillor, continues his visit

to the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, which will end on November 12.

■ This week a new LaValla200> community will be inaugurated in Malawi. Br. Valdicer Fachi, director of Cmi, will be there.

■ Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, continues to take part in the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican, which ends on October 29.

■ Formation programs for senior Brothers continue at Manziana (English) and at the General House (Spanish and Portuguese). On Tuesday, the group from the General House left for France, where they will spend a week visiting Marist places.

are encouraged to participate in the preparatory phases (at the Local, Province/District levels) of this [MIMA III](#) pilgrimage. We extend an invitation “to look beyond” the present and envision the future of Marist mission through discernment, dialogue, and prayer.

To facilitate this process, [materials are available to aid each Marist of Champagnat](#) in discerning and envisioning the future of Marist mission with courage, audacity, and hope. These materials are adaptable for use as each individual sees fit.

We strongly encourage everyone to remain attentive to local-level announcements as discussions commence. Our aim is to involve as many Marists as possible, including Brothers, lay adults, and young individuals within your schools, Fraternities, Marist Movements, and in all our missions across the globe. We invite you to reflect upon and share your life experiences as Marists in mission.

Here you can read more details about MIMA III
Overview PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

MARIST FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

FMSI MOVES FROM BEING ONLUS TO BEING A THIRD SECTOR ENTITY (ETS)

On October 5, 2023, the [Marist Foundation for International Solidarity \(FMSI\)](#) completed the process of adapting to the Third Sector Reform, promoted in Italy, and was officially registered in the Single National Third Sector Register (RUNTS), and officially assuming the status of Third Sector Entity (ETS). This date represents a significant moment in the growth and evolution of our organization and entails several important changes and opportunities.



Fondazione Marista
per la Solidarietà
Internazionale Onlus
FMSI
Per il Bene dei Bambini

For more than 16 years, thanks to the fundamental support of the Marist Brothers' Institute, which supports its work every year, [FMSI](#) has been working to develop the potential of children, girls and young people, especially those in the most vulnerable conditions, through education, advocacy and solidarity projects. FMSI promotes solidarity, education, and development in the peripheries of the world, following the Marist Charism and the words of the Founder of the Congregation, St Marcellin Champagnat. FMSI has contributed to the elimination of inequalities in access to education, breaking down all socio-economic, gender and origin barriers that could be an impediment to the education of children, girls and young people supported by the Marist Missions around the world.

The transition from a non-profit organization (ONLUS) to Third Sector Entity (ETS) brings with it a number of responsibilities that will further strengthen the Foundation's mission. As a Third Sector Organization, the Marist Foundation will ensure greater

transparency in financial operations and resource management. This new status will allow the Foundation to diversify its activities and develop new partnerships to better address global challenges, including poverty, education, health, and the promotion of Human Rights. Furthermore, as the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity ETS, it will be able to adapt to the changing needs of Marist communities globally and respond effectively to humanitarian emergencies.

This transition is a fundamental step that reflects FMSI's commitment to pursue its Vision of a world where childhood is respected and guaranteed, free from violence and fear. A world where children, girls and young people are recognized as active members of their communities and society.

Today, the Marist International Solidarity Foundation ETS continues to operate in more than 67 countries, implementing more than five hundred development and emergency projects in favor of children, girls, youth and communities in vulnerable condi-

tions and sending to the United Nations more than 67 UPR (Universal Periodic Review) in order to shed light on the condition of human rights and the rights of children in the countries where the Marist Congregation works through its Missions. FMSI has also carried out activities with a political impact, such as the 'Humanity' and 'Peace Goes Beyond' campaigns promoted by the FOCSIV Network, of which FMSI is a member, and fundraising campaigns to support populations in a state of emergency. Among the most important ones, FMSI launched a fundraising campaign on February 7, 2023, to support the Mission and the population of Aleppo following the earthquake that devastated Syria. Thanks to this campaign, FMSI raised 469,941 from 538 donors and obtained essential medical supplies, including hospital equipment such as lung ventilators and continuous pressure equipment. The fundraising aimed to respond quickly to the initial phase of the earthquake and the ensuing state of humanitarian emergency through targeted interventions, such as the distribution of food parcels, psycho-social support to people in vulnerable conditions and the distribution of clothes, nappies and blankets.

On November 20, 2023, on the occasion of the International Day of the Rights of the Child, FMSI, together with the Solidarity Secretariat of the Institute of the Marist Brothers, will organise

the event "Right to be Children". The main objective of the event is to raise awareness of the challenges and issues facing children and to promote their rights and safety. The event aims to share knowledge and experiences, as well as to reflect on recommendations and next steps to be taken in the Marist Family to ensure that every child enjoys his or her fundamental rights.

The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity ETS is enthusiastic about continuing to work with supporters, partners and volunteers to create a more just, fair and inclusive world for all.

"We have an enormous responsibility towards the missions, the social works, the Marist schools in the world, the children. And last but not least, of the General Council, which every year confirms its trust and supports us" says Andrea Rossi, Director of FMSI "we feel this trust in us and we want it to be the stimulus to commit ourselves to do even more, build bridges and look further ahead".

For more information on the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity ETS and its activities, projects and initiatives, please visit our [website](#) at or contact us at the following e-mail address: fmsi@fms.it.



ITALY

III TUTTI FRATELLI FORMATION PROGRAM

On September 9, the third formation program organized by TUTTI FRATELLI, a group of congregations of brothers, began and concluded on October 7, 2023. On this occasion, the training program was aimed at religious brothers who accompany young people in their formation for religious life.

7 people participated, including members and representatives of different religious institutes of brothers from all over the world:

- Brothers of the Christian Schools (6 members)
- Marist Brothers (6)
- Brothers of St. Gabriel (4)
- Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (4)
- Brothers of San Juan de Dios (5)
- Christian Brothers (4)
- Brothers of Charity (1)
- Brothers of Merciful Jesus (2)
- Brothers of Christian Instruction (2)
- Holy Family Brothers (5)
- Brothers of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (3)
- Brothers of Our Lady Mother of Mercy (4)
- Xaverian Brothers (1)

They are joined by a team of session leaders led by Marist Brother Ángel Medina, director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today. The meeting took place in Rome, at the general house of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The topics addressed were aimed at responding to two important needs: the person accompanying and the person being accompanied. During the first two weeks, all the interventions, personal and collective reflections were centered on the vocation and mission of the accompanier. Moreover, the last two weeks focused on deepening the realities of today's youth in general and young religious in particular.



In order to respond to the formative needs of these young people, the participants, with the help of the speakers, are fully engaged in the study of issues related to the spiritual, personal and group accompaniment of young people who wish to embrace religious life. The speakers, who provided valuable insights, reflections and experiences, came from different congregations, including diocesan priests, among them a Burundian, and also a lay teacher. The themes fulfilled expectations: interculturality and community life, fraternity and the identity of the religious brother, the person of the companion and his world, the person of the companion and his own world, and finally vocational discernment.

Finally, the last two days (October 5 and 6) were dedicated to the SIPs (synthesis, integrations and projections), a very important moment to understand more, integrate knowledge and project the mission into the future. Participants engaged in personal and group reviews to jointly chart the way forward for the future mission. Once again, the religious formators strived to use tools that better respond to the emerging needs of religious formation.

All the participants in this formation expressed their gratitude to the Superiors General of the religious Institutes of brothers and to the entire team that organized this formation, especially to Br. Ángel Medina, who coordinated all the formative activities.

marist world

FRANCE: INTERNATIONAL BURSAR'S MEETING



SOLOMON ISLANDS: INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS



BRAZIL: 60 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE OF BROTHER ADÉLIO JOSÉ VIER, BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA



SPAIN: MEETING OF BROTHERS AND LAY PEOPLE FROM COMPOSTELA WHO WORK IN THE VOCATIONAL MINISTRY



MÉXICO: PARTICIPANTS OF THE MARISTIZATION COURSE IN GUADALAJARA



GERMANY: LAUNCH OF WEST CENTRAL EUROPE DISTRICT, FURTH

CRUZ DEL SUR

FORMATION OF THOSE ACCOMPANYING THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

More than 50 lay people from Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, accompanied by some Brothers, have been participating since April in the Formation Course “On the Road to Emmaus”, organized in a face-to-face and virtual way by the Marist Vocation Area of the Province of Cruz del Sur.

The program is consequence of the International Formation Course for Leaders and Animators of the Lay Marist Vocation, promoted by the Institute's Secretariat of Laity. Its objective is to form the laity of the three sectors of the province as vocation animators, in order to promote the vocation and charism of Champagnat in the educational works of the Province.

Throughout these months, the participants have deepened their understanding of the spirituality and community dimension of the Marist charism: love of work, family spirit, service to the



most fragile, simplicity of daily life and community prayer. It also focuses on the paradigm of care and provides tools for accompaniment. The participants are currently designing plans to animate and accompany the lay vocation in their works.

During the formation, the educational centers and the brothers' communities received the lay Marists in their spaces. Now, the formation is in its final stage.

GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CHILD & VULNERABLE ADULTS SAFEGUARDING

From the 2 to 4 October the International Commission for Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding held a meeting in the General House, in Rome.

The Commission discussed many important themes for the institute in the crucial area of the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

A few topics or themes of the Meeting:

- The Implementation of the Institute's Standards of Child Safeguarding
- The results of the online Monitoring Tool and the need to ensure that all administrative units are developing and implementing the necessary policies and process in keeping children and vulnerable adults safe.
- Looking ahead: planning for the meeting of Provincial Safeguarding delegates in March 2025.

The members of the commission are: Br. Ben Consigli, General Council; Fernando Dominguez, Europe (L'Hermitage); Br. Fortune Chakasara, Africa (Southern Africa); Elizabeth Gallagher, Oceania (Australia); Br. Ken McDonald, Chair – General Council; Nancy Camilleri – Europe (West Central Europe); Br. Óscar Martín, General Council; Br. Rogerio Mateucci, América Sur (Brasil Centro-Sul).



safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Marcellin Champagnat often stressed the importance of respecting children and young people and providing appropriate care for them. This commitment is reflected in the statement from the 22nd General Chapter and the new Constitutions. During the 22nd General Chapter at Rionegro, Colombia, the delegates confirmed that the Marist Institute at all levels conforms to the highest standards of “child protection, so that all our works are child safe and child friendly.” (Statement of the Marist Brothers to Victims and Survivors of Abuse, 20th October, 2017). The new Constitutions also state that, “we ensure that all our houses, educational centres and social works are places where children, young people and vulnerable adults always feel safe and respected” (Const. 59).

Marists committed to the safety of vulnerable people

From our very beginnings the institute has been committed to the

You can read in these link the Institute's Child Safeguarding Standards: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

Champagnat Global Week

The Marist Global Network of Schools, in these days, promotes the Champagnat Global Week. The initiative aims to be a space for communication, meeting and interaction of the international Marist school community.

Among the themes of the week we highlight the following spaces, which can be followed live on YouTube:

Tuesday, 17 October – 4 PM (Rome's time)

Webinar on Internationalization among Marist Schools (<https://youtube.com/live/jcG9p1FXNaE>)

Wednesday, 17 October – 4 PM (Rome's time) Conference on Educational Innovation (<https://youtube.com/live/c5F5je5FKgQ>)

Thursday, 17 October – 4 PM (Rome's time) Webinar on Interiority (<https://youtube.com/live/TX5LUH3nDLU>)

Friday, 17 October – 4 PM (Rome's time) Launch of the Champagnat Global Run (https://youtube.com/live/zLcQ_OT5Xik)

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

ARCO NORTE

From October 8 to 12, the II Meeting of Communicators of Region was held in Bogota, Colombia, during which the strategies proposed in the Strategic Operational Planning were continued and new lines of action were generated to continue positioning the Region.

EAST ASIA – USA

Brothers Dan O’Riordan, Provincial of the United States, and James McKnight recently visited the Philippine Marist Brothers on the 75th year anniversary of the Marist presence in the country. Both had the St. Joseph Community in Lagao as their base while visiting the different Brothers’ communities and establishments.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

Between October 12th and 15th, Marist Brothers with up to two years of perpetual vows gathered in Brazilândia for the Provincial Meeting of Young Brothers. The aim of the event was to provide an opportunity to experience fraternity, as well as formation and accompaniment. The meeting was attended by Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor.

LaVALLA200> SIRACUSA

October 6th marked seven years of Marist community presence in Sicily, Italy. Marist activities began in the reception centers for immigrants from Africa and today are developed through the Intercultural Center for Help and Guidance (CIAO) and the “Alloggi per l’autonomia” project, which accompanies young people leaving the reception centers for immigrants and seeking autonomy.

OTHER MARIST VOICES 7 AND 8**LEADING WITH AN ALERT AWARENESS / HOW DO WE LIVE EMPATHY WITH PEOPLE?**

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 7 was written by Idalia Ramos, national coordinator of education, El Salvador, América Central, who addresses the theme “Leading with an alert and purposeful awareness” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#). The

message refers to chapter 20 of Marist Voices (Spiritual and Ethical Wisdom in Leadership), written by Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez.

Other Marist Voices 8 was written by Br. Maurice Juvence, Principal. Saint Joseph School, Antsirabe, Madagascar, who deals with the theme “How do we live empathy with people or students in our Marist mission? Experiences and realities” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 17 of Marist Voices (Leading with Mary in One’s Heart), written by Br. Juan Carlos Fuertes.

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).

OCTOBER 17

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

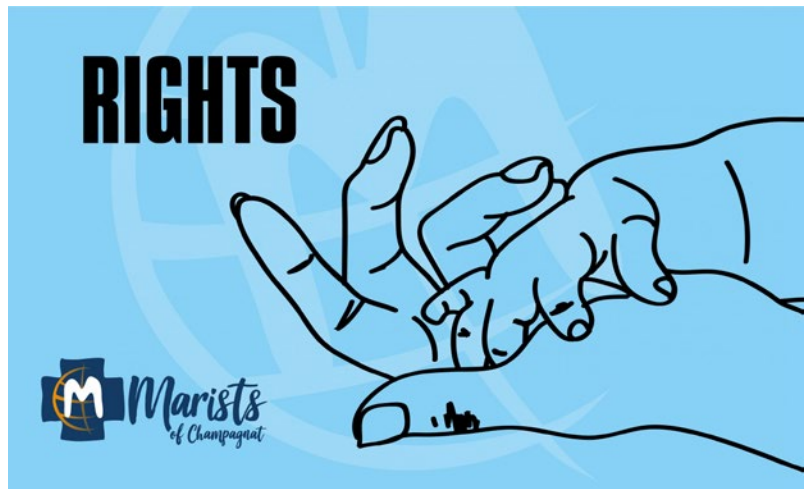
"Accepting one's vulnerabilities become the space for the action of the Spirit." Instrumentum Laboris, 31.
(preparation for the Synod on Synodality).

Hey, you! Yes, you who read this reflection. Maybe you should stop reading it, because I have to admit, right from the beginning, that I don't like poverty. Yes, you read that right, I don't like poverty! Some may wonder how this is possible, if I work in the Secretariat of Solidarity. Well, the answer is very simple: I have never liked poverty. Of course, perhaps the question should be rephrased; or perhaps you, reader, would change the way of expressing the statement: "I don't like poverty". I leave it at that, just as it is written.

On October 17, the United Nations invites us to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Of course, we are facing one of the greatest scourges of our societies. Thousands, millions of people who do not have what they need to live in dignity; hundreds of thousands of children who do not have access to adequate education, who lack drinking water, who have no way to feed themselves, who do not even consider having access to a minimum of health care.

And let's not only think about some nations of our world, let's also think about some neighborhoods of the big cities "supposedly" developed. Poverty is a scourge, and that is why we so often try to hide it, to conceal it. It is true that thinking about the poverty suffered by our brothers and sisters in so many parts of the world can lead us to reflection and action to alleviate their pain and vulnerability.

The data shown by the United Nations on poverty in the world are alarming, because behind the concept of "poverty" there are human beings like you and me who suffer it every day of their lives. For this very reason, too, and to try to combat this situation of injustice and indignity for human beings, the United



Nations sets us the challenge of "ending poverty in all its forms...", mentioned in the first of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Marist documents are also clear in this regard and invite us to fight for the dignity and equality of all human beings. Our last General Chapter "obliges" us to listen to the cries of those who have no voice. It also urges us to be creative in responding to their needs.

A few days ago, Pope Francis published the apostolic exhortation *Laudato Deum*, which some of you may have already read. In number 69, Francis makes a clear invitation to beautify our world. How can we beautify it without counting on our brothers and sisters who suffer from poverty? Yes, it is impossible to separate care for our world from care for those who live in it. Our Rule of Life, in the title of the third chapter, reminds us to be "in a permanent attitude of service". And what does this mean? Well, easy, well no, very complicated. It means to put ourselves on the side of the most needy, to take the side of those who suffer poverty, in any of its manifestations. Let us give "preference to those who never have" (RV 92).

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



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat