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MARISTNEWS

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FRATELLI PROJECT IN MAICAO

A SYNODAL INITIATIVE OF THE MARISTS AND THE LASALLIANS

For several years the Marist Brothers and the De La Salle Brothers have joined efforts, intentions and their own lives around the 'Fratelli Project', "a project that connects with what is most authentic in the Marist and Lasallian vocations, which is fraternity", as explains Brother Óscar Vicario, member of the Fratelli Council. "Our Founders wanted fraternities at the service of poor children and young people, and that is Fratelli, a response to what our contemporary world needs", adds the Marist religious.

For Brother Carlos Gómez, Vicar General of the De La Salle Brothers, who is also a member of the Fratelli



**Fratelli
Project**
Maicao, Colombia

La Salle

Maristas
de Champagnat



general administration

■ The visits of the General Councillors, Brothers Óscar Martín and João Carlos do Prado, continue, respectively in the Provinces of Brasil Centro-Norte (until November 12) and América Central (until November 19).

■ On Tuesday, Brother Ángel Diego García, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, and Andrea Rossi, director of FMSI, met with various partner organizations in Geneva (CCIG, BICE, ERI, Franciscans, Dominicans...). Then, until November 7th, Brother Ángel Diego will visit the Marist social work in Bucharest, Romania.

■ On Friday, the face-to-face meeting of the course on servant and prophetic leadership, which is being held in Koronadal at Notre Dame of Marbel University, ends. The course has 29 participants from 19 countries. Present from the General Administration are Brothers Luis

Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, Ben Consigli, General Councillor, and Goyo Linacero, project manager for the Strategic Plan.

■ On the same day, the "Amanecer" ongoing formation program for Portuguese and Spanish-speaking brothers, which began on September 6th, comes to an end. The course for English-speaking brothers, which takes place in Manzanara, ends on the 19th.

■ From Friday until Sunday, the General Councillors, Brothers Josep Maria Soteras and Ben, will take part in the MAPAC Board meeting in the Philippines.

■ The "Accompaniers of Older Brothers" are arriving at the General House to take part in a 3.5-week course organized by the ongoing formation team. The formation program begins next Monday.

Council, “the initiative to work together has to do, firstly, with the traditions of our two Institutes, and also in the context of a Church which today invites us to synodality”, since “synodality will always mean working together, dreaming together, living together and, obviously, building communion, which is basically what the Church has to demonstrate to the world”.

Both congregations, the Marist and De La Salle Brothers, are convinced of the need to “walk together in specific projects” that respond to Pope Francis’ call to revive the synodal essence of the Church and to take action in the existential peripheries.

Brothers of the migrants

Hence the commitment to set up communities with Brothers and volunteers from both congregations, to respond to the reality of children and young people in a situation of migration, as it is happening in Lebanon, where the project started more than eight years ago, and now, more recently, in Maicao, on the northern border between Colombia and Venezuela, where the first steps are being taken under the leadership of the Fratelli Council and the Provincials of the Marists and Lasallians in the ground.

“Fratelli is a project born of the two congregations to respond to emerging needs, especially those of migrants; it is an experience of shared life and mission”, points out Br. Valdicer Fachi, a Marist religious and member of the Fratelli Council, who also underscores that “Fratelli not only revitalises the life of the Brothers, above all by the newness of the work, the shared mission”, but also “it is something new that is born in the Church, in religious life, and in this sense, it is prophetic within the two congregations as well as within the Church”.

“We have come together to create Fratelli projects that aim to be a strong community interaction as well as the



interaction with migrants”, emphasises Sergio Leal, a De La Salle Brother and member of the Fratelli Council, who also states, “the Fratelli Maicao Project serves the Venezuelan migrant population living in the north of Colombia, in Maicao and its surroundings”. There, a community made up of De La Salle Brothers and Marist Brothers has already been established.

A shared dream

“What seemed like a dream: De La Salle Brothers and Marist Brothers and volunteers, living together and working at the service of these migrant children, became a reality little by little”, expresses Br Oscar Vicario with remarkable hope. “Fratelli is a divine inspiration for two congregations to work together to support human tragedies, basically through non-school educational projects for migrant populations in the complex situations the world is experiencing,” adds Br Carlos Gómez.

“We Marists and Lasallians are learning to live, to join together, to go beyond borders. Why? Because reality challenges us, the Church challenges us, the needs of children and young people call us to be hand in hand with them and for them, and to move forward with them”, affirms Brother Valdicer Fachi. For this reason, “to speak of revitalisation for us, Lasallian and Marist religious, implies going through processes of conversion, and these Fratelli projects both in Lebanon and in Maicao, have a profound impact on the life not only of the Brothers, but also of the volunteers”, adds Brother Sergio Leal.



MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS THE FIRST CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL WEEK

The first Champagnat Global Week took place from the 16th to the 20th October. These were days of meetings on topics of interest to school life, promoted by the Marist Global Network of Schools, Champagnat Global, and aimed mainly at the directors and teachers of the 600 Marist schools around the world.

On Monday 16th, a course on Global Citizenship was launched for a pioneering group that will be trained in the knowledge of how to live and promote the experience of global citizenship among our students. This course will be open, in a few months, to the whole Marist educational community.

On Tuesday 17th we had the opportunity to meet all those interested in carrying out online or face-to-face exchanges between the different Marist schools in the world. In Agorá, we have an internationalisation group where you can find many contacts.

On Wednesday 18 we were able to enjoy a wonderful conference given by an expert in educational innovation: Xavier Aragay, from whom we were able to learn about the keys to tackling the transformation required by today's schools. In the Agorá innovation group, his interesting and valuable proposal is available, which can

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

enlighten us so much in our actions.

On Thursday 19th we experienced a very enriching webinar, learning from the experiences of many of our colleagues who in different parts of the world are creatively developing spirituality in the daily practice of teaching in Marist schools. In the interiority group of Agorá, you will be able to find the interesting experiences that were shared.

On Friday 20th we met a group interested in promoting the knowledge of the Marist Schools through the development of a sporting activity and we launched the Champagnat Global Run. If you are interested in finding out more and want to promote it in your school, be sure to visit the Champagnat Global Run Agorá group.

[Don't miss the week in pictures and find out what happened in this short video!](#)

MEETING OF THE BROTHERS OF GUATEMALA WITH BR. JOÃO CARLOS DO PRADO

On October 22, the Marists of Guatemala welcomed Brother João Carlos do Prado who is visiting the Province of Central America until November 19. At this time the 26 Brothers of the communities of Guatemala City and, in a virtual way, the Brothers of the communities of Chichicastenango and Coatepeque, who found

it difficult to travel because of the social and political situation in the country, met with the General Councilor.



During this meeting, Brother João Carlos invited the participants to recognize and be grateful for the gift of fraternity, lived in each community. He also shared some data and news of the Institute, about the Marist life and mission. In this way, the brothers were able to enter into harmony with the journey of the global family and to know some of the intuitions that the General Council wishes to promote for the future.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

With the aim of guaranteeing the education and evangelization of children in all the dioceses of the world, the Province has inaugurated a new social school, called Escola Marista Guadalupe, in Januária, in the state of Minas Gerais, expanding its service to socially vulnerable students.

AMÉRICA SUR

The Council of the Region, made up of the three Provinces of Brazil, Cruz del Sur and Santa María de los Andes, together with the General Councillor, Brother Óscar Martín, met from October 25 to 30 in Boraceia, Brazil. They discussed the canonical reconfiguration of the Institute and the feasibility study for a single postulancy in Brazil.

REGION OF EUROPE**FORMATION IN MARIST IDENTITY FOR EDUCATORS**

From October 23-27, the first of three weeks of formation in Marist Identity and Marist deepening was held at the Marist house of Maimón, in Córdoba, Spain. This program, promoted for several years by the European Region, is aimed at educators who have at least fifteen years of experience, and is also attended by people who have already held some kind of strategic position.



The work is based on thanksgiving to God for all that has been lived and happened up to now, with the perspective that this formation space becomes a call to continue being a Marist reference for the Marist community in which we participate, the province, the Region and the institute.

REGION OF AMÉRICA SUR**NETWORK OF MEMORY CENTERS MEETS IN SANTIAGO**

The Management Committee of the Network of Marist Memory Centers of the South America Region held its first face-to-face meeting in Santiago, Chile, from September 26 to 28, to review the Strategic Planning and create a plan of action until 2025.

The members of the Network Management Committee were present: Marcos Rogerio, Dyogenes Philippsen, Belén Pissarello, Eder D'artagnan, Br. Genuino Benini and Francisco Flores.

The meeting began with a warm welcome to the members of the Committee by the executive secretary of the Secretariat of Life and Mission of the Chile Sector, Marcela Hormazábal. The participants then visited the Marist Historical and Patrimonial

Archives. In the afternoon, the Steering Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan for the Network of Memory Centers.

On the second day, the internal regulations of the network were reviewed. Together with the members of the Committee, this day was attended online by network participants from the seven member countries of the

region: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The Reference Groups of the Region, their development, how they relate to the Network, the role they play, and what initiatives they can promote in the Network were discussed. In addition, the Communications Plan was reviewed. Ernesto Reyes, delegate for Life and Mission of the Chile Sector, recognized the contribution of the Network in the South America Region.

The third day began with a guided visit to the Gabriela Mistral Education Museum in Santiago. Then, the Committee scheduled the dates of the next meetings and made progress in planning the 7th Meeting of the Network of Marist Memory Centers, which will be held next year in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.



marist world

MARISTS OF BRASIL CENTRO-SUL
AT THE HERMITAGE – LEADERSHIP
COURSE, FRANCE



DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION
UNIVERSIDAD MARISTA DE MÉRIDA
MEXICO



CAMBODIA
LAVALLA ANNUAL CAMP



FINAL YEAR STUDENTS OF ST JOSEPH'S
COLLEGE MABIRI IN BOUGAINVILLE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



COLEGIO MARISTA "EL SALVADOR",
MANATI - PUERTO RICO



PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN
AFRICA IN MANHIÇA
MOZAMBIQUE

LAVALLA200> ROMANIA

THE MARIST CENTER OF MOINETI HAS JOINED THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF DAY CENTERS

The National Network of Day Centers (ZI RO Center) has recently been created in Romania, on the initiative of the humanitarian organization "CONCORDIA", and the Marist Center of Moineti – managed by the Lavalla200> Community made up of two brothers and a laywoman – has been adhered immediately.

The Marist Center of Moineti has existed since January 2020. Three local professionals work with the international Marist community: an educator, a psychologist, and a social worker, who is also the coordinator of the activities. The Center supports 18 children at high risk of dropping out of school and social exclusion, who receive a hot lunch, help with their homework and other

educational and recreational activities.

The Network of Day Centers in Romania aims to bring together the largest possible number of center professionals who work daily with children and their families, to create development opportunities through collaboration, support and commitment, and form a single community and voice.

The official launch took place on September 26 in Bucharest. Numerous social workers and important national politicians and members of the European Parliament participated. Present on behalf of the Marist Center were Brother Mario Meuti and the coordinator Mariana Mirón.

The central theme of the debate



at the conference that marked the launch of the network was, above all, the role of day centers presented as one of the best solutions for children and families in situations of serious socioeconomic difficulty, and who often lack of a hot meal, clothing, school supplies, and even housing, to the point of neglecting and abandoning school and family life.

Prevention is done in day centers. And children affected by serious situations of marginalization are helped, multidisciplinary and integrated work is carried out, individual assistance is provided based on needs, and all of this in the most flexible, pragmatic, and >>

creative way possible. Day centers are safe and welcoming places, but also laboratories of innovation and development for vulnerable children and families. Therefore, investing in day centers is the safest and most necessary investment, both in the present and in the future.

In Romania there are 860 day centers for children, of which 74% are in urban areas and only 26% in rural areas. They cover 30% of social needs. In rural areas, social services are insufficient, and this is the population that needs them most. In reality, about 3,000 such centers would be needed.

Policy makers have been strongly urged to prioritize adequate financing, diversify sources, and improve the efficiency of payment mechanisms to ensure the delivery



of quality social services. Unfortunately, Romania ranks last among European countries for its social policies.

Without a doubt, the Network of Day Centers in Romania will play a role in putting pressure on and increasing public attention to the problems of poverty and social marginalization.

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

MARIST MEMORIAL PROMOTES ONLINE GATHERING ABOUT BROTHER BASILIO RUEDA

The Marist Memorial of Curitiba, Brasil Centro-Sul Province, will organize on 8 and 9 November the third Marist Historical and Spiritual Patrimony Workshop (PHEM) 2023. The initiative aims to make known the celebrations of the centenary of the birth of Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán, Servant of God, whose cause has been presented to the Vatican. The workshops will be given by Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún, former Postulator General of the Marist Institute.

This third workshop seeks to disseminate the history and memory of the former Superior General, fundamentally regarding his legacy of spirituality, renewal of Marist Religious Life and ecclesiastical renewal after the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). Br. Basilio undertook brave strategies to overcome the crisis of

Religious Life and adapt the Marist Institute to the “signs of the times” at a time of profound changes in the social, cultural, and ecclesial field.

The first day of the workshop will focus on the participation of Brother Basilio Rueda in the Movement for a Better World. The second day will highlight the career of Brother

Basilio Rueda and his Circular Letters as sources of research.

The workshops will be held online (via Team) on 8 and 9 November, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Brazil time).

[Subscribe herer](#)



OUR FUTURE...

MEETING OF THE BROTHERS OF THE DISTRICT OF CANADA

"Your service within the community (...) appears to be as tiny as a mustard seed, but is a genuine announcement of Christ and his Reign." (Rule of Life, 71)

In the middle of his first term as Superior of the District of Canada, the Superior decided to organize a meeting of brothers of the District in order to look together: the future of the houses, and ensure a more meaningful community life that brings fraternity. A way to "be ready and prepared" regardless of our age, our origin or our physical limitations. The meeting took place on October 24.



Given the aging of the brothers of the District, and the reduction of the ranks, the need to ensure the regrouping of forces is evident. Even before we became a 'District', the Province had planned to offer adequate environments to the brothers who required physical assistance, something that required the reduction of the size of the communities...

This raises questions about "life", both at the level of local communities and the services we can continue to provide in our environments: support and influence... But, inevitably, many of our houses have become too large for the communities that decrease in number.

With total transparency, we present interesting topics for the District, but that are also heartbreaking for the brothers who live in these contexts:

- Communities that we must "maintain".
- Communities that we must "support" to support their impact on their environment.
- Communities that we must "close".

It should be noted that these ques-

tions refer to the "communities", which concerns the "life" of the brothers as consecrated and religious, and not about the "houses": this file refers to the financial aspect, therefore, it concerns the Economic Council.

Whether we like it or not, reality demands that we face the irreversible phenomenon of aging, especially since the next generation has not appeared for several decades.

Throughout the day, the participants had a serious work of reflection, but, above all, there was a climate of serenity among all the brothers. It was as if the "candor" of the questions and the transparency of those responsible had freed the word and allowed us to look towards the future with serenity.

This meeting was the first led by the new District leader, Brother Félix Roldán, and the topic discussed was delicate: everyone knew it... But he presented it as a reality that the brothers face and that they are called to live in unity and serenity. That is why he wanted to involve all the brothers in this crucial reflection: the response of the entire Assembly will surely help

those responsible to provide a response to this reality that we cannot "hide under the carpet."

But the meeting also had a second part, perhaps more life-giving and in line with the Marist charism: it is the report on pastoral activities with young people, especially the ESMC, to "make Jesus Christ known and loved." For several years, Jonathan Drouin, a "young man" (31 years old), former student of ÉSMC (Marcellin Champagnat Secondary School), has collaborated in the pastoral action of the District. Since January, he has been officially hired as head of the district's Youth Ministry.

At the meeting, Jonathan took advantage of the meeting to present to the brothers an overview of their role and the pastoral activities that are already underway, especially with the students, and even with the alumni of the ÉSMC.

This was a much-appreciated breath of fresh air, which led us all to assure him of our interest and spiritual support.

MARIST FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FMSI CELEBRATES ITS SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) proudly celebrated its sixteenth anniversary on October 24, an extraordinary milestone reflecting its ongoing commitment and dedication to children, young people, and their communities worldwide. The current year has seen the Marist Foundation achieve new milestones, demonstrating its dedication to a better world.

For 16 years, the FMSI has pursued its mission: to eliminate inequalities in access to education, break down socio-economic, gender, and origin-based barriers, and remove any obstacles that may hinder the education of children and youth.

The goal is to create a world where childhood is respected, guaranteed, and free from violence and fear, where children are recognized as active members of their communities and society. In line with these values and objectives, the Mission of the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity, officially recognized as a Third Sector Entity (ETS) since October 5, 2023, is realized through targeted actions that promote the full development of the potential of each individual, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, through solidarity, education, and advocacy projects.

To date, FMSI has implemented over five hundred development and emergency projects in 68 countries in favor of children, youth, and communities in vulnerable conditions. We have allocated 11,633,481 and reached over 6,500,000 beneficiaries. In addition, we have presented 67 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Reports to the United Nations, with the goal of shedding light on the human rights situation and the rights of children in

the countries where we operate through the missions of the Marist Congregation.

The Marist Foundation is committed to promoting policy and governmental program changes for the benefit of those living on the margins of society. We strive to bring crucial humanitarian issues to the attention of authorities and contribute to finding shared solutions, including mediating with decision-makers. This commit-

ment requires adopting multiple approaches to influence important decisions that affect the well-being of the youngest.

Throughout 2023, we have sought to make our contribution to helping individuals and populations in extremely vulnerable conditions cope

with various emergencies, including the earthquake that devastated Syria in February 2023. Thanks to the support of our supporters, donors, and private individuals, FMSI was able to mobilize quickly with a fundraising campaign to support the Syrian population in the days immediately following the earthquake. Through the implementation of this initiative, FMSI was able to raise a total of 469,941 from 538 donors. In addition to financial support, it was possible to provide critically important medical equipment, including ventilators and continuous positive airway pressure machines, already operational in hospitals in Aleppo.

The main goal was to respond promptly to the immediate needs arising from the earthquake and the ensuing humanitarian emergency. We carried out targeted interventions, such as the distribution of food packages, psychosocial support to vulnerable individuals, and the provision of clothing, diapers, and blankets. Thanks to the unity and generosity of all those who participated



in this campaign, the volunteers of the Blue Marists Center were able to offer concrete assistance to those who needed it most.

On the occasion of the International Day of the Rights of the Child, which will be held on November 20, 2023, the FMSI, in collaboration with the Solidarity Secretariat of the Marist Brothers Institute, will organize the event "Right to be Children." The event represents a unique opportunity to share knowledge and experiences, as well as to reflect on recommendations and next steps to be taken as a Marist Family, in order to ensure that every child can enjoy their fundamental rights. FMSI and the Solidarity Secretariat of the Marist Brothers Institute are determined to contribute to creating a world where the rights of children are respected and protected.



With a deep sense of gratitude for the support and trust you have given to the Foundation over these 16 years, FMSI wishes to share with you the results it has achieved. It is thanks to your generosity and dedication that FMSI has become what it is today.

FMSI's mission does not stop here. It wishes to continue on this path, pursuing the commitment to ensure a better future for those who represent the future of our world and to support the Marist Solidarity Mission in the world.

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES BONDING OF 16 LAY PEOPLE TO THE MARIST CHARISMA

On October 21, 16 laymen and women belonging to the Chile Sector of the Province of Santa María de los Andes made their sign of bonding to the Marist charism. All belong to the fraternities of the MCHFM or to lay communities, with many years of vocational process. They requested to participate in the Itinerary of Discernment for Bonding to the Marist Charism, designed especially for this instance, whose personalized accompaniment lasted eight months.

The Provincial Superior, Br. Pablo González, who welcomed the new members, the Vice-Provincial, Br. Patricio Pino, the brothers of the Chile Sector, the Provincial Commission of Marist Life, members of the lay communities and fraternities, as well as family and friends, were witnesses of this occasion.

The ceremony took place in a Eucharist and consisted of the individual



reading of the commitment formula; Afterward, the Vice-Provincial presented them with the cross of the lay associates as a distinctive sign and then proceeded to sign the book of registration of this commitment.

At the end of the Eucharist, each of the 16 members wrote their name in Mary's heart, recalling Champagnat's sending gesture, and the community accompanied them with a prayer of consecration to the Good Mother.

The bonding to the Marist charism

of these 16 lay men and women is the public explanation of living their Christian life project from the characteristic aspects of the Marist charism. It is a free, mature, and voluntary response to their vocational process, born from the heart of each one of them and in coherence with the process they have been following for several years.

It supposes a clear awareness of belonging to the Marist charism and of commitment to its vitality and future, in communion with the brothers.

SEMINAR ON CHILD SAFEGUARDING IN NIGERIA

On 24 October, the Province of Nigeria had her seminar/workshop on Child Safeguarding and Inculturation of Discipline in Students. The meeting was organized by the provincial, Br. Vincent Abadom, in collaboration with Provincial elected, Br. Mark Omede, and Marist Schools Management Board. Took part in the Seminar, Principals and Vice Principals of Marist Secondary Schools in Nigeria, Patrons, Matrons, Deans of students' affairs, Directors of Marist Nursery and Primary schools, Headmistress, Rector of the Marist Polytechnic, Heads of social work, and Marist schools Management Board. It aimed to inculcate and instill in those responsible for the education of children and young people the right approaches to be taken to safeguard their dignity of human person.



OTHER MARIST VOICES 11 AND 12

Other Marist Voices 11 was written by Br. Carlos Mario McEwen Ochoa, Colombian missionary in Lebanon, Province of Mediterranea, who addresses the theme "[Prophetic and servant leadership in Lebanon](#)" ([Video](#)). The message refers to chapter 4 of Marist Voices (Leadership of Empathy, Service and Compassion "Son, they have no wine"), written by Br. Óscar Martín Vicario.



Other Marist Voices 12 was written by Licione Torres Marques Isbert, Corporate Education Manager of PU-CRS, Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia, who addresses the theme "[Servant leadership: the person at the center](#)" ([Video](#)). The message refers to chapter 11 of Marist Voices (Leadership, a priority commitment to people: growing together, accompanying each other, empowering each other), written by Brothers Gabriel Villa-Real and Pere Ferré.



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