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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

DECLARATION FOR PEACE AND THE CESSATION OF VIOLENCE

Invitation from Br. Ernesto

To all Marists of Champagnat, brothers, lay people, children and young people.

We are all aware of the situations of war and violence that our world is experiencing in many places. For this reason, I invite you to take a moment for reflection and prayer on this topic. A moment that can be repeated every week or whenever you deem appropriate, in your families, educational works and communities. As people, as Christians, as Marists, it is important to be close to the reality that surrounds us, and to be in solidarity particularly with those who suffer most.

Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General



Declaration

The Marists of Champagnat, joining Pope Francis in his consideration that “war is never a necessity, nor is it inevitable. It is always a defeat for humanity”, want to make an urgent appeal:

1. For the immediate cessation of all forms of violence that are taking place in Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Syria, Haiti...

(add other places or situations) and so many other places in the world.

2. For the open communication and collaboration among all affected by these instances of violence, including both the individuals and groups directly involved, as well as govern- >>

general administration

■ The canonical and pastoral visits of the General Councilors to the Provinces continue. Brothers Josep Maria Soterias and Ben Consigli are beginning their visit to the Star of the Sea Province, visiting Brisbane this week and then Samoa. Brother João Carlos do Prado is visiting the Province of Central America until the 19th; he has been in Guatemala and, from Tuesday until the beginning of next week, he visits El Salvador. Brother Óscar Martín ends his visit to the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte next Sunday.

■ On Monday, the course for companions of elderly brothers began, coordinated by the Institute's ongoing formation team, Brothers Xavi, Ataíde and Michael.

■ From Monday to Wednesday, Brother José Sánchez, Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, met with the Global Marist Schools Network's team in Madrid to design the operational plan for Champagnat Global.

■ On Tuesday, the Econome General and his assistant,

Brothers Jorge Gaio and Goyo Linacero, began their visit to the Province of the United States, which will continue until the 16th.

■ Till Tuesday, Brother Ángel Diego, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, visited Marist works in Romania. On Wednesday, he met with some partners at the United Nations in Geneva.

■ On Thursday, Brother Luis Carlos, Vicar General, takes part in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of PUCRS in Porto Alegre. The following day he will hold two conferences for leaders of the Brazil South-Amazon Province and the university, highlighting servant leadership.

■ On Saturday, the English-speaking senior Brothers return from France, where they have been visiting Marist sites for the last few days. The course in Manziana ends on the 19th.

■ On Saturday, Brother Luis Carlos, in Porto Alegre, will give a conference entitled “Religious in Service: Prophecy of Religious Life in Turbulent Times” for the Brothers of the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia.

- mental and international entities.
- For the free and unfettered flow of humanitarian aid.
 - To hold accountable those who have committed and are committing crimes of any kind, respecting international law.
 - To join with those who promote peace and justice even beyond our Marist borders.
 - To remember and pray for victims of the conflicts that ravage our world.



PRAYER FOR PEACE

Mary, Queen of Peace, we greet you, our Good Mother.

You are the mother of those who suffer the horror of war, give us the gift of peace.

Virgin, full of grace, give us a compassionate heart.

Our intercessor, soften the hearts of those who promote violence.

Daughter of the Father, help us to discover that we are all children of the same God.

Mother of the Son, our brother, bring us closer each day to our shared humanity.

Faithful to the Spirit, teach us to entrust to

Him the life of those who suffer.

We pray for the boys who live through war.

We pray for the girls who endure violence.

We pray for the adolescents and young people without the hope of future horizons.

We pray for the men and women who want peace.

We pray also for those who are unaware of the meaning of war, give them a compassionate and merciful heart.

We ask this of you, Queen of Peace

Prayer: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

Prayer for children: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

OTHER MARIST VOICES 13 AND 14

SERVANT LEADER / TO LEAD WITH SMALL GESTURES

The publication of “Other Marist Voices” continues, messages inspired by the book “Marist Voices” related to the development of servant and prophetic leadership in the Marist mission.

Other Marist Voices 13 was written by Br. Réal Sauvageau, Formator in America and Asia, District of Canada – In Sri Lanka, who addresses the theme “Servant leader or leading servant” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#) The message refers to chapter 21 of Marist Voices (Training and Lifelong Learning for an Emerging World), written by Br. Chano Guzmán Moriana.

Other Marist Voices 14 was written by Javier Cendoya Irezábal, General Manager of Edelvives Group, from Spain, who talks about how “to lead

with small gestures, transmitting passion and emotion in every project and every decision” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#) The message refers to chapter 10 of Marist Voices (Administration: A Leadership of Service), written by Br. Libardo Garzón Duque.



BROTHER ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ IN THE ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, was one of the 5 representatives of the Union of Superiors General (USG) at the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which took place in October at the Vatican. Down you can read Br. Ernesto's text sent to the Provincial in his letter dated 6 November.

During the Assembly of the Union of Superiors General last May, five representatives, including myself, were elected to participate in the Synod Assemblies of October 2023 and 2024. The rules of procedure of this Synod, in n. 2 § 2 indicate: "Among the Members ex electione, the Roman Pontiff has established that the ten Clerics belonging to Institutes of Consecrated Life, mentioned in Art. 2, 4° of ICSA, are to be replaced by five women and five men belonging to Institutes of Consecrated Life, elected respectively by the Union of Superiors General and the

International Union of Superiors General (Sisters)". In October 2018, when I participated in the Synod on Youth, an article of the regulations stated that the Pope had given voting rights to the two participating Brothers (De La Salle and Marist). Now the regulations indicate that any member of the USG (brother or cleric) will have the right to vote, as well as the religious sisters. Lay participants have also been given the right to vote. We welcome the opening of this door in the Church, as part of the synodal process that has been underway since 2021.

On 30 September, we celebrated the Ecumenical Vigil "Together", in which Pope Francis invited us to deepen our understanding of the theme of silence. For the next three days, from 1 to 3 October, the Synod participants were on retreat in the "Fraterna Domus" residence. It was an excellent experience, a very helpful way for all of us together to start the Assembly that would last the whole month. Every morning there were two meditations with time for personal silence. In the afternoons there were times for sharing in groups. These days helped us to get to know each other, to focus on the theme of prayer and listening, and to create a fraternal spirit that continued throughout the Assembly.

On 4 October we began the Assembly in the Paul VI Hall, using round tables (called "small circles"), each with eleven participants and a facilitator. The table membership changed every



4 or 5 days, allowing us to meet and exchange with different people throughout the month. I can say that I had a very positive experience at my four roundtable groups.

During the Assembly, it was important to remember what Pope Francis said to us on that first day:

"I want to say that the Synod is not a parliament; it is something else. The Synod is not a gathering among friends to resolve some current problems or to give opinions; it is something else. Let us not forget, brothers and sisters, that we are not the protagonist of the Synod: it is the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit is in our midst to guide us, it will be a good Synod. If there are other ways of going about things, based on human, personal or ideological interests, it will not be a Synod, but more of a parliamentary meeting, which is another thing. A Synod is a journey that the Holy Spirit makes".

Throughout the month, we discussed in some depth the topics of synodality, mission, communion and participation. This Assembly has been part of the process of synodality that began in 2021 at local, diocesan and Episcopal Conference levels. Continental reports were made and released prior to this Assembly. The two Unions of Superiors General also offered our contribution. Based on these contributions, an Instrumentum Laboris was prepared, which served as a basis and guide for our discussions.



The final document, approved in the Assembly by more than 2/3 in all its parts and paragraphs, expresses the thinking and ideas coming from the small circles and the Assembly, in the light of the Spirit. There are key points in the document that both encourage and challenge us: “The Face of the Synodal Church”, is the title of the first chapter. “All disciples, all missionaries”, the second chapter; and the third: “Weaving bonds, building community”.

Prophetic role of consecrated life

The document reminds us of the prophetic role of consecrated life: “The diverse families that compose religious life demonstrate the beauty of discipleship and holiness in Christ, whether in their distinctive forms of prayer, their service among the people, whether through forms of community life, the solitude of the contemplative life or at the frontier of new cultures. Those in consecrated life have often been the first to sense important historical changes and to heed the promptings of the Spirit. To-day, too, the Church needs their prophetic voice and action.” (translated from the original Italian) (Synthesis Report of the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, 4-29 October 2023, n. 10, b).

The document on “A Synodal Church on Mission” presents a number of important themes, several of which touch directly on Marist life and mission. I believe that many of the processes that we use in the Institute, in our organisations and structures, include this feature of synodality. In recent General Chapters, as well as in Provincial and District Chapters and Assemblies, more and more time is being devoted to fraternal and contemplative dialogue, in search of listening to the Spirit. As brothers and lay people, we are increasingly making progress in the area of co-responsibility and shared leadership. We are being invited, then, to continue journeying together, in synodality, building the global Marist family, through meetings, networks, sharing of resources, solidarity, etc. There are themes in the document that invite us to be closer to the poor and the young, with open ears and hearts. The topic of migration appears, a phenomenon in so many parts of the world as a result of wars and political and economic upheavals.

There is also an important call to us, as religious and lay Marists, to try to connect better with the synodal processes in pari-



shes and dioceses. Perhaps not many of us have been involved so far, either because of not feeling invited or lack of interest. The experience I have had this month has led me to feel a greater connection to the Church. I was happy to meet a large number of Cardinals and Bishops, priests, men and women religious, lay men and women who participated in the Assembly, who know and appreciate the life and mission of our Institute. Our personal presence in Synod events at the local and diocesan levels will also help to raise awareness of the Marist vocation, both consecrated and lay.

The synodal process is opening new doors in the Church. The Spirit is moving us to conversion, both personal and communal, and to engage in mission in full communion and participation. As Marists of Champagnat we are called to be the maternal face of God in the Church and in the world, following the inspiration and example of Mary.

[Interview with Br. Ernesto Sánchez, representative of the USG at the Synod on Synodality](#)

marist world

FRANCE: LES PARTICIPANTS ANGLOPHONES AU COURS DE LE TROISIÈME ÂGE VISITENT LA VALLA



SOUTH AFRICA: PREPARATION FOR FIRST COMMUNION IN CAPE TOWN



INDIA: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AND CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE MARCELLIN TRUST-OPERATION RAINBOW PROJECT, TRICHY



CHILE: CHARISMATIC JOURNEY WITH THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY OF COLEGIO MARISTA DE SANTIAGO



EAST TIMOR: COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY SOULS



SPAIN: REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL WORKS IN CATALONIA

PROGRAM FOR ACCOMPANYING OLDER BROTHERS

From November 6th to 29th, 19 brothers from 14 provinces meet at the General House to take part in the formation program for Accompanying Older Brothers. This is a formation program offered by the Institute through the Brothers Today Secretariat and the Ongoing Formation Team, made up of Brothers Ataíde José de Lima, Michael Sexton and Xavier Barceló Maset, who accompany the participants in this course.

The objectives of this program are:

Develop the skills of those who already accompany our older brothers, either in dedicated residences or as members of 'ordinary' communities.

Focus on the personal and pastoral care of these brothers.

Help prepare those who will exercise this service in the immediate future.

Promote a culture of care, explore dynamics of personal and community accompaniment adapted to this age, as well as promoting a spirituality appropriate to this stage of life.

The Brothers taking part in the formation program are:

1. Adolfo Cermeño Giraldo – América Central
2. Alberto García Rodríguez – Compostela
3. Ambrosio Alonso Díez – Ibérica
4. Ángel Valle González – Norandina
5. Auxensio Simon Dickson – África Austral



6. Carlos García Zamora – Ibérica
7. Carlos Guillermo Perales López – México Occidental
8. Eduardo Navarro de la Torre – México Occidental
9. Jarbas Rodrigues de Sousa – Brasil Centro-Norte
10. Joaci Pinheiro de Sousa – Brasil Centro-Norte
11. José Luis Marijuán Venero – Compostela
12. Juan Antonio Úsar Echarri – Mediterránea
13. Juan Pablo Gaviria Chindoy – Norandina
14. Kevin Wanden – Star of the Sea
15. Otalivio Sarturi – Brasil Centro-Sul
16. Simeó Camprubí Salvó – L'hermitage
17. Solano Bageston de Lima – Brasil Sul-Amazônia
18. Steve Milan – USA
19. Toni Torrelles Juvillà – L'Hermitage

FMSI

EMPOWERING MARIST LEADERS: TRAINING IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND FUNDRAISING

To equip Marist religious and lay personnel with the skills and knowledge needed to make a lasting impact, the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI), in collaboration with the Secretariat of Solidarity and Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS), announces an upcoming training program on Project Cycle Management and Fundraising. This fundamental course, scheduled from November 9 to November 30, 2023, is designed to provide participants with the essential tools required to excel in the fields of project management and fundraising. The primary objective of the training program is to offer Marists, both religious and lay, a comprehensive understanding of Project Cycle Management and the art of crafting compelling project proposals for international organizations and potential donors. The course is open to all who are eager to delve into these subjects, regardless of prior experience. The training program will adopt a holistic approach, balancing theoretical knowledge with practical applications. The curriculum is meticulously crafted to ensure participants acquire practical skills for project proposal writing, management, and effective communication, all while adhering to international standards and requirements. As an essential part of the program, attendees will become proficient in the tools needed to prepare high-quality projects. The course is not limited to theory: participants will also develop project planning and monitoring skills through engaging in presentations, group discussions, learning strategies, and practical exercises. This multifaceted approach will equip Marists with the tools and confidence to undertake projects that drive positive change. The training program is more than just a learning experience; it aims to foster a sense of community and collaboration among participants. It will provide a platform for networking, enabling attendees to establish connections and engage in dialogue with fellow trainees. By creating this space for dialogue and interaction, participants can explore and expand on various aspects covered during the course, potentially leading to future collaboration on solidarity programs and activities.

The training program is open to Marist Brothers, lay individuals, and women from Marist Administrative Units in Asia, from Syria and Madagascar. Ideally, participants should be project ma-



nagers within their respective Province, Sector, or NGOs. This training can also serve as an invaluable opportunity for younger religious and lay individuals to learn about the project cycle and develop their skill sets.

The training program is designed to strike a balance between theory and practice. Project Cycle Management and Fundraising will be explored through a multidisciplinary lens, with insights and expertise from various trainers. Notably, all speakers have experience in managing training courses for the benefit of Marist Missions.

This training program is a unique opportunity for Marists to enhance their project management and fundraising capabilities, ultimately contributing to the betterment of communities, NGOs, and solidarity offices across Asia. Recognizing the diverse geographical locations of participants, the training sessions will be conducted online on Thursdays from November 9 to November 30, 2023.

The sessions will be held from 9:00 am to 11:00 am Central European Time (CET) to accommodate attendees from various time zones. Additionally, all sessions will be recorded and made accessible to enrolled participants, allowing for review and consultation both during and after the training program. The training is entirely free of charge and a certificate of completion will be awarded at the end of the course, provided participants achieve a minimum attendance rate of 75% of the entire program.

STAR OF THE SEA

Over 25 Mentors gathered online for the Marist Youth Ministry Formators Workshop. Arthur and Patrick from Marist 180 provided a space for participants to explore the rich roots of Australian Aboriginal Spirituality, the history of First Nations people and statistics that highlight the urgent mission educators have in closing the gap.

ECOLOGY

The ecology ministries of East Asia and the US have been meeting to plan for an online meeting of students from both provinces on November 10, 2023. The meeting is meant to be part of the commemoration of the 75th year of the Marist Brothers' Presence in the Philippines. Marist students from Guatemala have expressed their interest in joining the meeting. Selected students will share their environmental projects to fight the ecological crisis. The meeting will hopefully result in a concrete project for both provinces.

MEDITERRÁNEA

On the memorial day of the Marist martyrs of Bugobe, Brother Provincial Aureliano García Manzanal has sent an open letter entitled "We cannot remain silent" in which he draws attention to the increase in violence and invites to "be fraternal". The letter can be read in full on the [Province's website](#)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Br. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji, Provincial, communicated the tragic news about the passing on of Brother Frank Lackwell Mwambucha (Master of Postulants), who got involved in a road traffic accident on 7th November in Malawi.

CHILE

PROVINCIAL MEETING OF THE MARIST LIFE COMMISSION OF SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES



The Marist Life Commission of the Province of [Santa María de los Andes](#) met October 17-21 in Santiago de Chile, to work on the Provincial Vocation Animation Plan. Alfonso García, Magali Rodríguez, Sara Sánchez, Br. Isidro Azpeleta, Pepe Jaime Rocabado, Raúl Amaya, Br. Patricio Pino and Rossana Avendaño are the commission's members.

The objectives of meeting were to respond as the Marist Life Commission to the guidelines for promoting a vocation animation that promotes and cares for the vocation of the brother and lay Marist; to propose the keys and guidelines for the elaboration of a provincial vocation animation plan that promotes a vocation culture where every child, young person or adult can know and live his vocation; and to elaborate a draft

plan that incorporates the dialogues and reflections in relation to the sectorial vocational and lay assemblies.

The meeting began on Tuesday 17 with the arrival and welcome of the members of the Commission. On Wednesday, after a prayer, the members reflected on the question: "Who are we and what are we for?" On Thursday, those present discussed what inspirations the Spirit is blowing for vocation animation and began to define the criteria of the Vocation Animation Plan that aims to care for, accompany and generate Marist life. On Friday the participants sought to differentiate the field of vocation animation from the field of vocation culture.

In the last day, the group participated in the [celebration of bonding of 16 lay people to the Marist charism](#).

SPAIN

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARDENAL CISNEROS UNIVERSITY CENTER

Before more than a hundred people, the Cardenal Cisneros University Centre (CUCC), founded in 1973 by the Marists of Spain, celebrated its 50th anniversary, on October 24, in the auditorium of the University of Alcalá, in Madrid, Province of Ibérica. Present at the first commemorative event were the rector of the University of Alcalá, José Vicente Saz, and his entire government team; the general director of universities of the Community of Madrid, Nicolás Javier Casas; the president of the board of trustees of the Cardenal Cisneros Foundation, Br. Abel Muñoz (Provincial of Ibérica); the director of the University Center, Joseba Louzao Villar, the Bishop of Alcalá, Antonio Prieto; the First Deputy Mayor of the city, Isabel Ruiz; several representatives of the municipal government, all former directors of the CUCC; representatives of the council and delegation of students from the UAH and CUCC, alumni of the first class; a representation of the current faculty and staff of the center; the community of Marist brothers and lay people, and other participants who wanted to share the event.

During the ceremony, Br. Abel Muñoz, representing the titular entity of the university center, presented a commemorative medal to the directors who have passed through the center throughout its history, as well as the rector of the University of Alcalá and the delegate directors. "Behind each figure – he pointed out – there are many hours of dedication and affection, hours of hopes and fatigue; always illuminated by an educational community that has achieved the Center a reference in its field."

Joseba Louzao, director general del Centro, destacó la fidelidad del centro a su identidad marista, y mencionó que: "El humanismo cristiano y los valores de San Marcelino Champagnat -fundador de la institución marista- son nuestra seña de identidad, han hecho que seamos lo que somos y nos animen a seguir creciendo para responder al impulso fundacional de la misión educativa de los maristas".

In his speech, the rector, José Vicente, congratulated those present on their 50th anniversary and recalled that the University of Alcalá is also celebrating its 25th anniversary this year



as a World Heritage Site, declared by UNESCO.

Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, the Center will host different activities aimed at the university community and its entire environment, such as an exhibition of teaching materials on the university campus, a festival for students, various professional conferences, events for students, and a great celebration at the end of the course, coinciding with the celebration of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, patron saint of the center and founder of the Marist Institution.

The Cardenal Cisneros University Center, attached to the University of Alcalá, is a center firmly committed to the training of teachers, social educators, and psychologists. The promoting entity of the CUCC is the Marist Institution.

Since its foundation, more than 12,000 teachers, social educators and psychologists have been trained in CUCC classrooms. Its university model focuses on people, on students as people of social transformation, encouraging critical thinking, responsibility, freedom, and participation. It offers Bachelor's degrees in Primary Education Teaching, Early Childhood Education Teaching, Psychology and Social Education, as well as three postgraduate degrees: Master in Attention to Diversity and Educational Support, Master in General Health Psychology, and Master in Evaluation and Intervention with adolescents in conflict.

For more information [visit the website](#)



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