



Year **XVI** - Number **807** | **15 NOVEMBER 2023**

MARISTNEWS

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

SOUTH AMERICA REGION

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND CAP

The Regional Council of the South America Region, which is composed of the provincials of the five provinces of the Region (Marist Provinces of Brasil, Cruz del Sur and Santa Maria de los Andes), met from October 27 to 29 in Boraceia, Brazil. Br. Óscar Martín, General Councilor for liaison with the Region was present at the meeting, whose agenda was divided into three days. The last day coincided with the virtual meeting of the American Conference of Provincials (CAP).



South America Regional Council Meeting

On the first day of the meeting, the topics of the Canonical Reconfiguration of the Institute and the feasibility study for a

single Postulancy in Brazil were discussed. A working group conducted a study on the project, which was submitted to the Board for analysis. The project considers the feasibility of



general administration

■ The canonical and pastoral visits of the general councilors to the provinces continue. Brothers Ben Consigli and Josep Maria Soterias, link councilors for the Star of the Sea Province, continue their visit to the province. After finishing their visit to the Brothers in Samoa, next week they will be visiting the Marists in the Solomon Islands. Brother João Carlos do Prado continues his pastoral visit to the Province of Central America. And all this week he visits the Marist communities of Costa Rica, from November 13 to 19.

■ On Monday, the members of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, made up of Br. José Sánchez, Br. Niño Pizarro, Javier Llamas and Diugar Madera Busqueini, met online with the preparatory commission for the III Marist International Mission Assembly (MIMA).

■ From November 13 to 16, Brothers Jorge Gaio and Goyo Linacero visit the Economato of the province of the United States.

■ On Monday, Pamela Difino from the FMSI team was in

Geneva on behalf of the Secretariat of Solidarity and FMSI to present, alongside the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review regarding Bangladesh.

■ On Tuesday started the second online module of the training course of FMSI: "Project Cycle Management and Fundraising" to support the Marist Mission in the Asia Region, in Syria, Malawi and Madagascar.

■ From November 15 to 18, Br. Valdicer Fachi, director of CMI, participates in the Accompaniment of Volunteers of Brasil Centro-Sul, and in the Meeting with the NEXUS System Team, in Curitiba, Brazil.

■ On November 16, Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, will participate in the virtual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Marist International Solidarity Network, which aims to continue working on the coordination of the Network and the preparation of the Network Assembly, to be held in June 2024.

a single Postulate for Brazil (and subsequently for the South American Region), after analyzing all the advantages and disadvantages of this implementation. The study identified three main axes: formation unit, formators, and students.

On the second day of the meeting, the Regional Council discussed the Champagnat Regional Novitiate in Bolivia, the general state of the Region's equipment and networks, and the regional budget for 2024. Regarding the progress of the Champagnat Regional Novitiate in Cochabamba, the visit of the Provincials between September 23 and 27 was highlighted, as well as the actions to align and develop the existing formation program. Following the day's agenda, Leonardo Soares, Executive Secretary of the Region, presented an overview of the work of the regional teams and networks: Novitiate Team, Initial Formation Team, Ongoing Formation Team, Memory Center Network, Lay Marist Network, Vocational Animation Team, Spirituality Team, Accounting Network, Communication Team, Solidarity Team, School Network and Youth Ministry Team. Based on the progress of the teams and projects, the budget proposal for 2024 was presented.

American Conference of Provincials Assembly

On the 29th, the participants of the meeting in Brazil joined virtually with the provincials of the Arco Norte Region for the American Conference of Provincials Assembly (CAP), composed of the members of the councils of the two regions, with the participation of the two executive secretaries, Br. Rodrigo Espinoza (Arco Norte) and Leonardo Soares (América Sul). Together they reflected on and addressed important issues for both Regions, which are under the responsibility of the CAP. In addition, they reflected on the challenges of the emerging realities in the two Marist regions, addressed the work carried out by the Inter-American Spirituality and Solidarity Networks (Coração Solidário), and how other action models can strengthen and incentivize regional coverage issues.

In addition, the meeting also gave direction to the implementation of the Itinerary of Formation and Preparation of the Brothers who will make perpetual profession, and the calendar for the meeting of Provincials, which will be held in March 2024 at the Hermitage.

PHILIPPINES

ANNUAL MAPAC BOARD MEETING

According to the Statutes, the Board, comprised of the Leaders of the Administrative Units that use and fund Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC), is the governing authority. Current members are Brothers Allan De Castro (Province of East Asia and the Chair), Nicholas Fernando (Province of South Asia), Canisio Willrich (Marist District of Asia), Peter Carroll (Star of the Sea) and Dominador (Ador) Santiago who is the Current Director. The annual meeting took place in Philippines from 3 to 5 November. Also present for the Board meeting were General Councilors, Ben Consigli and Josep Maria Soteras.

During the meeting, the Board reviewed the operations, programme, staffing and finances and were most satisfied with all aspect of the center.



MAPAC is a formation center, located in Philippines, that receives Brothers after their first profession in the Marist Institute. The Brothers belong to the 4 Administrative Unities of the 2 Marist Regions. The academic year begins in June and the young Brothers stay there for 2 years. The formation team is composed of Brothers Dominador Santiago – Rector, Joseph Walton, Devasiri Fernando, Ray Arthur and Jone Seduadua.

In the second year there are 11 scholastics, that will finish that formation step next December. Other 9 scholastics began their program in MAPAC last June and will finish in December 2024.

SPAIN

THE TEAM OF EUROPEAN MARIST YOUTH MEETS TO SCHEDULE INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS

The European Marist Youth Team (EJEM) held its first meeting of the 2023/2024 academic year, from November 3 to 4, at the Marist house of Xaudaró, in Madrid (Spain). Young Marists from Greece, Portugal and Spain participated, accompanied by the European team of youth ministry. On other occasions a young woman from Italy has also participated. The meeting – the first of three scheduled gatherings – was an opportunity to perform different services in favor of young Marists throughout Europe. It was formally carried out the evaluation of the International Meeting of Marist Youth: “Into the Deep”.

Likewise, there were evaluated the “Marist Fest” and the “World Youth Day”. It was also considered the level of commitment of young people – to continue improving pastoral action from the Marist Europe Region, and the Institute in general. Likewise, it was started the planning and preparation of the MAR-CHA meeting with a view to 2024, in august; the 2025 jubilee announced by Pope Francis; the next MARCH meeting in 2026;

and WYD 2027.

In addition to the projects outlined, the young people feel the need to deepen the following of Jesus, for themselves and the rest of the young people who participate in the Marist Youth Ministry (MYM).

The next “EJEM” work meeting has been called for February 3 and 4, in Barcelona, Spain.



OTHER MARIST VOICES 15 AND 16

MARIST VISION / IT IS BY SERVING THAT WE KNOW EACH OTHER

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 15 was written by Br. Brian Poulin, Responsible of Vocational Ministry, from the Province of the United States, who addresses the theme “Marist Vision Requires a Wide Focus” (English | Español | Français | Português) – Video. The message refers to chapter 4 of Marist Voices (The Leadership of Empathy, Service and Compassion “Son, they have no wine”), written by Br. Óscar Martín Vicario.

Other Marist Voices 16 was written by Nanette Hurst, Teacher, and accompanier, from the Province of Central America – Puerto Rico, who addresses the theme “It is by serving that we

know each other” (English | Español | Français | Português) – Video. The message refers to chapter 4 of Marist Voices (The Leadership of Empathy, Service and Compassion “Son, they have no wine”), written by Br. Óscar Martín Vicario.



FRATELLI PROJECT

MAICAO: A RAY OF HOPE IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY

Maicao, a town in the La Guajira department, is directly experiencing the challenges of the migration crisis. Since the Venezuelan migration wave, the city has transformed into a reception center for migrants due to its proximity to the border. Over the years, it has received a constant influx of Venezuelan migrants and returnees, with staggering figures: over 44,000 migrants in 2017, around 61,000 in 2018, and 38,000 in 2019. This growing influx of migrants has had a significant impact on the city. Due to the lack of economic resources, some migrants have settled in Maicao over the past five years. They live on invaded lands, building makeshift houses from cardboard and plastic, contributing to increased unemployment, mortality, malnutrition, and poverty rates. The impact of the migration crisis in Maicao has further exacerbated the pre-existing social problems in this border region. By the end of 2019, more than 4.5 million Venezuelans had left their country due to the crisis, and the number continues to grow every day. This exodus is the largest displacement in recent Latin American history, comparable only to the Syrian crisis. These migrants face conditions of extreme vulnerability, requiring special attention to address their unique



needs.

For all the reasons mentioned, the Congregations of the Marist Brothers and the De La Salle Brothers have created the Fratelli Maicao Project and established an ad hoc Council, composed of two Marist Brothers (Brother Valdicer Civa Fachi and Brother Oscar Martin Vicario) and two Lasallian Brothers (Brother Carlos Gomez and Brother Sergio Leal), to make joint decisions related >>

FINAL PROFESSION AND SILVER JUBILEE IN MALAWI

Brother Christopher Chagunda from Malawi, Province of Southern Africa, on the 28th of October made his final profession as Marist Brother, in Malawi. Br. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji-Gunduloni, Provincial, received his vows in the name of the Superior General. Bishop Alfred Alfred Mateyu Chaima of Zomba diocese resided the mass. During the event, Br. Francis Jumble celebrated his silver jubilee.



marist world

SAMOA: GENERAL COUNCILORS BR. BEN CONSIGLI AND BR. JOSEP MARIA SOTERAS WITH THE STAFF OF THE MULIVAI PRIMARY SCHOOL



MEXICO: PROVINCIAL MEETING OF LOCAL CO-ORDINATIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION



CAMBODIA: LAVALLA SCHOOL'S NEW SCHOOL YEAR ASSEMBLY



SPAIN: FORMATION COURSE ON IDENTITY AND MARIST DEEPENING



GUATEMALA: MARISTS AND DE LA SALLE CANDIDATES AND FORMATORS



SYRIA: BLUE MARIST VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

to the Project and its related activities. In this scenario, FMSI (Marist Foundation for International Solidarity) and De La Salle Solidaridad Internacional, the NGOs of the Marist and Lasallian Congregations, have initiated project presentation and fundraising activities to bring the dream of Fratelli Maicao to life. Thanks to the support of the first of many donors – Aid to the Church in Need – it is now possible to launch the Project.

The Fratelli Maicao Project follows in the footsteps of Fratelli Lebanon, a project carried out by the Congregations of the Marist Brothers and the De La Salle Brothers in Lebanon since 2016. It is crucial to highlight that the Fratelli Maicao Project represents the only Religious presence in Maicao since four Brothers are already working in the area to support the vulnerable population.

The Fratelli Maicao Project is a beacon of hope in times of adversity. In response to the growing migration crisis and the extreme vulnerability faced by Venezuelan migrants, returning Colombians, and the Wayuu population in Maicao, this initiative stands as an unwavering commitment to solidarity and humanitarian aid. The project focuses on a group of settlements known as Paiwachi – Wayaa, home to over 797 families, including Wayuu and Venezuelan immigrant and returning Colombian communities. These settlements are characterized by a lack of

basic services, precarious housing made from recycled materials, and limited access to education. Moreover, minors have interrupted their education due to migration challenges, putting them at a disadvantage in accessing formal education.

In this context, the Fratelli Maicao Project aims to provide comprehensive education and social inclusion for migrant children and youth. This includes basic services like educational reintegration for children and youth and support for Wayuu communities and migrants. Additionally, the project seeks to address the documentation of migrants and promote social inclusion. The Fratelli Maicao Project stands as a beacon of hope, extending a helping hand to those who have faced adverse conditions. Through the collaboration of the Marist and Lasallian Religious Congregations, this initiative represents an unwavering commitment to solidarity and human dignity in times of difficulty. The Fratelli Maicao Project embodies the spirit of solidarity and the search for solutions in a world where adversity and displacement have touched millions of people. Through this project, humanitarian aid is sought to build a brighter future for vulnerable families in Maicao. Amid the crisis, a ray of hope rises, a demonstration that together we can overcome the most overwhelming challenges and remember the shared humanity we possess. The Fratelli Maicao Project is a testimony to compassion and action in challenging times.

FMSI

FMSI FUNDRAISING VISIT DONORS IN AACHEN, KÖNIGSTEIN, AND ROTTENBURG

In today's world, non-profit organizations play a vital role in creating positive change and addressing critical issues that affect our society. They rely on the generosity of donors who share their passion for making a difference.

Recently FMSI embarked on a mission to strengthen existing relationships and establish new collaborations with donors who are essential to FMSI's cause to support the Marist Mission worldwide. For this purpose, Maria Rita Pala and Pamela Difino, Project Administration Officers at FMSI, visited some donors in Aachen, Königstein, and Rottenburg from October 16 to 19, 2023. The aim was not only to secure financial support but also to communicate FMSI mission and objectives effectively.

The first step in ensuring a fruitful fundraising visit is thorough research. FMSI took the time to delve into the backgrounds, interests, and past contributions of the donors. This level of preparedness is essential because it allows for a personalized approach that resonates with the donors' values and objectives.

During these visits, FMSI followed a structured agenda and the discussions covered a wide range of topics, all with the aim of fostering a deeper connection. FMSI introduced the donors to their mission, vision, and the impact they have achieved through projects and advocacy actions. This helps donors understand the bigger picture and the role they can play in it. The organization outlined specific projects and initiatives in need of financial support. What's remarkable is how these initiatives were carefully chosen to align with the donors' interests, whether they were in geographic areas or thematic topics. This alignment is crucial in engaging donors who feel a personal connection to the Marist cause.

These fundraising visits bore fruit, with donors expressing a strong interest in supporting FMSI's initiatives. This is a testament to the power of genuine connections and well-prepared discussions. The donors not only affirmed their support for the



organization but also expressed an eagerness to explore further engagement opportunities. One such example is their interest in attending FMSI's upcoming event on November 20th, either in person or through virtual platforms.

FMSI understands that building and maintaining these relationships is an ongoing process. Following the visits, they plan to provide donors with detailed project proposals and budgets related to the specific initiatives they expressed interest in funding. This transparency ensures that donors know how their contributions will be utilized, fostering trust and accountability.

FMSI's recent fundraising visits were more than just meetings; they were about building relationships and partnerships. They were instrumental in securing vital financial support in favor of the Marist Missions worldwide and in forging bonds that will last.

These visits were a reminder that the success of non-profit organizations is intertwined with the generosity and commitment of donors. Through well-prepared interactions and strategic alignment of interests, FMSI is paving the way for a brighter future, one where their mission can flourish and make an even more significant impact.

We look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes of these visits and the continued collaboration between FMSI and its dedicated supporters. Together, they are making the world a better place, one step at a time.

EUROPE REGION

The “European Pastoral Team” (EEP) met in the Marist house of Xaudaró, Spain, from November 2 to 3, to review the strategic plan of the Marist Region of Europe from a pastoral dimension; to program a formation on Marist leadership for young people; and to prepare the contributions for the assembly of Provincial Councils in Lisbon, in January 2024.

SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES

About 600 people from the Marist Pastoral Movement “GAMA”, coming from all the Marist schools of the Chile sector, gathered on November 3 at the Marist school of Curicó with the objective of celebrating together, having a meeting and community learning, inspired by Integral Ecology.

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

From November 6 to 8, the provincial meeting of the Local Coordination of Child Protection was held. The participants of the Marist Educational Communities of our Province received information and tools to train in skills, to develop strategies of well-being, to build a Culture of Peace and protection of the Rights of Children, Adolescents and Youth.

COMPOSTELA

The “Externato Marista de Lisboa” was the meeting point for the Day of Formation of new educators, which brought together about twenty educators from the Marist schools of Lisbon and Carcavelos, Casa da Criança de Tires, Ecoludoteca de Cabeço de Mouro and Centro de Apoio à Famíliaa.

CENTRAL AMERICA**MEETING OF LAY MARISTS OF GUATEMALA**

More than 140 lay people from Guatemala (Province of Central America) participated on October 28 in the Lay meeting of the sector, which was held at the Marist Formation Center, in Guatemala, with the theme “Diversity of the Marist Charisma.” Also attending were the provincial brother, Hipólito Pérez, and his Provincial Council, Br. João Carlos do Prado, General Councillor, and other brothers from the province.

The objective of the meeting was to bring together representatives of the various lay groups of Guatemala, teachers of the educational works of Guatemala (Liceo Guatemala, Marist School, Moisés Cisneros and Marist Training Center), catechists, parents, members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, Remar, and alumni.

During his presentation, Brother Joao



addressed the topic “Walk of the Institute and International Forum of the Marist Laity.”

At the end of the meeting, the Marist laymen committed to promoting the shared mission between the groups: “because together we can do great things,” they mentioned.

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP COURSE

On 16 October 2023, as part of Champagnat Global Week, the Global Citizenship MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) was launched.

The course is an introduction to the topic of global citizenship and aims to help teachers and those responsible for Marist formation to further Marcellin Champagnat's purpose: "To form good Christians and virtuous citizens", in today's world that increasingly values respect and diversity, commitment to social justice and the achievement of a more equitable and sustainable world.

The course is made up of 6 modules:

- Global Citizens.
- Bridge builders in a fragmented world.
- Our Common Home / Integral Ecology
- Messengers of Peace
- Children's rights / Agents of change.
- Global Spirituality.

MOOCs, as their name suggests, are massive open courses, in this case for all those interested in learning and interacting about what it means to form global citizens in our educational reality. However, in its first edition it has been limited to a pioneering group of 150 members of the Marist educational



community (directors, teachers and collaborators of Marist schools), selected by the coordination of mission and education of each of the administrative units of the Marist Institute, in order to validate the proposal for its massive launch.

The learning methodology is flexible, with 24-hour access to the platform, each one following his or her own pace.

Those who complete the course will receive a certification from the Marist University PUCRS (Brazil).

If you are interested in the course, it will soon be open to the entire Marist school community. For more information, please go to the website.



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