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MARIST NEWS

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THE RIGHT TO BE A CHILD

MARISTS CELEBRATE THE WORLD DAY FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

On Nov. 20, 2023, the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI), together with the Secretariat of Solidarity of the Marist Brothers Institute, held the event to celebrate the World Day for the Rights of Children and Adolescents. The “Right to be a children - Derecho a ser niños” initiative was a unique opportunity to reflect in depth on the rights of children on the anniversary of the November 20, 1959 United Nations General Assembly Declaration and the important concluding agreement on the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The goal of the event was to share knowledge and experiences, reflecting on future actions within the Marists of Champagnat. Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, along with



Br. Ken McDonald, President of FMSI and General Councillor, welcomed present and on-line participants.



general administration

■ The meeting of the Preparatory Commission for the XXIII General Chapter takes place at the General House from November 27 to December 2. Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General; Ken McDonald, coordinator; and Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, participated as member Commission.

■ On November 27, Brother Ángel Diego García Otaola, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, participated in the Meeting of the CCIG Management Team, held online. And from November 28-30, Br. Ángel Diego visited the Marist community of El Paso, in the United States.

■ From November 27-30, the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Marist Volunteer Network takes place in Manzana, with the participation of Brother Valdicer Fachi, director of CMI.

■ On November 27, the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat met online with the formators of the Marist novitiates.

■ On that same day, the online meeting of the Regional Conference of the Arco Norte Provincials took place. Brother João Carlos was present.

■ On November 29, as part of the pastoral visits, Brothers Josep Maria Soterias and Ben Consigli, link councillors for

Oceania, continued their visit to the Star of the Sea Province. They headed to the Pacific Island of Kiribati to visit with the brothers, lay Marists, and the St Louis School ministry.

■ On the same day, Br. Ken McDonald and João Carlo have a virtual meeting with the Marist communities of Cuba, as part of the pastoral visit to the Province of Central America.

■ On November 29, Brothers José Sánchez and Niño Pizarro, directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, met online with the International Mission Commission.

■ Also on November 29, formation program for Accompanying Older Brothers, which began on November 6, concluded with 19 participants.

■ On November 30, the Brothers Today Secretariat will conduct an online meeting of Vocation Animators to share how they are continuing the inspiration of the Year of Marist Vocations

■ On November 31, FMSI staff will carry out online the Last module of the training course “Project Cycle Management and Fundraising” to support the Marist Mission in the Asia Region, in Syria, Malawi and Madagascar. On the same day, FMSI staff participate in the Solidarity South Sudan annual assembly.

During the event, it was highlighted how important it is to address the global challenges that, unfortunately, continue to most severely affect children, girls and young people, who are forced to deal with war, poverty, climate change, violence and racism. These issues - and many others that are being added - make it peremptory to act in defense of their rights.

Br. Fortune Chakasara, Brother of the Marist Province of Southern Africa and FMSI Board Advisor, addressed the issue of children's rights in Africa, highlighting the need to fully understand the diversity and complexity of the context so as to make actions in protection of rights more effective. Br. Fortune pointed out how, in some African cultures, children are often 'seen but not heard', highlighting how the perspectives and opinions of the youngest are often overlooked.

Maria D'Onofrio, Secretary General of International Catholic Center of Geneva (CCIG) focused her remarks on the importance of championing the cause of children's rights at the international level. She emphasized the power of civil society in enhancing the protection of children and girls at the United Nations, highlighting the importance of addressing social tensions and abuse of children and girls from the roots up. She then dwelt on the joint work with FMSI and the

Secretariat of Solidarity in Bolivia, Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh.

To celebrate its 15th anniversary, FMSI, in 2022, established the "A Better World for Children" award to support an innovative and inclusive project aimed at children each year through a contribution of 5,000 euros. The theme of the 2023 Award is advocacy for children's rights with the participation of children. At the end of the event, the award was presented to Dr. Alessandra Aula, Secretary General of Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE) for a project that the Organization Dignité et Droits pour les Enfants en Côte d'Ivoire (DDE-CI) is implementing in the country. The award-winning project raises awareness about respect for civil rights in Abidjan's high schools, involving young students as promoters of mutual respect, while aiming to reintegrate young people into society by providing psychological and educational support.

The "Right to be children - Derecho a ser niños" event resonated globally with more than 200 participants from 49 countries. It testifies to the commitment of the Marist Institute, the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity and the Secretariat of Solidarity to improve access to the rights and living conditions of children around the world.

AFRICAN REGION

MEETING OF THE AFRICAN FORMATION COMMISSION

The African Formation Commission met virtually on November 22, to evaluate the progress of the training processes in the African Region, in line with the guidelines developed during the meeting of formators and vocation promoters in Nairobi, Kenya. Were present at the meeting Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, Directors of the Secretariat of Brothers Today – organizers of the event, Br. Vitus Osuji (Nigeria), coordinator of the Commission, and the members representing the five provinces of Africa. After the virtual meeting, the Secretariat of Hermanos Hoy met, on November 23, with some members of the commission to talk about the work underway. Brother Vitus presented the progress in relation to the different training topics and the ongoing initiatives to achieve the goals set. With a view to improving the Marist Mission in the African Region, the Secretariat of Brothers Today proposed to the African Formation Commission to schedule another face-to-face meeting later.



Currently, the following brothers are part of the African Formation Commission: Vitus Osuji (Coordinator), Ebel Muteveri, Alphonse Tiamaro Alphonse Tiamaro, Stephen Kpansa, Emmanuel Mwanalirenji (Provincial Link), Mark Anokwuru Mark Anokwuru (Superior MIC).

WE ARE A GLOBAL FAMILY

INVITATION TO THE III MARIST MISSION ASSEMBLY

On the occasion of the III International Marist Mission Assembly, which will be held from April 8 to 14, 2024, in El Escorial (Spain), under the theme: “We are a Global Family”, Brother José Sánchez Bravo, director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, and member of the Preparatory Commission, invited all Marists to participate in the event, which is already underway. (Watch the video).

“We want to go towards the future, and be able to continue responding to the needs of children and young people,” mentioned Br. José in speaking about the Marist Mission.



Referring to the elements of the logo of this third assembly, Brother José recalled that “, we placed a world behind the Hermitage house, which gives us the idea of Being a Global Family. The image of the Hermitage tells us about the legacy; windows mean looking into the future; the doors mean welcome; and the river Gier that flows represents the water that goes to the whole world”. See logo elements

To date, 2 Mission Assemblies have been

held: One in 2007 in Mendes (Brazil), with the motto: ‘One heart, one Mission’, and another in 2014 in Nairobi (Kenya), under the motto: ‘New Marists in mission’.



Preparatory Commission

Brothers José Sánchez Bravo and Niño Pizarro (Secretariat of Education and Evangelization), Br. Angel Diego García (Secretariat of Solidarity), Br. Alejandro Mena (Province of Ibérica), Mrs. Mónica Villacis (Province of Norandina), Mrs. Fátima Rodríguez (Province of Brasil Centro-Norte), Mrs. Socorro Alvarez, (Province of México Central), Br. Maurice Juvenne (Madagascar), Br. Fernando Sasmi-ka (South Asia), Mr. Mark Elliott (Province Star of the Sea), and Mr. Francisco Javier Llamas (Champagnat Global).

MADAGASCAR

NINE YOUTHS BEGIN THEIR POSTULANCY

Nine young people began the Postulancy program on November 11. The Marist community of Ampahidrano, together with Brother Maminiana Michel, provincial of Madagascar, celebrated the official entry into the postulancy of the aspirants, who have committed to experiencing the Marist life and formation.

The day began with a moment of prayer and exchange of experiences among the postulants under the direction of Brother Tiamaro, director of the Postulancy. At the end of the afternoon, during the Eucharistic celebration, the young people publicly expressed their commitment. After the mass, the community organized the celebration of the event and a fraternal meal. It should be remembered that the Ampahidrano postulate welcomes sixteen applicants, including seven in the second year. The young people follow a two-year training. The first year is more oriented towards language learning (English and French),



and some basic Marist topics. After the postulate, the young Marists continue their formation at the Interprovincial Novitiate of Save, in Rwanda.

MARIST GLOBAL SCHOOL NETWORK

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL: 2 YEARS ADDING VALUE

As we mark two years since the launch of Champagnat Global, it is worth asking ourselves what value this initiative is bringing to our personal, professional or mission performance. Some of us may be experiencing the benefit of being part of the network, others may not have felt the need to get involved, and some of us may not have had the time to contemplate this option in a world that keeps us so busy. So on this second anniversary we thought that the best way to appreciate what Champagnat Global brings to us is to listen to the testimony of Marists from around the world who share their experience with us.



«Champagnat Glo-

bal gives me the opportunity to experience the global family that we as Champagnat Marists envision and to share it with the students in my care. It provides me with a rich platform to share and engage in best practice and to share this resource with the teaching staff I lead. At times

when I feel isolated or disengaged from my Marist journey, Champagnat Global gives me a place to go and connect, to remind myself of the beautiful network of which I am truly a part. More importantly, it is not only for me to receive, but also for me to give, so that the approach is both to receive and to give, to be part of the flow of the Spirit, of the streams of living water for the life of the mission.» Pam Paton-Mills – Head of Ethos and Pastoral Care at Sacred Heart College – Province of South Africa.

«Champagnat Global is the concrete expression of the Marist Global Family, it puts faces on people, friends, professionals, with whom we share dreams, ideas, experiences and collaboration, overcoming our geographical distances to meet in the Mission that calls us together. Personally, I have learned a lot, not only about the Institute and its work around the world (learning from Bangladesh,

Australia or Spain and Mexico), but also discovering people and caring, closeness to interrupt when needed, and appreciating that our experience in this southern corner of the world also helps others who are on similar paths.» Jorge Radic Henrici -Executive Secretary Fundación CEIS Maristas. Chile, Province Santa María de los Andes.

«Champagnat Global brings significant value to my mission and performance. It gives me access to a wide range of experiences of transformation and pedagogical evolution by connecting with local networks around the world. In addition, the global network allows for more active participation and joint construction of the educational mission in a global context, thus enhancing the coherence, impact and quality of our work. This collaboration enriches and inspires the exchange of good practices, strategies and methodologies, promoting innovation and continuous improvement in the different provinces from a common vision.» Maria Casanova Moreno – Coordinator of Innovation Fundació Champagnat in Catalonia. Province L'hermitage

«The pandemic has hidden us behind a monitor. Thanks to the Global Network of Marist Schools, thanks to Champagnat Global, being behind a monitor is no longer a sign of the pandemic, but a sign of a global family, developing fraternity, feeling that we are all members of the great Marist family. By having access to the huge and wonderful Marist Global School



marist world

SOUTH AFRICA: YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS
AT MARIST MERCY CARE

BRAZIL: MARIST SOCIAL GAMES



MOZAMBIQUE: NOVICIATE OF MATOLA

PHILIPPINES: COMMUNITY LEADERS OF THE
MARIST BROTHERS PHILIPPINES SECTORBRAZIL: VISIT OF THE GENERAL COUNCILOR, BR.
ÓSCAR MARTIN TO THE PROVINCE OF BRASIL
SUL AMAZÔNIACOLOMBIA: LEGAL STRUCTURES MEETING IN
BOGOTÁ

Network, I can, through sport, help my students to feel like members of this big family. Thanks to sport, my students will undoubtedly feel immersed in the great Marist Family.» Guiyermo Rodríguez González – Coordinator of cultural and sports activities. Cervantes Costa Rica school. Guadalajara.

Province: Western Mexico.

«I joined Champagnat Global because, as a Marist leader, I strongly believe that it is the ideal platform to facilitate my connection with the wider Marist educational community. This platform offers me the opportunity to

learn from diverse perspectives and collaborate with experts from around the world, allowing me to gain invaluable insight and knowledge, which I can then apply to improve the quality of education within my own educational environment.

Champagnat Global provides a supportive space where common

challenges faced by educators can be addressed collectively, allowing for mutual learning and growth. In addition, the platform offers a wealth of resources that allow me to make impactful changes that positively influence our educational environments. By being part of Champagnat Global, I am able to effectively seek support when I need it, while contributing to the continuous improvement and transformation of educational practices.» Br. Mark Roberth R. Laurea, FMS – President – Marist School, Marikina, Philippines – East Asia Province.

«The establishment of Champagnat Global is a tremendously exciting opportunity for us to become a global Marist family. The formation of a number of networks has enabled an exchange of ideas and resources that was almost impossible just a few years ago. One of the side effects of the pandemic has been the increased acceptance of

electronic communication and the fact that people are willing to participate on a digital platform. Personally, I have found this to be immensely beneficial to several of the projects I am involved in.»

Br. Kevin Wanden – Marist Brothers of New Zealand Star of the Sea Province.



BRASIL SUL AMAZÔNIA

THE PUCRS LAUNCHES A BOOK TO CELEBRATE ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), the first Marist University in the world, launched a special book to perpetuate the history of the institution, created by the Marist Brothers on November 9, 1948, in Brazil.

"This book recognizes the important impact we have had on society and invites us to celebrate the present and embrace the future with optimism and a firm commitment to our mission. The book invites everyone to align with our strategy, based on innovation, generating impact, and creating value for society," said Br. Manuir Mentges, vice-rector of the PUCRS.

"We want to be a new university for a new society, recognized for its impact and relevance. This is the vision that we are going to pursue, which entails the challenge of keeping up with the pace of our times, and being recognized for the impact we generate, for the results that we achieve every day," said the rector, Br. Evilázio Teixeira.

The book assesses the path travelled so far – from challenges to achievements –, It brings together historical milestones,



recalls memories of the institution's history and shows how much the University has invested in a better future through education, science, culture, health, research, social responsibility, entrepreneurship and innovation. "The PUCRS is wonderful and immense, and putting everything in less than 200 pages was difficult. The texts by Assis Brasil and Túlio Milman helped a lot," said the photographer and editor of the book, Leonid Streliaev.

"An institution like PUCRS focuses on its people: they are the guardians of tradition, and the living and dynamic agents of the institutional culture," said the rector.

[Download the book of the 75th anniversary of the PUCRS](#)

OTHER MARIST VOICES 19 AND 20

BEING SERVANT LEADERS TODAY / TO EDUCATE AND ACCOMPANY

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 19 was written by Br. Tony Leon, committed to the Educator Training, from the Province Star of the Sea – Australia, who addresses the theme "Being Servant Leaders Today: Why? For Whom? For What?" (English | Español | Français | Português) – Video). The message refers to chapter 19 of Marist Voices (Marist Style of Prophetic and Servant Leadership: Some Exemplars in Our Tradition), written by Br. Michael Green.

Other Marist Voices 20 was written by Loli Santos, Laywoman and Educator, from the Province of Compostela – Spain, who addresses the theme "To Educate and Accompany, put your



apron on!" (English | Español | Français | Português) – Video. The message refers to chapter 3 of Marist Voices (What Type of Leader Do You Want to Be?), written by Br. Seán Sammon.

COURSE FOR FORMATORS 2024

On November 29, the team of the Course “New Builders of the Hermitage” hold an online meeting with the participants to start the process of getting acquainted with one another, ahead of the commencement on January 31, 2024. There are 19 brothers who have enlisted to participate in the 10-month program, which will be conducted in Manizana. The team who will run it is composed of Br. César Rojas, Br. Juan Castro and Br. Michel Razafimandimby.

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

The 19th edition of the Marist Social Games brought together more than 2,600 people in Porto Alegre. Held last Friday, November 24, the event was attended by the Social Centers, and Social Schools. More information on [this link](#)

SANTA MARIA DE LOS ANDES

On November 23, in Chile, the graduation ceremony was held for 9 people who obtained the academic degree of Magister in Educational Leadership and Management awarded by the Marist University of Guadalajara, in agreement with the School of Formation of Marist Educators. Ana Saborío, the coordinator of the Master's Program, from Costa Rica, swore in those who received the academic degree of Magister.

AUSTRALIA

Over the past few weeks, the team of Australian Marist Solidarity have engaged with young Marist leaders from Marist Schools in Queensland, the Northern Territory, New South Wales, ACT and Victoria. Bec and Adam facilitated sessions designed to help these Marist leaders step into opportunities for advocacy, global citizenship and solidarity.

RUMANIA

SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT CENTER IN BUCHAREST

Letting oneself be surprised implies breaking the inner chains that bind us”

Marcellin Champagnat, at the beginning of the 19th century, let himself be surprised by the events of the time, he let himself be surprised by the children and young people of his parish who were in difficulty, he let himself be surprised by God who was inviting him to join in the work of the Kingdom. In the same way, for more than 200 years, thousands of brothers and lay people have let themselves be surprised by. In Bucharest, the capital of Romania, we Marists have a work that serves vulnerable children and young people. It is one of those works that are now called “27/4”.

- One of those works that want, and succeed, to respond to the need for a comprehensive education.
- A work that serves children, adolescents and young people who, for various reasons, cannot live with their families.
- A social work, as there are so many in the Institute, where children and young people live a large part of their lives during their years of formation.
- An educational play that encourages children to feel respected and loved.
- A Marist presence that speaks to us of “global charismatic family”.

Whoever reads this article might say that it is not “27/4”, but “24/7”. Well, yes, maybe we could also talk about it. Undoubtedly, these numbers are just an



excuse to bring here and to emphasize the integral educational work that our brothers and lay Marists of Bucharest are developing, to highlight the commitment of the volunteers who dedicate part of their time to this work, to highlight the life of a group of children and young people who want to grow, develop and live happily.

Yes, it is a “play on words”, or rather on numbers, which reminds us and shows us, all Marists of Champagnat, the incarnate witness of the Gospel of Jesus in the 21st century, through those who work, attend and live the Saint Marcellin Champagnat Center of Bucharest. I take advantage of these lines to thank God for the witness of so many Marists of Champagnat who, with their lives, succeed in making true what the second call of the XXII General Chapter reminded us: “to be the face and hands of your tender mercy”.

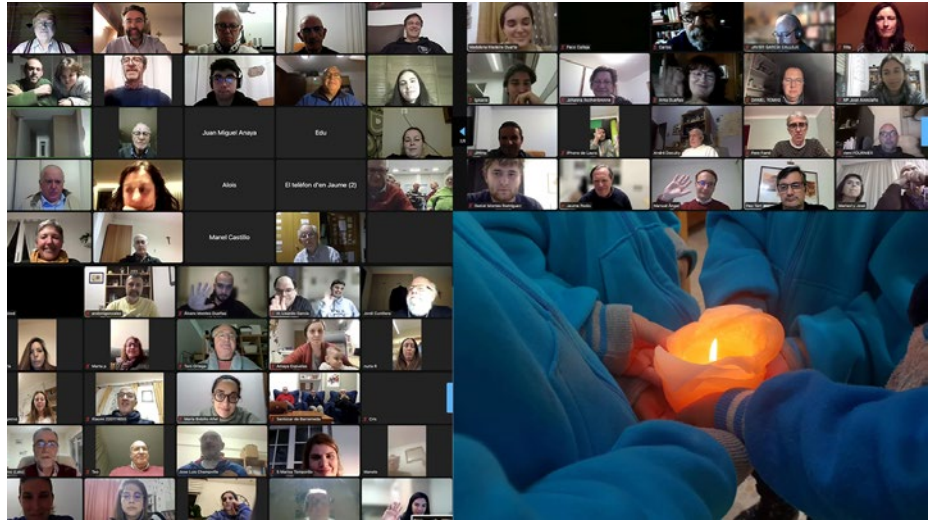
I take this opportunity to thank God for so many men and women, for so many children and young people, who have been able to turn their vulnerabilities into a way to reach God, to allow themselves to be challenged by Him, to go out to meet those in need.

“Accepting one’s vulnerabilities becomes the space for the action of the Spirit.”

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola

MARISTS IN EUROPE PROMOTE PRAYER FOR PEACE

More than a hundred, in all languages, were the Marists of Champagnat who gathered on November 27th for the Prayer for Peace: entire communities of Brothers, couples, young people, teachers, provincial coordinators, Marist coordinators, and educators in social works... Everyone, united, from Tui, Salamanca, Badajoz, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Lebanon, and much more, in Europe, as La Valla's table, to pray for Peace. The members of the team of European Marist Youth (EJEM), who prepared the moment, responding to the invitation of the Superior General to pray for Peace (https://champagnat.org/en/declaration-for-peace-and-the-cessation-of-violence_news/), offered the opportunity to pray with the song "Solo le pido a Dios" (I Only Ask of God), allowing everyone, in nine languages, to follow the lyrics of the same song. And in all these languages, it was possible to leave phrases written in the online prayer chat. The meeting concluded with the participants praying the Hail Mary together, each in their own language. Regardless of the



language, "That they may all be one" (John 17:21).

The Europe Region promotes the same meeting next Monday, December 4, 11 and 18, from 8:00 p.m. to 8:10 p.m. (Spain).

It is possible to participate through the following link:
<https://zoom.us/j/9732078986?pwd=TzZVNU9EK1ZKYm-1MWEkySm1MWGVRRz09>

Meeting ID: 973 207 8986 | Access code: 583903



Next Monday, the Symposium "Sources and Streams" will begin, organized by the International Commission for Marist Spiritual Heritage.

The event is a five-day academic conference that will cover topics in Marist history, spirituality, education, formation, leadership, and generally on Marist mission and life.

It will be attended by around 100 people from all over the world, who will meet at the General House from November 4 to 9.

You can read all Information about the meeting on the Institute's website



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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

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