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MARIST NEWS

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GENERAL HOUSE

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MARIST VOLUNTEER NETWORK

The Board of Directors of the Marist Volunteer Network met from November 27 to 30, in Manzianna. Present were Br. Benedict Umoh (Africa Region), Belén Salas (Europe Region), Alvanei Finamor (America Sur Region), Br. Chris Wills (Oceania Region), Br. Diego Zawadzky (Arco Norte Region), Br. Valdicer Fachi and Flaminia Filanci (CMI). Brother Teófilo Minga was present as interpreter. The main objective of the meeting was to follow up on the priorities established at the Network Assembly held in April 2023, at the Hermitage, and to share the path of volunteering in each Marist Region.



The priorities of the Marist Volunteer Network established for the years 2023 and 2024 are:

1. Promote volunteering at a global level and encourage reception in Marist Communities.
2. Consolidate the Network through empowerment, communication, systematization and collaboration strategies.
3. Give priority to Reception Communities that are suitable for the Marist Family and volunteers.
4. Offer training opportunities for Marist Volunteers.
5. Investigate and propose possibilities for creating a fund to finance volunteering.

These Priorities seek to respond to the needs of the Provincial Volunteer Coordinators and collaborative work as a Network, both to send and receive volunteers.

general administration

- Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, participated in the annual Assembly of the Brothers of the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, in Aparecida do Norte, which ended on Tuesday.
- From Sunday to Thursday, Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ken McDonald, General Councilors link with the Arco Norte Region, are visiting Honduras. Then, until the 20th, they will visit Puerto Rico
- Br. Óscar Martín, General Councilor link with the South America Region, will continue his visit to the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia until the 22nd.

- During the week, Brother Ángel Diego García, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, visited the Marist works of Uruguay.
- On Wednesday, the directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, Brothers José Sánchez and Niño Pizarro, participated virtually in the meeting of the third MIMA, to be held in April of next year.
- On Thursday and Friday, Brothers Ángel Diego and Valdicer Fachi, director of CMI, will meet with the delegates of Solidarity of the Provinces of Ibérica and Compostela, in Spain.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARIST NEWS WILL BE DEDICATED TO THE MARIST SYMPOSIUM, HELD IN ROME FROM DECEMBER 4-8

The Marist Volunteer Network aims to:

1. Promote and promote Interprovincial and provincial Volunteering in the Institute.
2. Provide CPVs with an expanded vision of Marist life and mission, helping to forge an international mindset and global availability.
3. Create convergence in terms of training and support, language, vision and procedures.
4. Share materials, experiences and good practices.
5. Raise financial resources to finance volunteer costs.
6. Ensure the promotion, dissemination and valorization of volunteering at the Institute.
7. Work in synergy and collaboration with Marist organizations and others involved in volunteering.

In Manizana, recommendations were outlined for the CPVs, for the Regions and for the CMI with the aim that the priorities are

effective with a view to creating safe processes for the development of Volunteering, both at the Provincial and Interprovincial levels. It is worth highlighting, for example, some initiatives that are being carried out: Training Course for Volunteers and Reception Communities at the Global level; Accompaniment guide for the Reception Communities throughout the Volunteering cycle; Study on the financing of Marist Volunteering, especially for the Provinces and Districts that are in greatest need; Adjustment, new functionalities and use of NEXUS – Volunteer management system.

Br Valdicer Fachi communicated about the change of name of the Network, going from the CPV Network to the Marist Volunteer Network. This change was approved by the General Council in the plenary session in September. What has changed has only been the name. The structure and operation of the Network continue.

DECEMBER 8

BROTHERS' PROFESSIONS ON THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8 is a memorable day for so many brothers who, on the Marian feast, make the promise to consecrate themselves, as brothers, to the Marist ideal.

This year too, some Brothers have made their profession. In Sri Lanka, Brothers Pradeep Hettiarachchi and Dulaj Fernando, from the Province of South Asia, made their perpetual profession. In Medellín, José Andrés Martínez made his first profession as a Marist Brother. At the General House, Brother Ernesto, Superior General, received the renewal of vows of Br. Nathan da Costa Cardoso dos Santos, from the Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, who participated in the Marist Symposium. In other Marist houses around



the world, the renewal of vows of other young Marists was also celebrated.

On the same day, 11 young men were received into postulancy in Nigeria and two began their postulancy in the Compostela Province.



BROTHERS TODAY

ONLINE MEETING WITH NOVITIATE FORMATORS



The Secretariat Brothers Today, made up of brothers Ángel Medina Bermudez, director, and Lindley Halago Sionosa, Assistant Director, organized an online meeting with the Masters of Novices and their work teams on November 28. The meeting aimed to strengthen the ties between the novitiate formators, and promote reciprocal support and communion among the brothers, in their mission.

The Secretariat of Brothers Today is frequently in contact with the different formation houses in all the Marist regions. The discernment process is designed to help the novice deepen his faith and prepare for his religious profession. Currently, there are 8 novitiates in the Institute, with a total of 79 novices, 40 in the first year and 39 in the second.

Africa Region

There are three novitiates. The novitiate of Save, in Rwanda, has 22 novices (12 first year and 10 second year) from the Provinces of Afrique Centre-Est (PACE) and Madagascar. The novice master is Brother Fabien Bulaimu. The novitiate of Matola, in Mozambique, for the Province of Southern Africa, has 7 novices in the first year. The novice master is Brother Lawrence Ndawala. The novitiate of Kumasi, Ghana, receives novices from the Province of Nigeria and West Africa, and currently has 14 novices. The novice master is Brother Sylvain Yao.

Regions of Asia and Oceania

The novices from the two regions do their formation at the Marist International Novitiate of Tudella, in Sri Lanka. This novitiate receives novices from the District of Asia and the Provinces of South Asia and Star of the Sea. The master of novices is Brother Francisco García, and there are 12 novices: 5 in the first year and 7 in the second year.

Arco Norte Region

There are 3 novitiates. The Interprovincial Novitiate of La Valla in Medellín (Colombia), whose novice master is Brother Alejandro Herrera. It has 7 novices. 3 in the first year and 4 in the second. The Novitiate of Les Cayes (Haiti) has 5 novices in the first year and 4 in the second. The novice master is Brother Antonio Cavazos. The third formation house is the Bronx Novitiate, in New York (United States), which has 2 novices in the second year. The novice master is Brother Don Bisson.

America Sur Region

In Bolivia there is the Champagnat Regional Novitiate of Cochabamba. The Marist community welcomes the novices from the 5 provinces of the Region. The novice master is Brother Rubens Falchetto. There are 7 novices: 4 novices are finishing the second year and 3 the first. There are two novices with special monitoring. One in Madagascar (second year) and another in Brasil Centro-Sul (first year).

NIGERIA

Br. Vincent Uchenna Abadom, the Provincial Superior of Nigeria, commissioned the Lay Marist Poultry Farm at Hopeville Uturu Abia State. The sustainability project initiated and executed by the Lay Marist, stands to aid the Lay Marist in Nigeria. Br. Vincent was accompanied by Br. Mark Omede, Provincial from January.

AMÉRICA CENTRAL

About 70 people, including educators, catechists and Marist Lay People, participated in FORMAR 2023. One of the highlights of the meeting was the perspective it offers in connecting Marists from the seven countries that make up the Province.

NORANDINA

250 teachers from the Marist institutions of Ecuador participated in the Second Workshop "From La Valla to L'Hermitage" organized by the Education Team. Br. Carlos Regalado and Nelson Zambrano, national education coordinator animated the meeting. The workshop focused on the pedagogical thinking of Marcellin Champagnat, the formation of the first Brothers and the guidance of the schools in relation to the current Marist context.

MARIST VOLUNTEERS

Collaboration for Mission International Germany, known as CMI Germany, has reached its 10th anniversary! Since 2013 more than 40 outgoing volunteers have worked, usually for 9 months, in schools, children and youth centers, and in various Marist educational institutions in several countries: Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil, South Africa, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Cambodia, Thailand and Samoa.

BRAZIL CENTRO-NORTE

PROVINCE INVITES PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARIST VOCATIONAL SCHOOL



The Marist Vocation School of the Brasil Centro-Norte Province celebrates 10 years in 2024. Registration to participate in 2024 will be open until December 15, and can be done [through this link](#).

The Marist Vocational School is aimed at those responsible for vocational animation, congregations or religious organizations, vocational animators, priests, seminarians, men and women religious, lay people, and all those who prepare for the Vocational Animation service. ¡Todos pueden participar! Este es un espacio para brindar formación teórica y experiencial a animadores vocacionales, con el objetivo de contribuir a la construcción de una cultura vocacional en las congregaciones, institutos y la Iglesia.

Annually, the edition of the Marist Vocational School presents two modules. In 2024, the first module will be held in Ribeirão das Neves, from January 22 to 27, 2024, in the Recanto Marista. The

second module of the Vocational School will take place in July 2024, virtually, from July 2 to 6.

The first module will cover the following topics:

- Vocational Theory: sensitivity, listening and accompaniment
- Self-knowledge and recognition of otherness in vocational accompaniment
- Help model in vocational accompaniment
- Practical and essential points of vocational accompaniment
- The mystique of vocational accompaniment

The Marist Vocation School is promoted by the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, in partnership with the Conference of Religious of Brazil and the Catholic University of Brasília, which issues certificates of participation.

More details in [this link](#).

marist world

NIGERIA: MARIST POULTRY AT HOPEVILLE UTURU



BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA: BR. ÓSCAR MARTÍN VISITS THE PORTO ALEGRE POSTULANCY



SPAIN: FIRST WEEK OF TRAINING FOR DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS OF SOCIAL WORKS IN THE EUROPEAN REGION



HONDURAS: BROTHERS JOÃO CARLOS AND KEN WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN COMAYAGUA



CHILE: MOVIMIENTO MARCHA: ENVIO 2023



SYRIA: NEW VOLUNTEERS IN THE BLUE MARISTS

OTHER MARIST VOICES 23 AND 24

LIVING THE MARIST MISSION / SHARING MISSION

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 23 was written by Br Balume Shamabale Désiré, Educator, Prefect of Studies, from the of East Central Africa – Democratic Republic of Congo, who addresses the theme “Living the Marist Mission Every Day – Presence and Leadership” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#).

The message refers to chapter 2 of Marist Voices (The Importance of Presence in Marist Leadership), written by Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba.

Other Marist Voices 23 was written by Montse Giménez Hernández, Teacher, Researcher and University Director, from the



Province of Iberica – Spain, who addresses the theme “Sharing mission” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 22 of Marist Voices (Marist Higher Education as a Service), written by Br. Evilazio Francisco Borges Teixeira.

AMERICA CENTRAL, USA AND EAST ASIA

SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE: A MARIST GLOBAL YOUTH GATHERING ON ECOLOGY

On 24 November, more than 70 student leaders came together from Marist schools across the United States, Guatemala, and the Philippines for the first-ever Sowing Seeds of Hope: A Marist Global Youth Gathering on Ecology.

After an opening prayer from Marjorie Raneses, Joe Nacianceno commemorated the 75th year of the Marist Brothers in the Philippines and affirmed the need for hopeful action to answer the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. Leann Rosali then offered an overview of the dynamic range of student projects addressing ecological issues in their local communities.

Celestine Ledres, Euanne Tiamzon, Francine Gayle Deocadez, and Michael John Silva, student leaders from Notre Dame of Marbel University Integrated Basic Education Department Senior High School, began with a presentation on bioaccumulation in the freshwater fish of Lake Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat.

Dean Muniz followed with an overview of the Ecology Club at Saint Joseph Regional School, highlighting the school's outdoor Environmental Classroom with native plants and a water feature for migratory birds. He also described school-wide efforts in energy efficiency.

From Liceo Guatemala, Pamela Sofia Duarte Arriola, Javier Alejandro Cifuentes Garrido, Lesly Camila Tobar Marroquin, and Carmen Lucia Morales Zeped presented their award-winning load wheel, a solar charged device designed to help rural farmers transport heavy materials.

Mica Siba Gatdula then shared an array of green projects at Marist School Marikina, including a novel water filtration and waste management system, solar panel installation, and Laudato Si poster exhibition.

Representing Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Andrew Vasta shared the design features of his school's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified



building. He also gave an overview of the school's innovative plastic circular economy program turning plastic waste into green apparel, pens, pencils.

Finally, Andrea Sofia Lara Lopez, Julio Eduardo del Cid Muñoz, Mariandré Meighan Quezada, and Christian José Vanegas Vázquez from Liceo Guatemala presented their novel food product called Jimbene, a tasty, nutritious sweet made from medicinal plants, an effort to promote sustainable practices and improve children's nutrition in Guatemala.

Br. Dan O'Riordan, Provincial of the Marist Brothers USA, offered a closing message thanking the student leaders and expressing his support for their efforts in integral ecology. He assured them that they are living out the mission of St. Marcellin of Champagnat, who believed in the power of young people to make a positive difference in the world.

This Global Marist Youth Gathering on Ecology was organized by Princess Joy Dicto, Joe Nacianceno, Vanessa Ivy Natabio, Marjorie Raneses, and Leann Rosali from the Philippines; Frida Villafuerte from Guatemala; and Sam King from the U.S. It came just two weeks before the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai.

By Sam King



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Website

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