



PROVINCIAL CHAPTER IN MADAGASCAR

The Provincial Chapter in Madagascar took place from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th January 2024 in the Centre d'Accueil Mahatamana in Antsirabe. Br. Michel Maminiaina handed over the role of Provincial to Br. Alphonse Tiamaro.

Three Brothers from Rome were present: Ernesto Sanchez, Superior general, and two general Councillors Brothers Óscar Martín and Ken McDonald.

With the Brothers, members of the Province, 10 lay people, representatives of the province's group, participated in the Chapter.

"The Chapter was a beautiful moment of sharing because of the richness of the group, the significant presence of lay people, the age diversity of the brothers... And also, a moment of great challenges for a Province very committed to the Marist mission, especially with the poorest," said Brother Óscar.



The following brothers were elected Councillors to work together with the new Provincial, for the next three years: Haritiana Raveloarijaona, Camille Ramarosandratana, Njaka Randrianarivony and Juvence Heriniaina.

general administration

■ Since Tuesday, the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, and the Councillors, Br. Óscar Martín and Ken McDonald, are taking part in the Chapter of the Province of Nigeria. During the meeting, which ends on Saturday, Brother Mark Omede takes over as Provincial, replacing Brother Vincent Adadom, who has led the Province for the last six years.

■ Brother Niño Pizarro, assistant director of the Secreta-

riat for Education and Evangelization, and Javier Llamas, from the Champagnat Global network, participate in the Inter-American Congress of Catholic Education in the Dominican Republic, from Thursday to Saturday, with the theme "educating for a sustainable future".

■ On Saturday, Brother Ben Consigli, General Councillor, will meet with educators from the two Marist schools in Athens, Greece, to talk about heroic leadership.

MARIST VOLUNTEERING

SIX MONTHS AS VOLUNTEER AT THE SIDE OF REFUGEES IN LEBANON

Margaret Beauty Mpalula, from the Southern Africa Province, did an international volunteer experience in the Fratelli Project in Lebanon. She is from Zambia. In her testimony that we publish below, Margaret talks about what motivated her to become a Marist volunteer, her experience of living in an international Marist community during six months (from May 26 to 18 December 2023), and what she has learned through the Fratelli project.

The motivation to volunteer out of my country was to make a difference in someone else's life. I had heard from the Marists Brothers talking about Fratelli Project, a collaboration of two Brothers institutes (De La Salle & Marist). As I was due for six months' vacation, I felt taking up a challenge for this voluntary program would be a right thing to undertake.

The project care for Syrian refugees fleeing from the war zone and give them necessary support as many of them documentation of their identities or origins, as such they have no access to formal public schools in Lebanon. The project gives assistance through programs such as kindergarten, school support, and wings to fly for transition into public schools. Apart from looking after the well-fare of children, the project also offers programs like literacy, IT training, life skills such as cookery, auto mechanics, hair dressing, tailoring and various entrepreneurship and psychological programs.

Since I arrived on May 26, I joined the Marist community of 4 Brothers and 4 lay persons, and this has been my host community to date; and I participated with an open mind and keen interest of what all the schedules that were given to us, for instance, morning and evening prayers, domestic chores, Saturday



community meetings, Sunday mass and fascinating excursions we were accorded to various significant sites. These activities constituted a Marist Volunteer life day by day.

Significant moments and key words

One of the significant moments from my experience was the interaction with the youth. I had a great opportunity to interact with the youth especially during literacy classes, listening to girls sharing their personal stories on social issues such as early marriages, hygiene and pregnancies. Being present and associating with these children gave me many learnings and drew my faith

and compassion to empathize with their various situations and needs. I can simply say this was really a worthwhile and humane experience and an eye opener to some of the social challenges I may have taken for granted before.

The key words and concepts to some up my experience are faith; modesty; mission; service; voluntary; and experience. In summary I feel it is my Faith that enabled me to collaborate with the Marist Brothers in Zambia, and now by extension of my Mission the Marist Volunteer Program. The Experience I had here calls for a giving of self-whole heartedly to Volunteer to such an undertaking away from my own country to a modesty experience of livelihoods against some social chal-

allenges in Life. I sincerely appreciate my having been here and I hope and trust I was of Service to the project, community, colleagues, and those I interacted with.

I may not have appropriate words to describe the significant scenario or events of my voluntary time while here. My sentiments however draw me to my experience with local and Spanish dishes and the vibrant and supportive community full of joy. I wish to appreciate all, the project manager, superior, brothers, Fratelli staff and of course volunteer colleagues from other countries for this wonderful inter-cultural and racial opportunities



to work together, your friendliness and share various rich cultural heritages. The weather was scary but thank God I adapted. I enjoyed every bit of the experience even

though I did not understand much of Arabic, but I go back a different person as I have picked few insights and meanings.

An exceptional and transformative experience

There are several lessons I have learnt during this opportune experience. In a nutshell, I would like to simply say, I have learnt there is satisfaction and meaning in providing voluntary service. The world can only be a lot better if service of others through mission is done with prayer, teamwork, cultural-diversity, and resilience even in trying and challenging circumstances of wars always points to enhanced life dynamisms. In other words, my experience was wholesome, emotionally, socially, spiri-

tually, and culturally building and I will go a changed person.

The Marist life and mission is transformative as I can express it in few words: prayerful; responsible; responsible; observant; caring and have a sense of belonging. I became more prayerful, responsible and at the same

time responsive through my observations and experiences. I found meaning in caring for others' needs and well-being and this gave me a positive attitude towards others and a sense of belonging too. As I leave for my country part of me will remain here and I will also carry with me many positive experiences that have shaped my life into a better person than I came.

Despite the high and humid temperature that made me take long to adapt, the language barrier, Arabic, was a challenge to me and this prevented me to communicate meaningfully with the people I encountered with, let alone colleagues except those who had English medium or some basics. Nevertheless, being physically together in the same environment, sharing food and outdoor fan, was a sense of belonging and fostered a universal communion. I greatly have appreciated this Marist Voluntary experience and I think it has imprinted an indelible mark in my mind and heart such that I wouldn't hesitate to encourage others who may wish to undertake the voluntary service out of our country. The experience alone has a myriad of learnings and life skills orientations as well as the Christian virtues of Hope, Peace, and Love that are the most profound ingredients of life in the person. My prayer is that the Marist Volunteer Project continues to touch many hearts who called to serve and especially the beneficiary people.



EAST ASIA

KOREA AND JAPAN SECTOR BROTHERS' ASSEMBLY



Participated by 16 brothers, the Province of East Asia-Korea and Japan Sector had their assembly from December 31, 2023 to January 2, 2024, at Marist Brothers' Sector House, Seoul, Korea. Br. Jacobo Song, the Sector Coordinator, led the assembly with the presence of Br. Allan J. de Castro, the Provincial Superior.

The annual assembly is a meeting open to all Brothers in the Sector in order to bring them into closer contact and to arouse the interest of all by reflecting on some important questions and realities concerning the Sector in particular and the Province in general.

The first day was intended as an arrival day since the brothers came from different parts of Korea. After the evening prayer, Br. Jacobo formally opened the assembly by wel-

coming each participant and by giving the orientation. Br. Allan also delivered his opening remarks by emphasizing the relevance of the gathering in the life and mission of the Province.

On the morning of the second day, the Community Leaders, Ministry Heads, and Committee Chairs shared the achievements and challenges during the year. The afternoon sessions led the participants into a meaningful reflection on the life and mission in the sector in the midst of the present realities, namely the aging brothers, the lack of vocation, the scarcity of resources, the succession plans in the ministries, and many others. Fraternal celebration took place in the evening to begin the New Year 2024.

The last day was indeed significant since it was the 207th foundation anniversary of the institute, where the thanksgiving Holy Eucharist was celebrated. The brothers ended the assembly with enthusiasm to live the calls of the 6th Provincial Chapter, namely to be contemplative of the Sacred, compassionate healers, bridge-builders, and carers of the Common Home.



mun^{do} marista

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE: CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY AND JUBILEES OF RELIGIOUS LIFE



MEXICO: MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCILS OF MÉXICO CENTRAL AND OCCIDENTAL



VIETNAM: BROTHERS AND LAY CELEBRATE THE 207 ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTE



EL SALVADOR
AMÉRICA CENTRAL
SANTA ANA, LICEO SAN LUIS



SAMOA - STAR OF THE SEA: FUNERAL OF MRS KALALA SAMUELU, EDUCATOR IN MULIVAI



GERMANY: CELEBRATION OF THE INSTITUTE'S FOUNDATION IN MINDELHEIM

OTHER MARIST VOICES 27 AND 28 EMPATHY AND COMPASSION / LIVE YOUR 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 27 was written by Br. Ricardo Rey- nozo, teacher and community leader in insertion communities, from the Province of Central Mexico, who addresses the theme “Empathy and compassion in a working-class neighborhood” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#) > [Video](#)). The message refers to chapter 4 of Marist Voices (Leadership of Empathy, Service and Compassion: “Son, they have no wine”), written by Br. r. Óscar Martín Vicario.

Other Marist Voices 28 was written by Priscila Aguilar, educator and academic coord-

inator from Guatemala – Province of Central America, who addresses the theme “Live your mission every day in service to others” ([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.



EAST ASIA

Last December 27, 2023, around 25 personnel of the Catholic Kindergarten School, Singapore, joined the session on Marist Life, Spirituality and Mission which was facilitated by Ms. Agnes Reyes, Coordinator of the Laity Desk. The said formation session was aimed at giving the personnel a deeper knowledge and formation on the key elements of a Marist life and culture and how these are lived in their context as pre-school teachers.

USA

The thirty-seven men and women began, on 2nd January, their time of formation as Marists of Champagnat as the 4th Cohort officially kicked off. Around 100 people joined to offer prayers of welcome and support. The cohort members are in the process of meeting with their companions during the month of January, and webinars begin on February 1st.

IBÉRICA

During the last week of 2023, some 70 confreres of the Province enjoyed a few days of formation, fellowship and prayer during the "Provincial Christmas Days". And on December 28, the fidelity of the friars who have completed 50, 60, 70 and 75 years of religious life was commemorated.

UNITED STATES

BR. DAN O'RIORDAN HAS BEEN ELECTED TO A SECOND TERM



On January 8, the Marist Brothers United States Province announced that Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, confirmed the election of Br Dan O'Riordan as the Provincial of the US Province. First elected in 2021, Br. Dan will continue Provincial duties for another three-year term, through 2027. His second term will begin at the USA Province Chapter Meeting, scheduled for April 2024.

Br. Dan entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in 1992 and took his perpetual vows in 1998. He grew up in Whitestone, NY and was a member of St. Mel's Parish. He also spent much of his youth living and playing sports in Ireland. His parents, Con-

nie and Rita O'Riordan, were devout Catholics and passed on their faith to him as his first teachers in life.

After graduating from Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, NY, he earned a Bachelor's degree from University College in Cork, Ireland, and an MA from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Over the years, Br. Dan has served as a teacher, coach, counselor, Development Director, and campus minister at numerous Marist High Schools around the United States. He also served his USA Province as one of the Vocation Directors. And from 2015 to 2021 he served as Vice Provincial.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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