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MARIST NEWS

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CARCAVELOS, PORTUGAL

ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST REGION OF EUROPA



The Provincials and Councilors of the 5 Administrative Units of the Marist Region of Europe met in Carcavelos, Portugal, from January 15-18. Representing the General Government were the Vicar General, Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, the councilors who are links with the Region, Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ben Consigli, and Br. Goyo Linacero, Assistant to the Econome General and Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration.

The Assembly aimed three fundamental objectives:

- thoroughly understanding the reality of Europe to gain a vision that guides future actions and decisions,

- establishing a common language throughout the region from internal, canonical, and legal perspectives,
- and projecting the operation of the region for the next 10 years, setting a clear and sustainable path for the Marist community in Europe.

Inspiring ideas and ambitious goals

Brother Gabriel Villa-Real, coordinator of the Regional Council of Marists in Europe, inaugurated the meeting by encouraging participants to build a strong vision for the future and not be afraid to explore new ideas and approaches. He also empha-



general administration

■ From Monday to Friday, the Marist International Mission Commission meets at the General House, and is attended by about 20 people, including leaders of regions, Marist networks and the General Administration. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Ben Consigli, General Councilor, coordinate the meeting. Br. Ernesto, Superior General, met with the commission on Monday.

■ From Monday to Thursday, Br. Ángel Medina participates in the Asia and Oceania Formation Colloquium, in the Philippines, which discusses the formation of the brothers in the two regions.

■ On Tuesday, the Secretariat of Laity met online. The director, Manu Gómez, and the two Assistant Directors, Mark O'Farrell and Ana Saborío, were present, accompanied by the General Councilors João Carlos do Prado and Sylvain Raman-dimbiarisoa.

■ Brothers Ken McDonald and Oscar Martin, General Councilors link with the Africa Region, are in Malawi. On Tuesday and Wednesday, they attended the meeting of the Provincial Council of Southern Africa. From Thursday to Saturday, they will participate in the annual meeting of the Provincials of Africa (CSAC), which is being held in Lilongwe, the capital of the country.

sized the need to be creative in facing challenges. However, he also stressed the importance of including doses of realism and of cultivating the ability to listen in order to understand the needs and aspirations of the Marist community in Europe, ensuring respect for Marist values.

Brother Gabriel emphasized that while nothing is “new” in absolute terms, innovation and constant adaptation are the key to staying relevant and meaningful.

On the second day of the Assembly, the general counsellors Brothers João Carlos and Ben focused on the theme of reconfiguration. The process was analysed from internal, canonical, legal, and civil perspectives. The counsellors highlighted the importance of addressing these processes as a global family, inspired by the vision of what “God wants us to be and do.” They also urged participants to visualize the opportunities that a reconfiguration process could offer in terms of vitality, viability, and sustainability of Marist mission in Europe.

Reflections after the closure

The closing of the event featured significant speeches offered by the representatives of the 5 Administrative Unities. Among the interventions that marked the end of this important meeting were the words of Brother Aureliano García Manzanal, Provincial of Mediterránea, who conveyed a message of confidence in the future. In his speech, he emphasized the need to trust that the future will be good “thanks to the God who accompanies us” and then he expressed his gratitude to all the attendees.

Brothers João Carlos do Prado, General Councilor, and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, shared a realistic and generous vision of the region’s future. They stressed the importance of moving forward with canonical foundations and solid structures, with the enthusiasm to reorganise the Marist system in Europe towards a more sustainable and operational structure. Their message was clear: to continue working steadily and caring for the provinces.

Communication strategy was also defined as a crucial aspect, which implies the need to study how to effectively convey proposals, decisions and possible changes emerged of the Assembly. This shows the commitment to keep the Marist community informed and engaged.

Mission sustainability

During this meeting, sensitive and vital issues for the sustainability of the Marist

The **Marist region of Europe** is formed by four Marist Provinces (Compostela, Ibérica, L’Hermitage and Mediterránea) and the Central-West Europe District. In the Region, the Marists are present in 15 countries: Spain, Portugal, Romania, France, Greece, Hungary, Algeria, Italy, Lebanon, Syria, Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, Ireland and the Netherlands.

mission in Europe were addressed. In this regard, attention was focused on the importance of revitalizing vocational animation. Also, on keeping international mission fields active, due to the opportunities for growth that they represent. Finally, youth pastoral care was highlighted, seen as an essential tool for the commitment and guidance of future generations.

Another challenge put to the table was the diversity of the region, which, however, was identified as an opportunity to practice and promote the Christian values that characterize the community of brothers from its beginnings. In this way, spirituality, mission, and life were placed at the centre of the European Marist community.

For the closing, Brother Gabriel Villa-Real, Provincial de l’Hermitage and Regional Coordinator, expressed his thanks again. In his presentation, he acknowledged the contribution of the complementary services team and highlighted the work of the animators, facilitators, and coordinators of the Assembly for their crucial role in positioning the community in the reality of the marist region of Europe.

In summary, the Assembly of Provincial Councils in Carcavelos was a meeting point where spirituality, mission, and life guided the path towards a Marist future filled with confidence, generosity, and innovation. It was presided over by a fraternal atmosphere and a permanent commitment to continue answering Christ’s call and to keep building and evangelizing through the path set by our founder, Marcellin Champagnat, and in the charisma of Mary, our Good Mother.

Photos



MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA

The new community of formation and vocational promotion, in Mymensingh” has established itself very well in Bangladesh. This was created in September and is made up of brothers George E. Valle, from the Philippines, César Barba Gómez, from Mexico, and Robert Howee, from Bangladesh. He currently has six young people in his care.

CENTRAL AMERICA

On January 21, with the presence of Br. Hipólito, Provincial, the Brother Lorenzo Community was inaugurated in Sacacoyo, El Salvador. It is a mixed community, made up of brothers Alex García, Gregorio Alonso, sister Daisy Contreras and laity marist Nimia Romero.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

In Brazil, the school year is about to begin. With the start of activities, the Province promotes the Pedagogical Pastoral Day in its 30 educational centers, which aims to prepare professionals who work in the works, highlighting the Marist charisma. This year's theme is “Fraternity and Social Friendship” and the conference will take place until February 14.

NORANDINA

At the end of last year, in Puerto del Carmen, Ecuador, the Marist community, together with the San Miguel de Putumayo School, the civil community and local authorities, inaugurated the ecological trail “Paths of environmental reconciliation”, in a space around of 20 hectares.

PROVINCE OF SANTA MARIA DE LOS ANDES

BR. PABLO GONZÁLEZ APPOINTED PROVINCIAL FOR A SECOND THREE-YEAR TERM



On January 11, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, sent a letter to the Marists of Chile, Bolivia and Peru announcing that the General Council, after having studied the results of the survey carried out in the Province of Santa María de los Andes, has appointed Br. Pablo Gonzalez Franco as Provincial for a second three-year term.

Br. Ernesto thanked Br. Pablo for his generosity in accepting to continue in

this service of leadership: “thank you for your dedication, your ability to listen, your teamwork, your effort to organize and generate a vision for the future of the Province”. He also thanked the Provincial Council and the various provincial animation teams for their work over the past three years.

Br. Pablo's second term of office will begin with the celebration of the Provincial Chapter to be held from July 8 to 12, 2024.

Br. Pablo González Franco

Brother Pablo was born in Spain (28-07-1955). He completed his Marist formation at the Spanish-American Juniorate in Valladolid and Peñafiel. In 1975 he made his first vows and was assigned to Peru, where he completed his Marist and professional formation.

Since his arrival in Peru, he has worked as a teacher both in school and in higher education. He has also been in charge of the Scholasticate.

He was Provincial of the Province of Peru from 1999 to 2002. Since the creation of the Province of Santa María de los Andes, he has served as Mission Delegate in both Peru and Bolivia.

Before being elected Provincial for the first three-year term in 2020, he was Rector of Marcellin Champagnat University in Lima, Peru.

COLLABORATION FOR MISSION INTERNATIONAL

FORMATION PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES 2024

The Department of Collaboration for Mission, International (CMI) is organizing the next International and Intercultural Communities Formation Program. The program will begin at the General House from May 13-24. Then the participants will be at Manziana (Sisters of the Cottolengo) from May 24 to June 15, and the program will conclude at the Hermitage, France, from June 15 to 21. The Formation Program is intended for:

- Marists of Champagnat, Brothers and Lay people who wish to participate in the International Communities for a New Beginning – Lavalla200.
- Guest participants from other Institute initiatives: Fratelli Project (Lebanon and Colombia), L'Hermitage Community, Solidarity with South Sudan.
- Brothers and Laymen and Laywomen who participate or who will participate in an International, intercongregational or Intercultural Community or Project, at the provincial or regional level, whether they are formation houses, International Communities within their own Province, Interprovincial Communities, Intercongregational Communities.

With this Program, each participant is expected to:

Be able to discern their motivations for international and intercultural life and mission.

Appreciate cultural diversity more deeply, and understand the personal challenges you face in living cross-culturally.

Develop new competencies, skills and a spirituality for intercultural living.

Interested candidates may contact the Provincial or District Superior directly.

If you have any questions, you can write to the following e-mail address: cmi@fms.it



PORTUGAL

MEETING OF THE MISSION COUNCIL OF THE EUROPE REGION

On January 12 and 13, the second meeting of the Mission Council of Europe Region for the 2023/2024 academic year took place at the Marist College of Carcavelos and the community of Lisbon, Portugal.

The meeting was attended by the mission coordinators of the 5 Administrative Units of the Region (from right to left in the photo): Br. Román Álvarez (Prov. Compostela), Br. Álex Mena (Prov. Ibérica), Br. Javier Gragera (Prov. Mediterránea), Br. Albert André (Dist. West Central Europe) and Mr. Eric Reynier (Prov. L'Hermitage). Br. Teófilo Minga, a member of the Carcavelos community, was the translator.

The next meeting will be held online on February 22 and the next face-to-face meeting will be held on March 11 to discuss Vocational Formation and Early Childhood Education.



marist world

EL SALVADOR: NEW MIXED COMMUNITY BR. LORENZO, IN SACACOYO



PHILIPPINES: CELEBRATION OF THE SINULOG FESTIVAL



BRASIL CENTRO-SUL: MARIST VOCATIONAL ENCOUNTER IN CURITIBA



COLOMBIA: SPIRITUAL RETREAT "GENERATE MARIST LIFE" IN BOGOTA



BRAZIL: POST-NOVIATE BROTHERS VISIT ELDERLY BROTHERS IN VIAMÃO



MÉXICO CENTRAL: CELEBRATION OF 125 YEARS OF MARIST PRESENCE IN MEXICO

OTHER MARIST VOICES 31 AND 32

MARIST LEADERSHIP / SERVANT BASED ON VALUES

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 31 was written by Br. Mark Ikechukwu Iwu, Principal in Christ the King College, Abuja, from the Province of Nigeria, who addresses the theme "Servant leaders based on values" ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#)). The message refers to chapter 18 of Marist Voices (Marcellin Champagnat, a Model of Servant Leadership), written by Br. Benjamin Consigli. Other Marist Voices 32 was written by Danai Anagnostopoulou, responsible for pastoral ministry and member of the Adminis-



trative Council of the 'Marist Organisation' in Greece, from the Province of l'Hermitage, who addresses the theme "Marist leadership: a realistic proposal for a better future" ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 20 of Marist Voices (Spiritual and Ethical Wisdom in Leadership), written by Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez.

BRAZIL

FORMATION ITINERARY FOR THE POST-NOVITIATE BROTHERS OF THE SOUTH AMERICA REGION

On January 14, the first stage of the ongoing formation itinerary for the Young Brothers of the Post-Novitiate of the América Sur Region began in Porto Alegre. The theme of this phase is “Community life: humanity and transcendence!” and the motto chosen was taken from the Gospel of John: “Come, see and stay with us!” (1:39). The aim of the event is to encourage the process of ongoing formation of the young Brother, in preparation to the final profession as Marist Brother. Two more stages are planned for this group.



The participants are: Br. Alexandre Nascimento, Br. Enos Ângelo and Br. João Pedro (Brasil Sul-Amazônia); Br. Gabriel Brito Costa and Br. Gustavo Humberto (Brasil Centro-Norte); Br. José Augusto Wendler (Brasil Centro-Sul); Br. Leandro Frias Ortiz (Santa Maria de los Andes).

The program runs until January 28. It includes various activities such as human formation, group integration and sharing, com-

munity leisure, experiences of prayer and encounter with God, reflection and interiorization, living in solidarity with children, adolescents and young people and sharing with the elderly brothers of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province.

The formation course is coordinated by the brothers who make up the initial formation team of the América Sur Region and has the participation of Brother Lindley Sionosa, assistant director of the Brothers Today Secretariat.

MEETING OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION

The Commission, made up of the General Administration, Regions and Mission Networks, meets annually to reflect, propose, disseminate and implement initiatives that promote the construction of the Global Charismatic Family, to respond to the current realities and needs of the world and the Church. In 2024, the meeting takes place at the General House, from January 22 to 26.

Participants:

General Government: Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco (Coordinator, Vicar General); Br. Ben Consigli (General Councilor).

General Administration: Andrea Rossi (FMSI); Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola (Secretariat of Solidarity); Br. Gregorio Linacero Melón (Projects); Br. Jorge Gaio (General Bursar); Br. José Sánchez Bravo and Br. Nino Pizarro (Secretariat of Education and Evangelization); Br. Valdicer Fachi (Cmi).

Regions: Br. Francis Jumbe (Region of Africa – Prov. Southern Africa); Leonardo Soares (Region of América Sur – Prov. Brasil Centro-Norte); Br. Rodrigo Espinosa (Region of Arco Norte - Prov. México Central); Br. Farancis Rahmat (Region of Asia – Prov. East Asia - Online); José Antonio Rosa (Region of Europe – Prov. Compostela); Br. Kevin Wander (Region of Oceania – Prov. Star of the Sea).

Networks: Analía Ruggeri (Network of Solidarity – Prov. Cruz del Sur); Javier Llamas (Network of Schools – General Administration); Br. Marcelo Bonhemberger (Network of Universities – Prov. Brasil Sul-Amazônia); Br. Miguel Fernandes (Network of Marist Youth – Prov. Brasil Centro-Sul).

BARCELONA

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND SAFEGUARDING – DIKTYA FOUNDATION

The First International Congress on Children's Rights and Safeguarding – Diktya Foundation was held in Barcelona on January 24. This meeting had a double objective:

- to present in society the new foundation ([Diktya Foundation](#)) and
- to debate with other organizations different aspects related to children's rights and policies of prevention, promotion and protection.

During the whole day of January 24, experts from all over the world, public representatives, specialists in different fields and



diktya
foundation

children and young people themselves discussed aspects such as international standards in protection, safe environments, and the participation of boys and girls in policies for the protection of their rights.

[Download the congress program](#)



DIKTYA FOUNDATION

It is a private non-profit foundation set up by the Germans Maristes Institute with the main aim of protecting and promoting the Rights of the Child, as set out in the UN Convention of 20 November 1989. Its mission is work towards a society where the rights of the child and safeguarding are the priority, and do so in a network with other organisations.

As vision, Diktya Foundations has two goals:

- Be a leading organisation in consultancy and implementation of safeguarding policies.
- Be an active agent in the observation and monitoring of safeguarding policies of public and private institutions.

Diktya Foundation has an international vocation. Currently the headquarters is in Barcelona.

DIKTYA FOUNDATION – Team

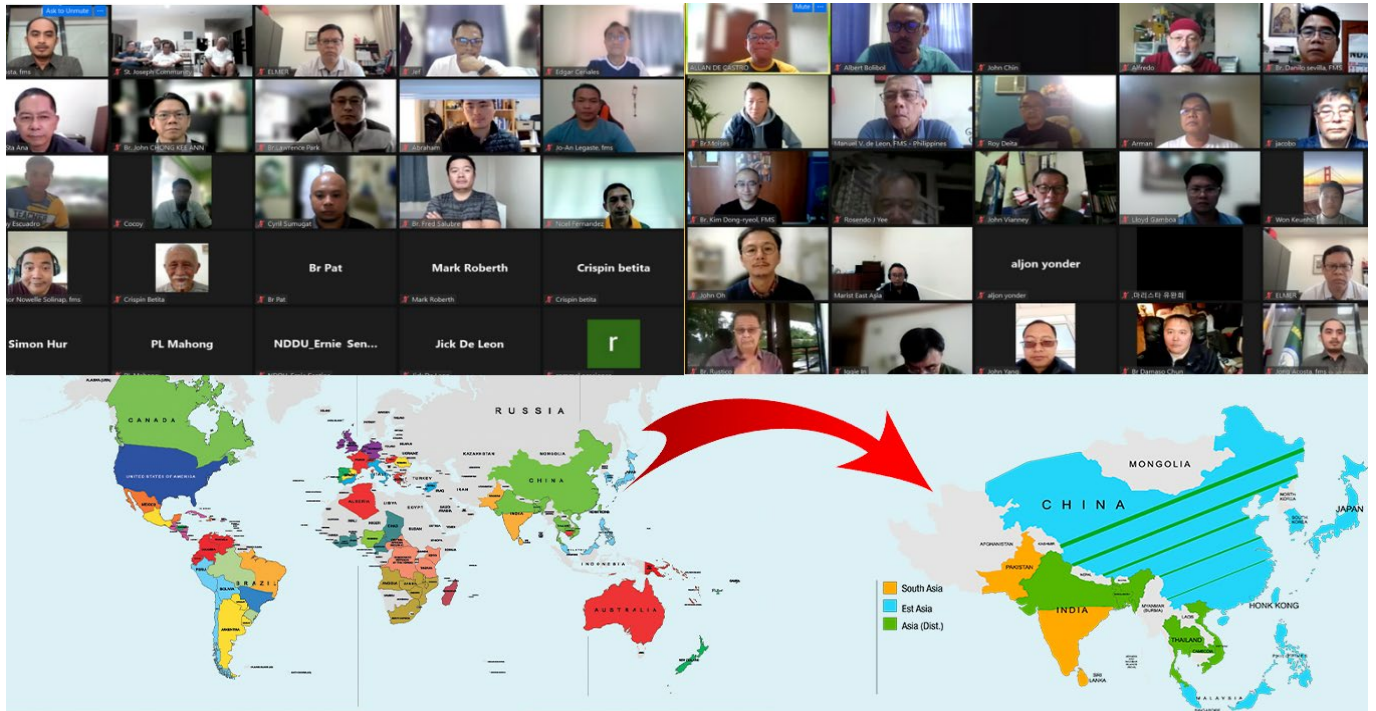
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- General Manager: Mr Llorenç Claramunt
- Commissioner: Mr Raimon Novell
- Communication: Ms Imma Amadeo

PHILIPPINES

BROTHERS OF EAST ASIA GATHER TO TALK ABOUT THE MISSION IN THE PROVINCE



Forty-nine brothers from the Province of East Asia (Philippines, China, and Korea-Japan sectors) had their online assembly on January 10. They came together for prayer, reflection, and sharing of ideas on relevant themes important to the Marist life and mission in the province.

Br. Allan de Castro, the Provincial Superior, and his council led the assembly by sharing the achievements and challenges of the province in the areas of Spirituality, Community Life, Mission, Formation, Finance, and Laity.

The active participation of the brothers during the open forum

generated a meaningful reflection on the life and the relevance of Marist mission amidst the present realities such as, among others, the aging brothers, the lack of vocation, the scarcity of resources, and the challenge of succession plans in the ministries.

The assembly ended with renewed enthusiasm among the participants to live the calls of the 6th Provincial Chapter namely:

- to be contemplatives of the Sacred;
- compassionate healers;
- bridge builders;
- and carers of the Common Home.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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