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# MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | [WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG](http://WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG)

## GENERAL HOUSE

# MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING

From January 22 to 26, the Marist International Mission Commission, made up of members of the General Administration, representatives of the six Marist Regions, and the Mission Networks, met at the General House. Its work consists of reflecting, proposing, disseminating, and implementing initiatives that give impetus to the construction of the Global Charismatic Family through responses to the current realities and needs of the world and the Church.

We have the challenge of taking care of ourselves and loving ourselves in the Lord, and that this Good News that He is for our life, we take it to all our boys and



girls, their families, and the agents of Marist mission, in our works, schools, social works, universities, publishing hou-



## general administration

■ Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, and Goyo Linacero, accompanied by the Provincial, Br Alan de Castro, visit - from January 29 to February 5 - the Marist schools in the China sector of the East Asia Province, which includes Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong, to strengthen the link between these educational works and the General Administration.

■ The meeting of the International Commission Brothers Today began on Monday in the General House and will continue until Saturday. Organized by the directors of the Hermanos Hoy Secretariat, brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, and the participation of Brother João Carlos do Prado, General Councillor.

■ On Monday and Tuesday, Brother Ángel Diego, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, participated virtually in the meeting of the board of directors of the BICE.

■ The permanent formation team of the Institute, brothers Ataíde José de Lima, Michael Sexton and Xavier Barceló, are in Florianópolis, Brazil Centro-Sul, to accompany the course "Spirituality of the Heart", aimed at brothers and lay people who

speak Portuguese and Spanish. The course began on Wednesday and will end on February 24. Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor, accompanies the group during the first three days, until Friday.

■ On Tuesday, Br. Ángel Diego, from the Secretariat of Solidarity, participated in the first session of the Rights Training Course for the Brothers of Africa, which takes place online. Until Wednesday he was in Geneva, where he met with partners of the Institute's solidarity projects and followed some UN initiatives.

■ On Thursday, the meeting of the Commission preparing MIMA III, which will be held in Spain in April, takes place online.

■ From Thursday to Saturday, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, will participate in the events celebrating the V anniversary of the "Ciao" Center of Syracuse, a project of the LaValla200> international community.

■ Next Sunday, the "New Builders of the Hermitage" course begins in Manziñana. Brother Ernesto and other brothers from the Council and the General House will participate in the inauguration.

ses, and this in every Region, especially in those who need it most..." said José Antonio Rosa Lemus, mission director of the Europe Region.

The group, under the coordination of the Vicar General, Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez focused on the world's situation in the post-pandemic era and analyzed ideas and intuitions for the Marist mission at the global and local levels.

To Brother Francis Jumbe, from Malawi, Southern Africa Province, "it has been an enriching week, sharing experiences from the different regions and from the Secretariats. It was an opportune time to sit around the same table to appreciate the significant efforts being made in the area of mission especially after the post-Covid pandemic and, in a spirit of discernment, aiming to go beyond with God in ministering to those that need our care the most".



### Ideas and insights for Marist mission at the global and local levels

Several topics related to the context of the Marist mission were discussed. On the first day, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, considering his participation in the synodal assembly, presented to the participants some pastoral perspectives derived from the Synod. The participants then reflected on the sustainability and structures of the mission, the processes that the networks are triggering in the Institute, the care of people, volunteering, children's rights, and the creation of innovation, among others. "During these days we have become aware of the diversity of Marist realities to contain them, interconnect

them, articulate them, and take care of them. It is our task to animate the Mission from each Secretariat and region of the Institute and to strengthen the work in Networks with creativity, innovation, and empathy. Some premises that accompanied us in our shared work: embracing the space for listening, taking care of people, and striving for the vitality and viability of the Mission in our actions", noted Analía Ruggeri, from Argentina (Cruz del Sur), who represents the Solidarity Network.

All reflection was oriented towards considering reality, placing the Gospel at the center, and trying to find an answer to the question that constantly accompanies the journey of the General Government: "What we are called to be and to do".

### Global Charismatic Family

The General House welcomed the participants, highlighting the spirit of Family. Br. Kevin Wanden, from New Zealand, Province of Star of the Sea, presented that ambience: "The friendly greeting you receive at the airport sets the tone for your stay at the General House. The community and staff are always so friendly, with a cheery, 'Buongiorno', you know immediately you are welcome as part of the Marist family. They are always asking how you are getting on and if you need anything, going out of their way to assist with any request. The third-floor community room is a wonderful asset. The Brothers have created a tangible sense of fraternity. You get a real experience of being part of a global family despite the limitations of language".

[Photos](#)

### Participants

The members of the Marist International Mission Commission who participated in the meeting were:

**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).

**The translation** (English <> Spanish) was done by Br. Arsacio Soladana, of the Province of Compostela.

## EAST ASIA

Fifteen Laity Leaders of the Philippine Sector were convened by Ms. Elma Rafil, Chairperson of the Provincial Laity Commission, for a meeting to discuss priority programs for this year. The action points they will work on during the year are formation, CMMF, Friends of Marcellin and former brothers.

## USA/CANADA

On January 4th, the first ever Marist Young Adult Summit took place in Esopus, New York. Where 25 Marist Young Adults from all around the USA and Canada gathered to discuss the future of the MYA's.

## NORANDINA

About 40 Marist animators have gathered in Cali, Colombia, to participate in the assembly of leaders of life and mission. Brother Orlando Escobar, Provincial, welcomed the participants and invited them to share the challenges of the province. The group also had the guidance of Vanderlei Soela, a psychologist and Marist layman from Brazil.

## SPAIN

The meeting of school secretaries from Spain was held in Valladolid. The objectives were to create a network, advance common themes and look beyond each office and each school towards the global Marist family. Likewise, they discussed the operation of the communication platform and data protection respectively.



## NORANDINA

## BR. CARLOS ALBERTO ROJAS CARVAJAL APPOINTED PROVINCIAL

In a letter sent to the Province on January 23rd, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, and the Council, after studying the consultation carried out with the Brothers of the Province, appointed Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal as Provincial of Norandina for a first three-year mandate. Br. Ernesto thanked Br. Orlando Escobar, the current provincial, for his commitment during the last three years of leadership: "Thank you, Orlando, for your closeness, your fraternity, your dedication and devotion". He also thanked the Provincial Council and the Province's animation teams.

Br. Carlos Alberto, will assume this service with the VIII Provincial Chapter to be held from June 3 to 6, 2024 in the city of Rionegro, Colombia.



### B. Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal

He was born in 1972 and known among the brothers as "Beto", studied at the Colegio Champagnat school in Bogotá, Colombia, his hometown. He began his postulancy in 1989 in the city of Popayán and made his novitiate in Medellín. He professed his first vows in 1991 and made his perpetual profession in 1997.

Br. Beto has a degree in religious sciences from the Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain, and in social sciences from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He also holds a Master's degree in Disciplinary Development Studies from the Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia. Currently pursuing a PhD in Education at PUC Rio Grande do Sul,

Brazil, with a research project on global citizenship.

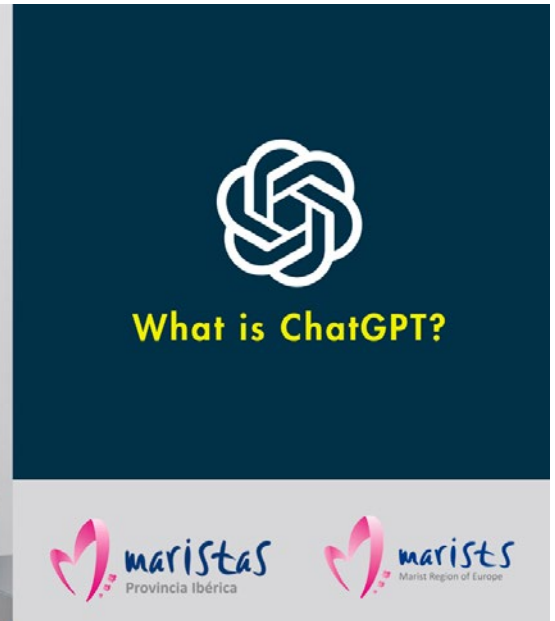
He has worked as an educator in the Champagnat schools of Ipiales and Pasto, as vice-rector of the schools of Ipiales, Pasto and Villavicencio, as provincial coordinator of youth ministry, as secretary of solidarity of the province and as delegate of the provincial in Colombia. He has been a member of the Team of the New Models of animation, management and governance of the General Administration (2014-2016). In 2016, when he was provincial councilor and bursar of the Colombia sector of the province, he was appointed director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, a position he held until December 2022. He is currently part of the Manizales community.



## INTERVIEW TO ISAAC PINTO

## THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON EDUCATION

The digital world is changing the way we learn and teach and has been present in Marist educational activities for some time now. Now that artificial intelligence (AI) is taking center stage, it is necessary to analyze its implications for education and the Marist mission. One of the most eloquent expressions in day-to-day AI is ChatGPT. Regarding this issue, the Marist Region of



Europe has published on its website an interview with Isaac Pinto Gismero, Coordinator of Technologies for Learning and Knowledge (TLK) of the Marists of Ibérica. Below, we reproduce the interview, where he explains what this application consists of and details the possible repercussions it could have in the educational field.

**Isaac, what is ChatGPT?**

ChatGPT is an application that allows us to communicate with Artificial Intelligence. AI is a part of computer science where we attempt to replicate human behaviours within a machine. One of the most significant areas within AI is machine learning. The machine not only follows the guidelines we provide (for example, moving a box from one place to another) but is capable of learning that when that box appears, it should be moved elsewhere. There is a deeper level of learning (Deep Learning), where machines can identify more complex concepts.

ChatGPT is an application that enables us to communicate with a Deep Learning Artificial Intelligence called GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer): it generates content, is pre-trained, and produces results through transformations.

**How is ChatGPT used?**

We ask ChatGPT to generate text with certain characteristics, and the application produces it based on its pre-existing knowledge. This knowledge, at the moment, encompasses all the information available on the Internet. Or, more precisely, all the information that was on the Internet until 2021.

One issue is that if we ask for information it doesn't have (recent current affairs for instance), ChatGPT may create a response. It will never leave a blank space; it will develop the text requested with the information available or it will make it up if needed.

**Who has access to this tool?**

Anyone. It's a public and free application; you just need to register with an email account. The company that created ChatGPT, OpenAI (founded, among others, by Elon Musk, CEO of Twitter), has allowed anyone without knowledge on artificial intelligence to use it. The interface is very simple, like a chat.

**What are the implications in our daily lives?**

It's a new technology, and its possibilities are still being defined. The issue is that we run the risk of using this technology for any purpose without regulations. This is another problem; steps are being taken in the European Union and Spain to regulate AI use. However, there is no regulation yet. So, are we using it in society legally and ethically? It's a problem that still needs to be addressed. Some countries and companies are already restricting its use.

## marist world

SYRIA: TRAINING COURSE FOR THE BLUE MARISTS PROJECT MANAGERS AND SCOUT LEADERS



MALAWI: COMMUNITY LAVALLA200&gt; WITH THE PROVINCIALS OF AFRICA AND GENERAL COUNCILORS



MEXICO: MARISTIZATION COURSE IN MONTERREY



GUATEMALA: PROVINCIAL CATECHESIS COMMISSION MEETING



COLOMBIA: ESCOLASTICATE OF THE PROVINCE OF NORANDINA, BOGOTÁ



SPAIN: DIKTYA FOUNDATION CONGRESS IN BARCELONA

As far as we know now, this tool can help any worker, for example, in generating texts. Texts that used to take a lot of time and effort to write can now be generated in seconds. We need to consider the risk, as mentioned before, of whether the information is correct or not. My critical thinking and knowledge will have to analyse that document.

Furthermore, can I use that text as my own and publish it as such? If you ask ChatGPT who owns the intellectual property of the generated text, it will say it's its own. And if you ask under what conditions you can use it, it refers you to the OpenAI website, where those conditions are not yet clear.

**We work in the educational field, Isaac, where besides workers, there are students, with families probably wondering: What does all this mean for a child's or teenager's learning process?**

The application is available to anyone, including students. And here we face an important scenario. If a teacher assigns a "300-word essay about the first moon landing" as homework, there is a risk that ChatGPT might do it. Moreover, the student can ask the AI to write it using the language of a 13-year-old with three spelling mistakes.

For teachers, there are two alternatives: to limit the use of ChatGPT within the school or to use it as a pedagogical tool

to benefit from it. I would opt for the second option, incorporating it into the classroom. Students learn how to use this artificial intelligence, and they do it critically, which is the most significant aspect. We can use this AI to acquire 21st-century skills.

**The provincial LKT coordination is reflecting on the uses of this program in the educational field. What exactly is being done?**

For a few weeks now, we have formed a working group to study the use of AI in education. We have divided this process into two parts. The first is focused on analysing and categorizing different AIs (not just text generators; there are design, voice transcription, programming AIs, etc.). In this more technical part, we will study legal requirements, the technology behind it, and provide some small recommendations for its use.

In a second phase, another group of professionals from different educational stages, based on that categorization, will propose activities within the classroom. For example, a Language subject professional in secondary education may suggest how to use ChatGPT in the classroom. The goal is that we can use this tool safely and targeted towards education in the future.

Interview by Anabel Abad with Isaac Pinto Gismero, LKT Coordinator for the Iberian Province



## SIRIA

## EARTHQUAKE IN ALEPPO: ONE YEAR LATER

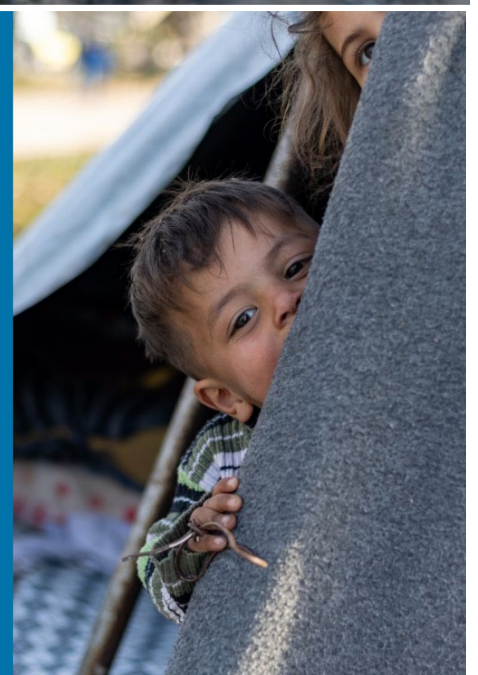
In the early morning of February 5-6, 2023, the city of Aleppo, war-torn Syria, and Turkey were victims of a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake. During the tragedy, the vital presence of the Blue Marists in Aleppo stood out, demonstrating their commitment and solidarity with the affected community, under the coordination of Br. George Sabe, 155 Blue Marist volunteers quickly mobilized to provide essential aid to the local population.



“Half an hour after the earthquake, our doors were open to accommodate 1,000 people on the first day and 500 to 700 people on the following days. We offer them shelter, mattresses, blankets, hot meals, clothing, heating, electricity, but above all, our affection and a Marist heart.” – Br. George Sabé

To commemorate the anniversary and raise awareness about the persistent struggle of the Blue Marists in Aleppo, the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) and the Secretariat of Solidarity of the Marist Institute have joined forces to organize the event “Earthquake in Aleppo: One Year Later”. This event will take place on February 6, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. in the presence of Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General, and Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola, Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity and the participation of Bahjat Azrie, Blue Marist and head of the SEEDS program, who will share the experiences and current challenges faced by the Blue Marists in their mission to help children and families in Aleppo.

This event will be important to reflect on the work of the



Blue Marists and the Marist mission in defense of the weakest, fostering solidarity, as happened after the earthquake, when the Marist family worldwide responded with a great show of solidarity with fundraising campaigns organized by FMSI and SED.

To participate in the event, it is necessary to register at the [following link](#).

Afterward, a photographic exhibition will be presented in the corridor of the Superior Generals.

## CHILE

# MARIST BOARDS OF DIRECTORS MEET TO DEFINE 2024 ACTION PLAN



One hundred and twenty-one members of the Board of Directors (CODIS) of the twelve Marist schools and the Animation Areas of the Chile Sector (Province of Santa María de los Andes), met in Limache, from January 8 to 11, to share learning experiences in the light of the emphases of the Provincial Master Lines and to develop leadership and animation competencies that will strengthen Marist communities and works.

On the first day, the first module entitled “Marist Leaders Promoting Fraternal Communities” was discussed. Afterward, there was a spiritual retreat with the theme “The joy of meeting on the way”, animated by the Marist Life team.

The second day focused on the analysis of data and information for the 2023 school year. The presentation panel was formed by Pedro Díaz, Claudio Arellano, Claudia González, Juan Pablo Valdivia, and Marcela Román, and Marcela Román, Ph.D. in Education from the Jesuit network. The panelists’ presentation was followed by an Inter CODIS workshop. The second day’s module focused on the analysis of data by school, carried out in groups by each Board of Directors. In the afternoon, all participants shared their projections, recommendations, lessons learned, and best practices throughout the year 2023.

The third day was devoted to the construction of communities and the Action Plan for 2024. The day’s work began with the module “Participating we build community”. Participants

included members of the Marist Youth Council and psychologist Andrea Iglesias. The second part of the morning was devoted to an analysis workshop focused on schools, led by members of the Marist Mission Team. In the afternoon, a second workshop entitled “Building the Future” was held, which consisted of the reflection, synthesis, and design of the 2024 Action Plan for each of the schools, and was developed by each Board of Directors.

On the last day, after the joint prayer, a workshop was held to prepare and reflect on the 2024 Action Plan for each school. In his speech, the Sector’s Delegate for Life and Mission, Ernesto Reyes, made a presentation on the focuses and challenges for 2024.

Víctor Vidal, a member of the Pastoral and Mission team in Chile, emphasized the dedication of the Marist Youth Council members. He highlighted their interest in the Marist project and its importance within the Marist Youth Ministry Network. At the end of the day, CODI members also spoke about their mission, achievements, and challenges in the educational communities they lead.

The day concluded with a Eucharist, where gratitude was offered to the Father for all the experiences lived. Prayers were made to Saint Marcellin and the Good Mother, asking them to continue interceding to advance Champagnat’s dream in all the Marist works in Chile.



## BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

## MARIST VOCATIONS MEETING

From January 18th to 21st, a Marist Vocations Meeting took place in Curitiba, Province of Brasil Centro-Sul. With the theme “life project and Marist mission”, the activity brought together vocation seekers, Marist Brothers and Vocation Animators from the Province. Among the young people interested in the Marist vocation, there were seven people from Caçador, Curitiba, Criciúma, Dourados, Ponta Grossa and São Paulo. There were also six brothers present, as well as vocation animators. The meeting was coordinated by Brother Rafael Ferreira.



During the Marist Vocations Meeting, there were moments of formation, spirituality, conviviality and Marist immersion. The participants visited the Marist Memorial and exchanged experiences with the older brothers of the São José dos Pinhais Residence. Important themes for the young people’s formation were addressed, such as self-knowledge, the life of Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist Mission and Life Project. On the last day of the meeting, individual conversations were held between the brothers and the vocational candidates about their vocational journeys. The meeting concluded with a Mass in the parish of St. Pius X.

“I met new people and learned a little more about the history

of Saint Marcellin. The most important thing was that I came to love the Good Mother even more,” said Iago Corrêa, one of the candidates.

Brother Benê Oliveira, Provincial, highlighted the importance of the dynamic of accompaniment and vocational discernment. “Let’s move forward in building a culture of vocations as the best response to the vocational frustration typical of our times; a modest and discreet response, but one that is well-disposed and effective, working on accompaniment and discernment to reach the hearts of young people. Numbers and results are important, but it is always God who takes the initiative, who loves and continues to call, choose, prepare and send!” he said.

## OTHER MARIST VOICES 33 AND 34

## TO ACCOMPANY PEOPLE / FREE HEALING EXPERIENCE

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 33 was written by Br. Nicéforo Garrán González, Rector and Educator from the Province of America Central – El Salvador, who addresses the theme “How to accompany people in making decisions?” (English | Español | Français | Português) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 14 of Marist Voices (Decision-Making Competency), written by Br. Robert Teoh.

Other Marist Voices 34 was written by Daniel Felipelli, Executive Director of the Fundación Marista from the Province of Cruz del Sur – Argentina, who addresses the theme “A small and free



healing experience” (English | Español | Français | Português) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 5 of Marist Voices (Leadership and Healing), written by Br. Peter Carroll.



## FROM SPAIN TO MEXICO

## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

A transforming adventure  
For more than a month, from November 6 to December 16, 5 volunteers from the Province of Compostela, University of Salamanca, have been volunteering at the “Asamblea Comunitaria Miravalles”, a school in Central Mexico. The following is the testimony of María Gómez, Lidia Maes, Itziar Pérez, Alba Iñigo and Samuel De la Calle.



The last day at Miravalles has arrived, closing of an unforgettable chapter in our lives. We, a group of five young adventurers, embarked on this journey with the hope of living a unique experience. What we found exceeded our expectations.

From the moment we arrived at Miravalles, we were greeted with a warmth and hospitality that left us speechless. The schools opened their doors and welcomed us with open arms. The children, with their innocence and enthusiasm, showed us their world with a frankness that touched us deeply.

Despite cultural and socioeconomic differences, we discover that the joy of life is universal. The children of Miravalles, with their curiosity and love for life, taught us that happiness can be found in the simplest things.

Throughout our stay, we have had our ups and downs. We have experienced moments of joy and moments of challenge. However, each obstacle we faced taught us to live together as a small family and to appreciate the value of solidarity.

The reality of the children of Miravalles is different from ours. Despite the challenges they may face, their indomitable spirit and love of life are a testament to their inner strength. His curiosity

about us, the visitors from Spain, showed us that curiosity has no borders.

Mexico has given us a group of unforgettable people, people we know we will always be able to count on. This country, with its rich culture and friendly people, has left a lasting impression on us. As we prepare to say goodbye to Miravalles, we take with us not only memories, but also life lessons, friendships and a deeper appreciation of what it means to be part of a community. Although we leave physically, a part of us will always remain here, in Miravalles, and a part of Miravalles will always live in us.

My adventure in this experience has been fascinating and enriching. The warm welcome of the community and the feeling of safety have been highlights. However, the absence of volunteer opportunities, which was at the core of my interest, has been a challenging aspect. Despite this, I have learned valuable lessons and deeply value the connections made during this unique experience  
(M<sup>a</sup> Gómez Sánchez)

Mexico has been a personal experience for me, thanks to which I have had the opportunity to get to know another country, culture and way of life. It has allowed me to see the reality of what is happening there and how fortunate we are to have everything we have in our country, especially in education. Besides, it has taught me to give the best of myself, to be empathetic, to learn how to live in harmony and to show my true self. Therefore, Mexico has helped me to get to know myself  
(Lidia Maes Herrueruela).

So, as we say goodbye, we do so with gratitude in our hearts and with the hope that someday we will be able to return to this place we now call home. Until then, we will carry with us the lessons learned, the friendships forged and the memories created, and we look forward to the next adventures that await us. And since we don't like goodbyes, so long, Miravalles! So long, Mexican family!

With affection and many tears in their eyes, the Spanish teachers:

María Gómez, Lidia Maes, Itziar Pérez, Alba Iñigo and Samuel De la Calle.

## MEXICO

## LAUNCH OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MARIST MEXICO

The provincial brothers, Luis Felipe Gonzáles, from Mexico Central, and Luiz Enrique Rodríguez, from Mexico Occidental, launched on January 23 the Jubilee Year of Marist of Mexico, to commemorate the 125 years of the presence of the Marists of Champagnat in the country and celebrate the 100 years of the Birth of Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán, Servant of God. The Works and Marists from all over Mexico connected to witness the virtual event.

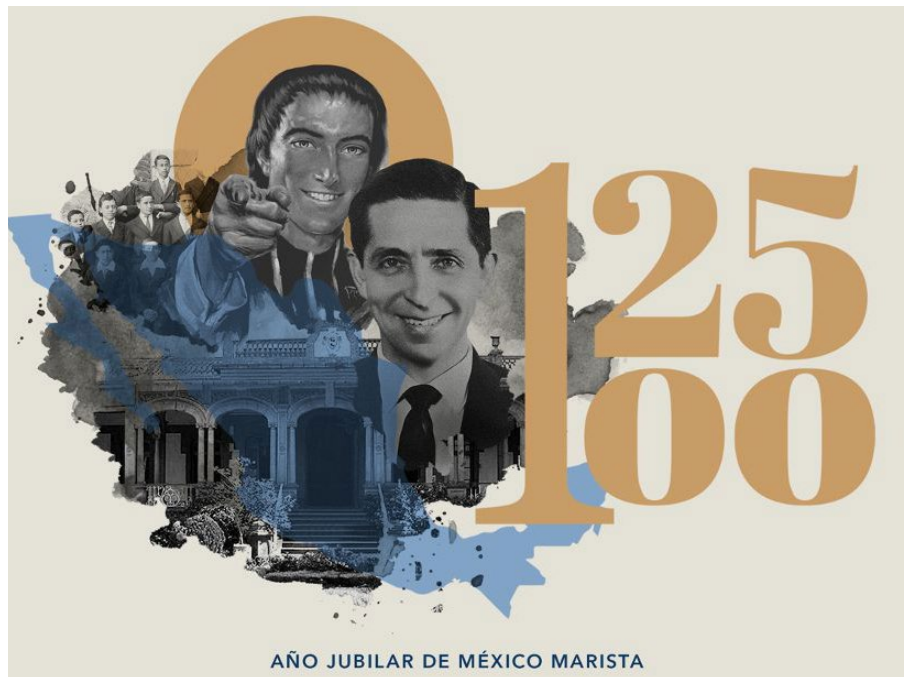
In their messages, the two provincials of Mexico greeted and thanked the brothers, and laity Marist from the educational communities, missions, and social works. And they talked about the two elements of the jubilee.

“125 years ago, the first Marist brothers – who were sent to Mexico – arrived to begin Marcellin’s project in these lands: ‘All the dioceses of the world enter into our plans’. And since then, we have experienced – in the histories of our provinces – many interesting events. But the most interesting thing is that they brought us the charisma of Marcellin, the one we have been living, the one we have been promoting, the one we have been trying to make known. Many have passed through our schools, many lay people, many brothers, of whom at this moment we are grateful. This is the first element for which we are celebrating this jubilee: 125 years of the presence of the Marist brothers in Mexico,” said Brother Luiz Enrique, provincial of Mexico Occidental.

Another element of great joy for us is being able to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of our dear brother Basilio Rueda, a universal brother, a brother for the world, for the Institute in general. In addition to his apostolate among us, he was elected superior general, and was the first non-French speaking superior, and he spent two periods as superior general, in a complex time for the church and for religious life, just after Vatican II, where he had to assume and accompany us on this journey. His legacy lives on among us,” said Brother Luis Felipe, provincial of Mexico Central.

The online event was also marked by different tributes, dances, musicals, and presentations from various Marist educational institutions in Mexico.

“May we be aware of how in each city we have generated joyful, generous and committed Marist life,” said Brother Sergio Cáceres, from Mexico Occidental.



After the launch of the Jubilee Year of Mexico (see video), which has as its motto “Gratitude, audacity and trust”, the Marists have scheduled 3 other events:

- the commemoration of the arrival of the Marist Brothers to Mexico, on May 20
- the anniversary of the birth of Brother Basilio, October 16
- and the Closing of the Marist Jubilee Year, from December 26 to 31, with an Interprovincial Retreat.

### 125 years of the Marist presence in Mexico

The three pioneer brothers (Pedro Damián, Anselmo and Filogorino) arrived from France to Guadalajara on July 21, 1899. After their arrival, the Marist brothers began that same year a school course at the Inmaculada school. Most of the schools, at that time, were primary level. They also founded schools of arts and crafts, several boarding schools, four preparatory schools (which at that time was equivalent to secondary school), an itinerant missionary community and a publishing-printing press. From the beginning, the Marist brothers put faith in promotion of Marist vocations in Mexico, and established formation houses.

Currently, 125 years later, the Marists of Champagnat are present in 22 states of Mexico, they have 36,632 students, 3986 teachers and support staff, and they have 134 Marist educational works in the two provinces of Mexico, including preschool educational centers (12), primary schools (32), secondary schools (36), preparatory schools (30), universities



(5), boarding schools (2), unschooling social works (13) and a formation house for brothers (4).

### 100 years of the Birth of Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán

Brother Basilio was born on October 16, 1924 in Acatlán de Juárez, Mexico. From his youth he chose a path of service and embraced the Marist vocation, standing out for his dedication, wisdom, innovative spirit and spiritual depth. On September 24, 1967 he was elected Superior General and re-elected in 1976. For 18 years as superior general, he travelled through the five continents sowing hope, and invited the brothers to make

possible the changes preached by the church at the Second Vatican Council. In a period of such turbulence, he travelled thousands of kilometers, preached hundreds of retreats, gave many conferences, conducted many surveys, wrote more than 2,500 pages of circulars, spiritually accompanied many Brothers and other people, and wrote more than 50,000 letters to priests, friends, former students and Brothers. His human experience was one of the richest, and that is why he became an authority to which people gladly turned. In 1986 he returned to Mexico and continued his work as a spiritual advisor and master of novices. He died on January 21, 1996.

### More informations:

[Repositorio México Central](#) | México Occidental: H. [Basilio](#) | 125 años

## SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART

# INTERNATIONAL FORMATION PROGRAM

With the aim of supporting and stimulating the formation of leaders who wish to deepen the theme of Marist spirituality, the General Council has organized the Spirituality of the Heart Program, which will be held from January 31 to February 22 in Florianópolis, Province of Brasil Centro-Sul.

It has 49 participants, brothers and laypeople, from 13 Marist provinces and is coordinated by the Ongoing Formation Team, made up of Brothers Ataíde José de Lima, Michael Sexton, Xavier Barceló.

### The program has seven objectives:

1. To cultivate and promote a spirituality that gives meaning to and integrates the life and mission, according to the intuition of the XXII General Chapter.
2. To offer the participants a space for living the values and practices of Marist Spirituality, which will help them to grow and mature in their faith.
3. To offer moments of meditation and silent prayer.
4. To deepen the theme of Marist Spirituality and explain it according to the current context.
5. To promote the exchange of experiences in the field of Marist Spirituality.



ESPIRITUALIDADE  
DO CORAÇÃO  
FLORIANÓPOLIS - BRASIL  
31 DE JANEIRO A 22 DE FEVEREIRO DE 2024

6. To support provincial leaders and animators in Marist Spiritual Patrimony.
  7. To promote the theme of Marist Spirituality in the Provinces.
- This formation responds to the XXII General Chapter, in its second call entitled to be the face and hands of your tender mercy, which invites the Marists of Champagnat to cultivate a spirituality that fills their hearts with joy and makes them inclusive.

### Participants

- America Central (2 brothers, 1 sister, 2 lay people)
- Brasil Centro-Norte (3 brothers, 3 lay people)
- Brasil Centro-Sul (3 brothers, 7 lay people)
- Brasil Sul-Amazônia (2 brothers, 3 lay people)
- Compostela (4 lay people)
- Cruz del Sur (2 brothers)
- Ibérica (2 brothers)
- L'Hermitage (2 brothers)
- México Central (1 brother, 2 lay people)
- México Occidental (1 brother, 1 lay person)
- Norandina (1 brother, 3 lay people)
- Santa María de los Andes (3 lay people)
- UMBRASIL (1 lay person)

## PHILIPPINES

# FORMATION COLLOQUIUM: CARING FOR AND GENERATING MARIST LIFE IN ASIA-OCEANIA

From January 22 to 25, 2023, Marist brothers from across the Regions of Asia and Oceania gathered at the Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) in the Philippines to participate in the Formation Colloquium. Based on the previous Colloquium in 2018, this event tried to go deeper into the heart of Marist life, focusing on the theme “Caring for Marist Life”.

One of the primary goals of the Colloquium was to foster connections and build a network among the brothers engaged in formation to the Consecrated Marist Life throughout the region. The importance of collaboration and support in Marist Formation was emphasized. The meeting had 20 participants from the 2 Marist Regions (6 Brothers from the Province Star of the Sea, 5 Brothers from East Asia, 7 Brothers from Marist District of Asia, 2 Brothers from South Asia) and Brother Ángel Medina, Director of the Secretariat Brothers Today, from the General Administration. A key component of the Colloquium was the sharing of collective insights. Formators had the opportunity to share their experiences, challenges, and successes to young formators who are stepping into the formation stages. Participants actively engaged in sharing the details of their respective formation programs, covering various stages of



the initial formation such as Vocational Animation, Aspirancy, Postulancy, Novitiate, and Post-Novitiate. This exchange not only facilitated mutual learning but also encouraged each administrative unit to develop and strengthen their formation initiatives, ensuring a consistent and impactful approach across the region.

The Colloquium concluded with a focus on the Asia-Oceania Formation Commission, exploring ways to enrich the vision of initial formation for the region. Discussions centered around the mission of the Marist Institute across Asia and Oceania, seeking to answer crucial questions: What does the mission look like in this diverse and dynamic region? What do we prepare the candidates for?



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