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MARIST NEWS

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MARISTA BRAZIL

THE BRAZILIAN SCHOOL NETWORK TURNS ONE YEAR OLD



Marista Brasil, the educational network made up of 98 educational centers from the three Marist provinces of Brazil, turned one year old on February 1, 2024. The institution promotes values, dedication and education of children and young people in 63 private schools and 35 free social schools, located in 20 Brazilian states and the Federal District.

“As we look at what we have done together in this first year, we renew confidence to continue our mission, to build an increasingly inclusive and fraternal future, with the blessings of >>>

general administration

- Until the 26th, the General Council continues its February plenary session. During this week, preparations continue for the meeting of the Provincials and District Superiors at the beginning of March, some economic issues are being dealt with and the reports of the visits made to various Administrative Units in recent months are being shared.
- Last weekend, Brother Josep Maria Soteras, General Councillor, accompanied the Marist community of Athens in a formation session.
- On Tuesday, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, met online with the group taking part in the ongoing formation course “Spirituality of the Heart” in Florianópolis. The program ends on Thursday and during this week, in addition to the Institute’s ongoing formation team, Brother Ángel Medina, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, will be on site.
- On Wednesday, the General House community came together to thank God for the gift of Brother Ernesto’s life on his birthday. The celebration was marked by a Eucharistic celebration and a shared lunch.
- From Thursday until the 26th, Brother Valdicer Fachi, director of the Cmi, is making an accompanying visit to the Fratelli Project in Lebanon.
- This week, Brother Ángel Diego García Otaola, director of the Solidarity Secretariat, is in Central America. From Monday to Wednesday he was in Costa Rica, preparing the EPU report on the country which will be presented to the United Nations. From Friday, he will visit the Marist works in Honduras until next Monday.
- On Friday, a meeting of the International Commission for Marist Spiritual Heritage will be held online.
- FMSI, with its director, Andrea Rossi, and Pamela Divino, Project Administration Officer, will be visiting the Province of Nigeria from Friday. Until next Tuesday, projects will be visited in Uturu, Ezzagu, Enugu and Kogi.
- Next Saturday, Brother Ernesto will take part in a webinar on synodality organized by the European Marist Life Animation Team.

Saint Marcellin Champagnat and Mary, our Good Mother,” said H. Natalino Souza. President of the Board of Directors of Marista Brasil. And he concluded: “We work every day to strengthen this mission, which belongs to everyone”.

On the other hand, June Cruz, superintendent of Marist Brazil, thanked the Brothers, the Superior Council and the Board of Administration: “We will always be side by side, focused and committed to strengthening our mission, maintaining the fruitful trajectory of the Marist Provinces from Brazil”.

June Cruz also thanked the unconditional support of the Champagnat Global Network, the [South America Region](#), [UMBRASIL](#), the Marist Provinces of Brazil, [FTD Educação](#), [PUCRS](#), [PUCPR](#) and all other mission fronts.

On the occasion of its anniversary, Marista Brasil published its 2023 yearbook, which brings together the main milestones of its first year of history ([Download Yearbook](#))

MARISTA BRASIL

As a result of [UMBRASIL](#)'s Strategic Planning, Marista Brasil seeks to promote unity, synergy, and complementarity between Basic Education Units. There are two implementation phases:

- The first began in 2023, with the Marist Provinces of Brasil Centro-Sul and Brasil Sul-Amazônia.
- The second will take place throughout 2024, with the integration of the Marist Province of Brazil Central-North, which from the beginning participates in the founding movements, and in making strategic decisions.

[Marista Brasil](#) aims to inspire people to transform the world. Its mission is to work in Brazilian Basic Education in order to form global citizens; encourage them through Christian principles and the Marist charism, so that they can be protagonists in the transformation of the world. And its vision is to be recognized as an evangelizing educational network of excellence, promoter of life and defender of the rights of children, adolescents and young people.

OTHER MARIST VOICES 39 AND 40:

EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVANT LEADERSHIP

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 39 was written by Analía Ruggeri, educator, defender, and promoter of human rights from the Province of Cruz del Sur, Argentina, who addresses the theme “Empowering children and youth as the core of our mission” ([English](#) | [Español](#)

| [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 11 of Marist Voices (Leadership Committed to Prioritising People: Growing Together, Accompanying and Empowering Each Other), written by Br. Gabriel Villa-real and Br. Pere Ferré.

Other Marist Voices 40 was written by Br. Valerian Stephen Kalendelo, Headmaster of Marist Boys Secondary School, in Tan-



zania – Province of East Central Africa, who addresses the theme “a learning servant leadership” ([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. Sean Sammon.

STAR OF THE SEA

From 21 to 24 takes place a Provincial Council Meeting in Fiji at Lomeri. During these days, the participants will have the opportunity to meet with the local Brothers, visit the Suva schools and hear of plans for the Eco-Spirituality Centre at Lomeri.

L'HERMITAGE

On February 6 and 7, a seminar for School Pastoral Animators and Marist Teams was held at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, bringing together all representatives of Marist establishments in France. Participants had the opportunity to reflect on and project their vision rooted in the charism of Marcellin Champagnat.

BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

On February 8th, the Province inaugurated the local reflection process for the III Marist International Mission Assembly. In addition to Brother Provincial, José de Assis, various members of the leadership teams and communities of Brothers took part in the online event. Until the end of the month, three meetings have been organized, to which all those involved in Marist mission have been invited. The summary of the discussions will then be sent to the MIMA organizing team.

AUSTRALIA

The Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia and the Diocese of Bunbury are opening a new school at Madora Bay. The authorities have decided to name it St Marcellin Catholic College and to have it as a school within the MSA network, a family of 56 schools across Australia.

EAST ASIA

PROMOTING MARIST LAITY IN KOREA-JAPAN AND CHINA SECTORS



It is the goal of the Laity Desk of the Province of East Asia, coordinate by Agnes Reyes, to promote the vocation of the Champagnat Lay Marists, strengthen the relationship between brothers and laity, and to animate further the participation of laity mission.

Last February 10, a zoom meeting was conducted with the intention of consulting the brothers involved in the animation of laity in Korea-Japan and China sectors. Respective of their contexts, there is a challenge in discerning the approaches on how the seed of Marist life can grow and be nurtured.

Br. Allen Timola, from Japan, articulated his intention of coordinating with the school staff for a Marist life orientation and also the organization of youth groups

to prepare them for their participation in globally initiated youth gatherings.

In Singapore, Br. Elmer Jandic, mentioned his initiatives of facilitating on-going formation of the Kinder School personnel and staff and also his continuing efforts to prepare the formation of the Marist Stella personnel.

Br. Jacobo Song, the link point person of the laity in the Council, was invited by the Laity Desk to join in the Philippine Sector Laity Gathering on March 15-17, 2024. Said event was organized for a Lenten Reflection following the 3rd MIMA reflection points.

A continuing collaboration is underway among the three sectors to move forward the agenda of Marist laity animation.



GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UNION OF SUPERIORS GENERAL

BROTHER EMILI TURÚ SPEAKS ABOUT RELIGIOUS MEN AND THE CALL TO RENEWAL

We reproduce here an interview with Br. Emili Turú, Institute's Superior General from 2009 to 2017 and actual General Secretary of the Union of Superiors General. This interview first appeared in the 08.02.24 issue of The Irish Catholic newspaper.

What is the meaning of this Synod on Synodality with all its profound novelties for religious life?

Pope Francis has said several times that synodality is what the Lord expects of the Church in this millennium we are living. During the joint meeting of the two Unions of Superiors General, I could see that consecrated life is convinced of this call of the Spirit at this moment in history and is committed to carrying it forward. There will certainly be exceptions among the members of consecrated life, but among the members of leadership I saw hope and commitment.

Someone commented that this Synod has in a way the same breath and spirit as the Second Vatican Council, is this so in your opinion? Why?

Vatican II meant, among other things, the rediscovery of the Church as the People of God. The exercise of synodality is a practical application of this ecclesiology. Church history reminds us that the implementation of a Council takes a period of time of about one hundred years... That is where we are now, in the implementation of Vatican II!

How many men and women religious are involved in the synodal assemblies, what do you think is the specific contribution they are making and what is the Synod offering to Religious Life?

I do not have a concrete number, but it is probably high. There are 10 religious men and women chosen by the USG (5) and the UISG (5). But then there are many other religious men and women: some chosen directly by the Pope, and many others who collaborate in facilitation tasks or as consultants, or in other types of support. There are also many bishops who are religious... starting with the Pope!

In consecrated life there is a long history of synodal experiences, albeit in different forms, often influenced by the historical context in which each congregation was founded. Different spiritual traditions are offering their richness to the synodal process, but at the same time feel challenged to shed what is not essential in their own tradition and to embrace with openness the newness of the Spirit.



Commenting on the meaning of the meeting, Father Arturo Marcelino Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus and President of the USG, urged the participants not to miss the opportunity to “think together about how best to combine energies and resources to serve the mission of Christ”. What strategies were discussed to keep the synodal spirit alive between the two Unions?

The two Unions participated very actively in the consultation process that preceded the first session of the Synod and will continue to do so whenever they are invited to do so. In the meeting we had with the Pope, it was very clear that the two Unions of Superiors General are at his side in this effort of renewal of the universal Church.

Moreover, the two Unions have already been ‘walking together’ for years, in a synodal way, collaborating in many initiatives and projects.

What do you imagine and above all hope for this long and participative synodal process between now and its conclusion in a year's time?

I try not to have too high expectations, because a renewal process of the universal Church takes many years... and a lot of patience!

I think we can already see the fruits of this Synod in the path we have travelled: we are learning together to listen to each other, to discern, to listen to the Spirit. This is the most important thing, I believe. A new style of relationship in the Church and with all our brothers and sisters, believers and non-believers. I hope that in a few years, when we look back, we will be able to recognise that the journey we have made together has made us better people, better Christians.

[English version](#)

marist world

BRAZIL: INTEGRATED MARIST DAY 2024 AT PUCRS



NICARAGUA: FORMATION OF PASTORAL TEAM AT THE PADRE ANDRÉS WELLER KOLBE INSTITUTE



MEXICO: UNIVERSIDAD MARISTA DE MÉRIDA



COLOMBIA: MARIST PROJECT LEADERS MEETING



FRANCE: SEMINAR FOR SCHOOL PASTORAL ANIMATORS AT NOTRE-DAME DE L'HERMITAGE



VENEZUELA: VOCATIONAL MEETING HELD IN CARACAS

COMPOSTELA

MEETING OF COMMUNITY ANIMATORS

On February 10 and 11, a meeting of community animators of the Province of Compostela took place in Carcavelos. On the first day, Saturday morning and until mid-afternoon, the formative theme proposed by the Brothers Today Team was addressed: "Interpersonal Relationships from a circular dialogue between reality and the Rule of Life". During lunch, the participants celebrated the birthday of Brother Diamantino Martins Duque, from the Carcavelos community, in the presence of the brothers from the Lisbon community. After the evening work session, the group took a trip to Cascais.

On Sunday morning, before the Eucharist, the Provincial, Brother Máximo Blanco, and Brother António Leal dealt with the



organizational issues proper to the mission of the Animators. The structures of Carcavelos stand out for the welcome of the community and for the favorable spaces for meetings, including international ones, such as the International Meeting of Marist Youth, in July 2023, and the European Assembly, held last January.

FEBRUARY 1823

MEMORARE IN THE SNOW



In February 1823, Marcellin Champagnat came close to fainting in the snow, but instead of losing hope, he prayed the “Memorare” and entrusted himself to the Virgin Mary.

This event recalls the exhausted itinerary under the snow that Father Champagnat and Brother Stanislaus made on their way home, after having visited Brother John the Baptist, who was ill.

Realizing that it was impossible to continue and that they were lost, Father Marcellin entrusted himself to Our Lady and began to pray the “Memorare”.

“True to the name that we bear, let Mary shape and inspire your spirituality (...) Mary, your sister in faith, walks with you on your spiritual journey and discreetly sheds light upon all that is unfolding” (*Wherever You Go: The Marist Brothers’ Rule of Life*, 28).

Prayer in PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

In the month of February 1823, one of the Brothers of Bourg-Argental as seriously ill and Father Champagnat did not want his child to die without seeing him once more and giving him his blessing. The weather was bad and the ground covered with snow, but he was not deterred from making his way on foot to visit the patient, once he heard of his dangerous state. After consoling the Brother and blessing him, he made ready to return to La Valla, despite the efforts to dissuade him because of the great quantity of snow which had fallen that same day, and the blizzard that was still raging. However, drawing on his courage, he chose to resist the pleading of the Brothers and the advice of his friends. He soon had reason to regret that choice. With Brother Stanislaus at his side, he started for La VaHa, across the mountains of Pilat; but they had walked for hardly two hours when they lost their way. As there was no trace of a path, they were forced to rely on luck or rather on the protection of God. A violent wind hurled the snow into their faces, making it so difficult to see that they didn’t know whether they were going backwards or forwards. After wandering for a few hours, the Brother became so worn out that Father Champagnat had to take him by the arm to lead him and to help him keep his feet. It wasn’t long, however, before he himself benumbed with cold and smothered with snow, felt his strength failing and was obliged to stop.

“My friend”, he admitted to the Brother, “we are finished, if the Blessed Virgin doesn’t come to our aid; let us have recourse to her and beg her to rescue us from the danger we are in of losing our lives in these woods and this snow.” The words were scarcely out of his mouth when he felt the Brother slip from his grasp and fall exhausted to the ground. Full of confidence, he knelt down beside him, (now apparently unconscious), and said the Memorare with great fervour. After that prayer, he tried to raise the Brother again and to get him to walk. They had to ken only a few steps, when they noticed a light shining in the distance; for it was night. They made in the direction of the light and arrived at a house, where they spent the night. They were both quite benumbed with cold, and the Brother especially was a long time recovering.

Father Champagnat declared, on several occasions, that if help had not arrived right then, would both have perished and that the Blessed Virgin had snatched them from certain death.”

Jean-Baptiste Furet, “Champagnat’s biography”



MEMORARE

Remember,
 O most gracious Virgin Mary,
 that never was it known
 that anyone who fled to thy protection,
 implored thy help,
 or sought thy intercession
 was left unaided.
 Inspired with this confidence,
 I fly to thee,
 O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;
 to thee do I come;
 before thee I stand,
 sinful and sorrowful.
 O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
 despise not my petitions,
 but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
 Amen

“Memorare in the Snow”,
 February 1823

GENERAL HOUSE

BOOK COLLECTS 21 MESSAGES FROM THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMISSION



From December 2020 until October 2023, the Marist International Mission Commission sent Marist leaders 21 messages addressing current issues related to Marist mission. “We want the messages to help us make life flow, give reasons for hope, get excited about our efforts, give meaning and rationale to what we are experiencing, to be innovators driven by passion and compassion,” said Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, at the launch of the project in 2020.

Coordinated by the Vicar General, the Commission is composed of representatives of the General Administration and others leading mission around the world: the Directors and Deputy Directors of the Mission Secretariats, the Bursar General’s Office

and Strategic Project Management, representatives of the Networks and the Regions, and the link members of the General Council. The main focus of its work as a commission has been to implement the Strategic Plan of the General Administration (2017-2025) and to ensure the integration and synergy of the different areas, networks and regions from the perspective of Marist mission.

During the last meeting of the Commission, in January of this year, the book was launched which collects all the messages in a single volume. We reproduce below the presentation by the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, who introduces the book.

PDF: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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

Facebook

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