



Year **XVI** - Number **827** | **27 MARCH 2024**

# MARIST NEWS

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

**“In seeking to be present in the world of young people, at times we will encounter injustice, suffering and sometimes evil. Jesus invites us to incorporate these experiences into our lives as a sharing in his Paschal Mystery - the unity of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, the paradox of failure producing life, life drawn from suffering”**  
*Wather from the Rock 143*

**“Christ on the cross is the most radical sign of a God who is love”**  
*Rule of Life, 24*

**May the risen Christ enlighten our lives!  
Happy Easter!**



Piero della Francesca - Resurrezione

## general administration

- During Holy Week, Brother Josep Maria Soteras, General Councillor, is accompanying the Marists of Lebanon on their retreat in preparation for the Easter festivities.
- Brother Óscar Martín, General Councillor, continues his visit to the Province of Nigeria until April 5th.
- Until Tuesday, Brothers Ben Consigli and João Carlos do Prado were visiting the Province of Ibérica. The visit will continue in April.
- On Tuesday, there was an online meeting with the novice masters of the Institute, organized by the Brothers Today Secretariat, with the participation of Brother Er-

- nesto Sánchez, Superior General, and the directors of the secretariat, Brothers Lindley Sionosa and Ángel Medina.
- During the week, Brother Ángel Diego García met online with groups to work on the Universal Periodic Review of Costa Rica (Tuesday) and Portugal (Wednesday).
- Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, will be spending Easter with the Taizé community in France.
- The accompanying visit by Brothers Jorge Gaio, Econome General, and Goyo Linacero, Assistant Econome, to the Star of the Sea Province will end on Easter Day.

MIMA III

# DISCERNING PRIORITIES AND PROPOSING STRATEGIES FOR OUR MARIST MISSION

From April 8 to 14, the III Marist International Mission Assembly will be held in El Escorial, Spain. Its motto is “We are Global Family”. Known as MIMA, abbreviation of the English title, this will be the third edition: the first was in 2007, in Mendes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the theme “One heart, one mission”; the second was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2014, with the theme “New Marists on mission”.



NOUS SOMMES UNE  
FAMILLE GLOBALE  
3<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE  
DE LA MISSION MARISTE

SOMOS FAMILIA GLOBAL  
III ASSEMBLEIA INTERNACIONAL  
DA MISSÃO MARISTA

WE ARE A GLOBAL FAMILY  
3<sup>rd</sup> MARIST INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION ASSEMBLY

SOMOS FAMILIA GLOBAL  
III ASAMBLEA INTERNACIONAL  
DE LA MISION MARISTA

#MIMA\_III

As stated in Article 119.3 of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers, the International Assembly serves as a platform for exchanging experiences, capturing the current social panorama, discerning priorities and proposing future directions and strategies for our Marist mission worldwide.

### 4 processes will characterize MIMA III

Br. José Sánchez Bravo, Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, presented the III Assembly to all the Marists of Champagnat, through a video message. In his words, he emphasizes that the participants will be involved in four processes: see the reality through the reflections received from Administrative Units; search of the priorities within all the needs that children and young people live in today’s time; identification of the dreams we have for the mission; proposal of guidelines and strategies to the institute that can be lived in the following years. “All material will be delivered to the following General Chapter. And it will also be shared in each one of the Administrative Units and in each one of the regions of the Institute,” said Br. José.

### Spiritual dialogue methodology

In speaking about the methodology, Brother José mentioned that we will use the methodology that characterizes the journey of the Church today, used in the Synod of Bishops regarding synodality: spiritual dialogue. This methodology consists of four steps: listening with the mind and heart to what touches each of us personally; the reflection made is

offered to others so that it can be heard; echoes the words we have heard; building together the horizon to which God calls us.

### In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat

An important moment during MIMA III will be the launching of the document on the Marist educational mission, which in its second edition will have the same title in the 4 languages: “In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat. Marist Educational Mission”, a document that gathers the history, the present and projects us into the future in our mission. This event will be held on the last day, April 14. The document will now be available on the Institute’s website.

All the details of MIMA III will be available at the following [link](#) or on social media with the hashtag #MIMA\_III



**NORANDINA**

Teachers from the Colegio de San Luis Gonzaga in Cali, Colombia, participated, on March 16, in the III Marist formation workshop "From La Valla to L'Hermitage", directed by Brothers Salvador Álvarez and Robinson Moná. In the dynamics of this workshop they worked on the knowledge of the different Marist provinces, their history and relevant data.

**MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL**

Br. Luis Enrique Rodríguez Santana, provincial, inaugurated last week the Marist Cultural Encounter 2024, which was held at the Marist University of Guadalajara. During the event, art and culture united the Marist universities of Mexico.

**AMÉRICA SUR**

The Province of Brasil Centro-Norte hosted the meeting of the Regional Team for Initial Formation of the Region in Brazlândia from March 13 to 15. The aim of this team is to reflect on and implement strategic actions concerning initial formation in the area. Brothers Izidro Azpeleta, Romídio Siveres, Ignacio Puna, Patricio Pina, Anacleto Peruzzo, Lúcio Dantas (coordinator), Cecília Crévola, RAS project analyst, and Marcelo Cordeiro, the meeting's advisor, took part.

**MAPAC**

Last March 25, 8 scholastics renewed their vows as Marist Brothers in the Marist Formation Center based in Marikina, Philippines: 2 Brothers from Vietnam (MDA), 5 from East Timor and 1 from Solomon Islands (Star of the Sea).

**PROVINCIA BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA****PASTORAL AGENTS OF THE BRASIL, PROTAGONISTS OF A SYNODAL CHURCH**

**W**he Identity, Mission, and Vocations Area of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province (Rede Marista) brought together from March 6 to 8 pastoral agents from the Marist Social Centers, the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), the São Lucas Hospital of the PUCRS and the Amazon Region for a training and integration meeting. The event took place in Porto Alegre and more than 30 people attended.

The experiences, reflections and studies revolved around the theme of Synodality, to strengthen Marist action in the commitment to build a synodal Church. Understanding the importance of the pastoral care, comprehending and identifying the different services and their objectives, knowing the network and its operating arms were topics of interest in these days of fraternal rapprochement," said William Rios Bramchardt, of the Marist Social Center Aparecida das Águas.

For Paula Di Domenico, from the Center for Pastoral and Solidarity of the PUCRS,

the Meeting of pastoral agents promoted the experience of the Marist charism, from the origins of the Institute to the present. "It was a meeting to know and revitalize our essence," she said. During the days of the event, the organizers and participants assumed the dynamics of the renewing Spirit, always active in the construction of new meanings, following the example of Champagnat's audacity. "I was surprised! The depth of the moments and the training were extraordinary and necessary for our work. I felt great maturity in the Pastoral Meeting. I came out even more connected with the mission and the charisma," reflected Matheus Goulart Jardim, from the São Lucas Hospital of PUCRS.

"As a social educator and recently invited to assume the position of pastoral agent in my unit, the meeting showed me challenges and points to promote in the foundation of Christian life and in my commitment to the Marist mission," said William.

PROVINCE BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

# BR. VANDERLEI SIQUEIRA APPOINTED PROVINCIAL



In a letter sent to the brothers of the province on March 25, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, informed that the General Council, after studying the survey carried out in the province, decided to appoint Brother Vanderlei Siqueira dos Santos as provincial of the Marist Province of Brazil Centro-Sul (PMBCS), for a first period of three years. “Thank you very much Br. Vanderlei, for your openness and generosity in accepting this mission of leadership at the service of your province. Your experience as a brother, your ability to listen and organize, your closeness to people, will be of great support for this leadership service,” the Superior General expressed in his letter.

Br. Vanderlei will assume the position in the next provincial chapter, which will be held from July 25 to 27, and will replace Br. Antonio Benedito de Oliveira, provincial since December 2017. In the letter addressed to the Province, Br. Ernesto thanked Brother Benê, with these words: “You have led a leadership with an attitude of availability and listening, with tea-

mwork, open to accompanying the different realities of the province (PMBCS), even during the period of difficulties due to the pandemic. Likewise, your collaboration with the other provincials of Brazil and South America is very valuable; and so is your support for the Institute.”

The current provincial, Br. Benê, also showed his support and esteem for Br. Vanderlei: “We express to Br. Vanderlei the collaboration of his brothers, lay people, leaders and collaborators, with a view to a blessed provincial ministry, impregnated with great lucidity, a sense of reality, responsibility and, above all, a spirit of faith, hope, courage and vision of the future, very characteristic of the Holy Founder, for the growth and development of the Brasil Centro-Sul Province, of the Marist Group, in harmony with UMBRASIL, the South America Region and the Institute.”

## Br. Vanderlei Siqueira dos Santos

Brother Vanderlei was born on January 26, 1975, in São João (Paraná). He began his vocational discernment in Marist life in 1991, and in 1995 he entered the postulate. He made his first profession in December 1998 and perpetual profession on May 16, 2004. He has a degree in journalism, pedagogy, and theology. He completed specializations, master’s degrees, and doctorates, in education and administration. He has been a teacher, pastor, school principal, and executive director of Basic Education at PMBCS. And currently he is President of the Marist Group (Grupo Marista) and FTD Education.

DISTRICT OF CANADÁ

# BR. FÉLIX ROLDÁN RODRÍGUEZ, SUPERIOR



The District Council, consisting of Brothers Daniel O’Riordan (coordinator, Provincial of USA), Luis Felipe González (Provincial of Central Mexico), Luis Enrique Rodríguez (Provincial of Western Mexico) and Félix Roldán (District Superior of the District of Canada), after receiving the District survey, have appointed Brother Félix Roldán Rodríguez as District Superior for three years, beginning in August 2024. Thanks to the Governance Council for their service.

“We are deeply grateful to Brother Félix Roldán for his willingness to continue in this role as your District Leader” said Br. Dan O’Riordan, Chair, Governing Council of Canada. “We will do everything we can to support him as your District Leader”, he added.

The information has just been published in the District and in the Province of the United States, with which the District of Canada is canonically linked.

Br. Felix, District Superior since October 2023 begins his new 3-year term next August, when the District Assembly will be held.

## Br. Félix Roldán Rodríguez

Born in Brahojos de Medina del Campo, a small town in the province of Valladolid, Spain, his first steps in Marist life began at the age of 13 in the Hispano-American Juniorate (Valladolid). He made his novitiate in Villalba (Madrid). Shortly after his first profession

in 1982, he went to Peru in January 1983, after a brief stay in Chile. After the scholasticate and the first years in community, he took his perpetual vows in March 1987. In Peru, he has carried out his mission mainly in the area of education, at the primary level as a teacher and director of various schools in the country, and at the level of higher education, collaborating at the Marcellin Champagnat University in Lima.

In 2006, in response to the convocation of Br. Seán Sammon, in the Ad Gentes project, the brothers of Canada fraternally welcomed him and offered him the possibility of getting involved, firstly, in parish and diocesan youth ministry and later in other areas of animation and collaboration with those works that, without organic links with the Marists, strive to keep alive the flame of Champagnat's charism in Canadian lands.

In 2013, he was incardinated in the Province of Canada, District since August 2021.

## TIMOR-LESTE

# 19TH ICFP GRADUATION CEREMONY IN BAUCAU



The Instituto Católico Para a Formação de Professores (ICFP), in Baucau, Timor-Leste, held on 16th March its 19th Graduation ceremony. Over five hundred people gathered at the Baucau Cathedral to participate in the ceremony led by Padre Alípio Pinto, Vicar General of the Diocese of Baucau. Among the participants were Br Paul Gilchrist, Director of ICFP, Br Robert Speare representing the Marist Provincial (Br. Peter Carroll); Dr. José Honorio, Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Nilton Paiva Mau, Executive Director of the National Agency for Academic Assessment and Accreditation (ANAAA), Ms. Maria Filomena Lay (Director-General, Ministry of Higher Education and Science), and various dignitaries from the Municipality of Baucau. And from Australia participated Mr and Mrs Ian and Morianne MacRichie, from the eMerge Foundation from Sydney, and Mr and Mrs Tony and Sue Heelan, parents of Michael, Marist volunteer. At the end of the mass, the whole group then moved to the Merkadu for the next stage of the program. Br Paul, the Director, welcomed everyone, the special guests, the graduates, and their families. Padre Alípio then awarded the Bachelor of Teaching degree to seventy-five students, the biggest ever group of recipients in the history of the Institute. After a short interlude when the graduates sang the Institute's song, he then awarded

the Bachelor of Education degree (Licentiate) to fifty students. The major prize winners were then announced, and scholarships were awarded by the eMerge Foundation and other donor groups to some students.

The Minister of Higher Education, Dr. José Honorio, congratulated the students on their achievements, while Dr. Augusta da Costa, the special guest speaker encouraged the students to continue their learning.

A feature of the ceremony was the graduation of the first two Timorese Marist Brothers at the Institute, Br. Jacinto Anacleto Fuli Falo, and Br. Melquiano Obe. During their time at the Institute, both have been extraordinary contributors. It is worth mentioning that Br. Melqui was not able to be present, as he is currently working at the Marist Lavalla School in Phnom Penh, in Cambodia.

As the formalities came to a close everyone sat down to a delicious meal together. The festivities concluded in the afternoon. "ICFP is certainly fulfilling its mission to provide outstanding teachers to the schools of Timor-Leste. At this stage in the life of ICFP, 937 students have now graduated from the Bachelor of Teaching program, and 261 have received the Licentiate degree. May the vision and the good work continue!", said Br. Paul Gilchrist, Director ICFP.

# marist world

MADAGASCAR: THE MARIST FAMILIES OF DIEGO SUAREZ, WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, LAY AND MARIST BROTHERS



SPAIN: PUBLISHING HOUSE EDELVIVES CELEBRATES 135 YEARS



CAMBODIA: BR. MELQUIANO OBE RENEWS HIS VOWS AT LAVALLA SCHOOL



VENEZUELA: YOUNG PEOPLE FROM REMAR AND ANIMATORS OF ALL YOUTH MOVEMENTS



PHILIPPINES: MARIST EAST ASIA FORMATIVE ENCOUNTER



SYRIA: NEW VOLUNTEERS IN THE BLUE MARISTS

## OTHER MARIST VOICES 49 AND 50:

# EVANGELICAL LEADERSHIP / 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 49 was written by Br. Evaristus Mbiyzenyuy, chairperson of the Community Life Team and Child Safeguarding Team of the the Province of West Africa – Cameroon, who addresses the theme “Evangelical & life-giving leadership style of Mother Mary” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 17 of Marist Voices (Leading with Mary in One’s Heart), written by Br. Juan Carlos Fuertes.



Other Marist Voices 50 was written by Andrea Rossi, director of the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity of the General Administration in Rome – Italy, who addresses the theme “Unleashing the Power of Servant Leadership: Transforming Lives and Building a Just World for Children” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#).

APRIL 18, 2024

# 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

This year, the Church celebrates the 25th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Marcellin, which took place in 1999 at the Vatican. The entire Marist community is coming together to remember this important moment in the history of the

Marist Institute. In the section dedicated to the canonization, you will find a dossier on this event, with materials that can be used to remember the canonization of the founder.

We invite everyone to join in the spirit

of the celebration by sharing content on social media with the hashtag #Champagnat25.

What follows is a review of the process of the cause leading up to the canonisation in 1999.



## THE CAUSE OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

The first postulator of the Cause was Father Claude Nicolet SM (1812-1912), Procurator of the Fathers and other branches of the Society of Mary.

The ordinary process was opened in the diocese of Lyon on 21 July 1888 and closed on 22 December 1891. This was followed by an examination of the writings (31 January 1892-2 April 1894) and of the absence of public veneration ["No culto"] (20 November 1894-11 May 1895).

The decree of approval for the writings was issued on 12 December 1895 and the decree of validity of the "No culto" process on 3 July 1897.

The decree introducing the case in Rome was dated 25 May 1896. This was followed by launching two Apostolic Processes, the first on public recognition of his sanctity (from 7 April 1897 to 24 July 1899), approved by a decree on 10 December 1900 (Circulars 18 May 1901, vol. X), and the second on his virtues (from 7 April 1897 to 11 January 1902), which obtained a decree of approval on 12 December 1903.

After the presentation of a paper, *Positio super virtutibus*, a meeting of pre-preparatory personnel was held on 3 May 1910, then the preparatory group itself on 12 March 1912, and the general congregation on 22 June 1920.

The decree on the heroicity of virtues was published by Pope Benedict XV on 11 July 1920.

### The cause passes to the Marist Brothers

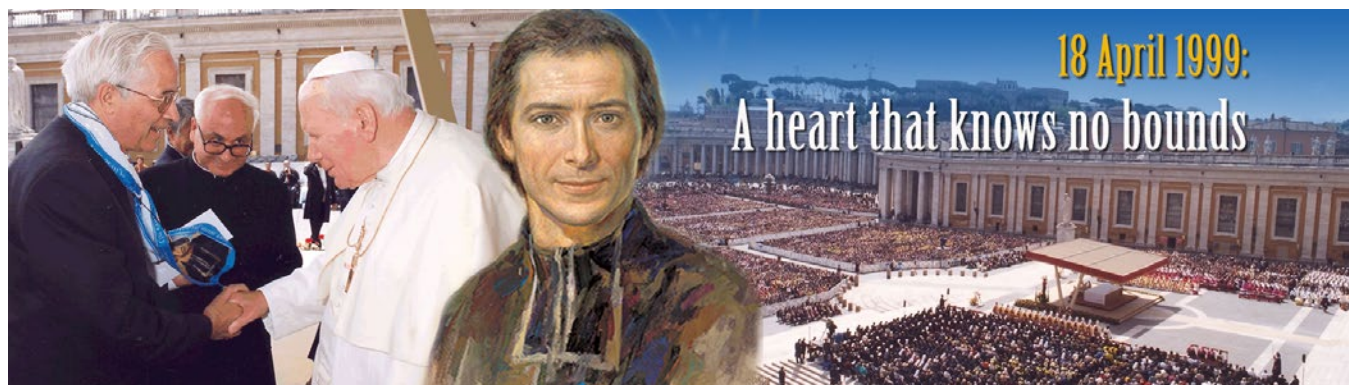
In 1923, responsibility for this cause was transferred to the Marist Brothers when Brother Emery (Acts of the 1932 Chapter. AFM) was appointed postulator.

An interesting note in a document in the archives of the postulation states: "While the Marist Fathers were in charge of the Postulation, it was we Marist Brothers who paid all the bills relating to the Cause to the Sacred Congregation of Rites and to the lawyer" (Le Procure Général des frères Maristes à Rome: précis historique - AFM Dossier 225919 ADM-150-01).

At the end of Br Emery's mandate as postulator, two cures were investigated. The first was the cure of Mr John Ranaivo of cerebrospinal meningitis in Antsirabe (Madagascar) and the second was the cure of Mrs Georgina Grondin of a malignant tumour in Waterville (Maine, USA). The diocesan process in Antsirabe began on 9 September 1947 and ended on 13 April 1948. The diocesan process in Waterville began on 14 January 1948 and ended on 9 February 1948.

When Br Alessandro di Pietro began as postulator, he found the witness statements and documents of the alleged miracles attributed to Fr Marcellin Champagnat to be poorly documented. He asked for new documents to be added to the dossier and for supplementary processes to be carried out. The request was accepted. These were conducted between 1952 and 1953.





On 16th October 1953, the decree of validity of the processes carried out in Portland and Antsirabe was obtained.

The following year the Positio Super Miraculis was drawn up and presented to the Congregation of Rites. It was studied by the doctors of the Congregation. On 5 February 1954 the Superior General in a Circular Letter announced that a preliminary examination by four doctors appointed by the Promoter of the Faith of the two miracles was favourable.

On 18 March 1954, the first meeting of the College of Physicians of the Sacred Congregation of Rites was held to examine the two miracles presented. On 26 May of the same year, a second meeting of the College of Physicians took place, with a favourable vote.

The preparatory group for the examination of the miracles took place on 16 November 1954, with a favourable vote. On 20 April 1955, at the Hermitage (France), the official recognition of the Remains of Champagnat took place. On 3 May 1955, the General Congregation for the examination of the miracles was held: a favourable vote. On 19 May 1955, the decree Super Tuto was signed. Finally, on 29 May 1955, the Beatification Ceremony took place.

Furthermore, on 23 May 1958, the Sacred Congregation of Rites issued the brief approving the readings of the Office and the prayers proper to Blessed Marcellin Champagnat.

**Towards the canonisation**

It was Brother Gabriele Andreucci who took the steps leading to the canonisation of the Founder. In Uruguay, Br. Heriberto

Weber Nellesen had been cured of a lung problem after the whole province and all the students of the Marist schools in Uruguay were invited to pray a novena to the Founder.

On 20 May, 1992, the Revisa Summarii was held. On 11 September, a first medical expert was consulted and on 27 January 1993 a second medical expert .

The case was submitted for a first official medical consultation on 1 April 1993, which resulted in a suspended vote and a request to submit additional information.

On 25 November 1993, the case was again submitted to the medical committee and received 4 negative votes (out of 5). The postulator lodged an appeal to have it re-examined and to allow a doctor representing the Marists to be present during the consultation. This appeal was dated 28 February 1995. The appeal was allowed on 3 March 1995. The new medical examination took place on 26 June 1997 and was approved by 5 votes (out of 5).

On 20 February 1998 a session of theologians met and voted 1 negative and 6 affirmative. On 1 April 1998 the appointment of the spokesperson was requested and on 30 April the Record of Proceedings and vote was stamped and delivered.

On 8 May 1998 the decree appointing the spokesperson was issued: Card. Henri Schwery. The plenary meeting of cardinals and bishops took place on 2 June 1998 and the following day the decree Super Miraculo was issued.

The ordinary public consistory was held on 9 January 1999.

On 18 April 1999, the canonisation of Saint Marcellin Champagnat was celebrated in Rome.



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