



Year **XVI** - Number **828** | **4 APRIL 2024**

MARIST NEWS

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT | GENERAL HOUSE | ROME | WWW.CHAMPAGNAT.ORG

FROM SEPTEMBER 8 TO OCTOBER 8, 2025

THE XXIII GENERAL CHAPTER WILL TAKE PLACE IN MANILLA



The preparatory commission was appointed in September last year. It is made up of the following Brothers: Ken McDonald, Coordinator – General Councilor; John Hazelman, Star of the Sea; Jaime Comabella Callizo, Ibérica; Fortune Chakasara, Southern Africa; Anselmo Kim, East Asia (in the MDA); Brian Poulin, United States; Rogerio Mateucci, Brasil Centro-Sul; Juan Carlos Fuertes Mari, Secretary – Mediterránea; Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco, Vicar General; Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General. The group began its work last November with its first meeting, from November 27 to December 2, 2023, and will meet again from April 16 to 20.

The General Council has decided on the date and place of the next General Chapter: it will be held from September 8 to October 8, 2025, in the Philippines. The news was communicated to the superiors of the Administrative Units at the meeting in Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage on March 9.

The Commission's first steps consisted of discussing the theme for the period of preparation for the Chapter. And the theme the Commission came up with is based on



general administration

- Br. Josep Maria Soterias, General Councilor, is accompanying Brothers and three lay people from Lebanon on their annual retreat this week.
- On Monday, the directors of the Bureau of the Laity met online with the delegates of Phase 4 of the Forum on Lay Marist Vocation.
- On Tuesday, the formation course for Marist leaders in the Province of Nigeria was inaugurated with an online event. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, and Ben Consigli, General Councilor, participated in the event.
- The directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Brothers Ángel Medina and Lindley Sionosa, met this Tuesday with the animators of vocation ministry through an online event.
- Br. João Carlos do Prado, General Councilor, is participating in the Assembly of Capitulants of the Provinces of México Central and

- México Occidental, Wednesday through Friday, in Guadalajara.
- Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Ken McDonald, General Councilor, are participating in the Provincial Chapter of the United States from Thursday through Sunday.
- On Friday, Br. Óscar Martín, General Councilor, will conclude his visit to the Province of Nigeria.
- A group of brothers and lay people from the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte are in Italy to get to know the Reggio Emilia educational project that will be implemented in the Province. During this week they visited the General House and the two Marist schools in Rome.
- Participants are arriving in Rome for the course for people who accompany brothers in difficult situations, organized by the Institute's Ongoing Formation team. The course will be held from April 7 to May 4, at the General House.

the bicentenary of l'Hermitage: L'Hermitage a home for all. River of Life. This talks about the inclusivity of the Institute, welcome people, and it also talks about the possibility of a new future.

Pre-chapter process

In a [recent video-message](#), Brother Ken McDonald, coordinator of the commission, gave some details about the process that will lead up to the chapter assembly in Manilla.

The methodology to be used will coincide with that used by the Church in recent years for the synodal process, conversation in the spirit, with moments of personal preparation, silence and reflection, and dialog with the people around you. Each month will include a prayer specially prepared to ask for the Chapter.

The process will consist of three moments. The first will put attention on listening to the current reality and the participants will be invited to focus on consecrated life, the life of the Brothers, spirituality and fraternity; on the lay Marist vocation; on the conclusions of MIMA III. The second moment will be

marked by listening to the outside world, trying to discover what generates life and what are the challenges. The third stage of the process will be at the level of the Administrative Unit, when the responses from the previous stages will be collected, highlighting the dreams for the future of the Marist Institute.

Two questions will guide reflection at this third stage: what are the realities where vitality is found? What are the realities that challenge Marist life and mission? Finally, each Administrative Unit will be invited to prepare a message for the Chapter.

The pre-Chapter process will begin in September with the letter of convocation written by the Superior General. At this point, the Preparatory Commission will have prepared the material that will serve as a subsidy for the work that will involve the whole Institute. Not only the Brothers will be invited to take part, but also all those involved in mission networks, lay Marists and students and employees of Marist works. The commission hopes to involve young people in particular in this process. "This is a very important event in the life of our Institute," concluded Brother Ken.

L'HERMITAGE

150 YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK PART IN "PASCUA DE LES AVELLANES"

From Holy Thursday, March 28, to Easter Sunday, March 31, more than 150 young people between the ages of 16 and 24 gathered for four days at the Marist house of Les Avellanes, Province of l'Hermitage, to experience Holy Week in a young style, but with the essential elements very much present.

Many of the participants arrived with the memory of last year's [celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of this meeting](#), which dozens of young people from various Catalan dioceses continue to mark on their calendars to come and enjoy in a group the deepening, the silence, the celebration of the faith and the getting to know other young people.

With the slogan 'With Christ, we walk together', this year's edition has been interested in showing young people that, "despite seeing the Church as an anachronistic institution, the fact of growing in synodality allows to revitalize it and make it more



of everyone", as recognized in a framework document "With Christ, we walk together".

The "Easter of Les Avellanes" is a pastoral initiative of the Marist Brothers of Catalonia, Province of L'Hermitage, which began to take place for the first time in 1974, opening the doors of the novitiate community to welcome its celebration. Today, after 50 years, a group of young people coordinated by the Mission area of the Province prepares and animates this annual meeting.

CALL FOR PEACE

AMS, FMSI AND SED URGENTLY CALL FOR IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO ADDRESS THE CRISIS IN GAZA



At least 30,000 people died, including more than 12,300 children.

The World Health Organisation ([WHO](#)) says people in Gaza are risking their lives to find food, water and other supplies – such as the level of hunger and despair during the Israeli assault on the strip.

The world watches with increasing concern as the humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate, causing immense suffering for the innocent civilian population.

AMS, FMSI and SED extend their deep concern and solidarity to the people of Gaza. We call upon the international community, world leaders, and humanitarian organizations to prioritize the following urgent actions:

1. Permanent Ceasefire: We urgently appeal for a permanent ceasefire and cessation of

hostilities in Gaza.

2. Humanitarian Access: Unhindered access for humanitarian organizations to deliver essential aid, including food, clean water, medical supplies, and educational resources, must be ensured. The suffering of innocent civilians, especially children, cannot continue.
3. Long-term Solutions: While addressing the immediate crisis is essential, a long-term solution to the Gaza conflict is imperative. The international community must work towards lasting peace, stability, and the protection of human rights for all.

Australian Marist Solidarity <https://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/>

Fundação Marista para a Solidariedade Internacional <https://fmsi.ngo/>

ONGD SED <https://sed-ongd.org/>

CRUZ DEL SUR

TEAMS ADDRESS THE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

During three intense days in the month of March, Teams of the Province Cruz del Sur took part in a meeting in the Marist Villa of Luján with the purpose of beginning to design actions for the realization of the Strategic Plan that will lead the next 5 years according to the Guidelines voted in Assembly and approved by the Provincial Council.

The objective was achieved in an atmosphere of joy, listening, dialogue and fraternity in which it was possible to continue tuning the “orchestra” of the community, remembering that the truth is symphonic.

The team integrated by Brothers Alberto Aparicio and Horacio Magaldi, accompanied by Fernando Varela and Adrián Arias (Uruguay) and Ricardo Palomar, Daniel Felipelli and María Belén Pissarello (Argentina), animated the dynamics that invited, from silence, movement, the Word and play, to continue tuning in with the motto “Juntos Caminamos” (Together We Walk).

The review of the Lines of Action that resulted from the rich and still recent synodal experience led all those present to the objective of the Meeting: to reach a consensus on the priorities of the Areas and Government Teams that will allow the consolidation of a work plan and the evaluation of its results.



The analysis, which was carried out in groups, was especially oriented to create, promote or accompany action plans that respond to the strategic objectives of each area (Vocation, Mission, etc.) or space that they have to animate in the Province.

From this discernment, the proposal to work by “zones” to strengthen the management and animation and to create a table that articulates the areas of the Province, meeting with certain periodicity, inspired by the work model of Uruguay, which integrated in a table the general directors and those responsible for works and has been working effectively for years.

The need was also expressed to adapt action strategies to the peculiarities

(culture, history, economic reality) of each zone and to transversally evaluate provincial policies, while listening and dialoguing in a synodal key.

Regarding the role of the Brothers in this process, the Teams almost unanimously sustained the importance of counting on their presence and the charismatic formation they could offer, as well as growing in horizontality, flexibility and dialogue and responding to the decisions of the Provincial Government.

Finally, the importance of training directors and educators in provincial policies and pedagogical leadership and generating a new space for the coordinators to reach a consensus on an agenda attentive to the needs of each zone was highlighted.

MIMA III

Next week the III Marist International Mission Assembly will take place in El Escorial, Spain. Information will be published daily on the Institute’s communication channels. On social networks the hashtags #Mima #MaristsOfChampagnat will be used. All the details of the assembly can be [consulted on this page.](#)



EUROPE

THE REGION CONCLUDES THE TRAINING FOR MARIST LEADERS



A group of 27 pastoral leaders from the four administrative units of the Marist Europe (MRE) concluded on March 26, at the Casa de El Escorial, their third and final session of training for Marist directors and future director. The first week of training began in Valladolid (Castilla y León), on October 4, 2023; and the second week was held at the Maimón Castle (Córdoba), from February 4 to 9, 2024.

During the first week, held in Valladolid, the 27 participants studied different subjects dedicated to Christology, ecclesiology, analysis of reality and pastoral options. And they also reflected, in theory and in practice, on the pastoral life of the Marist Centers.

In the second week, which took place in Córdoba, the leaders submerged in a space of reflection, sharing experiences related to Marist pastoral practices in formal educational centers. The trainers, from the Marist Mediterranean Province, took charge of leading the encounter along with the MRE. Crucial topics such as evangelization, spiritual competence, teamwork, celebration, and contemporary structures of evangelization were addressed during this session. These relevant contents will be implemented by local pastoral teams.



The last meeting, held at La Casa de El Escorial, was a total immersion in the challenge of innovation, a renewal of the Marist identity, a deep analysis of conflict management and coexistence in the school environment, as well as a foray into the vast world of human resources through practical exercises.

One of the conclusions of the meeting was that, more than a training event, these courses are an experience of personal and collective growth that reaffirms the commitment of the Marist educational community to excellence and innovation.

marist world

BRAZIL: MEETING OF BROTHERS COMMUNITY ANIMATORS IN CURITIBA



CHILE: SOLIDARITY COORDINATORS' MEETING OF MARIST SCHOOLS



NIGERIA: BR. ÓSCAR MARTÍN IN THE MOUNT SAINT MIKEL COMMUNITY, ENUGU



LEBANON: EASTER CELEBRATION



ECUADOR: NORANDINA PROVINCE HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION



MEXICO: TRAINING COURSE FOR VOLUNTEERS, "TOGETHER FOR SERVICE"

SPAIN

EDELVIVES CELEBRATES ITS 135TH ANNIVERSARY

Edelvives publishing house celebrated 135 years of history on March 17. The commemorative celebration was held at the headquarters of the publishing house in Zaragoza, where the graphic workshops, the logistics silo and the general management are located, as a sign of the symbiosis of Edelvives with a city that has seen it grow and develop. At the event, which was imbued with art and music, the outstanding growth of recent years was also commemorated, thanks to the company's commitment to innovation and various strategic alliances. In the last 15 years, the number of employees in Spain has doubled, in addition to consolidating growth in other countries, such as Mexico and Argentina. The celebration included speeches by several of the group's executives and personalities from the world of the press and politics, such as the mayoress of Zaragoza, Natalia Chueca. Javier Cendoya, general manager, expressed his gratitude, celebrating that "we are capable of anything we set our minds to; we just have to give our best to be the best". In the words of Alejandro Cebrián, general manager in Spain, "our future is written in the ink of boldness and passion". Brother Abel Muñoz, provincial of Ibérica and president of the board of directors of the Edelvives Group, recalled the beginnings



of the publishing house in 1889: "This is where the real seed of the publishing house was born: a problem, a solution. And so we continue 135 years later, listening to what society is asking for in order to be proactive in our responses". The Edelvives Group is a Marist publishing house that has the "illusion: to improve the world through education, reading and technological innovation." It has 4 offices (International, Madrid; Spain, Zaragoza; Mexico; Argentina) and distributors in more than 20 countries.

OTHER MARIST VOICES 51 AND 52:

MARIST LEADERSHIP

This week's two messages in the "Other Marist Voices" project come from Brother Alphonse Tiamaro of the Province of Madagascar and Izaskun Lanborena Elrdui of the Province of Ibérica.

Brother Tiamaro, Provincial of Madagascar, wrote message 51 of "Other Marist Voices", which is based on chapter 11 of Marist Voices, written by Brothers Gabriel Villa-Real and Pere Ferré. Recalling this fundamental text, Brother Tiamaro underlines that

"in the exercise of leadership, there are a series of variables of the different calibre that affect people" ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#).

In message 52, the director of the Marist school of Bilbao, Izaskun, speaks of the responsibility to serve and the challenge to lead, highlighting a passage from chapter 7 of Marist Voices,

written by Brother Vincent de Paul Kouassi: "Marist leaders should remain gentle and altruistic in their way of persuading, even in times of resistance" ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#).



OTHER MARIST VOICES

This project is promoted by the Marist International Mission Commission and gives continuity to the initiative "Marist Voices", a book launched in 2022 that addresses the theme of Marist leadership and seeks to reflect on the request of the last General Chapter that underlined that "For a new beginning, we believe in governance that favours prophetic servant leadership and closely accompanies Marist life and mission."

120 Marists from around the world, including brothers, lay men and women, have been invited to share their perspectives on leadership from their own experiences. Each brings a unique vision and reflects on specific aspects of servant and prophetic leadership. Each week two messages are posted on the Institute's communication channels.

[This link](#) gives you access to all the messages of this initiative, published as of September 2023.

#CHAMPAGNAT25 - APRIL 18

The proposed prayers for the triduum in preparation for the 25th anniversary of the canonization of St. Marcellin Champagnat, to be celebrated on April 18, is now available on the Institute's website (<https://champagnat.org/en/april-18-2024-25th-anniversary-of-the-canonization-of-st-marcellin-champagnat/>). The prayers were prepared by the

Brothers Today Secretariat, which is also preparing a proposal for the celebration of the anniversary, which will be online soon. On the same page you will find testimonies from various Marists about the importance of St. Marcellin in their lives, and other resources that can be used during the celebration of our founder's charism.



BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

BROTHER JOSÉ BERNARDI CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY



With great joy and gratitude for his life, Brother José Bernardi of the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia celebrated his 100th birthday on March 12. In the presence of the Marist Brothers, friends and family, he commemorated the date with a festive Mass and lunch held on March 24 at the Cultural Center of the Colégio Marista Graças in Viamão.



Brother entered Marist formation at the age of ten and discovered his passion for music while still in the Juniorate. A harmonica player, composer and singer, Brother Bernardi is a great reference for Marist music, being the author of several melodies, including the Hymn of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family. [In the video of the program Marist Memories: stories of love and life he tells, in Portuguese, how music is part of his life.](#)

Celebrating the joy of living

The Mass in thanksgiving for Brother Bernardi's centenary was celebrated by the Auxiliary Bishop of Viamão, Bishop Bertilo João Morsch, who stressed the importance of valuing life and the people who share the mission with us: "We are gathered here to celebrate the greatest gift that God has given us, life! Its value is inestimable, and the great secret is to know how to value it and to be sure that God is always with us," he said.

On this occasion, Brother Bernardi also received tributes from the Marist Brothers and the laypeople who are part of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, a lay expression in which he has participated since its foundation.

SPAIN

GENERAL COUNCILORS VISIT THE PROVINCE OF IBÉRICA



The general councilor brothers Ben Consigli and João Carlos Do Prado arrived in Madrid (Spain) on March 17 to begin a route through the Marist Province of Ibérica. On Monday the 18th they visited the Cardinal Cisneros University Center, where they met the Management Team and learned about all the campus facilities. In addition, they met with the Provincial Team for Youth and Vocational Ministry. On Tuesday they had the opportunity to visit another center, in this case the Santa María Maristas school in the town of Collado-Villalba, in Madrid, where they learned about some significant experiences of the center. In Villalba they also met the communities of Marist brothers of Villalba and El Escorial.

The sessions on Wednesday and Thursday were aimed at deepening the scope of the mission in the Province of Ibérica. There were specific meetings with the provincial teams in these areas: Council of Educational Works, Human Resources, Works Animation and Social Ministry. A brief meeting was also organized with the Communication Office and EDAC Champagnat Free Time School.

During these days, Alcalá de Henares hosted moments of reflection, listening and celebration. A significant moment was the experience of living with the boys and girls of the Espiral Espar-

tales social work; enlivened by the Social Pastoral Team and the Direction of the Spiral Association.

The week ended with the respective meetings of other provincial teams, in this case from the area of Marist life. They were able to meet with the Marist Life Commission, the Laity Team and the School of Spirituality. On Friday afternoon everything concluded with a dialogue and dinner shared with the brothers of Madrid and Alcalá, and the Marist Community of reference of Chamberí (Madrid).

Over the weekend, Brother Ben and Brother João Carlos traveled to Toledo to enjoy moments of prayer on Saturday, and share with the brothers from Toledo, Talavera and Naval Moral. The next day, Brother João Carlos was also able to travel to the north of Spain, to the Riojan town of Lardero, to visit the Azterlan Metallurgical Research Center on Monday, March 25, located in Durango (Bizkaia). On Tuesday, March 26, he ended his stay in Lardero with a meeting with the Economic Affairs Commission of Maristas Ibérica.

In the month of April, the liaison counselors with the European Region will experience a new period of visits and meetings in the Iberian Province.

Fotos

RWANDA

FMSI PREPARES A PROJECT THAT WILL BENEFIT ABOUT 15,000 PEOPLE WITH POTABLE WATER



The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) and the Marist Brothers of Save (Rwanda), Afrique Centre-Est Province, have launched the development of a project that will provide potable water to nearly 15,000 people in 22 locations in the surrounding area and 22 religious schools in the area: 4 Marist, 15 diocesan and 3 from the Benebikira Congregation.

The project includes the replacement and installation of a completely new potable water extraction and pumping system, which will cost an average of 10,000 euros.

In order to initiate the proposal, a representative of FMSI, Francesco Mastroso, visited the site from March 10 to 15 and verified the feasibility of the work. During his stay, Francesco spoke with all the representatives of the beneficiary organizations, with the representative of the possible company to which the works would be entrusted, and also with the Bishop of Butare, Philip Rukamba, for the formal and legal implications of the case. In order to accelerate the realization of the project, FMSI is already working on the drafting of the proposal to be submitted to the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) for the financing of the project.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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


Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube

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

Facebook

 <https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

Twitter

 https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat