



GENERAL HOUSE

STATISTICAL DATA OF THE MARIST BROTHERS PRESENTED TO THE VATICAN



The General Secretariat of the Institute has presented to the Vatican the statistical report concerning the situation on December 31, 2023. According to the census carried out by the Statistics Department of the General House, the total number of Marist Brothers at the end of last year was 2,427, of whom 2,158 are perpetually professed and 269 have temporary profession.

The data collected for 2023 also shows that on December 31st there were 41 novices and during 2023 there were 45 first professions and 26 perpetual professions in the Institute. During 2023, >>>

The number of Brothers on December 31, 2023, by Administrative Unit, is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Afrique Centre-Est: 88 | Mediterránea: 138 |
| América Central: 76 | México Central: 67 |
| Asia: 25 | México Occidental: 118 |
| Brasil Centro-Norte: 88 | Nigeria: 123 |
| Brasil Centro-Sul: 74 | Norandina: 94 |
| Brasil Sul-Amazônia: 99 | Santa María de los Andes: 62 |
| Canadá: 60 | South Asia: 51 |
| Compostela: 143 | Southern Africa: 98 |
| Cruz del Sur: 61 | Star of the Sea: 252 |
| East Asia: 87 | United States of America: 100. |
| Hermitage: 199 | West Africa: 87 |
| Ibérica: 114 | West Central Europe: 67 |
| Madagascar: 56 | |

In [this PDF](#), prepared by the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, you will find detailed statistical data on the age of the brothers in the Institute.

Numbers in the Church

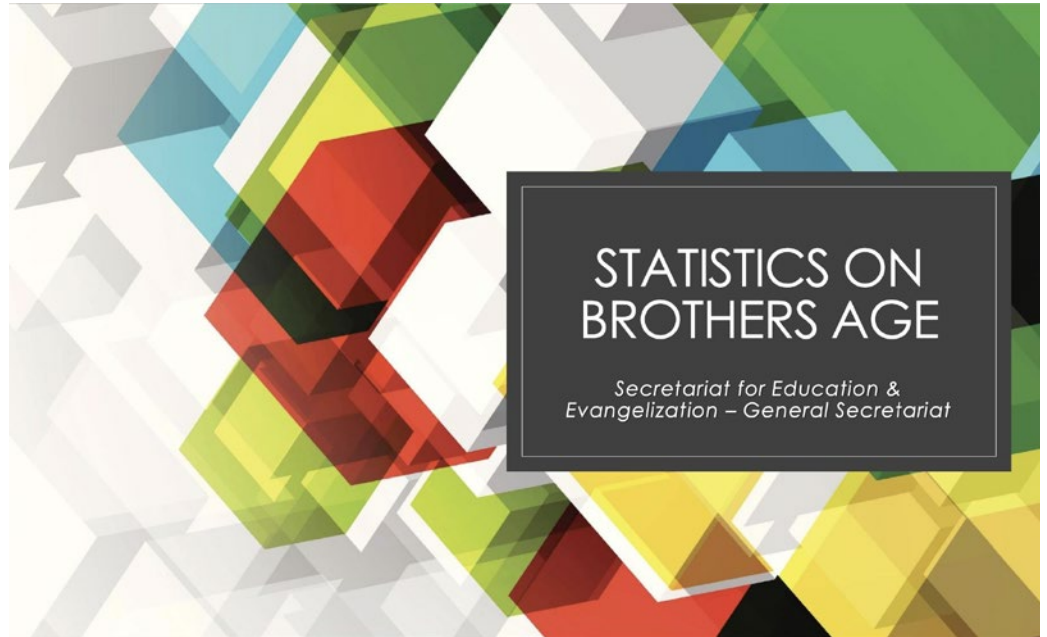
The Vatican recently released the *Annuario Pontificio 2024*, published by the Church's Central Statistical Office, which provides information on the life of the Catholic Church in the world from December 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023. The number of baptized Catholics worldwide increased from 1.376 billion in 2021 to 1.390 billion in 2022, a relative increase of 1.0%. The number of bishops during the biennium 2021-2022 rose from 5,340 to 5,353. The global number of priests in the world in 2022 decreased by 142 units compared to 2021, from 407,872 to 407,730. The number of permanent deacons increased by 2% in 2022 compared to the previous year, from 49,176 to 50,150.

About the professed religious (brothers), there were 49,774 units in 2021 and they fell to 49,414 in 2022. The decline

should be attributed, in order of importance, to the European group, the African group and the Oceanian group, while, conversely, in Asia these numbers have increased and also in America.

Professed women religious form a more consistent population: in 2022 they exceeded the number of priests on the planet by almost 47%, but they are currently declining. Globally, they went from 608,958 in 2021 to 599,228 in 2022, a decrease of 1.6%.

Source: vaticannews.va



MIMA III

The III International Marist Mission Assembly began on Monday. About 120 people are gathered in El Escorial, Spain: delegates from the Administrative Units, members of the General Administration, representatives of networks and regions and other invited guests. MIMA III will conclude next Sunday with the launching of the new edition of the document "In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat: Marist Educational Mission". All the information about the Assembly is being disseminated through the Institute's channels, especially on this page <https://bit.ly/3Fgvtbl>. At the end of the event, a special issue of Marist News will report on the activities.



GENERAL HOUSE

PROGRAM FOR BROTHERS AND LAITY DEALING WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

On April 7, the Institute's Ongoing Formation team began its first program at the General House addressed to people who accompany Brothers Dealing with Difficult Situations. The four-week training is conducted in English and Spanish and will end on May 4.

A total of 20 brothers and lay people from different Administrative Units participate in the program. The course's goal is to front the reality that some brothers and lay people have experienced during the pandemic (deaths, extreme illness) as well as other painful situations (personal and community repercussions of social violence and war, the abuse crisis, problems of addictions in communities).

Panellists at the first program include the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Brother Angel Medina, Yago Abeledo and Renee Salinas. The main issues addressed are Non-Violent Communication, Conflict Management, and Care for Others, Care for Self. Furthermore, the participants will share their experiences and reflect together on the charisma of Marcellin Champagnat.



Participants:

Sunanda Alwis
Vincent de Paul Kouassi
Dilma Alves Rodrigues
Wellington Medeiros
Manel Pou
Carlos Monroy
Antidio Bolivar Enriquez
Angelo Cassinda
Saturnino Alonso
Peter Zulu

Patricio Pino
Peter Onah
Haritana Raveloarijaona
Elmer Jandic
Romidio Siveris
Iñaki Ruiz del Portal
Raúl Figuera Juárez
Renee Salinas
Yago Abeledo
Brendan Geary

#CHAMPAGNAT25 – 18 APRIL

Next week the Church will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. On the Institute's website you will find a section dedicated to this historic event and materials especially dedicated to this anniversary. The Brothers Today Secretariat has prepared a triduum and a celebration for the 18th, which can be downloaded directly from this link (<https://champagnat.org/en/april-18-2024-25th-anniversary-of-the-canonization-of-st-marcellin-champagnat/>). 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.

BANGLADESH

THE MOULVIBAZAR EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN OF THE TEA PLANTATION WORKERS

The Marist Brothers of Bangladesh run the Moulvibazar Education Program, a program which aims to ensure access to quality education for children and young people of the tea plantation workers who live in extremely vulnerable conditions.

The tea plantations of Bangladesh are not just sources of employment but also home to communities often marginalized and deprived of basic rights, including education. For this reason, the Marist community, with FMSI and the International

Catholic Center of Geneva (CCIG) have decided to bring this situation to light putting it in the Universal Periodic Review ([UPR-Bangladesh.pdf \(fmsi.ngo\)](#) under the United Nations last April. The report focuses on the human rights situation of children and families living in tea plantations in Sylhet, addressing 4 key areas: child labor, corporal punishment, early marriages, and access to quality education.

After submitting the report, this NGO coalition actively worked together to monitor the impact of the recommendations submitted through the UPR report. This allowed FMSI and the Marist Brothers of Bangladesh to take the floor during the 55th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. On this occasion, FMSI and the Marist Brothers of Bangladesh reviewed the recommendations accepted and noted on topics that are priorities and used them as an opportunity to reiterate



the issues and recommendations of their UPR submission. Their intervention is available here: [43rd Meeting – 55th Regular Session of Human Rights Council | UN Web TV](#) at minute 43:09.

The efforts of the Marist Brothers of Bangladesh highlight the importance of addressing the rights and needs of communities living in vulnerable conditions, particularly those living in tea plantations in Sylhet, Bangladesh. By the UPR report to the United Nations and actively monitoring its recommendations, they have taken significant steps towards ensuring access to quality education and bringing to light issues such as child labour, corporal punishment, and early marriages. Click here to know more about the UPR mechanism and the commitment of the Marist Brothers and FMSI on child rights: [CHILD RIGHTS \(fmsi.ngo\)](#)

NIGERIA

BR. ÓSCAR MARTÍN VISITS THE PROVINCE



From March 16 to April 5, Br. Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councilor, liaison with the Africa Region, visited the Marist Province of Nigeria.

It has been an extensive visit, which has allowed to know in person almost all the communities, schools and works of the Province (14 of the 15 communities have been visited). Above all, it was an opportunity to share about the Marist reality and the life and mission of the Brothers in this country.

The Province of Nigeria is a growing province, with a great development and blessed with vocations, thanks be to God. Therefore, it has both the experience of the older brothers and the energy of the younger brothers. Intense apostolic and vocational work and attention to initial formation are bearing fruit.

It is also a Province with great apostolic vitality, which carries out an extensive mission: 11 secondary schools, 4 primary schools, a university center and various social works (with disabled children, ex-lepers, etc). This shows the vitality and generous dedication to the mission.

New provincial stage

Last January, the Province initiated a new stage in its life.

After six years of great service and management of Br. Vincent Abadom as Provincial, Br. Mark Omede took possession as the new Provincial and a new phase has begun.

Since the beginning, Br. Mark Omede and his new provincial council have started to discern various areas: mission, community life, higher education, finances, laity ... These are some of the themes of the Provincial Chapter that are being discussed.

Likewise, this visit to the Province has also been a call to unity and communion; internal unity of the Province and communion with the Institute. During the visit, the Brothers reflected on what it means to "Look beyond" in today's Marist Nigeria, a country rich in resources and possibilities, but also immersed in a great economic crisis.

Also, in the meetings with teachers, students and groups of lay Marists, the idea of the global family was reinforced and encouraged to open the vision, to connect to the Marist networks, to grow in this path shared by all Marists.

"In the end," concludes Br. Oscar, "along with a deep gratitude for this visit, there also remain the challenges that will encourage Marist life and mission in Nigeria to continue to grow."

marist world

FIJI: VOCATIONAL AWARENESS PROGRAM OF THE FORMATION TEAM



MEXICO: INTERPROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY IN GUADALAJARA



COSTA RICA: RETREAT FOR BROTHERS OVER 70 IN ALAJUELA



GUATEMALA: REMAR 2024 YOUTH MINISTRY ENCOUNTER



FRANCE: INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF MARIST STUDENTS AT THE HERMITAGE



LEBANON: BR. JOSEP MARIA SOTERAS TAKES PART IN THE RETREAT OF BROTHERS AND LAYPEOPLE

COLOMBIA

NORANDINA'S PROVINCIAL ANNUAL RETREAT IN FUSAGASUGÁ

A group of 73 Brothers of the Norandina Province gathered during Holy Week, March 24-30, to participate in the annual spiritual retreat held in Fusagasugá, Colombia. The theme of the meeting entitled "He called those whom he wanted" was inspired by the biblical quotation from the Gospel of St. Mark and guided the reflection led by Father Guillermo Acero.

The provincial retreat, which lasted five days, was divided into five motivations that allowed for community sharing and personal prayer:

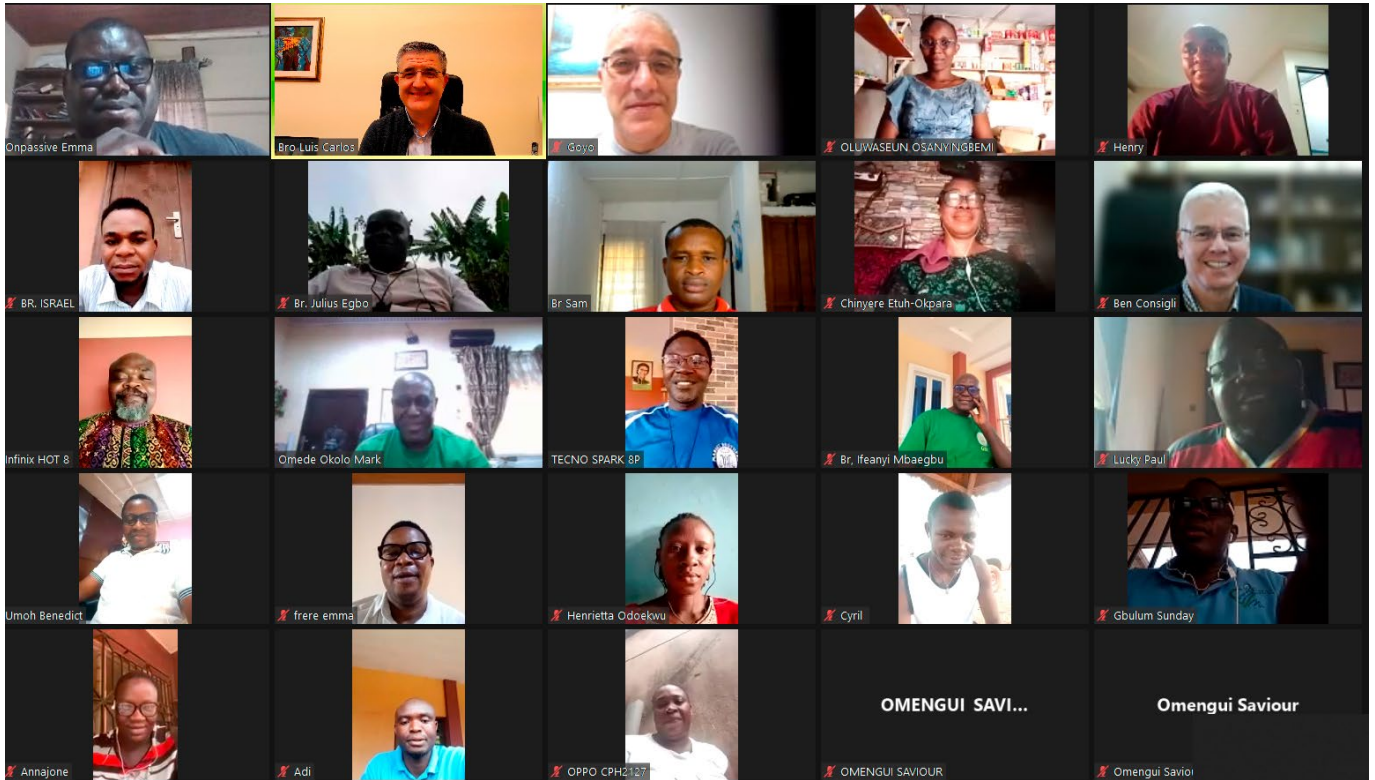
- Called by the prophetic voice that gives life.
- Called in the stages of our journey.
- Called to be with Jesus as brothers.
- Called to be formed in the values of the Kingdom.
- Called to be free and to heal.



Throughout the retreat, the Brothers experienced moments of meditation, dialogue, Eucharistic adoration and the celebration of the Easter Triduum. The last two days included two special moments as a Marist community: the remembrance of deceased Brothers and the celebration with the jubilarians.

NIGERIA

THE MARIST LEADERSHIP COURSE BEGINS IN THE PROVINCE



The Prophetic and Servant Leadership Course for leaders of the Province of Nigeria began on April 2 with an online event. The inauguration was attended by brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, Ben Consigli, general councillor, and Mark Omede, Provincial. Around 20 participants take the course that proposes 11 topics developed virtually; and an in-person session from June 24 to 28.

The course has two fundamental objectives:

- To foster, through training and accompaniment (even professional), a solidary mentality that privileges co-responsibility, transparency, efficient and effective management

and sustainability.

- To promote a leadership of service that is open and trained to meet the emerging realities of our Institute and the world.

Program's content

The Marist Leadership Formation Program will be based on the content of the book "Marist Voices" presented during the General Conference and currently being published in the 4 languages used by the Marist Institute. The program is distributed in the following blocks

- Servant Leadership: Introduction, concept and characteristics
- Servant leadership, innovation and change processes
- Servant leadership and community building (communication and interpersonal relationships).
- Servant leadership and project development (processes and tools)
- Leadership, new normality and networking
- Servant leadership, "foresight" and strategic planning
- Leadership and co-responsibility (indicator-based evaluation)
- Servant leadership, ethical and moral foundations (ethical responsibility)
- Servant leadership and sustainability.
- Servant leadership: education, mission and pastoral care
- Servant leadership, spirituality and charismatic identity.



OTHER MARIST VOICES 53 AND 54:
EMPATHY / 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 53 was written by Br. Alexandre Rakotomalala, educator and vocational promoter of the Province of Madagascar, who

addresses the theme “Empathy: a characteristic of a servant leader” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 4 of Marist Voices (Leadership of Empathy, Service and Compassion “Son, they have no wine”), written by Br. Óscar Martín Vicario.

Other Marist Voices 54 was written by Dr Mark Bussin, Director of the Marist Schools in South Africa, Province of Southern Africa, who addresses the theme “Reflections of a lay marist in South Africa about servant leadership” ([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.](#)



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<http://www.champagnat.org>

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 https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat