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MARIST NEWS

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MARIST MISSION

THE LAUNCHING OF THE DOCUMENT “IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT: MARIST EDUCATIONAL MISSION”

On the last day of the MIMA III, on April 14, 2024, the official launch of the Second Edition of “In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat: Marist Educational Mission” had taken place at El Escorial, Spain, and was attended by participants from various Marist regions and provinces. The event that featured Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Br. Kenh MacDonald and Br. Ben Consigli was organized by Br. Niño Pizarro of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization on behalf of the MIMA III preparatory commission.

The program, led by Br. Nino and Ms. Erin Kelly, from the United States, had twofold aims:



general administration

■ The course for people who accompany Brothers Dealing with Difficult Situations continues at the Generalate. This week the participants are being assisted by Renee Salinas, from Mexico. On Wednesday they take part in an audience with the Pope at the Vatican. The course, which began on April 7, ends on May 4, has 20 participants and is run by the Institute's ongoing formation team.

■ On Monday, Brothers Óscar Martín and Ken McDonald began their visit to the Southern Africa Province, which will last until May 30. During this period, they will visit communities and works in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa.

■ From Monday to Wednesday, Brother Ángel Diego Otaola, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity, was in Geneva where he held several meetings with partners in the mission: the

CCIG general secretariat; Christian Brothers and Mark Pauschmann from Parramatta Shcool in Australia.

■ On Tuesday and Wednesday, a meeting of the board of directors of the international legal entity Fraters was held in Nijmegen, Holland, with the presence of Brothers Jorge Gaio, Javier Xiné, Juan Miguel Anaya, Patrick McNamara, Robert Thunus and Goyo Linacero.

■ On Tuesday, Brother Valdicer Fachi, Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity and Cmi, met at the General House with Father Jim Greene, Executive Director of the Solidarity with South Sudan Project.

■ From Thursday until May 3, Brothers Jorge Gaio and Goyo Linacero from the General Economate will be visiting the Hermitage Province.

- to inspire all Marists of Cham-pagnat with the new edition of the document, which was viewed as a dynamic resource, capable of inspiring and encouraging all Marists to remain receptive to new realities and to interpret and apply its principles within each of the Marist mission areas;
- to foster encouragement and inspi-ration, urging all Marists of Cham-pagnat to integrate the document into their respective ministries.

The highlights of the program included the following:

- an inspirational message and the significance of the document within the Marist global community from Br. Ernesto;
- the message on the significance of the document in our Mission or ministries from Brothers Luis Carlos and Ken;
- the video presentation about the document which provided a general glimpse about the whole document;
- the message on practical strategies for effectively utilizing the newly revised document from Br. Ben; and,



- the symbolic book signing by the Superior General and the giving of hard copies to the participants that re-presented the document’s approval by the General Council and the Institute’s endorsement.

The event was formally closed by José Sánchez, director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization. The final segment of the program was the singing of the closing song, “Tu Serás Hoy Champagnat”.

In one way or another, the messages, symbolic gesture of the book signing and the community singing had helped many to be deeply moved and to realize that it was a new beginning that signifies a renewed commitment to be Champagnat today, to bring life and hope to Children and young people, wherever they may be.

You can access all the resource materials about this document here.

Photos

MEXICO

INTERPROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST PROVINCES

A total of 61 Brothers representing the Marist Provinces of México Central and México Occidental gathered from April 3-5 to celebrate together the Interprovincial Assembly at the Spacio La Valla, in the city of Guadalajara. Brother João Carlos do Prado, General Councilor link with the Arco Norte Region, participated on behalf of the General Government.

Held under the theme “From gratitude, with audacity and confidence”, the Interprovincial Assembly of Marist Mexico had as its objective that the brothers could reflect together and listen to each other about the vitality as Marist Brothers, facing the opportunities, challenges and calls, now and in the future.

During the meeting, the interprovincial teams analyzed, tested and proposed solutions on the crucial issues that concern



Mexico Central and Mexico Occidental. And together they designed a unified management scheme to move toward a prosperous future for the two provinces.

UNITED STATES

CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE



The Marist Brothers of the Province of United States held their Chapter on April 4th – 7th in Long Branch, New Jersey. Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and Br. Ken McDonald, General Councillor and link to the Arco Norte Region, were present.

Prior to the 2024 Provincial Chapter meeting, Br. Daniel O’Riordan was elected to fulfill a second three-year term as Provincial of the Marist Brothers in the United States. Br. Dan will continue as Provincial until 2027.

The participants consisted of 35 Brother delegates, 16 Lay Marists, 7 Marist Young adults, and 2 visiting Brothers. Br. Ken McDonald was elected to be the Chairperson of the Chapter and subsequently led the proceedings for each of the remaining Chapter sessions, utilizing a Synodal process.

Br. Dan O’Riordan gave his Provincial address on the first day, beginning with thanking the current Provincial Council for all of their time, energy, and effort during his first term. He highlighted the new Keepers of the Charism retreat, which has helped to fulfill “the need for all of our USA Ministries to be Centers of Evangelization.” Br. Dan also praised the ongoing efforts of the Lay Council and the Marists of Champagnat movement, the expansion of Province solidarity and ecology efforts, increased commitments to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, amongst many others.

While addressing chapter delegates, Br. Dan explained that “future leadership... is of critical importance... This will require us to be decisive and forward thinking as we plan for future generations of Marists in order to ensure that our Marist Mission and Charism will be not only maintained but fostered.” He also asked delegates to seek opportunities to engage younger Brothers when / if possible for future leadership roles.

Looking forward, Br. Dan proclaimed “... I can honestly say I am filled with great hope. Yes, there will be some challenges ahead, but let us – like Marcellin – not be afraid to meet those challenges with great confidence” and asked the group to proceed with that confidence, audacity, and hope.”

Concluding his address, Br. Dan acknowledged the critical juncture we’re at in our USA Province history. “If the next generation of Marists in our country are going to have a future, we will need to continue to take risks, informed by wisdom.” He explained that by developing and adopting new strategies and models to guarantee future Marist life will continue to move us forward.

Lay Marists from various ministries around the USA Province arrived in Long Branch on the second day. These Marist laypeople included: Alice Miesnik, Cesar Onate, Chris Sullivan, Ellen Salmi Van Cleef, Isa Douglas (MYA), Jacob Grimm, Joannina Daphnis (MYA), Karam Hallak, Erin Kelly, London Sellers

(MYA), Madeline Picou, Paulette Karas, Mary Beth Martin, Pete Marti, Richard Karsten, and Stas Stamatio.

During the Chapter the delegates voted to elect Provincial Council members to support Br. Dan throughout his next term. The new council is formed by Brothers Brian Poulin, Dominick Pujia, Donald Bisson, Hank Hammer, Owen Ormsby and Sam Amos. Br. Owen was again elected as Vice Provincial. Br. Brian was elected as a second full-time Assistant to the Provincial.

Third day’s sessions began with an address given by Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General. He began with ‘Looking Beyond’, and explained that the Provincial Chapter holds significant importance for our Province and serves as a time for us to listen to the Spirit and envision the future of Marist life and mission within our country.

He asked the group to envision the construction of a “new Hermitage” with both Brothers and Laity walking together. “It remains imperative that we continue to invest energy and dedication in nurturing Marist vocations, both among Brothers and Lay people. Let us prioritize the vocational theme without ceasing.”

In this, he asked us to establish a solid spiritual foundation – similar to a rock – because spirituality serves as the foundation upon which the entire Marist charism is built. Another foundation of the Marist charism is the care for life, encouraging us to live out our charismatic global family, providing beacons of hope in this turbulent world.

To conclude his address, Br. Ernesto outlined how we, as a Marist Institute, need to focus on five things in order to “move from the New LaValla to the New Hermitage” – spirituality, care for Marist life, leadership, reconfiguration, and co- creation with God.

After a final morning prayer, Br. Dan thanked Br. Ernesto and Br. Ken McDonald for joining the Provincial Chapter.

After Br. Ken officially concluded the 2024 USA Provincial Chapter Meeting, the group and guests gathered for a special Installation Mass celebrating Br. Dan and his new council, followed by a luncheon before leaving the retreat house.

[Report PDF](#) – [Photos](#)

marist world

CHILE: MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH PARTICIPATION NETWORK PROJECT



NIGERIA: ONGOING FORMATION COURSE FOR TEMPORARY PROFESSED BROTHERS



MARIST BROTHERS IN BOLIVIA



PROVINCIALS FROM BRAZIL AT THE POSTULANCY IN FORTALEZA



KIRIBATI: “COME AND SEE” PROGRAM IN LAVALLA, BIKENIBEU



MEDITERRÁNEA: PROVINCIAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY

UMBRASIL

The Marist Day of Our Lady Good Mother has been established in Brazil, to be celebrated annually on May 4, starting in 2024. The establishment of this date is a response to a request made by Brothers from the three Provinces of the country. The proposal was presented to the Board of UMBRASIL, approved by its Superior Council and finally validated by the Ordinary General Assembly held in February 2024.

NIGERIA

The Marist Province of Nigeria had promoted a course on ongoing formation of the temporary professed Brothers at the Provincialate, Enugu, from 14th April to 17th April 2024. This was to strengthen their Vocation and Mission in this challenging era. Among the people accompanying the young Brothers were Br. Vitus Osuji - Director of Ongoing formation and Sr. Agbo Modesta (Mother General - Marist Daughters of Jesus the Good Shepherd).

IBÉRICA

A group of 65 Brothers and Lay people of the Province met in Toledo to share a day of formation and encounter with the theme "Tomorrow will have your eyes: what Church will have a future?". The participants enjoyed various spaces for meeting, dialogue and reflection. The day ended with the celebration of the Eucharist.

NORANDINA

At the end of last week, with 40 participants, the National Assembly of the Marist Laity of Venezuela was held in Los Teques. The purpose of the meeting was to give continuity to the lay processes that are being generated in the Marist works, to learn more about the lay Marist vocation and to be in tune with the echoes of the III MIMA. The meeting was attended by Brother Orlando Escobar, provincial animator.

OTHER MARIST VOICES 57 AND 58:

**MISSION DEVELOPMENT
MARIST PRESENCE**

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 57 was written by Br. Germain Bery Beda, School leader in Ivory Coast – Province of West Africa. He addresses the theme "Nurturing the Flame: Servant Leadership in Mission Development" ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 12 of Marist Voices (How Many Loaves do You Have?), written by Br. Hipólito Pérez.

Other Marist Voices 58 was written by Alberto Libera, responsible for mission of Santa María de los Andes Province, and the Region of South America. He addresses the theme "Marist presence and servant leadership" ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 2 of Marist Voices (The Importance of Presence in Marist Leadership), written by Br. Ernesto Sanchez.

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

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



On April 18, the entire Institute celebrated the 25th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. Many activities were promoted in different communities and the various posts on social networks, using the hashtag #Champagnat25, testify to the involvement of the Marist family in celebrating the charism that Saint Marcellin left for the Church.

A special celebration was also held at the General House, presided over by Father John Larsen, Superior General of the Marist Fathers, and attended by many Marists, Brothers from all over the world, Sisters from Marist congregations and other guests. The group of formators taking part in the formation program in Manziana led the liturgical celebration. A group of Marist pilgrims from Australia was also present.

The celebration concluded with the words of Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, which we transcribe below.

Photos

I thank Fr. John Larsen for his presence, as well as the Marist Sisters and Marist Missionary Sisters, and all the Brothers and Lay Marists of Champagnat.

It is a pleasure to celebrate together the 25th anniversary of the canonization of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

We have received the gift of the Marist charism and we are invited to keep it alive and up to date in our time.

We are encouraged by the life of Marcellin, a simple man, who lived with great trust in God and in Mary our Good Mother. He was a man attentive to the needs of children and young people. Pope John Paul II said on the day of his canonization:

“St Marcellin proclaimed the Gospel with a burning heart. He was sensitive to the spiritual and educational needs of his time, especially to religious ignorance and the situations of neglect experienced in a particular way by the young”.

Marcellin had the ability to “look beyond” because he was able to listen in his heart to the intuitions of the Spirit. This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the construction of the house of N. D. de l’Hermitage.

In what way are we encouraged today by the example of his life and holiness?

Twenty-five years ago he was declared a saint for the Church and for the world. Like him, we are invited to follow Jesus, like Mary, living fraternity and giving ourselves to the service of children and young people, particularly those most in



need. The Pope also said that day:

“Let us ask the Lord to give us a heart that burns like that of Marcellin Champagnat, to recognize him and to be his witnesses”.

Champagnat, “A heart that knows no bounds” continues to encourage us to walk together as a global Marist family.

Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General
18 April 2024

SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART

MESSAGE FROM THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAM

From January 31 to February 22, 51 participants have been in Florianópolis, Brazil Centro-Sul, in the Spirituality of the Heart program, organized by the Institute's permanent formation team. To conclude, the participants, wanted to share with the entire Institute the message that we reproduce below.

At the end of the experience lived in Florianópolis during the Spirituality of the Heart program, the 51 lay people and brothers from different provinces of the Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking Institute, heartily welcome the question: "What dream does God have for the Marist charism in our days and in the future? And what role are we called to play in that dream?" (Cf. Homes of Light) to let some intuitions emerge from our grateful hearts that guide our lives and orient us to continue growing in our vocation and spirituality:

We, lay people and brothers, Marists of Champagnat:

- We know ourselves to be seekers of God, which inspires us to live a culture of care – for ourselves, for others and for our common home.
- We desire to live connected and aware of the constant presence of God in our lives and in our history.
- We feel called to cultivate an embodied and inspiring spirituality of the heart, which is salt and light where we are.
- We want to be like a torch of God that burns from availability and inner search, fueled by silence and listening, that illuminates our vocation to be present among children and young people.
- We have the desire to be multiplying instruments, caring for interiority, and promoting experiences of search and encounter with God.
- We wish to continue experiencing and giving personal and community testimony of the love, compassion, and tenderness of God through our hearts as disciples of Jesus.
- We believe that today it is necessary to build bridges and establish meaningful connections between our lives and what the world needs, between what we experience deep within our being and the people close to us, in each community and in the common home.
- We dream of transforming the experience of love with



God into a heart-to-heart dialogue with our brothers and sisters.

And because we want our lives to be centered on following Jesus, we passionately live the Gospel to be:

- Close face of God's mercy expressed in closeness, accompaniment, and commitment, especially with the most needy and vulnerable who are on the margins of life.
- Marists with an open heart and passionate about the charism that we have inherited.
- Committed to the dedication of our being in favor of the construction of the Kingdom of God from the small details and in the style of Champagnat.
- Developing an attitude of compassion and joy, following in the footsteps of Mary and Marcellin.
- Privileging formation and education in interiority through experience and recognition of the presence of God that inhabits us and transcends us.
- Promoting experiences and initiatives for the good of others, being happy, and making happy those we meet along our path.
- Living an attitude of attentive listening like Mary, our Good Mother, who accompanies us in following Jesus, and calls us to care, with a heart full of affection and respect, for impoverished and vulnerable children and young people.

Therefore, we will continue to seek the necessary means to cultivate a spirituality of the heart, centered on Christ, that fills us with joy and makes us inclusive and helps us connect with our Marist origins.

Florianópolis, February 22, 2024

MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL AND CENTRAL

MEETING OF FRATERNITIES OF THE CMMF



The Fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (CMMF) of the Provinces of México Central and México Occidental held their XXVII National Meeting from April 12 to 14 in San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco, México, under the motto “listening with love, responding with audacity to the Marist mission”. Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, sent a fraternal message to all the participants.

Brothers Provincial Luis Enrique Santana (México Occidental) and Luis Felipe González (México Central) were present, as well as some brothers who accompanied the lay men and women. During the days of the meeting, the fraternities shared their experiences, held various workshops and conferences, had moments of prayer and Eucharist. And they made a pilgrimage, all together, to the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos.

CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT OF THE MARIST FAMILY

In 1985, the 18th General Chapter of the Marist Brothers, becoming aware of the richness of sharing the Marist charism with lay people, launched the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family.

Article 164.4 of the Brothers' Constitutions defines its identity: The Superior General of the Marist Institute, in coordination with the leadership structures of the Movement, ensures that it remains true to the spirit and tradition of Champagnat.

Fraternities are the fundamental units of the Champagnat Movement. A fraternity is a small community, whose members meet regularly to share life and faith in a family atmosphere, cultivate their Marist vocation, deepen the experience of God, and develop their commitment to life and to the world.

Each member is responsible for the life of his/her fraternity. The members are always ready to invite and welcome those wanting to join the Movement. While respecting lay leadership in the fraternities, the participation of brothers is a great richness. Their presence as traveling companions is a tender image of the Marian way of accompanying and encouraging shared life.



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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