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MARIST NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION

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SPAIN, APRIL 8-14, 2024

III MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY

After a period of preparation in the communities and in the Administrative Units, 120 delegates from the Administrative Units, members of the General Administration, representatives of networks, regions and other invited people gathered at the San José exercise house, in El Escorial, Spain, from April 8 to 14, 2024, to participate in the Marist International Mission Assembly. The motto was “We are a global family.”

The Superior General and his Council, together with the Administrative Units and other Marist entities, promote the development of the International Mission Assembly: a shared and representative space for all Marists, brothers and laypeople, committed to mission. Essentially, it is an opportunity to share experiences, listen to reality, discern priorities and propose guidelines and strategies for Marist life and mission at the global level.

(Constitutions and Statutes 119.3)



Known as MIMA, this was the third edition: the first took place in 2007 in Mendes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the motto “One heart, one mission”; the second in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2014, with the motto “New Marists on mission”.



MESSAGE FROM THE 3RD MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY

We are a global family, we are brothers and sisters,
we are your eyes and ears, your arms and your heart.
In the mission of Marcellin Champagnat.

To you, Marists of Champagnat:

Last Sunday, March 31, 2024, we proclaimed the resurrection of Christ: He lives, hallelujah! A week later, from April 8 to 14, 120 Marists from different parts of the world left their families, communities and ordinary life to celebrate the Third International Assembly of the Marist Mission, MIMA III, in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain.

Following the example of the women of the Gospel who promptly went to the tomb and found it empty, we have gathered to encounter the living Christ and to confirm our choice for dignity and peace, even in the midst of the painful realities that we live in today: violence, war, poverty, inequality.

Convinced of being a global family, Marists of Champagnat from Australia to New Zealand, from Canada to Patagonia, from Liberia to Madagascar, from Lebanon to Korea, from Portugal to Greece, we have brought the voices, concerns, and dreams of all our administrative units, and we have shared the richness of Marist life and mission in very diverse realities. In every corner where there is Marist life, we sing again and again: "We are brothers and sisters, we are your eyes and ears, your arms and your heart in the mission, Champagnat."

MIMA III was an experience for the entire Marist Institute: spaces for reflection and sharing were opened in the administrative units to recognize reality, our dreams, and possible paths of vitality. Supported with 4 previously designed worksheets, many groups made significant contributions: brothers, teachers, young people, fraternities, teams, families, and people committed to the Marist mission. This wealth served as the foundation to give meaning to the International Assembly.

Some considerations helped us guide the reflection in the Assembly:

- Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, reminded us of the audacity of our founder to build L'Hermitage at a critical moment, his deep trust in God, and the solidity of his project. Like him, we are called to look beyond, trust in Mary, and walk together as a global family.
- Br. José Abel Muñoz Gutiérrez, Provincial of Iberica, warmly welcomed all of us and encouraged us to embody the pedagogies of smile, care and slowness in Marist mission.
- Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, encouraged us to look with gratitude at the past, be faithful to the present, and build together with a global perspective. We are an apostolic Institute; therefore, our mission is part of our vocation.
- Br. José Sánchez, director of the secretariat of Education and Evangelization and coordinator of the Assembly, urged us to find the reasons why Champagnat would reestablish the Institute today.
- Sister Lilibian Franco, president of the CLAR, reminded us of some fundamental elements of the Church: attentive listening, a clear vision grounded in reality, community complementarity, authentic relationships, and passionate commitment.
- Mr. Luis Arancibia, from the Jesuit family, invited us to maintain hope in the face of today's world of contrasts and transformations from a compassionate, contemplative, civic, and conscious perspective.
- Finally, Brs. Ben Consigli, General Councillor and Jorge Gaio, Econome General, highlighted on our institutional option for vitality, viability, and sustainability, being aware of the challenges and risks we face.

With these elements and with the wealth that we brought from our local and provincial contexts, we opened dialogue to recognize different realities, analyze them with a perspective of hope, and to dream of the future of the charism more in line with the fullness of God.

We begin by focusing on the main global realities that currently harm the lives of children and young people: the violation of their fundamental rights in different contexts, the vulnerability of their development in vital situations, uncertainty in the face of ecological deterioration, the fragility of their comprehensive well-being encompassing emotional, physical, and mental health, the search for one's own identity, the impact of technology, the need for participation and protagonism, and young people in border situations.

From these realities, we found the fundamental elements to define 7 priorities as general fields of option for us, namely:

1. Quality Marist evangelizing education, which forms the world and is transformative.
2. Promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth.
3. Marist spirituality as a source of meaning and care for life.
4. Participation and commitment of children, adolescents, and young people, through spaces for active and sensitive listening.
5. Caring for family relationships to nourish children and young people.
6. Caring for our common home.
7. Promotion of mental health, well-being, and comprehensive care of people.

Finally, we complement these priorities with some guidelines and suggestions for strategies that allow us to focus efforts and globally boost our attention.

The image of L'Hermitage has accompanied us all these days. Much more than a simple building, Marcellin built a home and a space to welcome the Marist family that was beginning to develop. There he gathered the brothers, and from there they went on a mission. In the same way, we have experienced a Hermitage in this International Mission Assembly: we feel safe because of the foundations and its solidity, we have opened the doors and windows, the Gier refreshes us with its vital passage, and it drives us to go out on the mission with a renewed spirit.

And especially, from the same image, we look at the entire world: we have spoken as communities and not as individuals, we have listened carefully to the voices of others

as sacred ground, we have reflected, and we have given a global response. Like those on the road to Emmaus, it is now time to return home and experience what we have seen and heard.

Thanks to Br. Abel Muñoz, Provincial, and the Marist Province of Ibérica for receiving us and taking care of us; these days we felt truly at home. Thanks to countless details that accompanied us: a song, the Eucharist, a video, the graphic record, a prayer, a dance, chocolate (and more chocolate!), the translations, a digital message... everything contributed to the success of the Assembly. Thanks to the La Salle family, the Marist Sisters, and the Marist Missionary Sisters for their positive and pastoral presence. Deep thanks to the preparatory commission that planned, organized, and accompanied every moment: the Assembly fulfilled its goal, largely because of their good work.

We are aware that there are great challenges, and that we must continue walking together. We are encouraged by the conviction to recognise ourselves as brothers and sisters, adding our voices and our actions in favor of a world worthy of all. The Marist mission depends both on the brothers from their choice of being consecrated and on the laypeople, women, and men, who choose to integrate the charism of Saint Marcellin into their life project. We want to look further, continue dreaming, and build on solid rock, as Champagnat did with L'Hermitage.

In 2007, MIMA I was held in Mendes, Brazil, South America. There we confirmed our conviction of being "one heart, one mission." In 2014, the fire of MIMA II spread from Nairobi, Kenya, Africa, to all latitudes with the call to be "new Marists in mission." We have now participated in MIMA III from El Escorial, Spain, Europe, to encourage the Institute to strengthen its mission and illuminate the decisions that will be made in the XXIII General Chapter, to be held in Manila, Philippines, Asia. We are not alone: Mary, Our Good Mother, holds us in her tender arms. It is not our project but hers; it is she who guides our gaze and our options.

With the deep joy of understanding each other's diversity, internationality, and multiculturalism, we sing once again: WE ARE A GLOBAL FAMILY.

Participants in MIMA III
April 2024

APRIL 8TH, MONDAY

ASSEMBLY OPENING

[Photos](#) | [Interviews](#) | [Video of the day](#)

Laypeople from the 25 administrative units of the Institute, arrived in Escorial, Spain, on Sunday 7 April to attend the III Marist International Mission Assembly. They represent all the various activities of the Institute, from the General Administration to the Marist networks of the Marist Sisters, Marist Missionary Sisters and De La Salle.

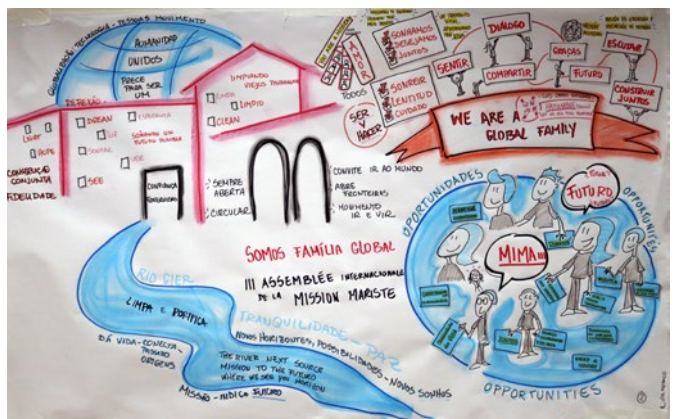
The first day of the Assembly, was dedicated to welcome and settling in, with dynamics aimed at familiarizing the group with the spaces of the house and getting to know each other. The participants were divided into 11 tables, which was a privileged space for reflection and experience throughout the week.



Br. Pepe Sánchez, director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization, opened the meeting. Then, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, welcomed the participants, gave some indications for the work ahead, and provided motivation for the group: "The Marist charism, transmitted to us through Marcellin and the first Brothers, as well as through all the Brothers and lay people who have lived and transmitted it for more than 200 years, remains a gift for us today. We are invited to live it in depth, adapting it to today's context and to continue to share it and pass it on to succeeding generations." Br. Ernesto also recalled how the first day of the Assembly coincided with the Solemnity of the Annunciation, given that March 25 coincided with Holy Week: "As Marists, Mary inspires us in our life and

mission. At the Annunciation, she was able to hear God's call and generously said her "yes", even when not everything was clear" ([read the full text, in Spanish](#)).

Br. Abel Muñoz, Provincial of Iberia, host of the MIMA, also took the floor. He invited the participants to keep in mind 3 pedagogical keys for the implementation of the Marist charism: the pedagogy of the smile, the pedagogy of care and the pedagogy of slowness ([full text in Spanish](#)). "I invite you to be bold to look to the future, to anticipate the newness, to accept the hand that the companion offers us, to let the God of Jesus enlighten us and show us the way: 'I am with you every day,'" concluded Br. Abel.



Summary of the day drawn by Luciane Lewis Xerxenevsky

Brother Alex Mena, from the Preparatory Commission, coordinated the next stage.

After some practical indications about the house and day to day matters and some moments of presentations, the participants gathered by regions before lunch. Each region received a piece of the MIMA logo (Hermitage, doors, windows and Gier) and was invited to reflect on what it could mean for the Marist mission. The regions had the task of drafting a short message linked to the logo piece to stimulate the Assembly.

After lunch and a break, the group continued settling in, this time working at tables. The 11 groups were asked two questions: How do you feel about putting the dream of Marist mission into practice? What opportunities are there in your own local situation that might be an inspiration to the whole Institute? In this regard, each group chose two opportunities and presented them to the plenary session.

Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, was also invited to address the audience. He recalled the apostolic nature of the Institute and stressed that our

mission is multifaceted, inviting the participants to describe the different faces of mission in the Institute. He also emphasized the gift of the lay Marist vocation, which is not only a demographic reality, but a reality of the Spirit. "The presence of laypeople is not a simple matter of necessity, but a reality that goes beyond," said Br. Luis Carlos ([full text in Spanish](#)).

The day ended with the celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Pedro Garcia, chaplain of the MIMA.



PREPARATORY COMMISSION

Appointed in December 2022, the commission met for the first time online on February 17, 2023. Thanks to other meetings held in succession, they successfully organized and conducted the El Escorial meeting. They were assisted by Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, Ben Consigli and Ken McDonald, General Councilors, General Government links to the Mission Area.

The members of the commission in charge of preparing this event are: Alejandro Mena Goldaraz (Ibérica), Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola (General Administration – Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity), Fatima Rodríguez Gonçalves (Brasil Centro-Norte), Javier Llamas (General Administration – Project Manager of the Champagnat Global Network), Br. José Sanchez Bravo (General Administration – Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization), María del Socorro Alvarez (México Central), Mark Elliot (Star of the Sea), Br. Maurice Juvence (Madagascar), Monica Villacis (Norandina), Br. Nino Mayor Pizarro (Co-director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization) and Br. Warnakulasuriya Marian Madushan Sasmika (South Asia).



APRIL 9TH, TUESDAY

DISCOVERING THE REALITY OF THE INSTITUTE AND THE CHURCH



[Photos](#) | [Video of the day](#) | [Interviews](#)

The second day of the **MIMA** had the verb “to discover” as its leitmotiv and sought to explore the context of our lives, both in the Institute and in the Church.

The day began with a prayer led by the Region of Oceania, which proposed a reflection on “the slow work of God”. The day’s work was then coordinated by Brothers Niño Pizarro, Assistant Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, and Ángel Diego García Otaola, Director of the Secretariat for Solidarity. After recapping the first day of the assembly, the floor was given to Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General.



BR. ERNESTO: WE ARE A GLOBAL FAMILY

Br Ernesto's talk was entitled “We are a global family”. He reviewed the work done in recent years, especially the orientations given by the last General Chapter, which were incorporated into the Strategic Plan of the current General Government. He then asked the group: “From your experience, what has been of help to you in the Marist Global Family? What challenges are you facing?”

The Superior General also took advantage of the context of the celebration of the bicentenary of the building of the Hermitage to reflect on the foundations of the Institute, “the firmness of the rock”, and Champagnat’s courage to look beyond. St Marcellin was able to do this by “listening to and following the intuitions that the Spirit was prompting in his heart. And, at the same time, by trusting that all that was happening and being accomplished was not his own work, but the work of God and of Mary”. The recollection of the construction of Notre-Dame de l’Hermitage will be the backdrop of the next General Chapter. In view of this, Br. Ernesto asked the participants to reflect on what firm rock I should personally stand on and what foundations we need as a Global Marist Family. He also asked: What does it mean for us today to replicate the construction experience of Marcellin and the first brothers? And he recalled two aspects that he had already suggested in the Circular “Homes of Light”: spirituality, the fundamental pillar left to us by Champagnat, and caring for life.

SISTER LILIANA: SINODALITY, RELIGIOUS LIFE, AND PROPHECY

The second presentation of the morning was given by Sister Liliana Franco, president of CLAR, who helped the group to “listen to the current reality of the Church”. Her presentation was entitled “Challenges for the Church today: synodality, religious life and prophecy”. In this task, she highlighted 5 keys that she considers essential: the art of listening, looking at reality contemplatively, unlearning anti-gospel practices, moving into new existential and geographical situations, missionary outreach with an inter-congregational and intercultural approach.

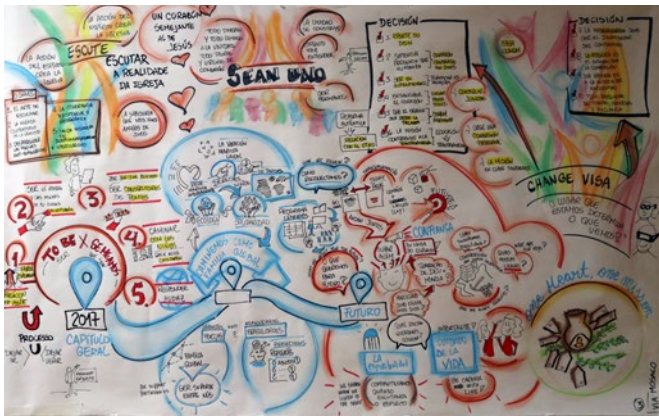
Sister Liliana finally said that “in the light of our current ecclesial reality, the Church has some decisions to make”. And she pointed out that the necessary decisions and attitudes are:

1. To allow people to bring their individual gifts as inspired by the Spirit.
2. With hearts centred on God, to be a wisdom presence that fosters greater humanity.
3. To be genuine, to be with others, and to allow grace to flow in freedom.
4. To widen our hearts until there is room for everybody.
5. That our ministry be based on the Word of God that gives it meaning and structure and opens up prospects for renewal and commitment.
6. That our mission promotes transformation.
7. That mercy be the driving force of our commitment.
8. That listening be the soft voice that leads to conversion.
9. That the call be to foster a culture, a mystique of encounter
10. That everything takes time, steps and patience



The afternoon’s work began with an explanation of the methodology used in the meeting. Marcelo De Moraes Cordeiro, who accompanies the strategic planning of the Brasil Sul-Amazon Province, was the facilitator and explained to the participants the three methodological approaches that accompanied the work sessions:

- 1. Appreciative Inquiry:** is an approach to organisational change that invites us to explore the riches of our past and present, acknowledging the practices and relationships that motivate us. >>



Summary of the day drawn by Luciane Lewis Xerxenevsky



Then, instead of diagnosing and correcting problems, the approach encourages the members of the organisation to collectively imagine and build a desirable and inspiring future. It follows a four-phase process: Discovery, Dream, Design and Delivery. By adopting this approach, we strengthen our identity, promote a positive and inspiring organisational culture, and advance our mission of transforming lives through education and solidarity.

2. **U Theory:** is based on a process of deep personal learning and change involving three main dimensions: open mind, open heart and open will.
3. **“Conversations in the Spirit”:** is the methodology developed and implemented along the journey of the Synod and presents a type of dialogue in which the Spirit can blow freely and encourage meaningful and transformative conversations.

The second part of the afternoon was devoted to revisiting the two reflections made in the morning. First of all, the participants reflected personally, putting their heart, mind and will into it, helped by some questions:

1. What feelings did I experience when listening to these talks (heart)?
2. What reflections aroused or stimulated me (mind)?
3. What do you have a sense of opening up as possible Marist mission in the future (will)?

After the personal reflection, each group expressed its own conclusions, which were then shared in the plenary session.

Marian prayer concluded the day’s work and, after dinner, there was a cultural evening with games, songs and dances organised by the regions of Oceania and Africa.

SAN JOSÉ HOUSE OF EXERCISES

MIMA was held at the San José House of Exercises, a space that the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts makes available to anyone who needs it for retreats, spiritual exercises or congresses. The house is located in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, where there is also a well-known Marist formation center, not big enough to accommodate the 120 MIMA participants. The highlight of the city is the monastery and visiting it is a way of immersing yourself in the history of Spain, especially the reign of Philip II.



APRIL 10TH, WEDNESDAY

LISTENING TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES



Photo albums: [Group photos](#) | [Photos of the day](#) | [Summary video of the day](#)

Interviews – Today's reality: [Br. Daren](#) | [Erin](#) | [Br. Domingo](#) | [José Antonio](#) | [Salomey](#) | [Br. Marcelo](#)

They continued the work of discovering the challenges that reality poses for the future of the Institute, paying attention to the trends of the present time. The Arco Norte Region took charge of the day, starting with the morning prayer.

The day was opened by Luis Arancibia Tapia, delegate for the social sector of the Spanish Province of the Society of Jesus. The title of his talk was “Riches and challenges of today’s world for the Marist Mission”. He underlined the importance of sharpening the way we look at reality, because the way in which we observe the world shapes the way in which we will intervene. So, we have to “learn to look at reality” in a way that is conscious, compassionate, contemplative and transformative. Luis then proposed the dynamic of seeing, judging and acting. Linked to the task of “seeing”, he highlighted six trends of our time:

- A world in transformation and constant change
- A global capitalist economy: one that kills
- A culture of late modernity. A throwaway culture.
- Failing governments. Useless politics.

- A secular world? The religious.
- A world of contrasts

He then posed 4 questions for discernment, accompanied by 4 images, to help us judge:

- Will the poor and excluded have a place to live in dignity? (The image of the Good Samaritan: carrying, taking charge and taking care of reality);
- Will we be able to live together? (The image of the Shared Table);
- Will our world be sustainable? (The image of the Garden of Creation: our Common Home);
- Will there be people who will sustain faith and hope? (The image of the Good Shepherd: lives committed to giving life)

In the third moment, which represents “acting”, Luis described some so-called ‘global’ areas: spirituality, community building, human mobility (migrants and refugees), women and gender equality, care for our Common Home. . . .

This reflection was the starting point for the work that followed, first on a personal level, reflecting on what had been said, and then in small groups. The most salient points were shared in the plenary session before lunch.

DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES

In the afternoon, the proposal of the Preparatory Commission was to ask participants to draw up a list of needs and challenges perceived by Marists of Champagnat at the Assembly, taking into account the interventions they had heard so far, and in the light of their own experience. Through personal, group and plenary reflection, they have a heightened awareness of the situations that are harming the lives of children and young people. Each of the 11 groups presented 2 answers.



The last working session of the day was coordinated by Fátima Rodrigues Gonçalves, from the Preparatory Commission. She summarised the work done by the Administrative Units during the local phase prior to the Assembly and highlighted the challenges and needs, strategies, emerging realities and dreams identified by the different groups who conducted the pre-Assembly preparation process.

Marian prayer closed the third day of MIMA.



Summary of the day drawn by Luciane Lewis Xerxenevsky

APRIL 11TH, THURSDAY

DISCERNING PRIORITIES FOR THE MISSION



[Photos](#) | [Summary video of the day](#)

The participants began Thursday in prayer, giving thanks for the journey made by the Marist mission, putting the day's work in God's hands.

After a time of meditation, Brothers Ben Consigli, General Councillor, and Jorge Gaio, Bursar General, motivated the work of the assembly by speaking about the path of vitality and viability of the Marist mission for sustainability, emphasising the situations in the Institute that need to be kept in mind. The Brothers began by asking the Assembly, what do we mean by vitality and viability for generating sustainability? And they highlighted the scope of each of them.

Vitality:

- Refers to the energy, passion, and dynamism that drive Marist organizations and individuals to live out their charism and mission with enthusiasm and purpose.
- Encompasses the vibrancy and life-giving spirit that infuses all aspects of Marist life, including education, pastoral care, and community living.
- Ensures that the Marist mission remains relevant, engaging, and responsive to the needs of the times, inspiring others to join in the mission and carry it forward with zeal.

Viability:

- Relates to the capacity of Marist organizations to thrive and flourish in the long term.
- Involves sound financial management, effective governance structures, and strategic planning processes that enable adaptation, growth and sustainability over time.
- Ensures that Marist ministries are able to fulfill their mission and serve the needs of their communities while remaining faithful to Marist values and principles.

Sustainability:

- Emphasizes the stewardship of resources and the responsible care of the environment, as well as the social and economic well-being of individuals and communities.
- Involves fostering practices that promote justice, solidarity, and the common good, ensuring that the benefits of Marist mission reach both present and future generations.
- Ensures that the impact of Marist ministries is lasting and transformative, contributing to the building of a more just and compassionate world in line with Marist values and spirituality.

They then indicated some challenges to sustainability, which in summary are: globalisation, external influences (economic

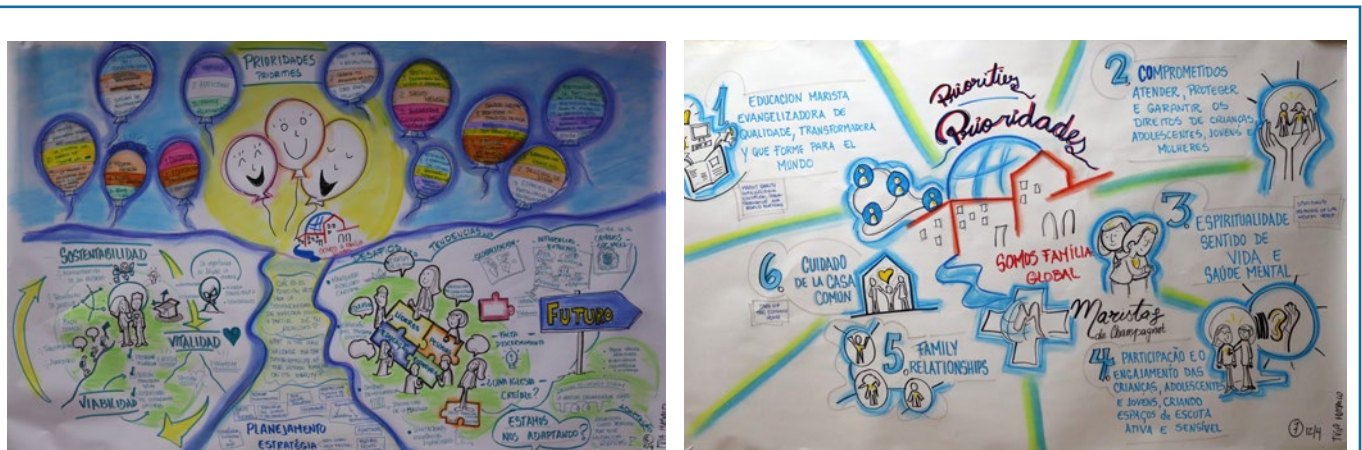
downturns, political instability, natural disasters and pandemics), social changes (poverty, inequality, migration, environmental degradation and social justice), technological advances, and lack of discernment. They also pointed to other trends affecting sustainability: mission drift, developments in the educational landscape, demographic changes, economic and financial constraints, governance and leadership transitions.

Brothers Ben and Jorge called attention to resistance to change, by sticking to old organisational practices that do not help the mission. They concluded by stating that “addressing these challenges requires strategic planning, collaboration, and a commitment to Marist values and principles, as well as flexibility, adaptability, and innovation in responding to evolving needs and circumstances.”

Following this reflection, the group summarised the indications of the pre-assembly phase and each of the tables was given the task of selecting 3 priorities that should be taken up by the Institute as a whole.

The set of 33 priorities selected was the starting point for the afternoon’s work, the aim of which was to choose the priorities on which the Institute will work in the coming years.

The Eucharistic celebration crowned the day’s work.



Summary of the day drawn by Luciane Lewis Xerxenevsky

APRIL 12TH, FRIDAY

DREAMS, GUIDELINES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE MISSION

[Photos](#) | [Featured videos: Marisa Temporão | Diogo Galline | Summary video of the day](#)

The Region of Europe led the prayer that opened the work in memory of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, who, seeing the reality, looked beyond... The day was dedicated to refining the priorities and establishing, from them, the dreams for the future of the Marist mission.



Six priorities had been defined on the previous day. These can be described simply as follows: (1) education that evangelises ; (2) the rights of children, adolescents, young people and women; (3) Marist spirituality; (4) the active participation of children, adolescents and young people; (5) caring for family relationships; (6) caring for our Common Home. The first part of the morning was devoted to dialogue on the chosen themes, trying to define them more clearly.

The next stage was devoted to dreams. Marcelo de Moraes, who helped facilitate the process, emphasized that participants

need to imagine “lucid dreams”, in other words, not just any dreams, but dreams related to the chosen priorities. The preparatory commission has read the reports sent by the Administrative Units and identified 63 dreams. It was up to each of the 11 groups, through personal meditation and conversation, to identify those that relate to the priorities and to select three priority dreams to respond to the prioritised challenges.

The afternoon was devoted to the task of suggesting guidelines and strategies that could be pursued at the level of the Institute to address the priorities validated by the Assembly. The starting

point of this exercise was the synthesis produced from the input received from the provinces. Following the same path, individually, in groups and in plenary session, the participants were invited to revisit the work done on our current reality and dreams and to indicate ways to bring these to fruition. The various suggestions were collected and the discernment process will continue on Saturday.

The work ended with evening prayer, which was led by the Europe Region. After dinner, there was a cultural evening, with presentations by the Administrative Units of America and Asia.



APRIL 13TH, SATURDAY

DISCERNING GUIDELINES AND STRATEGIES

[Potos](#) | [Videos: Sr. Cristina, SMSM | Fr. Pedro García | Sr. Anna Khady, SM](#) | [Video of the day](#)

The penultimate day of the Marist International Mission Assembly was opened by Mark Elliott, from the Preparatory Commission, who led the morning prayer. Then the work of defining guidelines and strategies for the implementation of the priorities chosen continued.

On Friday, the participants dedicated themselves to indicating guidelines and strategies for the implementation of the priorities. Each group made several suggestions. The preparatory committee grouped all the proposed guidelines under the 6 priorities defined the previous day. And the strategies were grouped according to the guidelines. Many ideas emerged and Saturday morning was dedicated to identifying the most effective ones for the Marist mission, which will be taken up as Assembly and Institute-wide proposals.

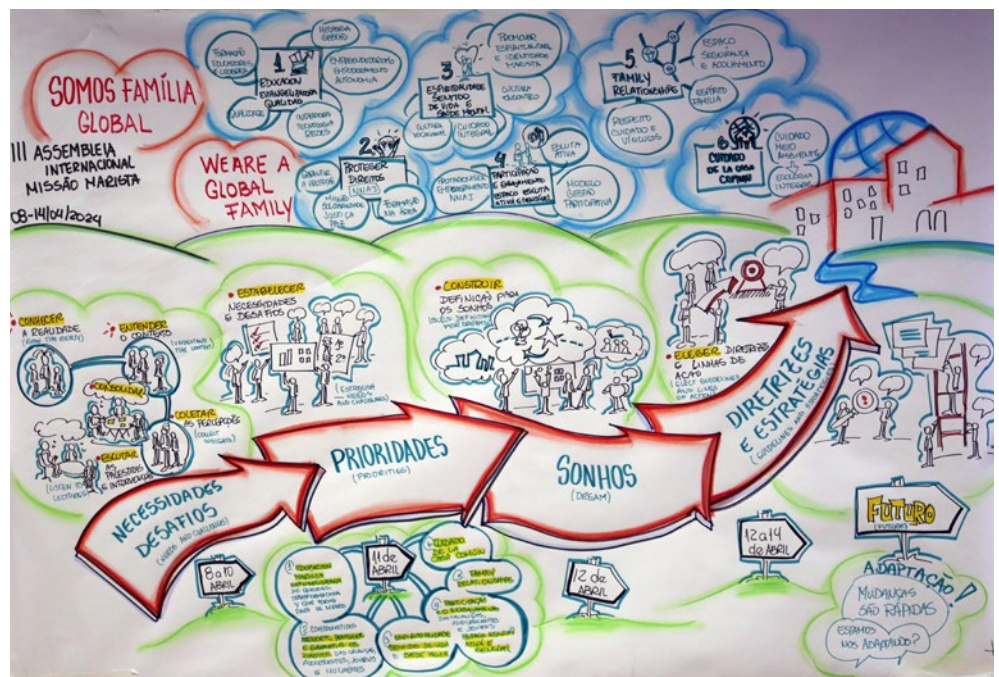
The discernment process, following the methodology of the previous days, was marked by “conversation in the Spirit”: personal reflection, dialog at the tables and sharing in the plenary.

There was also an important change in the priorities. Priority number three had been defined as “Marist spirituality”. In this priority, a broader aspect was included, relating to the “meaning of life”, a theme that is very much felt in the school environment and which causes difficulties inherent in mental health, something that came up repeatedly in the conversations. The participants noted that “spirituality” might not reveal this reality in an obvious way. It was therefore decided to add “Mental Health” as the seventh priority.



At the end of the morning, Brother José Sánchez, from the Preparatory Commission, considering the large number of suggestions and contributions made by the participants, asked the participants to entrust the commission, which took on the task of drafting a proposal for the final document.

There were no other activities during the day. In the afternoon, while a group of participants worked on the draft document to be discussed on the last day of MIMA, most of the participants took the opportunity to visit the surroundings of the Assembly venue, especially the [Real Monasterio de San Lorenzo de El Escorial](#)



Summary of the day drawn by Luciane Lewis Xerxenevsky

APRIL 14TH, SUNDAY

CONCLUSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

[Photos of the day](#) | [Photos of the document launch](#) | [Greetings video](#) | [More about MIMA](#)

At the start of the proceedings, Br José Sánchez, of the Preparatory Commission, invited Correen Paul, from the Council of the Lasallian Association and Educational Mission, to share a few words about his presence at MIMA. Brother recalled the affinity of the mission and charism of the two congregations and underlined the common journey of the two charismatic families. Correen, for his own part, expressed his thanks for being invited and highlighted the solidarity of the De La Salle world with the mission of helping those most in need through education: “This is indeed the mission of the Brothers and partners of La Salle, grounded in faith, service and community”.

Then, after practical information about the last day of the Assembly and home journeys, Marcelo, the facilitator, took the floor and indicated the morning’s work. This consisted in examining the draft prepared the day before by the Preparatory Commission for the Final Message to be sent to the whole Institute. It was pointed out that it is a document which, by its very nature, is limited in scope and does not reflect all the realities and vital expressions of Marist mission worldwide. It is a map, which does not always capture the territory in its totality; life is richer than a document. Although efforts were made to reach consensus through ‘conversations in the Spirit’, some situations might have wanted to be more clearly present in the text. All participants were aware of this limitation.

The document is organized according to the priorities pointed out by the assembly, consisting of a title, a description, and associated themes.

After approving the final document, the Assembly



7 PRIORITIES:

1. **Quality Marist Evangelizing Education that shapes the world and is transformative.**
2. **Promotion and Protection of Children and Youth Rights**
3. **Marist Spirituality as a source of meaning and care for life**
4. **Participation and engagement of children, adolescents, and youth through spaces of active and sensitive listening**
5. **Care of Family Relationships to nurture children and youth**
6. **Care of our Common Home**
7. **Promotion of mental health, well-being, and comprehensive care of people**

also decided to send a message from the participants to the whole Institute. The message was read at the assembly and is addressed “To you, Marists of Champagnat”. It begins like this:

We are a global family, we are brothers and sisters,

we are your eyes and ears, your arms and your heart.

in the mission of Marcellin Champagnat.

The final document and message will be published in the coming days.

Once this phase was completed, participants were divided into regions with the task of identifying what strategies and resources could be devised to



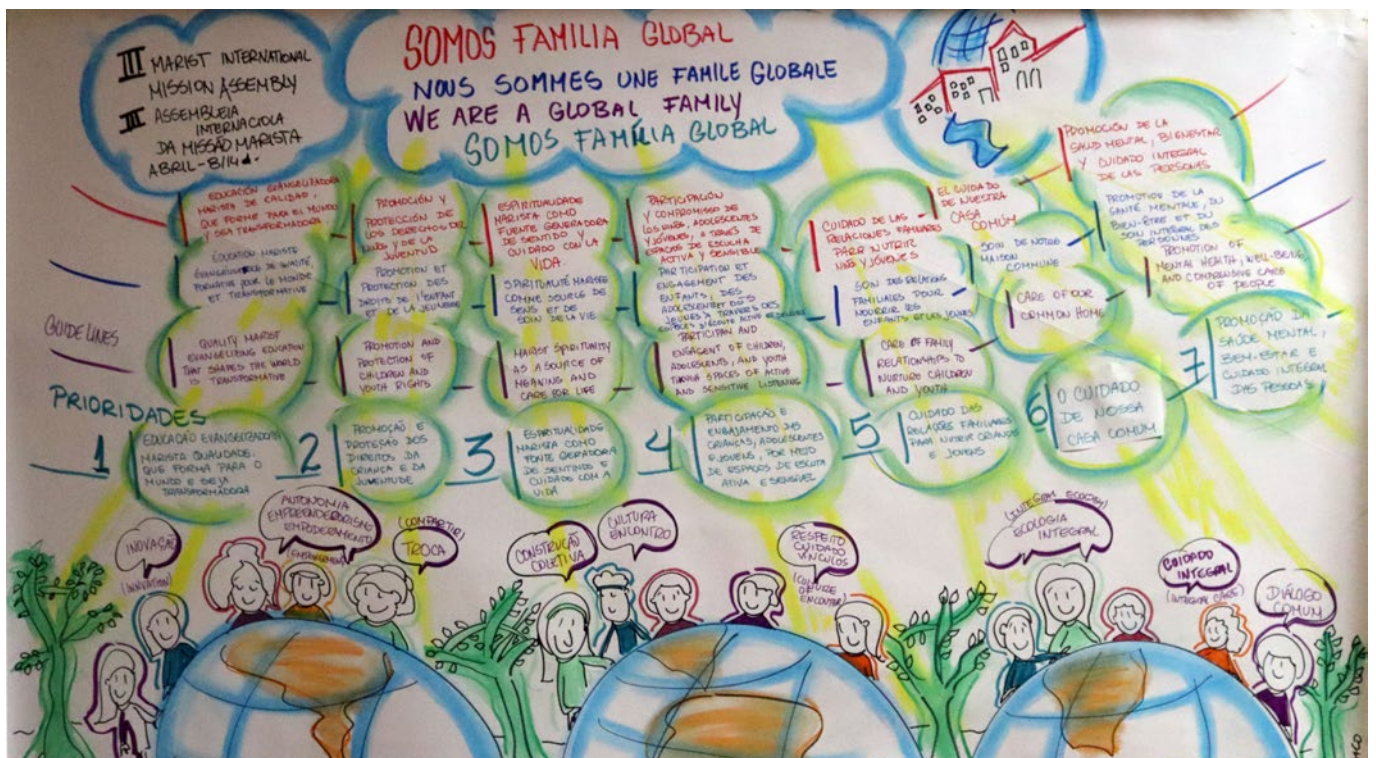
communicate the fruits of MIMA to each region and Administrative Unit of the Institute.

The afternoon began with a stocktaking of the meeting. This was followed by the launch of the document, a significant moment led by Brother Niño Mayor Pizarro of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation, and Erin Kelly, from the United States, during which participants received a copy of the document **"In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat: Marist Educational Mission"**. It included interventions by Brothers Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, and General Councillors Ken McDonald and Ben Consigli, as well as the conclusion by Br José Sanchez, Director of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation. The document will now be made available to the whole Institute.



sisting of a miniature house and a candle. Br Ernesto asked the participants to be the first to put the priorities defined during these days into practice, in their own area of ministry, underlining that "each one of us has to give a little of ourselves for the sake of our global family". He concluded by exhorting them to "continue to listen to the Spirit, being open to the General Chapter to come.

The Assembly was then brought to a close, coinciding with the Mass of Sending. There were the traditional thanks to all the participants, to the support teams and, in particular, to the preparatory commission. Each participant received a symbol con-



Summary of the day drawn by Luciane Lewis Xerxenevsky



Participants - MIMA III

120 people, delegates from the Administrative Units, members of the General Administration, representatives of networks, of Regions and other invited people, were called to take part in the Ill Mima. They are people committed to Marist life and mission, capable of sharing the process lived in El Escorial locally. This group also includes the support team.

Delegates of the Administrative Units

Adrian Ponzan Frisa – Iberica, Spain
 Albert Andre – West Central Europe, Belgica
 Alberto Burguete – Iberica, Spain
 Alfredo Alba Olvera – Mexico Occidental
 Alvaro Luis Lopes Quintas – Brazil Centro-Sul
 Amparo Domínguez Peris – Mediterranea, Spain
 Ana Belen Donoso – Cruz del Sur, Argentina
 Ana Eraso Cantero – Iberica, Spain
 Ana Iris Rodríguez Tula – Santa María de los Andes, Bolivia
 Anacleto Peruzzo – Brazil Centro-Sul
 Carlos Martínez Lavín y García Lascurain – Mexico Central
 Celestine Suinyuy Tayu – West Africa, Cameroun
 Cesar Augusto Remigio Núñez Rojas – Santa María de los Andes, Peru
 Chinyere Salomey Etuh-Okpara – Nigeria
 Christopher Sullivan – United States
 Conny Stuart – West Central Europe, Holanda
 Darren Burge – Star of the Sea, Australia
 David Hall – Star of the Sea, Australia
 Deysiane Farias Pontes – Brazil Centro-Norte
 Diana Cristina Lozano Camargo – Norandina, Colombia
 Diogo Luiz Santana Galline – Brazil Centro-Sul
 Eleftheria Rousi – L'Hermitage, Grecia
 Eric Reynier – L'Hermitage, France
 Erin Kelly – USA, United States
 Eva Ruiz Rodríguez – Iberica, Spain
 Gerardo Jose Munguía Gonzalez – America Central, Guatemala
 Giselle Talbot – Star of the Sea, Australia
 Hugo Muñoz Ojeda – Mexico Occidental
 Ifeanyi Mbaegbu – Nigeria
 Javier Velasco Fargas – Compostela, Spain
 João Ernesto António Cabral – Africa Austral, Angola
 João Rizzio Vicente Fett – Brazil Sul-Amazônia
 Jonathan Drouin – Canada
 Jose Bittencourt – Brazil Sul-Amazônia
 Jose Wagner Rodrigues da Cruz – Brazil Centro-Norte
 Juan Achard – Cruz del Sur, Uruguay
 Juan Manuel García López – Santa María de los Andes, Peru
 Juan Ramón Rico Ortega – Mediterranea, Spain
 Juanita Gonzalez Oyervides – Mexico Occidental
 Julia Lederwasch – Star of the Sea, Australia
 Kevin Wanden – Star of the Sea, New Zealand
 Lantohery Angelin Rasandratriainaina – Madagascar
 Laura de Fatima Ferraz – Brazil Centro-Sul
 Lawrence Wonipokueh Doe – West Africa, Liberia
 Leia Raquel De Almeida – Brazil Sul-Amazônia
 Luiz Andre Da Silva Pereira – Brazil Centro-Norte
 Marcela Hormazabal Cruz – Santa María de los Andes, Chile
 Marcelo Carlos Fabian De Brito – Cruz del Sur, Argentina
 Marcia Maria Rosa – Brazil Centro-Sul
 Marco Cianca – Mediterranea, Italia
 Maria Casanova Moreno – L'Hermitage, Spain
 Maria Jose Avendaño Muñoz – Compostela, Spain
 Maria Ofelia Ramirez Apan – Mexico Central
 Maria Verónica Navas – Cruz del Sur, Argentina
 Marisa Temporão – Compostela, Portugal
 Mary Elizabeth Martin – United States
 Mermete Fatou Kone – West Africa, Ivory Cost
 Michael Alexander Anama Anama – Norandina, Colombia
 Michael Friday Mbibbi – Nigeria
 Michel Longena Bokolu – Central East Africa, Rep. Dem. Congo
 Miriam de la Luz Barrera García – Mexico Central
 Mónica Ulloa Bermúdez – America Central, Costa Rica
 Natalia Ferreira Campos – Brazil Centro-Norte
 Nghi Le Van – MDA, Vietnam
 Nilvo Luiz Favretto – Brazil Sul-Amazônia
 Patricia Erazo – America Central, El Salvador

Raúl García Milan – L'Hermitage, Spain
 Regina Sandoval – America Central, Guatemala
 Richard Jose Peñaloza Graterol – Norandina, Venezuela
 Roman Alvarez Garcia – Compostela, Spain
 Sabine Chehab Sawaya – Mediterranea, Lebanon
 Samaria Elizabeth Alonso Orozco – Mexico Occidental
 Steven Nathaniel Chinsolo – Southern Africa, Malawi
 Tapan Mondol – MDA, Bangladesh
 Todd Patenaude – United States
 Xavier Rojas Guillen – Mexico Central
 Yong Chul (Domingo) Lee – East Asia, Corea

Representatives of Networks and Regions

Jose Antonio Rosa Lemus – Region of Europe, Spain
 Leonardo Humberto Soares – Region America Sul, Brazil
 Marcelo Bonhemberger – Network of Universities, Brazil
 Miguel Fernandes Ribeiro – Network MYM, Brazil
 Ricardo Tavares de Oliveira – Network of Printing House, Brazil
 Rodrigo Espinosa Larracochea – Region Arco Norte, Mexico

Council and General Administration

Andrea Rossi, FMSI
 Ben Consigli, General Councillor
 Ernesto Sanchez Barba, Superior General
 João Carlos do Prado, General Councillor
 Jorge Gaio, Economo General
 Josep Maria Soteras Pons, General Councillor
 Ken McDonald, General Councillor
 Lindley Sionosa, Secretariat of Brothers Today
 Luis Carlos Gutierrez Blanco, Vicar General
 Manu Jesús Gómez Cid, Secretariat of Laity
 Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councillor
 Sylvain Romuald Ramandimbarisoa, General Councillor
 Valdicer Civa Fachi, Secretariat of Solidarity

Invited

Anna Khady Ndiaye – Marist Marist, Senegal
 Coreen Patricia Paul – La Salle, Malasia
 Cristina Giustozzi – Marist Missionary Sister, Italy
 Elsa Nayeli Mendez Serrano – Marist Marist, Mexico

Preparatory Commission

Alex Mena Goldaraz – Iberica, Spain
 Angel Diego García Otaola – General Administration
 Fatima Rodrigues Gonçalves – Brazil Centro-Norte
 Francisco Javier Llamas Fernandez – Champagnat Global, Spain
 Jose Sanchez Bravo – General Administration
 María del Socorro Alvarez Noriega – Mexico
 Mark Elliott – Star of the Sea, Australia
 Mónica De Jesús Villacis Suarez – Norandina, Ecuador
 Niño Pizarro – General Administration

Support team

Bruno Manoel Socher – Brazil Centro-Sul – Translator
 Luciane Lewis Xerxenevsky – Brazil Sul-Amazônia – Design
 Luis Antonio Perez Murillo – Champagnat Global, Spain – Logistics and communication
 Luis Garcia Sobrado – Compostela, Spain – Translator
 Luiz Da Rosa – General Administration – Communication
 Marcelo de Moraes Cordeiro – Brazil Sul-Amazônia, Facilitator
 María Cristina Plaza Sanchez – Champagnat Global, Spain – Logistics and communication
 Pedro Garcia – Spain – Chaplain
 Teófilo Minga – Compostela, Portugal – Translator
 Tony Clarke – Star of the Sea, Australia – Prayer and animation



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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

Website

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