



Year **XVI** - Number **835** | 15 MAY 2024

MARIST NEWS

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

FRANCE

BICENTENARY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MARIST INSTITUTE'S MOTHER HOUSE

May 13th is remembered as the date on which Father Champagnat bought the land where the mother house of the Marist Institute was built. 200 years after this event, on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, a Mass celebrated in the Hermitage chapel by Bishop Sylvain Bataille of Saint-Étienne will officially open the year of the bicentenary of the construction and opening of the Hermitage.

Shortly after buying the land on the banks of the River Gier, near Saint-Chamond, Father Champagnat and the first brothers began building the house. The blessing of the foundation stone was done by Bishop Cholleton, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lyon. Last March, during the Provincials' meeting, a celebration was held to commemorate the laying of the first stone of the house. On that occasion, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, recalled that "the celebration of the Bicentenary of the mother house of the Institute is a unique opportunity to appreciate with gratitude the gift of the Marist charism that has been given to us and of which we are beneficiaries and responsible for continuing the mission in favor of children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable."



general administration

■ Last week saw the start of the pastoral visit to the Province of Méditerranée by the Councillors link to Europe Region, Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Ben Consigli. After their visit to Lebanon, this week they will visit Alicante, Torrente, Valencia and Cartagena.

■ On Monday, Manu Gómez, director of the Secretariat of Laity, met online with the Marist laity animation teams from the Provinces of Cruz del Sur and México Occidental.

■ Brothers Ken and Óscar, Councillors link to Africa Region, will continue their visit to the Province of Southern Africa until the end of the month. This week they began their visit to Mozambique, after having visited Malawi and Zambia.

■ On Monday, with the participation of Brother Ernesto Sán-

chez, Superior General, the formation course for members of the International and Intercultural Communities began at the General House.

■ Brothers Sylvain and Josep Maria, Councillors link to the Asia Region, are visiting the South Asia Province. Next Sunday they will take part in the celebration of 50 years of Marist presence in India, which will be held in Trichy.

■ On Tuesday, Brother Ángel Diego García, Director of the Solidarity Secretariat-CMI, met with a team from the Star of the Sea Province in Australia to continue the work of presenting the Province to the UN in Fiji and Kiribati. On the same day, he took part in an online meeting with the MSIN executive committee to prepare for the solidarity assembly to be held in June at the General House.

AUSTRALIA

LIFE IN THE LAVALLA200> COMMUNITY OF MOUNT DRUITT

The LaValla200> community of Mount Druitt (Australia) is currently made up of Kimberly Camiring (Philippines), H. Lawrie McCane (Australia), Ruben Galego and Silvia Martinez (Spain).

Mt Druitt is an outer suburb of Sydney, regarded as among the most socially disadvantaged in Australia. Its main ministry is to support the operation of the Marist Learning Zone, a joint project of the Marists and Catholic Education. Their aim is to re-integrate students who are currently not attending school.

The community members have established ties with the local aboriginal community and assist in homework tutoring and cultural activities. The community lives in a rented house near the centre of Mt Druitt.

We reproduce below the testimony of the couple Silvia Martínez and Rubén Galego, shared on the Compostela Province website.

With the beginning of the year 2024, our third year as part of this LaValla200> international communities project began, as well as a new school year in Marist Learning Zone (MLZ).

In early 2023, Kimberly, a Filipino teacher, joined the community; a breath of fresh air that revitalized the community, but this was not the only thing that happened. At the beginning of the second quarter there were changes in the management of MLZ. This had other consequences. The center was not accepting new applications from students and the number was gradually reducing, and in the face of adversity the community looked for a new opportunity to continue promoting one of the principles of the mission: reaching disadvantaged children. This is how we began our collaboration with Story Factory, a non-profit organization that carries out creative writing programs for children and young people from communities with few resources.

This initiative complements our ministry here since we go to public schools with fewer resources and with many Aboriginal students. It has been a very enriching experience for all of us, with which we plan to continue collaborating, without leaving aside our daily work at MLZ or our collaboration with the Baabayn aboriginal association, which we continue to help by going every Tuesday to the Homework Club for primary school students, as well as giving them a hand in the events they organize.

Another big change we had was moving house. The owner of the house we were renting wanted to live there again, and so the community, with the help of our province in Australia, had to find a new residence. After almost more than 2 months of searching, we finally found one and now we can say that we have a new home in which all members of the community feel "at home." A house to which we usually invite other Marist brothers or friends. We like to say that our house is always open to everyone so that they can learn about the work we do



within our project.

Marist Learning Zone remains a priority for us, and, alluding to this year's motto proposed by the Marists of Europe, we also want our students to feel that "they are at home". Brother Ernesto, Superior General, said: "My home was the place where I felt very loved, where I learned to be "myself", where I was welcomed, cared for and, sometimes, also corrected." We wish that for them, that they feel cared for, welcomed, considerate, celebrated for their differences. We give them personalized attention to help them improve and advance, we want to be their beacon of hope, that light that guides them and helps them shine; as this year's motto "First Light" of our province Star of the Sea also says; and to which Matthew 5:14-16 referred: "You are the light of the world. . . Let your light shine. . .". Jesus invites us to shine, to be that light in society that makes a positive difference, to light the way for others.

And speaking of feeling welcomed, cared for and loved, we cannot fail to mention the Marist association of which we have been members since we arrived, Marist Association of St. Marcellin

Champagnat, and especially our local group: Sydney City Marists. On the third day of being in Australia we attended the first >>

meeting, and, from that very moment, they made us feel part of the Marist family that they have formed there. They have made our stay in Australia much better.

Every month we have meetings that everyone in the community attends. In these meetings we talk about the future of pastoral care, spirituality, and the Marist community, but also about how we are and how we feel. In the last one they organized a

walk and, even though the weather was not good, the day was fabulous just for the fact of sharing moments with them.

Going back to the words of Brother Ernesto, home is where you feel loved, welcomed, and cared for; We are lucky to feel this way in Australia and we hope our students feel this way too.

You can follow the Mount Druit LaValla200> community on [FaceBook](#) and [Instagram](#). [Font](#)

KENIA

THE AFRICAN MISSION COMMISSION MEETS IN NAIROBI

The African Mission Commission held its first meeting for the current year in Nairobi, Kenya from 6th to 10th May, with the participation of the following Brothers: José Sánchez Bravo and Niño Pizarro (from the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization), Francis Jumbe (Southern Africa), Isaac Amponsah (West Africa), Paul Angulu (Nigeria), and Michel Longena (PACE). Due to unforeseen circumstances, there was no physical representation from the Province of Madagascar. The Vicar General, Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez was a special guest at the meeting.

Members of the Commission gave situation reports of their respective Provinces to have an overview of Marist life and mission in the Region. The reports included information on the composition of Provinces, governance structures, statistics on the number of Brothers, number of communities and schools, the main works and challenges faced in various Provinces. The Commission also discussed progress made in the areas of [Marist Youth Ministry \(MYM\)](#) and Child Safeguarding as enshrined in the Regional Strategic Plan that runs up to 2025. The Commission reiterated its resolve to continue engaging Province and Country MYM coordinators, Marist School Headteachers/Principals and their Deputies, and all institutional staff with specific Child Safeguarding roles in order to ensure that all strategic goals are met.

The Directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization presented a summary of the recently concluded Marist International Mission Assembly (MIMA III), highlighting the 7 Priorities and Orientations as well as the possible Strategies for each Priority. As a way forward, the Commission will study each Priority in depth and identify those that resonate with the reality in the African Region and propose specific actions to take to bring home the message of MIMA III.

A considerable amount of time was dedicated to the training of members of the Commission on how to develop Prophetic Servant and Qualified Leadership in the Marist World. This component of the meeting was facilitated by Br Luis Carlos;



the Vicar General. The training covered key areas such as the 7 most common leadership issues, Leadership Styles, the Ten Principles of Prophetic Servant Leadership and how this model of leadership fits in the African context. Apart from training members of the Commission, the Vicar General took the training to the community of Marist International University College (MIUC) where he challenged members of the community to embrace Prophetic Servant Leadership as a more effective form of service. The Vicar General has also lined up several training sessions with Provinces on the same topic of Prophetic Servant Leadership targeting more participants as a way of broadening the scope for increased outcomes.

The training has empowered members of the Commission with appropriate skills to enable them communicate Marist Vision and Mission to others and drive educational innovation in a fast-changing world. The training will enable members of the Commission and all those who will receive this type of training to use the Principles of Prophetic Servant Leadership to bring out the best in children, the youth and all those we work with in mission.

It is hoped that the practice of Prophetic Servant Leadership will also help advocate for a people-centered approach to leadership in a Region that faces numerous challenges in this area.

Brothers Paul Angulu and Michel Longena

marist world

BANGLADESH: SUSHANTO REMA, DEPUTY HEADMASTER, INTRODUCED TO THE STUDENTS IN GIASNOGOR



SRI LANKA: BR SYLVAIN AND BR JOSEP MARIA AT THE MEETING OF SUPERIORS OF THE AUS OF ASIA



SPAIN: TRAINING OF NEW MANAGERS AND PASTORAL OF EUROPE, IN ALCALÁ DE HENARES



ZAMBIA: ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS KEN AND ÓSCAR WITH THE BROTHERS FROM THE COUNTRY'S THREE COMMUNITIES



LEBANON: BR. JOÃO CARLOS DO PRADO WITH BR. JEAN CLAUDE ROBERT IN CHAMPVILLE



CHILE: BR. PABLO GONZÁLEZ, PROVINCIAL OF SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES, VISITS QUILLOTA

OTHER MARIST VOICES 63 AND 64:

LEADING WITH PERSPECTIVE / COLLABORATIVE WORKING

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 63 was written by Br. Lucky Paul Ogwu, Provincial Bursar of Nigeria. He addresses the theme “Leading with a future perspective” (English | Español | Français | Português) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 9 of Marist Voices (Sentinels of the Dawn Foresee: The Prophetic Imagination), written by Br. Emili Turú.

Other Marist Voices 64 was written by Ana Isabel Saborío Jenkins, Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Laity Provincial Laity Coordinator Province of América Central, from Costa Rica. She addresses the theme “Servant leadership and collaborative working: A powerful connection” (English | Español | Français | Português) – [Video](#). The message refers to chapter 15 of Marist Voices (Collaboration and Team Building), written by Br. Patrick McNamara.

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.](#)

ARCO NORTE

Br. Emili Turú, former Superior General and current Secretary General of the Union of Superiors General, the beginning of the month has had a conference with the title “clues to exercise Marist leadership today”. The online meeting was organized by the Education Team of the Marist Region of Arco Norte. The conference is available on the Region’s YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/-5S_Sh-fHygk

EAST ASIA

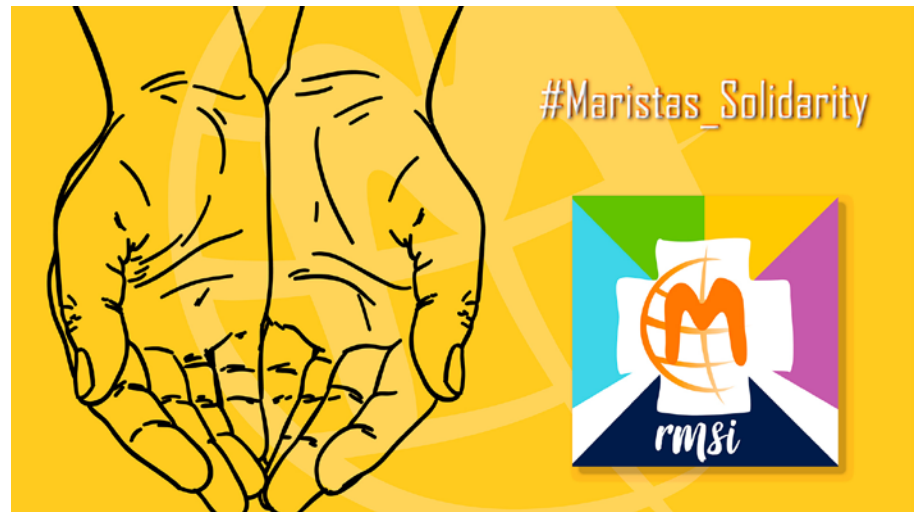
The Laity Leaders of the Philippine Sector met to deliberate initiatives for the new academic year. Two major plans were proposed: 3 phased formation program in preparation for the renewal/acceptance of members of the CMMF to culminate in the acceptance/renewal rites on August 15. The other proposed big event will be the gathering of Marist laity leaders, East Asia Province, on the last week of November 2024.

STAR OF THE SEA

The celebration of the enduring legacy of the Marist Brothers in Palmerston North, Aotearoa New Zealand was a moment to highlight a remarkable effort to preserve indigenous languages and cultural heritage, mainly the Maori language. The Marist Brothers in New Zealand are actively studying and promoting the language. Recently, they along with the other students celebrated a significant milestone with a Term 1 graduation ceremony, where they received certificates in the Maori Language from St. Peter’s College. Doing that, they are not only preserving a vital part of New Zealand’s cultural identity but also fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the country’s indigenous roots.

GENERAL HOUSE

MARIST SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL NETWORK TO HOLD ASSEMBLY IN JUNE



“To come together as Marists committed to solidarity, to reflect on our work and plan our future as a Network.” This is the general objective proposed by the Marist Solidarity International Network (MSIN) for its III Assembly, which will take place in Rome from June 17 to 21. “The Assembly offers us the possibility to continue to grow in solidarity, it gives us the opportunity to reflect and to discover concrete responses to our most needy children and young people”, says Br. Ken McDonald, General Councilor, link of the General Council to the Area of Solidarity.

The specific objectives of the assembly are:

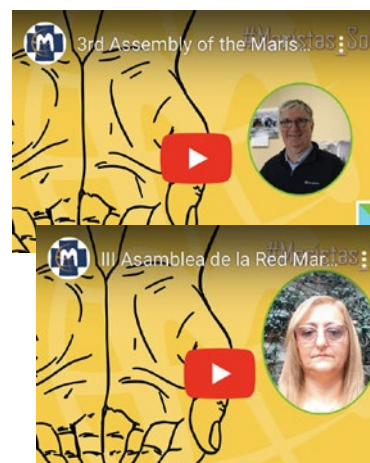
- To develop guidelines for the future to foster greater solidarity throughout the Institute.
- To Meet and to share Marist life and mission among the Assembly participants.

For the III Assembly of MSIN, 2 representatives from each Administrative Unit were invited. The 9 members of the Executive Committee of the Network, members of the General Council and other invited people will also participate.

The first MSIN Assembly was held in 2018 and the second, online, in February 2022.

The Marist Solidarity

International Network encompasses 5 different areas of solidarity: children’s rights, social entities, ecology, NGOs/ Foundations and education for solidarity.



- To report on the work of the Institute’s Focus Groups and to review and approve the documents that guide the work of the MSIN.

BRAZIL

COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE PROVINCIAL OF BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA ON THE FLOODS IN BRAZIL

Porto Alegre, May 11, 2024.

“We can also feel God in the testimony of those who are committed to peace, justice and solidarity with the poor, and who act generously in favor of others and sacrifice themselves for them” (Water From the Rock, n. 53).

Dear Marist Family, I hope this message finds you well. Unfortunately, in Rio Grande do Sul, we are still facing a state of calamity. Many people are unable to return to their homes due to the flooding. We hope that the waters will recede soon, allowing the reconstruction process to begin. Landslides and mudslides have occurred in some areas, leaving more than 300,000 people homeless. So far, 136 deaths have been confirmed, and 125 people are still missing (for more details, please refer to the link provided).

In Porto Alegre, the waters are slowly receding, but recent rainfall has brought new challenges. Some areas still lack drinking water, and inner districts remain flooded. Cities in the metropolitan region are also affected. Public authorities and civil society are working together to rebuild connections between isolated towns, ensuring the delivery of essential supplies like food, water, and medicine.

Our Hospital de São Lucas (HSL) has admitted over 50 patients from a nearby flooded hospital. We are ensuring that health-care needs are met by organizing the delivery of medicines and supplies. Vila Marista in Viamão is providing drinking water to surrounding villages, which wasn't previously communicated. According to the residents, many people in this area are relying on this water source.

Some of our buildings are currently housing around a thousand people. They are functioning well, providing sleeping, sanita-



tion, recreational, prayer, and dining facilities, managed by our members and volunteers. Despite challenges, daily life resembles that of a large community, albeit with inherent conflicts and problems.

Educational and recreational activities for children are prioritized, including art, games, and other activities. Some places have prayer centers for emotional support, while others offer leisure and sports opportunities, all aimed at alleviating pain and consequences. Some are preparing tributes for Mother's Day to honor this significant day.

Every day, I visit our shelters and hear heartbreaking stories. Despite the adversity, there's an inner strength that motivates us to keep hope alive. Our faith gives us the strength to act.

Several of our facilities have been completely washed away by the water, including Guardería Marista Tia Jussara, Centro Social Marista N. Sra. Aparecida das Águas, and Comunidad Marista de las Islas in Ilha Grande dos Marinheiros, Guardería Marista Menino Jesus and Centro Social Marista Ir. Antonio Bortolini in Loteamento Santa Teresinha, and Escuela in Vila Farrapos. These are areas on the outskirts of Porto Alegre that are totally affected. Additionally, the first floor of Colégio Maris-

ta São Pedro in the Floresta district is flooded. This situation is expected to change slowly.

Donations from across Brazil and other countries are crucial, but we'll need more resources to rebuild. Many communities have been destroyed, most of them socially vulnerable. Public authorities have indicated that some areas will need to be rebuilt due to recurring flooding. We must remain vigilant and collaborate in the post-flood reconstruction efforts.

Despite the challenges, we continue to press on, encouraged

by the prayers and solidarity of many people, including Marists from around the world.

May Mary help us find hope and consolation in these difficult times, and may Saint Marcellin inspire us to alleviate the suffering of all affected individuals, regardless of age.

May the Lord shower his abundant blessing on everyone.

With my fraternal embrace,
Brother Deivis Alexandre Fischer Provincial Brasil Sul-Amazônia

BRASIL SUL-AMAZÔNIA

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BROTHER ANTONIO RAI IN SINOP

A historical moment has marked the presence of the Marist mission in Sinop, Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia: Br. Antônio Rai Costa de Menezes became, on May 1, the first Marist brother to make his definitive consecration to religious life Marist in the state of Mato Grosso. The solemn celebration took place in the Bom Mestre Chapel of the Santo Antônio Marist School and was presided over by Bishop Canisio Klaus, together with the concelebrants Fr. Beto Konzen, Fr. Gilson Tardivo and Fr. Marcos Quaini. Br. Deivis Alexandre Fischer, Provincial, received the vows from Brother Antonio on behalf of the Superior General.



Brother Antonio is a member of the Boa Mãe Marist Community of Sinop, where he lives with the brothers Claudiano Tiecher and José Francisco. Brother Claudiano celebrated 25 years as a Marist brother that same day.

In addition to the families of the brothers who celebrated their consecration to religious life, 17 Marist brothers participated in the celebration, coming from different parts of the provincial territory, from Rio Grande do Sul to Roraima.

The school community of the Santo Antônio Marist School (educators, students and Marist families), seminarians and other religious congregations of Sinop (Sisters Daughters of Saint Camillus, Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – ICM and Religious of Christian Instruction – also participated in the celebration. RIC).

Br. Claudiano and Brother Rai were the first Marist brothers from Champagnat who arrived in the city, on October 7, 2019, and began the mission in the diocese of Sinop.

As a motto and inspiration, Br. Rai chose the following biblical verse: "Over all these put-on love, which is the bond of perfection" (Colossians 3, 14).

Vocational Week

In preparation for the Definitive Consecration of Brother Rai, a Vocational Week was held between May 22 and 26, which brought together the Marist Brothers, the pastoral team of the Santo Antônio Marist College, the Diocese of Sinop, the Sagrado Coração de Jesus Parish, seminarians and even other religious congregations, such as the Sisters of the Daughters of Saint Camillus and the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – ICM.

The activity consisted of visiting schools (public and private), catechesis classes and youth groups of the Diocese to talk about vocations, life projects, share Brother Rai's testimony of Religious Life, and reached more than 1,600 people.

Photos

GENERAL HOUSE

THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY FORMATION PROGRAM BEGINS

The 2024 Formation Program for International and Intercultural Communities will begin at the General House on May 13. The first stage will be in Rome until May 24. Then, from May 24 to June 15, the 8 participants of six different nationalities, will be in Manziana (Sisters of the Cottolengo). They will conclude their formation at the Hermitage, France, from June 15-21. The program is coordinated by Brother Valdicer Fachi, assistant director of the Solidarity Secretariat-CMI, and Brother Xavier Barceló, of the Ongoing Formation Team. It is supported by Flaminia Filanci, assistant to the Secretariats of Solidarity-CMI and Brothers Today.

The seven brothers and one lay Marist who share the desire to live their vocation to the service of the most needy in different Projects are: Br. Donatus Uzoma Abiaka (Nigeria), Br. Edvaldo Ferreira de Lima (Brasil Centro-Norte), Br. Flavien Modeste Ramarolahy (Madagascar), Br. Frédéric Nadji Ngarsandje (West-Africa), Br. Jean Aimé Randrianasolo (Madagascar), Br. John Edgar Arrieta Lopez (Norandina), Luis Vicente Torres Gordillo (Mediterránea) and Br. Rafael Ferreira (Brasil Centro Norte).

The objective of the formation program is that each participant can:

- discern their call to be part of an intercultural initiative of the Institute, assisted by the Program Coordinators



- become more familiar with cultural diversity, and
- be aware of the personal challenges of living interculturally, to develop new competencies and skills for intercultural living.

During the training course, the participants will deal with topics that contribute to living intercultural and internationality: overview of international/intercultural communities, mission today, non-violent communication, communion and co-responsibility, conflict resolution, intercultural community life, inclusive spirituality, children's rights and child protection. More than theoretical, the program is intended to be experiential where each participant experiences interculturality in a concrete way in an international environment and acquires tools and aids for the future, whether in a Lavalla200 Community or in another project or initiative of the Institute.



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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