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MARIST NEWS

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JUNE 6, 2024

MESSAGE OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MARCELLIN

Dear Marists of Champagnat

We celebrate together with joy the feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat and give thanks to God for the gift of our Marist charism, a gift to the Church and to the world.

At the present time, in many countries across the world, we are living through complex social situations, experiencing war and insecurity. Natural disasters have disrupted the lives of many in various parts of the world. These difficult conditions touch also certain areas of Marist life. Among those affected are people linked to the Institute: educators, family members, friends... Confronted with these new situations of hardship and marginalization, it is comforting to know that many Marists of Champagnat, brothers and lay, are helping in solidarity. Motivated by the Marist charism that we have received as gift, all of us are invited to unite with the suffering of so many and to offer support.



Our charism, inspired by the Spirit through St. Marcellin and the first brothers, has been nurtured and developed over 207 years via the witness and dedication of so many Marists of Champagnat. Today, we form part of the great family that has inherited this gift. We are called to appreciate it, to keep it



general administration

- Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, and João Carlos do Prado, General Councilor, participate in the chapter of the Norandina Province, which takes place in Colombia, from Monday to Friday.
- Brother Óscar Martín, general councilor, directed a retreat for novices and formators of the novitiate of Save, in Rwanda, from May 29 to June 4.
- The Gier 2004 course continues at the General House. The brothers participating in the course for trainers have been in France since last Saturday, and starting Friday the participants of the formation program for international and intercultural communities will also travel, which are currently in Manziána.
- From Monday to Wednesday, Brother Ángel Diego partici-

pated in the online meetings with the five focus groups of the Marist Solidarity International Network.

- On Tuesday, Manu Gómez, director of the Secretariat of the Laity, Ana Saborío, assistant director, and Claudia Rojas (Extended Secretariat) participated in a meeting with the provincial team of lay animation of Central Mexico.
- On Friday, a meeting of the Council for Economic Affairs will be held, attended by brothers Ben Consigli, General Councilor, Jorge Gaio, General Treasurer, and Goyo Linacero, as well as Flavia Angi and Giuliano Panico.
- Several brothers will participate on Friday in a meeting with REPAM, which is taking place at the Gregorian on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Synod for the Amazon.

alive, and to adapt it to our age so that it continues to work for good.

On April 18, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the canonization of St. Marcellin Champagnat, the day on which he was declared a saint for the Church and for the world. He was a simple man, who lived with great trust in God and in Mary, our Good Mother, and who taught us to live fraternity and to respond boldly to the needs of the children and young people of his time. 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 (...) Let us ask the Lord to give us a heart that burns like that of Marcellin Champagnat, to do him honour and to be his witnesses".

How has the witness of Saint Marcellin Champagnat encouraged me personally? How do I try to live each day the call to holiness that all Christians receive?

Let's remember also that a few days ago, in the month of May, we celebrated the bicentenary of the laying of the first stone in the construction of Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage. Seven years after the beginning of the Institute in La Valla, Marcellin, together with the brothers, set out to build this large and beautiful house that would serve for the formation of novices and as a place of meeting, retreat and rest for the brothers. This house continues to be for all of us today a center of animation and of connection with the origins of our Institute.

It gives us joy to recognize that Champagnat was able to listen in his heart to the intuitions of the Spirit and to respond with

audacity, in spite of the difficulties he faced and the criticisms that fell on him. For Champagnat, everything that was accomplished was not his personal work, but the work of God and Mary. He was animated every day by his contemplative prayer, his friendly and close fraternal life, and his dedication to the service of children and young people, especially those most in need.

It is a grace for us to celebrate 200 years of this important part of our history. And it also encourages us to imagine what it would mean today to "rebuild a New Hermitage" in our present context. I believe that during these months of bicentennial celebration we can reflect on how to continue to spread the gift of the Marist charism we have received. Learning to use the strength and creativity of Marcellin and the first brothers who hewed the rock and built on a solid foundation.

What helps us to live the experience of St. Marcellin and the first brothers? What is the solid foundation we need today for this reconstruction?

On this June 6, we celebrate and pray in communion with all the places that make up the global Marist family, particularly with those who are suffering difficult situations. We place ourselves in the hands of Mary, our Good Mother, who inspires and accompanies us daily in our Marist life and mission.

Happy Saint Marcellin Champagnat Day!
Fraternally yours,
Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General

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PROVINCE BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

MARIST MANAGERS' FORUM DISCUSSES LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES



The Marist Managers Forum 2024 of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte was held from May 20 to 24 in Salvador, Bahia, where 120 years of Marist presence are being celebrated. The managers of the 30 schools and colleges of the Province and other leaders from Marista Brasil, FTD Educação and the Associação Redsolare took part. Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, represented the general government of the Institute.

With the aim of sharing moments of continuous formation and integration, there were workshops and formative panels in the context of education, leadership and spirituality, led by Brothers and other experts.

The first day was marked by a welcome at Colegio Marista Patamares, with a Eucharistic celebration. Beginning on the same day that Saint Marcellin Champagnat was born, the Forum was graced with the first moment led by the Provincial, Brother José de Assis Elias de Brito, who addressed the theme of the “Montagne Experience” lived by Saint Marcellin Champagnat. In this moment of reflection, Brother Assis said that the story of the young Montagne is still relevant today: “Generations have changed, but the challenges remain. As we move forward as Marists, may we be even more committed to the charism that has been transmitted to us”. Brother Assis also presented the publication of the Institute’s new document “In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat: Marist Educational Mission”, printed by FTD Educação.

On the second day, the participants experienced special moments of spirituality. The live of Saint Dulce of the Poor, a nun from the Brazilian state of Bahia, was present throughout the day, in discussions and prayers. The guest of the day was Cláudia Costin. She is a university professor and economist. With the mediation of Br. Iranilson Lima, she spoke about the theme of educational policies and emerging scenarios. In the afternoon, the managers visited the Sister Dulce Shrine and the Church of “Nosso Senhor do Bonfim” (Our Lord of the good end).

On May 22, reflections on spirituality were promoted by Fabiano Incerti, professor and pro-rector of Mission, Identity and Extension at the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR). In the afternoon, 18 educational units shared success stories, sharing experiences and inspiration.

During the following days, the leaders were able to accompany Professor Paulo Fochi, a leading educator and researcher in Early Childhood Education, to discuss “educational policies and participatory methodologies in Early Childhood Education”. On that occasion, the working group responsible for the topic presented the recently updated book ‘Diretrizes da Educação Infantil’ (Early Childhood Education Guidelines), which is already in the hands of the teachers and teams at the educational units.

The event ended with moments of prayer and a reminder of the importance of being prophetic leaders.

STAR OF THE SEA

THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL VISITED THE SOLOMON ISLANDS



The Provincial Council of the Star of the Sea Province visited the Solomon Islands as part of the second gathering of its expanded meetings of the year. The event was held from May 20 to 24 in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands.

During its visit, the Provincial Council met with the new Advisory Board of St Joseph’s Catholic Secondary School in Tenaru. They talked about the challenges and plans. On the other hand, the Council acknowledged the planning and organization of Brothers John Hazelman and Kevin Wanden.

At the end of the meeting, the Council was satisfied with the achievements in Solomon Islands, and also to share time with the Brothers and Marist colleagues and supporters.

Among the highlights of the visit were:

- A welcome assembly at St Joseph’s where we were greeted with traditional dances by the students and local customs.
- A meeting and meal with the Brothers and lay Marists.
- A meeting and lunch with the members of the new Board of the College.
- A tour of the College.
- A meeting with Ruth Hihiru who has been the lay partnership coordinator in Melanesia for some years.
- A meeting with Benedict Tooming, who had travelled from Bougainville, to discuss developments and issues at Mabiri and Tenaru.

Marist Community

The Marist Community is called “Laumanasa House”: it is the name of the property and Formation Centre at Tenaru. It is named “Laumanasa” in honour of Br Alphonsus Laumanasa, the first Solomon Islander to die as a Marist Brother. Laumanasa House is the formation centre for candidates and aspirants to the Marist Brothers from Melanesia (Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, and the Solomon Islands). Currently there are four Brothers in the community: Simon Serero, Community Leader; Epalle Taega who is completing the final year of his education studies at Solomon Islands National University; Hudson Horoto, who took his final vows last year and is undertaking some further study this year; Sixtus Winduo who has been appointed as Principal of St Joseph’s College until the end of 2025. There are also two Aspirants in residence: John Chipuruka and Randall Muriatu. They will continue their formation in Timor Leste as Postulants.

Marist School

The St Joseph’s Catholic Secondary School has been administered by the Marist Brothers for nearly 80 years, on behalf of the Bishop of the Archdiocese of Honiara. The school is next to Laumanasa House, at Tenaru. It has a reputation as a high performing school and therefore has significant demands on its enrolments. Classes are large, with some as high as 75 students. Its student population is nearly 800 and all but 100 are boarders, both girls and boys.

URUGUAY

300 EDUCATORS, BROTHERS AND LAYPEOPLE, CELEBRATE 90 YEARS OF PRESENCE



As part of the celebrations of 90 years of Marist presence in Uruguay, *Cruz del Sur Province*, about 300 educators from the seven Marist works in the country, and representatives of the Province and the Institute, held Marist Pedagogical Days, from May 31 to June 1, to reflect together on the challenges of education today and the processes of educational innovation. Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, participated in the first conference held at the Universidad Católica of Uruguay. Teresa Puchades, from the Trilema Foundation, pedagogue and specialist in educational issues, was also present and spoke about education. The young people from the educational works also participated and contributed with their reflections and questions. On the second day, held at Zorrilla College, Brother Luis Carlos spoke on “Prophetic and Servant Leadership”. Later, through experiential workshops, learning experiences and pedagogical documentation on the Marist journey in Uruguay were presented, with the aim of advancing in the challenges-horizons outlined. 20 learning experiences were presented, which are being developed in educational centers to accompany and educate more than 3,000 children and young people.

During the conference, the Management Teams and General Coordinators of the works were present; Br. Raúl Schonfeld, Provincial of Cruz del Sur; Br. José Kuhm, Vice-Provincial; Br.

Alberto Aparicio, Provincial Councilor; Br. Marcelo De Brito, Coordinator of the Mission Council and Provincial Councilor; Br. Juan Walder, from the Marist community of Uruguay.

The two pedagogical days, with the theme “Educate and love” served to renew the commitment of the Marists of the sector to the mission and vocation of being educators, students and families. And to keep alive the dream of Marcellin Champagnat: education to love and to evangelize.

Marist presence in Uruguay

The educational centers and residences in Uruguay are:

- Colegio Santa María (Montevideo)
- Colegio Juan Zorrilla de San Martín (Montevideo)
- CAIF Pequeña Semilla-Hogar Marista Km.16 – Community Education Center (Montevideo)
- Colegio San Luis (Durazno)
- Children’s Club “Tres violetas” – Community Education Center (Durazno)
- Colegio San Luis (Pando, Canelones)
- Retirement home (La Floresta, Canelones)

Three brothers live in the country and work with lay Marists: Juan Walder, José Kuhm and Alberto Aparicio.

BROTHERS TODAY

COURSE FOR FORMATORS 2024

NEW BUILDERS OF THE HERMITAGE

In the context of the celebration of the bicentenary of the construction of the Institute's mother house of Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, in France, the Institute has implemented a formation program called "New Builders of the Hermitage", for brothers who will be qualified for the pastoral mission of supporting the formation processes in the various houses and stages of initial formation in Marist life. The program begun last February, in Manziana, and will end next November. The course has been prepared by the Brothers Today Secretariat and by a team specially formed for this program, made up of Brothers Juan Castro (MDA), Michel Maminiana (Province of Madagascar) and César Rojas (Province of Norandina). There are 20 participants: 19 Brothers and one Marist priest.

Here we share a testimony from Br. Ralph Fakaia, from Solomon Islands, Province of Star of the Sea, who speaks about the 4 first months of his experience.

It has been four months since I arrived in Italy. A lot has happened to me during this intense formation program. Three important things that stand out for me so far are adaptability, interiority, and international community living.

To be frank, adapting to the Italian climate when I arrived was difficult for me. The temperature sometimes went down to negative four. Furthermore, I sometimes felt homesick. It was not easy leaving the lovely tropical atmosphere back home, family, close friends and the rebuilding projects into which I had put all my effort, energy and heart in Vanuatu. Moving and letting go is hard. I am moving into the unknown and the uncertainty of the future. I have been asking myself a lot of questions. Hopefully, by the end of this program, some answers will become more evident. However, these questions helped me to slow down and be in the present moment.

Adaptation is just about changing one's mindset. Rigidity is a huge problem when I am not open to changes and do not embrace the difficulties with a generous heart. Experience has taught me that to adapt to a new place, I must live in the moment by trying to love the people, their food, culture, and the kind of sport they are so passionate about. This attitude of changing my mindset helps me adapt slowly to the environment, people, and events yet to unfold.

The topics presented so far are basically focusing on deepening our interiority (inner journey). This interiority requires contemplation with deep inner silence. It is hard sometimes to keep silent when I am preoccupied with something else. However, interiority is required to be aware of what is happening inside me. It is the



only way to get in touch with myself and listen to what God wants of me. Moreover, where was God in my religious journey? This practice of interiority is so far helping me to encounter God. I am very aware of this because my life was circulating around doing or being a "doer" for the past five years in an apostolic ministry.

I also understand the complexity of finding balance in life. When I started this interiority exercise, the realisation of finding a balance in life emerged in my consciousness. It really helps me spiritually, physically, emotionally and intellectually. I have come to believe very much in having time set aside for self-reflection to discover the wonders God instilled in me. This program offers me valuable time and space to journey inward, and so far, I can now slowly find the balance of life.

Living in a multicultural community has not been easy. Just imagine Marist brothers from sixteen countries coming together, living under one roof and building a community. Fascinating and unimaginable indeed, isn't it? For some, it is their first time living

in a diverse community of brothers. There are so many differences amongst us, but the richness that each one brings to the community is a gift to live as one Marist global family. We are living the ideal, the written words in practice.

I have learned much from each brother despite the different languages and cultures. However, the Marist culture we all try to embrace gives us life and meaning. I must say, this is a wonderful opportunity for me, and it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I feel that I must continue to open to the wonders, insights and experiences as they unfold in my life. My appreciation of living in an international Marist community is shaping up so positively because I feel responsible as well to contribute in ways, skills,

knowledge and wisdom to make this international community a place of friendship, love and joy where our differences are not obstacles to growth.

As we prepare for our trip to the Champagnat country early in June, I am overwhelmed with so many graces and blessings as I look back. There is so much joy and life in this formation program as it intensifies with an abundance of giving and taking, and there is no other way to say, 'Thank You, LORD.'

Br Ralph Fakaia
Manziana, Italy – May 2024

[Photos in FaceBook](#)

CASA GENERAL

FIRST WEEK OF THE GIER 2024 PROGRAM



Since May 28, 15 Brothers from 8 Administrative Units have been participating in the Gier 2024 ongoing formation program. This is the fourth edition of the program, which is aimed at Brothers who have made their final profession in the last 5-10 years. It is an intercultural program that helps the participants to concretely live the experience of being a global family. During the first few days, various activities were carried out, coordinated by Brother Tony Leon and the directors of the Brothers Today Secretariat. Here below, Br. Francisco Arnold, from the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province, one of the participants in the program, tells us about his experience during the first week of the program.

I came to the GIER 2024 program with the expectation of getting to know new places and Brothers from other countries. In my first minutes here, I was already surprised by the welcome I received from brothers from the most diverse places and with languages so different from mine. This has been one of the most incredible and exciting experiences I have lived: a different country welcoming me, living with Brothers from such different cultures, which have opened the doors of my heart to live the multicultural experience and dive into deeper waters. Today, June 5,

we are going to meet Pope Francis and, in a few days, the places where Champagnat began to dream with the Marists all over the world.

It is very special to be able to get to know different places in the world that Champagnat dreamed of, with different cultures, foods and languages that sometimes confuse me. All this in the same place, in the same house, under the same roof and under the mantle of our Good Mother, in Rome.

What characterizes this meeting is self-help, respect and understanding. And the

language that works best is that of love, surrender and stepping out of one's comfort zone. All this is inspired by our father Champagnat and the examples of good brothers who have gone before us.

This experience of the Gier program has certainly had a great impact and is transforming me into a more humanized, better human being, called to spend his energies in an integral way in evangelizing and transforming so many lives that no longer find meaning, the Montagnes of the 21st century, those for whom Jesus Christ feels the greatest affection and tenderness.

EUROPE REGION

THIRD WEEK OF THE FORMATION COURSE FOR MARIST LEADERS OF EUROPE



The third week of formation for leaders of the Marist Europe Region took place in Xaudaró, Madrid, from May 20 to 24. Marist leaders from France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Portugal and Spain met and shared perspectives and experiences and had the opportunity to immerse themselves in crucial aspects of Marist leadership in the 21st century and in the life project of each participant.

The formation began with the exchange of experiences of the first two weeks of formation, the first at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage and the second in the social works that the participants visited as part of the program. This pause for introspection allowed them to appreciate the richness of difference and to reaffirm their commitment to caring for people, a fundamental pillar of our charism.

During the week, topics related to Marist life in Europe such as innovation, attitude and the importance of youth ministry were addressed. Thus, the participants were immersed in deep reflections on how to apply these principles in their daily lives and in their personal life projects.

The importance of living the Marist charism in all its dimensions, from lay and religious vocations to community life and collaboration between different generations of Marists, was highlighted. One of the aspects that aroused most interest was the existence of a Network of communities in the Continent, which serves as an example of collaboration among the different Marist units.

Throughout the week, morning prayers and leisure activities, organized by the participants, helped to create an atmosphere of community and reflection. A highlight was the connection to prayer on May 20, coinciding with St. Marcellin's birthday.



As for the next steps, the participants have already been called for the fourth week of formation, which will be held in provinces other than their own. The fifth week is scheduled for January 2025 at the General House in Rome. These stages promise to continue to be moments of growth, learning and consolidation of Marist identity.

AFRICA

5 brothers from the provinces of Nigeria and West Africa follow a preparation program in Nigeria for their next perpetual profession. They are: brothers Franklin Okechukwu, Modestus Osuji and Cletus Kuma, from Nigeria; Brother Samuel Nkuah, from Ghana; and Brother Basil Ngum, from Cameroon.

NORANDINA

A group of 50 teaching directors and 5 members of the Mission Council of Ecuador met in Loja, from May 16 to 18, to participate in the Meeting of Directors of the Marist Educational Institutions of this country. During the meeting with the motto “Educational leadership and management, living the present and projecting the future,” 3 main themes were reflected on and guided: educational leadership and management, procedures manual and institutional training plan.

MARIST REGION OF EUROPE

On May 22 and 23, the third in-person meeting of the Mission European Council took place in Chamberí. The participants worked on important aspects, such as: the shared schooling motto for the Region; the educational motto for the 2025/2026 school year; the outcomes of the European reflection teams, established during the current school year; aspects related to ICT/ILT and AI; the educational model, vocational training and Early Childhood Education; online meeting with the director of FMSI, Andrea Rossi; and the progress of projects undertaken by the European teams in education, solidarity, pastoral care, human resources, and communication.

OTHER MARIST VOICES 69 AND 70

LEARNING / LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES



This week, we published messages 69 and 70 of “[Other Marist Voices](#)”. This is an initiative of the Marist International Mission Commission, which promotes a series of publications related to the development of servant and prophetic leadership in the Marist mission. This is an extended project of the “[Marist Voices](#)”.

Other Marist Voices 69 was written by Br. Nguyen Duy Binh, Ta Do Project Manager in Vietnam – District of Asia. The message titled “[Learning the experiences of the Servant leadership](#)” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#).

Other Marist Voices 70 was written by Nelson Enrique Cárcamo Banegas, Social Project Director in Honduras – Province of América Central. The message titled “[How does a true servant leader persuade?](#)” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#) and refers to chapter 7 of Marist Voices ([Persuading with Action and Service](#)), written by Br. Vincent de Paul Kouassi.

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.

MALAWI, ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTH AFRICA

PASTORAL VISIT OF BROTHERS KEN AND ÓSCAR TO THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



From April 22 to May 30, Brothers Ken McDonald and Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councilors for Africa, made the first part of their pastoral visit to the Province of Southern Africa. The visit included all the communities and almost all the Marist schools and activities in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and Southern Africa. Next year, the journey will be completed with visits to Zimbabwe and Angola.

These have been intense weeks, with many travels and enriching encounters, in a Province that includes 6 countries and long distances. And it has been an opportunity to get in touch with Marist life and mission in all these places. “It is a challenging province, blessed with vocations and also in need of prophetic decisions to guarantee the future of Marist life,” the General Councilors emphasized. They also expressed great gratitude for the welcome and attention they received during their visit.

Program of the visit

In Malawi they visited the Provincial House, the communities and schools of Zomba, Balaka, Likuni and Marists Mtendere. They also visited the Provincial Postulancy in Mtendere and the new youth center on the shores of Lake Malawi.

In Zambia, the visit began in Chasa and continued with the communities and schools of St. Marcellin in Chibuluma and St. Pauls in Kabwe. A day of meeting and reflection was also held with all the Brothers present in this country.

In Mozambique, the visit began in the community and school of Nivava, in the north of the country. The visit then included the Marist presences in Bilene and Manhiça. It concluded at the Provincial Novitiate in Matola, where there are currently 10 novices.

Finally, in South Africa, the visit began in Johannesburg, that included the Brothers’ community and the four Marist schools: Linemeyer, St. David, Sacred Heart and Alexandra. A special highlight was the visit to Alexandra, a recently opened social school, an extension of St. David’s, which serves needy students. There were also moments of meeting with the Coordination Team of the Marist Schools and with a group of lay people. Then the visit continued in Cape Town, with the community and with St. Joseph’s School.

On the last day, May 29, there was a meeting and reflection with Brother Provincial, Emmanuel Mwanalirenji, and his Council. Brothers Ken and Óscar highlighted the vitality of the Province and its great potential in resources, in a much needed and valuable mission, and in the wealth of young confreres and vocations. Also important are the challenges to build a greater provincial unity that overcomes the division of countries, necessary and important improvements in management and, above all, to advance in the care of community life, religious life and the accompaniment and attention to the young Brothers.

[Photos en Facebook](#)

marist world

PAKISTAN: GENERAL COUNCILLORS AND PROVINCIALS MEET LAYPEOPLE IN SARGODA



SPAIN: 3RD EUROPEAN MARIST LEADERS MEETING



ECUADOR: MARIST SPIRITUALITY TEAM REUNION



EAST TIMOR: "COME AND SEE" PROGRAM IN BAUCAU



LIBERIA: MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY OF SR. SHIRLEY KOLMER SCHOOL IN MONROVIA



YOUNG PEOPLE FROM VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR TAKING PART IN THE NORANDINA PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

Brother João Gutemberg, of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province, as executive secretary of REPAM, participates this week in the meeting with the Pope and other bodies of the Vatican Curia on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of REPAM, the 5th anniversary of the Synod for the Amazon and the 4th anniversary of CEAMA Amazonia.

On Monday, June 3, at the Vatican, Pope Francis received the presidencies, executive secretaries and advisors of CEAMA and REPAM in a historic and significant meeting, the first official meeting between the pontiff and these sister organizations that work in the Amazon territory. [See details here](#)



CENTRAL AMERICA

MARIST INTERCOMMUNITY MEETING IN EL SALVADOR



The Marist communities of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, of the Province of Central America, held a significant meeting of fraternity and spirituality at the Liceo Salvadoreño at the end of May. Marist Brothers and committed lay people gathered to live together as a big family, share experiences, strengthen ties and renew their commitment to the educational and evangelizing mission of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

The event began with a warm reception that included a cultural afternoon full of joy and creativity prepared by the students of the Liceo Salvadoreño. In addition, everyone was invited to a photographic exhibition about the history of the 100 years of Marist presence at the Liceo Salvadoreño. The exhibition allowed those present to learn more and value the Marist legacy in the region.

To end the day, everyone gathered in the school chapel for a moment of prayer dedicated to the Virgin Mary, requesting her intercession, and blessing for all those present. This time of

spiritual recollection reinforced the sense of community, and the shared commitment to Marist values.

The second day of the meeting continued at the El Hermitage Retreat House, where the Marist brothers and lay people participated in days of reflection and socialization on important topics for the Marist Province Central America. The day closed with a solemn Eucharist in which special prayers were made for brothers Jorge Muñoz and Nice Garrán, who were celebrating their birthdays, and for Arturo Espinoza, a committed layman who will undertake a trip to Cuba to provide support to the Cienfuegos community.

Este encuentro fue una oportunidad única para reflexionar, aprender y crecer juntos, reafirmando los valores y el compromiso con la educación integral de los niños y jóvenes. It was also an invaluable opportunity to deepen the mission, share experiences and strengthen the Marist community, working together to face challenges and build a future full of hope and solidarity.



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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