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MARIST NEWS

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JUNE 17-21

MARIST SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ASSEMBLY: JUNE 17-21

What if the first thing we do is ask ourselves 'what does God want'?

Last November, a letter to the Provincial Brothers announced the celebration of the III Assembly of the Marist Solidarity International Network. The time has come. From June 17 to 21, we will be celebrating this Assembly at the General House in Rome, with representation from all the Regions. About 55 delegates from the Administrative Units and members of the General Administration will meet to evaluate the work we have done so far and to dream together, to look beyond, as the motto of the last General Conference reminded us.

At the recent Marist International Mission Assembly, Sister Lilianna asked us the following question: What if the first thing we do is ask ourselves "what does God want This should be our question for the Marist Solidarity International Network Assembly. And this should be our question, in life and in mission, ALWAYS!

During the Assembly we will address the issues of Children's Rights, Social Works, Education for Solidarity, Integral Ecology, the functioning of our NGOs and Foundations, and those issues that "hurt" our world and us. We are aware that time is short; but



we also know, from experience, that the Holy Spirit blows where He wills, and among those who are willing to listen to His voice. Br. Ernesto, Superior General, recently reminded us, in his message on the occasion of the feast of St. Marcellin, that "in the face of new situations of poverty and marginalization, we are happy to know that many Marists of Champagnat are helping in solidarity". For this reason, for these situations, and for the

general administration

- This week, among various activities, the General Council begins its traditional June plenary session.
- On Monday, Brother Ángel Diego Otaola, director of the Secretariat of Solidarity-Cmi, participated online in the Assembly of the International Catholic Center in Geneva (CCIG).
- On Monday and Tuesday, Brother Ángel Medina, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat, Manu Gómez, director of the Laity Secretariat, and Rita Silva, of the Extended Laity Secretariat, took part in the meeting of the European Laity and Brothers Today team, which took place in Syracuse, Italy.
- The Brothers of the General Government (Brothers Ernesto, Luis Carlos and Ben) participated, together with the team of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, on Wednesday, in the two sessions of the Webinar promoted by the Marist Global Network of Schools on the document "In the Footsteps of Mar-

cellin Champagnat: Marist Educational Mission".

- On Wednesday, the formation program for members of the international and multicultural communities ended in France. It was led by Brother Valdicer Fachi, assistant director of the CCIG Solidarity Secretariat, and Brother Xavi Barceló, from the Institute's ongoing formation team.
- On Thursday, the participants in the Gier Program left the Generalate and traveled to France, where they will conclude the formation program on the 27th.
- On Thursday, Manu Gómez will meet online with the laity team of the West Africa Province.
- From Thursday to Saturday, Brothers Ben Consigli and João Carlos do Prado, link councillors with the European Region, will take part in the regional meeting of the European Marist Regional Council in Syracuse.



people who suffer, we have organized the Assembly. We feel “invited to connect with the suffering of so many people and to offer support”.

During the Assembly we will publish, through the [Institute’s web page](#), the work of each day. Through it you can be informed of the steps we are taking. We will also use the hashtag #Maristas_Solidarity for our publications. We invite you to use it in your Solidarity publications.

You will see that the motto we have chosen for the Assembly is “L’Hermitage, cradle of solidarity”.

2024 marks the 200th anniversary of the start of construction of our house at the Hermitage. A courageous, prophetic, and helpful initiative by Marcelino. Now it is up to us, in the 21st

century, to carry on his legacy, seeking the best way to respond to the needs of our world, guided by the logic of the Gospel and the logic of love.

We invite all of you, Marists of Champagnat, to pray for the outcomes of the Assembly, so that those who participate in it may be able to listen to the voices of the most vulnerable in our world, to be brave and respond to what the Spirit inspires us. Thank you for joining our prayer and action!

“Try to love as much as you can. Even if it causes you suffering at times, remember that a life without love is much sadder” (My Days at Morisaki Bookstore – Satoshi Yagisawa).

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola
Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity-Cmi

NORANDINA: LIVE, DREAM, BUILD - IT’S TIME!

On the last day of the Provincial Chapter, which took place in Rionegro from June 3-7, the 27 capitulars elected the new provincial council that will accompany Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal, the new provincial, in the animation of the province for the three-year term 2024 - 2027: Brothers José Miguel Caballero Hierro, Leonardo Dumas Yepes Núñez, Ángel Santos González, José María Ondarreta Gutiérrez, Mariano Morante Montes, Antidio Bolívar Enríquez Oviedo. The photo shows the



team, with Brothers Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, and João Carlos do Prado, who participated in the Chapter. Further information about the Chapter is available on the Province website.

WEST AFRICA - NIGERIA

8 NOVICES MADE THE FIRST PROFESION IN KUMASI

On 8th June 2024, at Marist International Novitiate of Kumasi, in Ghana, 3 Novices from the Province of Nigeria and 5 from the West Africa Province made their first profession in the Marist Institute. Br. Cyprian Bankakuu Gandebo provincial of the West Africa Province received their vows.

The newly professed brothers are:

- Br. Boakye Cosmos (Prov. West Africa)
- Br. Clovis Ngong (Prov. West Africa)
- Br. Fonyuy Serdric Asheni (Prov. West Africa)
- Br. Gle Djolea Arnaud Ulrich (Prov. West Africa)
- Br. Ireozor John Bosco Obinna (Prov. Nigeria)
- Br. Obasi Olisaemeka Benjamin (Prov. Nigeria)
- Br. Tyokusu Samuel Msonter (Prov. Nigeria)
- Br. Wirba Handrian Berinyuy (Prov. West Africa)



EAST ASIA

Ms. Elma Rafil, Member of the Extended Secretariat of Laity, and Ms. Agnes Reyes, Coordinator of the East Asia Laity Desk, met to begin organizing the program details for the 2024 Asia Joint Formation which target dates will be on November 11-15, 2024 and the proposed venue for the event will be in Bangkok Thailand.

CHILE > SOUTH AFRICA

8 students from the Marist Schools of Chile are participating in the exchange experience at Saint David's College in Johannesburg until July 9. They will be followed by a second female delegation of 09 students who will travel to Saint Henry's College in Durban from July 6th to August 6th.

AMÉRICA CENTRAL

The province began the countdown to the XVII Provincial Chapter to be held June 26-30 in Guatemala. The theme will be "Sowing the Future". Brother Juan Carlos Bolaños will be the new provincial, replacing Brother Hipólito Pérez.

COMPOSTELA

The Provincial and Missionary Council, the Commission for Economic Affairs and the Marist Life Team ended the course together at the meeting of the Province's Extended Council in Carcavelos. The working themes included the course "Spirituality of the heart", the conclusions of MIMA III and the preparation of the VI Missionary Assembly in Compostela next year.

**USA****ANNUAL MARIST YOUTH GATHERING 2024**

The Marist Brothers of the USA Province hosted on May 25–27 the 24th annual Marist Youth Gathering. Over 200 young people, chaperones, and Marist Young Adults from around the USA Province and Canada District gathered at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, New York, to participate in a weekend of growth, and prayer.

After arrival and a welcome on Friday, the students showed off what makes their school Marist and learn from each other.

Saturday was full of workshops and a keynote panel, all focusing on the gathering's theme: "Build Your Kingdom Here". Among the panelists were Marist brothers Luis and Ryan, and Marist Young Adults Isa and London, who spoke about the idea of building Marist spirit.

Mr. Joe LoGiudice started the day off with a prayer centered on the weekend's theme. Workshops handled topics such as mental health, journaling, and finding joy, as tools to build the Kingdom of God. The day wrapped up with a carnival, with ice cream, a 30-foot water slide, inflatable jousting, face painting and more! Night prayer took the Marist youth

to the campfire, where they reflected on their day.

Sunday started with Morning Prayer at the river. Students got to hear from a second panel, which included Marist educators Ms. Abbey Hipkin and Andrés Novella, Marist Young Professional Cesar Oñate, and Ellen Salmi van Cleef the Associate Director of Evangelization for the USA province. After finishing the final round of workshops, it was the 24th annual Champagnat games.

After a moment of rest, the group celebrated Mass together. To cap off the night and the weekend, there was prayer and party. Afterwards, the group went into a transformed gym for Taize prayer, giving the group the space to reflect on all the weekend brought them.

On Monday, the group gathered a final time to prepare for the journey home. Br. Dan O'Riordan, Provincial, sent them off with an address, asking them to walk the walk, and put everything they learned about into action.

As always, this year's Marist Youth Gathering gave a chance for Marist Youth from all over to get together, learn from each other, and see they are a part of something bigger than themselves.

CANADA

THE DISTRICT CELEBRATES ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT AND THE JUBILEE OF 12 BROTHERS

For the Marists of Champagnat, June 6 is a very special day: a reminder of Marcellin's presence in the heart of the community and of our personal history; since January 2, 1817, a long journey of more than two hundred and seven years, from La Valla "to the four corners of the horizon". This year, the Marists of Canada wanted to mark this anniversary in a special way, after a "big break": the closure of Mont Champagnat and the transfer of 21 Brothers to two nursing houses, which could have caused a lot of sadness and nostalgia. But, fortunately, 2024 turned out to be a "year of highlights", with 12 Brothers from the District celebrating an important anniversary in Marist religious life: two Brothers celebrated their 60th, seven their 70th and three their 75th anniversary of Marist consecration.

The new owners of Mont Champagnat were kind enough to invite us to this special celebration, making the chapel, full of memories and still intact, and other facilities available to the "former residents" of the house. For many, this return to their roots was a balm after a year of adapting to a new environment.

After the welcome, brothers and guests, people close to the Marist community, gathered in the chapel for the celebration of thanksgiving for Marcellin's gift to the Church and to our Marist family, and for the years of Marist commitment of the brothers celebrating their jubilee of religious life. Brother Réal Cloutier, himself one of the jubilarians, introduced each of the brothers in beginning of the celebration, which was presided over by Marist Father Raymond-Marie Moreau, chaplain to the brothers at Mont Champagnat for more than 20 years. At the end of the celebration, the Marist song "Toujours, toujours", sung with soul and emotion, was a kind of renewal of the commitments made 60, 70 and 75 years ago.

The celebration continued with a fraternal meal, where laughter and memories confirmed Psalm 133: "How good and how sweet it is for brothers to live together".

The celebration of an event like this represented a great challenge in terms of organization: for example, preparing the feast, ensuring the organization, planning the trips, especially for the brothers in wheelchairs; moreover, the brothers able to help with the organization were few... Brothers Réal Cloutier and Jacques Bélisle took on this challenge and made sure the party went ahead. But it's easy to imagine the hours of



planning and organizing. To them and to those who supported them, a big thank you: it's gestures like these that unite the fraternity.

Celebration in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

Among the brothers celebrating their jubilee of religious life this year, seven have lived and worked in the former province of Iberville, either in Canada or in various countries known at the time as "mission countries": Zimbabwe, Zambia, Haiti. The District Council wanted those who were unable to go to Quebec City to be able to share in the joy of the community with a celebration organized for June 8th. Thus, 26 brothers, accompanied by some relatives of 5 jubilarians, who have been Marists for 70 years, gathered at the Maison Mariste Champagnat in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

After a welcome and a word of introduction from Brother Félix Rôdan, Superior of the District of Canada, a moment of prayer and a well-adapted animation gave each of the celebrants the opportunity to express some typical moments of their journey and their commitment, taken from these "490 years" (5 x 70 years) of Marist life. Surprisingly, the facts or situations recounted evoked nothing but the positive, an element that clearly shows that a life given with love makes one forget the difficulties of the journey. These moments of communion always continue "around the same table", a place of welcome and sharing.

Brother Félix was the host, but he had the help of the community at the District headquarters, which took care of the organization. Once again, the word "fraternity" was translated into a warm welcome. Thank you to our fraternal hosts.

Br. Gilles Hogues

PHILIPPINES

BROTHERS JICK DE LEON AND ENGEL FREED JAVA MADE THEIR PERPETUAL VOWS IN KIDAPAWAN

The 6th of June 2024, the feast day of St. Marcellin Champagnat, marked a memorable occasion for the Marist Brothers of East Asia Province. The young brothers, Br. Jick de Leon and Br. Engel Freed Java made their perpetual vows at the Notre Dame of Kidapawan College, Kidapawan, Philippines, a place that holds great significance for them as it was there that they discovered distinct meaning of their vocation to religious life.

Donning the theme “Everything is Grace”, it was a moment for the entire province to reflect upon the grandeur of how well the spirit leads in the lives of these two young men and how it brought them to this path despite their humble, timid beginnings in the institute.

The ceremony was presided over by Bishop Noel Pedragosa, a long-time Marist mission partner at Diocese of Malaybalay, Bukidnon. In his homily, he emphasized the great importance of following Mary’s example as a “motherly disciple who brings people closer to Jesus.”

Their vows were received by the Marist East Asia Provincial Br.



Allan de Castro, on behalf of the Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sanchez. There was a great number of Marist Brothers in attendance, along with the other branches of the Marist Family. Gracing the rite were hundreds of delegates from different congregations and schools where the two were previously assigned. The joyful occasion marks a new chapter for Brothers Jick and Engel as they commit themselves for life to Marist way of life.

THE SYNODAL JOURNEY OF THE CHURCH IN AMAZONIA

On June 7, Brother João Gutemberg Sampaio, of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province, participated in a round table discussion at the Pontifical Gregorian University, during which the Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon (CEAMA) and the Pan Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM) presented the synodal journey of the Church in the Amazon, on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon. Brother João is the executive secretary of REPAM. Also participating in the meeting were Brothers Óscar Martín Vicario, general councilor, and Ángel Diego Otaola, director of the Solidarity-Cmi Secretariat. Details of the meeting are available at [this link](#).



EAST CENTRAL AFRICA - MADAGASCAR

FIRST PROFESSION AND RETREAT OF THE NOVICES AT SAVE

On June 6, seven novices of the Province of East Central Africa made their first profession in the Institute at the interprovincial novitiate in Save, Rwanda. Two other novices, who have completed their second year, will make their first profession at the end of the month, in Madagascar. In preparation for this important moment in the life of the novitiate, from May 29 to June 4, Brother Oscar Martin Vicario, General Councilor, led a retreat on the theme “Spirituality of the Heart as the Source of our Consecration”. There were 20 participants in the retreat: 9 first year novices, 9 second year novices and 2 formators. The retreat took place at the Monastery of the Benedictine Sisters of Save, a very suitable place, in the middle of nature, and with excellent conditions for silence and prayer. These days offered everyone the opportunity to deepen the journey already made during the Novitiate: to become more and more rooted in spirituality and in the experience of God’s love, in order to respond with generosity and courage to God. During these days of silence and prayer, there was time for



presentations, dialogues, prayerful moments and practices of interiority, always oriented to the experience of encounter. The novices who make their first profession in June will continue their Marist formation in August at the International Scholasticate in Nairobi (MIC), Kenya.

OTHER MARIST VOICES 71 AND 72

MARIAN FACE / DECISION MAKING

This week, we published messages 71 and 72 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 71 was written by Br. Xavier Giné Arnella, Vicaire Provincial of the Province of L’Hermitage, in France. The message is titled “Servant leadership and decision making” (English | Español | Français | Português) – Video. Other Marist Voices 72 was written by Maureen Hagan, Director of the Lay Marist Council of the Province United States of America. The message is titled “To Bring a Marian Face” (English | Español | Français | Português) – Video.



Other Marist Voices

This project is promoted by the Marist International Mission Commission and gives continuity to the initiative “Marist Voices”, a book launched in 2022 that addresses the theme of Marist leadership and seeks to reflect on the request of the last General Chapter that underlined that “For a new beginning, we believe in governance that favours prophetic servant leadership and closely accompanies Marist life and mission.” 120 Marists from around the world, including brothers, lay men and women, have been invited to share their perspectives on leadership from their own experiences. Each brings a unique vision and reflects on specific aspects of servant and prophetic leadership. Each week two messages are posted on the Institute’s communication channels. [This link gives you access to all the messages of this initiative, published as of September 2023.](#)

HAITI

On Thursday, June 6, on the occasion of the feast of Champagnat, four young men from the Province of México Occidental, who had just finished their novitiate, made their first profession in the Institute. The celebration took place in Les Cayes, in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel. The new brothers are: Gedromy Paul, Emmanuel Baptiste, Marven Charlot and Richard Nazaire.



REGION OF EUROPE

FORMATION FOR DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS OF SOCIAL WORKS IN EUROPE

From May 27 to 31, 2024, 23 directors and coordinators of social works of the Marist Region of Europe met in Xaudaró. The participants, who came from Hungary, Romania, Italy, Portugal and Spain, studied in depth the importance of the care of the teams, sharing on aspects of Human Resources, such as psychological security; on sustainability and the environment; the protection of minors and the rights of children; quality systems; the care of communication within and outside, especially in cases of crisis; planned and strategic work; and the Christian and Marist identity of the Social Works and the spiritual growth that can be experienced from the service that is given there.



In all this, it was very useful to the group the possibility of getting to know the facilities of the Cardenal Cisneros University Center and having moments of formation and sharing with the community of the provincial services of the Province of Ibérica.

The Marist Region of Europe continues to be committed to accompanying these processes of formation and experience, because, as has been shown once again, with this formation, being all One, the leaders have a greater capacity to serve, from the Gospel, in the Region, the boys and girls of the Marist Social Works.

6 JUNE

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT AT THE GENERAL HOUSE

On the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, on June 6, Marist brothers and lay people have gathered at the General House to celebrate the gift of life of the founder of the Marist Institute, as in so many parts of the world. The celebration of the mass was presided over by the Superior of the Marist Fathers, Fr. John Larsen.

An average of 90 participants attended the event. Among them, the religious men and women of the other branches of the Marist Family. They were also present the groups of the Gier 2024 ongoing formation program, who follow the course at the General House; the members of the Formation Program for International and Intercultural Communities. Likewise, the brothers of the Mediterranean Province who live in Italy, and the lay people who work in the General Administration, with their families, were present.

Referring to the feast of Marcellin Champagnat, Father Larsen said: "We celebrate today the marist family. We are bothers in



the Marist family. It's time for us to grow together as family."

At the conclusion of the celebration, Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, thanked everyone for their presence, and recalled that June 6 "we have gathered to celebrate not only our faith, but also our communion as a Marist family." And added: "May the confidence that today we continue to build the work of God and Mary continue to be the engine that drives us every day in our actions and visions." ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#))

Brother Luis Carlos highlighted, in the same way, the message for this

occasion from Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, who is participating in the Norandina Chapter: "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".

[Photos en Facebook](#)



Institute of the Marist Brothers General House

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


Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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