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MARIST NEWS

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NORANDINA

VIII CHAPTER PROVINCIAL

From June 3 to 7, Rionegro, Colombia hosted the VIII Chapter of the Norandina Province with the motto "Live, Dream, Build... It's Time." In a provincial communion meeting, they were gathered 27 capitular brothers, 15 lay people and the Ecuadorian priest Manuel Lalangui, who usually accompanies these Marist meetings in the province. During the VIII Provincial Chapter, were present, on the part of the general government: brothers Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General, Ken McDonald (virtually) and João Carlos do Prado, general councilors of liaison with the Arco Norte Region.

On the first day of the chapter, the members of the central table were elected, who were in charge of animating the different plenary sessions. Immediately afterwards, brothers Ernesto and João Carlos presented the opening words, and recalled the importance of the chapter, being a meeting to listen to the spirit and glimpse the future of life and mission in Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia. The Superior General recalled his experience during his participation in the Synod of Synodality and, in light of



ASSEMBLY MSIN

The III assembly of the Marist Solidarity International Network Assembly takes place at the General House, from June 17 to 21. 56 representatives, from different realities of the Institute, are discussing these days the goals and challenges for the next two years, in the field of solidarity.

Soon, a special issue of Marist News will be dedicated to this meeting.

[Click here for more information about the MSIN.](#)

general administration

■ Several brothers from the Administration, and some lay collaborators participate during the week in the MSIN Assembly, which is held in the General House.

■ From Monday to Friday, the annual meeting of the Marist Spiritual Patrimony Commission takes place in Manziana.

■ On Tuesday, it concluded the June plenary session of the General Council.

■ Also on Tuesday, brothers João Carlos do Prado and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, general councilors, participated in the meeting with the directors of the Secretariat of Laity (Manu Gómez, Ana Saborío and Mark O'Farrell) to prepare the meeting of the Extended Secretariat team of phase 4 of the forum, in July.

■ On Wednesday, brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, Ken McDonald and Ben Consigli, link general councilors with the mission area, met to prepare the meeting of the International Commission in January 2025.

■ Also on Wednesday, Manu, director of the Secretariat of Laity, held the first training session with the laity of Madagascar.

■ On Thursday, Brother José Sánchez, director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, participated in the online meeting with the members of the Marist Editors Network.

■ Also on Thursday, Manu met with the animation team of the Marist lay vocation of the Province of Southern Africa.

■ On Saturday, brothers João Carlos and Ben, link Councilors with the Europe Region, met online with the Provincial Council of Mediterraenea to summarize the recent ministry visit to the Province.

■ At the end of this week, members of the Ongoing Formation team, brothers Michael Sexton, Ataíde de Lima and Xavier Barceló, will travel to Nairobi to follow the "Espiritualidad del Corazón" course, which will be attended by 29 English-speaking brothers from countries in Asia and Africa.

the heritage of Saint Marcellin, presented the intuitions for the future for the Marist mission that guide the lines of action for the present triennium. The Superior General recalled his experience of participation in the Synod of Synodality and, in light of the heritage of Saint Marcellin, presented the intuitions for the future for the Marist mission that guide the lines of action for the present triennium.

At the opening of the chapter, the Eucharist was celebrated where Brother Carlos Alberto

Rojas Carvajal took over as the new Provincial Animator, and expressed his message of optimism and hope, highlighting the journey and progress of the province, over 20 years, with its different moments of animation, and invited to “Live, Dream and Build” like Marists, following the example of Father Champagnat. The second day was dedicated to reflection and inner encounter, encouraged by Brother Ernesto, who through the word “Live”, led a ‘desert space’ that allowed us to think about those initiatives that have allowed a change significant in the province or those that could be energizing for the Marist mission in the province. On the third chapter day, after approving the minutes of the previous day, the synodal dynamics for the drafting of provincial calls were explained. And in work groups – made up of brothers and lay people – the different proposals focused on the motto proposed for the chapter were socialized, based on the verbs: Live, Dream, Build. During the work sessions, the brothers and lay people shared their experiences and knowledge, which allowed them to strengthen the ties of fraternity and have a broader overview of the reality of the three countries that make up the Norandina Province.

The fourth day was a time of joy and celebration on the Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. The participants of the chapter traveled to Medellín and, together with the community of the La Valla Interprovincial Novitiate, celebrated the Eucharist. There, Brother Ernesto expressed a few words about the meaning of this day and contextualized the inhabitants of the sector about the Marist charism and the legacy of Marcellin Champagnat.

The Provincial Chapter concluded on June 7 with the election of the pro-



vincial council, made up of Brothers Leonardo Yepes, José Miguel Caballero, Ángel González, José María Ondarreta, Mariano Morante and Antidio Enríquez, who together with the new Provincial will be responsible for animating the life and mission during the triennium 2024 – 2027.

At the end of the closing and sending Eucharist, brothers Ernesto and João Carlos recalled a section of the Rule of Life, which invites Marists to follow the virtues of the Marist charism and gave the members of the new provincial animation team a candle. as a symbol of the light that they must bring to the communities and Marist presences of the province, listening to the voice of the spirit to transmit the message to each person who is on the service path that begins

In the coming days, after the first provincial council, the provincial calls written in the chapter will be announced and reviewed by the new animation team for the triennium 2024 – 2027. The calls are focused on being Marists in the community, in the mission, in strengthening vocational ministry and communion as a province.



NIGERIA

On June 12, the Bursar, H. Lucky Paul Ogwu, and the Provincial Bursar team, organized a seminar on the use of the PIXPAY program. The executive director of PIXPAY, together with other employees, explained - to the administrators of all Marist establishments in the province - an efficient and fast way to manage payments in Marist works, using the PIXPAY application. The seminar was held at the provincial house in Enugu.



BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

The Province promoted, from June 10 to 14, the 2nd Marketing, Relationship and Communication Meeting, which took place in Taguatinga. Br José de Assis Elías de Brito, provincial, participated in the meeting, which was attended by more than 70 professionals from 21 schools and a social school in the Province. The Strategy and Market Management of Marista Brasil also participated.



OTHER MARIST VOICES 73 AND 74:

LEADERSHIP / IN THE SERVICE OF THE OTHER



This week, we published messages 73 and 74 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 73 was written by Br. Jesús Balmaseda Aragón, Missionary in Nicaragua, Province of América Central. The message titled “In the service of the other” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#) refers to chapter 16 of Marist Voices (Biblical Pointers on Fraternity for Leadership Oriented Towards Service), written by Br. Josep María Soteras.

Other Marist Voices 74 was written by Walberson Martins, Pastoral coordinator of Águas Claras School, in Province of Brasil Centro Norte. The message titled “Leadership and spirituality” ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)) – [Video](#) refers to chapter 3 of Marist Voices (What Type of Leader Do You Want To Be?), written by Br. Seán D. Sammon.

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.

WEBINAR CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT: MARIST EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Together to look beyond

Once again, around the feast of Champagnat and as part of the activities of Champagnat Global’s Open Network, the meeting of the international Marist school community took place in online modality: ‘Together to look beyond’, on this occasion with the title: ‘Marist Educational Mission. In the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat’.

Br. José Sánchez Bravo and Br. Niño Pizarro, directors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation, opened the meeting: “We are delighted that there are people from all over the world”, said Br. Niño, who also said that the aim of the session was to inspire the participants with this document: “It is about learning from each other”.

During the afternoon session, Br José Sánchez Bravo affirmed that “to educate is to transmit life” and explained the seven priorities that emerged at MIMA “which God invites us to emphasise”:

- Quality Marist education.
- Promote and protect the rights of children and young people.
- Nurture Marist spirituality.
- Promote the participation of children and young people through active listening spaces.
- Care for family relationships to nurture the lives of children and young people.
- Care for our common home.
- Care for mental health and well-being.

Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, explained that the document seeks to “encourage the journey of Marists in mission by looking beyond, on a journey with many challenges, but also with hope” and thanked all those who have contributed to the drafting of the Educational Mission document.

The participants had a few minutes of prayer through a Philippine song that is used to commemorate the feast of Marcellin. It is a song with 15 years of history which, under the title ‘Start



Living the Dream’, won an award in the Philippines.

Br. Luis Carlos, Vicar General, explained that this document “has been renewed and updated”. “We have gone through an intense process of reflection, drafting and validation”, he said.

It is an updated document, “25 years have passed since the first one and we felt that it was time to update it because there has been a lot of progress during these years” – the vicar explained – “We decided to update it because we considered that it was important to maintain the essence of the other one”.

The text was constructed, contemplating the present. It is a living document for us that pushes us into the future, that helps us to visualise what we want as Marists of Champagnat.

In the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat, Marists in mission, in the Church and in the world, present among children and young people, especially the most neglected, we are sowers of the Good News, with a particular Marist style, in our educational works.

It empowers us in our Marist way of mission, it is a horizon and a task for Marist spirituality, pastoral education and option for

marist world

FRANCE: GIER 2024 ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAM



FRANCE: FORMATORS PARTICIPATING IN THE NEW BUILDERS OF L'HERMITAGE COURSE AT FOURVIÈRE



SOUTH AFRICA: ST DAVID'S MARIST INANDA



BRAZIL: MARISTS AT THE CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS



ADAGASCAR: LYCÉE CATHOLIQUE SAINT JOSEPH DE DIEGO



CHILE: PASTORAL MOVEMENT MARCHA

those most in need. The document in turn is re-organised. It is a document that updates the educational, evangelising and solidarity perspectives of the mission. It is a document for action, to help us to organise different days. Br. Luis Carlos concluded with an invitation to read, to deepen and to act.

Afterwards, the participants watched a video which summarised the different chapters of the document:

Br. Ben Consigli, General Councillor, began with a word of thanks: "each one has his mission as an educator". "We all carry out the mission of Marcellin, we have a distinctive Marist style that unites us. As Marists we have to evangelise. This new edition serves as a valuable resource for Marists in a number of ways. It is a book that deepens Champagnat's educational principles," he said.

In addition, Br. Ben mentioned the document Stand Up, Speak Out and Act, which gives us strategies and calls us



all to encourage the participation of young people in the Marist mission. It gives us guidance and tells us how to support the spiritual growth of our students.

The directors of the Secretariat for Education and Evangelisation ended the session with a word of thanks and invited all the participants to reflect on the points we had explored in depth in the webinar.



We warmly thank the more than 900 people who registered for the event and the 430 who had the opportunity to participate.

If for some reason you were unable to attend or would like to watch it recorded, you can follow it on Youtube.

If you are looking to interact on interesting topics with other members of the international Marist school community, we are waiting for you on the AGORÁ platform!



GENERAL HOUSE

1ST MARIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING

General House, October 29 to November 1st, 2024

The Communication Department of the General House, supported by the General Councillors, Brothers Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa and João Carlos do Prado, will hold the 1st Marist International Meeting on Communication and Marketing from October 29 to November 1st, 2024, at the General House in Rome. This meeting is aimed at the directors or those responsible for the communication and marketing departments or services of each of the Administrative Units and Regions of the Marist Institute.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Reflect and deepen the knowledge of the Institute as a Global Marist Family and its implications in the Administrative Units and Regions.
- To reflect on communication and marketing in religious institutions in the context of today’s society and Church.

- Support each other in the acquisition of knowledge and tools to make the communication and marketing processes more effective.
- Collaboratively build a common vision and direction for Institute-wide communication and marketing.
- Create a culture of networking among those responsible for communication and marketing processes in the UAs and Regions.



Specific sessions for communicators from Africa and Asia will be held on October 28 and November 2.

PERU

MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT IS ENTHRONED AS PATRON OF THE CITY OF SULLANA

Since June 6, 2024, Saint Marcellin Champagnat has been venerated as the patron saint of the city of Sullana in Piura, Peru, Marist Province of Santa Maria de los Andes. The image of Champagnat was enthroned in the main parish, “Santísima Trinidad”, where the event was celebrated.

In Sullana there are two Marist schools that make Saint Marcellin’s charism a reality: Santa Rosa and San José Obrero. It was these two schools, through their pastoral teams and teachers, who asked the Council of Mission and Sector Life-Peru, of the Province of St. Mary of the Andes, for the possibility of having an image that would remain in the main parish.

The enthronement of the image took place with the authorization of the Archbishop of Piura-Tumbes and the approval of the parish priest, Father Roland Vicente Castro Juárez. Present at the ceremony were Marist Brothers and lay Marists, teachers, students, former students, parents and local residents. “For both the city and the Marist family it was a day of great



joy and satisfaction for the long-awaited event. We will pray together so that St. Marcellin may help us to have new vocations for our Province of Santa Maria de los Andes and, therefore, for the whole Marist Congregation”, said Brother Bernardino Pascual Juárez.

GENERAL HOUSE

FMSI PUBLISHES ITS 2023 SOCIAL REPORT

The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity has published its 2023 Social Report that presents the projects carried out, together with the Solidarity Secretariat-Cmi, in favor of the rights of children and people in vulnerable situations. In 2023, FMSI managed to complete 73 educational and solidarity projects, in 24 countries, in order to guarantee quality education – inclusive and equitable – to 21,137 minors and raise awareness among 10,828 children, young people and adults about their rights and how to defend them.

In the course of 2023, the Marist Foundation of the General Administration of the Institute also participated in the Universal Periodic Review presented to the United Nations to Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Nigeria, Mexico, Vanuatu and Uruguay. And it raised 470,275.95 euros to benefit the Syrian population, seriously affected by the earthquake that same year. FMSI also managed to help 25,986 people through emergency interventions (food, health, shelter and psychological help).

In his letter addressed to all the friends and supporters of the Foundation, Br. Ken McDonald, General Councilor, president of FMSI, thanked all the collaborators and volunteers, and said that “FMSI asserts the imperative to uphold the dignity and rights of every child under all circumstances, guiding its use of images, words, and communication in adherence to principles centered on the protection, development, participation, non-discrimination, and prioritization of the child’s highest interest.”

Download the 2023 Annual FMSI Report: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Italiano](#)



**Fondazione Marista
per la Solidarietà
Internazionale ETS**
FMSI
Per il Bene dei Bambini

FMSI is a Foundation created by the Marist Institute for the promotion and protection of Child Rights. FMSI carries out its mission through advocacy and lobbying activities and projects in countries where there is a Marist presence. Since 2011 it has held special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations..

FMSI works in partnership with the [Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance \(BICE\)](#), [Child Rights Connect](#), [Fratelli Project](#), [De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale](#), [Centre Catholique International de Genève \(CCIG\)](#), [Child Rights Connect](#), [Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia de Latinoamérica y El Caribe](#), [FOCSIV \(Federazione degli Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario\)](#), [Observatorio Niñez y Adolescencia \(ONA\)](#), [Australian Marist Solidarity \(AMS\)](#), [Three2Six](#), [La Fundación Marista \(en Argentina\)](#), [Paul's Mulungushi Rural Health Center \(Zambia\)](#), [la ONG FUNDAMAR](#), [el Ejército Italiano](#), [el Centro Marcellin Foundation](#), [en General Santos \(Filipinas\)](#), [Chan-tiik Tajinkutik A.C \(México\)](#), [El Istituto San Leone Magno](#), [Solidarity with South Sudan](#).

GIER 2024 PROGRAM

SECOND 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. Dionesio (Jong) Acosta, from Philippines, East Asia Province, one of the participants in the program, tells us about his experience during the second week of the program.

[Photos en Facebook](#)

In our world today, most of us associate the word “connected” with WiFi or internet. It has become a part of our daily lives to be “connected.” The second week of the Gier Program 2024 provided me the opportunity to connect but in a different sense of the word – a time to connect to myself, others, nature and our Marist spirituality. This has been one of the gifts of



the program. There had been many activities to facilitate such an experience of connectedness. From the sharing of various Marists of Champagnat to visiting significant places of our Christian faith and history; the week has been full of experiences for me to be able to connect with my personal experiences, the encounter and working with other people and living in a Marist community.

My interaction with the Brothers who are more or less in the same stage as mine in my Marist journey is like looking in front of the mirror from different angles. This is enriched further by the fact that we are all coming from different cultural backgrounds and experiences. We speak various languages which makes communication a challenging but not impossible. We have our personal preferences in many ways which makes life more colorful and meaningful. All of these had given me not

only new realizations about myself but also enabled me to connect more deeply with my identity and journey as a Marist Brother in these fast-changing world.

To be connected is also to be conscious and to be aware of what’s happening in and around me – my personal experiences, the realities of our present world and the experiences of others.

Being connected to these will

give me a better understanding of who I am, where I am and, probably, to be more relevant in what I do.

I am grateful to be able to participate in this program because it has given me a more concrete and more profound understanding of my life as a Brother – that it is a journey of becoming one and towards holiness. It is never perfect. It is never ended. It is a discovery. It is a process. And along the way, there are people and experiences that I need to be aware of and to connect to in order for me to be more connected to myself.

I hope that with this re-discovery and appreciation of the beauty of connectedness, I will be able to make it a part of my daily life just like the need to be connected to the internet.

But to be able to do so, I am aware that it needs time and conscious effort.

Br. Dionesio (Jong) Acosta, East Asia Province (Philippines)



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Website

<http://www.champagnat.org>

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 <https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnat>

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 https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat