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“Do not be amazed!
You seek Jesus
of Nazareth, the
crucified. He has
been raised; he is
not here. Behold
the place where
they laid him.

(Mark 16,6)

MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT AND THE HOLY WEEK

The mystery of redemption was another of the special objects of Father Champagnat’s devotion. He spent the whole of Lent meditating on the sufferings of the divine Saviour; and, convinced that such a subject was adequate to occupy the Brothers and to nourish their piety, he gave them no other for their meditations, their spiritual reading and often, for the reading during meals.

Holy Week was even more specially given over to contemplating that ineffable mystery of God’s immense love for men; he spent it with the greatest recollection, as it were in a

kind of retreat. During the last three days, the liturgical ceremonies were carried out in full with all possible devotion and solemnity. For many years the Founder himself fasted on Good Friday on bread and water and had the community do likewise. There was no recreation taken that day after the midday meal, and deep silence reigned throughout the house; the whole day was passed either attending the ceremonies, reading spiritual works or meditating on the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

The pious Founder turned Holy Week into a time of renewal in piety and fervour

both for himself and his Brothers. Many of the Brothers in the establishment, spent this holy time with him; he saw them all privately to encourage them and to rekindle the spirit of their state; and in between the ceremonies, he conducted lectures and discussions on Christ’s passion or on the duties of the religious life. It can be said, then, that the week was indeed a holy one, as its name suggests; he dedicated it entirely to prayer, to his own sanctification and that of his Brothers.

Jean-Baptiste Furet,
*Life of Blessed Marcellin
Joseph Champagnat – II,6*

HAPPY AND HOLY EASTER TO ALL THE MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT!
MAY THE RISEN CHRIST HELP US TO WALK AS A GLOBAL FAMILY.

VATICAN: NEW PATHS FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR AN INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

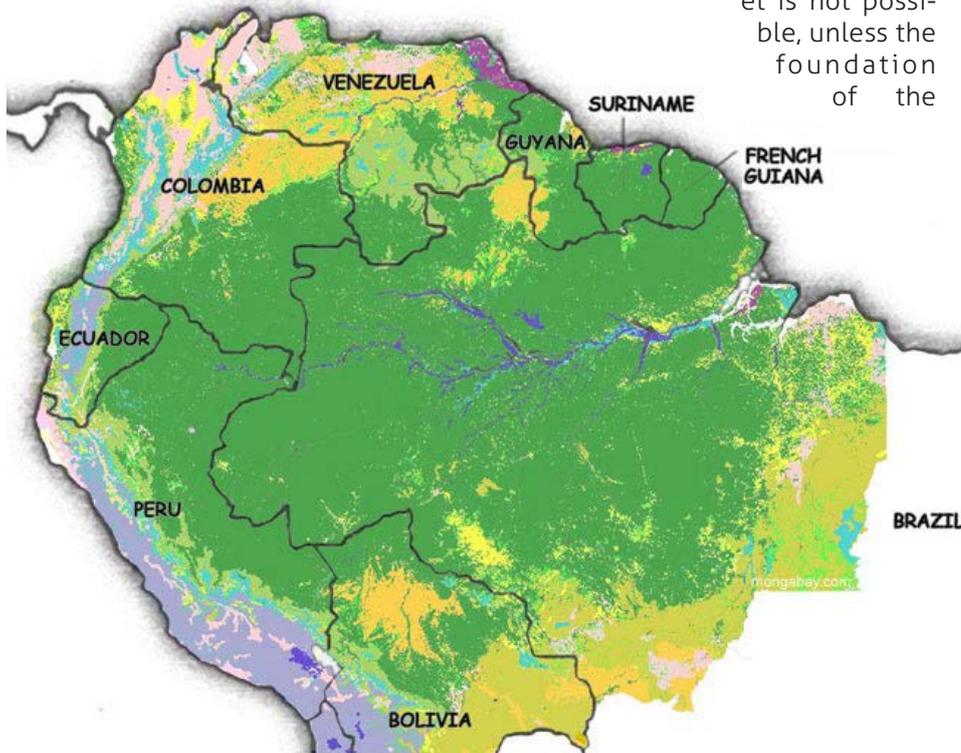
SYNOD FOR THE PAN-AMAZONIA

The Vatican made public on March 8 the theme of the next Pan-Amazonia Synod, as well as the list of members of the Pre-Synodal Council.

The theme of reflection is "Amazonia: new paths for the Church and for an integral ecology", which affirms that a valid presence of the Church in the main lung of the planet is not possible, unless the foundation of the

Encyclical *Laudato Si*, integral ecology, is not taken into account. The elected were called to collaborate with the general secretariat, under the guidance of Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, in the preparation of the synodal assembly, which will take place in October 2019 in the Vatican.

In the list, composed of 18 people, the names of two cardinals, archbishops and bishops appear, along with that of sister Irene Lopes, representing the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious, and the layman Mauricio López, executive secretary of the PanAmazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM), an entity that is seen as one of the great interlocutors of preparatory work for the Synod, given the work of studying the Amazonian reality carried out in recent years.



Marists in Amazonia

Marists are present in the Amazonia region, which includes Brazil (Brasil Centro-Norte and Brasil Sul-Amazônia), Peru and Bolivia (Santa Maria de los Andes), Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia (Norandina).

Each year, the Universidad Marcelino Champagnat of Lima (Santa Maria de los Andes province) trains hundreds of indigenous peoples from the jungle to become teachers.

There are several Marist schools with a Marist presence, such as the Nossa Senhora de Nazaré School in Belém (Brasil Centro-Norte), the Abya Yala School in Lago Agrio with 140 young people from five ethnic groups (Ecuador, Norandina province) and the Colegio Sao Pio X in Balsas, Brazil.

In the Brasil Sul-Amazônia province, the Marists carry out insertion projects in indigenous and riverine communities, they are present in public schools. But their most significant

work is the education of indigenous people in their realities.

There is also a home for indigenous adolescents from the Peruvian Amazonia in Puerto Maldonado and several missions in collaboration with different institutions in several cities. The international community Lavalla200 in Tabatinga is also in this area, under the direct coordination of the América Sur region. In the Colombian Amazonia the Marists are present in the Champagnat School and in the Fraternidad Escala in Sibundoy.

Marists in the Amazon region are very involved in the PanAmazon Ecclesial Network (REPAM), an initiative supported by lay people, religious, missionaries, priests, bishops, various structures of the Church and other institutions involved with the Amazonia region.

Ecology in the XXII General Chapter

The capitulars, meeting in Colombia

last year, showed profound harmony with the initiative of Pope Francis in favor of an integral ecology. The reflection on this theme was recorded, in an emblematic way, in two passages of the Message of the General Chapter:

- move away from a culture shaped by "ego-s" and adopt that of the "eco-s" (ecology, ecosystems, an economy of solidarity, ...) to reduce the scandal of indifference and inequality (third call).

- awaken in ourselves and those around us an ecological awareness that engages us in caring for "our common home" (fifth call).

The expression "common house" is at the base of the concept of "global family", which synthesizes the calls of the Chapter, but it is also a reference to the earth, according to the vision transmitted by San Francisco.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NIGERIA

Eleven schools, of which eight were Marist, took part in the "All Marist Secondary Schools Sports and Arts Festival" took place at the Marist Comprehensive Academy in Uturu, Nigeria, from Feb. 10 – 17. Participants included Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede, director and assistant director of the Secretariat of Mission.

ITALIAN STUDENTS

FMSI signed an agreement on March 19 with the Regional Education Office of Lazio which will enable students of both public and private schools of Italy's Lazio region to gain work experience in offices of the Marist International Solidarity Foundation.

EDELVIVES

The Marist editorial of Spain visited New York as an exceptional guest at the international summit of Google for Education, where its 100 most important partners gathered. Representatives of the publishing company participated to plan strategies that improve education in Spain and Latin America.

SÃO PAULO

The Marist Social Center Robru of the Brazil Centro-Sul Province is turning 20 years this year. It serves children up to four years of age in early childhood education and offers socio-family counselling. Currently, 206 children are attended full time, with educational, cultural and leisure activities.



GUATEMALA 2019: "WEAVING LIFE"

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF MARIST YOUTH

The International gathering of Marist youth that will be held in Guatemala City, from Jan. 15 – 21 next year, just days before the World Youth Day in Panama City, aims to give 160 Marist young people from all over the world the opportunity to live a joyful experience of the Church as a Community by providing an international and intercultural experience guided by the Marist spirit. It aims also to deepen the baptismal call and provide elements for the discernment of the personal vocation in order to strengthen in young people their leadership role in the Church and in society through the development of a life project.

The gathering is organised by the four branches of the Marist Family: the Marist Fathers, the Marist Missionary Sisters, the Marist Sisters and the Marist Brothers.

"The title 'Weaving Life' was chosen after reflecting on topics such as the WYD, pastoral vocation, service to the community and this October's Synod of Bishops that will focus on the youth," affirmed Brother Mark Omede, assistant director of the Secretariat of Mission of the Marist Brothers and member of the commission in charge of organising the youth gathering.

"Youth are called to integrate all these things in their life and that is what "Weaving Life" means," he told the communications office of the general house on March 9.

The organising committee has met many times so far to prepare for

'Weaving Life,' and it will meet again on April 17, via Skype, and in Guatemala City, from June 27 – 30.

Its members are from the four Marist branches: Brothers Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede (Marist Brothers from the Secretariat of Mission), F. Juan Carlos Piña (Marist Father), Sister Cristina Giustozzi (Marist Missionary Sister), and Sister Anne McCabe (Marist Sister). There is also a local organizing team coordinated by Brother Jorge Sánchez Kopper, fms.

There will be a total of 228 participants from the four Marist branches of which 81 will come from the Marist Brothers. The participants will include 160 youth, aged 20 – 30, along with 32 accompaniers, 36 members of the general government of the four Marist branches, the preparation team and volunteers.

The first International Gathering of Marist Youth was held in Sydney, Australia (2008), and has since always been held the week prior to the World Youth Day.

Since the international gathering held in Lyon in 2016, it became a meeting of young people from the four Marist congregations, not just from the branch of the Marist Brothers.

The provinces and districts have already been contacted by the organising team for further indications.

Twitter: [@weavinglife2019](https://twitter.com/weavinglife2019)
 FaceBook: [Weaving Life - Guatemala 2019](https://www.facebook.com/WeavingLife-Guatemala2019)
 Instagram: [weavinglive2017](https://www.instagram.com/weavinglive2017)



MARIST WORLD



Romania: Formators visit the Lavalla200> community of Moinesti



United States: Superior general visits Lavalla200> Harlem community, New York



Brazil Postulants in Maraponga



United States New Provincial Council of U.S.A.



Brazil: Meeting of the Vocational team of América Sur, in Curitiba



South Africa: Centenary of St Joseph's Marist College, Rondebosch, Cape Town

PROVINCE OF NIGERIA

MISSION CONFERENCE HELD IN EMENE

On March 3, 29 Brothers and one lay person gathered at the Marist Polytechnic, Emene, Nigeria, to discuss the mission of the Brothers in the Province of Nigeria.

The provincial superior, Brother Vincent Abadom, members of the Marist schools management board, Marist service commission members, finance commission, and Bursars were in attendance.

In his opening remarks, the Provincial stressed the importance of the gathering which was intended to map out strategies to improve on the mission in the Province.

The participants went into groups for discussions. The groups worked out strategies on how to improve the following areas in the mission.

- Cost reduction strategies in running our schools
- Staff motivation and how to im-



- prove students' population
- Staff transfer from one Marist school to another
- Common salary scale and staff status
- Day studentship
- How to improve the viability of our nursery/primary schools

- Strategies to improve the Central Treasury System
 - Budget and budgetary control
 - Centralisation of construction work
- Recommendations were made by each group to the provincial and his council for possible implementation.

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH FUTURE HORIZONS

MEETING OF PROVINCIALS OF ARCO NORTE



Brothers Gerard Bachand (Canada), Patrick Mc-Namara (United States), José Sánchez (México Central), Miguel Santos (México Occidental), Hipólito Pérez (América Central) and César Rojas (Norandina) met at the provincial house of México Central in Mexico City, from March 1 – 3, for the first meeting of provincials of the Arco Norte region since the 22nd General Chapter.

Vicar general Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez accompanied the provincials.

This meeting was part of a reflection process and a preparation of a strategic plan that leads to the consolidation of the Arco Norte as a region.

Implementation team of the Arco Norte region

For this reason, and prior to the meeting of provincials, the implementation team of the Arco Norte region met on Feb. 27 and 28 in the same place, to review the progress of the smaller teams (vocational animation, formation, good practices and economy), evaluate the progress in the regional walk and present a proposal of strategic planning to the region's provincials.

The team is formed by Brothers Félix Roldán (Canada), Albert Rivera (United States), Raúl Lara (México Occidental), Justino Gómez (México Central), Mariano Morantes (Norandina), Gregorio Linacero (América Central) and, on behalf of the general administration, Luca Olivari and Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas (Secretariat of Mission).

On March 1, a meeting was held between the implementation team and the provincials to present a strategic planning proposal that consolidates collaboration processes and creates an awareness of a joint path as a region in the areas of Marist life, mission, economy and services. The



meeting was very fruitful for the dialogues, searches and advances that are perceived. The provincials valued this work very positively and congratulated the implementation team for the excellent work done.

Encounter of Provincials

The Meeting of Provincials continued the following days with a busy schedule. They lived a great spirit of fraternity, trust and common search, in a space that we all valued as an authentic oasis, being able to share the reality of our provinces and express the difficulties and joys that we live every day in our mission of animation and government.

On this search path we ask ourselves some fundamental questions: how do we see ourselves in 2026? Do we consider that we will be the same provinces, or will we undergo some transformation in this regard? How can we manage, integrate and harmonize local animation with regional animation? What are the necessary structures in order to be able to promote these initiatives? ...

As provincials, we decided to continue advancing in the regionalisation process and the Arco Norte Regional Committee was appointed to give continuity to the strategic planning. It will be made up of people from each province – Brothers and laity

– and will attend the different areas of animation: Marist life, mission and economy and management.

Among the topics discussed in the meeting, the following stand out: conversations with Brother Luis Carlos about information, orientation and initiatives in relation to the Institute; the reflection on the journey of the East Harlem community (United States) and the strengthening of the formation processes, in particular, the initiative of the Provinces of México

Central and México Occidental to participate in a great Interprovincial Novitiate project based on the experience of the La Valla Interprovincial Novitiate in Medellín, Colombia.

Some common and collaborative initiatives were approved in the Arco Norte: MCFM coordinators meeting from Aug. 19 – 24 in Guatemala, organized by the Secretariat of the Laity; course of charism and Marist pedagogical principles by the Universidad Marista de Curitiba; a workshop on the protection and defense of minors; a workshop for our middle-aged Brothers and meeting management and development of solidarity projects with the collaboration of the NGO SED of Spain.

The Brothers José Sánchez and Alberto Aparicio (Provincial of Cruz del Sur), as coordinators of the Arco Norte and América-Sur regions, have been asked to revise the statutes of the CIAP (Inter-American Conference of Provincials) and to study the suitability of the continuity of the network of solidarity and network of Marist spirituality in the Continent. We appreciate the great welcome and gestures of fraternity lived in the México Central province and the generosity of the Canada province in organising the next meeting of provincials in Quebec, that will take place from Nov. 1 – 3.

LEADERS FOR A GLOBAL FAMILY

BR SYLVAIN ROMUALD RAMANDIMBIARISOA

During the Chapter in Rionegro, the brothers elected the superior general and his council. It is the leaders of the Institute who, during the next eight years, will put into practice the Institute's appeal: "Journeying together as a Global Family."

We invite members of the government to introduce themselves and tell us how the challenge of this new mission has been so far. Today we present the text written by Brother Sylvain of the province of Madagascar, elected as general councillor.

I am Madagascan or Malagasy, was born in Mahajanga, in the north of Madagascar. However, I spent my childhood and my youth in Antsiraha in the center of the country. I come from a family of four boys and two girls. My father is a State nurse, my mother is in the house but she had a Nursery School during some years.

During my childhood, I liked very much to play teaching pupils in a class with my friends. I dreamt of becoming a teacher or professor in school. Since I went to the College St. Joseph of the Marist Brothers, I saw the Brothers, in their cassock, who taught. I had the desire to become like them: a Marist Brother who teaches in School.

After Primary School, when I was 12 years old, I entered the Institute to make my dream a reality. After initial formation, I made my first profession at 17 years of age. It was on September 9, 1979 and perpetual profession in the month of August 1986. Then I continued my formation and the different apostolic activities in the schools.

The Brothers Superior of the Institute asked me to follow the course of Religious Psychology in the Gregorian University of Rome to prepare myself to become Formator. It was the most difficult turning point of my life to accept that since I had decided to become a Marist Brother to teach in the schools and not to be a Formator. After these studies, I was Formator at « Marist International Center », (MIC), in Nairobi, Kenya and that during 7 years. During one year, at the same time that I accompanied the young Brothers in the evening, I followed a course of « Post. Grad-



uate Degree in Education" at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. In addition to teaching and the activities of formation, I was very motivated in the activities with the young, especially music, sports and the "youth festivals".

Finally at the end of the year 2001, I went back to Madagascar. I was elected Provincial Superior. a role which I assumed from 2002 to 2008. After six years of working in vocation pastoral ministry and as director of schools, once again I was named Provincial beginning in 2014. In September-October 2017 I participated in the XXII General Chapter, in Colombia, during which I was elected among the General Councillors.

How was the experience of your election?

It is a second turning point in my life. It is a surprise, again, once more, I am asked to do a task which is not according to the first motivation of my vocation. I was greatly anguished during the process of

election. At the moment when I was elected, I breathed deeply and asked myself: "is this possible? will I be able to do it" am I worthy?" and many other questions. After a pause, I accepted. Progressively, I feel assured when the Chapter members congratulated me with trust. Some of them expressed words of encouragement.

How is the experience of your new life in the General House up to the present moment?

At the beginning of our mandate of the General Council, I feel I am an apprentice. Everything is new for me: the persons with whom I form a community, the difference in culture and personality, the work in the Institute, the way of doing things, the European context, etc. At the present moment I still grope around to find my way, I am not as yet sure of my role. I have to reaffirm my trust in self in order to be able to be useful in the service to the Institute.

Keeping in mind what was lived in the General Chapter, according to you, what should the line of action of the Council be for the next eight years?

In the beginning of our mandate, Brother Superior General insists on community life and working as a team. I am convinced, in fact, our mission is to help the Institute « to walk together as a global body ». This has to begin by our community of the General Council. It is in this family spirit that we will carry out a « new beginning » in reconfirming our mission with children and vulnerable youth, in the peripheries.

FMSI - MARIST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION

The FMSI team is making its periodic visit this month to Geneva to participate in various United Nations events.

HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN PERU, ARGENTINA AND GHANA



The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is one of the main mechanisms of the United Nations to monitor compliance with human rights. FMSI has presented 38 reports since 2009, to show the situation of children in 32 countries with a Marist presence, mainly in Africa and America.

In 2017, the reports on Argentina, Peru and

Ghana were presented. Brothers and lay people from those countries were involved in the preparation of the reports, working together with organisations such as Edmund Rice and Vivat. They researched and gathered information about issues such as: violence against children in families, action by the State, right to education, among others.

In the last part of the UPR cycle, the countries publicly accept the recommendations that have been made to them. In this case, Argentina, Peru and Ghana did so on March 15 at the Palais des Nations (Geneva).

Pleasantly, we can see that some of the recommendations that were made from FMSI were accepted. Now it is appropriate to continue monitoring compliance.

FMSI recognises the effort made by the Marist solidarity and children's rights teams in these countries. And, at the same time, it invites other provinces to join in this effort to continue defending human rights in international forums.

FMSI is currently working on the reports of Vanuatu, Mexico, Uruguay and Chile.

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS IN EL SALVADOR



One of these activities is the session of the Human Rights Committee, the body in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

There are several countries with a Marist presence that are being examined, one of them is El Salvador.

Among the issues referred to children that were raised to the national delegation, led by the Minister of Justice, were: unaccompanied migrant children traveling to the US, measures to end corporal and humiliating punishment, the eradication of work children, the fight against violence in gangs, the living conditions of adolescents in prisons, among others.

After this session, the national delegation has a term of 48 hours to respond in writing to the questions of the experts.



- FMSI is the foundation created by the Institute to promote and protect the rights of children. FMSI carries on its mission through the activity of advocacy and lobbying and with projects in the countries in which the Marists are present.
- FMSI was constituted in 2007 in Italy as a non-profit organization of social usefulness (ONLUS).
- From 2011 it has the special consultative status before the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.
- FMSI is member of: Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance

(BICE), 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), Santiago de Chile.

PHILIPPINES: REKINDLING THE PASSION FOR MARIST LAY FORMATION

CMMF MARIST SCHOOL MARIKINA EXPERIENCE

Aligning themselves with the thrust of renewing the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (CMMF), the School-Marikina core group gathered for a sharing on the on-going renewal processes last March 2. The meeting was an opportunity to share on the Calls of the General Chapter using reflections on the visual presentations of these Calls.

Relevant information on the global structures of the laity leadership across the Institute and the laity animation activities of the East Asia Province were also presented during the meeting. These allowed the participants to think of means to intensify the promotion of the vocation of the Marist Laity in respect to their own context.

Spearheaded by Mrs. Lucrecia Tabayo-yong, the lead animator of the movement, the members proposed means to advocate the vocation of the laity and the CMMF. One project they have was to meet all school personnel per



grade-level cluster. Ms. Christine Stokes gave an input and testimony on how CMMF evolved and how her Marist life was nurtured, witnessing to the richness of a life lived the Marist way.

The other members of the CMMF core team are actively involved in giving Marist Formation to the newly hired personnel to ensure new em-

ployees are given formative input on Marist values, pedagogy and the Marist way of life.

With the CMMF core team rekindling the passion and taking an upper hand in the on-going Marist formation of the personnel, it is envisaged that the Marist lay vocation be re-discovered, nurtured, and sustained.

SOLOMON ISLAND: LEADERS OF MELANESIA COMMUNITIES REFLECT ON CHAPTER MESSAGE

Leaders of the communities of the district of Melanesia gathered at the Solomon Islands to reflect on the message of the 22nd General Chapter.

Another purpose of the forum was to draw up this year's plan for their individual communities based on their reflections. Their plan included helping their communities be more 'homely' and welcoming.

During the encounter, held from Feb.12 – 14, the district council presented its strategic plan for the next three years.

Participants began each day with a



contemplative prayer reflecting on two questions from the Chapter, that were modified to suit the pur-

poses of the forum.

They were "who is God asking me/us to be in this emerging world as a Brother/as Brothers in community?" and "what is God asking me/us to do in this emerging world as a Brother/as Brothers in community?"

A press release of the district affirmed "there was a great spirit of openness among the Brothers which

allowed each one to share (their reflections) and participate in the group discussions."

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