



Vocations Newsletter

November, 2018

Please enjoy this newsletter and share it with anybody you think would like to learn more about the continued vitality of the Marist Brothers throughout the world!



Bro. Ernesto Sanchez, fms (center) meets with Pope Francis (left) and Bro. Robert Schieler, fsc (right) during October's Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.

Some Marist News from October

- September 26 – 29: Our Blue Marist community in Aleppo, Syria along with the International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) held a training workshop to help community mentors develop resilience skills among children affected by war.

- October 3 – 28: Our superior general, Bro. Ernesto Sanchez of Mexico was an elected participant at the Church's Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. [Read the short speech he delivered on October 11.](#)
- October 5: Brother Iulio Suasie of Samoa celebrated his 50th anniversary as a Marist Brother.
- October 5 – 8: The Marist Brothers Center at Esopus hosted the annual LaValla weekend: a short but intensive formation in community, solidarity, faith, and service for high school students. Marist Young Adults, Lay Marists, and Marist Brothers collaborated to make this experience impactful for participants.
- Mid-October: The Fratelli Project, a collaboration between Marists and LaSallians in Lebanon, began its new cycle with nursery school, pre-school, and school support programs serving Lebanese, Syrian, and Iraqi children in Rmeileh and Bourj Hammoud, many of whom would not otherwise have access to any education at all.
- October 17 – 21: A group of 12 young men considering life as a Marist Brother gathered in Fortaleza, Brazil to continue their discernment together.
- October 23 – 24: Representatives from the three Marist provinces in Brazil gathered in Porto Alegre for a forum on volunteering. Bro. Valdicer Fachi of Brazil, director of our Collaboration for Mission International (Cmi) addressed participants about possibilities for international volunteering within our Marist world.
- October 24: Brothers Fred Salubre, Jeffrey Guino-o, and Adrian Mana-ay from the East Asia Province professed final vows in the Philippines at Notre Dame of Marbel University.
- October 31: A two-month continuing formation program for "well-seasoned" Spanish- and Portuguese- speaking Marist Brothers in their third age concluded at the General House in Rome. 23 brothers from 9 different countries participated.

A Moment in Marist History:

Champagnat and the Dying Boy

As a new priest in the town of LaValla, Marcellin Champagnat regularly visited

homes in the outlying reaches of his parish, particularly when there was news of some illness. On October 28, 1816, he was called to a house in the hamlet of Les Palais, where 17 year old Jean-Baptiste Montagne lay dying. The youth was terrified of death, in part because he knew nothing of God nor his mercy. Champagnat did his best to provide the consolations of faith to the point where he felt he could hear the boy's confession and offer absolution. Having other sick parishioners to see, Marcellin then left with the promise to return later that day. By the time he came back, the boy had already died.

Marcellin was shaken by the Montagne boy's total ignorance, both religious and secular, and by how close he had come to dying without knowledge of God's grace. This reaffirmed his commitment that *we need brothers!* and on his way home later that same day, Champagnat invited his first recruit to join the new group of brothers that would be formed shortly. The young man was Jean-Marie Granjon, a 21 year old former soldier, who, like many of the first brothers, would need to learn how to read before he could teach.

[CLICK HERE TO ADD YOURSELF TO THIS MAILING LIST!](#)



Bros. Al Rivera and Brian Poulin are currently vocation directors for the Marist Brothers in the USA. If you wish to explore whether God may be calling you to life as a Marist Brother, please fill out [this form](#) and we will be in touch.



Copyright © 2018 Marist Brothers, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?