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MEETING OF MARIST TEACHERS IN VALENCIA (SPAIN): REFLECTION AND DIALOGUE ON A SHARED LEGACY

Amparo, Manolo and Beatriz – teachers Sagrado Corazón Valencia school || 5 February 2025

On 21 January, the teachers of the Marist school in Valencia (Spain) held their first meeting to work together and explore the message conveyed in the book 'In the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat. Marist Educational Mission'. It was a moment around the same table and surrounded by Marist images and symbols, where through an enriching network we were able to talk, share, express emotions and have the opportunity to revitalise our commitment to Marist charism and spirituality.

Through our dialogues we were able to delve into what it means to 'be Marist' in our time and how we can live our vocation from a renewed perspective in the 19th century. We reflected on the changes that have taken place in the world, in the Church and in the Institution, which are relevant to Marist education today. It was clear that we face new challenges as Marist educators, just as Saint Marcellin did in his time, but his example of courage and enterprise is the flame that makes us adapt to the new times, opening ourselves to the different realities and needs of our students.

One of the most enriching aspects of this meeting was being able to share our personal and professional experiences and connect not only with the essence of our educational mission, but also with each other as a community of educators. The spirituality and values that Marcellin left us, such as simplicity, love of work and close presence, were strongly emphasised in every conversation.



We would like to thank everyone who made this meeting possible because, through these moments as a family and as continuators of Saint Marcellin's dream, we were able to continue on our path to being beacons of hope, renewing our commitment to move forward with enthusiasm and faith, being faithful to our mission and to the legacy that Marcellin left us.

Looking forward to living and experiencing the next chapter, 'In the Footsteps of Saint Marcellin', we will continue to tell you about this adventure from the community of Valencia, where we feel the spirit of Saint Marcellin alive.



RADIO PATIO 983

RADIO PATIO 983: THE SCHOOL RADIO STATION OF THE MARIST COLLEGE LA INMACULADA IN VALLADOLID (SPAIN)

Francisco García Crespo – high school teacher || 7 February 2025

From the 2022/2023 academic year, the Marist school La Inmaculada in Valladolid (Spain) has a new activity ready and waiting for anyone who wants to join in: the school radio station, Radio Patio 983.

The aim is to liven up the school, offer students an introduction to the wonderful world of radio and give a new twist to the concept of communication.

To make the voices of our students heard through philosophical and not-so-philosophical debates and to get to know the teachers and members of the Educational Community a little better, these are just some of the objectives of our school radio station: 'Radio Patio 983'.



We would particularly like to highlight the interviews with Beatriz García, our director, in which we were able to get to know her in a much deeper and different way than we would in a classroom, and the one we were able to do with Brother Santamarta, who passed away a few months after it was done, and which served as a great message of Life and Marist Charism that has been left for posterity.

We have also trained a group of teachers so that they too can continue with this idea and make it something much bigger than it is.



MARISTES SANTS – LES CORTS DE BARCELONA (SPAIN) EXCHANGE PROGRAMME WITH GERMANY

Enric Rubio - German teacher || 12 February 2025

For the last 26 years, Maristes Sants-Les Corts in Barcelona (Spain) has been using this method to give its German students a first-hand, immersive experience of practising the language.

The first 16 years took the form of a week-long study trip, staying with German families first in the Black Forest and then in Bavaria, sharing breakfast and dinner with them, as well as Sundays. When not with them, the students took part in recreational and cultural activities in the area where they were staying.

With time came the opportunity to carry out a much more immersive activity to practise German and experience how a teenager and his or her family live in the city of Cologne: a school exchange with the Deutzer Gymnasium Schauterstraße High School. And this is the tenth consecutive year that it has been carried out (interrupted only by the pandemic).



During the exchange, the students stay with the families participating in the exchange and it is carried out in two parts: the first part takes place in Cologne in the week before the Christmas holidays, so that the students can enjoy and get to know the famous Weihnachtsmärkte (Christmas markets) of this city on the banks of the Rhine, as well as carry out multiple activities with their German exchange partners, such as visiting the Schokoladenmuseum (chocolate museum), the city of Bonn with its Christmas market and usually also the Museum of Contemporary German History, as well as the Memorial to the Victims of Nazism in the former building of the Gestapo headquarters in Cologne. There are also various activities at the school for students to interact in German and Spanish. Host families take care of the weekend, organising activities that each family is willing to offer.

The second part takes place in Barcelona (usually a couple of weeks before Easter), where families also host the German students for a week and organise different leisure and cultural activities that help them get to know us a little better. Among them, and depending on availability each year, we visit several of the following points of interest in the city: the Sagrada Família, the Parc Güell, the Museu del Disseny (Design Museum), the Castell de Montjuïc (Montjuïc Castle), the Museu Olímpic i de l'Esport (Olympic Museum), as well as different areas of the city such as Passeig de Gràcia, Les Rambles, El Born, Santa Maria del Mar, the Gothic Quarter, the Gòcia neighbourhood, Plaça Espanya, etc. There are also activities at school to encourage interaction between them in both languages. At the weekend, our host families take charge of the activities for the students they are hosting. In short, it's a great experience for everyone and one that we hope to be able to continue for a long time.



¿SABÉIS QUE NO VOY A ESTUDIAR?: THE THEATRE PRODUCTION BY THE STUDENTS OF E.T. HNO. IDELFONSO GUTIÉRREZ (VENEZUELA)

Maristas Norandina Communication || 18 February 2025

The play ‘¿Sabéis Que No Voy a Estudiar?’ (Do You Know That I'm Not Going to Study?), written and directed by Brother Ángel González, premiered on 17 January in Maracaibo, Venezuela, after a year of hard work that included the creation of the script, the preparation of the cast and multiple rehearsals. The narrative centres on the arrival of the Marist brothers in the city a century ago and the fundamental role they played in helping a family that was struggling to provide their children with a safe environment in which to study and achieve their dreams.

The play intertwines two stories that share a common goal: to highlight the value of education and its transformative impact on families. This performance is part of a series of activities organised to commemorate the Marist centenary in Venezuela, underlining the commitment to comprehensive, quality education for the country's children and young people.

The group of performers, made up of 20 students from the E.T. Hno. Idelfonso Gutiérrez, will continue their programme of performances, not only in Maracaibo, but also in other cities where the Marist order is present in the country.



EDUCATORS FROM SAN LUIS SCHOOL AND CEC HNO. ISLA (ARGENTINA) CONTINUE THEIR TRAINING IN SERVICE-LEARNING

Coordinator of the Solidarity Animation Team and Liliana Ferreirós – Cruz del Sur Provincial Communication || 20 February 2025

Organised by the Provincial Solidarity Team, within the framework of our Marist Mission, the Meeting on the active pedagogy of 'Service-Learning in Solidarity' took place on 7 February in the city of La Plata (Argentina), marking the start of the new academic year.

Find out about our Agora Learning and Solidarity Service (A+S) group



In the workshop format, the attendees, in addition to continuing to advance in their training, were able to begin to build links and potential synergies for joint work based on the planning of socio-community projects.

They also reflected on the role of the Marist educational centres in the construction of a culture of peace, transformative solidarity and encounter.



The Workshop gave them the chance to share some of the Service-Learning experiences carried out in Marist Centres and other institutions worldwide, motivating them to rethink their own projects and ask themselves: How can we include this pedagogy in the learning experiences and trajectories of our children and teenagers? What steps should we take? From what perspectives?

From this starting point, they were encouraged to think of concrete actions to begin developing the first projects integrated into their own workshops and/or curricular spaces, proactively joining in each action of the Reimagining Education process in which all Marists are committed to the pursuit of a true educational and social transformation.