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New Provincials Meet with the General Administration

Services of the Institute available to provinces and districts - General House

A group of four new Brother Provincials, who have assumed office in recent months, spent the week of February 23-28 in Rome, along with Brother Superior General and his Council. They were Brothers Davide Pedri (Brasil Centro-Sul), Ernesto Sánchez Barba (Western Mexico), Bernard Beaudin (Canada) and Sebastião Antonio Ferrarini (District of Amazonia), each of whom has recently begun his first term as province or district animator.

The purpose of the meeting with the General Council and with other members of the General Administration was to orient the new leaders regarding animating the Brothers and their ministries and to familiarize them with the procedures followed in the administration of the Institute. The program, developed by Brother Superior General and his Council, lasted an entire week,

and consisted of morning and afternoon sessions. The new provincials were scheduled to meet with each of the persons in charge of the services of the general administration: finance, evangelical use of goods, communications, relations of the Institute with the Vatican, Secretary General, archives, among others. They came to a better understanding of the internal organization that streamlines the support these services give to the Institute.

The Brother Provincials remarked on the usefulness of these meetings, through which they were able to learn the importance of the central organization of our Institute and the help it provides the administrative units scattered throughout the world. The presence of Br. Seán Sammon, Superior General, of his Council and of the other members of the General

Administration, was an incentive for these Brothers, having recently assumed positions of responsibility in the Institute, to be able to confront the complexity of governing their administrative units with the assurance that they have an efficient organization backing them up.



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Edit:

Marist Brother's Institute
 General House - Rome

The Marist Union of Brazil goes ahead

5th ordinary General Assembly of UMBRASIL



From 19 to 20 February 2009, the Marist Union of Brazil – UMBRASIL –, founded on 15 October 2005, held its 5th ordinary General Assembly in Brazlândia – DF, as the conclusion of the first three years of organization. The Provincial Councilors, the Provincials and the District Superior, the Presidents of the « Mantenedoras », the Executive Director and Secretary of the Marist Union of Brazil, and Br. Antonio Ramalho, Councillor General, took part in the meeting.

In the course of the Assembly, the report of the activities, progress, and challenges of the first three years 2006-2008 was presented, showing that the Marist presence in Brazil was better consolidated and reinforced, enjoying greater visibility, and social, governmental and ecclesial recognition. In addition to the three year report, the Assembly approved the report for the financial year 2008, the Action Plan and the budget for the sections of Consecrated Life and Laity, Mission and Management, and the financial report for the reform of

the new office for UMBRASIL. The Assembly proceeded to the election and installation of the new governing body of UMBRASIL: director-president, Br. Arlindo Corrent, of the Province "Rio Grande do Sul" ; director-treasurer, Br. Délcio A. Balestrin, of the Province "Brasil Centro-Sul" ;and director-secretary, Br. José Wagner da Cruz, of the Province "Brasil Centro-Norte".

The Finance Council was thus appointed: Br. Joaquim Juraci Farias de Oliveira, of the Province "Brasil Centro-Norte"; Br. Roque Ari Salet, of the Province "Rio Grande do Sul" ; Br. Dario Bortolini, of the Province "Brasil Centro-Sul". Brothers. Rafael Mendes dos Santos, of the Province "Brasil Centro-Sul" ; Odair Paier, of the Province "Rio Grande do Sul", and Lúcio Gomes Dantas, of the Province "Brasil Centro-Norte" were elected as substitutes.

Before the UMBRASIL Assembly, the meeting of the Superior Council (16 to 18 February 2009) was held in the office of the Marist Union of Brazil, in Brasília-DF, where the new office was inaugurated in the presence of repre-

sentatives of various Church and civil organisations.

The Superior Council appointed the new Executive Officers of UMBRASIL for the next three years 2009-2011, namely: coordinator of Consecrated Life and Laity : Br. Adalberto Batista Amaral, of the Province "Brasil Centro-Norte" ; coordinator of Mission : Br. Lodovino Jorge Marin, of the Province "Rio Grande do Sul" ; coordinator of Management : Br. Valter Pedro Zancanaro, of the Province "Brasil Centro-Sul". The Council appointed Br. Dávide Pedri, as new President for 2009.

At the end of the Assembly, homage was paid to Brs. Manoel Alves, Roque Ari Salet and Dario Bortolini, members of the Board of Directors of UMBRASIL; to the Executive Secretariate of UMBRASIL, especially Br. José Wagner Rodrigues da Cruz, and the coordinators, Brs. João Carlos do Prado, Adalberto and Arlindo Corrent, by a gesture of gratitude for the services rendered to Marist Brazil during the three years completed.



USA Province welcomes new novice

That I might follow Christ in this community of Marist Brothers

USA Province welcomes new novice On Sunday, February 8, after completing six months of postulancy, Brian Poulin was formally received into the USA novitiate in an investiture ceremony held during a mass celebrated by Father Richard LaMorte at the Marist Brothers Retreat House in Esopus, New York.

A large group of Brothers as well as Brian's parents and friends joined him on this special day.

Prior to receiving the habit, Brian was asked what his intention was. He stated:

I wish to continue learning and experiencing your way of life. And I am willing to be tested that I might follow Christ wholeheartedly in this community of Marist Brothers.

Following this, Brian made his formal request to begin his novitiate:

Drawn by God's mercy, I have come here to learn your way of life. I ask you to teach me to follow Christ and to live in poverty, chastity and obedience. Teach me to persevere in prayer and sacrifice in the service of the

Church, the Congregation and all of God's people. Teach me to be with you in heart and mind. Help me to live out the Gospel every day of my life. Teach me your constitutions and help me to learn to love my brothers as Christ commanded me.

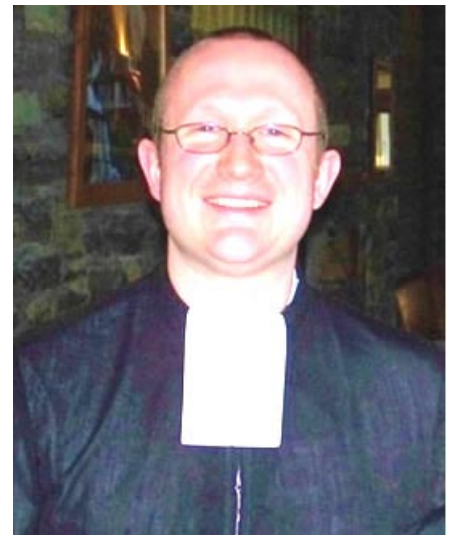
In response, Brother John Klein, Provincial, said to Brian:

May God in his mercy be with you always and may Christ our teacher grant light to us all.

In the third part of the initiation rite, Brian received the Constitutions from Brother John who said:

Brother Brian, receive the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers. May your study and fidelity to living these Constitutions, enable you to follow Christ as Mary did, as you embrace the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist Brothers.

For those able to attend the mass and ceremony, it was a moving event, proof that God is still calling young men to Marist life. A wonderful testament to this was the presence of



Brother Valerian Doiron, our Province Dean, who, as the oldest member of the Province, was present to welcome the newest member of our Province.

Also present at Brian's investiture were a number of young men who are in dialogue with Michael Sheerin. These "discerners" are young men who have expressed interest in learning more about the Marist Brothers, our ministry, and our Marist way of life.



XXI General Chapter: Suggestions for deepening the reflection

We are facing a rapidly emerging "New World". New situations demand new ways of being present to make Jesus known and loved. The General Chapter is a renewing grace of God meant to help us all in our discernment and understanding of the new reality: "new wine into fresh wineskins" (Mk. 2:22). The changes are so universal that simple remedies no longer suffice (Cf. Mk. 2:21). We suspect that the new world into which God is inviting us will not be found in books or in updated theology, despite how much they might help us. The genuine answers will be found in our hearts, at the center of where

we really live. Rearranging things won't help. We need "New Hearts", open to following this new road ahead. It is useless to want to arrive at a destination without having gone on the journey. The journey, not the destination, is what renews the heart and soul. The finish only shows the result; it adds nothing. And so, it should come as no surprise that Br. Seán repeatedly invites us to a revolution of the heart: to set out on the road towards a deep personal and institutional conversion. We have quite a journey to undertake!

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The « Horizontes » course

A spiritual journey for 19 brothers coming from different countries of the Marist Provinces at Los Negrales

Spain

Los Negrales is a little locality depending on Villalba and Alpedrete, a locality situated in the environs of Madrid and about 12 km from our house of San Lorenzo de El Escorial. The HORIZONS course, now under way, is being held in the house of the Claretian Fathers.

We began the encounter on the afternoon of 5 February with a warm welcome to Brothers Javier Espinosa Marticorena « América Central », Afonso Levis « Brasil Centro-Sul », and Alfredo Villanueva Sainz « Ibérica », members of the directing team. The 19 brothers participating come from different countries of the Marist Provinces : Fernando Alés Portillo « Mediterránea », John Arrieta López « Norandina », Andrés Barrera Boatas « L'Hermitage », Murilo Bertoldi and Antonio Martins Teles « Brasil Centro-Sul », Cláudio Jairo Gomes Espínola and Vítor Pravato « Brasil Centro-Norte », Eduardo Brondo González and Ernesto Nande Guzmán « México Occidental », José Luis Castillo Núñez, Juan Jesús Franco Hernández and Salvador González Cardona « México Central », Manuel Jesús Matilla Valdueza, Gerardo José Munguía González and Francisco Javier Otero Petite « América Central », Ángel Cuevas Pérez and João Pedro Santos Pereira « Compostela », Germán Rozas Nesprías « Cruz del Sur » and Rubén Velázquez Coronel « District of Paraguay ».

The first days we explored the house, organised the timetable, the services and employments in order to create a favourable atmosphere for two months of work and reflection.

To establish confidence and create family spirit, we made our first com-



munity excursion to Segovia where we were able to discover the historical features of the Roman, Moslem, Jewish, and Christian periods. We visited the majestic aqueduct, the cathedral, the alcazar, the « royal site » of Saint Ildefonso and the church containing the remains of one of the greatest mystics in history : Saint John of the Cross.

Horizons tries to help us get in touch with our personal life in order to discover the presence of Jesus in our history and thus to be able to go where the Master's Love is leading us.

After two weeks of intense work , we have begun the exciting process of climbing each week one of the sacred mountains of the Judeo-Christian region mentioned in the Bible to discover the horizon enclosing each of them. Mount Nebo allowed us to perceive

our life as sacred history. Javier invited us to discover, recreate, and pray about the different aspects of our life, thanks to these symbols. Mount Horeb permitted us to recognize who we are. Father José Luis Martínez (Augustinian) helped us to enter into contact with what is specific to our evolutionary stage and with the possible dynamics for taking care of the self and opening oneself fully to others and to God. Brother Lluís Serra explained to us the enneagram (model of the structure of the human person) to discover the elements of knowledge of the self and spiritual growth. Mount Sinai invited us to turn our hearts towards Jesus and to do some reading on our Marist and apostolic spirituality. Brother Benito Arbués guided us in this beautiful process of discovering the footprints of God in our life and in that of the men and women of the world.

