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Updates

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05/11/2009: The English Speaking Third Age Course

03/11/2009: Canada - Marial exposition at the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saint-Damien

02/11/2009: Review Brasil Marista

02/11/2009: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 70 (November 1st)

30/10/2009: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 69 (October 28th)

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28/10/2009: "Horizons": 22 Portuguese and Spanish speaking Brothers

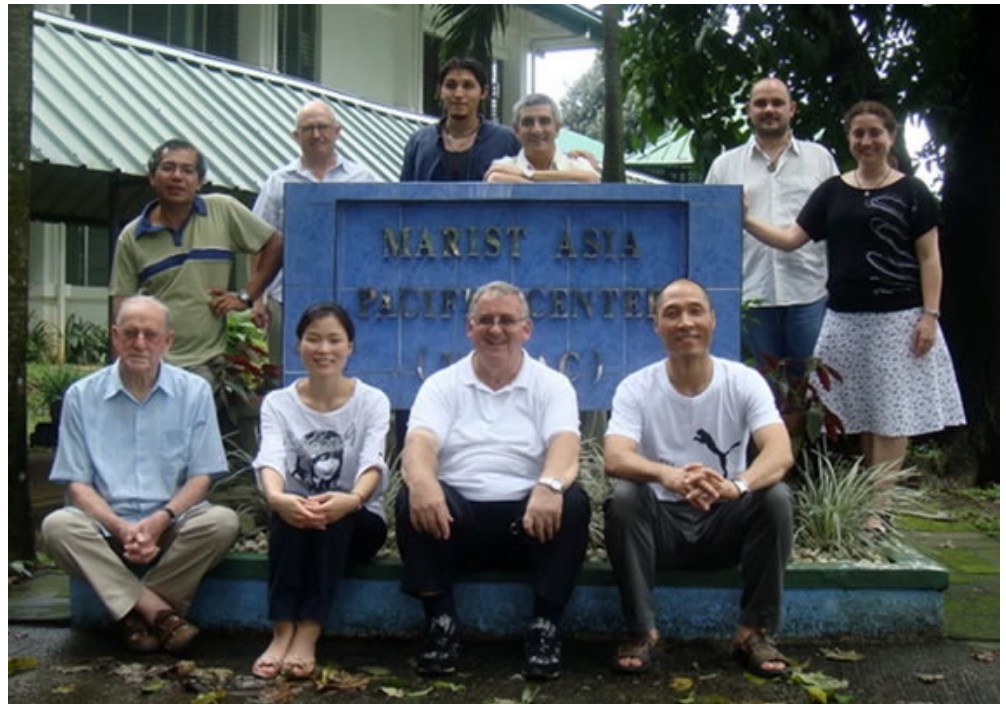
28/10/2009: Deceased Brother: Cornelius Russell (United States)

27/10/2009: Fms vocation week-end-nurturing (Australia)

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Mission Ad gentes

Marist English language learning program



Since Mid-August, Brothers and lay mission partners from all over the Marist world asked me about our "Marist English Language Learning Program" for Ad Gentes volunteer in Manila. In response I am writing this note to satisfy their queries and specifically on the questions: "Who are we?" and "Why are we here?"

First let me say a word of thanks to the Brothers of Marist School – Marikina and MAPAC communities, with special mention of Brothers Pat Corpus, President of Marist School, and Des Howard, Rector of MAPAC. These Brothers have been supportive to us. Because of these support we were able to establish and implement our program and activities without much difficulty. With their welcoming gestures and spirit, help and

assistance in procuring our basic needs, we feel their genuine and fraternal hospitality.

Who are we?

Well, as you can see in the picture, we are a mixed community of marvelous and lovely persons composed of Brothers and lay people. Six are Marist Brothers ;- two staff members-, plus four participants lay persons. Of the lay community members are a married couple from Korea, a lady from Brazil and a twenty four years old "cuate" from Mexico. We are expecting another lady volunteer from Brazil comes this November.

As responsible of the group, I appreciate the presence of Bro.Brian Wanden.

MARIST NEWS

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He encourages the members of the community improve their English. He encapsulates this by telling everyone to speak as "one voice."

Why are we here?

Our community in Marikina was accepted and formed to prepare Ad Gentes volunteers for the "Missionary Orientation" which will take place in Davao-(Southern Philippines). Our program's main objective is to establish English proficiency among these volunteers; achievement of this aim will enable these volunteers to follow inputs effectively and participate actively in the Davao three months" Orientation Program". While here in Marikina,-Manila- the members start to learn and build their capacity to live in a "mixed community".

Twenty four hour has a day! or

24/7, is the time we spend in doing our tasks: attending classes in the morning with our committed and lovely teacher, Ms Christine Stokes, affiliated member of the East Asia Province and former Principal of Marist School; doing our assignments; praying; and even cooking, doing the laundry, washing dishes and enjoying our meals together. Every single moment is a golden and wonderful opportunity to learn and build community. Our experiences here give us many significant lessons. Among these important lessons, we learn how to become bakers of the bread shared in the building of God's Kingdom.

Though the ingredients come from different parts of the world, the bread we bake is fresh, well cooked, and full of fiber, full of love and respect for each one. Occasionally,

the bread we share does not agree with a member's palate... when this happens we bake another type of bread. So regardless of the kind of bread we bake, we always appreciate the community's effort, because we bake our own bread with love and affection.

Good friends from here, there and everywhere, that's all for now. You have a formal invitation to share the special bread we bake. Come and be part of us.

I am going to start preparing some more dough for the next batch. We count your presence. Thank you for coming and for remembering us.

Visit our blog site:
<http://ellprogramad.blogspot.com>



Review Brasil Marista

Launching of the review marking 4 years of UMBRASIL

The review Brasil Marista began circulating in the first fortnight of October. With an is-

sue of 15, 000 copies, the publication, signed by the Marist Union of Brasil (UMBRASIL) and produced by the publishing house Ruah, in Curitiba, will go to all the Administrative Units of Brasil, offering reporting and news about the various subjects in the framework of the Marist network. The launching of the Brasil Marista marks the fourth anniversary of UMBRASIL, celebrated on 15 October.

presents on its front page the musician, former Minister, and Marist ex-student Gilberto Gil. The challenges of « Enem », the Darwin exhibition in the museum of PU-CRS, youth and spirituality, these are also featured. The edition is completed by brief news items and a detailed report of the activities of UMBRASIL during its first three years of operation.

The review should reach all the social and educational units, houses of formation and religious communities. The distribution of copies is being handled by the communications and marketing teams of the Marist Provinces.



The first edition



The English Speaking Third Age Course

General House

If one word springs to mind about our reception at the General House in Rome it is "welcome". But another word also springs readily to mind: it is the word "gentle". Everyone has been so welcoming, everyone has been so gentle. Whether it was running into the former Superior General Seán Sammon in the corridor and being welcomed by name and with a hug or whether it was encountering the new Superior General Brother Emili Turú in the lift and receiving a shy welcome; whether it was being greeted by the Brothers of the Spanish and Portuguese speaking Third Age group or being offered a coffee and Alpestre by one of the Brothers in the community, we knew that we were at home in our own house. It mattered little that Manziana was not available for us – we were in our own house and at home.

Our little group gathered in dribs and drabs, but from the earliest moment we started to bond. There was a simple Mass for the wee few, celebrated by our Scottish chaplain, Father Bernard Barlow, a Servite priest and friend of Brother Brendan Geary. There was a walk around the local area for the small few, led by the one-eyed man in the land of the blind. One walked fast, one walked slow, but somehow we managed to walk together.

There have been unexpected moments. Two Brothers visited St Peter's and by pure good chance saw the new statue of Champagnat through the Sacristy window which they opened "senza permissione" (apparently not the done thing) and captured the moment on film (actually, on a digital camera). Another special moment was a small farewell for Seán Sammon. Quite a delightful little celebration, conducted in Italian, but one could get the gist of it and it was a privilege to be there.



On Tuesday 27 October at 5.30 (pm!) we gathered for a simple, gentle induction ceremony. Barry Burns is the essence of gentle leading. There are 8 Marist Brothers: 4 from Australia, 2 from NZ, 1 from Japan and 1 from the States; and there are 3 Marianist Brothers – 2 from the States and 1 from Austria. Brothers Barry Burns (NZ) and Antoine Kazindu from Rwanda (looking about 35 but admitting to 50) run the course; and Father Bernard is our chaplain.

The next day we had a look around the house. The General Council's chapel has been beautifully refurbished with a startling green marble floor; the beatification stained glass windows have been resituated and a new window added to honour the canonisation. The chapel features Champagnat's altar and the statue of La Bonne Mère, and M. Ravery's second portrait of the Founder – the one with the eyes open.

Thursday was a day for sharing personal stories. Our ages average about 70, ranging from early 60s to late 70s, and even though there is a good range of ages and countries and two different Congregations, it is an easy mix of people well established in religious life

and all quite happy to be growing old in the service. There are some touching stories – losses and hurts, joys and triumphs, conversions and discoveries.

The group is settling in nicely – it is very relaxed and easy; and the atmosphere in the General House is really very welcoming. There's always some sort of party going on for a welcome, a farewell or a birthday or a feast day somewhere in the house and so there is a really lovely sense about it all. Rome has something to offer everyone. It is the Eternal City and it is a microcosm of our own lives and journeys. We hope to discover many good things here in the next two months.

Marist Brothers: Br Anthony Butler, Br Julian Quinlan, Br Ian Mcombie, Br Martin Connell (from Australia), Br Patrick McNamara, Br John Fitzgibbon (from New Zealand), Br Joseph Yoshida (from Japan), Br Robert Conley(USA). **Marianists:** Br Daniel Stupka (USA), Br Jeffrey Sullivan (from USA), Fr Eugen Mensdorff-Pouilly (from Austria). **Chaplain:** Fr Bernard Barlow (from Scotland)

Team: Br Barry Burns (from New Zealand), Br Antoine Kazindu (from Rwanda)



III Marist Art and Culture Exhibition

March for Peace in Brazil

During the Third Marist Exhibition of Art and Culture, held in Maceió, some 500 students from 16 Brazilian states took part on 20 October 2009 in a march for peace on the beach of Pajuçara. The demonstration provided the kick-off to the « For life, for peace! » campaign, in which many church and civil institutions of the State of Alagoas took part.

During the march, which went from the beach of Sete Coqueiros to the Place Multieventos, the participants: students, teachers, families, marchers, workers, motorcyclists, were filled with joy and a spirit of communion... in a climate of solidarity and kindness.

With a programme filled with cultural activities, such as music, theatre, lit-



erature and the plastic arts, the Marist Exhibition of Art and Culture has as aim to promote art and brotherhood

among the representatives of Marist schools from many regions of Brasil.



Marial exposition

Canada

It was in the enchanting setting of the Appalachians, with the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help of Saint-Damien, marial exposition took place from 7th. to 14th October 2009.

This community, founded in rural Quebec in 1892, by the Abbé Joseph-Onésime Brousseau and Virginie Fournier (Mother St. Bernard) experienced an important development in the Appalachian region, Quebec and beyond Canada into the following countries: Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, Niger, Bolivia, Peru, Nicaragua, Haiti and Porto Rico, where they arte still working today.

These Sisters have experience misery, cold demanding work, isolation and fires. The "Deus providebit", God

will provide, the Founder's motto has enabled them to get through these trials.. Fr. Brousseau has to be called agricultural missionary, colonisator and parish priest/founder of Saint-Damien. His name is inscribed in the Dictionnaire des gens célèbres du Canada. Mother St. Bernard does not remain in the shadows as she is recognized as foundress, a woman full of love, a humble mountain flower.

The family spirit, marial devotion, love of work and the type of life of this congregation is oddly similar to that which characterizes the Marist Brothers. Moreover, several of these Sisters, have either brothers, uncles or cousins with the Marist Brothers; they were happy to recount to me their happy

memories.

A group of fifteen youth were captivated by all the statues of Mary. "The account of certain of Mary's apparitions has affected them for the rest of their lives," confided the Sister who accompanied them.

Thanks to the Sisters who helped me to put up this exposition and tact it down again so easily and quickly.

Thanks to Brs. Gaston, Guy and Raphael for their availability and their patience with my shifting the exhibits around.

Br. Paul-André Lavoie,
Château-Richer, 19-10-2009

