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Updates

25/02/2010: Deceased Brothers: Amerigo Salvador (L'Hermitage); Valentín Mariscal Mariscal (Compostela); Laurindo Parisotto (Rio Grande do Sul); Joan Bringué Canal (L'Hermitage)

25/02/2010: Brothers and Lay People in Paraguay - Sharing a Formation Experience

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23/02/2010: Communities in Cambodia

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23/02/2010: Brazil - Meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the Laity

22/02/2010: New group of novices in Brasil

22/02/2010: Celibacy: Prophetic Witness - Br. Vitus Osuji

22/02/2010: Deceased Brothers: Br. Edmund - Kenneth Michael Slatery (Sydney); Leonardo Norberto Knob (Rio Grande do Sul)

22/02/2010: Tribal Boys Hostel in Burdwan

20/02/2010: Meeting of Co-ordinators of Youth Ministry of the Province of México Central

19/02/2010: First Year Novices at Matola Novitiate

With Mary, go in haste to a new land!

Meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the Laity



Brasil! This was the destination of our new journey and the place for the annual meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the Laity. For the lay members, it was our first time in these lovely lands and our first experience of the hospitality and warm welcome of our "Brazilian Brothers".

In this setting, it was very easy to reflect, programme our work for 2010 and dream of the future. It is already the third year of our journey, since we set out in 2008, so we were able to evaluate the work achieved in that time and the challenges and proposals we see for the future. The five of us (Br. Pau Fornells, Br. Afonso Murad, Linda Corbeil, Tony Clarke and Ana Sarrate) have formed a little community, which shares life, concerns, faith and work. This means that each time it is easier to understand one another

in our cultural pluralism and our diversity of life options. The great richness of these years has been our shared life, and, of course, being able to facilitate and support the same thing with other groups and in other places.

The work achieved can be divided into three main blocks which are, at the same time, achievements and challenges for the future:

- The document "Around the same table" which the editorial committee has presented to us and on which we have reflected. It is a beautiful text which requires to become known and have a wide diffusion and motivation for the same.
- The contributions and reflections we

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offered to the capitulants at the XXI General Chapter, and which have helped generate a greater awareness of the lay Marist vocation and new proposals for developing it.

- The experiences of joint formation, not only international, but also those made in some provinces, and the challenge of making them known and promoted in other places in the Institute, as a great richness for Brothers and for lay people.

But without a doubt, what was most heartening was the meeting with the laity and Brothers of Brasil. Thanks to the

excellent organization of UMBRASIL, we were able to get to know the leading people in the different fields of formation, management, and ministry of this country. During a very intense day and a half, we shared our mutual situations and also reflected on the dreams and challenges of the future for the Marists of Brasil and of the world.

We perceived a Marist reality of great dimensions in the number of persons, works, and projects. But the greatest thing we noticed was the desire to have our charism reach the remotest corner of each work... The testimonies of many of the participants expressed

a great power and boldness in their personal choices to continue this, a profound conviction of their vocation which impels them to give the best of themselves with full generosity and which involves no measuring of time or efforts, risks or difficulties in this choice. We were very moved!

We thank God for the gift of this meeting, which confirms for us the necessity of having future meetings of the Bureau programmed so that we can share the reality of Marist life in the provinces we visit. It is a wonderful opportunity for family sharing and indicating the future of the charism!

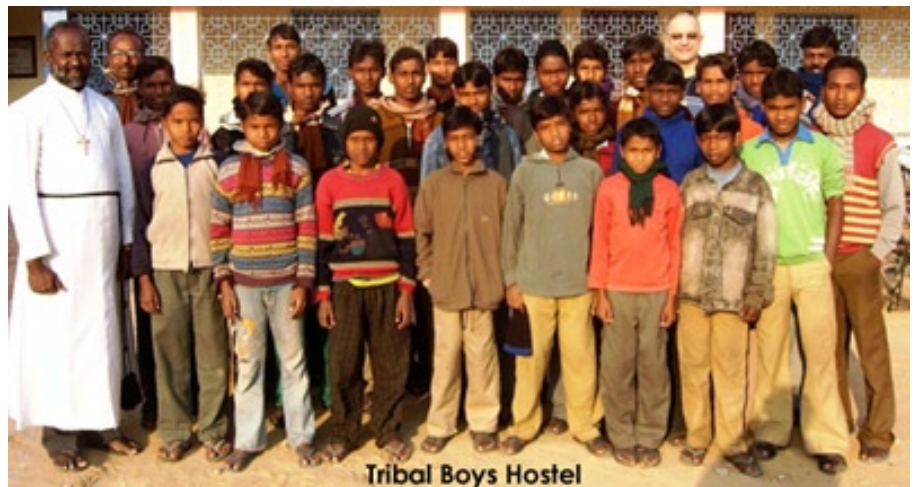


Mission Ad gentes

India

Alex writes from Burdwan: After 23 months since our arrival in West Bengal, now we are on our own as a Marist Community in the new mission for tribal boys in Burdwan. After the signing of a three year contract by our Sector Superior on behalf of the Marist Brothers and the Bishop Cyprian Monis on behalf of the Diocese of Asantol, we moved to the Tribal Boys Hostel that remains the property of the Diocese. On 2nd of January we were able to celebrate our Foundation day in the new hostel building. It was also the day that Bishop Monis chose for the handing over ceremony. The celebration was witnessed by a good number of diocesan Priests and Religious.

At the beginning of the Eucharistic celebration Br. Alex made a 30 minute Power Point presentation on our Congregation and Founder. The presentation was very much appreciated and arose many questions from those present at the ceremony. After Mass, the Bishop marked the official hand over of the responsibility for the Community College to the Brothers.



The three of us are now living in this hostel building with 31 boys between 10 – 17 years of age. They are very happy to receive us and we are also absorbing and planning for the coming days how can we help these boys in the best possible way.

The boys are paying 7 US\$ per month for their boarding and lodging. Some extra help comes from the Diocesan social service centre and the remainder from our own donation sources. Apart from that, we have now begun to develop our own garden to get some

vegetables and fruits. The Diocese has also placed a sizeable piece of land at our disposal. We are now planting rice in the hope of producing enough staple food for the boys and for ourselves for a good part of the year. Close by the hostel there are two Government schools and the boys are going to these schools for their studies. Sometime in the morning and, particularly, in the evenings we provide extra tuition and remedial classes for those boys who are having a low academic performance in the school.



Ongoing formation

Brother Angel Medina appointed Director of courses of spirituality in Spanish



In its regular meeting on 9 February 2010, the General Council appointed Br. Angel Medina, of the District of Paraguay, as new Director of spirituality courses in the Spanish language, for a first term of three years, beginning in July 2010. These courses of continuing formation for the « second age », also known as the

« Escorial Course », are also now held in the house of the Claretian Fathers at Los Negrals.

As was announced on the website champagnat.org (19/06/2009), Br. Eduardo Navarro had been appointed Director of these courses, replacing Br. Javier Espinosa who had completed his two terms. The General Chapter resulted in several changes having to be made to appointments made by the previous general government, and one of these was in the area of the continuing formation of the Institute. Following the election of Br. Ernesto Sánchez Barba as Councillor General, México Occidental had to carry out a new sondage for the election of a Provincial; and it was Br. Eduardo Navarro who was nominated. He took up office in December 2009. Since the situation was urgent, Br. Javier Espinosa accepted the request of the Superior General to direct the « Pathway » course, programmed for the first term 2010 (Read more).

Brother Ángel Medina Bermúdez was born in Albacete, Spain, and began

his Marist formation in the juniorate of Llinars del Vallés (Barcelona) in 1969. In 1971 he made novitiate at Les Avellanés. For many years he exercised his mission in the houses of formation, in Spain as well as in the Marist District of Paraguay, in which he was incorporated in 1987. He is presently Superior of the District, an office he has already held several times, as well as member of the presidential body of CLAR (Confederation of the Religious of Latin America). His participation and his experience in the Conference of Religious of Paraguay and in CLAR bring a great richness to Br. Angel's contribution in the animation of our Marist religious life, as well as a deep and ecclesial vision.

Congratulations to Br. Angel, and our best wishes for fruitful work at the head of the continuing formation courses. Our thanks to him and the District of Paraguay for this specific contribution they offer to the service of the vitality of Marist life.



New group of novices in Brasil

On 2 February 2010, the interprovincial novitiate, Mary Mother of the Church, (Campinas – Brasil), welcomed a group of 1st year novices, under the direction of Br. Tercílio Sevegnani. Seven of them belong to the Province of « Brasil Centro-Sul »: Brs Alison Furlan, Luiz de Santana Lima, Miguel F. Ribeiro, Rafael F. Ferreira, Rafael Mudre, Ronaldo Luzzi and Tiago Barbosa Fedel. Five others

come from the Province of « Rio Grande do Sul »: Brs Eduardo da Costa e Silva, Fabrício Basso, Jader Henz, José Carlos Bittencourt and Neimar Mentges. The two Brother Provincials - Inácio Etges and Davide Pedri – as well as numerous Brothers, parents and friends of the novices assisted at the admission ceremony. A fine present from Mary to the Church, the two Provinces and Brazilian youth !



Province of México Central

Meeting of Co-ordinators of Youth Ministry



Last weekend provided a privileged space for communication and fraternity in the city of Querétaro, Qro., when the Co-ordinators of the Youth Movements of the Province took the opportunity to become acquainted with the process experienced in the unfolding of the XXI General Chapter.

Br. José Sánchez guided us in recalling and understanding the steps that will be taken all over the world to lead to an encounter with the spirit and, with

it, to make our own the call addressed to us today by our Institute: With Mary, go in haste to a new land!

Br. Ricardo Reynoso, Provincial of México Central, accompanied the meeting, lived at close quarters, and showed his interest in Youth Ministry being a priority today. He was appreciative of the participation and enthusiasm of all the animators and agents of the Ministry who daily endeavour to bring the message of Jesus to children and youth in the educational works.

At present in the Province, more than 2000 children and young people take part in the youth movements, with the support and commitment of more than 300 animators (students, ex-students, teachers, brothers, lay people, parents) who accompany the groups at the primary, secondary, and preparatory levels.

At this meeting, they shared the progress and challenges of the Youth and Vocational Ministry of the Province in the last 4 years, invited the co-ordinators to enrich the resources of the web and to create networks favoring communication for animating the journey. Time was spent learning about the work of animation carried out by the Sub-Commission of Marist Youth Ministry of America, and the Institute's endeavour to come up with a document of guidelines for Youth Ministry also provided an opportunity for preparing spaces of formation and the experiences of camps and provincial assemblies in the months of March, April, and July.



Southern African Province

First Year Novices at Matola Novitiate

The 13th February 2010 at Matola Novitiate, Southern African Province, Mozambique, will be marked as a cassocks day for the new novices. From your right you see Farai Murutu Lynot (Zimbabwe), followed by Emmanuel Mwenya (Zambia), Gemusse Dias Ernesto (Mozambique), Catole Carlos Alberto (Mozambique), Daniel Jariosse João (Mozambique) and Talent Makanga (Zimbabwe). At the mean ti-

me we have six but we are still waiting for two Malawians stuck in Malawi because of passports unresolved issues which might take longer to get and one Zambian who is temporary called back for a Confirmation paper issue and we hope he comes soon according to Brother Kasongo's information. "... eles deixaram tudo e seguiram Jesus!", they left everything to follow Jesus in the Marist way. Parabéns!

