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Updates

06/05/2010: Greece - Lycée Léonin in Néa Smyrni

05/05/2010: Deceased Brother: Zacarías Herrera Tablado (Compostela)

05/05/2010: Youth Ministry in «Mexico Central»

04/05/2010: Brazil - Meeting of community Superiors

04/05/2010: Novices in the Southern Africa Province

03/05/2010: General House - Plenary planning session

03/05/2010: May 8th, 2010 - Celebration in honour of Brother Henri Vergès

03/05/2010: Music: Choose Life (Michael Herry, FMS)

03/05/2010: General House - Seminar on accounting and administration

03/05/2010: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage

02/05/2010: Marist Province of «Brasil Centro-Sul»

01/05/2010: Letter of Pope Benedict XVI

30/04/2010: Marist blog: Inclusion and Exclusion (Br. Pau Fornells)

29/04/2010: General House - Meeting of new provincials with the General Council

29/04/2010: Marist News 102

Constructing a vision of the future for the Institute

General Council: Plenary planning session



After five days of community building in Tarquinia, where they began working on their community project, the General Council has been meeting in plenary session since 22 March. While this has involved activities of varying intensity, the period of Holy Week permitted them to harmonize work and celebration.

The first phase was to recapitulate the topics this Council has inherited, plan the tasks entrusted to it by the General Chapter, and begin to define policies and future activities for the animation and government of the Institute. An important part of this process has been listening to people involved in the processes lived in previous years.

Among these have been the various offices which functioned during the last years of the previous General Govern-

ment. Thus the Council agenda has included consultative meetings with the Brothers in charge of the secretariates: finances, The Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI), which looks after solidarity projects and promotes the defence of children's rights, the Bureau of the Laity, and Mission ad gentes.

On Wednesday, 21 April, the General Council met with all the members of the General Administration. Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, reminded them that the General Administration serves some 47,000 brothers and lay persons who look after 661,778 children and young people in 79 countries. The mission of the General Council is to give unity to the Institute, to animate, guide and accompany persons and works so as to assure efficiency and fidelity to the mission. The role of the brothers and laity of the General Administration is to

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help the Institute carry out its mission of educational activity.

Divided into groups, the members of the General Administration considered both the positive and the negative aspects of their work in the General House and offered sugges-

tions to the General Council as to how their service of the whole Institute could be improved.

Before concluding the meeting, Brother Emili left open the possibility of holding another meeting at the end of the Plenary to impart informa-

tion and communicate some decisions made.

The aim of this long session is to build a vision of the future for the Institute which will allow for the drawing up of policies and efficient programmes of animation and government.



Province «Brasil Centro-Norte»

Meeting of community Superiors



The Provincial, Br. Wellington Medeiros, had the opportunity to speak to the community superiors at the beginning of the meeting (Brasília, 8-10 April). It was the first time that the new provincial government had met this group of brothers since it took over the running of the Province « Brasil Centro-Norte » four months ago. Br Wellington reminded them that « The community superior is at the service of his confrères in the carrying out of their personal, community, and apostolic vocations. The Institute becomes real in each of them and in each community ».

The XXI General Chapter was one of the topics touched on by Br. Provincial, who provided guidelines for reading the document. In his address, he placed in relief the role of the local government, in accordance with the Constitutions, and the priorities of the Province for the next three years: a deepening of consecration, strengthening of prophetic evangelization, putting in place the initiatives necessary for maintaining and giving vitality to the mission, and

development of the culture of vocations. « We are taking advantage of this time together to dialogue on the search for unity, to give more detailed information on the structure of the Province and to reinforce communion and reciprocity», Br. Provincial said in conclusion.

A minute of silence in homage of the victims of the earthquake in Haiti: this is how the brothers prepared themselves for the presentation of the campaign « Marists for Haiti », animated by the coordinator of Marketing for the Province « Brasil Centro-Norte », Amanda Leiria.

Each brother received an explanatory prospectus and several dossiers for getting the campaign on the road. The Marist Union of Brasil (UMBRASIL) is working in collaboration with « Caritas Brasil », which has placed at the disposal of the brothers an exclusive current account for the Marist mobilisation. The initiative already counts on the support of the FMSI (Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale), the National Confederation of the Bishops of Brasil (CNBB), Caritas, and the Conference of Religious of Brasil (CRB).

A moment of prayer marked the beginning of the second day of the meeting, which was devoted to setting in motion initiatives for the maintenance and vitality of the mission. The morning was given to a talk by Mr. Robert Haigh, of the enterprise Première Consultation,

on the changes in the structure of the Province. Then it was the turn of the one responsible for the Organisations of the Province, Br. Umberto Gondim, accompanied by Br. Luiz André, co-ordinator of the Evangelisation and Ministry Commission.

Br. Emili Turú, Superior General, honoured the community superiors by his intervention via web cam (system oo-Voo), on the afternoon of Friday 9 April. Br. Emili greeted those present with words of encouragement: « You are the leaders. It is important to evaluate what we in train of building or what we are not building. »

Br. Emili recalled that the meeting was in line with the General Chapter, since it proposed the living of fraternal dialogue by the brothers among themselves and with the provincial team. « The practice of the Chapter is in each of us », he said. Then he insisted on commitment to the search for provincial unity.

« Many thanks to you all for your contribution in keeping the mission alive in the Province », Br. Emili said on taking leave. At the time, he was taking part in the plenary session of the General Council.

The last day was devoted to evaluation. Aspects such as the atmosphere of sharing, attention to details and fraternal life, were emphasised.



Marist Apostolic Spirituality

V Meeting of the Inter-American Network of MAS and XV Meeting of the Latin-American Network



The Inter-American Network of MAS met in Lujan – Buenos Aires – (Argentine). Work began on Thursday 8/04 and finished on the evening of 15/04. Among those present were the various MAS delegates coming from the Administrative Units of Marist America, as well as Brothers and lay people from the following countries: Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Brasil, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, United States and Canada.

The meeting took place in the « Villa San José », an historic place which for the first 90 years of Marist presence in Argentina was the house of formation for many generations of South American and European Brothers. For about 20 years it has been a retreat house and meeting place for numerous groups of young people and adults, as well as a reception centre for pilgrims to the sanctuary of Luján.

The aim of the Inter-American Network of MAS meeting is to carry on formation in the field of Marist spirituality. In concrete, it is a matter of forming animators of spirituality who, in their turn, can pass on the formation they

receive in their Provinces or Districts. The joint formation of Brothers and laity in the field of spirituality is an important project conducted by the Network and founded on the directions of the last General Chapters. It is important to specify that this year sees the development of the second part of the formation course for animators of Marist spirituality. The first part took place last year in April at Los Teques (Venezuela). Among the themes treated may be mentioned: apostolic prayer, unification of life, the Marial aspect of our spirituality, the organisation of MAS in the Provinces, the animator of MAS. The course is co-ordinated by Brothers Mariano Varona (Santa María de los Andes), José Miguel Caballero (Norandina) and Horacio Bustos (Cruz del Sur).

The participants were: For Santa María de les Andes, Brothers Mariano Varona, Patricio Pino and Luis Cornejo Silva, and the lay people Raúl Amaya, Eliana Rojas, Mónica Aguirre, Patricia Peña and Ricardo Miño. For Brasil Centro-Sul, Brothers Joaquim Sperandio and José Aderlan Nascimento, and the layman João Luis Fedel Goncalves. For Rio Grande do Sul, Brother Leandro Paiz and layman Gustavo Balbinot. For Bra-

sil Centro Norte, Brothers Joaci Pinheiro de Sousa and Rafael Ferreira Junior, and the laywoman Heloisa Afonso de Almeida Sousa. For Umbrasil, Brother Lodovino Jorge Marín. For Norandina, Brothers Crescenciano González, José Miguel Caballero, Ismar Portilla Benavides and Francisco Javier Pérez, and the laywomen Mercy Sedamanos and Teresa Hernández Arteaga. For America Central, Brothers Carlos Monroy and Manolo Vallejo, and layman Francisco Porres. For Mexico Occidental, Brother Carlos G. Perales. For Mexico Central, Brother Rodrigo Espinosa. For Canada, Brother Réal Sauvageau and layman Alain Barrette. For the United States of America, Brother John A. Allen. For Cruz del Sur and the District of Paraguay, Brothers Horacio Bustos, Ángel Duples and Juan Torrelles, and the laypeople Pilar Caggiao, Guillermo Monteverde, Marcela Rodríguez, Gracilea D'Eletto, Mónica Linares, María José Doffi and Zunilda Silva.

On the last day of the meeting, the participants decided on the date and place of the next meeting of the Inter-American Network for 2011, and the objectives and goals for the next years.



Province of «Brasil Centro-Sul»

Perpetual Profession - Br. Fábio Bettoni

Brother Fábio BETTONI took perpetual vows on 17 April 2010, during a ceremony in the parish church of his hometown, Herval d'Oeste, in Santa Catarina (Brasil). His consecration of himself to God took on a special importance thanks to the presence of his parents and members of his family, a great number of Marist brothers, friends and guests, and four priests celebrating. Brother Davide Pedri, Provincial, received Brother Fábio's vows in the name of the Superior Ge-

neral, and he was welcomed into the Province with gestures of affection and brotherly words.

Three other brothers of the Province have asked to make their definitive consecration to God during this year. Praise be to God for the vocations He is sending us and for the generosity He arouses in the hearts of these young men so enthusiastic about the charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.



In the spirit of the XXI General Chapter

MChFM - Fraternity of Grenada

Some members of the Fraternity of Grenada (Spain) had a wonderful experience during Holy Week. The participants numbered 17 : 9 adults and 8 children, among them, Jandro and family, Alfredo and family, José Diego and family, Adela Miravent and a few others of the Fraternity who took part only a few days. Two Brothers were also of the party: Stefano and Fernando. The participants lived in a large house hired for the whole week; this was their temporary lodging. But as this was not sufficient, certain ones had to be put up in other houses, placed at their disposal by the people of the parish. The two Brothers stayed at the presbytery.

The place where the experience took place was called Láchar, situated near the Grenada airport. That is

where those taking part spent Holy Week. They collaborated with the priest in preparing the celebration of the Paschal Triduum and made contact with the people of the parish. They also joined the village children and organized games with them in one of the squares. The number of children went on growing from the first day; good work was achieved from the game and the contacts. The relations established with the parishioners were excellent, as was the welcome received. They hope to see us again next year.

The experience was an interesting one for several reasons: « the parish priest was very happy with us, and we with him », said one of the participants. Good work was done with the children of the Fraternity, from the point of view of prayer adapted

to their level. The reference point was the experience that Alfredo, José Diego, Stefano and some parents are developing in the school of Grenada as a project of initiation in prayer. The criteria used by the school project were applied to the 8 children of the group. It was a very beautiful experience which contributed to creating strong and close bonds among the participants.

Some time of the last day was spent in making an evaluation of the experience: all were very happy with it. At the close of the day, we welcomed the other members of the « Hermano Servando » Fraternity – this is the name of the Grenada fraternity. « I believe this is a first step towards other dreams we have in mind », confirmed one of the participants.

