

MARIST ASIA CONFERENCE

Annual Meeting in Sri Lanka

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Marist Asia Conference (MAC) took place at the beginning of April. MAC is the regional conference of the leaders of Asia. It consists of the two Provincials – Brothers Shanthi Liyanage (South Asia) and Manny de Leon (East Asia) – their deputies Mervyn Perera and Robert Teoh. The Superior of Asia Mission Ad Gentes Sector (AMAG) – Luis Sobrado – is also a member. His deputy – Juan Castro – was not available for this meeting so Michael Potter stood in for Juan. Peter Rodney – Rector of Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) – completes the Conference membership.

This year the Province of South Asia hosted the meeting in Sri Lanka. It was a two day meeting devoted to building closer collaboration. Not only among the Administrative Units (AUs) of the region, but also between the region and the animation initiatives of the General Council and its various Secretariats. So time was set aside to reflect upon



and plan for such key areas as Lay Partnership and Mission.

A considerable proportion of time was given to a conversation with Br. Mario Meuti – Director of FMSI – in order to better co-ordinate solidarity and child advocacy across the region. With the opening of the Asia Desk of FMSI as a joint venture between FMSI and the MAC, the presence of Mario at the meeting enabled a

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brothers João do Prado and Chris Wills of the Secretariats of Mission and International Missionary Collaboration respectively, are meeting with the Inter-American Mission Commission and Subcommissions in Guatemala from 5 to 9 May.

Br. César Rojas, of Brothers Today, takes part in the meeting of the European Vocations Team in Belgium on 6 and 7 May.

Brothers Eugène Kabanguka and Josep Maria Soterias of the General Council have gone to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to help a group of Latin American Brothers prepare for Final Profession from 6 to 10 May.

valuable exchange, refining the vision of FMSI-Asia, and ensuring that its ministry is well co-ordinated with the Asian Administrative Units. There was a strong sense that the contribution of FMSI-Asia will develop into something quite significant for our life and mission in Asia.

Other areas that were studied in detail during the meeting were spirituality, community development and initial formation. Since its inauguration twelve months ago, the Conference has been keen to make the best use of resources available in Asia towards common goals in Asia. Within that aim has been the hope

that the training and skills developed by the region's participants at the Community Animator's courses at Manziana could be at the service not only of their own AU, but also, through networking and sharing, at the service of the region. In a similar spirit, the Conference is supporting the Province of East Asia in its development of the Spirituality Center at Lake Sebu, Mindanao.

Little by little, within AMAG there has been solid development of local vocations. Therefore it is most important that the best possible formation programs be in place for these pioneer Marists. AMAG leaders continue to

co-ordinate their programs with those already established in the region. The Conference continues to plan for common programs of formation.

As indicated by the fact that this is only its second formal annual meeting, the Conference is in its infancy. So all through the meeting, there was a clear and consistent theme. Among the members there is the firm desire to establish the Conference firmly, to keep it focused on what is achievable given the reality of the Asian AUs, to ensure that the focus remains on the needs of the region, and to respond to these in ways that are appropriate for Asia.



Statistics of the Institute - 31 December 2012

	Brothers	Novices	Deceased	I Profession	Perp. Profession	Exits
África Austral / Southern Africa	114	7	0	6	0	7
Afrique Centre-Est	101	3	0	1	6	1
América Central	105	1	3	0	0	2
Australia	284	0	9	1	2	4
Brasil Centro-Norte	114	5	3	4	0	5
Brasil Centro-Sul	117	5	3	5	1	0
Canada	129	0	8	0	0	0
Compostela	219	1	7	1	0	0
Cruz del Sur	135	0	3	0	2	4
East Asia	119	16	0	5	1	5
West Central Europe	136	0	7	1	0	0
Ibérica	177	0	2	0	0	0
L'Hermitage	320	0	16	0	0	0
Madagascar	55	3	1	2	0	0
Mediterránea	287	7	8	5	2	1
México Central	94	0	4	0	0	2
México Occidental	138	8	4	3	0	4
New Zealand	94	0	3	0	1	0
Nigeria	98	7	1	1	0	4
Norandina	129	3	2	0	0	2
Rio Grande do Sul	157	1	5	0	1	0
Santa María de los Andes	100	0	3	1	0	1
South Asia	67	0	0	0	1	0
United States of America	160	2	6	0	0	0
Total	3,449	69	98	36	17	42

APPOINTMENT OF THE SUPERIOR OF AMAG

Br. Juan Castro Leñero

Brother Superior General and his Council have appointed Bro. Juan Castro as the new Superior of AMAG for a period of three years, beginning in the month of August 2013. Prior to this, in the month of July, the Sector will officially become a District dependent on the General Administration. In his communication to the Sector, Bro. Superior General thanked Bro. Luis G. Sobrado for his generosity in accepting the challenge to serve the Institute in the Sector, following his two mandates on the General Council. He also thanked Bro. Juan Castro for his availability to serve the Institute in this new position of responsibility.



Br Juan Castro Leñero was born on 23 August 1950. He made his first vows on 8 September 1969 and perpetual

profession on 19 March 1974, in the Province of México Central.

His academic preparation in Studies in Pedagogy, Post-graduate studies and the degree of Master of Secondary and Preparatory Teaching was done in Korea University.

From his youth he was interested in mission work in the East, and in 1972 departed for the New Mission of South Korea. At the Student Center in the city of Andong he was animator and English teacher from 1974 to 1979, and then Director from 1982 to 1985. From 1986 to 1990 he was responsible for the Diocesan Youth Movements in the city of Wonju.

In 1991, he took a year of sabbatical and spiritual renewal, following the

Spirituality Course at El Escorial in Spain.

He was then appointed Master of Novices in the city of Suwon in 1992 and 93. After serving two terms as District Superior from 1993 to 1998, he became Master of Novices again for another year.

From 2000 to 2005, he was in charge of the retired brothers at Seoul Educational Center, and the two years following, of the Juvenile Centre in Seoul. In 2008, he joined the Ad gentes programme.

Personal interests: sports: basketball, football, Tae-kwon dong. Manual work, sharing with friends, preparation of theliturgy.



ANNUAL RETREAT IN SAMOA

In early April the Brothers Today community animation team of the Province of New Zealand (Brs. Kevin Wanden, Nevil Bingley and Kees van der Weert) led the annual retreat for the two communities in Samoa. The retreat focused on the six elements of Marist Spirituality using Water From The Rock: Marist Spirituality Flowing In The Tradition of Marcellin Champagnat as the basis for the sessions. The retreatants enjoyed the process of sessions, personal reflection, group sharing and feedback. The retreat took place at the Archdiocesan Shrine of the Three Hearts with

extensive views over looking Apia.

The first Brother arrived in Samoa in 1845 as part of the Marist mission. The Brothers opened their first school in Samoa in 1871. This closed in 1877 due to a number of difficulties. 2013 marks the 125th anniversary of the re-establishment of the school at Mulivai in 1888. The Brothers conduct two schools in Apia, St Joseph's College, Alafua and Marist Primary at Mulivai.



Centenary of the Marist presence in Lagny-Sur-Marne

On Saturday 6 April, a celebration commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Marist Brothers at the boarding school of St-Laurent de Lagny-sur-Marne (1912-2012), France. After the speeches of the Headmistress, the Brother Provincial, the presidents of the OGEC and the APEL, a commemorative plaque was unveiled. Many confrères, notably former students and teachers of the St-Laurent establishment, were present for the occasion.

COURSE IN MARIST MANAGEMENT

Marist Brothers and laity of Latin America and Europe

The Province of "Brasil Centro-Sul" organised, from 18 March to 26 April, an International Course in Marist Management, fruit of partnership between the General Government of the Marist Institute and the "Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR)". For the whole period, 17 brothers and laity from different Provinces of Latin America and Europe left their institutions temporarily to share experiences and sharpen their skills in the domain of management.

According to Prof. June Cruz, of the Business School of PUCRS, the objective of the course was to encourage exchange and update the administrators' knowledge of the principal subjects, keeping in mind the vitality and durability of the Provinces concerned. From the start of the programme, the participants were stimulated to develop projects of intervention, that is to say, to envisage the practical application of the knowledge in their respective institutions.

The theoretical part touched subjects such as : corporative government, intervention, leadership based on values and strategic vision, while the practical part involved visits to establishments of the Marist group, private organisations and public bodies.



The representative of the Province of "Cruz del Sur" (Argentine), Alejandro Javier Stella, thought it a productive course. He found interesting the updating on the tendencies of corporative government : "This point – he said – is very important for all the Marist Provinces, since it lets them know how to move forward, what

is the best model of governance to adopt in their region." Mr Javier Stella suggests, for the next course, planning greater space for exchange among participants and for the discussion of studies relative to cases of non-government organisations or those dedicated to solidarity.

The first International Course of Marist Management having clearly been a success, it is hoped to organise a second, even this year, but in the English language, for other Marist Provinces.

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Director
Br. Alberto Ricca

Production
Mr. Luiz da Rosa

Redaction and Administration
Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2
C.P. 10250 – 00144 ROMA
E-mail: publica@fms.it
web: www.champagnat.org

Edit
Marist Brother's Institute - General House – Rome