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PROVINCE OF SOUTH ASIA

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 2016

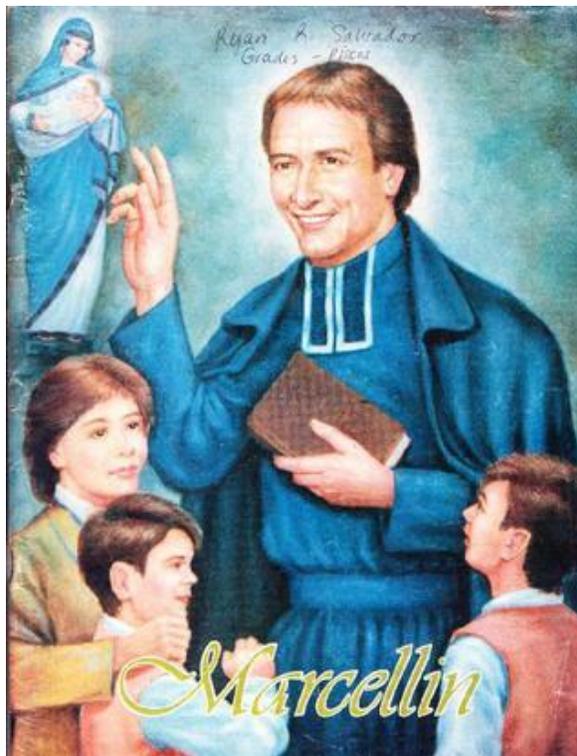
Reflection

On June 6th we will be celebrating the Feast Day of Our Founder, Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

This month in particular, then, is a fitting time for us, his Marist Family, to reflect on his life, let him speak to our hearts, and inspire us to intensify our efforts to realize the dream that he has entrusted to all of us.

Marcellin dreamed of a worldwide Marist family wholeheartedly devoted to making Jesus Christ known and loved among children and young people, especially the least favored.

He was a simple country priest who welcomed his vocation with a deep and abiding faith. He lived in the presence of God and lived with boundless confidence in Jesus, our risen brother and Mary, our Good Mother. He wanted us, his followers, to make Jesus known and loved as Mary did, by making him the center of our life and mission.



His firm trust in God enabled him to make bold decisions, and to face opposition to his vision for our world with courage and commitment. So great was his reliance on God's Providence that he made Psalm 126 one of his favorite prayers, "If the Lord does not build the house..."

For us, the Crib, the Cross and the Altar are the three *M A R I S T* places where we encounter Jesus and his endless unconditional love for us and our world.

In addressing Mary as "Our Good Mother" Father Champagnat revealed his deep affection for her and his total trust in her tender maternal care.

His recitation of the "Memorare" when he and Brother Stanislaus were lost in a snowstorm clearly testifies to the trust and confidence that we *M A R I S T S* have always placed in Mary. Likewise, whenever we refer to her as "Our Ordinary Resource" we are giving witness to our solid confidence in her loving concern for us

Marcellin and his first Brothers were models of the Family Spirit and joyful simplicity that we today strive to exemplify and promote in our communities around the world. Only if we emulate these virtues can we call ourselves Marcellin's sons and daughters. I believe that this is what he expected of us when, in his Spiritual Testament, he wrote, "Love one another as Jesus Christ has loved you."

Let us be of one heart and one mind this month and always in practicing Marcellin's qualities of "love and forgiveness, support and help, forgetfulness of self, openness to others and joy" in our lives.

WE WISH THE MARIST FAMILY A HAPPY FEAST DAY!

PAKISTAN

Sargodha

➤ SCHS; School day Celebrations

On May 6th, Sargodha Catholic School day was celebrated with great pomp and ceremony. It had a dual purpose. One to celebrate the school day for the students, and the second was to raise funds for the Golden Jubilee of the Marist Brothers. It was the initiative of the Lay Marists and Brothers in Sargodha. After a well-organized Eucharistic celebration, the students had a fun fair where they had many games to play, plenty of food to eat, songs to sing and a dance floor to show off their talents. The staff of SCHS worked very hard. It was great fun for the students as well as for the teachers.

➤ Seminar on "Teaching as a Christian Ministry"

On Saturday May 14th, a seminar on "Teaching as a Christian Ministry" was held at Sargodha Catholic High School. This program was the first in a series of seminars planned by Mr. Rick and Mr. Eamonn of Marist College in Canberra for the Sargodha Staff. As they were unable to visit Pakistan due to the prevailing situation, the Principal and the Administrative staff at SCHS conducted the first seminar. Apart from Brother Remigius, Brothers Farancis, Hadayat and Paul also gave short presentations. It was a fruitful day and the members of the staff were very much satisfied. The whole morning was spent on reading, reflecting, discussing and learning about how to do teaching as a Christian Ministry, modeling Jesus as the perfect teacher. The next seminar will be teaching as per Marist Pedagogy. It will be held in June.



➤ Formation House at Chak # 79, Sargodha

On May 15th, Brothers Hadayat, Farancis and Rohail went to Faisalabad, our former formation house to bring the furniture belonging to the Marist Brothers to be used in our new formation the house in village Chak 79.

The contract with the St. John of God Sisters, who own the house at Chak 79, was renewed recently. Sister Brid, the Congregational Leader from Ireland, Sister Michelle, the local leader, and Brother Paul Bhatti signed the documents. The agreement was extended for another year until the time when the registration of the Marist Brothers is completed.

Our two Candidates in Pakistan

Sharoon Daniel completed his ICS final exams and therefore his two year college studies on the May 23, 2016. He will now prepare for his forthcoming Postulancy.

After completing his ICS first year exams Imran, our second candidate, will go to St. Joseph's Hospice in Rawalpindi for a one month experience. He will spend time with bedridden patients, talking to them, feeding them and helping the staff in their daily routine duties.



Peshawar

• Welcome to Rohail and Anthony

On May 1st, during Sunday Mass, Brother Hadayat organized a welcome and introduction for the two young Brothers Rohail and Anthony at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Kohati gate in Peshawar City. Brother Rohail comes from that Parish, and his family and friends were there to welcome him with money and flower garlands. Thank you, Brother Hadayat, for organizing this gathering. Anthony was heartily welcomed by his Parish during his home visit during a Sunday Mass. His family and friends organized a party in his honour.

Rohail was given a warm welcome by the Brothers, Staff and students at Sargodha Catholic High School (SCHS). The students were happy to see him, remembering him from his time when he stayed there for his short community experience. Br. Farancis who had returned from the Community Animator's Course, was also warmly welcomed back. Both Brothers were presented flowers.



- **Farewell to our Kohati Gate mission in Peshawar, Pakistan.**

After working at Kohati for 49 years, the Marist Brothers have moved from there. Brother Hadayat, Acting Principal of **St. John Vianney Boys High School**, handed over his responsibilities to Mr. Amir Javed, a teacher at the same school. Now there are no more Brothers living in Kohati, **St. John Vianney Boys Hostel** has been handed over to the Diocese. The Bishop has appointed Rev. Father Luis, a diocesan priest, to be in charge of the Hostel. Father Luis will reside on the ground floor of the house where the brothers were.

- **Farewell and welcome to Brother Hadayat**

The members of the staff and the students of St. John Vianney School were very appreciative of the work Brother Hadayat did for the progress of the school and for the welfare of the students and teachers. In the meantime Brother Hadayat was given a farewell by the Parish of St. John Vianney Parish in Peshawar City. The Parish Priest thanked the Brothers for the Services rendered to the Parish and its people.



On May 17th, Brother Hadayat was warmly welcomed by Br. Remigius and the staff to Sargodha Catholic High School. He will serve as the Vice Principal of SCHS, replacing Br. Paul Bhatti.



- **Prefects Inauguration ceremony at St. Mary's High School**

The Prefects Induction ceremony at St. Mary's High School took place on Monday, May 9, 2016. It was a moment of pride and joy for the student leaders who were appointed to the prestigious positions of Heads and Deputies of the school's Prefect Union for the year 2016-2017.



Brother Sunil, the Principal, congratulated the newly appointed young lads and thanked the teachers who guided them. He told these students that it was an honour for them to be selected to a very special group which was a part of the leadership structure of the school. He invited them to be role models to their fellow school mates. Spelling out the responsibilities they had to carry on as the leaders of the School Prefect Union, he invoked God's blessings on them and for the success of the work they will do for the progress of the school.

- **Mothers' Day Celebrations**

The celebration of Mothers' Day has always been a special event in the history of St. Mary's. This year on the Mothers' Day the special event was to appreciate the teachers who are mothers. These teachers were given special gifts and the Principal in his speech to the students brought forward the sacrifices that a



mother makes in order to bring up a child as a successful person in the society. He asked the children to recall how tenderly and patiently their mothers cared for them and helped them to take the first steps and pronounce their first words.

She was the first one to be delighted in their success and comfort them in their failure. She so often sacrificed the company of her friends just to be with her children and be present when they needed her. She often refrained from getting new clothes for herself so that she could buy her child the best. She did not hesitate to walk the distance and forego using transport in order to save some money to provide what they needed. The children in the Primary were also given the opportunity to express their views, relate stories and sing songs about their mothers.



Sacrament of Confirmation

On May 15, 24 of our students received the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation. Rt. Rev. Rufin Anthony, the Bishop of Rawalpindi, was the chief celebrant. He was very pleased to see the large number of students from St. Mary's High School, receiving the Holy Sacrament. Brothers Kamran and Anthony under the guidance of Brother Sunil, the Principal, prepared these students for this very significant event in their life as Christians.

INDIA

Annual Retreat

Brothers of the Indian Sector did their annual retreat at the Capuchin's center house at Kottakri, Ooty for five days, from May 2nd in the evening until May 7th. Father Roach was the preacher who put us in the right mood to be with the Lord from the very first day. On the last day of the retreat Brother Jiji renewed his vows.



Grade 12 Exam Results

On May 12th the Examination Department of the Tamil Nadu Government released the results of the 12th Grade Examination. We were blessed with very good results. The students of Marist Secondary School in P. Udayappati obtained 99%, while Marcellin High School in Mangamanuthu came up with a 95% pass percentage. The highest mark in P.U. was 1087/1200 while the best student in Mangamanuthu attained 1082/ 1200. Congratulations to the students for their hard work and to the Brothers, teachers and Parents for their unstinting efforts in guiding them.

Towards the Dawn

The Marist Brothers Operation Rainbow organized the Summer Camp for young people from May 10 - 14th, 2016. The Camp brought strength and courage for our Rainbow family children, affected and infected by HIV/Aids. There were many resource people who gave input to our young people based on their social challenges and life struggles. The five-day Camp was coordinated by Brother Jiji, Mr. Raja, Mr. Isaac, Mrs. Amaliya, Mrs. Ravathi, Mrs. Isaac Praveena and Miss. Amuthani. They supported the program wholeheartedly and volunteered in many different levels of the activities.

Brother Chinnappan our Provincial delegate opened the Camp lighting the oil lamp in keeping with the Indian traditions, and Brother Saul Placious gave a comprehensive introduction regarding the importance of this Summer Camp, "Vidialai Nooki" "Towards the Dawn..." He also spoke about the goals to be achieved from this event. Brother Rajakumar enlightened the young people with the topic, "Who are we in our world and how the media is influencing our lives."

During the five days at the camp our young people not only enjoyed their activities but also did their utmost to achieve the Camp's goals. They were ably supported by our Brothers in India, the rainbow family and the staff, Mrs. Deepa, Mrs. Saroja and Mr. Raja.

On the final day our children performed various variety and cultural events. Everyone present was amazed by the talented performances by our children. It was the first time our Rainbow family children organized and performed the program in the Brothers House here in Trichi. The evaluation of this event was very positive. Many young people and parents have invited us to organize the same Camp each year during the month of May. This encourages and strengthens us to do something special for our young people in the Rainbow family as well as in the wider society.



SRI LANKA

Seven young men initiated into the novitiate at Tudella

On 10th May seven young men from the District of Asia and the Province of South Asia were accepted into the novitiate by Brother Shanthi, Provincial of South Asia.

Baoxuan Xia, Wang Peng (China) Rubel Nokrek (Bangladesh) Le Dan Thuong, Tram Van Thanh, and Nguyen Van Trinh (Vietnam), and H.A. Pradeep Kumara (Sri Lanka) joined the six second year



novices in a ceremony attended by the members of the Novitiate, Postulancy, Aspirancy and Provincial House, with special guest Brother Tony Leon from the Secretariat for Brothers Today based in Rome..

After a candle/torch lit start due to a power failure, light was restored as the Provincial lit the ceremonial lamp. Articles 11 and 97 of the Constitutions were read along with John's Gospel 15: 1-11. Br Peter Walsh delivered the homily on the Novitiate as a desert and rich garden experience, inviting the new novices to union with Christ, the true vine.

The new novices consecrated themselves to Mary and Brother Shanthy presented each of them with a copy of the Constitutions, the Bible and a Marist cross.

A convivial celebration followed which included birthday celebrations for Brother Tony Leon and Brother Baoxuan.



Second Year Novices commissioned for their Apostolic Community Experience

On May 12th at 7.00 PM the Novices who had completed their canonical year of Novitiate were commissioned at a ceremony at the Tudella International Novitiate, Sri Lanka for their three-month apostolic community experience. The Novices from the District of Asia will return to the District (Vietnam, Cambodia and China) for their experience. The novices from Melanesia will complete their experience at Negombo and Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.



Marist Sri Lanka: Recollection

On May 13-15 the Brothers in Sri Lanka gathered at the Good Shepherd Convent, Negombo for a period of recollection on the document: The Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother.

Brother Peter Walsh from the Tudella International Marist Novitiate opened up the document for us, showing the vocation of the Brother to be “a mystery in communion for mission.” The mystery is “gift received,” our relationship with the Trinity, “gift shared,” our relationship in community, and “gift given away,” our mission.

Expanding on these ideas the document calls to mind a number of icons from the Gospels. It points out that the icon of the Eucharist in the Synoptic Gospels is put into context by the icon of the washing of the feet in John; ministry is for service.



It points out that there is “no greater consecration than baptism” and that we all share in the universal priesthood of Christ; that there is one mission with differing ministries. The one mission that all who are Baptized share is making known the love of the Trinity for humankind and the world. In our communities our first ministry is to share God’s love with our brothers, and our second is to share it with others, especially the poor and marginalized. The document uses the icons of the Good Shepherd and the Good Samaritan to illustrate this.



It reminds us that our mission is making Christ present to the world through our personal witnessing. It is not what we do but our very life living in communion with the least that matters, because even when our ministries disappear because of illness or old age our mission will always remain.



The Brother is to be a prophetic witness of Jesus’s love for humankind. The section on “The Brother Today” looks at a number of ways religious brothers can be prophetic in today’s world: the prophecy of “hospitality”, of “the meaning of life”, of “the affirmation of feminine values”, of “care and protection of life” and of “wise use of new technologies.”



Finally the document returns to the beginning and reminds us that unless we remain united to the Trinity through our relationship with Jesus, we can accomplish nothing. It brings to mind the icon of Martha and Mary, “who chose the better part.”

Events in June

- 01st: Reopening of Schools in Tamil Nadu India.
- 04th: Schools in Pakistan will be closed officially for summer vacation.
- 04th: Maris Stella College Day combined with Our Founders Feast, organized by the M.S.C. Old Boys Association.
- 06th: Champagnat day celebrations in our two schools in Pakistan.
- 13th: Bro. Sunanda to Rome to attend New Models (A.G.M.) Meeting
- 20 – 23 Major Superiors’ Live-in, Sri Lanka
- 24th: Prize Giving; St. Joseph’s College Nugegoda

25th: First Holy Communion; Maris Stella College

Meetings on Project Sustainability of the Mission in Africa and Asia

6 - 10: Sri Lanka

13 -17: India

20 – 24: Pakistan

Birthdays June and July

June	July
01 st Albert Anthonyamy (91) 9629786553	11 th , Paulraj Anthonyamy (91) 9597143525
16 th Sunil Liyanage (92) 3339777340	15 th , Gerard Peiris (94) 724533659
16 th Shanthi Liyanage (94) 777347702	18 th , Johnson Gnanasekara (91) 9994559937
16 th Savarimuthu (91) 9994951301	27 th , Godfrey Perera (94) 723649691
19 th Mervyn Perera (94) 718404443	
20 th Sudarshana Mohotti (94) 718064440	
22 nd Jiji Dhasan (jijidhasan@gmail.com)	
24 th Navinda Fernando (94) 774910225	
24 th Eric Perera (94) 723383136	

Happy Birthday

Prayers are requested for:

- Relief and protection of the flood victims in Sri Lanka.
- Recovery of Bros. Ephrem Obris and Victor Fernando.
- Good health of our elderly Brothers.
- Chamara Hettiarachchi and the Brothers in Lomeri, Fiji in preparation for Final Vows.
- 2nd year novices of Tudella, going through a three month Community Apostolic experience.
- Success of the Sustainability Program.

The Law of the Garbage Truck

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport.

We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car

by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly. So I asked, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!"

This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck."

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it, and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.



The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day.

Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets; so...Love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't. Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it!

Have a blessed, garbage-free day.

D.J. Pollay

May God Bless you!

Bro. Shanthi Liyanage, FMS
Provincial, South Asia.