



Embrace life
Sustain the future



Secretariat of the laity

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From the Secretariat

The life expressed in these pages is a gift we have as followers of Champagnat. To exchange experiences, suggest new paths, learn about projects, connect as family... this is what the Bulletin is about. It features events of our Provinces which invite us to creativity, journeying, searching, communion. They appear to be responses to the spirit of the Letter of Br Emili, in which he tells us that "a tent is the heart of our future".

And of this future the 2nd International Mission Assembly speaks, as well as the first meeting on the Global framework for a process of lay identity, held in Barcelona.

"We are at the dawn of a new epoch which calls for creativity, imagination, novelty". Br Emili's statement is the wager we are making for creating new conditions of lay Marist identity, vocational complementarity, a new relationship of brothers and laity, new parameters for the Marist charism and our specific vocations.

In sharing these shoots of new life, I send you greetings

Javier Espinosa, FMS.

II INTERNATIONAL MARIST MISSION ASSEMBLY

The 2nd International Mission Assembly took place in Nairobi in September. They were days of meeting, communion in diversity, harmony of hearts, mutual recognition as Marists of lay people and brothers. The Assembly reaffirmed the road of communion we are travelling in the Institute. As laity and brothers we share the broad dimensions of our charism: fraternity shown in smile and attentive gesture; spirituality expressed in the depth of silence, listening and contemplation; the power of mission manifested in the constant recall of so many children whose gaze draws and challenges us.

The final Message of the Assembly expresses some dreams, including: that the Marists of Champagnat are recognized as men and women who live communion because we con-



stitute a charismatic family formed by new and diverse expressions of community. Because we have generated processes and structures of accompaniment of the Marist



vocations which have led to new manners of association and belonging within the Marist charism. Because we have created new structures which promote in an effective way participation, co-responsibility and decision making.

And among the evident challenges: to generate the processes necessary to promote and accompany the Marist

vocation and communities in their various expressions. How do we understand the Marist vocation? In what expressions and styles do we recognize the vitality of the Marist vocation? What new thing do we have to incorporate in the Marist communities for a greater vitality? What types of accompaniment process are necessary? How do we grow deeper in the spirit of communion?

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRATERNITIES OF THE CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT

Brasil Centro-Sul

The annual meeting of the fraternities was held on the last weekend of July, in Curitiba, Paraná. Those taking part were 11 Brother Advisers and 98 men and women, members of 19 fraternities. The central theme was "to live the Marist charism in the fraternities". The meeting made it very clear that being Marist is a style of life, is to act with love in everything and with everyone, in the little things and in the simple gestures of solidarity and care. It reached its high point with the launching of the project Sustainable apostolate destined to show the Marist way of living daily life today, with eyes fixed on history in order to promote initiatives in support of life and the planet, which cries out and begs for help. The meeting was simply the beginning of a great change. But, above all, it is necessary to emphasize



the agreement reached by all: to recycle ideas, words and thoughts!

FORMATION ITINERARY FOR LAITY

Brasil Centro-Norte

The third stage of the formation programme offered by the province was held from 29 September to 3 October in Brazlândia. Forty laity took part. Within the symbolism of the Itinerary, reference was made to the theological meaning of the star which lit up the birth of Jesus and the way of coming to meet him. A star which also lights up the life and vocation of Marist missionary disciples. There was discussion about the theme of the birth (crib) referring to being human, being Christian and Marist, emphasizing shared life, spirituality and mission. With reference to the Marist birth, it touched on the building up of the Institute from its origins in its charism and mission. This formation programme, promoted by the Commission of Laity of the MPBCN, testifies to the desire of collaborators and volunteers to know and live the Marist charism and contribute to the vitality of the Institute in the contemporary world.



WORKSHOPS IN THE FORMATION CENTRES OF THE INSTITUTE

In August and September, Ana, Pep and Javier held a workshop for the formators at El Escorial and Manzana, as well as the Brothers of the Third Age at the Rome House of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. In the Formators' Course, there were three days of reflection on the implications of the communion between brothers and laity in the processes of a new formation for Brothers. Discussion took place on lay vocation, vocational complementarity, joint formation, lay association, future of the charism, new way of being Brother... The challenge remains of finding how to propose the new beginning for the Marist charism, in which Brothers and Laity share the responsibility for transmitting this gift of God to a new generation of Marists.



LAY BONDING TO THE MARIST CHARISM

Itinerary of the Province of Ibérica

The Commission of Marist Laity (CLM) of the province has finished drawing up a programme so that lay persons interested in the charism can discern if God is calling them to this specific vocation or not. The process will conclude in a recognition of the adhesion of the lay person to the charism on the part of the

Marist institution. At the end of the process, according to the plan, the lay Marist commits himself to take care of his vocation and spirituality, participate in the mission, live the Marist community experience, maintain fraternal relations with other Marists and continue ongoing formation. And the Marist institution is committed to ac-

company his Marist life, facilitate opportunities for fraternal life, including communication of the life of the Province and the Institute, propose areas of participation in mission, facilitate processes of ongoing formation and invite to opportunities for spiritual growth and the sharing of prayer and celebration.

MEETING ON CHARISMATIC FAMILIES

Association of members of the General Curias in Rome

On 12 November, Br José María Ferre, representing the Secretariat, took part in a first meeting organized by the Association of Members of the General Curias on the topic of Charismatic Families, in other words, the charism being shared by laity and religious, and which becomes a richness for the institutes and for the Church. It brought

together 25 religious representing some 22 congregations. There was talk of organizing three meetings a year, with topics proposed by a small ad hoc committee. Among the emerging topics: belonging to a Charismatic Family; how to move forward a common mission, religious and laity; joint formation.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF BROTHERS-LAY COMMUNION

Roxos, Santiago de Compostela

The European Commission of Brothers-Lay Communion held its annual meeting in Roxos, Santiago de Compostela, from 1 to 3 October. It is currently composed of Joseba Louzao (Ibérica), Br Albert André (West Central Europe), Br Teo Aller (Compostela), Marta Portas (L'Hermitage) and Br Ventura Pérez (Mediterránea). Pep Buetas attended on behalf of the Secretariat. The meeting took the pulse of the situation in each of the provinces with regard to lay processes and experiences of communion. The feeling is that the commission is moving from being

a place for sharing what is happening in each province to being a place for reflection in which the processes of one or the other provide more challenge, enrich and promote closeness. The accompaniment and link with the Secretariat of the Laity aids in being in harmony with the processes and projects being animated at the level of the Institute, and maintains the attitude of active listening to what the Spirit is promoting among us Marists, laity and brothers. The necessity of more communication and interaction among the various commissions and teams of



the European Marist Conference (CEM) was made evident.

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR LAY MARIST PROCESSES

Towards a new beginning

Between 13 and 18 October, an international team met in Barcelona to lay the basis for a Global Framework for lay Marist processes. The project springs from a proposal made by the General Council to the Secretariat of the Laity to follow up on the process of discernment on lay association and belonging initiated at the March meeting in Rome, another initiative of the Council. Some sixty laity and brothers took part in this meeting from almost all the provinces of the Institute and made recommendations for the General Government and the Administrative Units. The working group included lay men and women of Provinces which have set in motion lay processes of charismatic formation and vocational discernment: Joe McCa-

rthy (Australia), Eder D'Artagnan (Brasil Centro Norte), Nohemy Pinto (América Central), Ana Sarrate (Ibérica and Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family), Raúl Amaya (Santa María de los Andes). Pep Buetas and Javier Espinosa were present on behalf of the Secretariat.



On the basis of the discussion held in Barcelona, a journey has been initiated for the participation of other groups and commissions. This process seeks to be enriched with the experiences in this respect already existing in the Institute and also with new experiences that may be born in other Administrative Units within the same search for an identity for the lay Marist in some form of association.

EXPERIENCE OF JOINT FORMATION IN ASIA

Now is the time to launch!

Eleven Brothers and eighteen lay Marists gathered from 20 to 24 October for a session of joint formation in Sarangani Highlands, in the city of General Santos, the Philippines. Nine countries were represented, namely, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Korea, China and Australia. The gathering reflected on spirituality, faith, vocations, co-responsibility, communion between brothers and laity and new Marists on mission. The participants came away filled with hope for the revitalisation of the future of our charism in Asia. Agnes Reyes of the Secretariat directed the session



with the help of Br Michael Callinan from Australia. At the end, they drew up a Declaration. Some of the conclusions: confront the challenge of integrating Asiatic spirituality in the form of Marist life; go further in

co-responsibility for the construction of the future of the Marist charism of Asia; establish new models for initial and ongoing formation, especially for the lay Marists but also for brothers and laity together; develop different community models in which brothers and lay commit themselves to a new mission; develop the CHMMF and other associations of lay Marists in the Asian region; support the development of an International Marist Association which offers a formal status of belonging to lay Marists and also support the "Friends of Champagnat" for those beginning their Marist path in an apostolic activity.

XX NATIONAL MEETING OF MARIST FRATERNITIES

San Juan de los Lagos, Mexico

The XX National meeting of Marist fraternities was held in the John Paul II Conference Centre of San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco, from 31 October to 2 November. The theme was "Adding up to make Fraternity". Paty Ríos presented on what a fraternity is and its history over time. Br Lalo Navarro spoke on Spirituality and its value in our life. It was moving to listen to Mrs Cuquita Reynoso giving testimony of her work in the Marist Family as foundress and active member of a of a fraternity. Her reflections were a reminder that there is always much to do in continuing to grow in brotherhood. Br Kike Escobar and psychologist Chantal, using various activities, aided thinking about





the fraternities and what could be done to improve them. And Br Lalo Brondo gave an interesting talk on his mission in the Tarahumara sierra. Finally, Br Agustín Acevedo

and Vicky Komiyama, with much enthusiasm, shared their experience as participants in the II International Marist Mission Assembly in Nairobi.

MEETING OF CODIRECTORS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LAITY

Korea and Hong Kong

The second annual meeting of the co-directors of the Secretariat was held from 4 to 14 November, and in addition to work on the points of the Agenda, various meetings were held with the Marists of these two countries. Among the items on the Agenda: preparation for the Course for lay animators to be held in Rome in May 2015; the process of reflection on the global framework of lay identity; drafting of the Marist Lexicon; the international meeting of the Continental Commissions; the process of updating



the Champagnat Movement. The last letter of Br Emili and the Message of the II Mission Assembly were discussed. In Korea there was the possibility of exchanges with brothers and laity about the Marist presence in the Hapjung-Dong Centre in Seoul, as well as special workshops for the youth in Choongju and the Centre on Eco-spirituality in Jechon. In Hong Kong, meetings were held in Saint Francis Xavier's College, a Marist secondary school, where some of the proposals of the secretariat were shared with Brothers as well as teachers at the college.

LETTER TO THE LAITY OF CRUZ DEL SUR

This November, Br Horacio Bustos, provincial of Cruz del Sur, sent a letter to the laity of the Province with two very concrete invitations. In the first, lay men and women, families included, are invited to offer themselves to take part in the life and mission of a Marist community situated in a context of poverty, for at least a year. Concretely, in the communities of La Boca (Rosario) or Las Heras (Mendoza) or Tacuarembó

(Uruguay). These three communities are inserted in the midst of the people and offer a prospect of education in contact with poor children and families. The first two evangelize through formal education and pastoral work in the quarter, the third through popular education and pastoral care. In the second, persons who feel a vocation to collaborate in the administrative direction of a Marist College/Work and are available, are invited, after

suitable preparation, to move to other geographical parts of the Province, to take up this service for a period of not less than three years. This concerns a time of service to be carried out in community form, that is, in a fraternity composed of brothers and laity who wish to venture on a common project of evangelization, community life and spirituality. Challenging invitations, without a doubt.

X MEETING OF MARIST FRATERNITIES

Province of *América Central*

The "X Provincial Meeting of Fraternities" was held in Guatemala from 7 to 9 November with the participation of 171 fraternity members and 16 brothers from the countries of Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. The topics centred on the II International Marist Mission Assembly held in Nairobi, with the accent on being Prophets and Mystics in communion. These days were coloured with the beautiful African tales told in Nairobi. Among the challenges which surfaced: how to overcome the fears and resistances to set out for the peripheries by promoting and defending the rights of the most needy children and young people, and how to meet the Montagnes of the XXI century. The commitment emerged to undertake together the road to a better future, as did the third son of the chief of the tribe, from the top of the mountain.



ITINERARIOS VOCACIONALES

In various provinces of the Institute, the reflection promoted by the document Gathered around the same table in relation to the lay Marists of Champagnat, has materialized in concrete proposals for discerning and identifying processes. Here we mention these proposals together with the person who may be consulted about them:

- Itineraries of growth in the lay Marist vocation. Province of Santa María de los Andes.
Raúl Amaya: ramayamarista@gmail.com
- Itineraries of deepening the lay Marist vocation. Province of Cruz del Sur.
Mauricio Fuentes: mauriciof1982@yahoo.com.ar
- Vocational itinerary for lay men and women. Province of Brasil Centro-Norte.
Eder D´Artagnan: eder@marista.edu.br
- Itinerary of Lay Marist Vocational Accompaniment. Province of América Central.
Nohemy Pinto: nohepinto03@hotmail.com
- Standard itinerary for lay association with the Marist charism. Province of Ibérica.
Ana Sarrate: anasarrate@gmail.com
- Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. Province of Australia.
Joe McCarthy: joe.mccarthy@marists.org.au
- Marist Association of Laity. Province of Canada.
Linda Corbeil: l.corbeil@campmariste.qc.ca

2015: COURSE FOR LAY ANIMATORS

The Secretariat of the Laity has organized an International Course for Lay Animators, to be held in Rome from 18 May to 3 June 2015. Two places are offered per Administrative Unit. One of the objectives of the course is to train lay men and women to take on responsibilities of animation in lay formation processes at all levels (local, provincial and international). The slogan adopted is: "Tomorrow will have your eyes. Together taking on the challenges of the Marist future".



This course has its origin in the conviction that, if in the past the Marist charism depended on the brothers, in the future it will depend on brothers together with laity who bind themselves to the charism and are trained to enrich it and transmit it to other laity. The proposal seeks to be integrated into the spirit of the Fourvière Year, welcoming the great gift of the Holy Spirit, which is the rise of the Marist laity. The course is one way of participating in an historic moment of illumination, in a new beginning for the Institute, as proposed by Br Emili.

RETREAT FOR THE FRATERNITIES OF THE CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT

Province of Cruz del Sur

On 1 November, 11 fraternities gathered in the Provincial House for their annual retreat, which was animated by Lic. Solvegi Bernsdorff. It was an opportunity for reflection and prayer on the integrity of the persons and the world, in face of the need to continue deepening the fraternal experience towards the ideal of the first Christian communities. Two initial questions gave depth to the reflection: «Where are you?» (Gn 3: 9) and «Where is your brother?» (Gn 4: 9). The retreat made possible coming aware of how in daily life we are exposed to suspicion, fear, insecurity, anger, resentment, attachments... for this reason, the animator stressed the centrality of love and trust. The love which empowers by respect for oneself, for the other and for the surroundings. The trust which is a creative force. Creates the future, affirms and drives the energies of the group.



FOR REFLECTION

"In this letter, I wish to speak not only to consecrated persons, but also to the laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission. Some Religious Institutes have a long tradition in this regard, while the experience of others is more recent. Indeed, around each religious family, every Society of Apostolic Life and every Secular Institute, there is a larger family, a "charismatic family", which includes a number of Institutes which identify with the same charism, and especially lay faithful who feel called, precisely as lay persons, to share in the same charismatic reality.

I urge you, as laity, to live this Year for Consecrated Life as a grace which can make you more aware of the gift you yourselves have received. Celebrate it with your entire "family", so that you can grow and respond together to the promptings of the Spirit in society today. On some occasions when consecrated men and women from different Institutes come together, arrange to be present yourselves so as to give expression to the one gift of God. In this way you will come to know the experiences of other charismatic families and other lay groups, and thus have an opportunity for mutual enrichment and support".

APOSTOLIC LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO ALL CONSECRATED PEOPLE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE