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Updates

19/05/2008: Marist blog: Frozen gifts (Lk. 19: 11-28) (Br. Pau Fornells)

16/5/2008: Photo gallery: The Horizons Program - Marist Spirituality Centre Escorial

16/05/2008: A breath of fresh air 8: A Space for God

16/05/2008: New books received

15/05/2008: Photo gallery: General Councillors Br. Antonio Ramalho and Br. Pedro Herreros visit the Provinces Norandina and Central America

15/05/2008: My life story with the Marists: Adrienne Rainville (Canada)

15/05/2008: Worldwide presence - Photo gallery number 178

15/05/2008: Marist Bulletin 339: "Marist News" to replace "Marist Bulletin" and "Update"

13/05/2008: Photo gallery: Activities in April (General House)

12/05/2008: Photo gallery: Summer Vocation Workshop 2008 (Philippines)

12/05/2008: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage

09/05/2008: Photo gallery: Meeting of the fraternities of Chile and Argentina

09/05/2008: Worldwide presence - Photo gallery number 177
09/05/2008: Marist Calendar - June 2008

09/05/2008: Iraq: An Intolerable Situation for Iraqi Children

Presentation



Champagnat was born on May 20, 1789 in the midst of the French Revolution. More than 200 years have passed since then. That infant's birth was only family news that barely passed the local limits of his village. When Champagnat died the news of his work spread and highlighted the date of his birth. Hundreds of voices have proclaimed the birth of Marcellin as great news for the Church and for the Institute. Today the Institute, this child born of his charisma, is present on the five continents and in almost 80 countries. Day after day it is the origin of innovations and good news.

We have chosen the date of May 20, 2008, anniversary of the birth of Champagnat, to initiate a new information project at the service of the Institute: the weekly "Marist News." This new informational instrument, in its electronic format, is meant to be a messenger of good news for the Marist World. It replaces other publications that have completed their mission. "Update" and

"Marist Bulletin" will no longer be published. The growing participation of the laity in the Marist charism, life and mission has prompted this change in both the format and the way of disseminating information. This communication service will include information that is of interest to the brothers and laity alike.

The remodeling of the news service will be accomplished with the electronic edition of a new publication called "Marist News" which will be published in color digital PDF format once a week, having a length of 4 to 6 pages (A4), and will be sent directly to the address of each subscriber to keep them informed of the activities of the General Council and the International Bureaus.

We hope that the birth of this new means of approach to the life of the Institute becomes a long tradition on which brothers and laity, one day, can all congratulate each other.

MARIST NEWS

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From the Bureau of Vocations

Making the daily journey

Br. Ernesto Sánchez

Considering the objective of the Bureau of Vocations for the triennium 2006-2009, to "continue fomenting vocational culture in the Institute", it is with great pleasure that we see the efforts and advances that are being carried out in each Province and District. We receive news about up-to-date provincial plans, and processes involving Brothers and lay people, as well as the accompaniment being given to young people in general to discern the dream of God in their lives and, particularly those who show their interest in Marist religious life.

An important activity held recently was an international meeting, which took place in Les Avellanes, Spain, from 3rd - 8th April 2008. A gathering took place of the coordinating teams of vocation ministry of 10 Marist Provinces in whose countries secularisation and postmodernism are evident. And, consequently, they are places that present great challenges not only for youth vocations but for the vocation ministry of religious life in general. Twenty Brothers and two lay people attended

from the Provinces invited three novices from Europe and some Brothers invited from Latin America. Similar

meetings had been organized in previous years for the regions of Asia and of África.



Also, from the Bureau, we have been responding to the applications and invitations arriving on behalf of the Provinces, such as assemblies or provincial retreats on the topic of vocations, direct visits concerning animation of Brothers and lay people, witnesses in meetings of pastoral teams and of Marist vocation ministry.

Meetings have been organized so that the General Council can meet with young people in the different regions of the Institute. In September of 2007 one was held in the Philippines for the region of Asia. In the course of 2008 one will be held in Guatemala for the provinces of Arco Norte and another in Argentina, for the provinces of Brazil and Cono Sur.

Convictions and approaches

Co-responsibility in the vocation ministry

At the vocations meeting in Les Avellanes they insisted on highlighting some of the convictions and approaches which are of great importance: we should continue being present and close to the young people, and open up our communities to welcome them, so that they can meet Brothers who are passionate about Jesus and his mission. It was also pointed out that, if we speak of co-responsibility in the mission, as Brothers and lay people, we should also exercise it in the vocation ministry. Highlighted was the importance of working in close

relationship with the processes of youth ministry, favouring contact experiences with Marist life, as well as putting into practice the simple method of calling as used by Jesus: the personal invitation. They insisted on the necessity of having a clearly defined team of vocation ministry in the Provincial organization, supported by the Council, and on the preparation and accompaniment of their members with the aim of continuing to raise the commitment of all concerned. And, certainly, to keep in mind the basic approach that vocation is a gift of God, Owner

of the harvest, which we are constantly invited to seek in our personal and community prayer. Convinced that everything depends on Him and that at the same time, he compels us for our part to put everything into concrete actions that are supported by the witness of our life.

Invited during the vocational year of vocation to Rekindle the flame! now we are called to keep it alive and, particularly to spread it! putting this, her work, in the hands of our Good Mother, as Champagnat so often did.



West-Central Europe Provincial Assembly

The Province of West Central Europe held an Assembly in Barvaux, Belgium, from 18 – 20 April on the theme of Partnership between Brothers and Laity: It was attended by 13 lay people and 21 Brothers, two of the latter being guest speakers. Br Pau Fornells of the Bureau of Laity in Rome delivered a paper on the general theme of the Assembly, "Marists Together". Br César Henríquez, BIS representative, based in Geneva, gave a power-point address on his work in defence of the Rights of Children at the United Nations and extended an invitation for us to come and visit his three-man Marist community in Geneva.

Br Pau, in his address, pointed out that this movement to integra-

te the laity into the life and charism of religious congregations was something new in the Church and was not confined to our own institute. He felt that the main challenge facing the future of the Marist charism is to find a fresh way of understanding the concept of vocation as pertaining to the lay person.

The whole question of an ever-closer partnership between brothers and laity was also dealt with in small discussion groups and plenary sessions. Dominant themes that emerged were Spirituality, Charism, Mission, Formation and Communication, themes which clearly call for further attention and discussion.

These themes were carried forward into each day's beautifully prepared prayer services and Eucharist, centred around the "Champagnat table", a powerful image of sharing.

Each day ended with a social gathering where the Marist family spirit that we have all become so familiar with was experienced at its best.

Finally, the Assembly was brought to a close by the Provincial, Br Joe McKee, as he expressed his hope for a bright future for this "partnership" initiative. He concluded by thanking all the participants, especially the preparatory commission – Frank Aumeier, Jacques Delen, Bernice Reintjens and Robert Thunus. 



At Escorial - "Horizons" of Light and Hope

On Thursday, April 17, at the Marist Spirituality Centre Escorial, we started the Horizons Program, a new formation concept for Brother between 32 and 40 years of age.

Brothers Javier Espinosa, Afonso Levis, Florentino A. Nuñez (Floro), Eleuterio S. Díaz (Lute) and Alfredo V. Sáinz welcomed us as we arrived from different parts of the world and different cultures. Some had a bit of difficulty with their arrival times into Spain, but all were ready to commit themselves fully to the new program.

Seventeen Brothers are taking part: Miguel Ángel A. Gutiérrez, José Ignacio P. Celis and Miguel T. Atiénzar (from the area around Valencia where paella is a regular item on the menu) from Mediterránea Province; Lisardo G. Miranda (history buff) from Compostela Province; Guillermo Eliseo C. Frenzel and Nicéforo G. González (nickname «Nice») from América Central; Sergio G. Blackaller (alias «Czech») and Luis Roberto G.

González, from México Occidental; Gerardo T. Estrada (a.k.a. «Horse») (expert in Maya culture and other first-nation cultures) from México Central; Rafael M. Montoya and Gustavo D. Suárez from Norandina; Reni Voss and Cezar Cavanus from Brasil Centro-Sul; Iranilson C. de Lima from Brasil Centro-Norte; Romidio Siveris and Gilberto Zimmerman Costa from Río Grande do Sul; César García B. from Cruz del Sur (Argentina).

We spent two weeks working on the personal story of our lives as Sacred History. We have tried to grow in self-knowledge and to accept ourselves as we presently are. The catch phrase which explains the first days of the program: "God loves us as we are, but He wishes us to be different."

May Jesus, who is Lord of our Lives, may Mary our Good Mother and our Founder Marcellin, continue to be close to us, enabling us to participate in the program with complete openness and hopefulness; surely it will cast light upon our way of the Brother. 

New hearts for a new world

Motto of the 21st General Chapter



21st General Chapter
new hearts
 for a **new world**

The preparatory Commission of the 21st General Chapter, in its third meeting held in Rome, has specified a group of achievements which will help to energize the stage preceding the celebration of the Chapter. While waiting for the publication of the letter of convocation to the Chapter, in which Brother Seán Sammon, Superior General, will specify the time and place of the event, the Commission has already undertaken some initiatives. It is preparing a calendar or "pilgrim's guide" for Brothers and lay people, which will serve to encourage daily reflection and prayer in the course of one year. It will be published in Brazil from where it will be distributed to all Marists.

Likewise, the text of the Consultation has been prepared and will be sent by the Commission to the whole Institute. It is dedicated to communities, organisations, lay people and young Marists. It consists of a presentation, an introduction signed by the

Commission which explains the meaning and range of this consultation, a didactic guide which explains how to use the document, twelve topics for reflection and a discernment guide for communities, works, lay people and young Marists. This document is being printed in Rome and could be ready by the end of the month of May 2008.

Some audiovisual resources are also being put together to supplement the reflection methodology of the Consultation and a preparatory prayer for the Chapter. When they are ready, all of these materials will be sent to the Provinces.

The Commission has prepared a slogan and a logo through which are suggested the main ideas that they wanted to propose to the Brothers and lay people. The form of the logo is fashioned starting from the lines that define the figure of a heart crossed by a blue curved line that contrasts with the red lines. Its symbolism alludes to the

idea proposed by the motto: New hearts for a new world. With this expression it was intended to associate the world and the heart integrated in one self-same composition. The logo and the motto evoke, through their harmonious integration, the dynamics of the 21st General Chapter.

The semiology of the logo is interpreted starting from the figure of a heart that contains in its interior several more hearts which also imply the form of an M (María, Marcellin Marist, mission, world...) and a rising sun. The green colour, besides being associated with the terrestrial globe, alludes to the bicentennial of the foundation of the Marist Institute, (2017) glimpsed in the horizon of history. The blue line, the colour closely bound to the Institute, alludes to the Marist presence in the world at the same time as the new horizons proposed for the life of the Institute.

As soon as we finish the definitive text of the explanations that accompany the graph and some technical questions concerning their production are solved we will share with everyone, through the web page, the logo in formats that are easy to use.

The Commission has planned its next meeting for 21 – 26 July 2008.

General House

The nineteen Brothers making the Patrimony program (English language) left the Generalate heading off for ten days among the Marist sites in France. Because they are busy in their rooms or in the library working on their research projects, the Brothers are not often seen in the corridors or common rooms of the Generalate. Recently they went to France where they visited the Marist places hoping to better understand the origins of the Institute. Unable to lodge at the Hermitage because of the renovation works already under way, they stayed at Valpré from which they headed off to see La Valla, l'Hermitage, Marlies, Cerdon, Le Puy, Ars, etc.

Ad Gentes

The "Ad gentes" advisory council met. The council's purpose is to reflect on the problems related to mission projects in Asia, offering their views to the Ad gentes team. The Ad Gentes project itself goes forward day by day with hope and optimism in situations which are not always very easy.

