



Marist News

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

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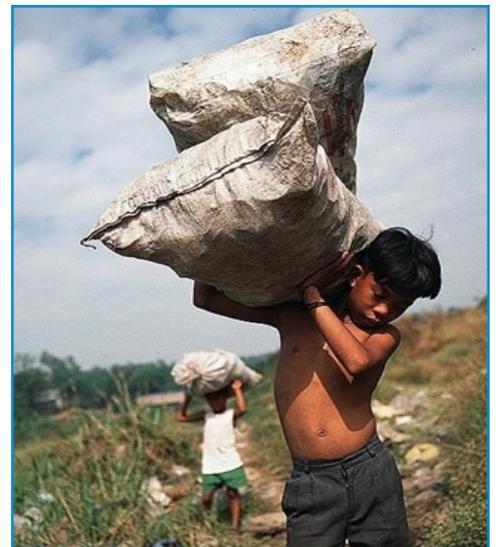
Exploitation must be eradicated through education

June 12: World Day Against Child Labour

The idea of dedicate one day to highlight the efforts made for the eradication of economic exploitation of children was a proposal of the International Labor Organization (ILO). From the year 2003, June 12th was chosen as the day to know, to reflect about and to disseminate the risks that children face in economic activities that are inadequate for their age and development.

Due this reflection occurs within the framework of human rights of children and adolescents, it is convenient to make a reference to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted by the General Assembly of United Nations on November 20th, 1989. This Convention declares that people under 18 must be "protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development" (CRC, Art. 32). This protection must be ensured, mainly, by the States, but also by the different actors in the society.

Childhood and adolescence is a time where education, the formation and development of abilities, the discovery and knowledge of the world through games, cultural activities and interaction with the others, play a fundamental role for the comprehensive development of each one. Due to the situation of poverty that they face, together with their families, many children are compelled to change education and play for working activities. Those children that were private of the education, those that learned less in



the school due to the fatigue or dropped out school because they must dedicate more time to work than to study... years later, will continue "caught" in the vicious circle of poverty. They will be adults living in conditions that do not correspond to their dignity.

This year, the ILO invites us to look at the education as a mean to fight against the economic exploitation of children. We, Marists, believe that good education is that one that takes into consideration minds and spirit, brains and hearts, and it is necessary to become "good Christians and honest citizens." We believe that all people are entitled to an education founded in love, that allows them to develop themselves "until the maximum of their possibilities", as it is also stated in the CRC (Art. 29). Our institutions are committed in offering this education to the different sectors of our societies in all countries where we have a presence.



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Marist Brothers' Institute

General House - Rome

Esopus novitiate reopens!

United States

The word "Novitiate" will bring many varied images and feelings to the minds and hearts of the Brothers. The stories of large groups, loved and not so loved Masters of Novices, rigorous programs; and then the variety of locales, styles and visions, with groups of one, two or three novices illustrate how much the world and church has influenced our formation programs. Whatever our Novitiate Program, no doubt each of us has been impacted by that "year and a day," or two year experience.

On Monday September 8, 2008 the Marist Brothers of the Province of the United States of America will reopen their Novitiate. The formation community of Brothers Robert Clark (Novice Director), Joseph Matthews and Donald Nugent has

been having weekly meetings since February in order to prepare for this important occasion.

Our present two year Initial Formation Program was approved by the Provincial Council in 2004. Those who have been accepted into the Program will begin their formation at the Novitiate in Esopus. These men will be called Pre-Novices for the first six months of the program. The Pre-Novitiate is a time of transition and therefore it is meant to be a gradual immersion into Marist life. The five components of formation: prayer, community living, study, ministry and discernment are the foundation of the program.

What will be a "typical" day in the (pre)Novitiate?

8:00 Morning Prayer, followed by breakfast
 9:30 Presentation on topics related to formation
 12:15 Marial Prayer, followed by lunch
 1:30 Personal Formation Time
 5:00 Eucharist
 6:30 Dinner, followed by Evening Prayer

In addition, one day a week will be a day for ministry and another for a guided day of reflection. Weekly accompaniment with the Novice Director is an important part in this time of discernment. The regular schedule will be supplemented with a retreat, community ministry visits, and participation in the Intercommunity Candidate and Novitiate Programs.



A single national structure

United States

The two Australian Provinces of the Marist Brothers announce their intention to move towards establishing, within two years, a single national structure for exercising their leadership, animation and governance responsibilities (where applicable) for schools that are in the network of Marist Brothers schools.

The new structure will aim to support more effectively the continuity and growth of our form of Marist education as established by St Marcellin Champagnat, and which has helped to shape the mission of over fifty Marist schools at

the service of Catholic education in Australia, as well as others in eighty countries around the world.

We are also determined to take forward our commitment to co-responsibility between Brothers and lay Marists.

We see value in this being a national structure because a united approach will give strength and coherence to individual schools in their ongoing collaboration with other educational authorities. A national structure also better positions us to respond to developments and initiatives at national and in-

ternational levels.

The structure will require:

- * The recognition of the canonical responsibilities of the Provincial and Council of each Province.
- * A single council appointed by the Provincials through which they will exercise their canonical and civil governance of schools.
- * A national office to carry out the executive functions of the council, with contacts for each State.
- * The appointment of a chief executive officer.
- * A reference group comprising the Provincials of each



Province and their nominees.

The council will be established and constructed in such a way that would allow it to evolve into an incorporated body should that be desired in the future.

The council will determine the future of the independent Province Offices. The impact of this decision on AMSA will emerge from consultations with Principals and the Standing Committee of AMSA.



XXI General Chapter Meeting of Coordinators for Cono Sur and Brazil

Buenos Aires



On May 24 -25 a meeting of Chapter Coordinators took place at the Buenos Aires Provincial House of Cruz del Sur Province. Those who attended are overseeing the preparation process for the XXI General Chapter in the Provinces and Districts of Cono Sur and in the Provinces and Districts of Brazil. The meeting was directed by Brother Carlos Vélez Cacho of Central America Province and João Carlos do Prado of the Province of Brazil Centro-sur.

Both Brothers are also members of the Preparatory Committee of the General Chapter. The Buenos Aires meeting was attended by the following

Brothers: Francisco das Chagas Costa Ribeiro, Province of Brazil Centro Norte; Anacleto Peruzzo, Province of Brazil Centro-Sul; Rubén Seipel, Cruz del Sur Province; Ignacio Pruna, District of Paraguay; Valdicer Civa Fachi, Province of Rio Grande do Sul and Amazonia District; and Rafael Kongfook, Province of Santa María de Los Andes.

The meeting focused upon following topics: getting the preparations for the XXI General Chapter started in the Administrative Units of the Region; drawing people into the process; pointing out to the Coordinators various lines of action; drawing up su-

ggestions related to the local, Province and Region levels for the first two preparatory steps.

Those in attendance felt very positive about the meeting, in regard to what they were expecting, as well as to the tone of the sessions. In addition, they greatly appreciated the welcome given them by the Brothers of the Cruz del Sur Provincial House. The Brothers in question showed great warmth to the guests and were always ready to help. In the months of June and July other meetings will take place involving the Coordinators of other Regions.



Postulate Our Lady of L'Hermitage

Recently we made a study of the book *Water from the Rock*, guided by Brother Teófilo. In doing so we were quite touched; we felt that we were beginning to see how demanding this book may be for the entire Marist world. As a matter of fact, *Water from the Rock* is a solid source of spirituality, a source that continually invites us to drink of its waters as we make our way on the Marist pilgrimage.

We were happy to see Brother Teófilo's great enthusiasm, his manner of reflecting the Marist way of life through his work. We value what he is doing to spread and share the essence of Marist spirituality with those who have chosen religious life, living out their lives in self-giving to others, having fallen in love with Jesus Christ whose Gospel they desire to know and put into practice.

We felt ourselves called to grow as people and especially as Marist Brothers, accepting wholeheartedly the challenges we face because of our desire to follow Jesus: a point developed in the document at n° 149. This section speaks about going to those places where others do not want to go, having the courage to move to marginal spaces and to offer our presence and our persevering service to the outcasts and abandoned of our society. We sense here our spirituality's missionary dimension that is now being clearly revived through the *Ad Gentes* project (n° 150). Of this topic, Brother Teófilo spoke with great enthusiasm. He informed us too, although very briefly, about the "Hermitage Project" seeing it as a fundamental element for the future development of our spirituality.

We felt ourselves challenged too by n° 42 that invites us to be capable of giving witness in the world.

Manizales, Colombia

28th General Chapter of the Marist Sisters

Rome

Sister Monica O'Brien, Superior General of the Marist Sisters, gave the welcoming address which opened the Sisters' 28th General Chapter being held at Rome during the month of June 2008. The Chapter has coincided with an important event for the Sisters. June 30, 2008 will be the 150th anniversary of the death of Jeanne-Marie Chavoin, Foundress of the Marist Sisters.

Welcoming the Sister capitulants to the Chapter, Sister Monica said, "[Our Chapter] is truly an opportunity to recognise and celebrate our unity as we discern God's call for the direction of our life and mission for the next seven years."

Sister Monica closed her comments with the following words, "May Mary, Mother of the Church and

Mother of our Congregation, accompany us and gently challenge us daily 'to do whatever God tells us'. And when this 'feast' is over, may we recommit ourselves with new conviction and renewed energy to the Work of Mary – and go forth with new wine to be shared with all our Sisters and with all who thirst for the Reign of God today!"

Thirty two Sisters are par-

ticipating at the Chapter, eight by right. The other delegates have come from: Asia-Pacific (8); Atlantic (8); and Europe-Africa (8).

The Marist Sisters are present in Germany, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Scotland, the United States, the Philippines, Fiji, France, Gambia, Ireland, England, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Senegal, Ukraine, and Venezuela.



The region of Marist Africa examines its financial policies

General House

The Brother Provincial Economes of the Marist Africa region held several work sessions in Rome during the first two weeks of May 2008. First of all they participated in meetings of the International Council for Economic Affairs (CIAE) which studies the policies of financial management for the whole Institute. These joint work sessions permitted them to share the economic reality of each administrative unit of the region and to strengthen the relationship maintained between the Provincial Economes and the General Administration.

Secondly, the Brothers Economes shared among themselves criteria and perspectives of the application of the general policies of the Institute in each one of the administrative

units of this region. This meeting focused on the application of the approaches that were suggested in Nairobi during the meeting of the brothers on the Provincial and District Councils of Africa, together with the General Council, in December of 2006.

In addition, the presence of the brothers from the African region in Rome was an opportunity to meet with the Commission on the Evangelical Use of Goods. This commission is developing a series of practical programs to try to bring everyday financial management in line with what the General Chapter defined.

Participating in these meetings were Brothers Anthony (Aidan) Bridge,

Southern Africa; Francisco (Kiko) Baeza, East Central Africa; Matthew Mary Ogudu and Basil Dominic Nwude, Nigeria and José Antonio Ruiz Abeijón, District of West Africa.

The General House experienced excellent days of fraternity and family spirit through the presence of these brothers from the African continent.

