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Updates

19/06/2008: Pakistan - Celebration of the Champagnat Day

18/06/2008: Marist Laity: Testimony of Marist Life - Geraldinho Costa (Brazil, in Mission of East Timor)

18/06/2008: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 11

18/06/2008: Photo gallery: Centenary of Archdiocesan School - Brazil

18/06/2008: United States - North American Marist youth leadership conference

17/06/2008: France - Feast of St. Marcellin in Aubenas

17/06/2008: Sri Lanka - 'Water from the Rock' in Sinhala

17/06/2008: New Marist link: Fraternidad Marista Divina Misericordia (Guatemala)

16/06/2008: Deceased Brother: José Alfaro Tambó (Mediterránea)

16/06/2008: New Marist link: Asociación de Exalumnos del Colegio San José Maristas Huacho (Peru)

16/06/2008: Worldwide presence - Photo gallery number 183

16/06/2008: General House - Missioning celebration for Brother Ticiano Cagigal to Angola

The Eucharist, gift of God for the life of the world

International Eucharistic Congress 2008

400th anniversary of Québec City



On June 15, 2008, the Cardinal Josef Tomko opened the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Québec under the slogan The Eucharist, Gift of God for the Life of the World. This important event will continue until June 22.

The year 2008 marks the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Quebec City, the first permanent French settlement in North America. Some French pioneers with deep faith, wanting to evangelize the Aboriginal peoples and provide spiritual support for the colonists, were joined by the Récollet missionary priests in 1615 and by the Jesuits in 1625. Together with the Ursulines and the Augustinian nuns who arrived in 1639, they laid the foundations of the Catholic Church in New France. In 1658, Monsignor François de

Laval was appointed the first Bishop of New France.

The 2008 International Eucharistic Congress will be the assembly of the Church of Quebec hosting the Universal Church to celebrate the Living Christ.

This experience of faith will be held in a festive atmosphere, with believers of all ages coming together from every part of the world. The Congress pilgrims are gathered for a week of celebrations from June 15 to 22, 2008, at the "Eucharistic City" (ExpoCité) where most of the Congress events are taking place.

The Program includes a variety of celebrations, catecheses, and religious and artistic activities, for both Congress pilgrims and the general public.

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The Marist leader as servant leader

North American Marist youth leadership conference

During the recent Memorial Day weekend, students from Collège Laval (Canada), École Secondaire Marcellin Champagnat (Canada), Central Catholic High School (Lawrence, MA), Archbishop Molloy High School (Briarwood, NY), St. Agnes Boys' High School (New York City), Mt. St. Michael Academy (Bronx, NY), Marist High School (Bayonne, NJ), Roselle Catholic High School (Roselle, NJ), Christopher Columbus High School (Miami, FL), St. Brendan High School (Miami, FL), Msgr. Pace High School (Miami, FL), St. Joseph Academy (Brownsville, TX), and Cervantes Costa Rica (Mexico), gathered at the Marist Brothers Retreat House in Esopus, New York for the 2008 Marist Youth Leadership Conference.

Students looked at the lives

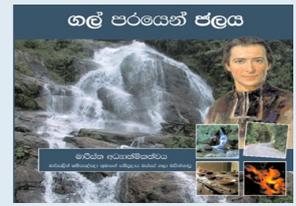


of Jesus and Marcellin Champagnat from the perspective of servant leadership. As the students learned about servant leadership, they also learned about their own leadership strengths and abilities through discussion and related activities.

A significant aspect of the presentations focused on the difference between leadership and Christian leadership. The hallmark of Christian leadership, as the students learned, is service. The lives of Jesus and Marcellin provided many

examples of how they had to be leaders and servants at the same time. These examples helped the students make a practical application of the leadership qualities of Jesus and Marcellin to their own lives.

One of the most significant highlights of this gathering was the presence of Marist students from Canada and Mexico. A strong sense of North American Marist identity is being developed as well as a great awareness of the Marist world. 



Sri Lanka

Our Spirituality Document 'Water from the Rock' in Sinhala translated by Mrs. Kamala Xavier, is now ready for printing. The translator is blind. A word of thanks to Kamala & Brs. Nicholas Fernando, Victor Fernando & Mr. Luxman Seneviratne who coordinated the translation work. 

General House

The Brothers of the General House lived out a deep moment, as a Pentecostal fruit, accompanying Brother Ticiano Cagigal García who has been sent to the mission in Angola as a missionary. As Brother Seán was absent, the ceremony was lead by the Vicar General. All the Brothers of the community were present.

Brother Ticiano began his Marist life in the International Juniorate St. Francis Xavier, Grugliasco (Italy). He carried out his mission in Cuba, Venezuela and Ecuador. Now, at the age of 70, he follows the footsteps of other aged Brothers who have made decision to join the Mission ad Gentes program. After spending some months in Rome attending Bible courses and improving his art skills, he decided to serve in Angola as far as his strength and health allow him to do so. 

Young people United for the Promotion of Marist Works

Congo

The Brother Provincial of Central and Eastern Africa, Eugène Kabanguka, met in Goma with the young people of JUDEPROFM (Young people United for the Development and Promotion of the Works of the Marist Brothers) a lay Marist fraternity that was born in the circumscription.

The visit was extremely bene-

ficial to us, since we had the chance to acquaint him with this movement and express our aspirations, including that of being recognised at the level of the Province he directs, and in the Marist Institute in general.

During our sharing, we could draw from the living experience of other fraternities,

which can help us develop our rule of life according to a Marist spirit.

The meeting concluded with the sharing of a brotherly embrace with the Provincial, which was full of encouragement. Our meeting was topped with a memorable photo that you can find attached to this article. 

FMSI, the new foundation for the benefit of children

General House

BIS has gone through a transformation. What was an office of the General Administration has become a recognized juridical body listed, as of April 30, 2008, in the Italian civil register as La Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale, ONLUS.

The statutes of the foundation were notarized on 24 October 2007. In February the foundation received notification that it was recognized by the Agenzia delle Entrate as an ONLUS meaning, a "not-for-profit organization with a specific social purpose."

Taking its inspiration from the charm and mission of the Marist Brothers, the mission of the foundation is stated as follows:

The mission of the Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale is to promote innovative thinking and practical



initiatives for the benefit of children, especially those considered most vulnerable and neglected.

FMSI works to establish a better world for children where their rights are respected and protected, where they can grow and mature in safe and healthy environments, free from violence and fear, and where their future is bright and rich with opportunity.

The Superior General, Vicar-General and the members of the General Council make up the board of administrators of the foundation along with the director of BIS serving as its president.

Following in the tradition of BIS, the Foundation works to accomplish its mission in the following ways:

- Educating, Training and Animating for justice, peace and solidarity in regard to children, children's issues and child rights,
- Advocating for child rights before the United Nations human rights mechanisms in Geneva along side other like minded organizations and UN agencies
- Micro- project funding and macro-project coordination which benefit children and young people. Projects include school constructions, securing educational equipment and materials, child welfare service programs and centers, child rights, food and health programs, and
- Joining partnerships, networks, and coalition-building with other child rights serving agencies which work to make the world a safer place in which children and young people can grow and realize their full potential.

Two reasons went into the decision to transform the Bureau of International Solidarity into a foundation with its own legal recognition.

First, we need to establish a legal entity if we wanted to advance our advocacy efforts for children and young people in Geneva. Now that we have our final recognition from the Italian government, we can begin the two-year long application process that will yield our "special consultative status" with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. This recognition will put us on an equal footing with other human rights NGOs operating in Geneva. It will also help us to work more closely with other like-minded NGOs such as Bureau international Catholique de l'enfance (BICE) and the NGO Working Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The second reason that moved us to form a Foundation was the need to seek new sources of funding for our projects and programs in the public sector. As an independent body with universally accepted procedures of transparency and accountability, we can work with other Italian NGO, and regional and national governmental programs to seek grants for many of our educational and child social development projects in the developing world. In September we will begin a direct mail campaign throughout Italy to raise funds from the general public who may interested in supporting the work of the Foundation.

The XXth General Chapter said they were looking for "new forms of mission and new situations." In becoming a Foundation, BIS is doing just that. 

The PUCRS works on its Reflection Plan

Brazil

From May 30 to June 1, a total of 148 persons, professors and administrative staff of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), met in Bento Gonçalves in order to reflect together on the important values - religious, spiritual, formative - which are part of the heritage of St. Marcellin Champagnat. As has been the case over the past eight years, PUCRS set up the meeting in order to keep up to date on its Reflection Plan. The goal of the plan is to take a good look at the internal operations of the institution and to get a better grasp of its "vocation" as a Marist Brothers' institution. This most recent reflection will be followed up by two other meetings.

When the meeting opened, Brother Joaquim Clotet, Rector, explained the aims of the Reflection Plan: viz., to keep the University staff up to date; to have better interaction among the staff, so as to promote the idea of what really makes the Pontifical University tick; and to take on the collective commitments entailed. The Rector remarked, "Here we all have an active role, taking one another's tasks seriously, and all working for the good of PUCRS." The Vice-rector, Evilázio Teixeira, the present coordinator of the Plan, reminded the participants that the initiative requires a listening attitude and much reflection and dialogue about the Marist mission being carried out by the university.

Father Érico Hammes and Brothers Armando Bortolini and Manoel Alves (the last named coming from Catholic University Brasilia and president of the



Marist Union Brazil) touched upon various topics over the three-day meeting. Two topics were: (1) the mission and challenges faced by Catholic universities, and (2) Marist education in today's world. The latter point was developed along historical and religious lines. Historically, there is the role played by Champagnat as the one who initiated Marist teaching in the world. Religiously, there is the service rendered by the Marist Brothers' Institute in spreading Jesus' word, always doing so with Mary as model. Nil-son José Machado, of São Paulo University, and José Roberto Gomes da Silva, of the Pontifical University of Rio de Janeiro, offered their reflections on higher education in the XXI century.

The Reflection Plan includes a forum for dialogue with the top Administrative level of PUCRS. Under the rubric, "Relationship to the Rector's Office," the Rector, the Vice-rectors and the Pro-rectors made themselves available to handle a range of questions coming from the participants. On the present occasion topics included: establishing the curriculum, relations with student officers, academic advancement, approaches to professional recruitment. The Rector took the lead in speaking too

about the legislation on with philanthropies, since the issue is presently being debated in Brazil, with the possibility of introducing a change in present legislation.

The Reflection Plan unfolds in three stages over a given academic year. Each stage focuses upon a distinct content, but all three meetings deal with the same underlying topic: integrating religion into university life. The first meeting held at Bento Gonçalves was entitled "See." It aimed at helping the participants re-

flect upon a guiding vision, one that is personal as well as institutional.

The second meeting, held in Porto Alegre, was called "Identity." Its goal was to place the group reflection in a context both theoretical and practical. Within such a context the participants are helped to understand and share the mission and vision of PUCRS.

The third meeting, held at Porto Alegre, was called "Commitment."



Feast of St. Marcellin in Aubenas

The Marist community of Saint Louis, Aubenas celebrated the feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat in a special manner this year. First, during the week prior to June 6, Marcellin was the focus of the Brothers' religion classes at neighboring Immaculate Conception School. On the feast itself, June 6, in the course of an afternoon Mass, the celebrant, Father Fernand Déchaux, blessed a linden wood sculpture, a bust of Champagnat. The sculptor, Paul Alleysson, resident of the nearby town of

Saint Etienne de Fontbellon, was present at the ceremony accompanied by his wife, Paulette. The beautiful Eucharistic celebration featured lively singing, and the celebrant delivered a heart warming homily. It is to be noted that Father Fernand Déchaux, occasional chaplain of the Brothers' community, has a brother Cyprien who is a Marist Brother and long time missionary in Oceania. In addition another brother, Germain, is also a priest. A beautiful family, dedicated to the Lord's service.

