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A Year Consecrated to St. Paul

Celebration of the 2000th Anniversary of his Birth

Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed the "Pauline Year" consecrated to St. Paul, to celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of the Apostle to the Nations. This special Pauline Year will begin on 28th June 2008 and it will last until 29th June 2009.

nised in Turkey, where St. Paul was born, in Syria, where his conversion took place, at Malta, where he shipwrecked while coming to Rome, in Greece, where he founded many communities, and in Cyprus, where he carried out his first missionary journey.

The Pauline Year offers a precious opportunity to rediscover the Apostle and his life, to read his many letters addressed to the first Christian communities, to live again the beginning of our Church and study his crucial teachings to the "Gentiles", while meditating his vigorous spirituality of faith, hope and love. It is also an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to his tomb and the many places he visited to found the first communities of the Church, to revitalise our faith and role in the Church today in the light of his teachings, to pray and work for Christian unity in a united Church.

In Rome, to celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of the Apostle to the Nations, the Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi has organised an itinerary through the city in nine stops. The tour will lead the pilgrims to meet St. Paul, to rediscover his life and to live again his experience of faith. During this Jubilee Year other itineraries are orga-



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Marist Sisters



The Marist Sisters, during their 28th General Chapter being held at Rome, elected a new Superior General: Jane Frances O'CARROLL, from New Zealand and 3 General Councilors: Rita, from Fidji, Miriam McManus and Bridget Brady from Ireland.



Governance and Management

General House

The Subcommittee of "Governance and Management" informs of the convocation of the next meeting on Future directions for governance and management in the service of our mission. This meeting is a follow up to the one which took place in Campinas (Brazil) in November 2006 and in which all the provinces of America and four from Europe took part, developing the topic "Study and proposals for administrative models for the educational Institutions of a Province".

Most participating provinces at the meeting at Campinas showed an interest in continuing to study the topic in depth.

On the other hand, they also suggested the need to adjust the Institute's laws to fit the current reality of the mission, particularly the Constitutions and Statutes.

Keeping these recommen-

dations in mind, the Commission of Mission of the General Council has asked a Subcommittee to convene a second meeting on the topic, if possible in the early months of 2009, with a view to making a submission to the XXI General

Chapter, if this is the wish of the participants of the meeting.

That subcommittee of "Governance and Management", made up of Brothers: Juan Miguel Anaya (Rome), Wellington Medeiros (Brazil Centro-norte), Michael Green (Sydney), Juan Ignacio Poyatos (Mediterranea) and Carlos A. Huidobro (Cruz del Sur) has prepared a new meeting, offered on this occasion not only to the provinces of America or Europe, but to all the interested administrative units.

The meeting will take place in Guatemala, from 11 to 14 March 2009.



Third Education Conference

Brazil

The Marist Brothers' Third National Teaching Congress is to discuss the teaching profession in information societies over a period of four days. The occasion will bring together 2500 educators from all over Brazil, the date being July 15 to 18 and the venue the Convention Center at PUCRS in Porto Alegre.

Among the speakers who are expected at the meeting is UNESCO consultant, Professor Abdeljalil Akkari from the University of Geneva. His

topic is: The Educator's Role in Information Societies. Professor Akkari is a researcher in three fields: (1) educational inequalities, (2) comparative educational systems and (3) links between culture and education. The second speaker at the international conference will be Professor Consuelo Vélaz de Medrano of the Spain-based, National University of Distance Learning (UNED)

Professor Consuelo Vélaz is researcher in the areas of (a) school counseling and (b) di-

agnosis and intervention by school counselors. She will speak on the nature of information societies and their relation to education. The third speaker is Professor Nilson José Hache from at the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil. His topics are: (a) action for transformation and (b) information societies.

In addition to the large scale conference, the Congress will offer: (a) fifteen theme-based conferences, (b) experiences related to teaching practices, (c) presentations drawn from research panels, and (d) an exposition of educational materials. The organization of the Marist Brothers' Third National Education Conference has been handled by the Marist Brothers Union of Brazil (Umbra-sil), a group

with headquarters in Brasilia. Its membership consists of all the leading members of Marist Brother apostolates in Brazil.

The Marist Brothers are found today in seventy-eight countries. The Marist Brothers' Network for Solidarity and Education is set up in four administrative groups: three Provinces (Brazil Centro-Norte, Brazil Centro-Sul and Rio Grande do Sul) and one District (Amazonia). Thanks to various leading figures in the political structures of the times, the Marist Brothers who came to Brazil in 1887 were able to run, among other activities: schools, social programs, universities and colleges, hospitals, media and cultural enterprises.



One Hundred Years of FMS Presence in Lajeado

Province of Rio Grande do Sul

The year 2008 marks the centenary of the Marist Brothers' presence in Lajeado. Two programs have been established to celebrate the occasion. The first is a photo exhibit at the Lajeado Cultural Center. The other is a program of visits to the city schools guided by three teams composed of Brothers and lay persons. On Sunday, June 8, a Mass was celebrated in the parish church after which light refreshments were taken in a cordial atmosphere.

The Marist Brothers came to this region in 1907. One year later, they got themselves established in the city. Brothers Jean Dominici, Marie Firmat, Leon Corsini and François Norbert arrived here

from Germany and organized the first stage of their educational establishment at San José School

Along with Brother Vitorino Bernardi, community superior, Brothers Vitório Rigo, Sidnei Tramontin and Edson Rissi are presently residing at Lajeado. They are involved in various activities. At St. Joseph Marist Juniorate, the earliest stage of Marist formation is provided for young men aspiring to live poverty, obedience and chastity while discerning the possibility of a Marist Brother's vocation.

A family-type education center, Frère Emílio, has been operating for ten years in the city's San Antonio neigh-

borhood. At the Center, more than one hundred children are looked after either in the morning or afternoon. For the past ten years, the city has also been home to the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, a community of sixteen members living out the spirituality of Saint Marcellin Champagnat

The Frère Emilio Center runs a program of human formation and vocation promotion developed both in the area schools and at the Center itself. The program involves sessions on topics of local relevance and meetings with young people who desire to engage in vocational discernment.



A double edition of the "Marist Notebooks" collection

Numbers 24 and 25 have been published

In number 24 the "Records of the discussions of the Marist branches" are published, from July 24 2006 in the General House of the siblings Marist Brothers in Rome. The contributions of four researchers also appear: Fr. Bernard Bourtot, sm, with his study on "The secularisation of the Marist Fathers "; Brother André Lanfrey presents a "Report on the defence of Richard Hemeryck's thesis; Brother Frederick McMahon publishes the first part of a study on "Jean-Claude Courveille 'The lost leader' "; and, finally, Brother Eduardo Gatti analyzes "Letter number 40 of Brother François to a master of novices."

Number 25, containing 170 pages, is a monograph on Marllhes written by the expert hand of Brother André Lanfrey. In this number he aims to enhance the geographical, historical, spiritual, social and economic situation of the Champagnat family. This edition is also offered as homage to the "pioneers of Marist research" including Brothers Pierre Zind, Farrel and Gabriel Michel. Brothers Pierre Zind and Gabriel Michel have dedicated a great part of their investigative work to Marllhes and its relationship with Champagnat.

Followers of the investigations of Marist patrimony will find in these two numbers abundant documentation as well

as rich materials to nourish permanent formation on Marist patrimony.



60 years of Marist Brothers' presence in Portugal

Lisbon

It is very easy to write an article for the WEB page when we receive it already written in finished form. That is what you will read below in a response received after the televised Mass in Lisbon, on June 8, the day on which the Province of Compostela celebrated 60 years of Marist Brothers' presence in Portugal. The celebration occurred during the Year of Marist Spirituality.

"I have just watched the wonderful Mass transmitted by the Portuguese television channel TVI. The Mass was an authentic catechesis for me and I feel more and more close to the Marists. That is to say, closer to their pedagogy, to their way of educating. The hymns which were sung during the Mass were beautiful, and they were performed almost to perfection by the choir of the Marist Brothers' schools in Lisbon and Carcavelos.

"I knew very little of the Marist Brothers, really nothing at all, until I got to know them in listening to a teacher, formerly at a Marist school close to my city, who came to teach in my school. Unfortunately the Marist school was closed a few years ago. But from that time on, I have often been looking at information about the Congregation on its

website. Very quickly I got information about this televised Mass. In addition, the "Marist" teacher at my school speaks about some Brothers who influenced her in a very positive way. They are already in heaven: Brother Santos, Brother Paulo and Brother Diamantino José among others.

With the information given to me by my friend (who calls herself "Marist") and with the information from the Internet, I've started feeling that I too am a "Marist." I see that I would not have any difficulty in accepting and even living out many of their convictions about teaching. I am working in a nursery school and I have a true passion for educating the children. Maybe I'd have a bit more difficulty in living out some of their religious convictions because I am not a very practicing Christian, although I have my devotions.

After having watched the televised Mass and the program that followed it, I am convinced that I would like to work in a Marist School. What a pity that the Marist School close to my city has been closed down! Watching this beautiful Mass and the beautiful report regarding the work of the Marists in Portugal, I felt a great admiration for the work they and all their collaborators

are doing. This work ranges from the most formal academic activities to other activities more related to solidarity or non-formal education. The more formal type of education could be seen quite well during the report after the Mass through references made to the Marist School of Lisbon. Actually I admired the great variety of activities, all of them being at the service of young people's education. I came away with the impression that the students feel a very "positive" pride in being Marists. At the same time I think they will be living throughout their life the principles of Marist education given to them during their formation at the Marist school.

The Mass and the program that followed gave me even a greater desire to keep myself up to date about things Marist, their activities and their pastoral ministries. And through my "Marist" friend teaching at our school I will try to make contact with some Brothers so that I will know more directly and more deeply what the Marists are doing today, not only in Portugal, but all over the world. I no longer have any doubts that they are doing a beautiful work in education. And because of the educational work I am doing with children I now feel much closer to the Marist world.
 Mónica, Ponte de Lima 

Ad Gentes Davao - Session 4

We have now been on our way for five months. There is much that we have received and now we have a little more than we need to face the next steps in this country of this continent of hope...

We are progressing towards an encounter with a new dream, paying attention to the meetings that were scheduled a long time ago... "All the dioceses of the world are within the limits of our sight..."

Our future path, following the footsteps of the one who guides us, who calls us, who summons us, who loves us, and who will be in harmony with the concrete situations we shall find in each country.

What should we do in a country who is about to be born, like a child, with a history of sorrow and death in every corner, everywhere, in every single village?

How should we react in front of religious extremism, in a country that thirsts for justice, equality, blessed by God with the ever living presence of St. Theresa of Calcutta?

Now we are walking towards the future... to gather some pieces of life and documents, to hope... to trust... to love... to live. A new path is waiting for us, but the same essential charisma moves us.

Now we are leaving Davao, we shall conclude the round in the Philippines. But it is not the end, rather a beginning, the beginning of the rest of our lives... Welcome to Asia.

