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**15/07/2008:** Guilherme da Rosa, Author of the logo of the XXI General Chapter

**15/07/2008:** Brazil - III FMS National Educational Congress

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## Marist International Festival

St. Joseph's College in Sydney

welcomed the participants

The Marist International Festival took place in Sydney, July 9 to 13, 2008. It was an initiative of the Marist Brothers of Australia to bring together for a few days all of the members of the Marist Family who are headed to the World Youth Day. The Marist International Festival was open to all of the Marist branches: Brothers, Sisters, Fathers, Missionary Sisters and Laity. The organizers hoped that this meeting of Marist Youth from all over the world would be an expression of the internationality of the Institute.

The pilgrims, more than 700 Marists, were received at St. Joseph's College. They came from 38 countries. Australia, as the host country, had the largest group of Marist Youth, numbering around 400. The executive secretary of the Festival, Blanca Buda, said that for some of them it was the first time that they had left their native areas to visit Sydney. After the Australians came the Brazilians with 40 participants. The countries of the Pacific region had also great representation at the Festival. In addition to the young people there were some fifty brothers who came as group leaders.

The festival began at the Hermitage (Mit-tagong), a very meaningful place for the Brothers of Australia, and truly the Marist spiritual center of the country. There, all of this great family gathered to rekindle the call to the Marist ideals.

Brother César Henríquez from Geneva, who works for the defense of the rights of the child, spoke on the second day of the meeting about the response that we have to give today regarding the question of children's rights in our Marist works.

In addition, Bishop Kevin Dowling, from Rustenberg, (South Africa), presented on the transformation of the world through social justice and spirituality. The topic was further developed through a series of workshops.

This pilgrimage of the heart, with which the Marist visitors have prepared themselves to accompany the Pope on World Youth Day during this week, concluded with a celebration in Luna Park.



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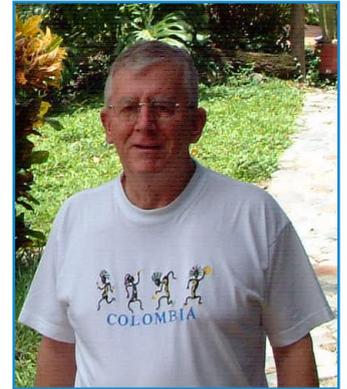
# It's time to return to the Father's house

## Letter from Br. Néstor Quiceno to his Provincial

### Colombia

**I** just received a communication from Br. Néstor. He asked that I share with all of you a letter that he has written for all of the brothers. I do it with deep respect and with a heart moved with sadness and pride. Yes, I suffer with Néstor in these moments; but, at the same time, I feel proud and happy to count Néstor among the brothers and to contemplate his faith, his integrity and his love for God and his brothers. May the Good Father bless him abundantly during these moments of difficulty and pain.

With these words, Br. Laurentino, Provincial of Norandina, made known to the brothers the feelings of Br. Néstor. One month later, 8 July 2008, we received the news of his death.



Very dear Brothers and other "Marvelous Companions":

What happiness it is to feel that one arrives at the end of life and knows for certain that all is grace, all is love and all is the goodness of God. I feel the loving presence of God throughout my life reflected in these words of Isaiah: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord" (Isaiah: 55,8).

I want to share with you, brothers and friends, the recent events of my health problems. From the 24th of February, upon returning from the meeting of community directors in Cali, I felt that my strength was visibly declining and I lacked the enthusiasm, the *God within* that I've always had.

More and more I was taking on an intense yellow color. The medical tests detected

a mass at the top of the pancreas. After a biopsy, it was confirmed that the cancer had reappeared in that place, obstructing the bile ducts. I was transferred from the emergency room to the Santa Fe Clinic in Bogotá, and on the 8th of May they made an incision in the liver and pancreas to open up these ducts. A week later it was necessary to return to Bogotá because the internal-external connection had come unfastened. This second surgery was without anesthesia; you can only imagine the pain. Fortunately, it seems that things are improving day by day. My feelings at this moment come from a profound and immense gratitude to God who in every instant expressed his goodness to me through the congregation, the superiors, the brothers and other "marvelous companions," who have spared no expense so that I feel well and recover my health,

if it is the will of God. The affection of all of you has been made visible in many details: your interest in my health, your visits, your frequent calls, your words of encouragement, etc.

Only God knows how many days I have left to live: but I know in whom I've put my confidence and I'm sure that I will not be disappointed (St. Paul).

In these moments I feel a deep inner peace and an immense confidence in he who has chosen me before forming me in my mother's womb. I feel no fear facing death; on the contrary, I feel its approach with happiness because it's time to return to the Father's house

I feel that each day gives me more fullness, more depth and resonates more with what I've considered the most beautiful human prayer: "Father, I place my-

self in your hands, do with me what you wish, whatever it is, I give you thanks, I accept all, so that your will is fulfilled in me..." What inner peace these words give when it has been about making them real in the day to day following of Jesus!

Permit me to ask you for one small wish: I want to be cremated and my ashes to rest with all those holy brothers who have gone before us on this beautiful adventure of being Marists. I continue to rely on the valuable support of your daily prayer, until we have the great fortune of meeting again with all of the Marists from whom we learned the simple way of following Jesus and his Gospel. ¶¶

Br. Néstor Quiceno Escobar  
Ibagué, 6 June 2008



# A review of the success of the Mission ad gentes

## General House

In his report to the General Administration, Brother Michel Flanigan gave a presentation of the current state of the missionary brothers in Asia.

First of all he spoke of his trip to Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Thailand, and in other two countries, where the chance of establishing a community of brothers was examined.

A total of 58 brothers were prepared in Davao in 2007, 43 of them were sent to the following Asian countries: Bangladesh (7), Cambodia

(6), India (7), Korea (2), Thailand (3), Canada (5), others (7 + 6). Four brothers were sent to other continents. The brothers who were sent to missions in Asia formed a new administrative structure depending from the General Council, called "Mission ad gentes Sector". This Sector includes India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Cambodia and two other countries. It counts 43 brothers who will gather in August for their first common retreat to share their experiences.

Before the end of his mandate, Brother Séan Sammon,

the Superior General, will send other two groups of brothers to Davao, one of 7 brothers, which is now con-

cluding its linguistic preparation in Chicago, and the other of 13 brothers.



## The General Administration renews its troops

The Brothers of the General Administration, who work with the Superior General and his Council, are nominated to carry out their work in the General Administration for a three year period which can be renewed once.

Brothers Juan Miguel Anaya (Procurator General before the Holy See) and Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún (Director of Communications) have been appointed for a second triennium which will finish in September of 2011.

Brother Carlos Martín (Coordinator of the Translation Service and Spanish language Secretary) will bring his task in the General Administration to a close in August 2008. Brothers Juan Arconada (Director of the General House) and Gaudencio González (Bursar of the General House) will finish in September 2008. In turn, Brother Caesar Henríquez (Rights of the Child, Geneva) concludes his work in November 2008.

To take the place of Juan and Gaudencio Brother Antoni Salat, of L'Hermitage Province will assume the responsi-

bilities of Director of the General House in September 2008 and Brother F. Javier Ocaranza, of México Occidental will be the new Bursar of the General House from September 2008.

In January 2009 Brother Edward Clisby of New Zealand, will become the English language Secretary.

Likewise there is news about the student Brothers who are part of the Community of the General Administration. Brother Carlos Alberto Rojas, who has completed his studies in Sociology at the Gregorian University of Rome, returns to his Province of Norandina. The community will welcome a new student: Brother Juan C. Villareal of Colombia, for a three year period.

The Brothers of the Community of the General Administration say goodbye with gratitude and affection to these wonderful partners and they open their arms with fraternal love to receive those coming to take their place.



# Processes of combined formation and charismatic Vitality

## Ecuador

In Quito, we are living an international experience on processes of combined formation for brothers and lay people of the Hispanic- Portuguese linguistic area which will last throughout the whole month of July. We are 21 Marists belonging to 14 administrative units: 10 brothers and 11 lay people; of which, 7 are women.

The main objective of this experience is to prepare a group of brothers and lay people to promote processes of combined formation in the different administrative units of the Institute.

This first week was dedicated to the integration and motivation of those taking part, pointing out the main axes of these formative processes, alternating the personal and the community: personal faith and shared spirituality, specific and Marist vocation, relationship with others and community life, personal mission and shared mission, personal, specific and common formation.

The first day was one of welcoming and organization, remembering the objectives of the experience and motivating the basic attitudes necessary to live it fully. Brother. Seán sent a letter of support, in which he encouraged us "to dream, to question ourselves and to unleash our imagination."

The second day was devoted to different dynamics of personal presentation and getting to know the historical reality of the beautiful Ecuadorian capital, Quito, visiting the colonial centre, proclaimed by UNESCO as the Patrimony of Humanity.

On the following day points of view were shared with those who had come to this experience, and what we wanted to

experience in the course of these days and our readiness for it. In the afternoon we would look at the reality of each of the provinces and districts concerning their achievements and the difficulties of, brothers and lay people walking together. Brother Pau Fornells then set out his global vision on the situation of the Institute regarding this topic.

The fourth day, Friday 4, was devoted entirely to basing all of this combined formative experience on the Marist Mission. The final objective of all combined Marist formation is still the same Mission. We divided ourselves into groups to take part, for a day, in four missionary experiences that have been developed in the city of Quito and its surroundings: A Marist School which is inserted in a very poor neighbourhood, a centre for young people with special needs, another centre for girls and young people at risk, and a Marist community situated in a working class neighbourhood, supporting the parochial youth pastoral and other educational activities for the working class children.

Saturday 5 was devoted to sharing the lived missionary experiences of the previous day and connecting them to the personal and group formative process: how mission affects faith, vocation, vital attitudes and community living. We ended the day by organizing little communities or life groups to strengthen the experience and by having the Eucharist at the end of this first part of the integration process.

We dedicated Sunday to making a personal and group summary of the week. The evaluation was very positive and highlighted the great community atmosphere and the depth of the first exchanges. In the afternoon, we devoted some time to tourism, visiting la Mitad del Mundo, also called Punto Cero: a place some 14 km. from Quito, where it crosses the equatorial line and where in the XVIII century there was taken the first measurement of the terrestrial meridian. We were all able to take the classic picture of ourselves with one foot in the northern hemisphere and the other in the southern hemisphere.

