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Updates

26/08/2008: Matola: Welcome back Brothers Antonio Pisco and Angel Mansoa

26/08/2008: Icon of St. Marcellin Champagnat (Mamaís Nectarios - Greece)

26/08/2008: New Marist link: St. Francis Xavier's School (Hong Kong)

26/08/2008: Marist laity: Contributions from the international experience of combined formation - Hispanic-Portuguese area. Quito - Ecuador, July 2008

25/08/2008: Brazil - Vow Ceremony in Amaturá

23/08/2008: Spain - A retreat based on Water from the Rock

22/08/2008: Marist Consecrated Life and Marist Laity of Brazil

21/08/2008: Sharing relationship processes with others, mission and combined formation

20/08/2008: General House - Revision of chapter 4 of the Constitutions

18/08/2008: General House - XXI Chapter Preparatory Commission

16/08/2008: Bolivia - Third Provincial Chapter, Santa Maria del Los Andes Province

12/08/2008: Deceased brothers: Eutimio Merino (Cruz del Sur), Thomas Desmond (South Asia), Leo Edward Umbull (Sydney)

Br. Davide Petri elected as Provincial Marist province of Brazil Centro-Sul

On July 28 of this year, Brother Seán Sammon and his Council elected Bro. Davide Petri as Provincial of the Marist province of Brazil Centro-Sul, for a preliminary three years. Bro. Davide was born in 1937, in the municipality of Jaraguá do Sul, Santa Catarina, BRAZIL. Following on his years of initial and pedagogic formation, he graduated in Natural History in the Catholic Papal University of Paraná (PUCPR). He was headmaster in important schools: "Archidiocesano" and "Nuestra Señora de la Gloria", in São Paulo; The Marist School of Primary Education (Maristinha) and the Marist School of Secondary Education (Maristão), Brasília. For many years he was a member of the "Junta Rectora" of the Editorial FTD. He held the position of Provincial Superior in the old Marist Province of São Paulo, for two three-year periods, from 1983 to 1989. Since the restructuring of the Province, in 2002, he has been a member of the Provincial Council, and currently he is the coordinator of the Executive Group of the Schools' Network (DERC).



From another perspective, Bro. Davide Petri is known as a person of many qualities and of great coherence within his Marist calling. His simplicity is noted in his way of life. He relates spontaneously with people, whatever their age, status or social class. He welcomes everyone with a big, generous heart and is filled with kindness.

He has a special capacity for creating a relaxed atmosphere of family and fraternity. He spreads happiness around him with numerous anecdotes

and amusing incidents from his life. He possesses great social sensitivity and never flags in his efforts to provide appropriate answers to the needs of the current times and of today's society. He makes every effort to encourage those committed to the mission, brothers and lay people, and prepares his interventions or structures to further the charism.

His life demonstrates a commitment which he has adopted with seriousness and serenity. Available to all, he makes of his existence a humble and generous offering to the loving designs of the Father. With a Marian attitude and following the example of Abraham, he prepares to assume a new mission and to be fertile in the third age, being the "Irmão Davi" known to us all.

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Marist Brother's Institute

General House - Rome

The chapter 4 of the Constitutions

A commission completes the revision

The General Council received a mandate from the General Chapter to undertake the revision of chapter 4 of the Constitutions which refers to the prayer life of the Brothers. In order to respond to this mandate, the General Council, in its turn, nominated a commission, consisting of Brothers Antonio Ramalho, Pedro Herreros (Councillors), Antoine Kazindu (East Central Africa), Tony Clark (Melbourne), Pere Ferré (L'Hermitage) and Maurice Goutagny (L'Hermitage) entrusting them with the work of revising chapter 4 of the Constitutions and studying its relationship with the document "Water from the Rock" as well as the innovations introduced by the General Chapters of 1993 and 2001 relating to the prayer life of the Marist Brothers.

This commission has been given the responsibility of demonstrating the changes that would have to be made in chapter 4, if considered opportune, whether partially or completely, to prepare a draft of the new text for chapter 4, totally or partially, if

they judge this to be necessary and to study the other chapters of the Constitutions to make sure that the spirituality contained in these texts is consistent with the possible revisions they might suggest.

The members of the commission met in Rome from 4th to 9th of August 2008 to do all that was required. The work-plan helped prepare various approaches to the reading of chapter 4. Among other things, they highlighted the value of the current text of the Constitutions which through its great gravity and solidity, expresses the essence of the message on Marist prayer. In its essential structure it continues to be an inspiring text for Marist religious life. Nevertheless, there has been a clear evolution of Marist spirituality in the past years as well as a very significant participation on the part of lay Marists.

During the work sessions, as individuals, in pairs and even in assembly, they studied reference texts such



as: Water from the Rock, reference texts concerning the Constitutions and statutes, Brother's Basilio's Letter on prayer and his Circular on the spirit of the Institute, the book Walking with the Constitutions, the Circular of Brother Charles Howard on Marist apostolic spirituality, the Acts of the General Chapter of 1976 (PAC), the Message of the 20th Chapter, the Formation Guide and Vita Consecrata.

The results of their efforts will be presented to the General Council for their study and they will decide which of the proposals will be taken to the General Chapter.



New superior for the Marist District of Amazonia

Br. Sebastião Antônio Ferrarini

Brother Sebastian Antonio Ferrarini, with the favourable opinion of the Br. Provincial and his Council, has been nominated by the Brothers of the Marist District of Amazonia as Superior of the District for the triennium 2009-2011. He has generously accepted this mission.

Br. Ferrarini was born in 27/7/1948, in Campina Grande do Sul, in the State of Paraná. He entered the Marist consecrated life on 8th December 1965, in Sao Paulo. He studied so-

cial sciences and he holds a Masters in History from the PUC-SP. He came to Amazonia 33 years ago, working in the following municipalities, as well as spending some time in the south: Lábrea/AM, Canutada/AM, Porto Velho / RO, Ji-Paraná/RO, Manaus/AM, Tabatinga/AM and Boa Vista/RR, his current community.

Brother is a great expert and student of the Amazon situation, where he fitted in very well. He has collaborated a great deal in the progress of the DMA, having already taken on the function

of vice-superior of the district and master of novices. He facilitates consultancy at regional level in the areas of Ecology, History of the Church, and Marist Spiritual Patrimony. He is the author of 20 books, mostly on the Amazon situation or on Marist themes.

The Marist Province of Rio Grande do Sul and the District of Amazonia welcome with great joy and hope, Br. Ferrarini as the new Superior of the District for the triennium 2009-2011.



Preparatory Commission XXI General Chapter

Fourth Working Session

From July 21 to 26 the XXI General Chapter's Preparatory Committee gathered for its fourth Rome meeting. For the first time, all committee members were present.

The first step was for the full committee to hear about the activities conducted by its regional coordinators, who themselves are members of the Preparatory Committee. The coordinators had brought together the facilitators from the Administrative Units, in order (a) to explain the way to put into action the plan established for getting all the Brothers involved, and (b) to learn their points of view, their suggestions and their proposals.

The actualization of the plan emphasizes the important role which the

facilitators play in each Administrative Unit. It was very gratifying to see the efforts which many of the facilitators are making to organize meetings, to enter fully into their role and take advantage of the helps which facilitate the meetings held in each community. The helps are by way of various proposals for effecting (a) a re-examination of the pathway which the Institute has been following and (b) proposals for future plans.

The first document, "On the Road to the XXI General Chapter," has already reached almost all the Administrative Units. The document is being distributed to the Brothers in each community, to the Brothers' close collaborators and to each of the Fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of

the Marist Family. The document is an invitation to generate a prayerful, reflective atmosphere in which all will be able to express individually their concerns and plans for the future of the Institute.

At its meeting the Committee determined the manner in which each Administrative Unit will create a synthesis of all the materials received so that the outcomes can be put to practical use. One foresees that the communities would dedicate a reflection period to the task during the months of August and September, so that in the early days of October a synthesis, drawn from the Administrative Units, can be established and sent to Rome at the end of the month as the final product of the processes.

The Committee ended up its work by looking for practical matters related to the Chapter. For example, the arrangements which have to be made so as to have a Chapter Hall in optimum condition, preparing a method best suited to the Chapter work in order to develop a sense of dialogue among the delegates, the possibility of the capitulants' having a papal audience, the support staff which will be needed for all the services necessary during the Chapter, etc.

Among the preparatory steps which have been confided to the Committee, the "preliminary consultation" is the first. If anyone needs more copies of the brochure, additional copies may be requested from Brother Teodoro Grageda:
teogda@hotmail.com



Peru, Bolivia and Chile: on the pathway of growth

Third Provincial Chapter, Santa Maria del Los Andes Province

From July 22 to 25, 2008, at the Casa de Ejercicios Beato Juan XXIII in Santa Cruz de la Si-erra, Bolivia, we assembled to the tune of fifty participants, Brothers and lay people, having been invited by Brother Provincial. The goal was to breathe life into our third Provincial Chapter. Six years have passed since we began to travel the new Province road, attempting to solidify Marist plans and Marist structures in response to the call which the Lord has given us: to construct a new reality which will give greater life to the Marist Brothers' charism as incarnated in this corner of the Americas.

There were thirty-five of us present as capitulants, elected or by right, along with invited attendees: the four temporary professed Brothers plus ten lay people, male and female. In addition, Brother Pedro Herreros was present at the meeting accompanying us as representative of Brother Superior General and the General Council.

Our first task was the inauguration of the very recently named Provincial, Brother Antonio Peralta Porcel who had been the Vicar of the Bolivia Sector of our Province. In conducting the inauguration, we wished also to thank



Brother Pedro Marcos for the important service which he had rendered in taking a leading role in the birth of our Province.

The other task which we undertook - besides that of organizing our procedural rules - were to suggest to the future Provincial Council priorities for the coming three-year term of office. After a discernment process, the priorities came together under five headings: (1) spirituality and the centrality of Jesus Christ; (2) mission; (3) promotion of vocations considered as pertaining to both Brothers and laity; (4) unity of the Province and its communities; (5) fraternity. In the work of

setting the priorities, both Brothers and lay persons had the right to speak and to vote.

The next task was to move to the election of Provincial Councilors. We reflected upon possible government structures which might lead to greater vitality. Again we followed a discernment process, after which the following Brothers were elected to the Council: Mariano Varona, Jesús Pérez, Alfonso García, Pablo González, Barsén García y Patricio Pino. Ahead of us lies the task of approving the complete set of Chapter Rules and of updating the Province Norms.



Meeting of Brothers and Lay people in Valladolid

A good number of the members of the now defunct "European Network of Spirituality" wanted to make a retreat together in the Marist house of Valladolid. This house, once the international Juniorate, is very well suited for meetings and adult retreats. The older Brothers of the Province live in the same building.

The retreat, which took place at the end of July, was centred on the document "Water from the Rock" using different chapters. Each theme of the day was presented by a member of the group. The different chapters were studied and meditated upon personally. The group meetings enriched the participants through the ideas and ex-

periences lived by each individual. We must emphasise the creativity of the shared prayers, as well as the spontaneous participation.

Brothers from Iberia and Mediterranean took part, coming from Italy and Lebanon. The lay people came from Pamplona, Murcia and Jaen.

