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Updates

10/09/2008: FMS Message 38: Beatification - Marist International Mission Assembly (Mendes 2007)

10/09/2008: Submission of FMS Message 38 and the Map of the Marist site

10/09/2008: Deceased Brother: Valeriano Pérez Alvarez (Ibérica)

09/09/2008: Deceased Brothers: Benoît Galley (L'Hermitage) - Martín Antón Celis (Mediterránea)

09/09/2008: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 22

09/09/2008: Brazil - Formators Meeting

08/09/2008: Deceased Brother: Manuel Salvador Cerón Ordoñez (Norandina)

08/09/2008: Greece - New book received

07/09/2008: Circular convoking the 21st General Chapter

05/09/2008: Br. Víctor Preciado Ramírez new Econome General

04/09/2008: Philippines - 5th group in Davao

04/09/2008: New Marist link: SE-HACESABER - Fundación Edelvives (Spain)

04/09/2008: Deceased Brother: Hyacinth Mbama Okoro (Nigeria)

04/09/2008: Marist blog: Beyond our shared Mission... Shared Life and Faith! (Br. Pau Fornells)

New hearts for a new world

Circular convoking the 21st General Chapter

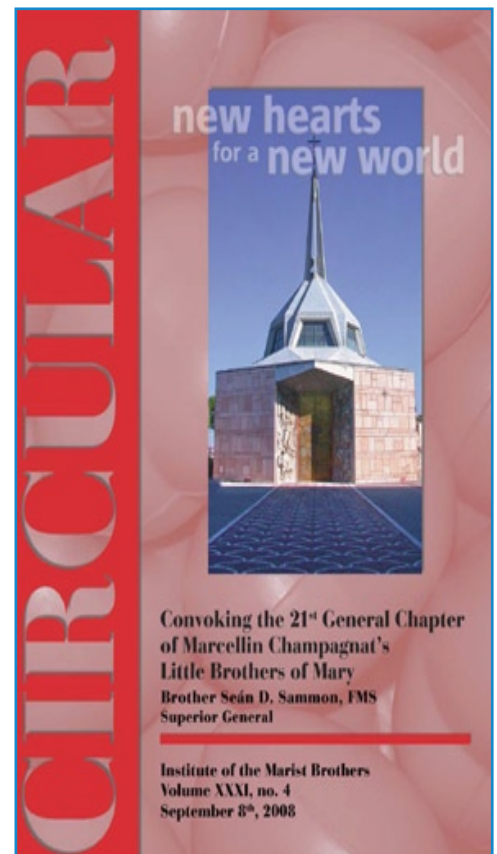
"At 9:00 AM on Tuesday, September 8th, 2009, members of our 21st General Chapter will gather at the General House in Rome to begin their work. This starting date, the feast of the birth of Mary, and location were fixed by members of the General Council"

Such are the words with which Brother Superior General starts off the Circular in which he officially initiates the preparatory stage which will lead up to the 21st General charter.

This Circular is divided into three sections.

The first includes a general introduction followed by a brief history of Marist Chapters and some General Conferences held during the years following Vatican II. A discussion about the social and religious context in which the work of these meetings took place is included as well as an analysis of the factors in both areas that may have a bearing on our upcoming Chapter. This section include: a word about the renewal of Marist life and mission and the important place of discernment in that process, mention of several specific challenges that we face as an Institute today.

The second part of the text is more technical in nature and includes information about the structure and purpose of a General Chapter, the process to be used for the election of delegates and their substitutes, and those Chapter responsibilities that fall to provinces and districts. The second part concludes with words that serve as a kind of invitation to advance towards the General Chapter as if walking side by side on a pilgrimage.



As he brings the Circular to a **close**, the Superior General stops to look back over the past, but, even more, he has us look to the future, to that place where God desires us to be.

MARIST NEWS

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Courses of action for Marist formation

Brazil: Formators Meeting

The national Formators' Meeting took place in Rio Grande do Sul, from August 30 to September 3. More than 40 brothers and lay people from throughout the whole country came together to reflect on how to upgrade the charism and energize the Marist mission in these times of constant change. The objective of the meeting was to study the following question: how can Marist consecrated religious life give meaning and respond to the desires and questions of contemporary world youth?

This reflection time among formators

takes place every three years.

The meeting was attended by brother formators and vocation animators of the three Brazilian Provinces, two lay women formators and the three Provincials. Brother Antonio Ramalho, the General Councillor responsible for formation, represented the government of the Institute.

The daily programme was organized by one of the three administrative units.



Besides work groups and diverse talks, the participants had the opportunity to visit the Champagnat Memorial, in Viamão.

The object of the meeting was to define courses of action for formation work in Marist Brazil.



Beyond our shared Mission... Shared Life and Faith!

Ecuador: Marist laity

I want to share some of the ideas which have been repeated in the latest experience of combined formation, attended last July by 11 lay people and 10 Brothers from Latin America and Europe.

One of the observations repeated throughout the experience is the source of the title of this text: *Beyond the Shared Mission... Shared Life and Faith!* This may not sound particularly new, because, through other formulas, we have already been repeating it for long enough (...) The novelty

is based on being aware of the meaning of sharing life and sharing spirituality (faith). Until now we have mainly shared the mission. The term "shared mission" has become very popular among us. Marist formation for lay people has been directed, mainly, in this way. There are many programmes that exist under this name.

What we have experienced as new in our Quito meeting has also been the sharing of faith, vocation, relationship with others... in a vital, implicative way, from a reading of the events that have contributed to shap-

ing our life. It is not a question of learning from concepts or prayers, but of praying through sharing that which "touches" us, that makes us live and suffer, which we do not just overcome and which constitutes our force, the most beautiful and difficult moments in our life, the reflections which others give us in our day to day life. All of this is formation from life and for life.

Until now, we have perhaps shared more mission than life and faith. As experience continued developing, we wondered why in our communities and

fraternities we find it so difficult to share life and faith, with all their light and shades. It is always easier to share ideas or programmes together than to open our soul to others and share what we live and what we are. Yes, it is true, that the Lord has called us for a mission and that this should be the purpose of every community; but it is also certain that to share life and faith is already a visible sign of communion and, therefore, of mission.

Br. Pau Fornells
The complete text in "Marist Blog" - www.champagnat.org

Brother Victor Preciado Ramírez new Econome General

General House

Dear Brothers, please join me in welcoming Brother Victor Preciado Ramírez, currently Provincial of the Province of Western Mexico, as our new Econome General. Victor will take up this work at the end of the current calendar year when Brother Antonio Martínez's mandate as Econome comes to a conclusion.

Victor was born in Cocula, Mexico in July 1949 and brings considerable talent and experience to his new position. Having served his Province as a teacher, an administrator, and as Province Econome prior to his years as Provincial, he has had an opportunity to view

the work of administration from a variety of perspectives. His talent for organization and his ability to anticipate the needs of a group well in advance of others has been of great benefit to his brothers in Mexico as well as to his Province and its mission.

Victor's skill in relating to others has also been a blessing for all those who have had the good fortune to serve with him. His experience on the International level has included membership on our International Finance Advisory Commission. This group has worked closely with the General Econome over the past several years offering him advice and counsel.

In asking Victor to take on this new work as General Econome at the end of the current calendar year, he has had to cut short his second mandate as Provincial of the Province of Western Mexico. I am grateful to our brothers in Mexico for their understanding. I am also grateful to him personally for his generosity in taking up this new work and look forward to working with him during the months ahead.

At the same time I want to say a word of thanks to Brother Antonio Martínez Fernández who has served with distinction as General Econome for the past six years. Antonio also brought to his mission considerable talent and experience. Prior to his years in Rome he served as a teacher and school administrator as well as Province

Econome and Director of Edelvives, our publication house in Spain. On two separate occasions he was Provincial of the former Province of Norte.

At this particular time in the life of the General Administration, Antonio has been a blessing to all of us for his work both in the Council of the "Associazione San Marcellino" that oversees the functioning of "Villa Eur" and as president of the "Gestion of the General House" that accompanies the administration of this property and the effective planning for its future development.

I shall always be grateful to Antonio for his dedication, integrity, sound advice, and fraternal patience with me. His ability to make the world of finance lucid and comprehensible has been a gift to those of us in the General Administration. I know that he will be missed by not only the members of the General Council but by the General House community as well. Many thanks Antonio for all that you have done and for your brotherhood.

Thanks also to Brother Samuel Holguin, Provincial of the Province of Iberica, and to the brothers of that Province for your generosity in allowing Antonio to serve here in Rome for the past six years.

Br. Seán D. Sammon, FMS
Superior General



FMS Message 38

Mendes 2007

Number 38 of the series FMS Message which at the present time is a continuation of the Bulletin de l'Institut contains a report on the International Assembly of Marist Mission, which took place in Mendes from 3-12 September 2007. It collects, in its 128 pages, a historical note to locate the topic of the Assembly, a review of the previous steps that were taken in the administrative units to prepare for the meeting, a brief analysis of the road travelled by the participants, the inauguration speeches, the opening and its closure of the Assembly and the document prepared by those who took part.

The entire documentation is accompanied by the Chronicle which records the daily journey of the Assembly and abundant graphic documentation of each of the events of the meeting. On the back cover there appears a picture of the group and in the inside pages the picture of each one of the members of the Assembly, of the translators and of those who were invited.

We hope this document may be a living instrument not only to record the event but to energize meetings, prayer times, meetings and study sessions to shed light on the combined road for Marist Brothers and Lay people.



To be used as a guide: Map of the Marist site

General House

Together with the delivery of FMS Message 38 a guide has been sent to each administrative unit to help navigate the web-site www.champagnat.org. Little by little the official Marist web-site has reached a level of complexity that makes it difficult for those who are not accustomed to travel electronic roads to have a clear vision of the contents.

This difficulty has been noted on numerous occasions through the consultations that have come to the Director of communications, requesting information already available on the web. We believe that the publication of the "site map", where the table of contents can be seen contained up to a fourth level of the structure of the web, will facilitate a quick search of the desired contents as well as providing a clear

view of the wealth of information that it contains.

We also hope this helps to boost access to our page web. At this moment in time we have a daily average of almost 2.000 people accessing the information offered by our web page.

