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Updates

25/09/2008: Marist Calendar - October 2008

25/09/2008: A Prayer in thanksgiving for the blessings of the Year of Spirituality

25/09/2008: Peru - 3rd Continental Meeting of Marist Youth Pastoral

24/09/2008: General House - Director and Econome Finish their Terms

23/09/2008: New Marist link: Grupos MarCha - Provincia Ibérica (Spain)

23/09/2008: Annual retreat in Cameroon

22/09/2008: Photo gallery: Spanish and Portuguese speaking Manzianna Course - Italy

22/09/2008: Images of Our Lady

22/09/2008: Madagascar - Brothers' retreat and Year of Marist Spirituality

22/09/2008: Photo gallery: Madagascar - Brothers' retreat and Year of Marist Spirituality

19/09/2008: Worldwide presence - Photo gallery number 195

19/09/2008: Photo gallery: Italy - A Street dedicated to Brother Giorgio Bigotto

18/09/2008: Marist News 16

18/09/2008: Photo gallery: Year of Spirituality - Ghana retreat

"Let us go to meet the young people!"

3rd Continental Meeting of Marist Youth Pastoral - Peru



Gathered under the motto: "Let us go to meet the young people!", a meeting was held in Lima, (Peru) from the 25th to the 29th of August 2008, for those responsible for the Marist Youth Pastoral of the provinces and districts of America, following what was agreed in Mendes in 2006 and approved by CIAP in 2007. This is the third continental meeting celebrating the youth pastoral of America, with the participation of all the administrative units of America, represented by 33 delegates, brothers as well as lay men and women. This third meeting has its antecedents in the one which took place in Curitiba (Brazil) in 2004 and in Rio de Janeiro in 2006.

The participants in this meeting came together to study youth cultures and the identity of the youth pastoral in America. The meeting provided an opportunity to evaluate the progress of the youth pastoral of America, to reflect on the ways of getting to know different youth cultures, to present the outline of the international document on youth pastoral which is being

developed, gather advice on how to take forward the youth pastoral of America for the period 2008-2010, and to choose the members of the new Subcommittee which will animate the youth pastoral in this region over the next two years.

This meeting was sponsored by the subcommittee of Marist youth pastoral which is a dependency of the continental Commission of mission for America. Taking part on behalf of the General Council were Brothers Pedro Herreros and Emili Turú. Brother Juan Ignacio Fuentes, of the Province of Cruz del Sur, facilitated, in a very creative way, the work of the group which reflected on the approach to youth cultures.

The Meeting took place in Peru to coincide with the 100 year-old celebration in this country: the brothers and lay men and women made every effort to offer a very warm welcome to the group which was housed in the Marist Residence of the University of Champagnat, Lima.

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Director:

Br. AMEstaún

Production:

Br. Onorino Rota

Luiz da Rosa

Redaction and Administration:

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2

C.P. 10250 - 00144 ROMA

Tel.: (39) 06 54 51 71

Fax: (39) 06 54 517 217

E-mail: publica@fms.it

web: www.champagnat.org

Edit:

Marist Brother's Institute

General House - Rome

Brothers' retreat and Year of Marist Spirituality

Madagascar

The second retreat for Brothers in Madagascar was held from August 25 – 31, 2008 at the Reception Center which is also the Provincial house. As we are living out the Year of Marist Spirituality within the Institute, "Water from the Rock" was the theme presented. This was very well adapted to the setting of the year's celebration.

We began the retreat with an opening Eucharist, Monday evening at 6 p.m. After supper the program for the week was presented. Usually, each day began with morning prayer followed by a presentation of one of the chapters from the book. After each presentation, time was allowed the Brothers to reflect and internalize, to pray and meditate on what had been presented. Afternoons were rather given to sharing and dialogue. Each day ended with the Eucharistic celebration.

However, let me point out that two days were chosen for special activities during the retreat. One day was especially devoted to a penitential celebration and the other was reserved as a day for a desert experience. The penitential celebration was based on the episode in Exodus 32 -34 and showed us very clearly how we can use the Bible to en-



rich our prayer. The desert experience helped us to review all the events of the retreat and through each of them to come closer to the Lord.

The closing Eucharist was on Saturday, August 30th in the evening around 6 p.m., celebrated by the Parish priest who had been the celebrant at Mass each day of the retreat. The final Eucharist was somewhat more solemn and at the moment of thanksgiving, the book « Water from the Rock » was handed to each of the retreat participants. The books were first blessed

then each participant was given a book with the words : « Brother... receive this book for your sanctification in the Church by following the Marist Spirituality of Marcellin »

At the end of the celebration, the retreat director received gifts of a statue of the Virgin and one of St. Joseph typical of the Malagasy culture. This was a simple and very Marist manner of thanking the Lord and the director for everything we had received during the week.



! The vocation of a Marist brother and a Marist layman or woman are two different callings and both are necessary for the full life of the Church. We must clarify some current confusion about the identity of each by describing those elements held in common by Marist brothers and Marist laymen and women as well as those characteristics that make each of these respective vocations unique. More importantly we must come to understand the important but different role of each state of life in the life of the Church"

Seán Sammon, Superior General, *New Hearts for a New World*, p. 35

Changing the Guard at the Generalate

Director and Econome Finish their Terms

Brothers who are based at the Generalate collaborate with Brother Superior General in the administration of the Institute. Such Brothers receive their appointment for a three year term which is renewable but only for one additional term. Such has been the case with Brother Juan Arconada and Brother Gaudencio González.

Juan Arconada Brother Juan Arconada of the Central America Province became Generalate director on coming from Estelí (Nicaragua) where he had been community superior and Principal of Instituto San Francisco. From his Provincial, Brother Juan has now received his new assignment which has already officially begun: he will be going back to join his confreres in the Estelí community. At the Generalate he leaves a grateful remembrance of his expertise in managing the house, his thoughtfulness to guests, and his heartfelt service to the community.

Gaudencio Brother Gaudencio González has headed back to Madrid where he will have a chance for rest and spiritual renewal. Over the past six years, he was responsible for the finances of the Generalate. In carrying out the role, Brother Gaudencio earned the affection of the Brothers and of the lay staff. We will remember particularly the thoughtfulness - especially in regard to the food service - which he showed to the many visitors who passed through the Generalate.

Antoni Salat In the role of Genera-

late director, Brother Juan Arconada is being followed by Brother Antoni Salat of Hermitage Province. In Barcelona, Brother Antoni dedicated many years working for Servicio de Obras Maristas de Cataluña, the umbrella office for Marist Brother apostolates in Catalonia. Afterwards, he led the secretariat for the Catalonia Union of Religious (URC) and coordinated the Center for Religious Life Spirituality (CEVRE), with the special goal of promoting the initial and ongoing formation of male religious in Catalonia.

Javier Ocaranza In turn, as Generalate Econome Brother Gaudencio González has been followed by Brother Javier Ocaranza from the México Occidental Province. Brother Javier has come from Ciudad del Carmen, in Campeche, Mexico, where he was community superior and Principal of the school. Among his other previous assignments, Brother Javier worked in his Province's youth and vocation ministry as well as at the Mérida school and as director of the postulancy.

The Brothers of the General Administration community are most appreciative to Juan and Gaudencio for their presence in the community, for the services they rendered and for their many acts of benevolence. In turn the community welcomes with joy and affection the two new members who have been assigned here for a three year term, hoping that their new apostolate, in service to the Institute, will prove to be fully satisfying for them.



Br. Juan Arconada



Br. Gaudencio González



Br. Javier Ocaranza



Br. Antoni Salat



A Street dedicated to Brother Giorgio Bigotto

San Giorgio di Nogaro - Italy

On August 23, in a simple but touching ceremony, the local council of San Giorgio di Nogaro dedicated to Brother Giorgio Bigotto, Marist Brother, the street that leads from the town to the Health Centre. Present at the ceremony were the Lord Mayor, Pietro Del Frate, the whole of the town Council, the town's parish priest, Fr. Livio Carlino, members of Brother's family and a group of close friends.

Brother Giorgio was a missionary for 40 years in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He arrived there in 1965 and worked in Nyangezi, Kisangani, Kindu, Goma and Bobandana, where he died of a heart attack on May 21 2004.

The Lord Mayor offered the following words: "A man of the region who never forgot his roots and who transformed his life into a total gift to others, to those who suffer, the weakest and the least favoured. The Lord Mayor also recalled Brother's university career. But Giorgio preferred his mission

as a teacher - history, geography, philosophy, Latin and, above all, religion - to the glories of university teaching. For many long years and in diverse places, he directed schools. Every time he returned to their land, he demonstrated the enthusiasm that he felt for the young people of the Congo. Before offering to share his knowledge, he became inculturated; he let himself be educated before educating others. This attitude gave him such a great love for the Congolese people that he physically suffered all the injustices and the long civil war that martyred the Congolese people for such a long period of time. He even put his life at risk to save others. He always dreamt of times of peace for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

He looked after many young people and directed them to the religious life, not just Marist, but also the priesthood, or the convent, if they were girls. Many young Congolese Brothers had him as their accompanier.

The Parish priest remembered the lively conversations he had with Giorgio after Mass: "His enthusiasm for the mission was clear!" Then he introduced a moment of prayer, followed by the blessing of the street.

Giorgio had never imagined that the town where he was born would give his name to a street. But his friends loved him and they continue loving him a great deal. After his sudden death, messages of condolence arrived from all the corners of the Marist world. His former students remember him even today, some of them with tears. They had inscribed on his tomb: "Brother Giorgio, friend of the young people, pray for us!"



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