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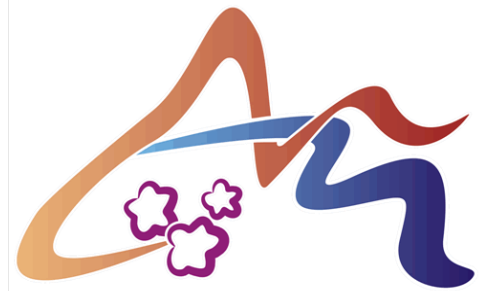
The Marist Year of Spirituality draws to a close

And now what?

Although the Year of Spirituality has come to an end, spirituality itself necessarily continues on its way. Spirituality never ends, because it concerns an ongoing encounter with God. As "Water from the Rock" indicates several times, spirituality is a path upon which we make our way. Indeed, if we bear in mind the fourth goal of the Year of Spirituality, it becomes quite clear that all the initiatives and activities of the Year must be followed up: "Put into action various formative processes which go beyond the year 2008." So: 2009, 2010 . . . and the following must also be years of spirituality.

We cannot come to a stop as we walk the path of renewal which the Year of Spirituality has concretized, thanks to so many initiatives inspired by this Providentially published "Water from the Rock." Besides, the Christian is by definition a man or woman who "belongs to the Way" as the expression (Acts 9:2; 19:9, etc.) has it. The phrase in Acts demonstrates that the Commission did well to emphasize the symbol of the "path" in the document. We know that Jesus is the Path, and that all spirituality is a process of personal and communal transformation, a path or a journey. Spirituality invites us to undertake an on-going journey.

Undoubtedly "Water from the Rock" is the book presently best known around the FMS world, the work the most read, scrutinized, studied, prayed. And the text



will almost certainly remain so, judging by the activities which are already appearing on the 2009 horizon. For all of this, we must thank God.

Counting simplified versions which are distributed especially in Latin American, more than 50,000 copies are presently in circulation around the Institute. (A simplified English-language version is in process of being published in Nairobi.) Already "Water from the Rock" has been translated into fifteen languages. Other translations are being undertaken, such as in Kiswhaili and in Arabic. As far as I know, no Institute document has had so great a popularity or so widespread a distribution. Of course we would not be doing anything notable if we were content to point out such external facts, but they are significant nonetheless.

Much more important is the interior renewal which the book can stimulate, the thirst for God that such a renewal can awaken in us: members - in the wide sense - of the family of Marists.

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Marist Brother's Institute
General House - Rome

New Director of the International Bureau of Solidarity (BIS)

General House

Dear Brothers, please join me in welcoming Brother Richard Carey, FMS, from the Province of the United States, as the new Director of our General Administration's International Bureau of Solidarity effective 1st November 2009. I am grateful personally to Rick for his generosity in accepting this mandate as well as to Brother John Klein, Provincial, and the members of the Province for their willingness to release him for this important work.

Rick brings considerable skill and experience to his new responsibilities. First of all, he has been involved in administration and supervision for almost two decades now, serving as Chief Administrator of one school and later as President of another. Both institutions were large in size and diverse in their needs.

In his role as President he oversaw with skill and creativity a capital fund raising campaign. As a result, the nature and quality of the services offered by this school were expanded greatly and its ability to accommodate more students from families with limited means increased. Rick's personal commitments to gospel principles of solidarity have helped him to present clearly and convincingly the mission and purpose of the institutions for which he had primary responsibility. He has carried out this task well not only among prospective students and their families but also with the wider public.

With sensitivity and thoughtfulness, he also led both institutions through the sometimes difficult process of moving from a single sex to a co-educational student population. Rick's firm belief in our mission of evangelization and education, particularly among poor children and young people, has made

him a convincing spokesman for our Marist efforts in the United States. He also worked personally to involve students in experiences of solidarity and challenged them to stretch their understanding in this area by taking more responsibility for the welfare of the human community.

In the past Rick has taught on the secondary level, worked in the areas of religious education and campus ministry, served in two Provincial administrations as a Provincial Councilor in the former Poughkeepsie Province, and as a member of various Province committees. At the present time he is a member of the Finance Committee and chairs the Province's Investment Committee.

His capacity to work with others, ability to clarify complex matters and help others to understand them, as well as his formation in religious studies and administration will serve him well in this new position.

As we welcome Rick and offer him our support, I want to say a word of thanks to Brother Dominick Pujia, FMS, who will complete six years as Director of BIS and has generously agreed to extend his second mandate through the General Chapter to ensure a smooth transition. Under his leadership the Bureau has grown in stature and expanded the services it offers to the Institute and to other organizations. Dominick brought to his work as Director extensive experience in education, administration, youth ministry, and development. His ability to communicate and work with others, talent for developing new ways of looking at old and familiar challenges and willingness to step out and take a risk, worked together to help him formulate a direction for the Bureau and to join his efforts with others to bring it to life.



During his tenure, for example, the program of advocacy for the rights of children involving the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations was first conceived and implemented. He also worked tirelessly to raise funds for many Institute projects and to ensure the ongoing support of others.

Dominick's personal commitment to our mission with poor children and young people, however, was perhaps the most striking feature that representatives of foundations and other funding agencies mentioned when discussing their interactions with him. When he took up his work in Rome he had behind him many years of direct service among poor children and young people; they served him well throughout his time here in Rome.

I am grateful to Dominick personally and to the administration and brothers of the Province for their willingness to release him these recent years to further our Institute's solidarity efforts.

Brothers, may the Bureau of Solidarity and its efforts be a constant reminder to all of us about Marcellin's special concern for those who had the least, for those found at the margins of our societies.

Brother Seán D. Sammon, FMS
Superior General - 20th August 2008



Recollection on our Models of Marist Sanctity

India and Sri Lanka

Brother Sunanda Alwis, Provincial of the new Province of South Asia organized three days of recollection for the brothers of his Province on the theme of our Marist Saints. He asked Br. Giovanni Bigotto, Postulator General, to come to help the brothers with this.

Two recollections were organized; the first in India, in the State of Tamil Nadu for 13 brothers. We met in the Marial sanctuary of Vailankanny finding there an atmosphere of prayer. This is an old Marial sanctuary that dates back to the 17th century. The complex forms a large cross 2 ½ km. by 1 ½ km. Three large white churches, with white steeples pointed toward the sky, form the top of the cross and from them begins a large boulevard which ends 2 ½ km. further on in front of the chapel of the first miracle, that one also all white with a set of white pinnacles. At either end of the horizontal part of the cross are the chapel of the second miracle and the adoration chapel, they also are white. On the 2 ½ km. boulevard a vast central corridor is covered with sand. Many pilgrims travel the length of it on their knees. Floods of people come to this

sanctuary at all times of the year. The prayerful atmosphere helped us very much while we listened attentively to Marcellin, François, Alfano, Basilio and all our martyrs of China, Spain, and Africa. We wanted to discover how they had lived the most important aspects of Marist spirituality, thus bringing together sanctity and the spirituality of Water from the Rock.


The 30 brothers from Sri Lanka chose the national Marial sanctuary of Our Lady of Lanka. This sanctuary, set far away from towns at the top of a hill surrounded by woods, gives an atmosphere of peace, while one can walk on the paths which branch around the sanctuary. The recollection had as its theme: our models of Marist sanctity. Looking closely at our Marist saints awakened in us admiration, pride in having such saints as confreres and the desire to imitate them. It was worthwhile to get to know them and pray to them.

For the four novices, three from India and one from Pakistan, a presentation on Mariology was provided. It was given over four days with a five hour session each day. It helped them to have a new

and deep look at Mary of the Gospels. This presentation was also given by the Brother Postulator General.

The sector of India gives an impression of young Marists full of promise: a good number of young brothers are studying at the universities in Trichy, others MAPAC, three novices, six postulants... There are two large schools but with small communities of 2 or 3 brothers. It's a sector in the full of springtime.

The brothers of Sri Lanka, on the other hand, run well-established schools. They have been present there since 1911. To speak of the Marist Brothers in Negombo or in Colombo is to speak of a national reality. They also have several initiatives to go out among the least favored young people, like the school with the workshop in electronics where the young people, who have failed in their studies, learn trades that will enable them to obtain employment: repair of computers, refrigerators, other electronic equipment...


These brothers, with their Asiatic gentleness, and Marist simplicity sent to the whole Congregation their warm and fraternal greetings. 

Marial Exposition - Canada

From the 23rd to the 28th of this past September, Br. Paul-André Lavoie presented a Marial exposition organized at the General House of the Sisters of Good Council of Chicoutimi. The public had been informed of this exposition, thus explaining the impressive number of visitors coming from the different parishes of the diocese.

The room available to us was sufficiently large so that we were able to comfortably display and show off to advantage all of the material which we had brought from Château-Richer.

We were particularly appreciative of the presence of two distinguished visitors: Mgr André Rivest, bishop of the diocese, and Mgr Jean-Guy Couture, bishop emeritus.

Religious of the diocese were holding their annual meeting at Bon-Conseil on the 27th of September. This was an excellent occasion, then, for all of the participants to be able to visit the different stands of our expositions. Thanks to the publicity in the local newspapers, the visitors were very numerous, particularly on Sunday. 

Delegates to the XXIst General Chapter

General House

As we continue our pilgrimage towards the XXIst General Chapter. We have been reflecting seriously on various themes including, our identity, mission and the spirituality of the Institute of the Marist Brothers. The Preparatory Commission helped us with an instrument for the initial consultation: "On the Road towards the XXIst General Chapter," and different groups of Marist communities, animation groups, etc., have shared their reflections, which will be synthesized for further use.

We have also received Brother Seán Sammon's circular, which announced the opening of the General Chapter in September 2009. He reviews the history of our previous chapters and invites us to renew our life and mission as Marists. He stresses the importance of discernment, as we all are involved in this growth process,

in order to be faithful to the charism of our founder.

As an instrument to accompany each one of us; Marist Brothers, people in formation, lay collaborators, members of the Champagnat movement of the Marist Family, and friends of the brothers, we have received "The Pilgrim's Guide:" a diary which, with deep prayer and fraternal sharing, provides an intense preparation as we journey towards the Chapter over these next 12 months.

Looking into the reflection prepared by Bro. Ivo A. Strobino at the beginning of the month of November (Pilgrim's Guide), we prepare ourselves to elect 49 Marist Brothers as delegates to the General Chapter. These brothers, plus the 25 provincials and 9 leaders of the Congregation, will compose the 83 participants to the XXIst General Chapter.



21st General Chapter
new hearts
 for a **new world**

The provenance of the 49 Marist Brothers who will be delegates to the Chapter, elected by the brothers from their own administrative unit, is based on their official province/district where they belong. The number of delegate brothers listed here below, will become members of the Chapter together with the 34 Marist Brothers who will participate in the works of the Chapter by right.

Provinces	N. Brothers	Delegates
01. Afrique Centre-Est	95	1
02. America Central	118	1
03. Brasil Centro-Norte	125	1
04. Brasil Centro-Sul	129	2
05. Canada	162	2
06. Compostela	243	3
07. Cruz del Sur	136	2
08. East Asia	103	1
09. Europe Centre-Ouest	159	2
10. Ibérica	198	3
11. L'Hermitage	383	6
12. Madagascar	55	1
13. Mediterránea	249	3
14. Melbourne	83	1
15. México Central	113	1

Provinces	N. Brothers	Delegates
16. México Occidental	134	2
17. New Zealand	108	1
18. Nigeria	96	1
19. Norandina	146	2
20. Rio Grande do Sul	170	2
21. Santa María de los Andes	118	1
22. South Asia	66	1
23. Southern Africa	114	1
24. Sydney	184	2
25. United States of America	191	2
Districts		
01. Afrique de l'Ouest	50	1
02. Amazônia	33	1
03. Melanesia	53	1
04. Paraguay	27	1

Members by right: 25 Provincials + Bro. Seán Sammon (Superior General), Bro. Luis García Sobrado (Vicar general), Bro. Benito Arbués (former Superior General), and six Brothers, members of the current General Council.