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## Centenary of the Bulletin of the Institute

### A century of history in 31 volumes



would be an ambitious objective: "It will be the official chronicle of the Institute, the faithful guardian of our traditions, of our spirit, of our works and everything interesting that happens among us, so that, I hope, as the work of writing the history of the congregation is undertaken, those who are in charge of writing it will only have to open its pages to find in them everything necessary to do it completely and instructively."

Upon opening its pages today we can observe the variety and richness of content that they hold and the adaptation that was being done by the brothers in charge of printing them in order to utilize the best techniques of graphic arts. It is interesting to observe the effort made to print the first page in a color different from black, the inclusion of the first photographs or the first page that was printed in four colors. Through the panoramic view of contents which the digital edition of the indices of the 31 volumes offers, one can observe the variety of topics and contents of spiritual life, pedagogy or the history of houses, works and provinces as well as statistical data or maps. The graphic information through photos has given occasion to use the important yet carefully kept material in the general archives in Rome for the production of the pages of the Bulletin.

The departure of our brothers from France at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries, scattered in almost every region of the world, increased the geographic distances of many of them in relation to the General House. Because of this several General Chapters felt the necessity and desire to create an instrument of periodic communication which would serve as a common tie among all of the members of the Institute.

The circular of Brother Stratonique, November 11, 1908, announced its creation: "Our family journal will begin to be published on the 1st of January, as the Bulletin of the Institute of the Little Brothers of Mary." And further on he defined what

In its 100 year history, 222 issues have been published which fill the shelves of our libraries bound in 31 volumes. Volume 31 contains the issues published from 1978 to 1984. In 1962 they changed the format with a major presentation that was proposed



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from the first issue. The use of the four official languages of the Institute was introduced, although gradually. From November – December 1972 until May – June 1985 a news magazine called FMS was printed. During those 13 years 60 issues were published. On behalf of the Patrimony Commission, Brother Louis Richard has been given the task of putting into digital format the Bulletins of the Institute, so that they may be placed on the webpage. At the present time, Brother Louis is working on Volume IV, issue #35.

In 1986 the General Council named the Commission of "Publications and Communication," made up of Brothers Yves Thénoz, Secretary General; Richard Dunleavy, General Councilor; Jean Dumortier, editor of "Présence mariste"; Ignacio Pérez, Director of the publishing house Luis Vives and Antonio Sancamillo, from Italy, to define the characteristics of the information that the General Council should send to the Institute. At the conclusion of the work of the commission it was decided to publish a new periodic magazine that was a synthesis or intermediate point between those extended and serious considerations of the Bulletin and a Marist news magazine. Thus emerged the F.M.S. Message, which currently gives continuity to the Bulletin of the Institute.

After three years of news shortage, the first issue of FMS Echo appeared on January 1, 1988, which would last until 1999. Beginning in that year there appeared another publication directed primarily at the laity called

Marist ECHOS, of which there were 49 issues until the suspension of its publication in 2005. The dissemination of news through the web page called for a definition of other ways of communication with the Institute. Today, Marist News presents each week the most current of what is happening in the Marist world.

This anniversary fills us with satisfaction on seeing that the initiative undertaken one day by the General Council, to respond to the concrete necessities of the Institute at a specific time, has been evolving, supported by the new technologies of communication which have been appearing throughout history.

The words that the Pope spoke to the personnel and collaborators of the Vatican Television Center before Christmas of 2008 can be applied to the reality of our Institute: "Today the internet requires an ever increasing integration of written, audio and visual communication, and thus is a challenge to broaden and intensify the forms of collaboration between the media which are at the service of the Holy See." And in our case at the service of the Institute.

And when we perform this service of information to the Institute we feel comforted with the words of encouragement that the same Pontiff spoke to his Vatican collaborators. "May the modest size of your structure in comparison with the immensity of your tasks not cause you dismay. Many people, thanks to your work, can feel closer to the heart of the Church." And of the Institute, we would add.



## 'Formar' Paths of personal and Marist growth

### Guatemala

For the sixth consecutive year, a group of 55 participants comprising teachers, non- teachers, fraternities and brothers of the five countries of our Province, have lived through the experience of Formar (a course in Marist formation). Designed to deepen fundamental elements of Marist spirituality, it is an important occasion for getting to know Champagnat and the Marist charism. The community formed spends 16 days following a boarding school regime, an experiences which goes beyond the theoretical.

FORMAR endeavours to be a shared space for laymen, laywomen and brothers to reflect on the paths of personal and Marist growth. The coming together of several nationalities and different individual characteristics, of different ages and backgrounds, has offered the occasion for rich and diverse exchanges among the participants. The welcome by the educational communities of El Salvador and Guatemala helped us to identify the diversity of Marist life and its mission. On finishing this session, the participants felt themselves to be encouraged by the meeting and enriched in their vocation. At this time, the experience has been lived by 38% of the total of the teachers in our centres and we are at the stage of beginning level I



## La Valla - January 2nd, 1817



# Third age renewal: Manziana

## October – December 2008

**S**t Luke's gospel story of the Journey to Emmaus provides a great metaphor for our renewal experience. Our group began its journey sharing our stories and appreciating one another's experiences and personalities. Each committed wholeheartedly to the process and we felt from the start the strong bonds of brotherhood. We were Fourteen Marists and five Marianists gathered for this journey of renewal with the guiding team of Brothers Barry Burns and Antoine Kazindu; our accompanying chaplain, Marist Father Desmond Hunt; and in the care of econome, Brother Jose Descarga.



Good presenters provided input on: Third Age Transitions, The Kingdom of God, Prayer and Spirituality, The Church, The Eucharist, Mary In Our Lives, Choices Of The Heart, and Wellness And Health Issues. We made a 9 day pilgrimage to France where we encountered the spirit and faith of our Marist founders and the societies in which they lived. Local Marists, deeply imbued with the history and charism of our societies, gave us a deep appreciation of our heritage. Ongoing sharing within the group further enriched the experience. We also made shorter pilgrimages to Assisi and Subiaco which also provided understanding and inspiration from the spirits of Saints Francis, Clare and Benedict. The joy of our community experience was further enhanced by excursions to our Generalate in Rome and to a Papal Audience. We also enjoyed the tourist sites in our local area, providing musical entertainment to fellow patrons at the restaurants where we dined.

From the start of our journey, seeking the meaning of our lives and the call ahead, Jesus was present in our

community. Through the presentations and experiences He gently opened our eyes and hearts. We felt the unconditional love of God calling us to open our hearts to Him, and with the Eucharist central in our lives, witness to the good news of God's Kingdom. We understand better the role of Mary and her central place in the Church. This Marian Church, non-judgmental and nurturing, is much more welcoming to non-Catholics and non-Christians. This is the new image of Church our founders had when they started the Society of Mary.

For our final thanksgiving liturgy, we chose St Luke's gospel account of the Emmaus journey because it describes our experience.

As we shared our stories and recognized the bonds of common commitment and experiences, we felt community – a brotherhood of unique individuals willing to be wholeheartedly involved in this journey. Jesus was also in our group as we tried to appreciate the opportunities offered by this stage of transition in our lives. Through our

presenters and pilgrimage experiences, Jesus gently gave us a vision of the God He wants us to know; the plan this unconditionally loving God has for each one of us; and the journey He wants us to make.

Each Society made pilgrimage to places significant in our foundation stories in both France and Spain. The expertise and deep commitment of our local guides helped us to absorb the spirit of our founders and the societies in which they lived.

Like Mary, we are asked to allow God to live in us, and through us witness His love for the world, to the world. The Eucharist is central to our lives because it draws us into the whole action of Christ glorifying the Father. Mary is our mother, nurturing God's life in us; actively present at calvary and the altar where she embraces us with St John as her children. This is the Marian dimension of Church – the family of those who hear the word of God and keep it. We are called as Marists and Marianists to promote, through our witness and testimony, this image of Church.



# A pickaxe strikes at the heart of the rock

## A symbolic action at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage

With a symbolic gesture, the turning point was signaled in the transformation of Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, birthplace of the Marist Brothers: the end of the demolition period and the beginning of new construction.

His Excellency Dominique Lebrun, Bishop of Saint-Etienne, in company with Brother Provincial Xavier Barceló, struck a blow of the pickaxe at the heart of the rock, on the very site which, in 1824, Marcellin Champagnat chose for the construction of a major edifice. Indeed, since the start of the year, this construction site, extensive as it is and destined to remain in place for another year, is in process of transforming the character of the ambiance.

In order to offer a greater availability to the world, Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage envisions itself in the future as a welcoming center and a place of Marist formation. Brother Xavier Barceló emphasized the importance of this opening towards the future without losing sight of the necessary historical perspective, given that many elements in the buildings will bespeak Marist history as, for example, the rooms which Marcellin Champagnat occupied during his lifetime. In their turn, Mayor Philippe Kizirian and Bishop Lebrun pointed out the importance of the transformation, the goal



of which is indeed to enhance the historic venue's spiritual radiance towards the world.

The ceremonies came to a conclusion with a presentation about the project's technical elements explained by Catalanian Joan Puig-Pey, the lead architect, along with his colleagues Jaume Pujol; Stéphane Roulleau and Yves Poncet. **NM**

# Fraternities of the Mediterranean Province

## A meeting to encourage growth

On 6 and 7 December, the Fraternities of the Mediterranean Province of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, held our First provincial Meeting since the Restructuration. Around 150 people (120 adults with 30 children and young people) met at the Marist School in the city of Granada.

These were two days dedicated to sharing the life which animates the 26 fraternities that exist in the extensive Mediterranean Province. We were also able to listen to each other, to share our experiences, our dreams and to choose those people, who

have encouraged us, to continue in their work as well as projecting our future with imagination and hope. Brother Pau Fornells - Director of the Bureau of the Laity of the Institute - opened up for us a reality which is already growing in the Marist world and he encouraged us, by thinking of the future which is already present, to "recreate the Marist charism where we are". The fraternity of Badajoz encouraged us with their beautiful experience. Chema Pérez Soba, with his rich experience of fraternal life in the Iberian Province, helped us to glimpse a promising future for MCHFM: a need for the brothers to live and grow. **NM**

