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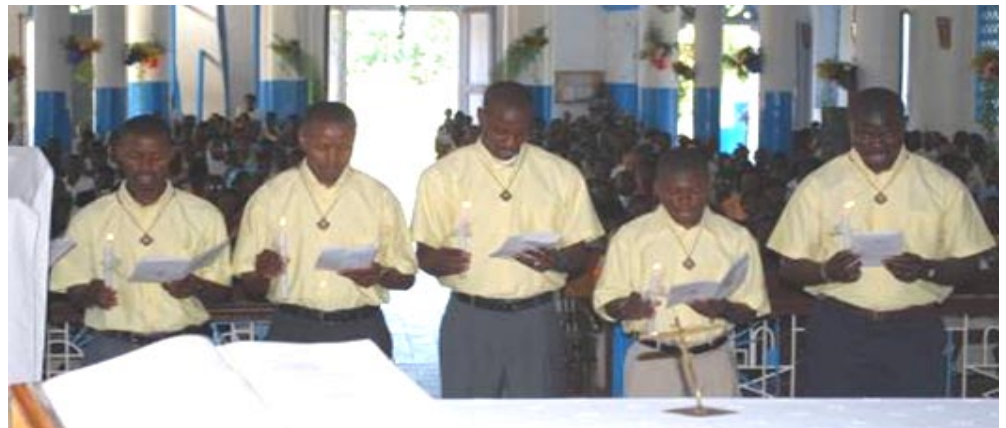
05/02/2009: Marist representatives from America take part in the WSF 2009

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Haiti - Canada - Mexico

Profession in the City of Dame-Marie



On January 8, 2009 the Haiti Sector of the Marist Brothers reached a milestone, when Brother Renault Sindor, a seventh, young Haitian Brother, made his religious profession in the Marist family. Five of his Haitian confreres from the Guadalajara Scholasticate offered their support to Brother Renault in his first commitment as they renewed their vows. The names of the Brothers, in the order seen in the photo above, are Brothers: Jean Mance Louis-Jeune and Wilguins François (vow renewal for second year of profession), Jourdin Méronville and Frantzley Exama (third year) and Toussaint Forestal (second year).

The professions were solemnly celebrated in the city of Dame-Marie, the site of the first Mar-ist Brothers' apostolate in Haiti, and hometown to five of the six young professed. Carefully prepared in advance, the profession ceremony was presided by a priest friend of the Sindor family. He was assisted by the local parish priest and another concelebrant. The tone of the Mass was set by the REMAR choir, a vocational group of the local area. The profession ceremony did not go un-noticed in a milieu where people live in close proximity

and where almost every person is known by all the others. Then, after the religious ceremony, more than one hundred and fifty guests - relatives, friends, former teachers - gathered in the school courtyard to continue the celebration and enjoy a traditional Haitian meal.

At this profession a new feature was to be noted. Whereas previously the Brother Provincial of Canada received the vows, this time the honor and responsibility fell to the Brother Provincial of Mexico Occidental. The two Provinces had decided to take advantage of the occasion offered by the profession ceremony to conduct another official act: the transfer of the FMS Haiti Sector from the Canada Province to that of Mexico Occidental. The official transfer of responsibility was part of the reason for the presence of a large number of Brothers from both of the countries involved in the Sector transfer.

From Mexico the representatives were Brothers: Ernesto Sanchez, Provincial; Victor Pre-ciado, former Provincial with whom the necessary measures had originally been undertaken in view of the

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Sector transfer; Luis Enrique Rodriguez, director of the Guadalajara Scholasticate where the Haitian Brothers are doing their studies. From Canada were present Brothers: Bernard Beaudin, Provincial, accompanied by four of the five Canadian Brothers who inaugurated the FMS work in Haiti. Brothers Daniel Cournoyer, Gilles Hogue, Gérald Gatién – still working in Haiti – and Gilles Lacasse who guides and supports the Haitian novices at the Morelia Novitiate.

Regrettably Brother Marcel Labarre was not present, having passed away at a relatively young age a few years after he returned to Canada. The Canada Province was pleased to have been able to add Mr. Jean-Louis Cardin to the group of Canadian Brothers. Mr. Cardin represented the "Comité Haïti-Mariste," a group of lay people who have supported the Haiti Sector since 1985, the year when the Sector began. One must not overlook either the presence of all the non-native Brothers now working in Haiti with the first perpetually professed Haitian, Brother Frisnel Walter, who now directs the Jérémie postulancy: four Canadians, two Mexicans, a Malawian and an Argentinean. The international

character of the Institute can indeed be seen clearly in Haiti! And then, after the profession, in a very simple, emotional ceremony all the Brothers gathered for the official transfer - signatures affixed to the official papers - of the FMS Haiti Sector to the Province of Mexico Occidental.

There followed an exchange of very concrete memorabilia of the occasion. Brother Bernard presented three copies of a beautiful Our «Good Mother,» statue, one for each of the three communities. For his part, Brother Ernesto offered a framed picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe to each Brother of the Sector.

Permit me to conclude the present report on a personal note, one which – I think – will resonate with the Canadian Brothers who are still working or who, over the years, have worked in Haiti. My comment may even be of interest to all the Brothers of the Canada Province who have been conscious of the FMS Haiti project as it has grown and developed. Certainly, January 8, 2009 marks a historic turning point for Marist Brothers' life and work in Haiti.



Meeting of Youth Ministers, Central Mexico Province

The direction to be followed in Youth Ministry as carried out in the Central Mexico Province has found renewed clarity. The clarity is the consequence of a recent gathering at which the participants had the opportunity, a pleasant one, to share life, to listen to life and to pray from life. The experience arose at a meeting of youth ministers where particular attention was given to dialoguing about the experiences encountered in our work, in re-formulating our basic plan for Youth Ministry, its thrust and its limitations. The meeting was a very worthwhile occasion, conducted in a cordial atmosphere, the catalyst being the real experiences of all our apostolates that deal with young people.

Brother Francisco Javier Conde guided our reflections which were based upon the motto of the twenty-first General Chapter, "New hearts for a new world." We discussed how Youth

Ministry ought to move forward in a process that is shared with young people. We spoke of how, in today's world, global as it is, one must be conscious of both diversity of cultures and the realities which young people have to face.

One of the key ideas we dealt with was this: that youth groups are called upon to assist children and young people in confronting the realities of their lives and making sense of life experiences. Another key idea was formulated as a question: how to create proposals of an inclusive character that favor dialogue and are sensitive and attentive to the Gospel. At the present time, more than 2000 children and young people take part in the youth movements that are found in our elementary schools, junior high schools and senior high schools. The youth groups are moving forward thanks to the devoted support of 272 youth ministers and teachers (both Brothers and lay people) who take the



lead role in guiding the young people.

Professional formation for the apostolate through a degree in Youth Ministry or via workshops in cooperative games; the collection of reports concerning local experiences; a data base for the use of youth leaders; the criteria for those who direct the groups: all such matters form a part of the Province guidelines that help to organize the paths along which the Province youth groups are making their way.

Another goal of the meeting was to prepare, for the months of March, April and May, formative experiences, camps, and Province meetings.



European Preparation for the General Chapter

Spain

On 12 January 2009, Brothers Óscar Martín (Compostela), Brendan Geary (Europe Centre-Ouest), Segundo Barragán (Ibérica), André Thizy (Hermitage), Josep Maria Rius (Mediterránea) and Josep Maria Soteras (coordination Europe), met in Barcelona, to plan the next steps in preparation for the General Chapter.



The work arranged for the preparation up until the holding of the chapter meeting consists of reflecting upon three documents : The Circular of convocation (September), the Guidelines for reflection on the way to the XXIst General Chapter (February) and the Report of the General Administration (March).

The agenda of this meeting of the facilitators involved the examination of the results of the Initial Consultation, carried out throughout the whole Institute, and the preparation of materials and dynamics for the step of deeper study which is to follow. The calendar for this step goes from January to August 2009. In this work there is an attempt to study more deeply the more prominent themes coming from the Initial Consultation, with the participation of brothers and lay people, as well as the preparation of the capitulants, by listening to them. The provincial coordinators, in a first period which will take place in January and February - « preparation » -, will concentrate on explaining the dynamics of this process to the Councils and the capitulants, on establishing in the Council the procedure of dialogue and listening in each Province, for brothers, lay people, youth..., and in preparing some simple tools, adapted to each local and provincial reality, to facilitate this dialogue and listening.

The second period, devoted to « listen-

ing », which will take place from March to June, will be dedicated to going deeper into the three reference documents, cited earlier, at the local level (brothers, communities, laity, young people ...), as a means of preparing the exchange with the capitulants.

To achieve this work of listening, there will be the possibility of organising visits of capitulants to each community, inter-community meetings by groups of communities, a provincial assembly or assemblies by sector, optional provincial meetings and meetings with significant groups of lay and young people. These contacts will also be able to be made by electronic mail.

In a third period, designated by the word « echoes », during June and July, it is anticipated that the capitulants from each province will send to the brothers, lay people and youth, a letter in which they will recall the most prominent subjects raised and which aroused the most interest.

The capitulants of each region will prepare for their part a summary of this process of listening at their regional level and send it to Rome.

At the meeting it was decided to have the document *Guidelines for reflection* on the XXIst General Chapter printed in different languages.

Prov. Brasil Centro-Norte

Retreats in the Province of Brazil Centro-Norte Then end of the year 2008 and the beginning of the year 2009 were marked by to spiritual retreats whose theme was from the Year of Spirituality and the document "water from the Rock. The first retreat, in which 72 Brothers participated, was held in Mendes, from December 17-22. The second was held in Lagoa Seca, Paraíba, with 38 Brothers present.

The first three days of the retreat were spent in a spirituality workshop. The Brothers spent time on different activities, going over their own story, communicating personal sentiments relative to the Brothers of their community, evaluating what positive things have been happening in the Province. These days served each so that he could write the psalms of his own life. Perfect silence was observed for the next three days, they were spent in a deep immersion in Marist Spirituality.

In Mendes as well as in Lagoa Seca, the Province had the joy of presenting and accepting the perpetual vows of Brothers Alexandre Lucena Lobo and Arnaldo Jose de Souza, and the renewal of temporary vows for 18 young Brothers.



Champagnat Documentation Course

An Initiative of the Institute for Marist Studies in Salamanca

The Institute for Marist Studies, a recent creation of the Pontifical University of Salamanca proposed by the Provincial Councils of the Provinces of Compostela and Mediterranea, is uniting with the University of Teacher Education Luis Vives. Among its purposes is the formation of courses for those interested from the Marist Provinces.

The "Champagnat Documentation Course" (Cycle A) aspires to be an approach to the understanding of the person of Marcellin Champagnat through Marist writings and documents. It has as objectives an improved knowledge and understanding the living out of a common charism. It offers the possibility of reflection on the motives and the solutions which Marcellin gave to the concrete problems of his times. The dynamic of this study is an invitation to share in this lived experience. It will

attempt to ferment a profound, mutual enrichment of the Marist spiritual patrimony.

This course that the Institute offers in Marist studies is part-time with on-line support. The attendance part will involve two sessions: the 6th and 7th of March and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of July 2009. The part-time sessions are fulfilled by each student between the first and second sessions, working with the on-line support of a virtual presentation and with the follow-up on the part of the professor, who is Brother Fernando Hinojal Citores of the Mediterranea Province, an expert with much experience with this movement.

It is directed at the education community in general and all those interested may participate: Brothers, Catechists, Animators, Professors, Advisers, Alumni, Fraternities, and members of the

General Marist Family.

The organizers of this course invite the participants to greater self-knowledge, based on the phenomenon of the resonance and the spiritual awareness of the charisma of Marcellin. Champagnat is not able to be studied merely from psychological and sociological parameters. The richest and most significant aspects of the Founder escape the most thorough analysis of human sciences. The real depth of the man is a mystery. We wish, therefore, to discover the work of the Spirit in Champagnat's life and charism.

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A New Zealand archbishop at le Rosey

When in 1836 the Pope confided to the Marist Fathers the evangelization of the new lands discovered in Oceania numerous missionaries left for the antipodes, the majority of them from the Lyons region. One of them was Father Philippe VIARD, a native of Lyons from the parish of St Nizier, born 11 October 1809. He found himself entrusted with other Marists with the evangelization of New Zealand around Father Pompallier who became the 1st Catholic bishop of the islands. Father Viard became his coadjutor.

But in 1850 New Zealand was divided into two dioceses with a new see at WELLINGTON and Father Viard was the 1st bishop of the new diocese. He died on 2 June 1872. Let us note that it was he who brought back the remains of St Peter Chanel (1803-1841) martyred on Futuna, first martyr of Oceania.

The Churches of Lyon and Wellington have wished to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of Father VIARD. The first approaches began in July 2006. Cardinal Philippe BARBARIN, Archbishop of Lyon accompanied by about 20



persons paid a visit to Wellington. The delegation was impressed to discover how much the memory of the Marist apostle was still alive. Before returning to France, the cardinal invited his hosts to come to Lyon.

Responding to this invitation in the month of January 2009, Archbishop John DEW Archbishop of Wellington came to Lyons with a Marist Father, two SMSM Sisters and two young students very happy to discover the roots of the first apostles of their faith.

