



Marist News

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

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Mission ad Gentes Davao

Davao, Group 6

Philippines

When Mission ad Gentes was just getting under way, some people were asking, "But where are the young Brothers? How come most of the participants in the Davao groups are Brothers of a certain age?" Well, now you can have an answer to your question, "Here we are," was the response of Group 5 Davao, and now the same is true for Group 6, largely made up as it is of young Brothers. In our group, Max and Pietro are the veterans of youthful heart who bring to the session the fruits of their apostolic experiences and labors. The remainder of the group, for its part, is comprised of: forty-three year old Andrew, and then the remaining who fall between twenty and thirty years of age: César (39), Ramón (36), Natalino e Ismael (31), Pedro (27), Marcos (25) and Edilson (24).

The present Davao group, therefore, might be given the nickname, "Experience and Youth." Despite the differences of age and experience, every single participant feels a great desire to turn Marcellin's dream into a reality. In addition, we encounter openness, depth and earnestness, the kind of qualities that are needed in order to make a solid commitment to the discernment process and the strength needed to leave ourselves open and free to the action of the Holy Spirit according to what the Spirit wills.

Here in the middle of the fourth week of the program the enthusiasm is evident. Everyone is taking part wholeheartedly and cheerfully, and a certain rambunctiousness is not absent. To observe the atmosphere of personal prayer on the one hand, →



MARIST NEWS

N.º 37 - Year I - February 19th, 2009

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and on the other, the group's creativity in community prayer is very inspiring. Of course, challenges are never very far away. The setting of the program and its pace have put an abrupt stop to the way of living which have known up to now. It has not been easy to make the quite drastic change from lives filled with activity and peppered with relationships: family, friends, colleagues, students. Nor has it been effortless to give up a certain level of privacy to which we had become accustomed.

Here in Davao the mornings are spent in sessions dealing with various topics, while the evenings are left free for personal work. Along with such activities, many are the occasions – in the mornings and the evenings – when we need to share, not only our ideas and experiences, but also how we are feeling, what we are thinking, our struggles and our hopes.

The challenges therefore, are varied: organizing one's personal time efficiently; facing up to oneself with sincerity and

honesty in the extended periods of time provided for self-reflection, sometimes disturbing, sometimes just interior silence; taking the risk of letting others know something of one's hidden side as a way of getting to know the confreres more deeply, and, not just some, but all of them; to pay attention to what the Lord is asking of us and allowing ourselves to be touched by the experiences we have with others, here in our community as well as with people outside the community, and in the events we experience away from the community; to discern what is the will of God in our regard; to begin transforming the usual ways in which we relate to family and friends; to face up to the challenge of building a more fraternal community-life, one that is more given to dialogue and collaboration, more inclusive in its outreach. Finally, amidst all such challenges, one tries to pick up the challenge of learning how to live in a country not one's own, a country with its history, culture, staple foods, way of looking at life; and while making such adaptations to try to learn, understand and value the

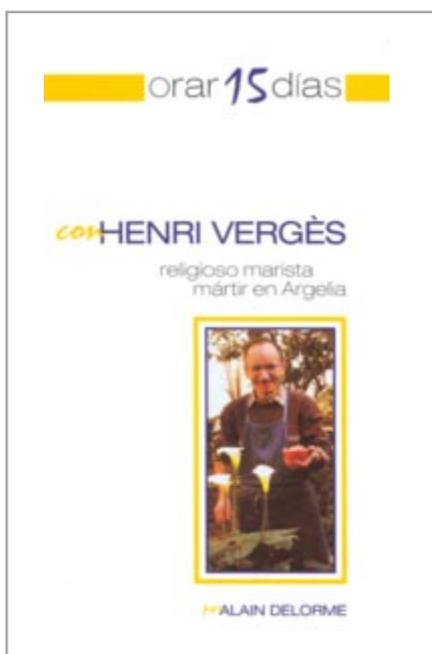
differences found amongst the participating Brothers as regards character, age, life story, mentality and vision.

Often the experience here seems to be like a novitiate . . . and certainly, similarities exist. Consequently we need your support and your prayers. We are conscious that many Brothers and many other people too are praying for us, and we are deeply grateful for such support. We know that we are but the bearers of the generosity and magnanimity of all of you who have made possible, and are continuing to make possible our being in a position to respond, here in this place, to the call that God is making to us, to all of us - that we be truly his witnesses to the ends of the earth. We know that we "hold this treasure in earthen vessels," but all the same that "his power is greater than our weakness." We hold all of you in our hearts. Be assured that we remember you, and we often pray for you. And, in the midst of all our activities, each of us "to give thanks for the life that he has given me in abundance."



"15 days of prayer with Henri Vergès"

Booklet Now Available in the Four Official Languages of the Institute



In the year 2008, Brother Alain Delorme sent to the printer a booklet he had written entitled, "15 days of prayer with Henri Vergès; Marist religious martyred in Algeria." The printing was handled in the French language by Nouvelle Cité publishing house. Just recently the same booklet has appeared in the three other official languages of the Institute. The English version has been prepared by Brothers Guy Morel and Desmond Crowe, the Spanish by Brother Tony Aragón, and the Portuguese by Brother Claudio Girardi. The organization of translations and printing was handled by Brother Giovanni Bigotto.

The booklet is at one and the same time a guide to prayer based upon the life of Brother Henri and a tribute to the years he spent in Algeria. Brother Alain Delo-

rme has brought an important work to a successful conclusion.

"In memory of all those who, upon Algerian soil, loyally preserve the remembrance of Brother Henri, in the hope that the humble grain of love will germinate and bear fruit in due time; in memory of the Algerian young people who knew Brother Henri. In preserving the memory of Brother Henri, may these young people perceive a Presence, loving them and - through their best human qualities - offering them an invitation; in memory of the 204 Marist Brothers who, in shedding their blood, have born witness to their love of young people."

Brother Giovanni Maria Bigotto (GBigotto@fms.it) has copies of the booklet on hand for any communities which would like to receive copies.



“Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale - onlus”

Special Olympics World Games – Winter

On February 3rd a press conference took place in Milan to announce the Special Olympics World Games – Winter 2009, scheduled to take place from the 7th to the 13th of February in Boise, Idaho (USA) and reserved to developmentally disabled athletes.

The sport activities, grouping those with similar abilities together, allow these young people to improve their quality of life, placing them in conditions of achieving the maximum level of independence possible. It is estimated that in the world there are two and a half million athletes with some disability who participate in these Special Olympic Games.

The “Marist International Solidarity Foundation – ONLUS” has participated in the initiative as a sponsor, adopting one of the Italian athletes who will take the risk of participating in the discipline of Nordic skiing, by assuming the transportation costs. “Istituto San Leone Magno” in Rome, run by the Marist Brothers, and its Association of Ex-Alumni are also listed among the sponsors.

Present at the press conference were footballers Kaká and Roberta Armani, sponsors of the event, who wanted to personally wish the athletes “good luck.”

Kaká stated:

“The Special Olympic Games are a great lesson for me, a great motivation. In as much as I can, I spend a day with the athletes and do things with them, because it is wonderful.”

Roberta Armani, who for many years has supported this organization, declared that

“the determination of the athletes of the Special Olympic Games lights my way throughout life.”



The Horizons Programme in Malawi

The Horizons Programme in Malawi set for the 12th January to 14th March saw nine participants converge at Nyungwe on the opening day. The participants are: Br Augustin Kayishema; Kenya: Br Erick Silali; Angola: Br Thomas Sawayenga; Zimbabwe; Br Emmanuel Mwanalirenji-Gundoloni; Malawi: Brs John Bwanali, John Katumbi, Frank Mwambucha, Arthur Ganiza and Boniface Chirambo. Six Brothers could not come i.e. from Zambia and Mozambique due to some unavoidable circumstances. The Manziana team: Br. Burns Barry from New Zealand and Br. Antoine Kazindu from Rwanda

lead the programme.

Nyungwe is in the southern part of Malawi some thirty kilometres to the East of Blantyre City the main commercial city of Malawi. The St John of God Centre, where the programme is being held, is run by the Carmelite Friars as a retreat centre.

The programme opened in the presence of the Provincial of Southern Africa Province, Br Lawrence Ndawala, who welcomed all the Brothers in the country and at Nyungwe in particular. Br F.



Dostie assists in the daily running of the programme.

The first week was basically an orientation period during which much stress was put on community building.

We started the second week with a workshop on Identity and its relevance to vocational growth and commitment. The main speaker was Sr. Jane Frances Nnantamu from Uganda.



Another World Is Possible

The Marist World Social Forum - Brazil

The Marist World Social Forum (FSM) is an open space meeting, which encourages discussion in a decentralized form of debate, reflection, formulation of proposals, sharing of experiences, articulation of idea among organizations and movements committed to concrete actions, from the local to the international level, for the construction of a world of greater solidarity, democracy and justice. (www.fsm2009amazonia.org.br)

The FSM was started as a counterpoint to the World Economic Forum (FEM) which takes place every year on the same dates in Davos (Switzerland), bringing together the most powerful and richest nations of the world. The pretext of the FSM, on the other hand, is to unite and speak for all the civil societies of the world, with the hope that "another world is possible".

This year, 2009, the FSM will take place in Belem de Para (Brazil), in middle of the Amazon region, intending to call the attention of the whole world to the strategic role of this region for all of humanity. In effect, it treats of one of the last areas on earth which is still relatively preserved, in a geographic space of immeasurable value because of its biodiversity.

Even though the Marists have been present in the FSM since its first edition in 2001 in Porto Alegre (RS, Brazil), this is the first time that they are present in an organized manner, representing almost all the provinces of America, and a good part of Europe. The General Administration is represented by Brother Emili Turu, as coordinator for Missions, as well as by Brother Dominic Pujia and Sara Pan-



ciroli, director and secretary of FMSI, respectively.

The Forum started on the afternoon of January 27th, with a very well attended parade through the center of the city of Belem and, from the start, the evidence of the commitment of the Marist Institute to the goals of the FSM was evident. Marist College Nazare, which welcomed about 800 participant to the WSF, stood out as the only Institution that, throughout the entire route of the parade, embraced in a noteworthy manner the theme of the parade: while the river of people was passing in front of the college building, the siren of the College was sounding, a musical group was singing and animating the crowd, and a large banner displayed the Marist adherence to the "dream" that "another world is possible". The welcome stood out even more because the financial

institutions and chains like McDonalds had security guards or police outside in order to protect them. Protect from what?

On their part, the Marists of Brazil, in coordination with UMBRASIL, the body which holds together the collaborative efforts of all Marists in this country, is having its presence visible enough to the FSM. It now has a permanent booth which offers information about Marist Education for Solidarity in Brazil; it also has diverse Marist groups offering seminars, debates and experiences to all those who wish to participate.

On January 31 a meeting of representatives from Marist Solidarity organizations, (The Marist Foundation for International Solidarity) is scheduled and ways of collaboration and joint actions will be discussed.



Remodeling work at the Hermitage

