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29/04/2009: A message of ten years after Marcelin Champagnat's canonization for African Brothers and lay Marists (Br. Alphonse Tiamaro - Madagascar)

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29/04/2009: Provincial Secretaries of Europe at Guardamar

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24/04/2009: Camboya - Pailin, the brothers move

23/04/2009: New book received: *Uso Evangélico dos Bens* (Pedro Ost, fms)

Together in Mission, daring in hope

Marist mission assembly in the Sydney Province



Together in Mission, daring in hope" – not just words, but the felt experience of the 100 Marists (brothers and lay) who gathered together on Sunday evening for an historic gathering in the life and history of the Sydney Province.

Never before have Brothers and Lay Marists gathered in roughly equal numbers to deliberate and make recommendations together regarding the future of Marist Life and Mission for the Sydney Province.

In the Provincial's opening address the delegates were challenged to respond to what he termed probably an urgent task of finding new ways of being and doing together, Brothers and Lay, so that there will be Marists in all our ministries into the future.

The role of the Provincial and Council

in implementing the recommendations was recognised and comes through in the Statement and Recommendations confirmed by the Assembly.

The energy and hope in the group was tangible and frequently expressed and those assembled asked that a message be sent to the Brothers who were not present.

- There are many lay people who are passionate about formally belonging to the Marist enterprise. Although not professed religious there are people who want to be able to say that the Marist way of living the gospel and of ministering is their life too.

- We want to reassure each Brother that in addition to those who are seeking a formal way of belonging, there are many others who are just as passionate ➡

MARIST NEWS

N.º 48 – Year I – April 30th, 2009

Director:

Br. AMEstaún

Production:

Br. Onorino Rota

Mr. 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

about living and ministering in the way of Mary and want to walk with you in whatever you are doing.

- Those assembled wanted to strongly acknowledge all that has happened to date. The work you have done and the way you have done it is what has attracted so many people to this way of living the gospel. The work continues to thrive in new and exciting ways.
- The local forums that met and helped to shape the agenda for this

Assembly are an important way for implementing and nourishing the co-responsibility for Marist life and mission that is now being put into effect. We look forward to these groups continuing and hopefully flourishing. Your presence at these gatherings is greatly valued. Just being there gives us so much.

- Our thanks to those communities and families in Sydney that hosted and cared for the delegates and a special thanks to the boys of St Gregory's College for their presence

and singing at the opening liturgy.

We leave here buoyed by the experience of being together and meeting together on such a significant area. The statement and recommendations that accompany this message are the guide for us as we develop this co-responsibility for Marist life and mission so as to meet the current and emerging needs of our young people.

Our thanks to you all,
Mission Assembly Participants.



Meeting of Marists in formation

Preparation for the General Chapter

Mexico

The young generations of Mexican Marists have lived an event very important for the provinces of Mexico and for the whole Institute. The event in question was a meeting of Marists of Mexico in formation, to reflect on their vocation and on the General Chapter. The meeting was held at the Marist camp called "Los Azu-

fres", located in the State of Michoacán, on 17, 18 and 19 April 2009 with the objective of living together, getting to know one another better, and to share with one another their vocational journey at the current stage of formation. It was a very enjoyable gathering in which 45 young men in formation took part: three aspirants from Queré-

taro, three from Sierra Tarahumara, 11 postulants, 17 novices, 11 scholastics and 11 formators who were accompanying them.

The brother chapter delegates of the two provinces of Mexico invited the young men to share their opinions and experiences of the topics which the XXI General Chapter has proposed for reflection to all the Institute. The time dedicated to reflection and to sharing experiences was an enriching one, with periods of interior prayer for discovering the way of God for these young lives.

In his heart, each participant, formator as much as one in formation, carried home a great joy for having accepted this invitation and the hope of being able to see one another again next year at the II Enformar (Meeting of Marists in Formation).



Provincial Secretaries of Europe at Guardamar

Spain



On the 15th and 16th of April 2009 there was a gathering in Guardamar of the Provincial Secretaries of the Marist provinces of Europe: Br. Segundo Barragán (Ibérica), Srta. Lorena Boronat (Archives Mediterraenea), Br. José Mateo Torres (Compostela), Br. José María Rius (Mediterranea), Madame Nellie Beelen (Europe Central-West), Br. André Thizy (Hermitage) with Brother Jean Ronzon, Secretary General. Work centred on the Manual of the Provincial Secretary, together with records and documents describing and facilitating the work of management, the fruits of daily experience of this service in all the Provinces and made with the help of an ample contribution of documents. In the first session work was done on the document Function and Mission of the Provincial Secretary (file no.0.02) where it was expressed that the provincial secretaries work with documents, but behind each one of them there is a person, a religious, and our writings are

the bearers or generators of sentiments and emotions which we must administer with honesty and love.

A study was also made of a text for the Statute of 'Provincial Secretary' to be proposed to the General Chapter. In our proper law there is no mention of this person who each day, especially with restructuring, is considered more necessary. Certainly in our Constitutions and Statutes this service is referred to indirectly in treating of the Acts of the Provincial Council, the Provincial Chapter (drawing up of lists, acts, province norms), provincial archives, communicating to the General Administration or the Superior General of personal or provincial petitions, statistics, annual returns, etc... The meeting at Guardamar advocated the professionalizing of this function, by giving the office of Provincial Secretary content, functions, and the means for better development. A first draft of this article of the statute was distributed to all the provincial secretaries of the Institute two years ago and received various comments which were taken into account in the present more developed text, drawn up with the help of Br. Juan Miguel Anaya, Procurator General of the Institute with the Holy See. The new article will be distributed to all the Provincial Secretaries to request their opinion. It will be delivered later

to the Preparatory Commission of the General Chapter.

Another of the subjects treated was a report on the Official Recognition of the Marist Institute with respect to civil society in different countries. The study initially concentrated on Spain, emphasizing the documentation required by the Provincial Secretary for its application, and afterwards obtained information about France, Great Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy, Lebanon and Syria.

There was also a presentation on the second phase of the ARCHIVUM programme for the organization of the documental material of the Institute. At this time, various European Marist provinces, as well as the General Administration, have joined this programme. Srta. Lorena Boronat, archivist of the Mediterranean province, gave a practical lesson on how to arrange access to the system and ways of navigating for the consultation of documents or for entering or withdrawing computer filing systems.

Br. Jean Ronzon brought the sessions to a close by thanking those present for their collaboration in improving the services of the Provincial Secretary, and underlining the good work achieved.



Remodeling work at the Hermitage



Mission *ad gentes*

Pailin, Camboja, the brothers move

The Brothers community in Battambang, Cambodia, town has now taken up residence in the town of Pailin about 20 km from the Thai border and 80 km from Battambang. We moved in various stages with Bernhard especially keeping an eye on things and doing a large amount of physical work in preparing the house which will be used as a base for apostolic action. The first day that all three of us were in residence was the 19th of March – the Feast of St Joseph.

Pailin is part of the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang. Pailin "City" is a little town along the Thai border. Until recently, Pailin was under the sole control of the Khmer Rouge leaders and is one of the most heavily mined areas in the region around Battambang. Unofficial estimates put the number of handicapped at about 3,000, scattered in the villages and farms. The road to Pailin is currently in a very bad state. It takes 3 hours to travel the 80 kilometres from Battambang. The government is undertaking major reconstruction of the road (with occasional stories of landmines exploding beneath trucks and roadbuilding equipment) and with the completion of the road upgrade there are high hopes that services for the poor can be delivered more easily to Pailin.



Being a town bordering Thailand, Pailin sees itself developing into a future gateway from Thailand to Cambodia. But having been politically and economically isolated for many years, Pailin lacks many of the basic services such as efficiently functioning hospitals, training centres, and the like. The Catholic Parish of Pailin started in about 2003 with the presence of a few catholic families from Battambang who went there for work or to establish a small business. At present, there are about 40 members in the community, including those who are studying catechism. The activities are held in a small rented two-storey house, the ground floor measuring about 6 meters by 8 meters.

Owing to the difficulty of reaching Pailin due to bad roads, Pailin has not really developed its parish life and services. Starting January 1, 2009, the responsibility was given over to Fr. Totet Banaynal, SJ (also the general vicar of the prefecture). Fr. Totet sees that the many services that are available in Battambang can be extended to sincerely help the poor in Pailin, without any religious discrimination. Through this show of compassion for the poor, he believes we will be able to teach good values to people and, hopefully, this exposure will encourage them to study and know our Catholic Faith.



International experience on processes of joint formation

On April 26th, in Saint Paul-Trois-Château, has begun the "International experience on processes of joint formation and charismatic vitality - recreating Marist life together" gets underway. It will end on May 18th. It is the experience for the English-French

world, corresponding to that which took place in Quito last year, for the Spanish-Portuguese world. There are 9 Brothers and 7 Lay Marists who are to participate in the experiment, as follows: L'Hermitage (2 brothers), West Centre Europe (1 brother and 1 lay woman), Canada (1 brother, 1 layman

and 1 lay woman), United States (1 brother and 1 layman), Sidney (1 brother, 1 layman and 1 lay woman), Melanesia (1 brother), South Asia (1 brother and 1 lay woman). The General Administration is represented by Brother Teófilo Minga, Secretary of Religious Life Commission.

