

## The Community

The community has been at all times the soul of the Hermitage. In the time of Champagnat, this community of young brothers, with the founder at their head, constructed the house, to which they gave the name, the Hermitage of Our Lady. Around the table, united in labour, congregating around the altar dominated by a statue of Mary, they were building stone by stone this construction, which we Marists have inherited as part of our patrimony. At the same time as he was building a material house, Champagnat was founding a spiritual family which would know no frontiers. Today, Marist brothers and lay people from all over the world feel themselves welcomed and protected in this house, and linked to the spiritual family which has developed there.

This group of people has already had several meetings to begin defining the community project. Currently, a good number of them are struggling with the languages so as to be able to master this communication resource and become more efficient in the service of hospitality and animation.

By way of contrast, we also provide the description which Brother François made of the community of the Hermitage, when he was Director General of the Institute. By comparing situations and facts of our institutional history, we will be able to appreciate the differences with other organizational structures the Marist community has passed through at other times in its existence, but always inspired by the same spirit of brotherhood.

### MARIST NEWS

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## L'Hermitage: New community

### Norma and Ernesto Spagnoli - Argentina



Norma Inés Jaramillo Ortiz and Ernesto Jorge Spagnoli Olivé were married on 18 April 1969. They have 5 children, two women (38 and 37 years old) and three men, all ex students of the Marists (35, 33 and 28 years old), and 4 grandsons (15, 11, 7 and 5) and a granddaughter born in July. They belong to the Federación Marista de Padres (FEMAP) of Argentina and, beginning in 1999, of the fraternity "A heart without frontiers" of the College Manuel Belgrano of Buenos Aires. Since 2005 they have been working as part of the group of animators of the Marist Fra-

ternities of the Cruz del Sur Province.

Norma was born in Paraná (Entre Ríos, Republic of Argentina) on 19 February 1948. She followed study courses at the Institute of the Sacred Heart in Castelar (Province of Buenos Aires), leaving with the title of master. She did her tertiary studies at the "Marcelino Champagnat" University in the City of Buenos Aires. After her marriage, she dedicated herself to her family. From the age of 18 she has been a volunteer for Caritas Argentina, working especially for the relief of street people.

Ernesto was born in Buenos Aires (Republic of Argentina) on 4 December 1946. His studied at: the Ballester Institute, the Military High School "General San Martín" and the National Military College. He is a retired soldier (Colonel). In addition, he has a Licentiate in Political Science, gained at the National University of Mar del Plata in 1975. He holds a position as Professor at the Argentinian University "John F. Kennedy" (since 1992) and as Coordinator of the Department of Political Science (since 2007). He also holds positions in the University of Salvador as Scientific Researcher (from 1992) and as Professor (from 2000).

Notre Dame de  
**L'Hermitage**  
Maison d'accueil de Marcellin Champagnat

## Br. Diogène Musine - Rwanda



**B**rother Diogène Musine was born in a large Christian family (12 brothers and sisters, of whom 3 are already deceased) in the south of Rwanda, about twenty kilometres from the community of Save. It was on 28 March 1963.

After primary studies in his home village, he entered secondary school in September 1975. It was in the course of this year that he encountered the Marist Brothers for the first time. Three years after his arrival in the Brothers' school, he felt rising in him the desire to follow their ideals. This idea dictated the choice of later studies. He chose to remain in the Brothers' school.

In 1980, he completed studies in the normal school in Save. In September of the same year, he began his teaching career, still in his home village. The following school year, he spent near the Marist community of Musanze (in the north of Rwanda). He taught at the primary school and entered the Brothers' community after receiving several courses preparing him for his Marist formation.

From September 1983 to July 1984, he made his novitiate at Save. He made first profession on 15 July 1984.

The novitiate was followed by 2 years of formation at the Scholasticate of Nyangezi (DRC) where he finished Ecole Normale in 1986. He went on to the Institut Catéchétique Africain at Butare (ICA) from 1986 to 1988. At the conclusion of these two years, he obtained two diplomas in catechetics and pastoral ministry. He remained at Save but this time residing in the community of Save while teaching the Religion course in the Technical School of Save. This school was directed by the Van Dale Brothers, a congregation of Belgian origin which had signed an agreement of collaboration with the Marist Brothers. The latter provided them with Brothers capable of running their course of Religion. He taught at the Technical School while also being responsible for the organization of

liturgy in our school at Save.

In 1991, he was sent once more to Musanze. He stayed in the community while attending the faculty of Sciences of Education which was not far from there, at Nyakinama. After two years there, he obtained the diploma of first stage in Educational Sciences. He was then appointed to the postulancy in Save as associate director of this house of formation.

In October 1994, he was sent to the International College in Rome with a view to complete his university studies at the Faculty of Educational Sciences of the Pontifical Salesian University (UPS). He completed his studies in February 1998. In October of the same year, he was sent to the community of Korhogo (Ivory Coast). He spent two years there, responsible for the continuing formation of the teachers.

In August 2000, he joined the community of Byimana (Rwanda). He spent a year there as teacher, in charge of organizing liturgy and vocations. A year later, he was appointed to Save as prefect of studies, and a year after as superior of the community. It was there that he received the invitation to become part of the future community of Notre Dame de l'Hermitage.

## Br. Jean Pierre - France



**B**orn on 1 September 1944 at Roncq in the North of France. Entered the juniorate of Cassel in September 1955. Major juniorate at Beaucamps from 1959 to 1962. Postulancy and novitiate at Notre Dame de Lacabane. First profession 15 August 1964. Theological and catechetical formation in the faculty of Strasbourg and at the Institut catholique in Paris. From 1968 to 1981 college chaplain in state college at Thionville (Moselle).

From 1981 to 1986 director of ministry and vocations in the province

of Beaucamps Saint Genis. Took part in the diocesan vocations service of the diocese of Strasbourg. Pastoral director in the ministry of catechetics at Mulhouse. Member for three years of the mixed community of Mulhouse La Vallée. Accompanied for six years the movement of fraternities of the Champagnat Movement. Currently at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage waiting and preparing for the new community of NDH. Provincial Councillor. Responsible for continuing formation in the French sector of the Hermitage province.

## María Élica Quiñones Peña - Mexico

**M**aría Élica was born in Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico, on 26 May 1948, the fifth of nine children of Ignacio and Elida. Studied with the Servants of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in her home city. Came to know the Marist Brothers 37 years ago. Her five sons are former Marist students and three of her grandsons are in the Brothers' college of Guadalajara.

Since 1996, has worked in the Provincial House of the Brothers in Guadalajara, in charge of the Catering for events. Fol-

lowed the experience of the major spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius Loyola at Puente Grande, Jalisco in 2005.

In 2006 followed the Marist Patrimony course (CEPAM) with Br. Aureliano Brambila de la Mora. Had the concession for the Cafeteria of the Marist University during the years 2007-08.

At present at Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux (France) studying French as a future member of the mixed community of the Hermitage.



## Br. Michel Morel - France

**B**orn 8 December 1949, in Ille et Vilaine, Brittany. Entered the juniorate of Langon sur Vilaine in 1962, and pursued secondary studies at the juniorate of Varennes sur Allier, before going to the postulancy and novitiate at N.D. de Lacabane (Corrèze). First profession, 15 August 1968. Completed his secondary studies at St Genis Laval and undertook further studies at the University of Rennes leading to a licentiate in Modern Literature. From 1974 to 1976, teacher of French and History-Geography at the Collège St Joseph in Antsirabé (Madagascar) as part of National Service. Teacher of French, History-Geography, and in charge of catechetics at the college of N.D. des Victoires at St Pourçain sur Sioule for 9 years and superior of the community. Followed an inter-congregational course for future masters of novices in Paris, and was part of the first group

of future Marist formators organized at Castelgandolfo and Rome in 1990-1991. Has been a member of the provincial council several times. Master of novices at Oullins (69) France, from 1991 to 1995, before joining the formation team at the novitiate of Jérémie (Haïti), from 1995 to 1998. Member of the community of N.D. de l'Hermitage, from 1998 to 2008, and superior for the last 5 years, he was responsible for pastoral ministry in the Province. Since 2003, he has been director of the review *Présence Mariste* and responsible for the formation of the members of the educational teams in the schools of the French sector. Since September 2008, he has been in the community at Lagny sur Marne, where he is superior. This community has as mission to provide a multiform presence in the school St Laurent La Paix Notre Dame, and in the parish.



## Br. Neville Solomon - Australia

**I** was born in central Queensland in Australia in 1951, taught as a lay teacher at Marist College Ashgrove then joined the Brothers in 1978. Since that time I have been a teacher of History, English, Religious Studies and Liturgy. I have also been the Director Of Mission for the Province of Sydney for two years. For the past 15 years my

principal ministry has been as a Head of School in Campbelltown NSW, Lismore NSW and finally at Marist College Ashgrove Q. I have always involved myself with Marist spirituality, liturgy, history and charism. I trust that these experiences will assist the life of the Hermitage community in the future.



**Br. Miro Leopoldo Reckziegel - Brazil**



**B**irth : 30/11/1946, at Santa Rosa/RS, Brasil - Marist Province « Rio Grande do Sul » - Assessor-Psychologist in the Centre for Ministry and Solidarity (PUCRS).

Academic formation: Literature : Licentiate – UPF, Religious Sciences – Licentiate – Gregorian Rome, School for Formators – Brasil, Diploma in Psychology- PUCRS, Master in Social and Group Psychology - PUCRS

Additional formation: School of Spirituality– CECREI , Course of Renewal of Religious Life – El Escorial, Course of Renewal for Religious – CETESP– Rio de Janeiro, Mission Languages. French Course - Belgium

Professional activities: Teacher of Portuguese, English, Brazilian Literature, Psychology and Religious Education up to 2004. Formator and psychological accompanier of candidates for Marist life, at all stages of formation, from 1978 up to 2005. Vice-coordinator of Course for Brothers of the Third Age, for Portuguese and Spanish speakers, Rome, 1996-1997. Coordinator of the Project «Quality of Life» for Brothers of the Third Age of the Marist Province « Rio Grande do Sul », 2006 to 2008. Assessor-Psychologist at the Centre of Ministry and Solidarity of the « Pontifícia Universidade Católica » of Rio Grande do Sul, from 2006 to 2009.

**Br. Benito Arbués - Spain**



**I** was born almost 70 years ago in Santa Eulalia de Gállego (Zaragoza). The following are the stages in my formation: Avellanes, Vic, Rome and each community in which I have lived. I began my apostolic work in 1962 at Colegio Champagnat in Badalona with six-year-olds. That was the beginning of the surprises of life (surprises of God!), and they continue. After returning from Rome I had a few months of ongoing formation in Barcelona; it was a time of learning and of adaptation to my new circumstances. Having been

away for 16 years, my homeland appeared different to me; it had changed dramatically, especially the small Christian communities and the young people. Since 2002 I have lived in Lleida, in a small community of three Brothers. At the moment I have the status of "retired" and so can do a variety of simple things at the service of my community, the province and the Church. The diocesan Caritas organization has helped me to see the presence and the human face of Jesus in the poor and in the immigrant.

**Br. Allan J. de Castro - Philippines**



**A**llan J. de Castro was born at Lagao, General Santos City in the southern part of the Philippines on May 2, 1977. After receiving his education from the Marist Brothers' secondary school, he joined the pre-novitiate from 1994 to 1997 at Lagao, General Santos City at the age of 16. From 1997 to 1999, he had his novitiate formation at Tamontaka, Cotabato City and professed his first vows on May 20, 1999, the year of Champagnat's canonization. He completed his three years in-

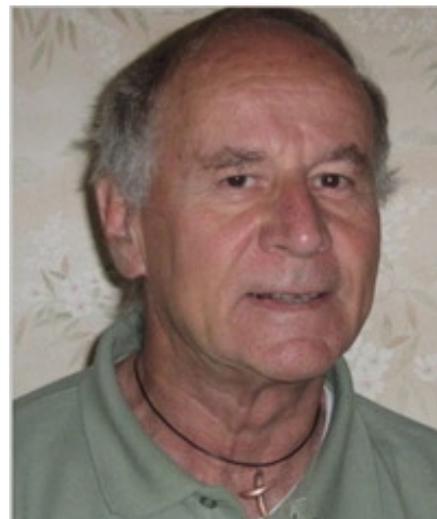
ternational scholasticate program at MAPAC (Marist Asia Pacific Center) in Manila and four years after, he took the perpetual vows. Over the years in the active apostolate, Allan worked as houseparent at Marcellin Homes in General Santos City, as classroom teacher at Notre Dame of Jolo High School-Kasulutan in Jolo, Sulu and as prefect of discipline at Marist School-Marikina in Manila. His humble beginnings will surely bring youthful dynamism at Notre Dame of Hermitage International Community.

### Br. Georges Palandre - France

In 2009 I will cross the peak of 65 years. My home is situated about thirty kilometres from the Hermitage, near Saint Symphorien sur Coise, and so la Neylière.

I did my primary schooling with the Marist Brothers, and in 1955 I began my Marist formation at the juniorate, postulancy, novitiate and scholasticate, all at Saint Genis Laval.

I made first profession in 1961 and after my scholasticate I became acquainted with various communities in the province of Saint Genis Laval. In 1969 I left for Central Africa as a national service (military service) volunteer. On my return I completed my university studies and in 1973 I made perpetual profession and returned to Africa. I came back from there in January 2007.



### Annie Girka - France

I was born in 1945 at Vichy in France but I am of Polish origin. I live at Belleville, a little town near Vichy. I am not married.

After studying Modern Literature at the University of Clermont Ferrand I taught for 11 years in the Nièvre Department at a college directed by nuns of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence. From 1978 I was a teacher at the College of the Marist Brothers, Notre Dame des Victoires, at Saint Pourçain sur Sioule in the Allier, and at the same time I animated catechism groups.

Since September 2006 I have retired from teaching but I continue to accompany the catechism groups in my college and I am still involved in the different commissions of the Marist Province of the Hermitage : the commission of formation, the office of the

Champagnat Movement in France and delegate of the Province of the Hermitage to the European Council of the MCHFM. I have had the great joy of taking part in the International Assembly of Mendes and Brother Provincial invited me to be part of the Commission for producing the document on the lay Marist vocation coordinated by Brother Pau Fornells in Rome.

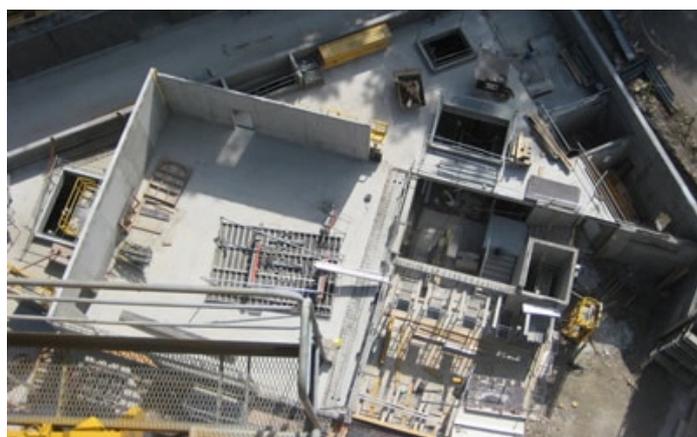
In the month of April 2007, after long reflection, I accepted an invitation to become part of the mixed international community at the Hermitage.

To make concrete the call of Mendes to be with the least favoured, I lived a voluntary experience of two and a half months in Ecuador among children in great difficulty, an experience I am going to repeat in summer 2009.

This long Marist road has been filled



with extraordinary experiences, encounters, sharings which have been real gifts to me, allowing me to enter more deeply into my mission and the spirit of Marcellin Champagnat to put down deeper roots in me.



# The community of the Hermitage

## A description from Brother François



As for Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, which has such moving memories for us, it is still the principal and largest of our Novitiates. Candidates come there each year by the hundreds, and the communities dependent on this Province have multiplied so much, that we are already having to divide it and appoint another Assistant, since the work is getting too much for Br. Louis-Marie. We will soon be also obliged to do the same for Br. Jean-Baptiste in his Midi Province. Br. Pascal has the North Province, which is the largest but has the least number of Brothers. This is why we have joined to it the West Province, which has its Novitiate at Hautefort, in the diocese of Périgueux. The latter has only been going two years, and Br. François-Michel, its director, is distinguished by his piety, humility, economy, and regularity. But he does not yet have many novices.

« Now here is some more particular news which may interest you. Of the three Brothers who have come back

from Oceania, two are here: Br. Emery, who is helping Br. Hippolyte and does the errands from time to time, and Br. Aristide, also a tailor and presently porter. They both give much edification.

Br. Pierre-Marie is director at Bois-Sainte-Marie, diocese of Autun. This establishment, apart from the communal school, has a sort of orphanage for poor children.

« The personnel of the Hermitage is as follows : director, Br. Philogone ; secretary, Br. Marie-Jubin ; procurator, Br. Abrosime ; librarian, Br. Benoît ; secretary, F. Mélit ; infirmarian, Br. Emmanuel ; shoemakers, Brs. Léonard and Augule ; laundry, Brs. Jean-Claude and Adalbert ; in charge of clothing and regulating the timetable, Br. Marcellin ; cook, Br. Dace ; gardener, Br. Casimir ; vehicles, Br. Pierre-Joseph ; teachers in the Novitiate, Brs. Agricole and Marie-Clarent ; teachers in the special school, Brs. Sylvestre and Clair. Brs. Pierre, Celse and Honoré are occupied with various works. Br. Jacques takes care of all the livestock as always.

« Br. Arsène is especially occupied with prayer; he is a saint. Br. Dacien is making a wonderful clock with about twenty dials indicating years, months, days, hours, etc. ; the lunar days, epacts, seasons, sunrise and sunsets, etc., etc. It rings the hours, quarters, and sounds the carillon, setting a procession in motion, soldiers marching, etc.

« We still have Fr. Matricon as first chaplain. The second is Fr. de La Lande, who does almost all the ceremonies and all the work of the house.

They are both very devoted to the Brothers and pray a lot for them, so they are well loved. Fr. Matricon is almost always in the same state of health. Fr. de La Lande, while living entirely on vegetables and taking only one meal a day, sings wonderfully and does the work of four. Every day he does the Stations of the Cross, spends a great part of the night in vigil, and wants no fire in his room. What fine examples of mortification, poverty and humility he gives us !

« On several occasions, I have seen the Fathers who have come back from Oceania. You can imagine how eager and interested I was to ask for and receive news of the Brothers out there!... Fr. Rozet told us some very interesting stories at the last retreat of the Brothers of the North. Eyes and ears were open wide in listening to him. We have also been honoured with Bishop Bataillon's visit to the Hermitage. He had three young Oceanians with him, who chanted in their language the canticle: United with the choirs of angels; the whole community chanted the refrain in French. It was beautiful to see how the Brothers gathered around these Oceanians during the recreation, and with that, they were not at all uncomfortable. One of them served in the parlour during dinner, and he managed perfectly.

« I have gone into all these details, my dear Brother, because I know that everything which concerns our Society is of great interest to you, and I wish to make you a little compensation for the type of isolation you experience in our regard. »

PONTY, Vie du Frère François, Vitte, Lyon 1899, p. 180-181

