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Updates

04/06/2009: Gabriel Rosset

04/06/2009: Deceased brothers: Camillus Aylward (New Zealand); Julio Ibáñez (Santa María de los Andes); Elias Gilberto (Cyrilo Zacchi) - Brasil Centro-Norte

03/06/2009: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 51

03/06/2009: Marist blog: «God has been with us» (Br. Pau Fornells - Véronique, Robert et Réal)

03/06/2009: Pentecost at St. Gabriel Parish, Mozambique

03/06/2009: El Salvador - Marist communities met in Talnique

02/06/2009: Worldwide Call for a New Mobilization in Favor of Children

01/06/2009: The capitulants proceed with their work programmes

31/05/2009: Brazil - Fraternity of Our Lady of the Assumption completes 20 years

29/05/2009: The new Hermitage community

29/05/2009: Marist Province of Central-South Brasil

28/05/2009: Deceased Brother: Francisco Antón López (Mediterránea)

28/05/2009: Guatemala - Regional Meeting preparing for the XXI General Chapter

Regional Meeting preparing for the XXI General Chapter

Six Provinces from the Northern Arc to Guatemala



The whole Institute has entered on the last stage, at the provincial and regional levels, of preparations for the coming General Chapter. This is why the delegates and coordinators of the six Provinces of the Northern Arc (Norandina, Central America, Western Mexico, Central Mexico, the United States and Canada) came together in Guatemala from 14 to 17 May to take time for reflection and more immediate preparation for this important time in the life of our Institute.

The theme proposed for the XXI Chapter: « New hearts for a new world » was truly made concrete during these proceedings. A new world? This was truly a new experience, for the 22 participants came from no fewer than ten countries and expressed themselves in three languages: Spanish, English, and French. Moreover, Brothers (18) and lay people

(4, one a woman delegate from Mexico) found them-selves gathered for a single project. However, the very Marist spirit which united all the participants was the fruit of new hearts, of hearts which wanted to renew themselves.

So it was in a spirit of unity and brotherhood that the work and reflection of these days unfolded. As in all meetings facing time limits, the programme proposed was a full one and the topics numerous. After reading the letters prepared in each Province after consultations with brothers and laity, the delegates had to identify some common challenges for the region and propose tracks towards solutions. Then, starting from these challenges, they had to synthesize it all into a significant call, which the Northern Arc region could address to the members of the General Chapter. Such an exer-



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Director:

Br. AMEstaún

Production:

Br.. Onorino Rota
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

cise turned out to be a hazardous undertaking, especially in applying the consensus method with people coming from different countries with different realities.... But thanks to Brothers Carlos Velez and Joao Carlos Prado, members of the Chapter Preparatory Commission, the assembly succeeded in achieving unity – if not always unanimity – with regard to the challenges and the call.

These days of sharing and reflection unfolded in a climate of attentiveness to persons and listening to one another. At no time was the language barrier an obstacle to dialogue and

sharing; the experiences of previous international meetings have facilitated contacts, and one feels with many Brothers both the will and the effort to acquire a better knowledge of another language, which will allow not only a richer contribution during the work sessions, but also more informal and personal contacts.

If this meeting of the Northern Arc went so well, it is necessary to emphasize the quality of the hospitality of the Brothers of Guatemala and the impeccable organization which greatly favoured the success of the meeting ; everything was anticipated,

from simultaneous translation and a cultural animation down to attention to the personal needs of the participants. The Province of Central America, accordingly, merits the thanks of each delegate.

This meeting was a sort of preparatory exercise for the important event of the General Chapter. May this important moment for our religious family unfold in the climate of hospitality, openness and brotherhood which we experienced in these days full of hope. That is what we ask of Mary and Marcellin in our daily prayer.



Meeting of the Region of Brasil to prepare the XXI General Chapter

New hearts for a new world

From 6 to 9 May, at the Marcellin Champagnat Marist Centre of Curitiba – PR, there took place the Brasil Region Meeting in preparation for the XXI General Chapter, which will commence on 8 September and whose slogan is: «New hearts for a new world».

The regional meeting is a space for synthesis and discernment of the progress made by the Administrative Units, a contribution to the brother capitulants, in the face of the challenges laid down by the XXI General Chapter. Its objectives are: to move forward in taking note of and identifying the significant problems and priorities, at the levels of the Region and the Institute ; to discern with regard to the fundamental call for the Marist Institute; to help one another create a climate promoting the attitudes of conversion of heart, and to become familiar with the proposals about dynamics of work for the XXI General Chapter.



The Meeting was animated by Brs. João do Prado and Carlos Vélez, the two members of the Chapter’s Preparatory Commission. Br. Mariano Varona, of the Province «Santa María de los Andes», played a special role as «assessor».

About 30 representatives of the Marist Provinces of Brasil and of the district of Amazonia took part in the Regional Meeting ; among them : brother capitulants, facilitators, invited brothers, lay people and young people.



Worldwide Call for a New Mobilization in Favor of Children

The International Catholic Office for Children (BICE)

The BICE (International Catholic Bureau for Children) is a network of organizations committed to the defense of the dignity of the children and their best interests. Founded in 1948, it promotes and advocates for the needs of children in more than thirty countries on four continents, by implementing projects for the protection of children who are victims of sexual exploitation, exploitation of labor, are street children, are in prison, or affected by war, as well as children who are disabled.

BICE enjoys consultative status before UNICEF, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and participative status before the European Council.

The Marist Brothers participate in the network of the BICE in order to press for the rights of children by means of

FMSI Onlus, which has been a member of that Office since 2008.

In 1979, the BICE was one of the promoters of the International Year of the Child. During the 1980's it played a significant role in the Convention of the Process of Writing of the Rights of Children. The BICE has always followed up the implementation of these said rights in the Committee of the United Nations on the Rights of Children, in Geneva, by means of a permanent representative status.

On June 4, 2009, in Geneva, the BICE will begin a Worldwide Call for a New Mobilization in Favor of Children, with the purpose of commemorating the XX anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The signing of this Call is open to



all ONG'S, to educational institutions, youth organizations, social institutions, to organizations of moral and religious leaders, to all committed personalities and the public in general.

In order to learn more about this Call and to download related documents, please visit the BICE web site <http://www.bice.org> 

Establishment of the Mediterranean Federation of Former Marist Students

Spain

On May 2, 2009 representatives gathered in Malaga at a meeting convoked and coordinated by Don Antonio Clavero Barranquero, President of the Spanish Federation of Former Marist Students. Groups represented at the meeting were the Spanish Federation of Former Marist Students from the associations ADEMAR-Algemesí, ADEMAR-Córdoba, ADEMAR-Jaén, ADEMAR-La Mina, ADEMAR-Malaga and ADE-

MAR-Murcia, as well as ADEMAR-Denia, ADEMAR-Huelva and former students Don Julio Lopez Gadea and Don Joaquin Samper Juan. The purpose of the gathering was to establish the Mediterranean Federation of Former Marist Students (ADEMAR-Mediterránea) and to set up an interim committee to guide its first initiatives, create a web page and prepare the convening of an assembly to approve the by-laws and elect a board of directors.

In addition, a document has been prepared to present to the capitulants on the purpose and mission of the associations of former students within the Marist Family. It is a reflection on and analysis of our past, present and future and a proposal for integrating the Marist laity as distinct from but complementary to the other presences or ways of belonging to the Marist Family. 

Pre-Chapter Commissions

The capitulants proceed with their work programmes

The brother capitulants have embarked on some programmes of work to push forward the tasks they intend to accomplish during the General Chapter. The reserved area of the web, to which they alone have access, permits them to exchange messages, opinions, and documents. The members of the Preparatory Commission are responsible for making the work proposals and co-ordinating the persons. At this time, three pre-chapter commissions have been set up, each with its respective work programme.

The first will work on models of animation and government, and is composed of Brothers Peter Rodney (co-ordinator), Antonio Giménez (Mediterranea), Josep María Soteras (L'Hermitage), Maurice Taidemann (Europe Center

West), John Klein (USA), Claudino Falchetto (Brasil Central-North), Demetrio Espinosa (Southern Cross), Lawrence Ndawala (Southern Africa), Michael De Waas (Mission ad gentes), Jeff Crowe (Sydney). The commission anticipates working basically by Internet, without the need of moving from their usual places of residence.

The second commission which has begun its work is going to focus on the finances of the Institute and of the Administrative Units. It is composed of Brothers Maurice Berquet (co-ordinator), Julián Casey (Melbourne), Manny De Leon (East Asia), Nicholas Banda (Southern Africa) and Victor Preciado (Econome General). This commission anticipates meeting in Rome from 9 to 12 June 2009 to share in common the



results of their work.

And finally, a third group of brother capitulants has been set up for the revision of the Constitutions and Statutes. Those forming part of this commission are Brothers Antonio Ramalho (co-ordinator), Juan Miguel Anaya (Mediterranea), Antoine Kazindu (Center East Africa), Eduardo Navarro (Western Mexico) and Robert Teoh (East Asia). The agenda of this commission envisages a meeting in Rome from 24 to 29 August.



The library of the Archives of the Institute

General HOuse

The Library of the Archives of the Institute, located in areas of the General House specially adapted for the purpose, as well as being a source of historic documentation, form a specialized library for subjects related to the Marist Brothers. The catalogue of items that comprise this working tool has been put into digital format, comprising some 10,000 entries. The most significant sections of the library gather together sections dedicated to the religious, political and social background against which we see the origins of the Marist Brothers, the Founder, the first Brothers, our spirituality, teaching methods and hagiografía, among others. There are found the classic Marist docu-

ments and the various publications from the Superiors General, the General Administration and various types of Marist newsletters.

The digital catalogue of all this material is available now on our site. The project began with the desire of consulting the catalogue as well as a smaller number of works that already existed in digital form. The goal of those who have undertaken this project is that little by little the availability of books and documents in digital format will increase:

www.champagnat.org/biblos/

We believe this service can be very useful for researchers who have a general interest in the Marist

Brothers or in some specific aspect of our history, of our worldwide presence or of our activities in the field of education. The library is a valuable adjunct to the wide institutional documentation kept in the archives, where are found many references to the more than 37,000 men who have been Marist Brothers over the span of the almost 200 years of the Institute's history.

Access to the Archives library will be by means of a user name and password. The administrator of the Library will input the information, thus allowing access to casual users as well as to researchers (contact Br. Juan Moral: JMoral@fms.it).

