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of Six Little Brothers of Mexico

General Council's Summer Session

Meeting with General Administration Staff



As is customary at the end of its plenary sessions, the General Council met with the General Administration staff. Such gatherings provide an apt occasion for commenting upon the principal themes which the Council has treated. The meeting took place on the morning of June 26, and was marked by a simple, family like character. Besides providing the Staff with information, the assembly offered the Council a chance to express their thanks for the work that has been accomplished. It provides the opportunity for all the Staff members to be together and to share a meal as well.

Brother Luis Sobrado gave an overview of the meeting, and then provided translation for Brother Sean's words of greeting and thanks for the work accomplished by both Brothers and lay colleagues since the last meeting.

Among the jobs accomplished by the Council was its approval of the document

on the vocation of the lay person. The document was in process since 2006 by a commission working with Brother Pau Fornell's support. Having examined the document initially in January, the General Council has now given its final approval.

Brother Maurice Berquet offered the latest news about General Chapter preparations. He referred to (1) the stages that have now been completed throughout the Institute and (2) the remaining material preparations to be taken care of in the Generalate.

One of the completed General Council projects was pointed out: the preparation of the Mission ad Gentes Statutes. The General Council expressed its thanks to Brother Michael Flanigan for the extensive work he accomplished over several years on behalf of the Mission ad Gentes Sector. In addition, we learned of a new aspect of the pro-gram: laity may now be incorporated into



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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

the Mission ad Gentes on a minimal three-year commitment.

In his turn, Brother Antonio Ramalho presented information about the ongoing formation programs in Escorial and explained some details about other programs in prospect for 2010. There was mention of a third age Rome-based course for Spanish/Portuguese speakers, with place for twenty-five

participants, to be held October 18 to December 20, 2009, at the Generalate.

Brother Emili Turu sketched out the visits which the General Council (and some General Administrative staff) will carry out in the months prior to the General Chapter.

The General Council also handled another topic: World Youth Day to be

held in Madrid in 2011. A commission is to be set up in order to plan a festival for Marist youth, similar to the International Marist Youth Festival which was held in Sydney in tandem with Sydney's own World Youth Day.

The meeting concluded with a few final words from Brother Sean. His remarks were followed by an aperitivo and meal to which all were invited.



The community of Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC)

Philippines - 29 Student Brothers and 8 Staff Brothers



Marist Apostles. It has as its focus the holistic formation of an integrated Marist apostolic personality.

The Center develops Marist apostles with a clear sense of mission and community for evangelization and education, especially among the least favored. These Marist apostles are constantly alert to the needs of youth, to the calls of the Church and to the signs of the times.



After a week of Orientation, our first semester at the Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) commenced on June 8 for our 29 Student Brothers and 8 Staff Brothers. Our chaplain is Father Simon Kewandi (seated third from the left), from Papua New Guinea. We also have 15 Sisters from 3 congregations, who join us as external students. The program runs for 3 years.

Our aim and purpose here at MAPAC is best summed up in our Mission Statement:

In a spirit of solidarity, the Marist Asia Pacific Center aims to serve the local Churches of Asia and the Pacific by providing post-novitiate formation for



50 years of marist presence in Antananarivo

Madagascar

Marist Brothers and lay collaborators celebrated 50 years of Champagnat School in Antananarivo, Madagascar on 4, 5 and 6th June 2009. The occasion was marked by student participation in various sports and cultural activities. On 5th June, the Eucharist celebration, the peak of the event was presided over by His Excellency Odon Arsene Razanakolona, Archbishop of Antananarivo in the parish church in Anatihazo. At the opening of the mass, Brother Jean Juste made a speech highlighting the historical background of the school and of the collaboration between Marists and the local church since the foundation of the school to date. He also mentioned the need to extend the school to accommodate upper secondary educational level which parents have been requesting the Marist Brothers. The head teacher Brother Pierre Joseph insisted on the responsibilities of all educational stakeholders in order to bring about change and development in the school and in the education of the children and young people there.

Teachers and parents who have been serving the school faithfully for long time were awarded Bene Merenti by the Archbishop to the loud applause of the

entire congregation which was made up of mainly students of the school. After mass, the Archbishop blessed the newly built grotto where statues of our Lady, St Marcellin with two young children stand. After the blessing of the grotto, the Archbishop and the parish priest joined the entire school administration, staff and parents at a special school finger buffet in the school new hall.

As the school celebrated the 50th anniversary, the entire Marist province of Madagascar and the lay collaborators raise important questions such as the ownership of all parochial schools in the province, the extension of the schools and school infrastructure, the nature of collaboration with stakeholders especially parents and the management of Marist schools in the province.

Regarding the ownership of the school the Marist brothers including the provincial and his counsel assert that after 50 years of management of this parochial school by the Marist Brothers, it is natural that it now belongs entirely to the Brothers. In addition the process regarding this matter is being studied by both the Marist and the local church. However, it is not evident



to people including the teachers the significance of this shift of ownership although the Marist Brothers declare that schools under their entire authority will surely change and develop.

Concerning school administration, there is need to modernize our school management. This entails among other things, greater involvement of teachers and parents in decision making and implementation. In addition, development of our schools and increase in educational performance of the students will require the administration to embark on income generating projects in order to get resources to finance school programmes which school fees can not cover. Such programmes include field trips, purchase of sport equipment and other extra curricular activities.



N.-D. de l'Hermitage



The General Council at St. Peter's Tomb

A Mass of Thanksgiving for Eight Years of Service

On June 20, 2009, the Church celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Surely hers was a new heart that would leave its gracious stamp upon future centuries. On the same date, the entire General Council traveled to the Vatican where, at Saint Peter's tomb, they gave thanks to God for the eight years of work and leadership which they have experienced as a community during their tenure.

The Eucharist took place within the Clementine Chapel which is built precisely above the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle. Within the chapel is kept an object called the "Trophy," the object used to symbolize the victory of faith. The first reference to the burial of Saint Peter is found in the words of a priest named Gaius. Writing during the pontificate of Pope Zephyrinus, 198 to 217, Gaius states, "I can show you the trophies of the apostles (Peter and Paul). Then if you wish to go to the Vatican or the Via Ostia, you will see



the trophies of those who founded the Church (of Rome)." For their part, the General Councilors took the road to the Vatican to encounter Peter. Based on the theme of thanksgiving, the Mass offered continuous references to the Institute as represented in its Brothers and its works. Through their desire to be in communion with Peter, the Councilors wished also to make clear the unity that obtains within the diversity

of the Institute, open as it is to all the dioceses of the world.

Through its continuous appeals to the heart and to mission, the Council's tenure has given flesh to the expression, "a heart that knows no bounds." Now we are on the road to a "new heart for a new world," as expressed in the motto which is guiding us on our way to the XXI General Chapter. NM

General Council Calendar

July to September 2009

Brother Sean Sammon

July 1 – 3: Nairobi
 July 5 – 14: Receives family visit
 July 15 – September 8: Rome

Brother Luis Garcia Sobrado

July 1 – 3: Nairobi
 July 8 to August 4: Visits to communities of the Mission ad Gentes Sector
 August 24 – 28: Meeting in Lyons with the Central Commission on Marist Places

Brother Emili Turu

July 2 – 5: Mission and Solidarity meeting, Valladolid, Spain
 July 7 – 13: Meeting of the Africa Mission Team, Mwanza, Tanzania
 July 20 – 22: Meeting in Rome of the International Team for World Youth Day 2011

Brother Pedro Herreros

August 17 – 20: Meeting of the Arco Norte Provincials in Montreal, Canada

Brother Peter Rodney

August 3 – 8: Chapter meeting, District of West Africa.

Brother Antonio Ramalho

August 24 – 29: Rome-based meeting of the Commission on the Revision of the Constitutions

