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Marist Patrimony

Meeting of the International Commission



The International Patrimony Commission met in Rome from 22 to 26 June 2009. Brothers André Lanfrey (Co-ordinator), Aureliano Brambila, Robert Teoh, Michael Green, Ivo Strobino, Jaume Parés and Henri Réocreux (Secretary) completed an interesting work programme.

The Consultative Committee of the Patrimony, made up of Brothers Pedro Herreros, Antonio Ramalho, Peter Rodney and Théoneste Kalisa of the General Council joined the Commission in reviewing the contents of Appendix 8 of the Report the Council has prepared for presentation to the Chapter, in which the Commission's activities are described. The contents of the report pick up from the balance sheet composed by the Commission in its meeting of the year past.

Among the works of the Commission was included a colloquium on Marist themes of interest to the researchers of the four Marist branches. On this occasion, Father

Alois Greiler and Brother André Lanfrey, with the help of Brother Pedro Herreros, had organized a programme for the day on the topic "What is your understanding of the Society of Mary?" Contributors to this colloquium were André Lanfrey fms, Myra Niland sm, Alois Greiler sm, and Mary Emerentiana smsm. Eight members of the other Marist branches took part, with the Marianist Tim Phillips and a group of Brothers interested in the subject. The contributions will be published in "Marist Notebooks" No. 28.

The work programme also included a report on the Marist formation at a distance Project developed by the Marist University of Curitiba to be offered to Marist universities. Brothers Michael Green, André Lanfrey, Clemente Juliatto, Antoni Torrelles, Afonso Murad and Professor Ricardo Tescarolo have been working on developing work and study material for this Project.

Among the requests presented by 

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the Commission to the General Council were: to improve the presentation of the "Marist Notebooks" with an editorial, a note on the authors of the articles and a more attractive cover; to extend the publication of historical sources (Brothers François and Jean-Baptiste); to improve the data base of

CEPAM; to create a new collection of books for bringing together important works of scientific research; and to set up a Patrimony Centre in Nairobi.

In anticipation of the second century of the foundation of the Institute (2017), a project is envisaged of a two volu-

me History of the Institute, destined for the general public, which includes the general history and the individual histories of the provinces or regions. A new edition of the "Chronologie mariste", revised and updated, will also be published as a help in this work.



New Postulator General of the Institute

Brother José María Ferre Vicedo replaces Brother Giovanni

Brother Superior General and his Council, in the ordinary session of 8 May 2009, have appointed Brother José María Ferre Vicedo, of the Mediterranean Province, as Postulator General for a first term of three years, with responsibilities commencing from 1st of September 2010. Brother José María will replace Brother Giovanni Bigotto, belonging to the Province of Madagascar, who will have completed his second term in charge of the causes of the Marist saints on 1 September 2010.

Although Brother Ferre will not start his apostolate until 2010, the General Council has already appointed him so as to make the transition to his new work a bit easier. In addition, the early ap-

pointment will enable Brother Ferre to attend a Rome-based workshop for Postulators General being set up by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints.

Brother José María Ferre was born in Alicante (Spain) in 1946. He made perpetual profession in 1968. From 1971 he spent a long period in Africa, carrying out various services for the Institute, especially in the field of formation. He has lived in the D. R. of the Congo, Zaire, Kenya, Liberia and Ghana. He returned again to Rome, where he had done part of his studies (1969) and collaborated in the General Secretariate as the one in charge of publishing the FMS Message (1988). His ability with languages has allowed



him to work as translator in many international meetings.



When I approached the Marist institution, I was only looking for work, but God reached out to me and I responded to Marcellin's feelings within my own heart. Somehow I realised that this call for me to work with children was something that gave me fulfillment, that gave me hope, that touched my life... something that I could do for the rest of my life and I must do it well. (El Salvador)

A brother came up to me and asked, "Are you a Marist, Atoo?" (I think he meant to ask if I was a Marist brother.) And I answered, "Yes, I'm a Marist." This expression sprang from the depths of my being and I felt validated on expressing myself this way. (Spain)

"Gathered around the same table"
The Vocation of Champagnat's Marist Laity

Spirit of ecumenism

Visit of the Greek Orthodox Primate to the Léonin High School in Néa Smyrni, in Greece

On Tuesday 16 June 2009, former pupils, who completed their secondary studies at the Léonin High School in Néa Smyrni (Athens) in 1969, held a reunion at their school to recall their days at school together.

But they did not wish to be by themselves So they invited their former teachers, among them the teacher of Modern Greek, who is currently Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church, Ieronymos II (Jerome).

The Orthodox Primate, accompanied by his former students, all the Greek Marist Brothers, the Directors of the College and of the High School, and the President of the Association of Former Pupils, visited the room where he had given his classes forty years ago, watched a slide show of school life of that era, and then dined with



all those present in a family spirit.

The general Director of the Marist Establishment, Br. Mathieu Levantinos, in a short speech of welcome to Archbishop Ieronymos II, emphasized that the Léonin High School in Néa Smyrni had been living the ecumenical spirit ever since its foundation in 1938. The Marist Brothers and their lay collaborators, Orthodox

and Catholic, live and work together in a climate of mutual respect and of solidarity, having always in their heart the Words of Jesus Christ to the Apostles: « Everyone will know that you are my disciples, by this love you have for one another».

At the end of the evening, full of emotion, all agreed on a further reunion in ten years time, in 2019.



Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family

Provincial meeting - Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

On 20/21 June, the provincial meeting of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (ChMMF) took place at the "Recanto Medianeira" Reception House in Veranópolis, Brazil. 152 persons from Rio Grande do Sul came together – Brothers and members of the Fraternities.

The ChMMF was officially recognized in 1985 by the XVIII General Chapter of the Institute held in Rome. Article

164.4 of our Constitutions defines it thus: « ... an extension of our Institute; it is a movement for people who find themselves attracted to the spirituality of Marcellin Champagnat... »

The Animation Team of the ChMMF established the following objectives for the meeting:

1. To come to greater knowledge of the Institute, the Province, and the Commission for Consecrated Life and Laity.

2. To engage in reflection on our progress as Champagnat Movement, at the personal level and on those of the Fraternity and provincial direction.

3. To provide the current provincial government with the Movement's lines of animation for the Commission for Consecrated Life and Laity, and to assist the new government.

4. To celebrate our life and Marist journey.



A course offered to Brothers between the ages of fifty and (about) seventy

Los Negrales, Spain - April 23 to June 21, 2009

June 20, 2009... the future begins... We take a fresh look at the "road traveled," examining the various thresholds we have traversed in our lives, according to the following "road map": 1) My life story is sacred. 2) My present situation in life 3) My celibate sexuality 4) My faith history 5) Building community 6) To be Good News 7) Religious life as path of discovery 8) What does God wish me to be?

We did not approach the program as an academic course, even if those who shared with us their vision and suggestions were people of great ability, experience and spirituality. We are grateful to all of them.

Our journey was not made in solitude. We felt ourselves to be travelers, guided and helped by the many companions on the journey. We shared a great deal, not only in community but in small groups as well: analyzing problems, presenting different (even contrary) points of view, speaking about the realities of life that we have had to confront, our searching, hopes, joys: all of these in the context of faith-brotherhood-prayer.

The fact that the participants came from different countries and from different cultures was clearly an aspect that enriched the course, one of its strong points. Eleven countries were represented in the group! Twenty-one Brothers, each with his unique life story, his regrets, his dreams. It did not take us very long to sense that we were brothers, sons of Mary and of Marcelin, men who had come to birth and grown into adulthood in many different parts of the world.

Times for recreation, for rest, and sports



for the most energetic among us; outings to Segovia and Talavera-Toledo; the sound of guitars and the voices of Spain, Latin America, Italy, Arab lands . . . all of which served to make clear the rich color of our diversity and the joyous warmth of brotherhood.

- Our sincere thanks to the Claretian community which, with simplicity and availability, hosted us in their residence over the two months.

- The Brothers who guided us through the program: Javier Espinosa, Afonso Levis and Alfredo Villanueva have been quite outstanding, walking with us on the journey , offering us "spiritual wisdom and fraternal service." You have our lasting thanks.

Now, as THRESHOLDS draws to a close, we feel that God is speaking to us of new journeys, of new thresholds and new

horizons, as a way of responding to what God wishes us to be. The door has been opened to other dimensions of the soul. "You did not receive a spirit of slavery leading you back into fear, but a spirit of adoption through which we cry out, "Abba!" (that is "Father"). Romans 8:14.

Where have we come from? : Paraguay (Enrique Planas), Cruz del Sur (Miguel A. Schonfeld and Oscar Enrique Perl), Iberica (Antonio Martinez Fernandez), Brasil - Centro Norte (Jose Machado and Benedito Odeto de Lima), Brasil Centro - Sul (Lino Alfonso Jungbluth and Tercilio Sevegnani), Mexico Central (Benjamin Heredia and Armando Heredia), Mexico Occidental (Manuel Franco), Central America (Andres Guezmez and Rodrigo Cuesta), Mediterraneo (Pedro Menarguez, Marino Carlavaris and Georges Sabe) and Norandina (Ramon Benseny and Juan Miguel Santos).

