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Updates

20/08/2009: Brazil - Meeting of community superiors and ecónomes

19/08/2009: Teodoro Grageda, Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the 21st General Chapter
18/08/2009: Mozambique - Retreat on Marist spirituality

18/08/2009: Deceased Brothers - Agustín Merino Fernández (Ibérica); Silvio Césa Arteaga Rosero (Norandina); Victor Morin (Canada); Andries Devos (Europe Centre-Ouest)

18/08/2009: Province of México Central and the Marist University of Querétaro

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13/08/2009: African Religious Formators' Graduation in Marist International Centre, Nairobi

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11/08/2009: Br. Inácio Nestor Etges is the new Provincial

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XXI General Chapter The road travelled

Teodoro Grageda,
Secretary of the Preparatory Commission



Brother Teodoro Grageda, 50 years old, Mexican by birth, African by adoption, has been to the front of the Preparatory Commission of the 21st General Chapter, coordinating its programme of activities from Rome as Secretary. Through his hands and through his heart have passed the many details of this long and intensive preparation which has been taking place in the Institute. Since the election of the chapter delegates was completed, he has maintained a steady dialogue with them all by means of the web page, which was created expressly for this purpose. He cannot keep count of the hours of work spent in front of the screen of his computer in his office on the first floor of the General House. We interrupt him at his task for a few minutes, and he responds with a broad smile.

AMEstaún. *Nearly twenty years in Africa. You are practically at the end of your work at MIC, in Nairobi, when you receive an unexpected invitation. It has to do with taking on the role of Secretary of the Commission which is to prepare for the 21st General Chapter. How did you receive this assignment?*

Teodoro Grageda. With surprise, because up to then I knew nothing about it.

AMEstaún. *And once you got over your surprise?*

Teodoro Grageda. Well, with a certain "rebellion" within me. I imagined that at the end of my work in Nairobi I would have some months of sabbatical, before being listed for my next assignment, and then suddenly this new task appears in my path and I have to change plans. However, I felt a great happiness in being able to provide help to the Institute.

AMEstaún. *A task like this, which emerges*

unexpectedly in your life, raises unforeseen personal challenges.

Teodoro Grageda. One very important one has been to improve my level of understanding and using French. I had already done some study at the time of initial formation, and I had to improve so as to be able to express myself in this language with people who normally use it. As well, the work I had to perform forced me to organize myself in a more practical way, to find out where things were, and to pay attention to the comings and goings.

The new situation also required me to give myself time to attend personally to those asking for some help, and with pleasure as far as I could, I did what was within my capacity. This has opened many doors for me and given rise to many relationships. I have encountered a great spirit of availability and collaboration in the members of the General Council, in the brothers and lay people in the General House in Rome,

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in the capitulants, etc. I have a great desire that everything works out well. My concern has been to combine all the good I have, the good ingredients that are to be found in the dispositions of all, the good atmosphere of work, in order to harmonize it and find a way of expressing it naturally.

AMEstaún. *A new work is also an opportunity to discover enriching experiences for yourself personally.*

Teodoro Grageda. I have had those in abundance! Being in this office has helped me come to know the Institute much better, and to love it as it is. Another very enriching experience has been to have worked so closely with all the members of the Preparatory Commission. I have felt great support from each and every one of them. I believe that we have formed a work team; we are very different in our manner of being, in our rhythms of work, but we have reached a good level of understanding and work.

My attention has been much drawn, from the beginning, by the readiness of provincials to attend to the repeated requests that I have been obliged to ask of them; something similar happened later with the liaisons of each administrative unit; and later still with

all the delegates to the Chapter. Moreover, direct communication with many brothers of the Institute, known to me or not, has been very encouraging for me. In these contacts, we have passed very easily from the Chapter topics to topics of our personal life as Marists. This has been very enriching for me! There are many brothers with whom I have shared my life and from whom I have received very much support. I can only express feelings of gratitude to the Institute.

AMEstaún. *Your vision of what this institutional way of preparation is supposed to be*

Teodoro Grageda. I have been very pleased with the dynamic we have followed, inasmuch as we have been able to have contact with people present in many different situations: brothers (in administrative positions, associated with educational institutions or other types of presence in the apostolate, experienced brothers who have already celebrated jubilees, young ones in formation), Marist lay women and men who expressed their points of view; young leaders of youth or vocational groups, etc. That is to say, that the bases of the Institution have been considered in this movement of raising

awareness about what is happening today at the level of the Institute. I felt that regions of our Congregation, which perhaps on other occasions had been left somewhat on the margin of what was happening in the Congregation, have felt part of the whole in this process of preparation.

AMEstaún. *A prediction about what the 21st General Chapter might present us with*

Teodoro Grageda. In the Preparatory Commission we discussed at our last meeting the general plan we will suggest to the Chapter, and in it I discover that more than "managing to deal with all the topics we have or might have", it is a matter of creating a more natural atmosphere for decision making, using processes which involve all at the Chapter, being inclusive, to arrive at the object or proposition that all share. I believe that the basis of all this will be the confidence that they have in one another, that the topics are set according to the table, and that there are no preconceived decisions, but that they are open to what the Holy Spirit may be asking of us.

AMEstaún. *Many thanks*



Rio Grande do Sul

Br. Inácio Nestor Etges new Provincial

Brother Inácio Nestor Etges has been appointed by Brother Superior General and his Council as the new Provincial of the Marist Province of Rio Grande do Sul for a three year period from 2009-2012. His taking up this responsibility will take place on 8 December, at Veranópolis, during the 3rd Provincial Chapter.

Brother Inácio is a graduate in Theology and in Mathematics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS). He studied Psychology as applied to Religious Life at the Gregorian University in Rome, and has spent

many years in the ministry of initial formation of candidates for the Marist life, at the levels of Juniorate and Novitiate. Currently he is Superior of the Scholastic community at Viamao, where the student Brothers reside.

He has wide experience in vocational accompaniment and has been part of the Provincial Council at previous periods. He is a member of the teaching council of the School for Formators based in Sao Paulo. He is also coordinator of the Commission of Consecrated Life and Laity, which covers the areas of: Animation of vocations,



Initial and On-going Formation, Marist Apostolic Spirituality, Spiritual Patrimony and the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family. Now he is the Province delegate to the 21st General Chapter and member of the Preparatory Commission of the 3rd Provincial Chapter.



Brasil Centro-Norte

Br. Wellington Mousinho de Medeiros new Provincial

Brother Wellington Mousinho de Medeiros has been appointed by Brother Superior General and his Council as the new Provincial of the Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Norte for a three year period from 2009-2012.

I am Wellington Mousinho de Medeiros. Born October 1947, in João Pessoa, Paraíba. Pertenezco in the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte. I am a former student of the Marist college Pío X. Entered the juniorate in 1963, the postulancy in 1964, the novitiate in 1965, and the scholasticate in 1966-67. I took perpetual vows in 1970, and stability in 1984.

I have licentiates in Theology, History, and Pedagogy (School Administration). I specialized in the Theology of the Reli-

gious Life at the "Lumen Vitae" Institute in Brussels, and in the Theology of Education in the Institute of Theology and Ministry of CELAM and the Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá – Colombia).

I worked in the houses of Marist formation – coordination of the juniorate and the scholasticate. Director of various Marist colleges and currently Director of "Marista de Maceió". I was the first Vice-President of the Association of Catholic Education of Brazil, and President of the Associations of Catholic Education of various states of Brazil. In the former Province of Brasil Norte I was provincial counsellor and responsible for the provincial coordination of Educational Ministry. In the present Province of Brasil Centro-Norte I carry out the function of provincial counsellor, Vice-President of the "Mantenedoras" (UBEE/UNBEC), and executive Director of the Management



offices of Marketing and Education. In the last six years I have been part of the Continental Commission of the Marist Mission for America and the General Council's "Management and Mission" subcommission.



Ad Gentes

News from India

Presently, we are 48 brothers on mission, in 6 countries in Asia. There are at least 2 communities in each mission country. The name of our sector is AMAGS. It means, Asia Marist Ad Gentes Sector. Our sector house had been in Singapore, but is now in Bangkok, Thailand. Our sector superior is Brother Michael De Waas, a Sri Lankan.

I live in Calcutta, the capital city of the State of West Bengal, Northeast India. We three, José María, Paco (Spaniards) and Tekay (Liberian) form the Community of Proggaloy. Proggaloy is an Archdiocesan Pastoral and Development Center. We live

with 2 priests and a sister. We have meals, and sometimes celebrations together. In the other Community of Burdwan, live Alex (Indian), Pepito (Filipino) and Ramon (Spaniard). We are about 200 kilometers apart. We mostly travel by train to visit each other.

What we are doing right now is to continue to discern our mission in West Bengal. First, we are learning the Bengali Language. We in the Proggaloy Community, employed a very nice woman, Joystna, a catholic who is married to a Brahmin (a Hindu priest). We had classes with her from August –December, 2008.

We decided to quit the formal classes, leave the city for awhile and live among the people in the villages. Our first village was Nousikdarchok. We lived with 3 families for 2 weeks. For Jose Maria and Paco residential arrangements were worked out with the help of two widows, while I resided with a retired teacher, Jose Maria and Paco lived with widows, while I lived with a retired teacher, Mr. Samuel Nath and his family. During our stay in Noursikdarchok, we engaged ourselves into various activities. We played with the children, attended celebrations of other Religions and witnessed traditional marriages.



Marist Mission in the Americas

Chile: Eighth Gathering of the Continental Team

On June 9 and 10, the Continental Team, Marist Mission in the Americas, met in Santiago de Chile. The members present were Angelica Alegría, Landelino Ortego and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (Arco Norte), João Carlos do Prado, Mércia Procópio and Wellington Mousinho de Medeiros from Brazil, Ernesto Reyes and Juan Ignacio Fuentes (Cono Sur), Emili Turú (General Councilor) and Juan Miguel Anaya (secretary of the General Council's Mission Commission). Annabel Correa from Arco Norte was unable to attend.

A special feature of the meeting was that Angelica, Luis Carlos and João Carlos were attending for the first time. As a result, the meeting began with personal introductions on the part of all the members. Afterwards Brother Emili showed a power point explaining the origin and history of the Team, along with an explanation of the main activities the Team has been involved up to the present time.

Those who were in charge of the Team's most recent activities gave detailed reports on their projects, briefly explained as follows:

- January 2009, Belem, Brazil, in connection with the World Social Forum;
- Subcommission on Youth Ministry: work accomplished since 2008 when changes were introduced in the subcommission. Work has already started on preparing the subcommission's next meeting (Guatemala, August 2010) which will be for Province del-



egates. The topics of the meeting will be (a) the formation of pastoral ministers and (b) coordination at the Province level.

- During the Guatemala meeting of March 2009, the following topic was treated: Management at the Service of Mission - Looking at the Future.
- An update on the topic of Formation for Leadership.

In view of the General Chapter, the time seems ripe to give a report to CIAP (Provincials Council of the Americas) about our activities and future programs. The report, to be prepared by Emili, will be structured as follows:

- An account of where we have come from and what we have done, highlighting the last two meetings that we organized, the one on Solidarity and the one for Youth Ministers.
- Our own evaluation of the undertakings we have set up, an evaluation that touches upon how the Provinces feel about (1) the benefits brought by the creation of networks on different

themes, and (2) the introduction of a very simple structure on which various working groups are dependent. In light of such undertakings, we hope that the Team will be able to continue the activities and the policies it has initiated.

c) Several requests that we have received and information regarding the future: moving towards the solidarity meeting targeted for the first half of 2010; the group of laity (men and women) and Brothers who have been working this year on writing the document on social action in the Americas; the start of a Project that will study ways of providing formation for those who are to assume executive roles.

Unless the upcoming General Chapter decides to set up some sort of Regional structure to absorb the tasks which we are looking after, or unless CIAP decides otherwise, we foresee our next Team meeting in Brasilia, April 20-23, 2010.



Notre Dame de l'Hermitage

