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Updates

27/08/2009: History of the First General Chapter

27/08/2009: Brazil - First Forum on the joint formation of Brothers and Laity

26/08/2009: Retreat with the Marist Brothers in Greece

25/08/2009: Worldwide presence - Photo gallery number 230

25/08/2009: Brother Ricardo Reynoso named new Provincial

24/08/2009: Mexico - CEPAM course at Guadalajara

24/08/2009: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 60

24/08/2009: Argentina - Perpetual profession of Br. Pedro Chimeno

21/08/2009: Ghana - IV District Chapter - West Africa

20/08/2009: Marist News 62

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

19/08/2009: Interview - Teodoro Grageda, Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the 21st General Chapter

18/08/2009: Mozambique - Retreat on Marist spirituality

18/08/2009: Deceased Brother: Agustin Merino Fernandez (Iberica)

IV District Chapter West Africa

Ghana: 3-8 August 2009

We - 14 capitulants and 2 invited chapter members, have been meeting for four days in Accra to celebrate the IV District Chapter. During the Chapter we shared our brotherhood with one another. We shared our concerns, hopes, prayers and our trust in Jesus, Mary and Champagnat. Together, we entered into a process of discernment. In our efforts to chart the way forward for our District, for the next three years, we came up with four priorities (Community life, Marist mission, Vocation and Formation) and mandated the District Superior and his Council to work towards their realisation.

One of the inspiring moments of the Chapter was the election of the District Councillors. This was done at random across the District, as stipulated by our Chapter Regulations, and in a spirit of faith and trust. The Brothers elected to this function are: Br. Francis Lukong (Cameroon), Br. Daniel Taylor (Liberia), Br. Vincent de Paul Kouassi (Cote d'Ivoire), Br. Tata Oliver Tunka (Cameroon).

The presence among us of Brother Manuel Jorques, Provincial of the Mediterranean Province, Brother Antonio Gimenez, the next Provincial the Mediterranean Province, Brother Peter Rodney, General Councillor, has been a source of encouragement. During the Chapter, they accompanied us; they offered very invaluable insights and shared very profound and enriching experiences. Their inspiring words were indeed uplifting and thought provoking. As a matter of fact, we cannot thank them enough.



Another good news that we would like to gladly share with you is that during the Chapter we had so much to celebrate. We celebrated the 25th anniversaries of First Religious Profession of Brother Sylvain Yao Kouassi Kan, Brother Vitus Osuji and Brother John Kusi Mensah. We were all grateful for this unique opportunity to celebrate the 25 years of the fidelity of our brothers to the Lord or better still, 25 years of the Lord's fidelity to our Brothers. We also celebrated the 12 uninterrupted years of service of Brother Manuel Jorques Bru as Provincial. This was also a wonderful moment to thank him for having accompanied and encouraged our young District this far.

We leave this Chapter inspired, renewed and refreshed by the sharing we have had and by the contributions you all made. We are certain that we have met St. Marcellin and our Good Mother. We all leave the Chapter feeling satisfied because you love our District and we foresee a better future.

MARIST NEWS

N.º 63 - Year II - August 27th, 2009

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To strengthen unity

Meeting of community superiors and economies of the Marist Province Brasil Centro-Norte

On 8 and 9 August, in Brasilia, all the superiors and economies of the communities and houses of formation of the Province Brasil Centro-Norte, 52 brothers in all, came together for a meeting. This year, the organizers of the traditional assembly of community animators offered, among other topics, that of preparation for the coming General Chapter. Numerous possible activities were suggested for the communities, those in charge of the works, brothers and laity, as well as for the pupils and organizations, to be carried out before and after the Chapter.



Another important topic, in addition to reflection on the daily practice of one responsible for and directing a community, was how to improve the budget for the financial year of 2010. This point also allowed for a return to the theme of the Evangelical Use of Goods.

This Assembly brings to a close one further step in the construction of the Province, in the outline of its Plan of Continuing Formation. The evaluation allowed all to hear testimonies of satisfaction about these days of communion and brotherhood.



Marist Province Cruz del Sur

Perpetual profession of Br. Pedro Chimeno

On the feast of Our Lady assumed into Heaven, 15 August, Br. Pedro Chimeno made his perpetual profession in Morón - Argentina. Pedro was getting ready to leave for Ad Gentes together with Br. Maximiliano Meier at the end of the month of August. With the pres-

ence of his parents, Pedro and Olga, and his sisters Laura, Eugenia and Celina, numerous young people, teachers, relatives and Brothers from various communities, he made this act of profession marked by many signs relating to his missionary vocation and to his deep love for children and young people.



Pedro has followed during the last two years courses in Chicago and Davao as one of the various Brothers in temporary vows who are volunteering for mission in Asia.

We testify to his enthusiasm and apostolic zeal, we encourage him to grow still more in this option for Christ, and we accompany him on his Marist journey like our first Brothers who heard the call more than one hundred and seventy years ago.

May our Good Mother, Patroness and First Superior maintain in Pedro an ardent heart, a solid piety, and a generous dedication to the children and young people to whom he is sent.



Africa Mission Team

Tanzania - III meeting

The Africa Mission Team met recently at the Postulant House of the Afrique Centre Est Province. The house was available because the postulants were away, making a retreat with Brother Eugene Kabanguka, their Provincial. Having greeted us warmly, Brothers Valentin and John Onyona, the Brothers in charge of the Postulant House, then looked after our needs during the meeting. Mass was held in the local parish, and our community prayer was drawn from three texts admirably suited for the purpose: Brother Bigotto's latest book on Mary; "Water from the Rock"; "In the Footsteps of Marcellin."



During one of the breaks, we had a brief and interesting exchange with members of the Champagnat Movement Fraternity which has come into existence in Mwanza, the very place where we were holding our meeting.

Our first Team meeting had taken place in Accra, Ghana in October 2006. As a result of the first gathering, we worked up an action plan which met with the approval of the Africa Provincials and District Superior. Our Team met for a second time in Harare, Zimbabwe, in December 2007.

In the present instance, our meeting provided us with the chance to take a good look at what we have accomplished, to reconsider some of the programs initially put in place, and make some decisions about starting some new undertakings. Given the realities of contemporary Africa, the Team decided to focus its activities upon three broad areas.

A) Improving the quality of youth ministry in Africa, working on this issue with other continents. We see this task as being focused upon two objectives:

- To promote youth ministry in Africa and to provide the necessary resources for such a ministry.
- To create contacts between young people of Africa and young people in other parts of the Marist world.

B) Reaching a deeper understanding of what is specific about the Brother's identity on the one hand, and the identity of Champagnat laity on the other; to reach the deeper understanding through shared experiences of spirituality, apostolate, formation. In order to attain such a goal, we foresee the need for activities centered upon two goals:

- Developing a consciousness of these "identity issues" in each of the Administrative Units;
- Setting up occasions when formative activities on these issues can take place.

C) Finding suitable answers to the fresh challenges that are arising in educational activities conducted or sponsored by the Marist Brothers. "We desire to stress especially the right to education: an evangelizing education, an education which is committed to solidarity and to the transformation of society, which is sensitive to culture and to the environment, an education free of discrimination, education that offers opportunities to young people who do not have them" (Mendes Assembly, final document). In order to reach such a goal, we envision actions centered upon the following goal:

- Providing a good formation for those who are in charge of Marist Brother schools.

The Team regards as its biggest challenge the establishment of good communications (1) among the Team members themselves, (2) with the Provincial (or District) Councils, and (3) with the Brothers facing the everyday realities of the apostolate. The Team drew up a letter which will be sent to the Conference of Africa Superiors, informing them of the meeting we have just had and the plans we have made. The letter also solicits their accord in carrying out the action plans we have drawn up. In addition to addressing the preceding challenges, we also wish to make good use of the opportunities which the internet offers us for increasing communication among the Team members.



At 9:00 AM on Tuesday, September 8th, 2009, members of our 21st General Chapter will gather at the General House in Rome to begin their work. This starting date, the feast of the birth of Mary, and location were fixed by members of the present General Council

Marist province of México Central

Brother Ricardo Reynoso new Provincial

Brother Ricardo Reynoso Ramirez has been appointed Provincial of the Mexico Central Province for a three-year term of office, 2009 to 2012. He will assume the position in the course of the Provincial Chapter targeted for December 19-21, 2009.

Brother Ricardo was born October 25, 1956 and presently serves as vice-Provincial. He is Master of Postulants at FMS Mexico's interprovincial Postulancy. In submitting a brief autobiographical sketch as delegate to the upcoming General Chapter, Brother Ricardo wrote

as follows:

My path between false starts and successes has found direction in the measure that I have found God.

I have felt myself accompanied by « THE GOOD MOTHER » during my 11 years as formator in the postulancy, as director, master or apprentice among the Mixtec Indians, accompanied by communities and charitable brothers who have opened their heart to me :Chepe, Arturo, Chacho, Jorge, Renato, Avelino, Pancho ...

I received training as a primary and secondary

school teacher, and when I had need of new tools to succeed in carrying out Marcellin's « dream », I participated in a seminar on pastoral planning and in a course for formators at Valpré (France). Most recently, in order to accompany the postulants, under my charge, in their journey of self-discovery, I took a course in psychotherapy.

My family is a large one. We lived the faith there in poverty and in the joy of sharing bread and work. My father, an active social activist, my tireless mother, an artist at heart, and my brothers, all have been a valuable resource for me.



Chapter Hall

The General House prepares for the XXI General Chapter

