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Updates

12/11/2009: My Life as Lay-Marist (Alfred Urban - Germany)

12/11/2009: Marist blog: Mary took us by the hand, urging us to go in haste to a new land (Br. Pau Fornells)

11/11/2009: A week of reflexion and retreat at Valcartier, Canada
10/11/2009: Ad Gentes Project in Cambodia

09/11/2009: Deceased Brother: J. Marcel Bellet (L'Hermitage)

09/11/2009: Video: VI Jornada del educador marista (Prov. Ibérica)

09/11/2009: New Marist link: Expresión Juvenil Marista (Mexico)
09/11/2009: Interview with Br. Emili Turú - Marist Brothers: The testimony of a different globalization (H2O)

06/11/2009: Meeting of Brother Pau Fornells with lay people

05/11/2009: Deceased Brothers: Désiré-Gabriel (Canada); Santo Turchetto (Rio Grande do Sul)

05/11/2009: The English Speaking Third Age Course

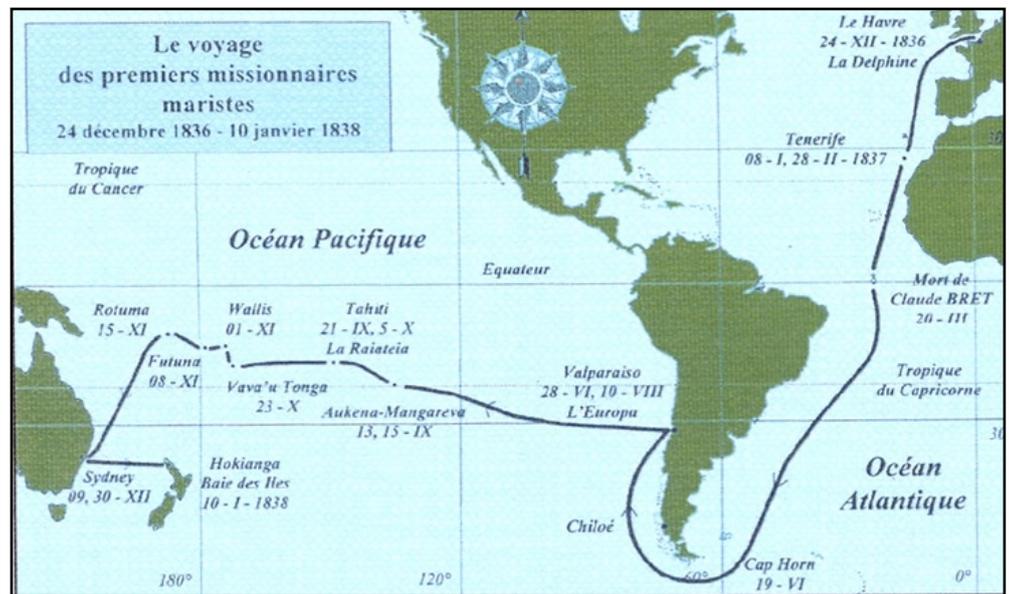
03/11/2009: Marial exposition at the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saint-Damien

02/11/2009: Review *Brasil Marista*

02/11/2009: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 70 (November 1st)

Eight thousand pages in ten volumes

Letters from Oceania received by the Marist Fathers



A year ago we announced the appearance of an anthology of very significant letters from Marist missionaries (S.M.) in Oceania. These letters were sent to the general administration during the mandate of Father Jean Claude Colin. The final and complete edition of these 1365 documents is available now in ten volumes, the last volume being an index. The work contains a total of eight thousand pages, all in original French. Father Charles Girard, SM, has directed this work for twenty years and finally sees them being published. The bibliographical file says: Charles Girard, SM, Director, Letters from Oceania 1836-1854, Karthla Publications-Society of Mary (Marist Fathers), Paris-Rome 2009.

We recall here what Brother Andre Lanfrey, commenting on this completed anthology, said a year ago: "This publication is of enormous importance for all Marists. It

powerfully illustrates to us, in its own way, the history of our origins, and how Champagnat and Colin sent both Priests and Brothers to Oceania, and it also shows our part in the history of Oceania."

Father P. Jan Hulshof, SM, the Superior General of the Society of Mary, referring to this powerful publication says: "On the opening of our archives and the presentation of this edition, the Society of Mary desires to offer first hand sources of our history. The historian, ethnologist and each reader, be it in Oceania, Europe or elsewhere, will find material for investigation which will allow him to understand the sense of mission which animated those men who left their own country to go to the other side of the world, they will encounter in these letters the realities that these men faced. Likewise, this work will fulfill its objective if it leads to progress in the dialogue among

MARIST News

N.º 80 - Year II - 12 novembre 2009

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Edita:

Instituto Hermanos Maristas

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cultures and civilizations.”

Following the recommendations of the International Patrimony Committee, the General House of the Marist Brothers has asked for a limited number of

sample copies of the complete collection. They will be sent to formation centers concerned with Marist patrimony, as well as to centers of university studies wishing to avail of this precious source of Marist history in Oceania. It

will not be sent, right now, to all Administrative Units of the Marist Brothers, but is available to those who wish to order it. It costs 300 Euros, plus the shipping costs.



The Role of the Marist Laity in Greece

Meeting of Brother Pau Fornells with lay people

Since Vatican Council II, the laity, men and women, have been considered as having a vocation through baptism, and have thus rediscovered their specific place in the Church.

In the heart of our Institute, the role of the laity has already been approved and more and more recognized. Nevertheless, efforts still have to be made to clarify the identity of the Marist laity from the moment it shares the charism of our Founder Marcellin Champagnat and, in consequence, becomes co-responsible for the apostolic mission of the Marist Brothers.

Within the framework of this reflection, which has been going on for some time and continues in all the Provinces, Brother Pau Fornells, who heads the Bureau of the Marist Laity and who co-ordinated the project of drawing up the document entitled « Around the same table », came to Greece on 30th October. During his stay in Athens, he first visited the two Marist establishments, the Lycée Léonin of Néa Smyrni and the Lycée Léonin of Patissia, and spoke to the students – young men and women – who, aware of the various social problems, had already taken part in meetings and activities concerning the defence of the Rights of the Child. The following day, Saturday 31 October, he had a meeting at the Lycée Léonin



of Néa Smyrni with 150 of the teachers and staff of the two Marist schools, who had expressed their desire to hear him and ask him some questions. After a brief introduction by the Director General of the Lycée Léonin of Néa Smyrni, Br. Mathieu Lévantinos, and the presentation of his work by the representative of the Brother Provincial in Greece, Br. Ignace Capétanos, Brother Pau spoke on the topic of the Marist Laity throughout the world. During his talk, he emphasized the necessity of the laity becoming more and more active in the Marist mission especially among the most impoverished and neglected youth. This involvement should not be limited to a simple collaboration with the Brothers nor even with the lay partnership; it is necessary for lay people to feel themselves truly co-responsible in the task of educating the children and bringing them to Je-

sus Christ after the model of the Virgin Mary. At the end of his talk, he referred to the common road being travelled hand in hand by the Brothers and lay people in the mixed communities, in the educational works, or in the activities of social solidarity.

Then Brother Pau met with the members of the four Marist Fraternities in Greece, was informed about their activities, and expressed once again his admiration for their mixed composition (Orthodox and Catholics) and their ecumenical spirit.

All of us members of the Marist Community in Greece, Brothers and lay people, thank Brother Pau for his visit among us and his contribution towards the clarification of the identity and role of the laity, and we wish him 'bon courage' in his mission.



Ad Gentes Project in Cambodia

A "United Nations" Pickup Truck

It is not a powerful 4x4 truck with tinted windows, radial tires, reinforced cockpit or other special features. No trademark, seal or logo appears on its doors, no special plates with white letters, no powerful telecommunications antenna. Nor will you find any "blue helmets" riding inside.

But the vehicle is an expression of what might be deemed the "United Nations," because crammed inside you will find: two South Koreans, a Ghanaian, three French people, two Colombians, an Ecuadorian, a Zimbabwean, two Italians, four Cambodians (including two ethnic Vietnamese) and an Indian. The various skin tones, countenances, and hair styles - male and female - match the concert of languages that can be heard. Native tongues and foreign are spoken with the particular accents which arise when all are doing their utmost to be understood and to understand!

The goal of the journey is simple: to visit the buildings which are slowly rising, eventually to comprise a school, a library and a job training center. And after the school is built? Well, then the local children and youth will have access to the kinds of knowledge and skills which can answer to their hopes and dreams of a better future.

Brothers Francis Attha (Ad Gentes Project leader in Cambodia), Leonard Brito and Diego Zawadzky went to Prey Veng at the invitation of Bishop Antonysamy Susairaj, Apostolic Prefect of Kompong Cham, to attend the monthly meeting of Christian community leaders. The pastoral services of the Prefecture are under the direction of the following groups: the Thai community of Sister Lovers of the Cross, the Sisters of



Providence of Portieux, the Paris Foreign Mission Society, the Yarumal Foreign Mission Society of Colombia, the Korea Mission Society and the Italian Mission Society.

Our intention is twofold: to demonstrate in concrete fashion our resolve to advance in the acquisition of the Khmer language by visiting different villages; and to explore the possibilities of a Marist presence in the northeastern sector of Cambodia which ranges from the Mekong River to the border with Laos and Vietnam.

Participating in the meeting on this occasion gave us the opportunity to attend the consecration of the new Prey Veng parish church (a simple, beautiful wooden structure that has reused some pillars from another building dating from the nineteenth century). Fr. Charlie Dietmeier, associated with the Maryknoll Lay group, informed

us of a project for helping the deaf. The Maryknollers intend to expand the project into this part of the country. According to Fr. Dietmeier's data, there are in Cambodia about forty-nine thousand deaf people of whom ninety percent do not receive the slightest attention. For example, they have not been able to develop any language of communication, a fact which makes them a highly vulnerable population, the poorest of the poor. One of the activities that may be undertaken on their behalf is related to the above mentioned school now under construction.

Our journey offered us a new opportunity to experience the presence of the Kingdom "here and now": the Nations all United in the love of God, in response to His missioning, united in the desire to be the presence of the Church among the poor, in a spirit of community and solidarity.



A week of reflexion and retreat at Valcartier

A first in our Marist Province!

The members of the councils of administration of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family of Canada (MCFMC) and of the Marist Movement of Quebec (MMQ) with a few Brothers gave themselves up to a end of the week of reflexion and retreat at Valcartier, 30th, 31st and 1st November last. The novelty is in the fact that these two groups were meeting together for the first time to share and exchange (ideas) on Marist Laity according to the document Around the same Table. In the text which follows I will share with you, not the complete development of this meeting carefully directed by some members, but simply a few echoes of what I saw and heard.



We had come to live a time of sharing and reflexion following the document Around the same Table. At the moment of departure we could state that we had done more than live together. We had lived the communal EXPERIENCE of coming together to:

- * To bake our bread, the bread which nourished the body in the absence of electricity for supper on Saturday as much as the bread of friendship and solidarity which we broke on Saturday night with guests by candlelight.
- * To put in common what constitutes our wheat (qualities, stages of our journey...), the salt which gives sense and taste to our lives and the leaven which is the source of growth both human and spiritual.
- * To become more conscious of the Marist charism which has been born on our respective pathways as lay people or religious and to clarify what I have received from others and what I have brought there.

* To realise that the shared reading of a chapter of the Document was so much richer and more alive than a simple, personal reading.

To live over the course of the week-end several adaptations provided to our time-table:

- The use of a new frying pan for the cooking of bread which has led to some adjustments.
- The lack of electricity for fourteen hours which made a mess of eating and the evening but not of communication and listening.
- The welcome of our visiting Brothers to a meal with a new awareness of the plan for solidarity of Vallée-Jeunesse.
- Dinner and the evening by candlelight which created a very warm and convivial atmosphere.
- A long reflection together on the future of the MMQ and of its pos-

sible implication in a vaster plan of solidarity.

- A questioning on the specific vocation of the MMQ as a Movement which wants to bring together and into solidarity all the Marist entities in Quebec Around the same Table.

We came to LIVE together. We left, enriched by an EXPERIENCE OF LIFE. This is more than a stylistic nuance. It is a reality which each of us felt. We have established bonds which had every chance of remaining and nourishing our lives. Is this the way to learn to become a Marist? It only remains to read through again this experience and integrate it into our lives. We certainly discover in it, signs of the presence of God, always living and acting. But we will experience there the fact of forming a family, animated by the same spirit around Mary and Champagnat, all equal in our respective vocations around the same table!

