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02/12/2009: Marist blog: A slogan for the General Chapter or for life? (Br. Pau Fornells)

02/12/2009: Deceased Brothers: José - Agapito Martínez Conde (Compostela); João Bisotto Filho (Brasil Centro-Sul); Firmino Caetano Biazus (Rio Grande do Sul); Cruz Bujanda Chasco (Ibérica)

01/12/2009: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 72-74

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28/11/2009: Advent and Marist Solidarity 2009

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25/11/2009: Argentina - Provincial Chapter « Cruz del Sur »

24/11/2009: PUCRS recognized as the best private University of the year in Brazil

20th anniversary of the Convention on the rights of children



FMSI (*Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale*), faithful to its annual Advent rendez-vous, offers us this year a new booklet to accompany the spiritual journey of Brothers, teachers, students, fraternities, lay men and women, and members of the Marist family. This year it brings us echos of the 21st General Chapter and the 20th anniversary of the Convention on Children's Rights. In the preparations for the General Chapter, FMSI looked for a way of getting the voices of the young heard in the Chapter discussions. They thought it important that, during the 20th anniversary of the Convention, children and young people should have the opportunity to propose some matter for reflection to the capitulants. The means chosen was to mount an exhibition of photos of children and young people from all over the world, and this remained open right through the Chapter. Many went to visit it and it gave them « matter for reflection ».

The Advent brochure this year, as well as keeping the subject of the General Chapter in mind, provides an opportunity for reflecting on the text of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, on

the international treaty of human rights which details the rights children and young people all over the planet should have. In its pages it invites everyone to read the text of the treaty during Advent. One can find the complete text and its two titles – one about children in armed conflict, and the other about the sale of children and their exploitation in prostitution and pornography – on the web page of the High Commission of the United Nations for Human Rights.

This little guide for the season of Advent provides reflections on the Biblical readings of each day and on what the young have to say to us about the new world they hope to see one day. It invites us as well to devote a moment to examine how we personally can promote the rights of children in our situations. Children have rights ... not because they are children ... not because they are small ... not because they are young, but because they are human beings. In any case, it is because they are children, because they are small, because they are young, that we have the responsibility to see that their rights are protected, promoted, and recognized.

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Director:

Br. AMEstaún

Production:

Br. Onorino Rota

Mr. 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

Eduardo Navarro de la Torre

New Provincial of México Occidental



(Jalisco), where he began his studies. This college holds a place of honour in the Marist history of Mexico, because it has contributed forty vocations to the Marist Brothers.

Eduardo entered the juniorate on 15 August 1962 in Loma Bonita, Guadalajara (Jalisco). He made his postulancy in 1965, took the habit in 1966 and made his first profession in 1967 in Morelia. He then did three years of scholasticate in Loma Bonita as a student at the Normal School "Anáhuac".

In its meeting of 3 November 2009, the General Council decided to appoint Br. Eduardo Navarro de la Torre as Provincial of México Occidental for the next three years. His mandate will commence on 23 December 2009.

Brother Eduardo, known familiarly as "Lalo", was born in Tepatitlán, Jalisco (1950). His father, Domitilo, died in 1963, and his mother, Francisca de la Torre, who is still living, enrolled him in the Colegio Morelos of Tepatitlán

The apostolic activity of Br. Eduardo as a Marist can be summarised as follows: eight years teaching in Aguascalientes, Tepic, Monterrey and Tepatitlán; seven years as formator in the juniorate of Guadalajara, first as teacher and then four years as director; four years as student of religious psychology at the Gregorian University of Rome; nine years as formator in the Novitiate, with some as master and two as sub-master, working in a team with Brother Basilio Rueda; followed immediately by five years as

vice-provincial and superior of the provincial house. Recently he completed his term of six years as superior and director general of the Instituto México in Tijuana. In the course of these years, he has been elected at least four times to the Provincial Council, of which he was a current member.

The General Council recently asked him to take over direction of the International Centre of Spirituality of El Escorial (Madrid). He was preparing for this at this time after having participated as a delegate of his Province at the XXI General Chapter. Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, in the letter presenting Brother Eduardo to the Province writes: "I can testify to the openness, availability and spirit of faith Brother Lalo has shown in accepting this mission, and which he has shown anew in agreeing to respond to this new call which the Lord is making him to animate his province for three years". His Brothers are in admiration at his memory and his ability to imitate ways of speaking and tones of voice.



Óscar Martín Vicario

New Provincial of Compostela

Brother Superior General and his Council have appointed Brother Óscar Martín Vicario as Provincial of the Province of Compostela for a period of three years, beginning from 2 January 2010. Óscar's great qualities of leadership, which have been

manifested in the different responsibilities he has assumed in the course of his life as a Marist, have merited the confidence of the Brothers of his Province and of the General Council, in entrusting him with this new service to the Institute.

Brother Óscar begins his mandate in a province which, six years since its creation, feels itself very united, and maintains a strong Brothers-Laité relationship which brings mutual enrichment and gives dynamism to a large number of lay persons committed to

the Marist spirituality and mission. During these last years they have set in motion programmes of formation as a path to personal growth. Many consider the current provincial organigram a success; the existence of a "provincial animation team", and the setting in place of a "strategic plan". One has to point out also growth in the care for the most needy children and young people, an openness to new experience, the selection and formation of lay teachers, youth ministry and the missionary spirit.

In the years of his mandate, Brother Óscar will have to meet the challenges still pending: vocations ministry, more vital, meaningful and open communities, works becoming daily more evangelising, the integration of Brothers with lay people, a possible revision of the mission and apostolic works in the province and a greater presence among poor children and youth, among others.

Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, in



the letter presenting the new Provincial to the Brothers and laity of the Province, greeted them with the same cry used by the ancient pilgrims to Compostela to encourage themselves on the way: "¡Ultreya". "I would like this to be also today my salute to the province of Compostela: ¡Ultreya! Onwards!", he wrote.

Before his appointment he was Vice-Provincial and Coordinator of the Ani-

mation Team of the Compostela Province. He has worked especially within the areas of shared mission, formation of youth animators and teachers, and the accompaniment of Brothers and communities.

Oscar Martin Vicario was born in Burgos, Spain on September 10, 1966. He did his primary training at the Juniorate at Arevalo (Avila), and later at Miraflores (Burgos). The rest of his initial formation, Postulancy, Novitiate, and Scholasticate took place in Salamanca, where he made his first profession in 1986 and his perpetual profession in 1993.

His work in the classroom, apostolate, ministry and animation of youth took place in Segovia, Salamanca, Valladolid, and on the Province Ministry Team. He studied and obtained his Teaching Degree and subsequently his Master's Degree in Spanish Literature. Later on he earned his Master's Degree in Theology.



Ambrosio Alonso

New Provincial of Ibérica



Brother Superior General and his Council, at their meeting of 3 November 2009, appointed as Provincial of the Province of Ibérica, Brother Ambrosio Alonso DÍez for a three year period. Br. Ambrosio was filling the role of Vice-provincial and Co-ordinator of the Mission Commission of the Province of Ibérica. The time he spent serving the province as Vice-provincial, animating and co-ordinating evangelical works and projects of formal and non-formal education, has prepared him well for this new service.

Br. Ambrosio inherits the fruits of the management and leadership of Br. Samuel Holguín, who guided the Ibérica

Province during the first six years of its existence. The new Province has been realizing a path of mutual knowledge and integration consolidating the sense of belonging, has strengthened the relationship between Brothers and laity, based on communion, has augmented the sense of co-responsibility and the efforts in formation, of the Brothers as well as of the teachers and educators. The Fraternities of the Province provide a key opportunity for sharing and living boldly the Marist charism, all forming together a prophetic and Marian Church.

At the same time, however, the Province continues to face some challeng-

ing problems: the rise in the median age of the Brothers, the scarcity of vocations, and the difficulty of finding suitable ways of vocation ministry. The response to these challenges will come from the "new hearts for a new world", which the Chapter has asked for, called to intensify the spiritual life, to live as men of faith, to grow in the brother's identity, and in love and practice of Marist values. New hearts to animate and energize communities, to give potency to the evangelical dimension of the works, to promote structures in line with the Marist charism, to care for

the most needy in the field of social education and solidarity, to make more evident the presence of the Brothers among young people, youth ministry and a greater commitment to apostolic activities.

Born in Mecerreyes, province of Burgos (Spain), Br. Ambrosio completed his studies in the formation houses of Villalba (1970-1972), Sigüenza (1973-1976), and then studied for the bachelor's degree. Later he did his novitiate and made first religious profession on 15 August 1979. In Alcalá de

Henares he completed the formation phase of the scholasticate, studying for a diploma as teacher of Basic general education in the University School Cardinal Cisneros and subsequently, in the Higher Institute "St Pius X", the licentiate in Religious Sciences, speciality "Catechetics".

His ministry has included educational and pastoral activities in the centres "Champagnat" of Guadalajara and "San José del Parque" of Madrid as teacher, co-ordinator of pastoral participation and in the directing team.



Provincial Chapter « Cruz del Sur »

The new Provincial takes possession

At Luján, Argentine, Brothers and laity have had the opportunity of sharing a very agreeable and significant time in the progress of the Marist life of Cruz del Sur and of the District of Paraguay.

The Assembly of lay people and Brothers working in the different areas of Marist mission and administration in Uruguay and Argentine, had its first meeting at the end of October. The persons present represented the commissions which plan for and accompany the numerous laity and brothers working in education and in support of solidarity among children and youth.

At the end of the meeting, the participants drew up a document containing proposals for the Provincial Chapter.

The second meeting – the Brothers' Assembly – was held with the presence of Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, who gave us the benefit of his contributions. We touched on many subjects: community life, prayer, shared mission, vocations ministry, health, common formation of Brothers and laity, responses to the directives of the General Chapter inviting us to set out

in haste to meet children and youth, especially the most vulnerable.

On Sunday 8 November we feted fourteen Brother jubilarians on the occasion of their 25, 50, 60, 70 and 75 years of religious life. The outgoing Brother Provincial – Demetrio Espinosa -, the incoming Provincial – Horacio Bustos – and Brother Superior General honoured them by presenting them with souvenir plaques.

The celebration continued into the Mass, during which Brother Horacio Bustos assumed his new office and expressed his personal project about the task he intends to fulfill during this first three years. Brothers Demetrio and Emili had their turn to speak at the end of the ceremony.

The afternoon of the same day, the Third Provincial Chapter began, presided over by Brother Horacio, with those taking part numbering 28. Brother Superior General was present on Sunday and Monday. Besides its usual tasks, the Chapter gave great importance to the contributions received from the Brothers' assembly and the meeting of the different provincial commissions of

government and management. Thanks to these contributions and following a discernment, the capitulants identified four calls for the three years beginning: 1) Revitalisation of community life in seeking a greater closeness to children and young people and in moving out to mission, in the heart of extended communities. 2) Province and District projects, to be set in motion in the works from the perspective of vocation. 3) Greater attention to the general health of the Brothers and communities, thanks to the accompaniment of the Team for Brothers and Communities. 4) Co-ordination in view of assuring a greater engagement in solidarity projects in defence of the rights of vulnerable children and young people. To take steps to reinforce the presence of university students and lay people in this task.

Finally, the capitulants elected the new Provincial Council which will second Brother Horacio in the task of animating the Province. It is composed of the following Brothers: Alberto Aparicio, Juan Ignacio Fuentes, Horacio Magaldi, Rubén Seipel, Agustín Martínez and José Kuhm.

