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Updates

10/12/2009: Br. Emili Turú elected member of the Executive Committee of USG

09/12/2009: New Marist link: Colegio Champagnat de Popayan (Colombia)

09/12/2009: Boletín SED n.º 47 - invierno, 2009

09/12/2009: Portugal - Matilde Rosa Araújo Literary Prize

07/12/2009: Deceased Brother: Samuele Piróli (Rio Grande do Sul)

07/12/2009: Ad Gentes - Letter of Br. Agustí Cassú from Phnom Pehn

06/12/2009: Italy - How a Brother's life can be a full one

04/12/2009: United States - Brother Ben Consigli appointed as Provincial

04/12/2009: Video: Manifesto in defence of the Rights of Children (Barcelona)

04/12/2009: New book received: El hijo del Jacobino - San Marcelino Champagnat (1789-1840) - Claudio Alberti, fms

04/12/2009: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 75

04/12/2009: General House - The English Speaking Third Age Course

03/12/2009: Worldwide presence - Photo gallery number 239

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Assembly of the Union of Superior Generals

Br. Emili Turú elected member of the Executive Committee



The Union of Superior Generals (USG), gathered in ordinary Assembly from 25 to 27 November, has elected an Executive Council for a period of three years. Fr. Pascual Chávez Villanueva, Superior General of the Salesians was re-elected as President, and Fr. Josep Maria Abella Batlle, Superior General of the Clarentian Missionaries, was elected Vice-President.

The Council consists of 10 members elected in accordance with the different forms of Consecrated Life. For the Canons Regular, Fr. Thomas Handgrättinger (Premonstratention Canons Regular) and Fr. Adolfo Nicolás (Company of Jesus) were elected; for clerical religious, Fr. Mario Aldegani (Murialdo Josephines), and Fr. Javier Alvarez-Ossorio (Congregations of

the SS. Hearts - Picpus), Fr. Rino Benzoni (Xaverians) and Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho (Dehonians); for religious Brothers, Br. Emili Turú (Marist Brothers) was elected; for monastics, Fr. Bruno Marín (Sublacense Benedictines); for the mendicant orders, Fr. José Rodríguez Carballo (Order of Friars Minor or Franciscans); finally, for Societies of Apostolic Life, Fr. Kieran O'Rielly (Society of African Missions).

The USG, whose purpose is "to promote the life and mission of the various Institutes at the service of the Church, by means of a more efficient collaboration among themselves and a more fruitful contact with the Holy See and the Hierarchy", is formed of the Superior Generals of more than 200 congregations of men.

MARIST NEWS

N.º 82 - Year II - December 10th, 2009

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Province of United States of America

Br. Ben Consigli appointed as Provincial



Administration from Saint John's University in New York.

Brother Ben Consigli During his postulancy (1984-87), Ben taught English and History at Archbishop Molloy High School in New York. After professing first vows in 1989, Ben taught Humanities and American History at Roselle Catholic High School in New Jersey. In 1991, he returned to teaching Global Studies and American History at Archbishop Molloy High School. After professing his perpetual vows in 1995, Ben began his tenure as a high school administrator, serving as an Assistant Principal for Academics at Archbishop Molloy High School. In 2000, Ben was appointed Principal of Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Texas, but left that position when he was elected Vice Provincial of the Esopus Province in 2001.

Ben has served as a Provincial Councilor for the former Esopus Province from 1998-2001, and for the American Province from 2003 to the present. He has also served as a member of the Province Finance Team since 2001. With the restructuring of the two American Provinces in 2003, Ben was elected as an Assistant Provincial whose areas of responsibility focused on the Province's school ministries and school board formation. In 2005, Ben was appointed as Director of Marist Education, a position he presently holds.

In 2005, Ben was appointed as Director of Marist Education, and in 2009 he was appointed the 2nd Provincial of the Province, succeeding Brother John Klein.

Brother Superior General and his Council have appointed Brother Ben Consigli as Provincial of the Province of the USA for a period of three years, beginning from 12 November 2009. At the recently concluded Provincial Chapter, the delegates elected the following Brothers to serve as members of the Provincial Council: Brothers Roy George (Vice Provincial), Hank Hammer, Kevin Handibode, Ken Hogan, Sean Sammon, and Steve Schlitte. Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, was also in attendance for the Province's third Provincial Chapter.

Born on November 25, 1962, in Elmhurst, New York, USA, Ben belongs to the Province of the United States of America. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Humanities from Queens College of the City University of New York, a Master of Arts degree in History from Rutgers University in New Jersey, and a Professional Diploma in Educational

Marists share experiences of the XXI General Chapter

Brazil

Dozens of Brothers, lay people from the schools and Social Centres, members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, and collaborators of the Rio Grande do Sul Province gathered to share experiences of the XXI General Chapter. The meeting was held in the « Colégio Marista Champagnat », of Porto Alegre, and was animated by the Brother capitulants, Lauro Hochscheidt, Pedro Ost and Inácio Etges.

During the morning, the Provincial, Br. Lauro, gave a brief explanation of the preparations for the Chapter, mentioning the persons involved, whether through the Provincial Assembly, the Capitulants' Meeting, or the Regional Meeting.

Then Br. Pedro Ost presented to those present the times lived in Rome, by means of photos and other documents. He highlighted the participation of the laity, the celebrations, visits, study groups, and the development of the elections of the Superior General, the Vicar General and the General Councillors.

The first part of the meeting finished with celebration of Mass in the school chapel. In the afternoon, Br. Inácio Etges co-ordinated the sharing on the follow-up to the Chapter. Meeting in small groups, Brothers, laity and co-workers reflected together on the calls of the Chapter. The central question requiring a response was to know how the Marist Network of Rio Grande do Sul could follow up on the General Chapter. According to the Brother capitulants, the responses from each group will provide a basis for future actions in the Province.



Marists and the Rights of Children

Manifesto in defence of the Rights of Children

This morning, at the beginning of our XXI General Chapter, I invite you to make your own the eyes of poor children. These words were pronounced in the Chapter hall by Brother Sean Sammon, at the time still Superior General. It was a message for all the Marists in the world, Brothers and lay people. Today, 20 November 2009, celebrating the Convention of Children's Rights, we are called, in a very special way, to see the world through a poor child's eyes and discover, through his/her gaze, the grandeur of life, the goodness, the love, the dreams of growing and journeying, of living a happy childhood.

But the eyes of children, particularly of the poor, are also witnesses of egoism and evil, of abuse and exploitation, of the violation of people's rights and, and more concretely, of children's rights. For this reason, the Marists of Catalonia, children and young people, on the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Convention on Children's Rights, want to display their concrete commitment to work for justice and the defence of the Rights of Children.

Brother Emili Turú, new Superior General, in his closing address of the XXI General Chapter, expressed his desire for the Marists to "become experts in the defence of the rights of children and young people. God grant that in eight years, when we look back, we will be able to say that the Institute has taken very significant steps in this direction". This is the challenge we want to take up.

Today in an institutional act, some children are going to read a manifesto, fruit of the reflection and commitment of students and teachers in the



schools and social works. The voices of Marist children unite with the voices of the children and young people of the world. So we offer the manifesto so that Marists may show their willingness to unite with us in the wish to build a more just and human world for children.

MANIFESTO IN DEFENCE OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

"On 20th November 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To mark the twentieth anniversary of this Convention, the children and young people of the Marist Educational Works of Catalonia have worked on the rights and obligations of children. We have done this in our educational centres, with our companions of class, with the teachers and educators. And now, in each place, there will be a special celebration and

a remembrance, because, twenty years on, although much has been done, there are still millions of children who are unable to fully enjoy their rights, and are even exposed to new violations of those rights.

In representation of our companions, we have come together not only to celebrate the anniversary of the Convention, but also to raise our voices, because every child in the world has a voice, a face, a name, so that all can live and grow with dignity.

Although all children have the same rights, we are conscious that many throughout the world are vulnerable and that governments and society do not have the powers necessary to change this situation.

It is good fortune to have a family that loves us, to receive an education, to be surrounded by people we can trust

and by friends who support us, to have medical care, food and a home. Many other children cannot say the same. For that reason, we want to say thank you to all who are concerned for us and who help us so that the rights of children are respected.

Still, much remains to be done and we ask for the commitment of the whole society. For this reason, we declare as follows:

- We believe that we have a right to a free education. All children have to read and write and ought to have a dignified future with equality of opportunity. There are many children who work and are exploited instead of going to school.
- We believe that we have a right to be treated equally. Everyone should be respected, whatever the origin, sex, language, religion, economic status, physical or mental condition.
- We believe that we have a right to receive love and understanding and to return it.

- We believe that we have a right to protect ourselves against all types of bad treatment. We have a right to life and development.
- We believe that we have a right to have food and clothing, so that we do not suffer malnutrition or become ill. We have a right to good hygiene and good health.
- We believe that we have a right to choose, to express ourselves and to be listened to without measures being taken against us.
- We believe that we have a right to privacy, for ourselves and for our family, to live on the border of media and economic interests.
- We believe that, in circumstances harmful to our family situation, we have a right to have help, protection and assistance, and, if the case requires, a legal counsel to accompany us in our needs.

- We believe that no child should be exploited.
- We believe that we have a right to live and enjoy our childhood. We have a right not to be robbed of our childhood.

We wish to go beyond our immediate environment and show in a special way our firm rejection of all the situations in which millions of children live and which wound their condition as human beings and children. We reject especially war and its aftermath, labour and sexual exploitation, the marginalisation of the physically or mentally handicapped, the traffic in children and their deaths in networks of prostitution, mutilation and the traffic of organs, slavery. We do not accept that children be trained in war and killing, or that they be turned into child soldiers. We do not accept that children be incited to hatred and violence. We unite ourselves to all the anonymous children who have passed through this world without having received love or protection.

With this manifesto, we wish to transmit a breath of hope to all those children whose rights or persons are not respected. We believe that it is very important that these are guaranteed and, for that reason, we ask that all countries commit themselves to accepting and implementing the rights of children. That families, educational centres, legislators, institutions and society generally recognize that children are persons with rights and duties, which we ought to respect and guard and that we have a right to be children and to act accordingly.

We strive to respect and help the others, to solve conflicts using dialogue, to take care of nature, to value freedom, not to waste food, to make those at our side happy.

Finally, we commit ourselves to building a better world for all.

A good present for children and a good future for society.

