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Updates

01/07/2010: New book - Andante Mediterráneo (José Luis Vallejo Marchite, fms)

07/01/2010: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 80 (January 6th)

07/01/2010: VIII National Meeting of the Fraternities of El Salvador

06/01/2010: Cuba - Two projects for youth

05/01/2010: I Celebrate Jubilees (Br Vitus Echesirim Osuji)

05/01/2010: Saint Albert's Comprehensive College, Bafut (Cameroon)

05/01/2010: Spain - The Marist Brothers receive the Gold Medal of the « Concello de Tui »

04/01/2010: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 79

04/01/2010: Worldwide presence - Photo gallery number 242

02/01/2010: Deceased Brother: Abilio Díez Mediavilla (Mediterránea)

04/01/2010: Course "Amanecer": Brothers of the "third age"

30/12/2009: Sydney Province Convocation

29/12/2009: Pontifical university of Paraná, Brazil - PUCPR

28/12/2009: Spain - Animation Team of the Fraternities (EAF)

Course "Amanecer"

Brothers of the "third age"



The Third Age group of Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Brothers have completed their two month course successfully. The DAWN programme was followed in its fullness and the personal and community evaluations expressed full satisfaction. The work groups endeavoured to express their evaluations in three points and send it in the form of an automessage. It will be wonderful record which will help them relive the shared experiences of the two months and commit themselves to their immediate life of community and mission.

We Brothers of the DAWN programme, of the Third Age, feel deeply blessed by the Lord – always faithful and bountiful – throughout our journey in religious

life. We consider a great gift of God and a special grace the time he has offered us, for our spiritual growth and commitment, in the course now ended. Truly, the Lord has done great things for us.

During these two months, we have lived in brotherly community with authenticity and transparency, following the example of our Founders, motivated by the careful preparation of the Eucharist and the times of common prayer, and encouraged by the many attentions provided by all the personnel of the General House.

The ample time for quiet reading and personal reflection have led us to a better knowledge of ourselves, a deepening of our spirituality –enriched by the mov-

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Marist Brother's Institute

General House – Rome

ing pilgrimage to the Marist sources, and a greater acquaintance with our congregations.

On our spiritual itinerary, we have experienced the presence of God and our Good Mother. This reality has helped us feel a great desire to live with joy this stage in our lives, confident in the future of the Institute, because we see its vitality and dynamism, and because we feel stimulated by the calls the General Chapter has addressed to the older Brothers.

We commit ourselves to continue our human, spiritual, and apostolic growth, generating an authentic family life by our joyful attitude,

close to young people and centred on the simple family of Nazareth.

We strongly desire to share our charism with lay people, striving to turn into reality the directives coming from the XXI General Chapter, especially the document "AROUND THE SAME TABLE".

We regard ourselves as active agents of the present time and not mere spectators. We seek to collaborate, to the extent of our possibilities, in making real the four points proposed to us by the General Chapter: WITNESS, PRESENCE, JOY AND PRAYER.

We place special attention on keep-

ing ourselves healthy, physically as well as psychologically and spiritually, using the practices of physical exercise, reading, healthy entertainments, personal exchange and frequency in prayer.

We conclude by expressing our gratitude to our religious Institutes and their representatives for the opportunity of ongoing formation they have offered us in this time of grace. Our response will be the hopeful relationship with the Lord and the generosity towards all those who have placed their confidence in us.

May Mary, our Good Mother, inspire our journey in this new DAWN of our life.



Eleven New Brothers

Matola Novitiate, Mozambique

The 5th December St. Gabriel Parish was privileged to witness the first profession of our eleven New Marist from the Southern Africa Province. The photo is just inside the parish before the altar where our newly professed stood in a line waiting for congratulations. This was followed by the Holy Mass.

We had moments of speeches and we later left for our community for a meal. After a good meal, we had some general entertainments which were thrilling to see. People left at their own will.

To our newly professed brothers we say "Parabéns!" and may God be with you as you serve him. We feel proud of you as join us in shepherding the youth to become good Christians and good citizens.

Your profession is a very precious mo-



ment in your life and all these people who witnessed it have a different picture of our Marist life. Memories of your day will remain with us and will be a continuous reminder to us all of your consecration to God. As you go

to your respective communities carry with you regards and best wishes to all those you will live with. Have a restful moment with your parents, relatives and friends. God bless.



Following the XXI General Chapter

Sydney Province Convocation



Following the end of the XXI General Chapter and the return of our delegates, the Brothers of the Sydney Province gathered in Convocation at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th December.

We were grateful to have newly elected General Councillor Br Michael De Wass with us for the duration. His presence was a clear reminder of the international character of our Institute, one of the signposts the Chapter gave us towards our future.

The atmosphere of the convocation was positive and energising, not only for the chance to meet up with con-

frères met rarely throughout the year, but also because of the challenging and encouraging agenda before us: Our identity as Brothers, our relation with Lay Marists, and Marist Mission.

There were many gifts of these days together:

Brotherhood was powerfully present among us – 'it was good for us to here' – and much positive praying and sharing took place throughout our time together.

It was a deeply prayerful gathering, with appropriate and thoughtful liturgies prepared and shared, and time given – even within sessions – for reflection and quiet time.

We experienced in a delightful way the gift of our Marist colleagues – women and men – who shared with us their insights, hopes and aspirations for our journey together as Marists in Champagnat's tradition. They spoke of "feeling valued". The Brothers, in their turn, endorsed the steps the Province is taking to foster communion and co-

responsibility.

From each other, as well as our colleagues and students, we were strongly affirmed in our call as Brothers today, to continue to be visible and welcoming to the young in our ministries. Who we are in our hearts and how we engage with others is the key to our Marist mission in the future.

To have had our young Brothers and young men in formation with us, assuring us of their love for our vocation and commitment to our Marist journey together, was a special gift of these days. They encouraged us, as they reiterated Br Steve Urban's wonderful encouragement of many years ago – 'Tell the sons of Israel to march on!'

And permeating so much of these days together was the invitation – even challenge – to deepen our Marian spirituality and to reach deep down into our Marian hearts to hear our lives resonate with Mary's Magnificat so that we might with generosity and conviction 'go with her, in haste, to a new land'.



The marist laity of Venezuela

National Meeting of Laity

From the city of los Teques, gathered at the Marist House of Formation, in the presence of God the Father, of our Mother Mary of Coromoto and of our Father Founder, we wish to share with you the experience we have lived during these days of reflection on the theme of the identity of the Marist laity in Venezuela.

We begin this letter by declaring and acknowledging that we are assuming our identity as lay Marists, a particular and rich vocation for the Church and for the Marist Family. We are aware of our sharing in the charism left to us by Champagnat and of the responsibility of giving birth to it again with a new face. The example of Mary, who went

in haste to visit and serve her cousin Elizabeth, and the example of the first Brothers sharing life together around the table at La Valla, urges us to reaffirm our vocation and to be faithful to it.

In order to give reality to this expression of the lay life, we feel the ne-

cessity of organizing ourselves through teamwork and animation. The lay life we have inherited from history and from the great number of lay persons who, in its course, have contributed their lives and spirituality to the growth of the Marist charism in this land. As part of this history, we recognize the vigor which lay youth contribute and from which have come the majority of those who, as fathers, teachers, animators, directors, and members of the different pastoral agencies, make up the variety and richness of the Marist laity of Venezuela. This history binds us today to respond to the call of Jesus, to deepen our response in a real journeying in the lay vocation. (...)

This call that we have heard from God, we have found deepened in sharing the mission with the Brothers. Thank you, Brothers, because it is you who have shown us the Marist way of life and given us a love for the charism of Champagnat. (...)

For this reason, we feel it necessary to initiate a process of formation and accompaniment which will help us to strengthen our identity as Lay Marists and allow us to hold fast and reaffirm the vocation to which we have been called.

This process of formation and accompaniment we envisage as a joint journey of Brothers and laity, in which all are responsible for building the family, following the example of Marcellin and the first Brothers in the construction of the Hermitage.

On this itinerary of formation and ac-

companiment, we discover some involvements and ways we must travel:

- Passionate for the charism, to share responsibility for animating a Marist Vocations Ministry, both combined and specific, which will multiply the members of our family. For this reason, to organize the Vocations Ministry team with the participation of Brothers, and single and married lay persons.
- To make ourselves present, Brothers and Laity, in the processes of Youth Ministry, giving witness to our own Christian and Marist vocation.
- To grow in personal relationship with God.
- To organize and set in motion a Plan of Basic Formation: human, Christian and Marist.
- To live the processes of formation and accompaniment in community. To let ourselves accompany and know how to accompany processes.
- To live and offer ourselves personal accompaniment, helping others to make their own decisions in faith.
- To form ourselves and make ourselves capable of accompaniment.
- Commit ourselves to significant experiences of serving the most disadvantaged children and young people. (...)

Informal spaces of sharing life and friendship between Laity and Brothers should be the source of a family relationship, a relation of equals. This relationship

should be made concrete at all levels: decision making, planning, realization, evaluation.

All this implies major changes in the paradigms that have existed for many years. It is time to make a joint effort for the rebirth of the Marist charism among children and youth. We know that many of these plans have to be laid aside, especially by us Laity. Dependency on the Brothers does not help the Champagnat Laity find its identity and take on the responsibilities which our Marist Venezuela requires of us today.

We talk of a life shared between Brothers and Laymen and women, in which the specific identities of our vocations complement each other and give reality to the dream Marcellin bequeathed to us: "See how they love one another". The time has arrived to expand the tent and share the same table. We must travel decisively and conscientiously in that direction.

The fruit of discernment realized in the different works, and as coinciding with this meeting, we acknowledge the richness and diversity of the Venezuelan Marist Laity, a laity which in its multiple expressions springs from service, from the encounter with Jesus in the poor children and young people of our beloved Venezuela. For this reason, we propose (to the new Provincial Council) the combined formation of a Commission of Laity and Brothers of Venezuela to examine, for a time of no more than a year, the possibility of converting into a mixed community one of the existing works of new presence and /or reopening one of the closed works of new presence in Venezuela (Apure, Primero de Mayo). As for this community's mission, we would suggest that it be with children and young people in situations of risk.

As Lay Marists of Champagnat we involve ourselves together with the Brothers in the challenge of helping to give birth to the dawn of a new Marist life and to strengthen the existing one by making it more creative, faithful, dynamic and prophetic. On our response depends the future of a revitalized Marist Venezuela.

