

[www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org)

## Updates

**28/01/2010:** New Marist links: Antiguos alumnos Maristas de Santa Clara, Cuba - Asociación de Antiguos Alumnos Maristas de Cuba

**28/01/2010:** Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, celebrates 55 years

**28/01/2010:** Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 83

**27/01/2010:** Marist blog: Mary Woman of the New Wine (Br. Pau Fornells)

**26/01/2010:** Deceased Brother: Nardier João Orsi (Rio Grande do Sul)

**26/01/2010:** Description of work of FMSI in Geneva

**25/01/2010:** New Marist link: CEPAM - Cartas a Marcelino

**25/01/2010:** Marist life in Oceania

**24/01/2010:** Br. Pietro Betin new superior of the Community of the General House

**22/01/2010:** 1st National Congress of the PJM - Brasil

**22/01/2010:** FMSI - Working for Haiti

**22/01/2010:** Compostela Province - Third Chapter

**21/01/2010:** Young brothers of «Brasil Centro-Norte»

## FMSI - Working for Haiti

### *Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale Onlus*

Bringing assistance to those suffering in Haiti has been the topic of discussions recently held by FMSI (Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale Onlus), The General Council and the Province of "México Occidental". The discussions aim at coordinating Institute resources so as to respond in the best way possible to the overwhelming needs of the country through immediate and long-range plans. We will assist our Brothers in their efforts to help rebuild their country.

Mexico Occidental Province is concerned about two issues. The first is to meet the immediate needs of the Haitian people. The second is to set up projects that would aid in addressing future problems through education, development, and the improvement of living conditions.

The strategy is to make use of FMSI to channel the aid that is received, do-



ing so in close collaboration with the Mexico Occidental Province and the Haiti Sector. Any resources that are collected through the FMSI account will be used for the creation of new education projects to benefit children and young people in Haiti, after emergency conditions have passed.

A number of Provinces have already mobilized their forces in order to raise funds in their schools. Provinces that wish to contribute immediately through other channels (e.g. international aid organizations) should feel free to do so.



For information on contributing please contact us at [solidar@fmsi.it](mailto:solidar@fmsi.it)

FMSI (Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale Onlus) is the not-for-profit Foundation based at the Generalate.

**Site FMSI**  
<http://www.fmsi-onlus.org>

#### MARIST NEWS

N.º 89 - Year II - January 28th, 2010

#### 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@fmsi.it](mailto:publica@fmsi.it)

web: [www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org)

#### Edit:

Marist Brother's Institute  
General House - Rome

# Compostela Province Third Chapter

## Brother Oscar Martin New Provincial



Compostela Province held its third Chapter in Valladolid; in attendance were twenty-seven Capitular Brothers and ten invited lay people. The Compostela Province came into existence just six years ago.

On January 2, 2010, in a cordial atmosphere and in presence of Brother Emili Turu, Superior General, Brother Oscar Martin was officially inducted as new Provincial, succeeding to Brother Primitivo.

Brother Primitivo expressed his gratitude to all those who had given him encouragement and support over his six years as Provincial. "I particularly thank our Superior General, Brother Emili Turu, who has been our help and guide during important moments of Province life: the Golden and Diamond Jubilee celebrations of many Brothers, of whom I am one, and the present inauguration of the third Compostela Province Chapter." He continued, "Now I pass the baton to Brother Oscar, who, younger than I, will undoubtedly bring fresh wisdom and a different manner of leadership."

Brother Oscar focused his comments on three biblical quotations that captured what he was feeling. First was a phrase from Psalm 15: "The measuring lines have fallen on pleasant sites; fair to me indeed is my inheritance." To illustrate the significance of the phrase, he pointed out two examples: "our community in Comayagua with the two new projects that we are developing there; and the generosity of our Brothers who have volunteered for Asia Mission ad Gentes or for other countries - Romania, Mozambique, Zambia, Angola, Venezuela, Guatemala, Peru, Ghana. Such undertakings are a sign of life and hope."

The second biblical passage which Brother Oscar offered is from Psalm 79: "O God, bring us back, let your face shine us and we shall be safe." "Besides being pleased with this 'inheritance,' permit me also to request that together we ask God for his strength to face the new challenges which lie before us. As a Province, today more than ever and with hearts united, we must pray Psalm 79, asking God to 'visit us' and to 're-

store us' with his presence that gives us life, meaning, salvation."

Lastly, Brother Oscar turned to Psalm 85: "Guide my heart to fear your name." "I know that I can accomplish nothing if God does not 'guide my heart,' sustain it, nourish it."

The Chapter studied the reports submitted by various capitular teams: the Provincial Council, the Education Team, that of Brothers and Communities, Animation, Finance, and the report of the team that evaluated the Province's three year Plan.

Using the reports as a spring board, the delegates examined various topics that were suggested for establishing action-plans for the committees to be set up in the Province for the coming three years.

The Provincial Councilors elected to assist Brother Oscar Martin are Brothers Eduardo Montenegro, Antonio Leal, Nicolas Garcia, Maximo Blanco, Raul Figuera and Tomas Briongos.



# Marist life in Oceania

## Concurrent Provincial Chapters

At their meeting with the General Council in Auckland in May 2008, the Provincial and District Councils of the Oceania made a number of commitments for regional cooperation that were published soon afterwards. The Introduction to these commitments states: "We have committed ourselves unambiguously to continuing to work as one in the process of imagining and planning for what may become possible."

After two years we want to evaluate what has happened and do more "imagining and planning" in relation to our viability and vitality, including "the structures that will be necessary for governance and leadership".

One of the Commitments was explicitly concerned with "Missioning Together". It states, "Engaging in Mission as Marists together in this Region will require us to extend our horizons and deepen our relationships across Oceania and will necessarily involve building stronger interpersonal relationships among all Marists in the Region. It will

require us to labour, to dialogue and reflect together and so come to a deeper understanding and a new energy about our ministry."

In late May this year there will be a Regional Assembly. Some 60 Brothers and Lay Marists from across the Oceania region will gather at Mittagong. Their task is to propose:

- \* How to take the Oceania Commitments forward;
- \* Next steps for the Oceania Council;
- \* How we, as a Region, will take forward the work of the 21st General Chapter.

Also, later this year each of our Provinces is due to have a Provincial Chapter. Melanesia will have their Chapter in 2011. Recently the three Provincial Councils have studied the possibility of holding these Chapters together. Each Council has now endorsed the proposal. The decision is to hold the three Chapters at St Joseph's College, Sydney, between December 19 and 22, 2010. The final dates are yet to be set. The District Council of Melanesia will

attend as observers.

It is a most timely step "in the process of building a vision for our shared future".

Clearly, having the Chapters together will help us know one another better and grow in our sense of brotherhood across the Region.

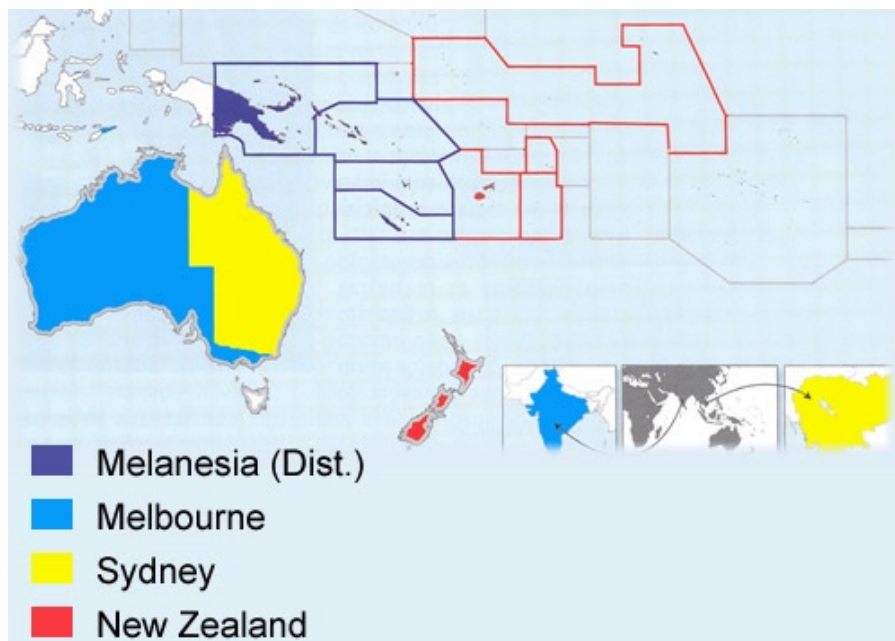
The Provincial Chapters come after the Regional Assembly and will benefit from the proposals it develops. Having the Chapters concurrently on the same site with a number of joint sessions will make it possible for us Brothers to consider together any emerging priorities. For example, there is a need for consensus across the Region in relation to our communion with "lay Marists". This need will grow, particularly after the Oceania Partnership Conference in July this year.

### What about the canonical work of each Chapter?

There will be extended time given to each Chapter to allow for separate Council elections, the appropriation of priorities, and conducting any business proper to each Province.

Each Province will arrange for its own Chapter Preparatory Commission and election of delegates as normal.

Brothers, this is an evolutionary step. Some might say it is prophetic and inspired. Certainly it is in line with the spirit of the General Chapter that saw a sense of our internationality as a necessity for Marists in today's world.



# Description of work of FMSI in Geneva

Br. Jim Jolley

In 2004 the General Council, as part of an on-going review of the offices of the General Administration, called for a review of BIS, the Institute's office for justice, peace and solidarity.

Based on the Message of the 20th General Chapter for the General Council to create support structures that would ensure representation of the Institute before international organizations concerned with education and solidarity, three recommendations around the area of partnerships and the establishment of an advocacy program for child rights before the United Nations, were adopted.

In March of 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Franciscans International, a Franciscan-based NGO with general consultative status before the United Nations. With offices in Geneva and New York, FI represents the Franciscan Family before the United Nations speaking on several issues arising from their charism: human rights, poverty, social development, and integrity of creation. This Memorandum made it possible for BIS to set up an office for Child Rights in Geneva in partnership with FI.

In October 2005, Br. Cesar Henriquez (Province of Central America) moved to Rome to begin a period of preparation. In October 2006, he moved to Geneva, Switzerland, to take up his duties as the Child Rights Advocacy Officer in the office of Franciscans International. In the meantime the Province of the Hermitage established a community in Geneva to help support the role of the FMSI Advocacy Officer. Welcoming visitors and hosting groups who are interested to learn more about our work in Geneva and the work of the United Nations is part of the hospitality role of the Geneva Marist Community.

Br Cesar concluded his appointment in November 2008 and he has been replaced by Br Jim Jolley (Province of Melbourne) who commenced his work in Geneva in September 2009.

It became apparent that for our own advancement we would need to apply for accreditation as a 'consultative body with special competency' through ECOSOC (UN Economic and Social Council) – the same accreditation status that Franciscans International has. But to do this we needed to be a juridical body recognized in civil society. BIS did not have this status so application was made to obtain legal recognition as a juridical body in Italy. This was achieved in April 2008. Thus BIS ceased to exist and a new legal entity, the Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale – onlus (FMSI), came into being.

Application for ECOSOC accreditation can now begin. When accreditation is received, FMSI will be able to attend UN conferences and meetings, such as the Human Rights Council based in Geneva, and speak on its own behalf. In the meantime we use our partnership with Franciscans International to do this.

The Child Rights Advocacy Officer based in Geneva is a member of the FMSI staff and the primary focus of his role is in two areas:

- Advocating for children's issues before the UN, its agencies and inter-governmental organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, primarily in Geneva (e.g. the Committee for the Rights of the Child); and
- Educating and animating within the Institute so its members and colleagues become more actively aware and engaged in national/international justice issues as they relate to children. Conducting training courses for

provinces or regions would be part of this task.

Through the Child Rights Advocacy Officer in Geneva, the Marist Brothers have already made a number of representations and interventions for the Rights of Children, using the UN mechanisms, in such countries as Guatemala, Cambodia, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Kenya. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which is a new mechanism of the UN that reviews all 192 countries on their performance in Human Rights, offers an excellent opportunity for FMSI to stand up for the rights of children in the international forum. This is done in co-operation with the Institute's Administrative Units for the country under review. This year FMSI hopes to participate in the UPR of the USA and Malawi.

Addressing Marist groups that visit the Hermitage on Child Rights and the work of FMSI, and - by invitation - to do the same thing in Provinces or Regions, is also part of Br Jim's work for 2010. Training courses in Human Rights and how to advocate for children's rights at the local level can also be offered.

These are the initial steps of the Institute to work towards the Superior General's call at the end of the XXI General Chapter for the Marists Brothers to become known throughout the world as experts in the defence of the rights of children and the young. And he added: "Let us hope that in eight year's time, when we look back, we will be able to say that the Institute has taken very significant steps in that direction."

Br Jim has been in Rome from recently to attend Strategic Planning Sessions with the other members of the FMSI team, which is based at the General House.

