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09/03/2010: Peru - Marist experiences of charismatic growth and vitality

08/03/2010: Celibacy: Prophetic Witness (3) - Br. Vitus Osuji

08/03/2010: Marist blog: A Woman who is Marist at Heart and by Calling (Br. Pau Fornells)

08/03/2010: Deceased Brother: Bede (Basil Henry) Yates - Sydney

08/03/2010: Brother Crisanto and Sixty-seven Companions, Martyrs

07/03/2010: Admission to the novitiate in the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte

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05/03/2010: Tribute to Brother Edmund Slattery - Ministerial Statement (+ 20th February, 2010)

05/03/2010: Formation Program in Hermitage Province - Second Time Around

04/03/2010: Deceased Brother: George Kopper (United States)

04/03/2010: Distribution and study of the document *Gathered Around the Same Table*

03/03/2010: Brazil - 1st National Meeting of Animators of the ChMMF

"Gathered Around the Same Table"

Distribution and study of the document

The Bureau of the Laity, with responsibility for helping the distribution and study of the new document: *Gathered Around the Same Table. The Vocation of Champagnat's Marist Laity*, has sent to all the Administrative Units of the Institute some guides for the Brothers and Lay people responsible for its distribution, as well as two aids for studying it.

First of all, it has edited a document in PDF, entitled *Features of Lay Marist Life*: a collection of testimonies from 92 laymen and women with their accounts of incarnating the Lay Marist life around the same table. Following the same scheme of chapters and sections as the previous document, *Features* attempts to prove that the *Lay Marist vocation* is not a printed theory but a life that already exists, and in abundance. The various testimonies coming from very different cultural sensibilities show the richness of Lay Marist diversity and of its strong unity in the charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, at the same time as they help to give depth to the different concepts of *Around the same table* from the practice of daily life. The Extended Bureau of the Laity with the efficacious help of our webmaster Luiz da Rosa is the author of this aid published in the four official languages of the Institute. Those who wish can download it directly from our web.

Br. Pau Fornells and Br. Daniel Martín (América Central) have also made a powerpoint about the main ideas of each chapter of *Gathered around the same table*. It may serve to present each chapter prior to personal

FEATURES OF LAY MARIST LIFE



Understanding the Document

GATHERED AROUND THE SAME TABLE
The Vocation of Champagnat's Marist Laity

Extended Bureau of the Laity
Rome, December 8th, 2009

or group study. It can also be downloaded directly from our web.

We at the Bureau of Laity would like to receive all material you are producing for a better distribution and understanding of the document. Beyond the various languages and sensibilities, they will surely be of great benefit for the other provinces. We wish you all encouragement in this work of promotion and formation of the Lay Marist vocation.

Br. Pau Fornells Sala
Bureau of the Laity

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Province of Nigeria

Assembly on the 21st General Chapter



After living the rich and grace-filled moments of the 21st General Chapter, the Provincial knowing the necessity of the fundamental calls of chapter decided to call a Provincial Assembly in order to sensitize Brothers on the need to respond promptly to the radical call to conversion of heart and mind.

In the course of the Assembly, the Brothers reflected, prayed and resolved

to embrace the call to CONVERSION as related to our consecration and ways of being MARIST RELIGIOUS, which entails:

- 1) Intensifying our prayer life, personally and communally.
- 2) Improve human relationship among Brothers and lay Marists.
- 3) Adopting gospel attitudes in the use material goods.
- 4) Being ready to go on mission

within and outside Nigeria.

5) Making the "Child" once more the centre of our apostolate.

6) Emphasize the true identity of a lay Marist, namely those who live the spirituality and charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

The participants of the Assembly went home inflamed by the calls of the 21st General chapter and resolved further to keep the fire lit by the Chapter burning for the next eight years!

The participants further resolved to adopt the personal requirements of the call, namely to make a personal change of heart in living our consecration, mission and relationship with the Lay Marists.

Finally, unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain (PS. 127).



Province of Brasil Centro-Norte

Admission to the novitiate

On 2 February, feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Charles Amorim de Mendonça, Edigar Barraqui and Fabrício Alves da Cruz were admitted to the novitiate of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption of the Brasil Centro-Norte Province.

The admission ceremony was marked by its winning simplicity and atmosphere of prayer and brotherhood. Among those present were Brothers from the Marist communities of

Maraponga and Aracati. The prayers of Brothers, Sisters, friends, and faithful of the ecclesial communities present helped make this a unique and profound human experience for these young Marists before God.

The most powerful and moving moment in the celebration was the handing over of the Constitutions by Brother Salatiel Franciscano do Amaral, at the request of Brother Wellington Mousinho de Medeiros, Provincial Superior. With this

gesture, a grateful Brother Wellington recalled the moment of his admission to the novitiate, when he received the Constitutions from the hands of Brother Salatiel, his Provincial at the time.

The novices thanked God for having brought them this far, and prayed that his Spirit would speak to their hearts, just as he had spoken to Mary and to Champagnat, bringing them closer to Jesus.



Marist presence with the people

Life in Haiti after the earthquake

More than a month has passed since the terrible earthquake which struck Haiti. Little by little, life is returning to normal, but the consequences of the catastrophe are very serious. The brothers, who have been doing great work among the people, have taken a moment of respite to send some information. "Communication by telephone and internet has been a little difficult for us from Latibolière. But today I went onto the internet and was surprised to find your message. The Brothers are fine, but our people are suffering a lot". Thus Brother Antonio Cavazos begins his story on the internet. He goes on to provide a rapid report in these terms::

!!We are already giving classes to all the pupils. The school was closed for a month. Then after an inspection by a local engineer, it was able to open its doors two weeks ago. The pupils are not accustomed to earthquakes and these phenomena make them panic. There are more pupils present than we had before, because we have taken in those coming from Puerto Príncipe. We are full up with pupils. Families will not be able to pay much of the fees in these months because they have to feed and look after the people who have arrived in their houses after fleeing from Puerto Príncipe.

Many of the houses which remain standing, and which were already small and insufficient for seven members of the family, have received 10 more. All the houses are dormitories. Some houses are very damaged and we are beginning to repair them with the aid we are receiving. We have purchased cement and building materials. I calculate that it will require 500 sacks of cement and some 10 big

lorry loads of sand for the construction. Our older pupils have visited the houses and taken note of the damage, so that in this way they help us to reach everyone.

A major concern is to be able to feed them. We are buying rice, which is the normal food consumed around here, to distribute it among the houses which have an excess of inhabitants. We have already distributed 20 sacks and are about to distribute 30 more. But we do not know when this drama will end. For our part, we continue giving all the support we can. We are doing everything possible to serve our people.

Puerto Príncipe is receiving help from all parts, but it is needed for many people in the province without help, without resources, with nothing. Last Saturday, 12,000 arrived in the city of Jérémie, where we have the Postulancy. These people are looking for a place to live, for food and for work. Many are young people who were studying in the universities of the



country and are left without study. We are trying to get something for them, as much as possible, to raise their spirits and give them hope.

Families are hospitable, they have opened their houses, very small even for those already living in them. Today they have squeezed in more, in order that the refugees find some lodging, on the dirt floor, in a corner, anywhere. There are few families who do not have someone who died in Puerto Príncipe. If food was lacking before, it is even worse now. We intend to meet with many of them, especially the youth, to see what we can do... plant seeds, open some workshops, work at something... We will see."



Remodeling work at the Hermitage



Brother Crisanto and Companions

Martyrs who died in the years 1936–1939

A new document is available on our website. The document concerns sixty-eight martyrs who died in the years 1936–1939 during the persecution that broke out against the Catholic Church in Spain. Though featuring the name of Brother Crisanto, the text, in fact, deals with sixty-six Brothers and two laymen.

The group does not comprise simply the largest number of our Spanish martyrs. The group is also the most representative, showing how the persecution raged over the entire Republican-dominated region of the country. The martyrs come from large cities such as Barcelona, Madrid, Toledo, Malaga, Valencia, Badajoz. Smaller cities, however, also appear: Las Avellanas, Vich, Torrelaguna, Chinchon, Barruelo, Cabezon de la Sal, Denis, Arceniega.

The reader has only to turn a few pages in order to learn about each of the communities: easy reading, therefore. At the same time, however, the content is dense; it places before our eyes martyrs who are often very appealing figures.

One begins to sense a legitimate pride in our religious Family which has formed such admirable Brothers. Their example of persevering unto death in loving fidelity is an invitation to us. We sense the desire to be more generous in the gift of our lives and in our apostolic undertakings.

The Brothers in question are not well known. They are, however, part of our religious family's spiritual treasure. Reading only a few of the pages each day will allow us to encounter men who were remarkably bold in their apostolic undertakings. They were treated in beastly fashion simply for being men of God and educators of youth. Among the martyrs, one finds distinguished school directors as well as formators deeply committed to the young men in their charge. One also makes the acquaintance of Brothers charged with kitchen duties, or Brothers in charge of manual tasks: carpenters, masons, gardeners, those who looked after the farm animals.

Of Causes involving the Marist Brothers,

that of Brother Crisanto and Companions is presently the one closest to possible beatification. The Positio (official document dealing with the martyrdoms) was submitted to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on December 7, 2001. It is not unrealistic to look forward to a beatification before the year 2015.

A beatification, however, is not merely a matter of perusing a text about the martyrs' lives. Better simply to hold the martyrs in our hearts and not have them "raised to the altar" if no imitation of their holiness ensues. To promote such imitation is the purpose of the document about Brother Crisanto and companions: reading about these privileged individuals, honoring them, praying with them.

Yes, one may hope that these men will be honored by the Church, but they will find a place in the Church only after they have found a place in our Family. They are true martyrs. It is for us to walk with them on the path to holiness.



Days of Children's Rights

Institute of Marist Studies (IEM) of Salamanca

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the 20th of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Institute of Marist Studies (IEM) is organizing the first Days of Children's Rights with the aim of coming to know them better, to reflect, to become aware, to launch

an appeal on behalf of children and to make proposals on this subject. The Convention has announced a before and afterwards for all. Yet the reality is that millions of children are alone, unprotected, isolated, exploited, disrespected or ignored, although they are entitled without reserve to human rights and basic freedom. They are still

considered as objects of charitable assistance or the beneficiaries of rights granted as a favour. The Institute of Marist Studies, the University School Luis Vives, and the Pontifical University of Salamanca, are associating themselves with the anniversary and the reclaiming of the rights of children with this proposal for formation.

