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This is Number 100 of "Marist News"

A service not two years old

On 20 May 2008, coinciding with the anniversary of the Founder's birthday, was born "Marist News". Today we celebrate the appearance of Number 100, a few weeks before it completes two years of life. It has spent the time giving news about the life of the Institute. Nearly

two years of making us present in your communities, in the fraternities, or in the homes of the more than 4,000 subscribers who receive it punctually each week. The growing interest shown for receiving this news electronically has

been one of the incentives for arriving promptly for the weekly appointment.

The successor of "Latest News", this bulletin began its progress facing new challenges. It was fitted with a format of professional cut which included colour as an indispensable element in its illustrations. It was edited in digital format and introduced itself into the homes of its recipients by means of free subscription via the inter-

net. At the same time, it had to find the technical formula to pass quickly from the machines producing it to reach its destinations. These technical challenges remained hidden among the complex connections of the global network, but they were present.

The rich source of information is Marist life throughout the world. MN has an international face in its composition in four languages in the origin of its content. The news items which make up MN proceed from the web www.champagnat.org but the open windows of its pages, with their weekly selection, are its complement. We deliver 854 copies

in English, 2,486 in Spanish, 503 in French and 599 in Portuguese. En total: 4,456.

At the same time as we thank all our subscribers and readers for the reception they give MN, we wish to thank God, Mary, and Champagnat for the gift of the Marist charism which has been the cause of so much good news from around the world.



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Director:
Br. AMEstaún

Production:
Mr. Luiz da Rosa

Redaction and Administration:
Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2
C.P. 10250 - 00144 ROMA
Tel.: (39) 06 54 51 71
E-mail: publica@fms.it
web: www.champagnat.org

Edit:
Marist Brother's Institute
General House - Rome

Marist laity

The Structure of the document "Gathered around the same table"



The structure of the book is relatively simple: besides the Presentation and the Introduction, the book consists of six chapters, followed by an Open Letter to the Marist world. The book ends with a series of questions referred to each chapter with the title "Study Guide".

With the help of what I call structural questions, we can show the general structure of the book. This chapter I tries to answer the question: "Who is the Marist Lay person?" In other words, when can a man or woman be considered a Lay Marist? Chapters 2, 3 and 4 answer a question that can be put as follows: "Which are the constitutive elements of the life of a Marist Lay person?" Chapter 5 gives the answer to a question frequently raised by some lay people to the Marist Institute: "Which are the forms of relationship and the links of belonging of a lay Marist to the Marist Institute?" And chapter 6 answers this question: "How does the lay Marist person grow in his or her vocation?"

The Open Letter winds up the document in the best possible way. Within the style of an epistle, without keeping aside the familiar and friendly tone, the lay people speak of the

Marist lay vocation as a gift from God; They dream, as well, of the Marist mission going out towards the needs of the children and of the youth; they reaffirm that they want to live in the Spirit but in a Marist way; and they state again that they want to walk along with the Brothers to revitalize the Marist charisma. The Letter brings back again some themes that were already in the Presentation and in the Introduction, These themes appear and are developed, in some way or other, in the different chapters. We could speak, as well, of the vocational call or of the vocation as a gift; of the three fundamental themes to be lived by the Champagnat's Marist Laity, namely: mission, shared life and spirituality; the vocational, spiritual and apostolic journey is to be accomplished together by Brothers and Lay people, in a journey where we should find the seal of Champagnat and the Marian dimension.

The titles of each chapter are self-explanatory.

1. The first chapter (§1- §35) defines and explains THE VOCATION OF THE LAY MARIST. We have already referred to the brief definition found in §11. Another paragraph refers to the lay Marist vocation underlining the idea of complete call: "The Lay Marist vocation is a personal call to a specific way of being disciple of Jesus" (§13). Obviously, this specific Marist way of following Jesus just as Champagnat did (cf. §§33, 34: Open Letter pg. 102), as Mary did (cf. §§11, 67, 79, 111).

2. The next three chapters are introduced by the last sections of the first chapter (§§34, 35). They mention three fundamental dimensions, namely: MISSION (Ch.2 §§36-64); SHARED LIFE (Ch.3; §§65-99); and SPIRITUAL-

ITY (Ch. 4 §§100- 123). These three aspects appear in the book, very often, underlined and their inter-relationship is highlighted typically in n° 123: "Our life becomes unified around Christ in the three dimensions of the charisma: spirituality sends us to the mission and engenders shared life; communion strengthens us in the mission and deepens spirituality; the mission discovers for us new facets of spirituality and makes us live brotherhood" (§123) (cf. §34).

3. Chapter 5 (§§ 124-148) expands on FORMS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MARIST CHARISM. This chapter is of great importance answering as it does to the many questions raised about various levels of belonging and link to the Institute of the Marist Brothers. In this regard the text is very open and refers to almost every kind of group related to the Marist Institute, from Associations of Former Students to other lay Marist groups (cf. §123-139). The same openness applies to forms of linking up with the Marist Institute: This includes a formal link recognized by the Brother Provincial to inform relationships not requiring any form of recognition (cf. §§140-143).

4. Chapter 6 (§§149-169) offers useful ideas for discovering and living WAYS OF GROWTH IN VOCATION. Every vocation needs nourishment by processes of formation and assimilation as life proceeds. Otherwise, the sense of call can weaken and even die. The book lays great emphasis on the importance of ongoing formation (§§163-169), whether of lay persons alone or of these together with brothers. Such formation either at provincial or international level will make us look beyond our groups and discover new horizons for our faith" (§164).

Br. Teófilo Minga



International Meeting of Marist Youth

Madrid - August 2011

From the information provided in our site, you already know what are the objectives of this International Meeting and what is being looked for in future Youth Days: that it be consolidated and be able to be celebrated, in coincidence with the WYD, in such a way that it can help the young people of all the Marist Provinces and Districts. With this purpose, Madrid 2011 offers two different meetings in the preliminary stage with strictly Marist characteristics.

A. First stage: Marist (from 10 to 15 August 2011, prior to the WYD)

Buitrago de Lozoya (about 70 km. from Madrid)

Runs from 10 to 14 August. International Meeting of Marist Youth. Offers 5 places for young people from between 18 and 25 years of age, plus an accompanier, for each Province and District. We would like to count on representatives from all of them. It will be a meeting in the style of an assembly. So that no one has to decline for economic reasons, we will, of course, set up a system of assistance appealing to the criteria of solidarity. We impose the condition that the youth selected have followed a process of preparation, by responding to the encounters we post on the Web.

Welcome from the Marist Provinces with works in Spain

This will take place from 10 to 14 August. The Provinces of Compostela, L'Hermitage, Ibérica and Mediterránea will welcome the rest of the youth from all over the world who come organized by their respective Provinces, have taken part in the preparation process



and are approved by the corresponding provincial delegate. We will not admit individuals or groups who are not organized or authorized by the corresponding Province or District.

Day of 15 August. Great Marist Celebration

On this day all the participants come together in Madrid (in the college of San José del Parque) and hold a great Marist celebration before the beginning of the WYD, which starts the following day, 16 August, and goes until the 21st.

B. Second stage. WYD. Madrid 2011 (from 16 to 21 August)

From the 16th of August we take part in the WYD Madrid 2011 and all its activities. All the Marist groups will be accommodated in our colleges in Madrid and will take part freely in all the activities offered in the city: catechetics, concerts, exhibitions, etc. We will also, as Marists, offer activities to other youth who are interested. Here we invite all the Provinces to offer possible activities for the WYD. The Central Commission has already planned various initiatives, but we are open to any new ones.

Preparation for the International meeting of Marist youth

Independently of whether the Marist youth are taking part in Madrid 2011 or not, we hope that the process of preparation and reflection will be followed by the largest number of them throughout the world. To this end, the Commission has drafted material for reflection for six sessions, although each Province may add something more. We have used the Marist slogan chosen for the event, «belivin'» («believing»), which fits perfectly with the theme of the World Youth Day: "Rooted in Christ, firm in the faith".

These materials are being posted on the official Marist Web created for the event, and which can be accessed, depending on the language, at the following addresses: www.maristyouth.com (English), www.jovenesmaristas.es or www.juventudmarista.com (Spanish), www.jeunesmaristes.com (French), www.jovensmaristas.com (Portuguese). The page will be opened, in Spanish, on 31 March; in the other languages, on 15 April. The various materials will be introduced by a letter from the Bro. Superior General.

We want the Web to be interactive and young people, at the end of each of the meetings, to be able to post their conclusions in the desired format: Vídeo, Pdf, Word, Presentations... and also to be able to communicate through the main social communication networks: Facebook, twitter..

As has already been indicated, the preparation process is a fundamental prerequisite for being able to take part in the International Meeting of Marist Youth, and the same limitation applies

to the reference to age. Although the organizers of the WYD admit young people from 16 years of age, we, as Marists, do not accept anyone younger than 18, because of legal complications, in particular, and the civil responsibility entailed.

Registrations, prices and documentation

At present, we cannot give you much information, since the Organization of the WYD still has many matters to be clarified and made concrete. Hopefully, in October or November we will be in a position to provide new data. If you wish to know more details, there is the official Website of WYD: www.jmj2011madrid.com where you will find, for example, the prices for the corresponding weeks and the categories of countries that we will also take into account. (These prices

are only for the second week; for the first, we have not yet worked them out). For the moment, no one should register, either as an individual or a group, since we are negotiating about being able to register ourselves as a congregation and as a group.

For the security and peace of mind of the participants, we can say that entry into the European Community is guaranteed according to the requisites indicated later. I wish also to inform you that the Marist Youth from all over the world who are present in Spain during these days will be covered by life insurance, both by the WYD and the International Meeting of Marist Youth.

The journey is the most important

The most important thing for now is that we set out on the journey to make this

2011 Meeting a reality. On the journey we will be learning and sharing a lot. May each Province set in motion the appropriate mechanisms and establish a calendar of meetings so that they can come to August 2011 with the task achieved.

From Madrid we desire that the centre of all this movement may not be the WYD, nor the Pope's visit to the youth, nor even our youth ministry which so concerns us. May the centre of all this "activity" be Jesus and, as we are celebrating at this time, Jesus risen, the fundamental reason for our faith.

In the name of the Central Commission, affectionate greetings to all and a Happy Easter 2010.

Br. Antonio Alegre Sánchez
Secretary of the SMC



With Mary, go in haste towards a new land

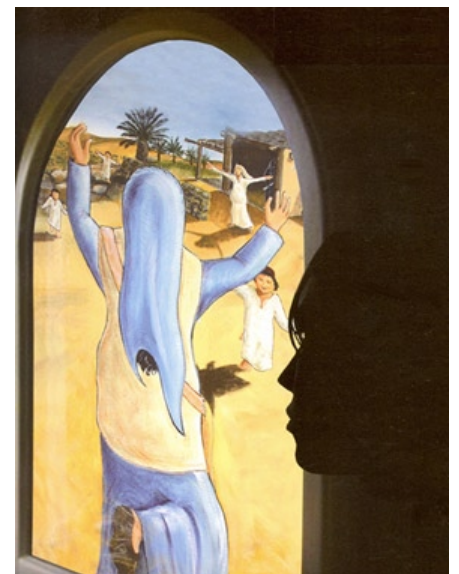
Strategic Plan of the Province of « Brasil Centro-Sul »

Throughout 2009, the Provincial Council consecrated part of its time to working out the Province strategic plan, as an instrument for facilitating reflection after the General Chapter on the motto: « With Mary go in haste towards a new land ». It has tried to respond faithfully to the needs and challenges of the new times we are living in. The document is a strategic re-positioning aimed at giving direction to the future plans of the Sectors, the « Mantenedoras » (juridical entities) and of the Affairs of the Province. It gives no detailed action plans; it presents only the mission, a vision for the future and the principal lines of action.

The construction of a new world is based on the commitment of everyone to the vitality and continuing maintenance of our works and, consequently,

to the perpetuation of our mission. Thus, the fact of « going in haste » together, with the proper inspiration, being supported by solid values, on dynamic and viable structures from the point of view of organisation, this pushes us to get going. The directives have been established. They mark the goal and are not limits or obstacles. They favour innovation and creativity when something is undertaken.

It is hoped that the Strategic Plan can contribute to the development of actions and to their common objective in the various performances, taking into account the fact that it is the « Mantenedoras » which put all these plans into operation. For the moment, the document is being sent to the principal organizations of the Province so that, at a later time, their members



may find orientation in working out their respective plans.

