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Meeting of new provincials with the General Council

Half the provincial leaders of the Institute united in Rome



Thirteen new provincials are meeting in Rome with the General Council. The meeting began on Monday 26 April and will end on 1 May. The group makes up half of the leaders of the Institute's provinces. That is why it has been said in Rome that the meeting is like a General Conference in miniature. A characteristic common to all taking part is that they are all making a first appearance, including the members of the General Council.

The meeting aims to define the subjects most relevant to the General Council's support for the provinces in order that the provincials can carry out their leadership mission. The method of work is the same as that used during the General Chapter. So, four round tables have been set up in the Sala Champagnat for an exchange of ideas during these days about how to carry out the work of general, regional and provincial government until the holding of the next General Chapter.

The meeting is being animated by the General Council. At other times, when similar meetings have been held, a great part of the program has consisted in receiving information on the functioning of the General Administration. On this occasion, only the Administrator General and the Secretary General are sharing with the new provincials what concerns their functions.

The provincials meeting in Rome are Brothers: Valentin Djawu (Central East Africa), Inacio Etges (Rio Grande do Sul), Libardo Garzón (Norandina), Wellington Medeiros (Brasil Centro-Norte), Brendan Geary (West Central Europe), Ambrosio Alonso (Ibérica), Antonio Giménez (Mediterránea), Maurice Berquet (L'Hermitage), Oscar Martín (Compostela), Ben Consigli (USA), Horacio Bustos (Cruz del sur), Ricardo Reynoso (México Central), Eduardo Navarro (México Occidental).

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Beacons from Los Negrales

"SENDEROS": the paths traversed



Holy Week marked the halfway point of our SENDEROS Programme. The passing of the first two months may be compared with the migration of the storks, observed almost every day by some Brothers of the group during their walk to an ancient monastery. The storks are the emblem of the traveller: they show the way, invite on pilgrimage, indicate the horizons, provide motivation for research and discovery.

Our itinerary has become more definite, week after week, with route maps, with

suggestive goals: to contemplate one's story as a meeting place with God and life. To have experience of community as a theological place where one can attain fullness in one's relationship with God. To assume one's sexuality as a celibate as a call to be a joyful and integrated person. To discover the new way of being Brother for the new times. To consolidate an enlightened, joyful and unified spiritual existence. To become more familiar with the Bible, seen as a way of understanding life. To regard religious life as a paradigm for searching...

The paths traversed in these first months were inspired by the « go in haste » of our General Chapter. Movement, road, displacement : passage from a clearly defined role to the evangelical seed being buried in the ground, from the attitude of officials of the Gospel to that of witnesses of the Lord, from quantity to quality, from the centre to the periphery, from an individualistic spirituality to meeting the Lord of history...

In the second part of the path left to travel, we catch a glimpse of the same questing spirit. There will be the pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the pilgrimage to the Marist Places, the pilgrimage of solidarity. An interior journey to the land of Jesus, who announces the Gospel; to the God of Jesus, who humbles himself in the poor, in the suffering; to our origins, place of the newness of God realized in the Marist charism. There will still be paths to travel!

Br. Javier E.

Los Negrales, Madrid (Spain)



Marial reflections

Mary During the month of May

On April third, Holy Saturday, a Marial paraliturgy: « The Hour of the Mother », has just ended at Saint Mary Major. In the celebration of the liturgy of the word, Byzantine strophes have alternated with verses of Psalm 118, singing of the love, the pain and the hope of Mary. A way of accompanying a mother in mourning. The Church today takes the place of

the beloved disciple yesterday. « The Hour of the Mother » is a tradition recovered. This evening, the « alleluias » will return, like the swallows in spring, and we will again sing « Regina coeli laetare ! Alleluia ! »

This lets us remember that we are a particularly Marial congregation: for us the mother of Jesus is the « Good Mother », « the Ordinary Resource », «

the one who has done everything for us! » The document of the XXI General Chapter tells us this abundantly, and asks us to set our mission at the rapid pace followed by Mary at the Visitation: the first of all Christian missions.

With this Marial character of ours, we have our traditions, such as the month of Mary, which comes down to



FMS Message 40

Brief Report on the XXI General Chapter

You will shortly be receiving in the Provinces number 40 of the FMS Message, translated into the four official languages and devoted to the XXI General Chapter. Collected in its pages are a brief report of the works of the Chapter, some significant texts composed for the event, the record of the most remarkable facts, and the family album of the participants. As an introduction to the number, there is a visual summary of the twenty-one General Chapters of the Institute, with photographs of the members of the General Government elected by the capitulants.

This FMS Message report joins those of the Bulletin de l'Institut, of which it is the continuation. Traditionally, the convocation and the report of the activities and the decisions of the General Chapter have been communicated to the Institute by a circular from the Superior General. With the appearance of the Bulletin de l'Institut, in 1909, in accordance with the wish of the XI General Chapter (1907), the information on the Chapters appearing in the Circulars, has been completed by reports and graphic information assembled in the pages of the Institute's information bulletin. In this respect, the current number of FMS Message is situated in the same line as the Bulletin and the other means of providing information employed at different times.

us from our Founder. In many countries, it constitutes a highlight of the presence of Mary in our life as Brothers, lay Marists, and educators: a time of special education for our young people to come to know and love the Mother of the Lord. This year, during May, 33 Marial reflections are proposed, starting on 30 April and covering each day until the first of June.

The reflections take us through the different moments of the presence of Mary in the Scriptures. They also examine the Marial phenomenon in the Catholic Church, devotion to the Mother of Jesus, the sanctuaries dedicated to her, the rosary, the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. They often refer to the Orthodox Church and sometimes to the Reformed Churches. Mary is presented as a mother who brings together all who believe in her Son and praise of the Son is dominant.

In general, the texts are addressed to adults, to people who have some

acquaintance with Mary. They have not been written directly for children or young people. They need to be meditated on and translated by an adult: catechist, teacher, parent, who knows his/her pupils' capacities and puts the texts on their level. Your own creativity can transform them into Power-Points, or write one or two phrases on the board to remain there for the day, or invite the children and youth to compose brief prayers or poems to the mother of Jesus based on what they are told. That is basically what is suggested at the end of each reflection.

Our WEB, will place before you, day after day, these texts: a good opportunity for reviving the Marist tradition of the Month of May. It can be a special time of love and praise for the mother Jesus gave us at the foot of the Cross.

Br. Giovanni Maria Bigotto



Notes from the log

Rome from day to day



Changeover in the General Secretariate

Brother Jean Ronzon has completed his term of service as Secretary General of the Institute. He began work for the General Administration in 2003, when he replaced Brother Richard Dunleavy. Brother Pedro Sánchez de León has now replaced him. Brother Jean returned to his homeland – France – by bicycle, the same way he had come to Rome. This fresh exploit, at the age of 63, has once more shown his love for cycling and his physical prowess. The return to his Province ended at La Valla, where his new mission will commence as a member of the community.

The whole community of the General House assembled in front of the entrance to see him off on his « tour ». The Superior General lowered the white flag for the start, which was warmly applauded by all present. Brother Roger Charrier, of the Saint-

Étienne community, accompanying him in a car, assured our cyclist of the necessary technical and logistic support.

Jubilee celebrations

In the framework of the Easter celebrations, the members of the community of the General House celebrated the 25 years of religious life of Brother Rick Carey (USA) and the 50 years of Brothers Jude Pieterse (Southern Africa) and Javier Ocaranza (México Occidental). Rick is in charge of the FMSI (Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale), the office which co-ordinates all the solidarity projects of the Institute. Brother Jude Pieterse, attached to the Ad Gentes sector, has his residence in Rome to assure the follow-up of financial support needed by the Sector and to obtain resources for the projects. Brother Javier is responsible for the financial administration of the General House and organises all

comings and goes to the airport.

The celebration was in three stages. First the Eucharist, during which the jubilarians expressed their reasons for thanking God and the Institute for their years in religious life. Then the festive meal, to toast the lives of the Brothers. Finally, the evening gathering, where each had the opportunity to share something of his life with the community. The members of the General Council as well as those of the General Administration presented each of the jubilarians with a souvenir of this special day.

Official Photo

The official photo of Brother Emili Turú, new Superior General, has been published and circulated around the General House. For many it was a real surprise to see him in a black soutane. At this time, copies requested have been sent to the Provinces for the houses and works.

