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31/08/2010: The Vocation of the Lay Marist - Magdalena Peichaux - Argentina

To a new land

2nd Provincial Chapter in South Asia Province



Chapter members gathered at Maris Stella College, Negombo, On August 18, to discern in prayer about the future of the Province. The second Provincial Chapter solemnly started in the presence of Br. Joe Mc Kee, Vicar General, Bro. John Klein, Councilor General link for Asia and Oceania and Bro. Sunanda Alwis.

Br. Joe addressed the Brothers emphasizing the following issues:

1. Spirit of Discernment
2. Fraternal dialogue
3. Allow God's spirit to speak to us, to each other, to the church and to the world (modern world.)

The outgoing Provincial Br. Sunanda presented on Energetic Marist Life and made

a critique of what happened in the past 3 years. Most importantly installation of Br. Shanthi as the new Provincial of Province of South Asia took place with a beautiful prayer based on scripture lead by Br. Nick. The Holy Bible was brought in procession and all the Brothers prayed homage to the Bible after which Brs. Joe, John and Sunanda handed over the Bible to Br. Shanthi installing him as the new Provincial. Then Br. Shanthi addressed the Brothers inviting the Brothers to support him. Then the dynamics of the chapter were discussed.

The members of the New Provincial Council are the Brothers Chinnappan Devadoss, Godfrey Perera, Mervyn Perera, Paul Bhatti and Sunanda Alwis.

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FMSI - Foundation of Marist Solidarity International Onlus

Annual report 2009

It is my pleasure to write this letter celebrating the second year of FMSI and the leadership of Br. Dominick Pujia. By the time I officially became President of FMSI on October 1, Br. Dominick and I already had numerous meetings and discussions to facilitate the transition. Not only did I have the opportunity to understand the history and evolution of FMSI, but also to look ahead to what new possibilities were available for the foundation. In these conversations, I discovered how a new vision for Marist Solidarity was evolving to assist and complement the work of the Marist Brothers and our lay colleagues. It was a helpful perspective given the different dimensions of FMSI. Perhaps most importantly, I appreciated the conviction and dedication Br. Dominick had to making the world a better place for children. I understood how much work went into the practical details of getting FMSI established and the challenges presented in understanding how the foundation can best serve the needs of the Institute.

Br. Dominick has returned to his native New York, USA and will be involved in Youth Evangelization for the USA Province. I want to take this opportunity to

extend a heartfelt thank you and appreciation to him for all his efforts on behalf of Marist solidarity these past six years, the past two as President of FMSI. It is through his commitment and desire to help children and young people that we have this foundation to use for their benefit. I am grateful for all his work and hope to continue to build on the foundation he has put in place. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Br. James Jolley to the Geneva Office. He brings with him a wealth of experience in province leadership and work with indigenous children. He has immersed himself in training programs, language studies and writing country reports for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). I have enjoyed getting to know him these past few months as we have exchanged ideas and shared our hopes for FMSI. With both of us being new, we have relied heavily on Ms. Sara Panciroli and Ms. Angela Petenzi in the Rome office to help us navigate this new adventure. Their experience and understanding have provided us with a wealth of information and helped us continue the work without any disruptions. They have also been a valuable part of our

discussions about the future plans for the foundation.

The Annual Report will highlight the various activities of 2009 and take the opportunity to thank all those who share our mission. During the past few months, we have initiated discussions on the next Strategic Plan for FMSI. The context of these plans includes:

Advocacy, education and animation for the rights of children and young people before the United Nations in Geneva;

Funding educational projects that are meant to improve the life of children and young people in developing countries;

Networking with Marist-inspired NGO's/ Foundations and developing partnerships with other groups who share our mission.

Br. Richard Carey, FMS
President

Download the annual report in
www.champagnat.org



A Marist Brother gives a warning cry from the capital of Mozambique

The NGO SED, belonging to the Marist Brothers of Spain, has issued a press release, dated 3 September 2010, which brings to public notice a letter from Marist Brother Simeón Banda, who finds himself caught in Maputo, capital of Mozambique, with a Salesian priest. The brother sends out an alarm call: the situation in the streets of this African city has become critical. Following the increase in the price of basic commodities, the people have invaded the streets in protest; most public services in Maputo are at a standstill. The brother says that it is the worst strike the capital has known. Maputo has been

without control for many days. Its inhabitants have begun fleeing and violence reigns in many districts of the city. The hospitals are overflowing.

At the novitiate, we stay at home, like other religious. It is the worst situation I have seen since I arrived in Mozambique in 2006. Pray for us. Pray for Mozambique! Pray for a rapid and Christian response to arrive in order that a solution may be found to the problem. Thus ends the message of Brother Simeón.

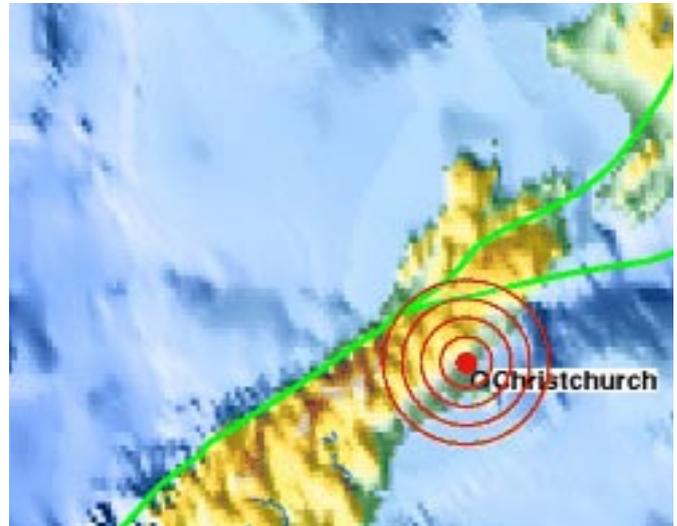


Earthquake in Christchurch

New Zealand

On Saturday 4 September, the city of Christchurch in New Zealand was struck by an earthquake which damaged many buildings. The Marist community of Christchurch is composed of three Brothers. The three are in retirement but help out in the parish. Neither the brothers nor their house suffered any harmful effects from the quake.

Despite the extent of the damage, only two persons in the city of 340,000 inhabitants were seriously injured. In the opinion of the experts, it is thanks to the strict respect for preventive measures that there were so few victims.



The Bulletin de l'Institut is OnLine

General House

The first number of the Bulletin appeared in 1909. From then to 1984 followed 222 numbers which were collected in 31 volumes. Published originally in French, the text began appearing in the four official languages of the Institute after the Chapter of 1967-1968.

The Bulletin of the Institute is a Marist historical archive of very varied content. Its pages contain historical data from the Marist world, the provinces and the houses. It constitutes an archive for three quarters of a century of Marist life. Together with the historical data collected, it has also preserved in



its pages a wealth of Marist reflection on education and spirituality especially. This precious archive has been known up to now only through the paper publication. From today we are also able to access here the text (in French).

Thanks to the quiet and efficient work of Brother Louis Richard, the 31 Volumes of the French edition have been transcribed into (word) digital format. Thanks and congratulations for his work.

In the French edition of the publication, the booklets of each number are grouped and inserted in volumes with a similar number of pages. For this reason, the volumes do not correspond to an equal chronological format. The publication of the work in digital format on the web follows the same order that the booklets composing each volume were published. In first place appears the year, followed by the number of the

Bulletin and the date on which it was published.

To gain electronic access to the contents, one must enter the number of the Bulletin or of the volume (drop down menu). On opening the volume, the titles of the articles published in it will appear on the screen. And from the titles it is possible to access the contents of each article. At the beginning of the articles in each number of the Bulletin is included an album with the photographs contained in each number.

Without any doubt this collective work, covering three quarters of a century of Marist life (1909 -1984), is a source of firsthand information for researchers of the history of the Institute.

Web page:
www.champagnat.org/en/260400000.php

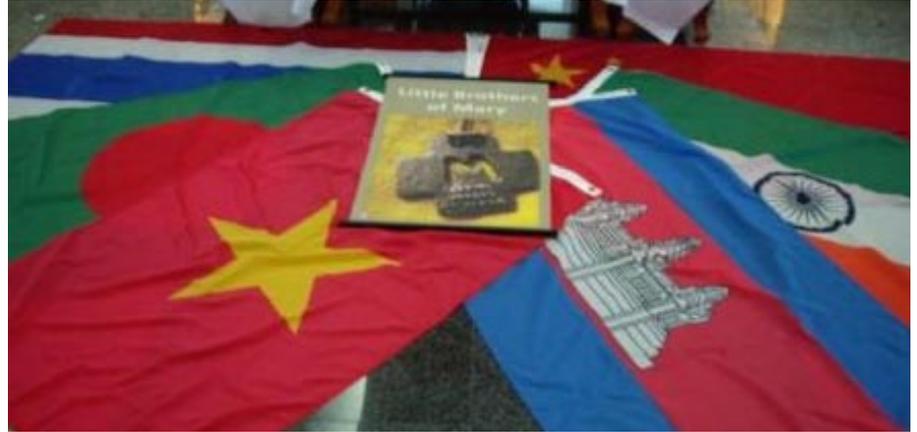


Assembly of the Ad gentes Sector

Forty-five participants, twenty-two nationalities

Our Assembly finished on 2 August. I believe it was a special one in that for certain Brothers, it was the first time they had met. This was something special, but also very real. These Brothers were there, brought together by the same ideal, having prepared for the same mission, sent by the General Council to work in six countries of Asia. They arrived gradually, some by vehicle, some by plane. Those from Cambodia chose to travel by bus. Those coming from a big country... know that they cannot predict what will happen; so they took precautions and prepared their travel in a special way (different flights, days, time-tables). « We didn't want to be noticed..., we have to be careful », they told us.

Those from India were fewer in number than anticipated. At present, there are three Brothers, one from India and two from Spain, running a boarding school for children of the indigenous Sandales. Soon this boarding school will offer a Community College programme which will include growing interaction with the neighbouring villages. The three brothers, who are already conversant in Bangla, are preparing to learn the rudiments of Sandal in order to understand the families which do not use Bangla. So an extra effort is required to learn one more language! The group from Bangladesh arrived with some members at least. Three of Brothers from the communities could not come. A Brother from Nigeria was refused an entry visa into Thailand. Reason: racial prejudice. The Brother from the Solomon Islands has not received his new passport, and Eugenio, a Spanish Brother, is convalescing in Spain after a surgical operation. Those of Thailand arrived in full strength, as did those from other countries.



The Assembly meetings were held in a pastoral centre near the airport. The first days were programmed for getting to know and share about the projects of each place. Members of the General Council were also present. The internationalism was evident at the work tables: 45 participants, 22 nationalities. You would think you were at the World Cup: Spain, Portugal, South Africa, Ghana, Argentine, Brasil, Paraguay, Italy, Malaysia, Madagascar, Scotland, Guatemala, Colombia, Zimbabwe, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, India, Zambia, Sri Lanka and Germany.

The ages of the participants varied. Brothers in temporary vows rubbed shoulders with Brothers who had celebrated 50 years of religious life; young ones full of life had passionate exchanges with brothers full of experience who had given their best in other lands. The days of meetings passed; then came days of retreat and prayer...

To live the spirituality of the marginalised, to be like Jesus— model of the « marginal Jew » who in complete freedom transcended the boundaries existing in the social, political, cultural and religious domains. Jesus, the inclusive being, accepting Jews and non-Jews, men and women, children and old people, rich and poor, power-

ful and weak, healthy and sick, pure and impure, just and sinners, and no matter what other category... These ideas and similar ones were a continual invitation to conversion.

The retreat was included in the Assembly in order to clarify the priorities and suggest processes of development in each place. We finished with a feeling of gratitude towards God and to all the people who had made this possible. We discovered once more fraternity and internationalism as a richness allowing us to be open to our confrères and to enlarge our hearts like Marcellin, the man without frontiers, who spread abroad the missionary seed which is beginning to sprout today in this part of Asia.

This « Constituent Assembly » provided the stage for the installation of Brother Luis García Sobrado as new Superior of the Sector for three years. It was the Brother Vicar General, Joe McKee, who presided at his installation in the name of Brother Superior General. The same Assembly elected the new Council for the Sector: Brothers Alex Arockiasamy (India), Juan Castro (Mexico), Michael Potter (New Zealand) and Canisio Wilrich (Brasil).

Br. Hoan Castro, 12/08/2010

