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The general superior visits Madagascar



Br. Emili Turu, fms and Brother Ferre, his secretary visited the Marist brothers of the Madagascar province in the first week of August 2010. They arrived in the country on the last day of July and stayed there until August 8th, 2010, adopting the lifestyle of the Malagasy people, mainly eating rice and roasted meat three times a day.

But their coming was not just a simple visit. They came with a strong and inspiring message of the last general chapter of the Marist Institute. During the week starting from the 1st to the 7th they gave retreat to the Brothers during which they made known to the participants the width, the length and the depth of the message of the general chapter. The visiting Brothers explained the meaning of "With Mary, go in haste to a new land!" in our daily life as Marists.

The superior general insisted on the personal conversion which is the responsibility of each brother in the Institute. He supported his views with the letters written by each Marist region ahead of the last general chapter.

The Marist brothers of the province felt the joy of welcoming the superior who visited them for the first time after his election as the new general superior. Madagascar is the first country where he stayed for such long period and where he received brothers on individual basis during the time of retreat.

As far as the message of the general chapter is concerned, the brothers of the province seemed to have got the message of personal conversion. Their hearts were fertile enough to receive the seed of the message to let it grow to full bloom. I believe that a

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true disciple of Champagnat could not resist to the call of change of heart in the way the superior delivered it.

At the end of the retreat the superior

general and his secretary received all the brothers of the province, those who were doing their retreat and those who were not doing it. The purpose of the meeting was to let the Brothers know

about some important projects of the Institute like the questions of Marist laity, Ad Gentes project, and the Marist solidarity organisation known as FMSI.



Death of Brother Arturo Chávez de la Mora

General councilor during Brother Basilio's term as Superior General



Brother Arturo Chávez de la Mora, of the Province of Central Mexico, died in Barcelona at the age of 82, having been a Marist Brother for 64 years. His death notice was sent at the same time by the Brothers Provincial of the Hermitage and Central Mexico. They both mentioned the two communities where Br. Arturo lived his last years: Mostaganem, where he lived a part of the eight years he spent in Algeria, and Santa María de Bellpuig de les Avellanes, where he passed the last months of his life.

Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, sent a letter to the brothers of the two provinces and to the family and friends of the deceased. What follows are parts of that letter:

"Brother Arturo's pilgrimage on earth has come to an end. We had been closely following the changes in his health: in fact, I was able to greet him in person September 9 in Les Avellanes and I could notice the seriously weak state he was in. Finally, on the 24th of September, he returned to the Father's house, on the very day that the Church, and especially the people of Barcelona, were celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, mother and liberator, and a short time after going to the opening of the renovated Hermitage, in whose province Brother Arturo worked during his last eight years.

We feel sorrow at his loss, but we strongly experience the intense joy of having had in Brother Arturo an exceptional man, a heart without limits, a person whose dedication and generosity enriched the Institute, the Church and whatever people had the good fortune of coming into contact with him.

His native Mexico benefited from his know-how as a teacher, principal and in formation work. He was also Provincial in those complex years following the Council. He was called to Rome and, as councilor general (1976-1985), he worked closely in the governing and animation of the Institute with Brother Basilio Rueda, whom he

loved so much, as a brother and a friend.

As a good son of St. Marcellin, all the dioceses of the world found room in Br. Arturo's heart. He accepted the job of Provincial superior in Uruguay and then, when the weight of the years would have suggested a peaceful retirement, he chose to go to Algeria to help the province of the Hermitage, being a fraternal presence, with an open heart and welcoming hands among the youth of Oran y Mostaganem.

As I unite my prayers with yours for his eternal rest, I feel that Brother Arturo has been welcomed in heaven and has eternal joy in the company of Brother Basilio and of so many other brothers who preceded them. From our house of the Hermitage, where Fr. Champagnat's remains are kept, I recall with affection Br. Arturo's warm smile, and I invite you to give thanks to Jesus and Mary for the example and the encouragement he leaves us by his life."

The mortal remains of Br. Arturo are in the cemetery of the Marist community of Santa María de Bellpuig de les Avellanes next to the many Brothers who preceded him and those he loved so dearly.



Nomination of Provincials

Decisions of the General Council

Brother Superior General and his Council, in the meeting of 22 July 2010, have appointed Brother Kevin Louis (Joseph) Walton as Provincial of the Province of « Southern Africa » for a first mandate, beginning on 25 October 2010.

Brother Kevin Louis Walton is a Marist old boy. He did his postulancy and novitiate in South Africa, then went to Australia for university studies. He has wide experience in the fields of education and formation. He has been teacher and director of primary as well as secondary schools. For several years he was also director of the diocesan school in Johannesburg. Before being elected to the « Southern Africa » provincial council, in December 2004, he was



Kevin Louis Walton



Manuel de León



Hipólito Pérez

a member of the Formation Team at MIC (Marist International Centre) in Nairobi, Kenya. For the last six years he has been Vice-Provincial of his Province.

In the same session, the General Council has appointed Brother

Manuel de Leon as Provincial of the Province of « East Asia » for a second term, beginning on 5 December, and Brother Hipólito Pérez as Provincial of the Province of « America Central » for a second term of three years, beginning 17 December 2010.



Ad gentes

Signs of a changing model

I am in Davao, a city of the province of Mindanao, in the Southern Philippines... One can see the shoots springing up from the effort undertaken more than ten years ago to make possible, once more, Champagnat's dream: to be sowers of hope in all the dioceses of the world. To make brotherhood a world reality: brother to everyone.

It is supper time and I am realizing the human richness of the internationalism in which I am at present living. Pepito is a Filipino Brother who accompanies the new postulants of the Sector, but the other members of the community are all, or almost all, from different countries. The new postulants have just arrived, two young men from Cam-

bodia, accompanied by the master of postulants, and their formator, Diego, from Colombia. A young man has come from a neighbouring country, accompanied by Michael, a New Zealand Brother who is working in Saigon. Gilbert is an African Brother, from Ghana; for the moment, he is collaborating in material affairs and in preparing the meals. Eight brothers and seven nationalities.

At the moment, and without warning, some members of the formation team preparing the future lay people and Brothers, who have answered the call to work in the missions, turn up: they are Brothers Antoine, from Rwanda, Santos, from Ecuador, Teófilo, from Portugal, and Hilario, from Argentina.



My surprise is mixed with admiration at finding myself with people of 12 na-

tionalities... What richness and what a real sign that something new is coming to birth! It is no longer a matter of an internationalism brought about by two countries working together or of one Brother who gives his life in a country different from that of his birth... it is a global movement which is in process of growing and transforming our ways of living and thinking. What will be the implications?

Yesterday evening, I was struck by a new sign of this changing model. We invited the members of the Marist Family for the blessing of the new house: Brothers, Fathers, Marist Sisters and Marist Missionary Sisters. But the list did not stop there. There were also the lay people who have joined Mission ad gentes and who next month complete their formation to go out to the new

mission fields of this Sector. And the internationalism grows: Brothers from Spain and Korea join lay people from Brasil, Malaysia and the Philippines.

A Korean couple are also part of this group. In his homily, the celebrant, Larry, invited us with vivacity and passion to reflect on four words which, according to him, summarised the Gospel of the day: chosen, creative, bold and faithful. He was not simply addressing the new postulants; each of us understood that he was, today, called and chosen. And these words invited us to creativity in a world where it is easier to live in passivity, in the shelter of what we have always done, since that gives us a certain security and spares us risk, failure or criticism. And he also invited us to be bold so that Champagnat's

dream may continue to keep on growing.

At the end of his homily, he told us: « Be faithful to the heritage of our Brothers. Numerous Brothers have given their lives, day after day, like Mary and Champagnat; it is a tradition among us! » The liturgy continued at the table of brotherhood. The conversations intermingled, each expressing his ardent wish to arrive at his new mission place: such and such at Bangkok, another in India, others in a country neighbouring Cambodia. Hopes and fears, joys and sufferings, light and shadows. A new day appears on the horizon and the words of Br. Basilio Rueda resonate in my heart: « We must help the dawn come to birth ».

Br. Hoan Castro



«Let us build together»

Meeting of teachers from the Marist schools in Italy

From 30 August to 1st September, most of the teachers of the Marist schools of Italy gathered at Chianciano, a town in the centre of the country, known for its thermal springs. The welcoming locality, the beautiful weather and the friendliness of the people especially, created a favourable climate for the meeting. It was a matter of the last step in the process of qualification, taken thanks to financing from Fonder, a chance the Province tried to make the best use of. Since 2007 there has not been such a large meeting in Italy and shared among all the teachers. Getting together again was considered a positive aspect of Marist growth. The organizers thought there was no better way of putting into practice the motto for the year: «Let us build together!»

The meeting was ordered around three different themes. The first, animated by Dr Giorgio Capoccia, expert in enterprise management, treated the



question of quality control in the school. The second, set up in collaboration with the Marist FMSI foundation, was directed by Dr M. Cristina Ranuzzi and facilitated by a very attractive dynamic which involved the participants directly. The third theme, animated by Brother Giorgio Banaudi, demonstrated to the teachers the possibilities of the new platform of the Province web site, and especially the modes of virtual collaboration of classes and groups which serve to give new impetus to teaching and team work.

The participants particularly appreci-

ated the presence of provincial councillors, Brothers Damiano and Aurelio, and of Dr Rafael García, responsible for Education in the province.

The participants numbered more than 120 from the teachers of the Italian Marist schools: Cesano, Genova, Viterbo, Rome, Taormina and Giugliano. The commitment of all was evident: «We have begun to build together». The organisation of the meeting demanded considerable effort and not a little time and energy, but it was necessary for the continuing growth of the educational project of the Italian part of the Province.

