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27/10/2010: Curso de Espiritualidad Marista de habla portuguesa, española e italiana

26/10/2010: Ad gentes: H. José Javier Bometón Aguilar

26/10/2010: Hermano fallecido: Paul Peter Sacco (Europe Centre-Ouest / West Central Europe)

26/10/2010: Bairo, Italia - 45 Years después

25/10/2010: Nuevo enlace: II Asamblea Provincial de Fraternidades 2010 - Prov. Mediterránea

25/10/2010: "Entre Loja y Caticocha" - TVE acompaña a SED hasta el corazón de Ecuador

26/10/2010: Organigrama de la actual Administración general

24/10/2010: PUC Porto Alegre - Formación continua

22/10/2010: Se reúne en Roma el Equipo de Finanzas propuesto por el 21 Capítulo general

22/10/2010: Ad gentes: Alice Lee

22/10/2010: Objetivos Consejo general - 2009 - 2017

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21/10/2010: Santa Mary MacKillop primera santa australiana

Reflection on the financing on Administrative Units

Financial Team suggested by the XXI General Chapter gathered together in Rome



The Twenty-First General Chapter, at the time of spelling out its conclusions on the financial state of the Institute and envisaging some recommendations for the future, established two objectives in the financial area: 1) To seek a new model of contribution of capital which was more equitable than the present one, from the Administrative Units, to finance the expenses of the General Administration. 2) To work out a new procedure for the financing of the Administrative Units so that they might likewise finance themselves by themselves, while being viable and durable. In order to attain these objectives permission was given to the General Council to establish a Group of financial experts who, under the coordination of the Econome General, would reflect on and work out a financial plan.

In order to put these wishes into operation, Br. Emili Turú sent a letter to the Provincials at the end of November 2009. The Brother Superior-General asked them "for the names of Brothers and laity capable of taking part in the team or other teams which would have to work out the plans recommended by the Chapter, as well as other possible groups: International Council of Economic Affairs; help with investments, etc."

Therefore the ordinary session of the General Council of 9th. February 2010 approved the Financial Team. It consists of Brothers Victor Preciado, Econome General and General Councilor, Alberto Uribe (Ibérica), Nicholas Banda (South Africa), Delcio Alfonso Balestrin (Brasil Centro-Sul), Mme. Blanca Arregui ("Acrescere" - Madrid) and MM. Juan Martin Cebrián (Santa Marial de los Andes) and Rex Cambrey (Melbourne).

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The Team came together for the first time in Rome from 27th. September to 1st. October 2010. For this meeting the team was accompanied by Mme. Blanca Arregui, from Madrid, whose task was to ensure that the participants followed the methodology of the work.

The programme for the meeting provided for a time of getting to know each other and the integration of the team, which consisted of people coming for all over the world.

The technical work consisted in a re-

flection on the decisions of the Twenty-First General Chapter and the principles decided on by the Pre-Chapter Commission on Finance (Doc. XXI Chg., p.52-54). Analysis of the Reports of the General Administration (Annual Report of 2009 and Budget of 2010). Recognition and analysis of Financial reports of the Administrative Units for 2009. Recognition and analysis of the work of the Pre- Chapter Commission (June 2009) and determination of new indicators for working out the total amount of contributions of the Administrative Units.

The team will pursue its work in two meetings set down for 2011, in May and October, in the Provinces of "Brasil Centro-Sul" and Southern Africa respectively. The General Council has determined that this same Financial Team, appointed for three years, will take charge of putting into operation the objectives of the XXIst General Chapter as well as the functions and tasks realized right up until now by the International Council of Economic Affairs.



Reflection of Br. Emili Turú, Superior General

Synod on the Middle East

Today (10 October 2010), the Synod on the Middle East was inaugurated in the Basilica of Saint Peter. On the cover of the booklet of the celebration is



a XIVth century fresco of the Ascension of the Lord (from the "Timios Stavros" or Holy Cross church in Pelendri, Cyprus). I have reproduced it

here alongside this text. Although the copy is not of great quality, my attention was drawn to the astonishment on the faces of all those present (once more, Mary and the apostolic community!). And it also brought to mind the wonderful insight of Saint Gregory of Nyssa, who himself came from the region we call the "Middle East": "Concepts create idols. Only wonder grasps anything".

It makes me think of the need we have to build bridges with the Christian East, something which can be such an enrichment to us as "westerners". Both John Paul II and Benedict XVI, using an image

from Vyacheslav Ivanovich Ivanov, have reminded us that we need to go back to breathing with two lungs, east and west, rather than limit ourselves to the poverty of using one lung only. As you know, we are present in the Middle East, thanks to our communities in Lebanon and Syria; a fragile but very important presence. The Synod's Instrumentum Laboris mentions that education is the major investment of the Church in the region and that Catholic schools and universities are open to thousands of people of all religions, as are the hospital and social services centres.

It is, in fact, "above all thanks to the charitable activities directed not only to Christians, but also to Moslems and Jews, that the action of the Churches for the common good is particularly tangible" (30). It is well known that for decades the lack of a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the lack of respect for international law and human rights, together with the egoism of the great powers, have destabilized the balance of the region and imposed on the people a violence which risks driving them to desperation.

The consequence of all this is emigration, especially of Christians. The same Instrumentum Laboris emphasises that the Churches of the Middle East are of apostolic origin and that "it would be a loss for the universal Church if Christianity is weakened or disappears precisely from where it was born". For this reason, there is a "grave responsibility" to "maintain the Christian faith in these holy lands" (19). As well as the Latin Church, there are six patriarchal Churches, each with its own rich spiritual, theological and liturgical patrimony. "These traditions are, at the same time, a richness for the universal Church" (15-18).

I believe that the celebration of the Synod is an invitation to us to accompany the Christians of this region in our prayers, and in a special way our Brothers and all the lay people involved in our Marist mission in the region. And I ask myself if, as an Institute, we should not be allowing ourselves to be challenged more forcefully by this "grave responsibility" of which the Instrumentum Laboris speaks.



Brothers and lay and the charism of Marcellin

New Zealand - 57 Brothers and 21 lay people
Aotearoa Assembly



At Sacred Heart College, Auckland, September 26 – 29, 57 Brothers and 21 lay men and women (11 men, 10 women), took part in an Assembly that will probably rate as one of the most significant Marist gatherings ever in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

Skilfully facilitated, the gathering was led from reflecting on the situation among the Brothers in 1967 (large numbers, heavy and happy school involvement, work-oriented, confident and virtually self-sufficient and no thought of lay Marists) to today's reality of diminished numbers, aging members, much less school involvement and little public presence.

Group interaction involving lay Marists and Brothers progressed the sharing of realities until possibly the most significant moment of the Assembly.

A session, with both groups meeting separately, brought the Brothers to a point where they were asked, individually, if they were prepared to commit to the communion of people in the charism of Marcellin. The response was unanimously in the affirmative. After this, they devised a ceremonial influenced by traditional Maori ritual to welcome the lay Marists on their return from their discussion place (where they had been considering issues around the question of partnership). Simple though the ceremony was, the effect was heartfelt and very emotional. Several, both Brothers and lay, admitted they had tears in their eyes. It was a moment in which Brothers and lay committed themselves to each other to further the charism of Marcellin in our Province, with all that such a commitment entails.

In the opening exercise the Assem-

bly members were asked to list their hopes and fears for the gathering. When the time came for the final session it would appear that hopes had been well and truly met and the fears had just disappeared along the way. Perhaps the most common fear was that the gathering would simply be "another talk-fest." It was obvious that such was not the case. Everyone was committed to action.

It is now up to the Provincial Council to set in place mechanisms to implement the commitment so much in evidence and to cultivate the seeds sown in these days of Assembly. With Mary, we feel we have journeyed into a "new land" and we now face the challenge of living enthusiastically all the implications of that journey.

Challenges and vision of the future

Council of Rectors and Representatives of the Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education



The IVth Meeting of the Council of Rectors and Representatives of the Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education was held in a Porto Alegre (Brasil). It brought together more than 40 representatives of Institutions of Higher Education from Brasil, Mexico, Australia, the Philippines, Argentina, Spain and Peru.

The Archbishop of Porto Alegre, Mgr Dadeus Grings, opened the meeting. Among the participants, other than the delegates of the Institutions, there were the president of UMBRASIL, Br. Arlindo Corrent, the Provincial of Rio Grande do Sul, Br. Inácio Nestor Et-

ges, Br. Josep Maria Soterias, Councillor General, and Br. Juan Miguel Anaya, of the Mission Bureau.

Among the numerous challenges facing Universities or Institutions of Higher Education, we must underline that of educating global citizens, just, and capable of promoting social integration. The proposal came from UNESCO and was emphasized in the opening address of Br. Joaquim Clotet, Rector of the PUC of Porto Alegre. Br. Joaquim spoke of the great challenges of the XX century, such as durability, diversity of opinions and the formation of responsible citizens and good professionals. He also un-

derlined important characteristics for the universities of tomorrow, which must move towards scientific progress by means of research, partnership with the technology producing enterprises, teaching and the transmission of knowledge. « The University should be dynamic and take up its responsibilities vis-à-vis economic and social development » he said by way of conclusion. The Rector of the PUC of Paraná, Br. Clemente Juliatto, spoke of the proposals of UNESCO, and José María Amigo, Director of the University School Cardenal Cisneros, presented some basic lines of Higher Education in Europe.



Prov. "México Occidental" - Provincial Assembly on Vocation Ministry

From September 23rd to the 25th, 2010, the Marist University of Guadalajara was the site of a meeting of 21 brothers and 15 lay people from the apostolates of the province ("México Occidental") for the first assembly on Vocation Ministry.

It was an historic event. The custom had been that the vocation team be composed exclusively of brothers. On this occasion, committed lay people from our various apostolates were included and played an active role in the reflection and planning for the change of model of vocation ministry that the

Province of Western Mexico is undertaking. Brother Provincial, Eduardo Navarro de la Torre, in his address at the close of the assembly, urged us in a energetic manner to first believe that everyone has been called by God to be saints and therefore to live as such.

