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Visit of Brother Emili Tutú to Haiti

Haiti still in a state of emergency

After the terrible earthquake which devastated the lands of Haiti in January 2010, the country is back in the newspaper headlines with the ravages cholera is causing among its population. It never rains but it pours. Once again, another strike arouses the collective conscience and the question: And what is to be done?

In a letter to the Provincials, Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, includes some paragraphs on his recent visit to Haiti.

A few weeks ago, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the Marist presence in Haiti, I had the opportunity to visit our brothers and works there. Unfortunately, 9 months after the earthquake, there is still an enormous amount of work to be done. As you know this earthquake is considered one of the most serious humanitarian catastrophes in history. Official estimates put the death toll at more than 200,000 people, with more than 250,000 people injured.

The organisation Refugees International stated recently, "The people of Haiti are still living in a state of emergency with a humanitarian response that appears paralysed". To date, 1,500,000 Haitians are homeless and more than 200,000 have not even a tent or canvas for shelter. Of the "temporary shelters" planned, only 4.5% have been built. 2,000,000 people are exposed to malnutrition. As regards economic aid, as of September 2010, the Haitian people had received only 19% of the resources promised by the international community. Although the main difficulties are centred in the capital, Port-au-Prince, the rest of the country has also been affected because of the 600,000 or so persons who have moved to other parts of the country, including where our Brothers are. So far FM-SI has collected a sum of € 264,421.8 from provinces, communities, educational centres

or individuals. To this sum € 153,891.20 has been added. This was the amount remaining in the "Tsunami Fund" and which the General Council decided to make available for Haiti. Thus a total of € 418,313 is available for projects using the normal criteria of FMSI. During my visit, I was able to discuss with the provincials of Canada and México Occidental how to work in a co-ordinated manner with one another and with the local Church, especially the religious congregations. Some projects are already underway with the support of the Province of México Occidental. I hope that within the next few months we can finalise the type of aid, in line with our mission, that we can provide. We will keep you informed.



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Meeting of former students at Kobe

Two Marists in Japan

Br. Ramón Bereicua, living in Kobe, in a letter addressed to a friend, gives some details about his life as a Marist in Japan. An event which filled him with joy was a meeting with former students of the school in Kobe. « On 10 October, we had a large Marist family gathering of some 190 former Marist students of Kobe, coming from Japan and different parts of the world: the USA, Europe, Middle East, Asia... even from New Zealand. With their spouses and friends, some 250 persons arrived in Kobe to share a convivial meal ».

The Marist Brothers came to Japan from China in 1951. Brothers Louis-Charles and Léon-Stéphane, the founders, left Hongkong on 21 July 1951, and went to Kobe. The Brothers of China have proved ingenious in establishing themselves in new lands. The work of Japan is today attached to the Province of the United States.

The second part of Br. Ramón's letter mentions the fruits of the Marist work in Japan: « They asked me to say a word and also to bless the table. An extraordinary fraternal encounter and great praise for the « Marist fraternity ». Unbelievable! Among those present there were Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, but most were Buddhists, Shintoists, Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Moslems... who were grateful to us for having prepared them to face life with a great sense of brotherhood and mutual respect. The day before, a good group of them visited the Marist cemetery in Kobe to lay a bouquet of flowers on the Brothers' tomb... That's what keeps us hopeful! »

As in so many places throughout the world, the harvest is abundant and the labourers few and filled with years and with merits for having cultivated the Father's field to the last hour. « From time to time, I take care of the cemetery of the



Brothers in Kobe, where five are buried, including the founders who came from China, and even a Councillor General » Br. Ramón says.

The meeting with these former students of such diverse origins keeps the Brothers of Japan open to hope, awaiting the time to pass on the baton to some candidate from mission ad gentes. « There are only two of us Marists in Japan, both advanced in age. When will the reinforcements arrive? »



Youth Ministry

Assembly of the Marist Province of "Brasil Centro-Sul"

The Youth Assembly of the Marist Province of «Brasil Centro-Sul» took place in Curitiba on 18 and 19 September 2010. Young people coming from the different Social Centres, Schools and Universities gathered to elect eight representatives who until 2012 will take part in discussions relating to the youth of the Province.

The Youth Commission will be a consultative organ – being able to present proposals; it will help the Sector of Ministry in reflecting on the subject of courses of action for the evangelization of youth in the Province, and will contribute to formation activities and the production of subsidies.



Educate for Rights and Solidarity

Province "México Central" takes an initiative in favour of unprotected children

On 7 October, under the protection of Our Lady of the Rosary, and within the framework of the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Belisario Domínguez, a personage of the beginning of the XX century, the Province of « México Central » began the NGO Educate for Rights and Solidarity (EducaDyS). Dominguez worked tirelessly during the Mexican Revolution to make of society a more dignified and just place, especially for the less favoured.

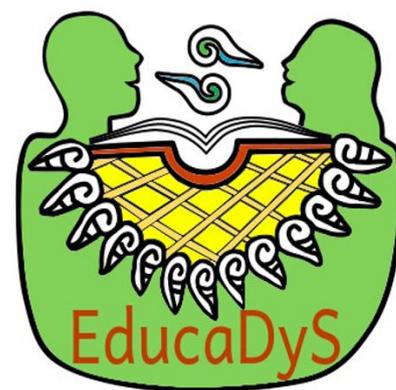
The initiative for creating an NGO oriented towards education about Rights appeared in 2006, when we prepared for the 8th Solidarity Workshop. These workshops have been held since 1998 in order to unify the vision and the solidarity efforts in the different works of the Province. The 2006 Workshop had as topic « RE/discover the rights of the person » and as questions: How do we live personal rights in our daily life? How do we make them present in our life? We discovered the need to reinforce the works in the network and

to form ourselves for the objective of rights. From that time on, the workshops held have had as a rule to give a face and a heart to the activities of our works from the objective of the rights of children and young people.

In addition to that, there are the invitations of the XXI General Chapter, which calls us to undertake actions that will allow us to become experts in the defence of the rights of children and youth, and of the XIV Provincial Chapter, which invites us to create community pastoral processes which promote the defence of their rights (Line of action 4.1).

With its focus on excluded, marginalized and vulnerable children and young people of all social levels, the mission of EducaDyS as a Marist NGO is to set in motion educational and social organization processes which stimulate and promote, in union with other national and international bodies:

1. The knowledge and practice of the rights of children and youth.



2. The increase of the factors of security, respect and exercise of their rights; and the integral development of the most fragile and vulnerable children and youth of our country.
3. The transformation of the structures and the mechanisms which impair their present and their future.

May our loving Father, our good Mother Mary and Saint Marcellin Champagnat accept, bless and strengthen this new orientation in the service of Mexican children and young people.



An initiative of the fraternities of Province "Mediterránea"

Spain

The members of the Marist fraternities of the Province of Mediterránea are placing great hopes in the preparations for their second Provincial Assembly. www.tresvioletas.org is the web site they have set up to motivate and continue preparing for the II Provincial Assembly which will take place on 5

and 6 December in Córdoba (Spain). The Assembly has taken for title Here and now, to a new land!

They are living this time with much enthusiasm and the fraternities are gradually becoming more and more cohesive. There is a great desire to live in

a network, connected, so that this connection becomes an enrichment at the local level for each of the fraternities, for the life of each and every one of the members and of those for whom they are directing their energies to make this world a better one.



Recovering the spirit of the Hermitage

Reflections of the architect Joan Puig-Pey at the end of the work of renovation

Iwant the restoration of the Hermitage to let us recover the spirit of Champagnat, Brother Sean Sammon told me in Rome in 2006, looking me straight in the eye after entrusting me with the project of restoring the former mother house. «Brother, I am an architect! I will build a solid building, comfortable, beautiful and respectful of the history, the place... But to recover the spirit of someone who is no longer there! That is « meta-history »! That is how the inspiring voyage, professional, human and Marist, began. On 22 September, with the official inauguration, the goal had been attained. The morning of the day of the inauguration, Brother Sean, with whom Br. Emili and I were sharing breakfast, said to us: « The results of the renovation have surpassed all my expectations as regards the transformation of the places. What the Planning Commission, Jean and his colleagues have produced is a tribute to the Brother founders and the pioneers, and to the heritage they have left us. Congratulations! This morning, while the Hermitage was deep in sleep, I got up at 3 o'clock to walk around the places. I could feel the spirit of the Founder was there, as alive and active as when he shared these places with François, Laurent, Louis-Marie, Jean-Baptiste and the others...» I could not get over it! « The spirit of the Founder was there, as alive and active as when he shared these places with François, Laurent, Louis-Marie, Jean-Baptiste and the others...»

I ask myself: how was that possible?

The response was born in Rome, even if I became aware of it only later: meta-history!

Working at the Hermitage implied mobilising the best of myself, as architect, as person and as Marist. And putting into it my whole heart, all my intelligence and all my strength; my feelings and my interior life; intelligence, imagination and sensibility. And putting into it too my whole body: voyages, cold and heat, getting up early and lying awake, leading a life as austere as a monk's. Free and convinced that this was my mission during all this time. In accord with Dolores, my wife, and Jaume, my associate. From base camps which allowed the unforgettable ascent to the summit, with the certainty that once I descended, I would find the table set.

Advice to the sailors

Anyone who goes to the Hermitage to learn things, to perfect his knowledge, to « know more about it », will go away disappointed. He will learn nothing there. To correctly « enter » the site, it is necessary to « click » on the password. It is « MY BODY ». Repeat that slowly, and you will mobilise yourself from head to toe. You will have the same experience as Brother Sean, and so many others who have been conquered in these last six months. For the Hermitage is a place which every Marist ALREADY carries in his heart. A place that « lives in us », that is part of the whole body, not just the heart and the head! Now open your eyes wide and let yourself touch; give ear and listen to everything: the silence, the Gier... Let them sound in your interior and be attentive to what will emerge. Touch, touch everything: the stones, the walls, the wood; speak to these elements, let the words within you burst out. And eat! My friends,

that is what will make you different from a tourist, however sensitive he may be. The new Hermitage is « bread of life » for every Marist Christian. It is not just for recharging the batteries. It is salutary. It revitalises. What happens at the new Hermitage is like having an antivirus: if one allows it, it cleans your personal hard disk. And it is capable of reformatting in the most serious cases!

How is it possible?

The presence of the new community is the second key. The Hidden Life there in those places and the one each of you carries in his heart has need of hands, feminine and loving, which make the « connection ». This is the mission of the hospitality community. A prophetic community for which, given its heterogeneity, the matter is not easy. And there it is! It « demonstrates » to all, Marists or not, that an international communion, mixed and in different forms, is possible. It holds together, for the work it accomplishes is not something personal, but the continuation of the work of the One who has really built the house. L'Hermitage is waiting for you!

