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18/11/2010: Guatemala - Meeting of former Marist Brothers

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17/11/2010: Mary's participation in the Trinity's mystery of love (1)

Province of Southern Africa Fifth Provincial Chapter



The twenty-five capitulants from the six countries of the Province (Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) met at Marist Secondary School, Mtendere from 25 to 29 October 2010. They discovered that the chapter room had been arranged with five circular tables with five places at each. Clearly, the local Chapter was going to use the same methodology as the General Chapter held last year.

The Province was fortunate to secure the services of Br Joe McKee, Vicar General, as facilitator of the Chapter, as well as the supporting presence of Br Antônio Ramalho, the Councillor General appointed to be the link with the General Council.

The first highlight of the Chapter was the installation of Brother Joe Walton as the third Superior of the Province in succession to Brother Lawrence Ndawala. During the opening ceremony, Br Joe presented a piece of rock hewn from the site of the Hermitage as a symbol of laying a foundation for the renewal of the Province, a foundation that would need the collaboration of all the Brothers just as Father Champagnat and his early disciples set out to do in the year 1824-1825.

In his report on completion of his mandate to, Br Lawrence highlighted the need for the Brothers to reflect carefully on the most effective structure for the animation and government of a Province with six countries and some 30 communities with

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many of them far from other houses of the Institute. It goes without saying that he congratulated Br Joe on his appointment. In turn Br Joe expressed the heartfelt gratitude of the Brothers for the loving service that his predecessor had rendered to the Brothers and the Church for the past six years.

The discussions on themes relevant to our lives as consecrated persons at the service of needy children and young people were very amicable and fruitful. Our work focussed on developing some orientations to guide the Provincial and his Council in their task. Four main areas emerged: formation, finance, communication, and spiritual renewal. Delegates were free

to choose which of the four areas to work on for the development of a list of proposed lines of action for the Provincial Council to consider.

It was decided to retain, for the time being, the existing system of a Councillor appointed from each of the six sectors in the Province. The following were duly elected as Councillors for the first three-year mandate of Br Joe Walton: Angola – Br Thomas Sawalia; Malawi – Br Nicholas Banda; Mozambique – Felizardo Maceia; South Africa – Br Jude Pieterse; Zambia – Br Patrick Bwalya; Zimbabwe – Br Fortune Chakasara. Later on the same day, Br Joe Walton announced that Br Nicholas Banda had accepted to be

the Vice-Provincial. Additionally, he mentioned that he had appointed Br Mario Colussi as Provincial Secretary and his personal secretary.

During the closing liturgy, Br Joseph once again brought up the piece of "Hermitage" rock at the Offertory. All the Brothers present then added a stone of their own to symbolise their commitment to work together to re-create the spirit of the Hermitage.

The concluding address delivered by Br Joe was a message of hope expressing trust in the Lord in the spirit of Mary and Champagnat.



Advent and Marist Solidarity 2010

Reflections on our world through the eyes of children

Based on the theme of last year's General Chapter, we contacted a number of people from several countries to ask for some reflections from children. We asked the children to tell us what are some of their concerns about the world around us and what are their hopes for the future.

We are grateful to the many children who responded to our request. We received many more reflections than those in this booklet – so thanks to all those who participated!

We want to give a special acknowledgement to those who helped us gather these reflections:

- **Australia:** Br. Mark Murphy, Gail Coates, Br. Paul Kane, Dr. Paul Hine, Christine McCabe, Br. Paul Gilchrist and John Healy
- **Cambodia:** Br. Brian Kinsella
- **Pacific Region:** Br. David McDonald and Br. Nevil Bingley
- **Paraguay:** Gloria Dávalos
- **Malawi:** Br. Nicholas Banda
- **Spain:** Albert Salazar, Karmentxu Balugo, Marta Portas, Br. Manuel Mendoza
- **Brazil:** Br. Vicente Falqueto
- **Colombia:** Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal



Our sincere thanks to those who translated the booklet into the different languages.

You can download the the text on www.champagnat.org

ADVENT 2010

Reflections on our world through the eyes of children

Keeping alive a major theme of the XXI General Chapter

Province of Central America

5th Provincial Assembly

The 5th Provincial Assembly of the « América Central » Province was held in the Marist Formation Centre, zone 11 of Guatemala City, under the slogan « Marists to a new land ». It took place from 22 to 25 October 2010 to map out the programme for the second three year term of Br. Hipólito Pérez as Provincial. There were participants from all the communities of the Province: Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Porto Rico and Cuba.

Brs Eugène Kabanguka and Josep M. Soteras of the General Council took part to share with those present reflections arising from the XXI General Chapter. They indicated the main calls coming from the Chapter: a new way of being brother in a new community; a new relationship between brothers and laity with a view to greater vitality and, lastly, a strongly significant presence among poor children and young people. After talking about the spirit which reigned at the Chapter, Brothers Josep Maria and Eugène invited the brothers to live it as a mediation of the voice of God, and thus promote the vitality of the Province.

The participants, under the direction of Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, defined the working dynamic. They chose to share in groups, brothers and lay people, and then report back to the Assembly.

Br. Hipólito guided a reflection on the five calls rising from the inter-community reflections during 2010. The calls selected for the Province were the following:

- Live and transmit the beauty of being brother and strengthen the vocation of the lay Marist.
- Renew community life.



- Cultivate Marist spirituality.
- Reinforce our presence among children and youth, especially among the poor and the marginalised.

These calls represent the « new land » for the Province. « We realise that there is a path to travel together, to respond to the situation that is ours as the days pass by » and « we feel ourselves invited, brothers and laity, to journey together united by the same charism we share » were the remarks of some of the participants.

On the occasion of this meeting, there was a presentation of the history of the Province, written by Brothers Javier Espinosa and Alberto Ricca. The work consists of two volumes collecting together a very varied range of experiences, foundations, history and contexts which retrace the 60 years of the life of the Province.

Br. José Antonio Ochotorema explained the content of the Agree-

ment with the programme « Educame » (Educate-me), which aims to provide free education to the most impoverished sectors of Salvador.

Br. Balbino commented on the novelties of the Province web site: <http://www.maristasac.org/> underlining the possibilities of creating communication networks linking the works of the Province.

At the close of the Assembly, during the Mass, the participants sang a hymn of gratitude to the Lord for the lives of the Brother jubilarians of 2010: José de Jesús Cuadrado (Fidelity), Julio Valbuena, Manuel Antonio Alvarenga y Jesús Ortega (Diamond), Carlos Bidegaín (Gold), Jesús Bayo (Jade), Alexander Salas (Silver), Miguel Ángel Martínez (Bronze).

The meeting finished with the inauguration of the Chapel of Fidelity, which recalls the memory of the Marists of the Province of « Centro América » who have gone before us.



The Word of God in the mission of the Church

Document of the XII General Assembly of the Synod

The Apostolic Exhortation of Benedict XVI "*Verbum Domini*", published on 11 November 2010 in the Vatican, is the result of the XII General Assembly of the Synod on "The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church", held in October 2008. *Verbum Domini* sets out the personal and ecclesial contemplation of the Word of God in the Scriptures, the Liturgy, and the personal and community life of believers.

The process began officially on 6 October 2006, when the topic chosen by the Pope was published. The Ordinary Council of the Synod's General Secretariat drafted a working document which was completed in March 2007. This was sent to the bishops who worked on it in their dioceses and returned their contributions to the Secretariat. From these contributions, the "*Instrumentum laboris*" was developed which contained the basic lines for debate. The meeting of the Synod of Bishops began officially on 5 de October in the basilica of Saint Paul

Outside the Walls to emphasize the celebration of the Pauline Year. The meeting concluded on 24 October with the approval of a "Message to the People of God". The Synod Fathers delivered to the Pope 55 proposals as a basis for drafting the document just published.

The Exhortation is dated 30 September to coincide with the liturgical commemoration of St Jerome, to whom tradition attributes the Vulgate, the Latin Biblical reference text. It contains almost 200 pages and is divided into three parts. The first, entitled "*Verbum Dei*", provides a theological survey of the most important concepts connected with the Word of God. The second, "*Verbum in Ecclesia*", is devoted to emphasizing the importance of the Word in the Church, and especially in the liturgy and life of faith. The third part, "*Verbum Mundo*", reflects on the Church's mission in the world.

Among the objectives of this pontifical

document, the following may be emphasized: to communicate the result of the synod assembly, to rediscover the Word of God, continuing source of Church renewal, to promote Biblical animation of the pastoral ministry, to be witnesses of the Word and undertake a new evangelization.

Pope Benedict XVI dedicates nearly forty pages to emphasize the necessity of presenting a hermeneutics in a clear and constructive way, placing Biblical science, exegesis and theology at the service of the faith of the Church.

This document should be a reference point for organizing the apostolic activity and practice of pastoral ministers, catechists, religion teachers, animators of faith groups, etc. It can also provide a great service to religious communities, fraternities and Christian life groups, or others, who use "*lectio divina*" as a means of nourishing prayer and deepening faith.



Animators of laity of Marist Brasil

Marist Union of Brasil (UMBRASIL)

The animators of laity of Marist Brasil met on 28 and 29 October at the headquarters of the Marist Union of Brasil (UMBRASIL). They shared on the situation, projects and achievements of the Provinces and UMBRASIL in relation to the organisation and formation of Brazilian lay people.

B. Javier Espinosa, Director of the Bureau of Laity, took part in the meeting and presented the Bureau's proposals for the coming years. Wanting to get a

better idea of the situation of laity in the Marist world and receive some contributions for the Bureau's new image, Br. Javier, has visited several regions of the Institute since his appointment, and established a significant beginning of dialogue with the base.

The meeting was marked by reciprocal attention to the subject of the local and international progress of Marist laity throughout the Marist world. This makes it possible to envisage new paths and



to catch a glimpse of new horizons for the life of lay people. It was also a great opportunity for Marist Brasil to become acquainted with the lay forms of belonging to the Marist Institute.

