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Updates

23/12/2010: Photo gallery: Christmas in the General House

23/12/2010: FMSI - Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale

22/12/2010: New marist link: Prov. West-Central Europe / Europe Centre-Ouest

22/12/2010: Mgr jTatic Samuel Ruiz García, affiliated to the Institute

21/12/2010: English Third Aged Course 2010 concludes

20/12/2010: Br. Pat Connell takes First Vows - Melbourne

20/12/2010: Concurrent Provincial Chapters - Oceania - Newsletter

20/12/2010: New marist link: Champagnat Marists - Brother & Lay together into a new world... (Prov. New Zealand)

17/12/2010: Br Emili Turú: Sent - "What you did to one of these, the least of my brothers" (Mt 25,40)

18/12/2010: Br. Emili Turú speaks at the III Symposium of the Theological Institute of Religious Life in Madrid

17/12/2010: New Provincial of the Province of Nigeria

16/12/2010: Marist News N. 133
16/12/2010: Deceased Brother: David Sottili (Rio Grande do Sul)

16/12/2010: Christmas Message 2010 of Br. Superior General

Religious Brothers today

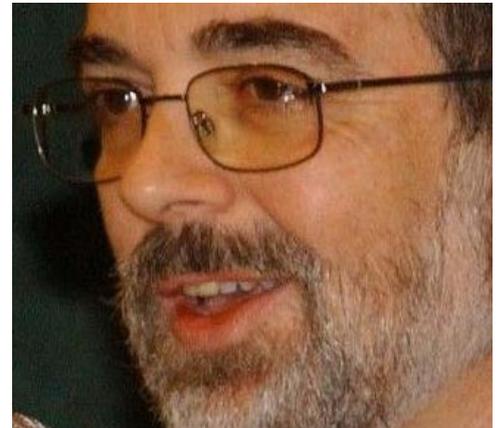
Br. Emili Turú speaks at the III Symposium of the Theological Institute of Religious Life in Madrid

The III Symposium of the Theological Institute of Religious Life was held in Madrid from 10 to 12 December on the theme «Religious Brothers today. Fraternity : a gift for the Church and for Society».

The speakers were Brothers Álvaro Rodríguez, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Donatus Forkan, Superior General of the Brothers of Saint John of God, and Emili Turú, Superior General of the Marist Brothers.

The meeting began with a talk by Fr. Eusebio Hernández, OSA, member of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, who spoke about «Brothers from the perspective of the CICLSAL». His talk was followed by an exchange entitled «Narratives of fraternity».

It was on 11 December that Br. Emili Turú spoke on the topic: «Being sent: a particular way of sharing in mission. Challenges and creative responses». In his turn, Br. Donatus Forkan, centred his reflection on «Fraternity, a particular form of commu-



nion and community». Br. Álvaro Rodríguez spoke on the morning of 12 December on «Anointing: when 'the one who is holy' surrounds a life in the Covenant».

The conclusions centred on the invitation to say that life as «brothers and sisters» is possible today.

A good number of Marist Brothers were present at the symposium, underlining by their support the importance of such reflection today in the Church.

"When we look at the origins of our religious Institutes, we note that they were born of the charismatic experience of one or several founders who felt themselves called to surrender themselves to God and to carry out a service, in God's name, in response to the urgent needs of the time. We were not, then, created by the ecclesiastical institution, but, as a charismatic form of life, we were born as a gift of the Holy Spirit to live, in a collective way, the prophetic charism in the Church."

Read all the text in www.champagnat.org

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"Through the eyes of a child"

FMSI - Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale

Dear Brothers and Friends, Christmas is now very close and we want to take the opportunity to send you our greetings and to thank you all for our work together.

This year was another rich in initiatives for the FMSI, under the capable and purposeful guidance of Br. Rick Carey (U.S.A.).

Br. Jim Jolley (Australia) was joined in November by Br. Manel Mendoza (Spain) in the work of advocacy and education in the Rights of Children in the FMSI office in Geneva. The group will be complete with the arrival soon of Br. Vicente Falqueto from Brasil.

During 2010, the staff of Geneva have worked with Marist communities in Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Malawi, Australia, and New Zealand on the publication of reports on the situation of Children's Rights in those countries, in support of the Periodic review (Universal Periodic Review -UPR) of the United Nations. This is a very important instrument by means of which civil society can provide information on what actions single states have undertaken in the defence and promotion of human rights (in this case, the Rights of Children) and draw

up detailed denunciations where these states have not been faithful to their promises.

The participation of the local Brothers and Marist Laity has been fundamental in the drawing up of these documents. From their proposals, cases, reflections, the fruit of their daily work and training, have emerged recommendations to submit to the States. These reports are, in fact, "alternatives" to those published by the Governments and provide a voice for those who remain outside official reports.

Br. Jim Jolley has also carried out numerous training sessions on the Rights of Children with Brothers, lay people and students in Marist schools in Italy, the Philippines (MAPAC), Kenya, and Australia.

With regard to solidarity projects, the Foundation this year has been engaged together with the local Marist communities in 70 projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Oceania, and Eastern Europe. The projects have been funded through the micro project fund, the collaboration of other Marist organizations of solidarity (SED, MAPS, Marist school groups) and the support of various outside donors.



The interventions have mainly concerned the building of schools, centres of informal education and professional formation, and the training of teachers and animators.

Among them, some are projects of the Mission ad Gentes communities. Also in course is the evaluation of the first financial interventions with the funds collected for Haiti.

With the hope of being able to always do better, with the help of all of you, for so many children and young people who today see their rights negated, we wish you a Christmas of Peace and rich in blessings.

The God who comes among us with the tenderness of a child tells us that he is not a God to be searched for but to be welcomed, and with Him and like Him, to direct our existence towards others.

The FMSI staff



Melbourne: Br. Pat Connell takes First Vows

On Sunday 12th December, after successfully completing a two year Novitiate, Br Patrick Connell made his first vows as a Marist Brother. Present in the Bulleen chapel along with Pat and his family were a large group of Brothers from the two Provinces of Melbourne and Sydney and a number of Brothers from East Timor and Papua New Guinea. Br Julian Casey, Provincial of the Melbourne Province, representing the Superior General, Br Emili Turu, accepted Pat's vows: a voluntary, public and ecclesial com-

mitment to follow Christ as a Marist Brother. Br Tony Shears, Novice Master, presented Pat with his soutane and Br Julian, his cord, symbol of the vows.

After the Mass and ceremony, Pat's mum, Gayle, father, John, grandmother and eight brothers and sisters joined the celebratory lunch in the Bulleen functions room.



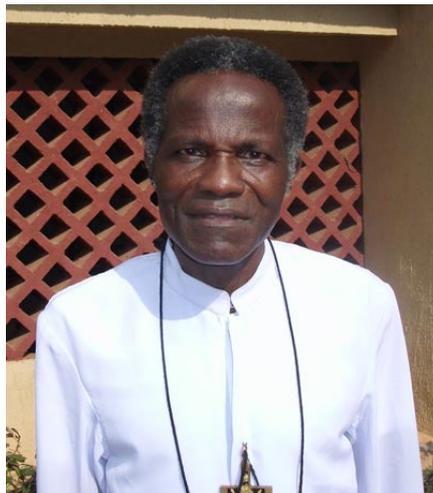
New Provincial of the Province of Nigeria

Brother Joachim Ezetulugo

The General Council, in its meeting of October 2010, has appointed Brother Joachim Ezetulugo as Provincial of the Province of Nigeria for a period of three years, which will begin with his taking up office at the Provincial Chapter in January 2011.

My name is Bro. Joachim Okoye-Ezetulugo, a citizen of Nigeria. I was born on 29th August 1944. I joined the Marist Brothers in 1963 and made my first profession on 9th January, 1968. This was followed by my final profession on 9th January 1974. I had the opportunity to do my university studies in Canada from 1974-79. I had M. A. in French from Laval University in Quebec.

When I returned to Nigeria in 1979, I took over the administration of Marist Brothers' Juniorate and served as the principal of that college for 16 years. I was later made principal of Marist Comprehensive Academy where I served for one year.



In 2000, I was transferred to Marist International Centre (MIC) where I served

as Dean of Studies and Deputy Principal Academic respectively for ten and half years. While I was working at MIC, I enrolled in MA Counselling Psychology at Daystar University, Nairobi and successfully completed this programme in 2007.

My contract at Marist International Centre ended on 31st July 2010. I was due to return to Nigeria when the Superior General, Emili Turú and his Council appointed me the new Provincial of the Province of Nigeria for the next three years after the recent concluded sondage for the election of new provincial.

Br. Joachim Okoye-Ezetulugo



English Third Aged Course

Manziana, Italy - 17 October – 13 December 2010

Monday 13 December was a busy day for the fourteen participants of the course. They began returning to their homes refreshed and enlivened for the years that lie ahead.

The Brothers took part in two pilgrimages. The first, to the Brothers' respective place of origin. The second, to the country of St Francis of Assisi. Both journeys being long enough to allow the Brothers to take the time to absorb the spirit of each place. The guides really opened the Brothers' eyes as they told the stories and explained the situation at the time.

While at Manziana guest presenters had guided them to a more positive vision for the future. Don Bisson helped them see the possibilities that lay in the years ahead, David Glenday inspired them as they looked at Religious life today. Eileen Plunkett took the topic, "Choices of the Heart" in a very gentle manner. Brother Emili Turu and Brother James Jolley made presentations and called them to see the developing opportunities to help the youth of today. John Fuellenbach talked of the Kingdom and reminded them frequently of God's love for each. Brother Mike McAward, from the Marianists Gen-

eral House, highlighted how Brothers and Priests live together as brothers in their communities.

To conclude their time at Manziana, Michael Drennan SJ guided them for a short three day retreat.

Under the guidance of Barry Burns and Antoine Kazindu their time at Manziana had gone very quickly.

It had been a life changing eight weeks for them.



Mgr jTatic Samuel Ruiz García, affiliated to the Institute

Defender of the rights of the indigenous peoples of Mexico

The former bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, has been affiliated to the Institute by the Province of México Central in recognition of his closeness to and support of the Brothers in the mission of Guadalupe, a missionary work of the Marist Brothers in Chiapas. On 10 December 2010, Mgr jTatic Samuel Ruiz García was affiliated in the presence of Br. Provincial of México Central, Ricardo Reynozo, and Brothers Josep Maria Soteras and Eugène Kabanguka, General Councillors, during an intimate and family ceremony in his house in Querétaro, Qro.



His career as bishop occupies a central place in the life of Mgr Ruiz. In 1959 he was appointed bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, in the state of Chiapas, a diocese with a very poor population, most of them indigenous. On 6 January 1962, he asked for the collaboration of the Marist Brothers and the mission of Guadalupe was founded. Activities commenced with the setting up of a school for catechists from the indigenous communities.

Mgr Samuel became world known for his closeness to the peoples of Chiapas and because he offered his collaboration as mediator in the conflict between the indigenous Zapatist Army of National Liberation and the Mexican federal government. He carried out his episcopal ministry in San Cristóbal de las Casas until 1999 and lives today in retirement in Querétaro.

After meeting this man, Br. Eugène Kabanguka wrote the following testimony: *Dom Samuel is a believer filled with love for the Church and very creative in his pastoral mission. When one is in contact with Dom Samuel, one is faced with a prophetic personality, gifted with a faith and a love nothing can stop. One senses in him love of the Church's teachings, love of the people of God, of truth and justice.*

In his pastoral mission, Dom Samuel has been very creative: he has shown that the Church, as Mother, must resolutely defend the rights of her children, without fear or shame, accepting the risk of being misunderstood and even death if necessary.

That he is now one of us, as a member affiliated to the Institute, fills us with joy and constitutes a challenge at this time of « going in haste with Mary to a new land ». Like Abraham and Moses, Dom Samuel knows what the « new land » means.

Br. Josep Maria Soteras, for his part, has this to say about the meeting with Mgr Ruiz: *« The meeting with the emeritus bishop of Chiapas. Dom Samuel Ruiz, was very moving. Neither Br. Eugène nor I knew him personally. His welcome was enough to show us that we were in the presence of someone profoundly shaped by the Lord. He spoke less about what he had done than of the way in which the life and the indigenous peoples of Chiapas had fulfilled and transformed his existence. With them he had been able to incarnate once again the Gospel parable in the human story. We found ourselves in front of an elderly, simple man, without any pretensions. 'In the wars, they put up statues to generals, but at the front, it's the soldiers who die. People look at me, but what has happened in Chiapas would not have*

been possible without the Marist Brothers', he said. With the evangelization carried out by hundreds of indigenous catechists, these peoples have gradually recovered their human dignity. Success is not yet achieved but it is inevitable: it is only a matter of time. Dom Samuel expressed this with an image: 'When we arrived, the Indians walked stooped and had to leave the footpath and bow to any « criollo » whatever who happened to be coming towards him on that path. Now they walk erect on the same footpaths they share with others. They are recovering « their world » and, little by little, they are feeling at home.' That seemed to us a new edition of the exodus or the return from exile, at their sides men of flesh and blood: Dom Samuel, the Brothers of México Central... The process was not without violence, Mgr Ruiz was accused of revolt, and was an object of suspicion inside the Church as well as outside it...but a stranger to the aggressiveness of both sides, nothing seems to have affected him at all. He preserves an extraordinary serenity and gentleness: it is the tenderness which emerges without any doubt from his stories and his experiences. He lives his simple old age in a discreet little house in the capital, accompanied by some members of his family and the lay man who has always been his personal secretary. One of the many domestic churches where he carries out his ministry, inspiring all who come to pay him a visit. »

