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Province of New Zealand

Br. Emili welcomed & Br. David installed



Thursday 16 December saw an official welcome to Br Emili to the Province of New Zealand. The first part of the powhiri (welcome ceremony) took place at Te Kamaka marae (Te Kamaka meaning the Rock) at Hato Petera College. He was welcomed onto the marae led by kuias (aunties and grandmothers) in response to the welcoming karanga (call). He was accompanied by Br Carl who stepped down the evening before as provincial and the Provincial-elect Br David McDonald and his whanau (family) both his relatives and the brothers.

After the mihi whakatau (official wel-

come speech), to us who were manuhiri (guests), the tangata whenua (the hosts) sang a song as is the tradition when words are given fragrance by a song. It was then the turn of the manuhiri to respond. Br Emili responded in Maori and it was easy to see the looks of pleasure on the faces of our hosts. In response we manuhiri stood as Brothers Emili, David led us in singing *Salve Regina*.

After a brief morning tea the group went to our marae (Sacred Heart College) where the chapel was arranged as in a marae. Br David and his family were welcoming into the chapel where

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our kaikorero (speakers) welcomed and introduced the party. During the ceremony where the tangata whenua (now brothers and lay Marists and colleagues and friends) were seated on the right and the manuhiri (now Br David's whanau and Hato Petera community) were on the left. It was the turn of Br David's brother, Morehu to respond to our welcome. Br David's whanau presented him with the korowai (feather cloak) in recognition of his new role, and he was clothed by the kuias of the group.

Br Emili called him to the task of Provincial and then presented Br David with the candle representing the service of authority he would render the Province, bothers and Lay Marists together. Br Carl held out the taonga presented to him some years ago as the taonga of the service of authority that now passed on to Br David, giving him the traditional greeting, the hongiri (the pressing of noses in which both persons acknowledge they share the same breath of life).

Br David then spoke to all welcoming everyone with his first words of thanks. He acknowledged with a chuckle that we had had to import our kaikorero from Samoa (Br Steve Filipo) and Br Michael Potter (Vietnam), both of whom are fluent in Te Reo (Maori language). And of course, like any celebration in this part of the world, the party went to the dining room where we enjoyed the usual high standard of cuisine prepared by the very willing and friendly staff of the College.



Marist presence in Fiji

Province of New Zealand

The first teaching Marist Brothers came to Fiji in 1888. Their task was to teach the children of European settlers. Yet, by the turn of the century, they had opened two schools for native Fijians and one for the Indian population in Suva, who had until then no opportunity available to them for education. Since 1888 the brothers have taught in Suva, Cawaci, Naililili, Wairiki, Napuka and Savarekareka.

In 2011 there remain five Marist Brothers in Suva, with five educational institutions: one secondary school, two primary schools, a special needs vocational school and a kindergarten. These schools come under the auspices of the Fiji Marist Brothers Trust Board and are strengthened by a strong core of dedicated Champagnat Marist men and women.



January 2nd, 1817 - Founding the brothers

Ordained a priest in 1816, I was assigned to a town in the district of St.-Chamond (Loire). What I saw with my own eyes in that new post, with reference to the education, reminded me of the difficulties I had experienced myself at their age, for lack of teachers.

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Having been born in the township of Saint-Genest-Malifaux (Loire), I became aware, because of the extreme difficulty I encountered in learning to read and write, of the urgent necessity of creating a society which could, with less expense, provide for the rural areas the good education which the Brothers of the Christian Schools provide for the cities.

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Youth of the High School and the Bac of Tepoztlán

Vocations Week-end

On Friday 12 November, we welcomed those taking part at « Quinta Soledad », Mexico. They were: Guillermo PROBERT (Mexico), Emilio UGALDE (Leon), Walberto FLORES (Toluca), Francisco E. ARELLANO (Pachuca), Pablo A. ALVAREZ, José Luis SANCHEZ, Emmanuel GALVAN (Querétaro), Francisco Javier LIMON, Salvador MONTOYA, Daniel REYNOSO (Celaya).

The youth were accompanied by several teachers and Brothers: José Luis LOPEZ (Celaya), Víctor ZAMORA (Querétaro), Jaime CASTILLO (Pachuca), Víctor VICTORIA and Joaquín HERNANDEZ (Novitiate of Morelia), Pedro Christian (Scholasticate); M Ivan O. CHACON, Br. Miguel Angel ESPINOSA and Br. José Luis CASTILLO (Provincial Team).

The day began with the writing of the names of the boys on a single sheet of Bristol paper as sign of a common history. Then we reflected on the theme « being brother » and on the encounter with Jesus, thanks to the MAEB guide, to become aware of our responsibility in looking for the divine will. After a good dinner, the day ended with hearing how the brothers have set out in haste to a new land.

On Saturday, we departed early for « Quinta Tonantzin », at Tepoztlán, where we found a ready welcome and breakfast. A little later, we began together the ascent of Mount Tepozteco, while keeping in mind our respective ways and our journey. At the summit, around the heart of Mary, we prayed for people



searching for their vocation. This ascent was the great sign of this day.

In the afternoon, we played some sport, which welded the group together and disposed them for sharing about the meaning of what is « Marist » in our lives. The day ended with social time: ping-pong and karaoke.

On the morning of Sunday, last day of the week-end, we proposed to the youth that they commence a formal stage as Marist aspirants in their home towns. We reminded them that they should engage in a search for God's will through an accompaniment which would involve their families, the local community and those in charge of vocations ministry in the province. After a time of deep reflection, each one expressed his wish to begin this

process. We are very happy to learn that ten boys are setting out on this great adventure, and will be joined by some who were absent but who want to be involved. Finally, we returned to Mexico. The week-end finished with Mass at « Quinta Soledad ».

We thank the community of « Quinta Soledad » and the family of « Quinta Tonantzin » for their hospitality, as well as the communities accompanying these young men; thanks, too, to the teachers, novices and brothers: a true family!

Let us stay united in prayer for these boys, and those God will lead to us, so that they can discover their vocation and have the courage to respond generously to God.



When seeing children and young people without schooling and knowledge of their faith, Marcellin would say, "We need brothers!" On January 2nd, 1817 he set in motion his plan for the Congregation of "the little brothers of Mary" with two young recruits.

Meeting of former brothers of Mexico

Querétaro - December 2010

On 3, 4 and 5 December, the third meeting of former Brothers of Mexico took place in Querétaro. Some 65 took part coming from the Federal District, Guadalajara, different towns of Michoacán, Monterrey, and Querétaro, with a representation from Texas, USA. Together with wives and children, we numbered 100.

Our objectives were: to revitalise our lives in Marist spirituality; to socialise and rejoice in our friendship and the formation received; to see the possibilities of continuing to form further Marist Family groups in the places we are.

Some of those attending wanted to sleep in the cells of San Javier and re-experience the life of the good times of the Scholasticate. Cells with their little table, chair, cupboard... just as in our time.

As well as fraternal socializing, we discussed different topics presented to us. The first address was from Br. Fernando Mejía, former Provincial of México Central. He spoke to us about the XXI General Chapter, and the present and future of the Congregation, as well as the identity of the Lay Marist, the importance of the spiritual life and the Marist mission.

A second address was delivered by Br. Jorge Carvajal, in charge of the Lay Marists of México Central. His dynamic presentation consisted of round tables where we talked about the notable aspects of our Marist life as trainees or as Brothers. Interesting observations arose which we might summarise as fol-



lows: We all bear within the Marist stamp which we received from the Brothers who formed us. We have a variety of apostolates, but wherever we exercise them we do it "a lo marista". We are animated by devotion to Mary and to Father Champagnat. We feel today like A FAMILY, and our intention is to form groups of fraternities, wherever we are, in order to continue growing in spirituality, fraternity, and the lay apostolate.

The third address came from Reynaldo Manero. He told us about the Champagnat Movement in México and in the world. He offered us interesting statistics, reminded us of the beginnings of the Champagnat Movement, the first fraternities in México with the animation of Br. Basilio, and presented different examples of structures and objectives pursued in the mission.

I have to emphasise that the meals

also were converted into round working tables, since around them we commented on the points raised, enriched by personal experiences and testimonies of the lay apostolate. Our prayer times and the Eucharist were marked by the emotion produced in us by singing again the Salve Regina, the Sub tuum praesidium, or the Ever forever to our Good Mother.

At the close of the meeting, we reaffirmed our commitment to continue meeting to fortify our friendship, remember our mission as lay Marists, study the documents of the Institute and be a Marist presence in parishes and in society. Our intention is to encourage the creation of Marist Fraternities in the different towns where we are.

Reynaldo Manero (Bro. Ray)

