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Updates

13/04/2011: ChMMF - *Seguidores de San Marcelino Champagnat* (SEMARCH) Fraternity - Popayán, Colombia

13/04/2011: Australia - Oceania Community Leaders' Conference

12/04/2011: ChMMF - *Padre Luiz Darós* Fraternity - São Paulo, Brazil

12/04/2011: 1st Formation Meeting for the Directors of America

11/04/2011: Deceased Brother: Lece Noel Wang Shuang Hui (East Asia)

11/04/2011: Chile - Welcome, new Marist teachers!

11/04/2011: ChMMF - *Padres en Marcha* Fraternity - Medellín, Colombia

09/04/2011: With Mary, go in haste to a new land

08/04/2011: ChMMF - *Vive Champagnat* Fraternity - Londrina, Brazil

08/04/2011: Vocacional video (in Portuguese)

08/04/2011: FMSI at the "First Marist Meeting for Leaders' Formation" in the Americas

07/04/2011: Deceased Brother: Saturnino del Pozo Palacios (L'Hermitage)

07/04/2011: ChMMF - *Renacer Marista* Fraternity - Manizales, Colombia

Continental Mission Team

1st Formation Meeting for the Directors of America



There we were gathered in the city of Florianopolis, Brasil, to live, « dream » and vibrate once again together with the ideas of Champagnat. Today, perhaps more than ever, the Marist Directors are the work horse for the growth of the mission of the Institute and its coming to full strength through our evangelising and educational activity among the children and young people of the Continent - « evangelise by educating ».

The Marist Educational Mission zealously boosts the evangelizing education of children, adolescents and young people in their own times and places. We know that this challenge requires being able to count on Marist educators and managers with ongoing formation, capable of responding to it with the tools necessary for competence and efficiency, and for guaranteeing the continued vitality of the Mission of the Institute.

In this perspective, the Inter-American Subcommittee for Formation of Directors, attached to the Continental Mission Team, and composed of the following members: Irma Zamarripa (Mexico), Br. José Wagner (Brasil), Br. Luís Carlos Gutiérrez (America Central) and Ernesto Reyes (co-ordinator of the Subcommittee, Chile), have been given the responsibility of reflecting about a Project of Formation for the Directors of the schools of the Marist Provinces and Districts of the Americas.

The Project of Formation for Directors is justified for the following reasons:

1. Urgency of an agreement on concepts based on the principles and values of Marist Education and contemporary models of management, education and evangelisation.

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2. Urgent need of bringing the Directors of Educational Units up to date in order to guarantee a strategic and professional Marist management, in conformity with the charism and the mission.
3. Urgency of putting in place models of management which guarantee the continuing development of the Marist Schools of the American Continent.
4. Importance of developing a strategic position of the Marist Institute in the Americas, in the face of the challenges peculiar to the continent.
5. Urgency of linking up the schools by creating an inter-American network of education as a response to the globalisation of the education market which, in most cases, does not have much concern for the human person and the quality of life of peoples and nations.
6. Need of a first class Marist prophetic positioning with regard to the education of children, adolescents and young people of the American continent .
7. Urgency of linking up professional and strategic management with the challenges of the Marist Mission today, so as to perpetuate and update the heritage of Marcellin Champagnat, thus guaranteeing the continuity of the Institute.

For the reasons explained, the Inter-American Subcommittee for the



Formation of Directors considers that an educational institution must necessarily form leaders and educators in a way coherent with its proper Mission. To organise a consistent and coherent proposal for the formation of Directors, the Subcommittee has also carried out an extensive evaluation of the contexts and, concretely, the programmes of formation developed in the Provinces and Districts of the Americas, and their content and methodologies. From this survey, it has drawn up a report on the different programmes of formation offered for Directors, identifying their successes, possibilities, contradictions and limits.

The results of the evaluation, a first in the Institute, have allowed the Subcommittee to make a studied reading of the question relative to the formation of the directors of the Americas and have offered an important means of drawing up a formation proposal, in the international domain, for the American continent.

In harmony with the questions presented above, the Subcommittee has worked hard for this meeting to attain the objectives we proposed for ourselves:

General Objective: establish common goals or lines of action for Marist America.

Specific Objectives:

- a) Approve and make known the contents of the questionnaire coming from the Provinces (2007-2008) and systematised in 2009 by the Subcommittee, with the various programmes of formation of Directors.
- b) Have times of « lighting » which feed the formation model.
- c) Share experiences or « good ways of doing things » in the formation programmes.
- d) Construct a formation model for the future of our Directors.

We are certain that this Meeting will mark the initial and fundamental kick-off for the taking of a strategic position of the schools, and, principally, for the continuity and vitality of the Marist educational mission in the Americas. In this way, we are responding to the call of the XXI General Chapter to « believe in formation processes and experiences involving both Brothers and Laity (and which) ensure a solid preparation and help us to be faithful to the intuitions of our founder. »

Moreover, in line with principles 3 and 4 of the second call, « we give priority to formation, both specific and shared, and we recognise co-responsibility for the development of Marist life, spirituality and mission. »

Disciples of Champagnat, who never spared efforts to form Brothers and lay Marists, we ask the blessing of Mary and the assistance of the Holy Spirit so that we may be able to undertake together the task of forming Marist Directors of quality who strive, in each of our Schools, for educational excellence inspired by our charism and by the Gospel.

In Jesus, Mary and Champagnat, congratulations and good luck for putting into action this new « Marist dream ».

New Marist Directors, en route « to a new land »!

Subcommittee for the Formation of Directors:

Ernesto José Reyes (Management Team, Chile), Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez Blanco (Vice-Provincial of « América Central »), Br. José Wagner Rodrigues da Cruz (Vice-Provincial of « Brasil Centro-Norte »), Irma Zamarripa Valdez (Education Team of « México Occidental »), Mércia Maria Silva Procópio (Mission Portfolio of UMBRASIL).

Florianópolis - Brazil, 28 - 30 March 2011.

Brothers of Cono Sur and Brasil

Itinerary of preparation for perpetual vows

Go in haste to a new land! (XXI GC) - GC) - There are few times when a Marist institutional slogan comes alive for the sons of Champagnat, as it has now and concretely in our own lives. We are 15 brothers who have agreed to live together, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, an experience of itinerary of preparation for perpetual vows, from March to June. We are literally leaving everything to live this new post-novitiate experiment, inculturated in the Bolivian situation now hosting us. We leave all the works, university courses, pastoral work and communities; and set out in haste for the hill country (Lk 1: 39), in order to respond positively, generously and freely to the challenge of universalizing the Marist charism, laid down by the chapter assembly.

We are Brothers: Ronny Candela Munayco, Peruvian, of the province of Santa María de los Andes, César Borja and Luis Vega of the District of Paraguay, Jorge Arraztoa, Argentinian of the Province of Cruz del Sur; Edson Roberto Rissi, Leandro dos Santos, Solano Bageston de Lima and Deivis Alexander Fischer, Brasilians of the Province of Río Grande do Sul; Darlan Santorum, Cassiano Uberti, and Adilson José Janovski, Brasilians of the Province of Centro-Sul; Emerson da Silva Araújo, Brazilian, of the District of Amazonía; and Ronilton Neves dos Santos, Carlos Henrique da Silva and Marciano de Brito, Brasilians of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte.

The idea of making the itinerary surfaced, in the first place, in the meeting of the Extended General Council in Mar del Plata, in October 2008. Subsequently, at the meeting in Lima, in April 2009, the provinces of Brasil and Cono Sur took the first steps to concretize the new experience. In July 2010, meeting in the city of Cochabamba, the provincials appointed a team to co-ordinate the process: Brothers Juan Ignacio Fuentes (Cruz del Sur), community superior, Anacleto Peruzzo (BCS) and Ataide José de Lima (BCN). This team met in its turn in August and December 2010, to design the project.

Thus, on the 5th of March began the itinerary of preparation for perpetual vows. The first three weeks are already concluded. The activities were dynamics of presentation and familiarisation of the brothers who will live the community experience, by means of dialogue in small groups, times for games, free interaction, programmed outings, times for personal and community prayer; Eucharistic celebrations in the house and in the parish, visits to the city of Cochabamba and visits to the local Marist communities and works; community work of organizing and cleaning the house, talks on the social, political, economic and religious situation of



Bolivia, visits to possible places of apostolate and presentations on the respective provinces of the brothers forming the community. All this had its culmination in the drawing up of the Project of community life which took three days. Then a day of mixing with the parishes of the Archdiocese of Cochabamba. The next steps will take place in the three months from April to June. A new step starts now with the fourth week and workshops in Anthropology, Affectivity and the first week of the Spiritual Exercises.

In this way, the young brothers of South America, united in Cochabamba, want to construct an international and formative community, cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and live a strong experience of brotherhood with the Bolivian people, our relatives, of this mountainous region (cf. Lk. 1: 36-39). We seek to give a new face to the charism from Latin America. For this purpose, the first steps constitute a surmounting of the provincial frontiers, to catch a glimpse of the other lands of the continent with the eyes of God, to contemplate his creation: he saw that ALL he had made was good (Gen. 1: 31). The fraternal living together of the community of the itinerary offers a singular opportunity for creating, in our own lives, a new way of being Marist brother, in pursuit of strengthening the feelings of belonging to the Institute and the commitment to the mission from the cultural peculiarities which characterize each province and district and, above all, to deepen the desire of following Jesus Christ in Marist Consecrated Life.

Cochabamba, 30 March 2011 - Brothers Marciano de Brito, Edson Rissi and César Borja



Brotherhood Commission

Oceania Community Leaders' Conference

Certainly the largest gathering of Community Leaders. They gathered at Mittagong in Australia for a three day conference hosted by the Brotherhood Commission of the Oceania Council. There were sixty three community leaders from the Provinces of Melbourne (15), New Zealand (23) and Sydney (25) together with their Provincials and the members of the organising committee.



The focus of the Conference was fostering brotherhood across the Oceania Region and how to be leader in a modern religious community. As well as input the participants drew on their personal and Marist spirituality as well as sharing the experience of being a Community Leader. This was a rich sharing given the range of different styles of Marist community across the region today.

and the refurbished facilities and hospitality encouraged conversation and sharing. The opening presentation – With Mary – was thought provoking and related to the outcomes of the General Chapter. It laid the groundwork for the presentations and reflections of the next two days. Other speakers addressed the issues of Leading Healthy Religious Communities today; Brothers and Lay Together; Moving forward with hope; and New Lands.

The setting at Mittagong was ideal

The conference concluded with the

three Provincials leading a reflection on the conference experience and then taking up the theme of New Lands. They worked with the Brothers on carrying forward the decision of the Provincial Chapters of each Province to move towards new structures for the Oceania region within the next two to three years.

All those gathered spoke positively of the felt experience of unity and purpose about what is emerging for Marist life and mission in this part of the world. There is a wealth of experience and wisdom in the community leaders of the region – indeed we are blessed. The conference was also an opportunity for many inter-province friendships to be renewed and new connections made. There is now a shared understanding of what lies ahead and an eagerness to see the new relationships and supportive structures put in place.



Chile: New Marist teachers

More than 50 teachers who are joining the Marist Family this year participated in days set aside for our customary in-service program for educators. Representatives from La Serena – the largest delegation – to Curicó met at our Marist Spirituality Center in Santiago.



The objectives of this gathering were to extend a warm welcome, to have an opportunity to reflect on our lives and gain greater self-knowledge and to focus our eyes and our hearts on elements that St. Marcellin Champagnat has handed down to us.

With a view to accomplishing these objectives and en-

couraged by the Team for Spirituality and the Laity, the new teachers took part in various activities. The first day concluded with a screening of the movie Kolya, about the relationship between a musician and an abandoned little boy. The film helped participants to better understand themes related to education.

