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27/04/2011: Annual statistics of the Marist Institute - 2010

27/04/2011: First Conference on Formation for American Boards of Directors

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May with Our Lady

Mary, the Church's Beloved Mother

As May approaches, we naturally direct our thoughts to the mother of Jesus. We allow our heart to beat in company with this young woman who bears in her womb the Son of God.

Something that we experience at the feeling level: that's what is most important in our relation to Mary, Mother of God. She is mother, so we approach her as children approach the mother they love. We are proud of her; we are certain that she loves us, that she will show us how best to love her Son. The importance of Mary originates solely from the Infant whom she holds in her arms, the Child whom she presents to all who approach her. Mary is the "mother-servant" of the Word made flesh, the monstrosity from which her Son shines forth.

We know that Mary's greatest mission is to present Jesus to the world, to make him present in our midst, in each generation, in all cultures, among all peoples. We also know that, in his turn, Jesus will say to us, "Behold your mother." The setting in which Jesus gives us his Mother is not a matter of chance. Rather he says the "Behold" at the moment when his love is being shown "to the end." It is the moment when Jesus expresses the fullness of his self-giving, when he gives to the human family the one whom he loves, the one who was faithful to him from Incarnation to Calvary, the woman who is most dear to him, his mother.

The month of May invites us to be inventive. Previously, in our schools, when May arrived, there was great creativity in classes to honour Mary more especially: altars, marial sentences written on decorated charts; bouquets of flowers which the



children brought, drawings, hymns gospel reflections... Like the Brothers, like lay Marists, Marcellin Champagnat has taught is to make a special place for the Good Mother. Like him and the beloved disciple we have taken Mary into our hearts, into our lives, into our apostolic activities.

Experience tells us that Mary listens to prayers, that she redoubles her maternal towards those who invoke her. It was in the night and the snow that Marcellin had experience of this. His love was daily, but when the storm descended from Heaven onto his young Congregation, he went to shelter it under the maternal mantle of Mary.

All through this month marial reflections would be offered day after day (www.champagnat.org). They were born within our documents, from our experiences of life, of certain gospel passages, from the attitude of Christian people and Popes... A page, a page and a half of reading... what can help to make Mary more present in our lives and we more present in her heart.

The texts are of Br. Giovanni Bigotto

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Champagnat Study Tour/Pilgrimage

Twenty-two Marists from across Australia at Hermitage

On April 10, twenty-two Marists from across Australia gathered in Paris for the Champagnat Study Tour/Pilgrimage under the leadership of Brothers Michael Green, National Director of MSA, Neville Solomon of the Hermitage Community and Peter Walsh, MLFT. After lengthy flights from Australia, the group gathered at the Citadines Hotel in striking distance of Place de la Bastille, Paris and commenced the course with Mass at the church of St Paul-St Louis in the heart of Paris. A meal to get to know each other followed at the Place Royal in the Marais district.



On the first morning, lectures by Michael Green on Why Paris? Its meaning for Champagnat and Neville Solomon on Enlightenment, Revolution and Restoration set the scene for the following days lectures on Marcellin's Letter from Paris by Peter Walsh.

Saturday, 16th April, the Marist pilgrims, Brothers and Lay, gathered around the table at Lavalla where Marcellin and the first Brothers ate and worked. The event followed a visit to the chapel of Our Lady of Pity where Marcellin, and the pilgrims, prayed for vocations and

a tour of the church and school at lavalla. We then gathered around the table for prayer and reflection on the life of Marcellin and the first Brothers.

Read more in <http://www.maristmelb.org.au>



Perpetual vows in Seoul

Br. Anselmo Kim

Brother Anselmo Kim of Korea Sector professed his perpetual vows last April 3 at the Marist Children Center in Seoul, Korea. The Eucharistic Mass was celebrated by Bishop Lee Han-Taec.

Brother Manuel De Leon, FMS, the Brother Provincial, the delegate of the Superior General accepted his vows in the presence of other Marist Brothers, Br. Anselmo's family and friends. Members of Dong -Hang, a youth prayer group supported by Br. Anselmo, helped out during the said profession.



The Mission of Marist Boards of Directors Today

First Conference on Formation for Boards of Directors

Our challenge is to be Champagnats in our school communities and through our witness and outlook to make Jesus Christ known and loved. Accomplishing this requires a Board of Directors that advocates these goals and shows what needs to be done. Simply writing down ideas down and presenting them in a beautifully bound edition is not enough; what counts is our personifying the message. No longer can we mosey along at a snail's pace in addressing this topic. We need to be daring, tearing down once and for all the structure we've relied on in the past and starting to build a brand new one for a world that's changed, whose Christians and citizens come from diverse backgrounds.

This First Conference on Formation for American Boards of Directors brought together participants from each Province and District on the Continent, some from Boards serving Marist schools. A total of around 80 brothers and lay people, including members of support teams, met March 27 - 30 in Florianopolis, in southern Brazil.

This pioneering Conference was organized and directed by the Subcommittee for the Formation of Boards of Directors, part of the Continental Team for our American Mission. The members of this Subcommittee are Irma Zamarripa (México Occidental), Brother José Wagner (Brasil Centro Norte), Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez (América Central) and Ernesto Reyes (Subcommittee Chairman, from Chile).

The main purpose of the Conference was "to establish a set of procedures and agreed-upon approaches for Marist America" pertaining to the formation of Boards of Directors. In 2007-08 a questionnaire was sent out concerning this

subject and its relevance to the needs for animating the Marist mission on this Continent. That survey led to important conclusions that Brothers Emili Turú y Juan Miguel Anaya published in a Report and Letter to Provincials in early 2010.

The Conference dedicated a great deal of time to approving and making known the contents of that survey. Sharing experiences and noting successful practices in their own Provinces and Districts, participants gained a good number of insights. This in turn helped them move forward and shape a comprehensive model for an overall formation program for future Boards of Directors.

Guest speakers at the Conference included Brother Josep María Soteras, General Councilor, who gave a talk on The Mission of Marist Boards of Directors Today. He focused on what makes our Marist mission so significant in today's world, its international nature and systematic way of working together. In this regard he stressed the key role played by those who lead Boards of Directors in our schools. Their work is going to become increasingly influential and have a multiplier effect given the current challenges that the Institute is facing in its efforts to provide a quality education based on the spirit and charism of Champagnat. To succeed we need to train new members of Boards of Directors to meet the new world emerging all around us. The Conference examined this entire challenge in the light of the four areas constituting the future of our mission: evangelization, education, solidarity and defense of the rights of children and young people.

With Brother Jesús Triguero and Juan Guerrero as moderators, participants also had an opportunity to discuss Man-

agement models and the practicality of using them in a formation program for Marist Boards of Directors. Likewise, Ana Maria Eyng led a discussion on Formation for Boards of Directors in educational institutions and Brother João Carlos do Prado gave a talk on Networking in a formation program for Boards of Directors in America. With their experience and expertise all the speakers did a fine job of helping the Conference reach its objectives.

Brothers James Edward Jolley, Director of the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) in Geneva and Manuel Mendoza Prario gave a presentation about the Foundation's Office and spoke of ways in which Marist schools can become involved.

The participants had plenty of time for sharing and celebrating. To share the culture that comprises our Continent each representative brought along something from his or her own country.

From everything we've learned at this Conference, the wealth of the dialog and how we delved into topics at the café or on our lunch break, there's no doubt we'll be returning home with a new vision. What we've learned will enable us to not only tell people that the Conference was interesting and practical but that it will become an instrument that will transform our way of looking at the world around us. However, this is not just a call to work with a greater supply of specialized tools. For us to be willing to take on the new challenges we think it's important for each Board of Directors and every member of animation teams to be able to enter more deeply into the mystery of their Christian lives and adhere more closely to our charism.



Shared formation meeting

Miraflores - Province of Ibérica

The "Champagnats" with the "Marys"! This was one of the phrases heard amidst the laughing and joking at the moments when brothers and laity exchanged in "couples" during the shared formation meeting in Miraflores, 18 – 20 March 2011.

Each of the dozen brothers chose a numbered image of Champagnat... and each of the dozen lay Marists did the same with the image of Mary. This procedure made us move physically towards one another and then both together towards the point of sharing. The two images from the last General Chapter invited us to leave for "new lands". And it was really so, in going to meet the other, in confidence, simplicity, and naturally to share feelings, hopes, difficulties... and, in short, life.

In this first of three meetings which complete the process, we concentrated on sharing our journeys of faith and spirituality which unite us as Marists. In the next meeting, we will deepen our common and specific vocations, and in the third, we will be concerned with mission.

As in all meetings of shared formation, the family atmosphere of confidence, joy, and enthusiasm was evident from the beginning. This is not easy to communicate, YOU HAVE TO LIVE IT.

Times of personal reflection alternated with times of sharing in couples, or of reflection in small groups; times of quiet prayer and spontaneous sharing were followed by times of games and



fun, promenades in the beautiful area of Miraflores... But the best summaries are the ones each provided:

- I value the family climate and the ease of communication among us and of SHARING LIFE, not simply ideas. I see this initiative as ONE MORE STEP on the long road towards the new way of understanding and living the Marist charism becoming alive.
- I retain especially the conviction that we are more in harmony than I imagined at the beginning and the conviction of the importance of doing what we have to do with enthusiasm, of accepting what will happen as a challenge, without paying attention to the fears and the securities of what we have.
- In a close and free encounter, differences are blurred, you see what unites us and you live with AUTHENTICITY. This meeting produces enthusiasm, the feeling that IT IS POSSIBLE TO LIVE SOMETHING NEW TOGETHER.
- I would like to underline the moments of sharing in "couples", for being persons with very different ex-

periences and lives, we shared in an attitude of affection and trust, even if we did not know each other previously. What fills me with hope is to see elderly brothers here because, having lived another style of life, they are open, and this makes me believe something new is possible.

•To continue to work for the diffusion and the living of the Marist charism with other persons: that is what en-

courages me!

- Extreme ease among the participants in expressing themselves and communicating with simplicity and depth.
- It has been a gift, for the sharing with those who feel called by God to live the same charism and spirituality is always enriching.
- I have realised anew that I am a privileged person: I can find time to take note that there are a number of us questioning ourselves about the presence of God in our lives; I have found certain brothers who have helped me perceive the God of kindness, simplicity, service... which makes me serene, peaceful, and gives me the desire to return to my own situation.
- I am taking away the atmosphere of depth, openness, respect, trust and joy, the fact of our "confirming" one another, of encouraging one another to journey, search, trust... I emphasize the harmony which has reigned in the transmission of experiences lived. And the family spirit I had the chance of sharing and living.
- IT IS NOT A MATTER OF A FUTURE BET, THIS BET IS THE FUTURE.