

www.champagnat.org

Updates

26/05/2011: VI Meeting of the Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality

25/05/2011: Deceased Brother: Jean Rivollier (L'Hermitage)

25/05/2011: New book received: The China Martyrs of 1900 (Giovanni Bigotto, fms)

25/05/2011: Marist International Center - MIC Digest

25/05/2011: Portugal - 1st National Encounter of Former Marist Brothers

24/05/2011: New Mission Council for Marist Australia

24/05/2011: Living Champagnat's vision - Alice Springs, Australia

24/05/2011: Growing Marist Leaders Program - Australia

24/05/2011: FMSI visits Mount St. Michael Drum Circle Project - United States

23/05/2011: 6th meeting of older Brothers in Rome (Prov. Mediterránea)

23/05/2011: A look at East Timor

21/05/2011: Course on documentation of champagnat (cycle c: 1839-1840) - Spain

20/05/2011: General Councilors visit the East Asia Province

19/05/2011: Marist News N. 156

Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality

32 Brothers and laity from all the regions of the Institute in the Americas met in Curitiba

From 28 April to 5 May, Curitiba hosted the VI Meeting of the Inter-American Network of Marist Spirituality. The participants numbered 32: brothers and laity from all the Regions of the Institute in the Americas. Each Province sent at least two representatives.

The meeting had as its main objectives:

- To revise, complete and approve the biennial Plan for 2011-2013, emphasizing in a special way the definition of the network's identity and mission;
- To evaluate the progress made by the provincial commissions in the work of formation and animation of Marist apostolic spirituality in the Administrative Units;
- To form the participants in drawing up spiritual itineraries for brothers and laity, in line with the call of the XXI General Chapter, in view of conversion, making use of reflection and accompaniment.

The dynamic employed by the Network in all its meetings is very particular; priority is given in all its activities to interaction and sharing among those taking part; faith and life often go together, and the situation is always seen as the space where God is revealing himself; experiences of solidarity with the poor become the subject of reflection and prayer; the formation proposed is consistent and the content well transmitted from the



point of view of methodology; there is particular care given to family spirit, which makes the common life between brothers and laity so pleasant. These were the sentiments of the participants at this sixth meeting.

At each meeting one sees that the presence of the Marist laity is becoming more and more important, in number and in quality of participation. There were at least ten lay persons at this meeting, and many others, of the organizing Province, Brasil Centro-Sul, were in the background, working for the success of all the activities programmed.

The General Administration from Rome was also present through Brothers Javier Espinosa (Bureau of Laity) and César Rojas (Bureau of Brothers Today). Both were able to become familiar with the experience of the Network and also to make known the projects they are coordinating at the level of the Institute to

MARIST News

N.º 157 - Year IV - May 26th, 2011

Director:
Br. AMEstaún

Production:
Mr. Luiz da Rosa

Redaction and Administration:
Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2
C.P. 10250 - 00144 ROMA
Tel.: (39) 06 54 51 71
E-mail: publica@fms.it
web: www.champagnat.org

Edit:
Marist Brother's Institute
General House - Rome

give impetus to the life and mission of brothers and lay Marists.

In Spanish, French or Portuguese, all the participants understood and

made themselves understood during the meeting. In fact, when from "all the dioceses in the world" the founder calls his Marists for mission, the "official" language is always love,

a language always understood by everyone!

Br. Rafael Ferreira



Marist Province of Mediterránea

6th meeting of older Brothers in Rome

The 6th Meeting of the older Brothers of the Province of "Mediterránea" was held in the General House in Rome from 3 to 9 May with the participation of 21 Brothers. The Brothers of Lebanon could not come because these dates coincided with the visit of the provincial council to the Brothers of that zone.



The brothers were completely satisfied with this meeting. The warm welcome of the community as well as the comfort of the accommodation contributed towards creating a good atmosphere prevailing in the house.

It is fitting to underline some important aspects of the meeting:

The papal audience. The Pope's paschal catechesis on prayer, the numerous groups from all over the world present, and the strategic and interesting place close to the dais, all helped towards helping us to interiorise the Pope's message.

Visit to the archives. Br. Juan Moral allowed us to meet Father Champag-

nat alive again through the original documents presented, and which he guards preciously and affectionately.

Talk on the art of growing old. Guided by Br. Pietro Stò, we read and commented on a document, presented for this purpose, on the way of looking at old age with new eyes and as a gift.

Exchange on the Marist Institute. Brother Emili Turú, Superior General presented us with the programme of the General Administration, and explained the function of the General Councillors and the different Bureaus of the General Council. He gave us very precise information about the different parts of the Marist world. His interven-

tion sparked many questions from the Brothers.

Visit to Orvieto, Bolsena and Viterbo. A full day in all senses. Orvieto, with its original Gothic cathedral, a high peak of art. Bolsena, with its volcanic lake, the location of the restaurant

where we had our lunch. Viterbo, a charming city with its antiquity and papal history; visit to the Marist school dedicated to Cardinal Ragonesi. All this under the care and guidance of Br. Alberto Dalla Costa.

And if all that were not enough, we must add another two dishes.

One, the exchange, after dinner, of the sentiments experienced during the day. The other, the comings and goings of the Brothers in free time to appreciate the art and wonders of Rome. (One could say that the years do not pass for come Brothers).

Br. Antonio Marín Alba



A look at East Timor

Marist Mission

East Timor is one of the youngest countries in the world. It was in 1999 that the population voted in favour of independence from Indonesia in a popular referendum. The event was followed by great devastation in the country, with towns burned and thousands of the island's inhabitants dead. In 2002, with the support of the UNO, the country finally obtained independence. The process was closely followed by Pope John-Paul II, to whom the people are very grateful.



On the other hand, there is great potential in the children and young people. Investment has to be made in their formation. The people generally are very intelligent, creative and religious. The government wants to wager on education making the difference. The country has great possibilities for tourism it needs to develop. Its geographic position makes it strategic for maritime commerce. It possesses mineral resources which could contribute to its development. But East Timor needs substantial investments and great international solidarity to consolidate itself as a country.

The population of the country is about 1.2 million the majority of them (52%) children and young people less than 15 years old. Indicators show that 42 % of the population live below the poverty line. The economy of most families is based on subsistence agriculture. Those who declare themselves Catholic represent 98 % of the population. The official languages are Portuguese and tetoum, but the most widely used of the 32 existing languages are tetoum and bahasa-indonesia.

The Marist mission in East Timor began in 2000, when the Province of Melbourne took charge of the Catholic Teacher Training Institute in the town of Bacau. Today, Brothers Fons van Rooij, John Horgan and Tony Clark, in collaboration with religious sisters and

lay people, are involved in the training of 150 new teachers who will be among those responsible for the construction and development of the country. The Brothers have also created the Marcellin Champagnat Kindergarten which looks after 24 little children.

The country's infrastructure is fragile. To travel the 120 km which separate the capital, Dili, from Baucau takes three hours by car. The towns of the interior suffer from lack of electric powers. Water supply in the homes is a privilege of the capital. Health and education services are weak and insufficient. Most of the people live on what they produce through agriculture and other small enterprises. The youth have no great prospects of a future different from their present one. Great progress needs to be made.

We Marists are in the process of contributing to this mission. We are called to give more of ourselves for the children and youth of this country. Both the government and the local Church are asking us for greater collaboration. This appeal should touch our hearts and minds. This can be a good opportunity to respond more strongly to the call of the XXI General Chapter, inviting us to "look at the world with the eyes of poor children and young people".

Br. João C. do Prado
Director of the Bureau of Mission



Brothers John Klein and Michael De Waas visit the East Asia Province

The Marist Brothers from Philippine Sector warmly welcomed the two General Councilors, Brother John Klein and Brother Michael De Waas, as they visit the different communities and schools in East Asia Province.

Brother John Klein and Brother Michael De Waas from

the General House were also invited by Brother Manuel De Leon, the Brother Provincial, to be the facilitators during the annual retreat of the Brothers of the Philippine Sector. Forty-six Brothers attended the said week-long retreat held at Jesuit Retreat House in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon last April 17 to 24.



Course on documentation of champagnat

Institute of Marist Studies of Salamanca

The Institute of Marist Studies (IEM), attached to the Pontifical University of Salamanca through the Normal School Luis Vives, is in train of holding, from 25 February to 6 July 2011, the "Course on documentation of Champagnat, Cycle C", a course of research, reflection and prayer, all based on the writings of Marcellin Champagnat from 1839 to 1840, with the support of updated on line resources and Marist document sources.

To endeavour an approach to Marcellin Champagnat by the knowledge and understanding of the charism and the Marist Spiritual Patrimony, and to develop a direct, inductive, and group methodology, with both physical and virtual presences: such are the aims sought in this process of formation.

It is also a matter of discovering the numerous unsuspected aspects so as to understand better and live the common charism. The study dynamic invites sharing in groups personal experience and research.

The part involving obligatory attendance takes place in two sessions; the first, on 25 and 26 February, and the second on 4-5-6 July 2011, in the Central House of Xaudaró, in Madrid. The second part has to be done by each participant between the two sessions, and involves personal work, with the support of a virtual platform, rich and complete in resources and research material. Brother Fernando Hinojal Citores (Mediterránea), an expert with great experience in this field, is monitor for the course.

This cycle of courses was directed towards educational communities and interested persons in general: broth-



ers, catechists, animators, monitors, teachers, former students, fraternities, and members of the Marist Family. This year, there are participants from Oviedo, Alicante, Málaga, Madrid, Seville and Salamanca.

Up to the present, the evaluation of the course has been very positive and has underlined different aspects such as the discovery of a Marcellin closer and more human and with a strong personality, the good moments provided by the reading and commentary of writings and works, the collective organization and the development of personal work, the participation and collaboration, the quantity and quality of the information supplied and the desire to overcome certain prejudices, the becoming more familiar with the life of Champagnat and "letting oneself be persuaded" by discovering the work of the Spirit.

This course completes the formation in the documentation of Champagnat, proposed by the IEM for three years: the first two are Cycle A (1823 to 1836), the obligatory attendance part already realized in Salamanca, and Cycles B (1837-1838) and C (1839-1840) in Madrid. The participants receive the corresponding certificate or diploma granted by the Institute of Marist Studies of the Pontifical University of Salamanca.



New Mission Council for Australia

The Provincials of Melbourne and Sydney announced the membership of the new Mission Council for Marist Australia. As this Council of both Marist Brothers and Marist Laity takes up its role over the next couple of years, it will gradually assume many of the responsibilities that have in the past been the remit of the Provincial Council.

The membership of the foundation Council (which will be in office until the formal commencement of the new Australian Province in 2013) are:

- * Brother David Hall (Chair) (Headmaster, Marcellin College Randwick; Chair of MSA Regional Council, Sydney);
- * Darren McGregor (Deputy Chair) (Principal, Catholic College Bendigo);
- * Julia Lederwasch (Deputy Principal, St Francis Xavier's College, Newcastle);
- * Joe McCarthy (Lay Marist Coordinator, Montagne Centre, Melbourne);
- * Brother Darren Burge (Principal, The John Berne School, Lewisham);
- * Brother Paul Kane (Provincial Councillor; Chair MSA Regional Council, Melbourne);
- * Erica Pegorer, (Principal, Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon);
- * Richard Sidorko (Headmaster, Marist College Canberra).

