

www.champagnat.org

Updates

31/05/2011: Marial Year in Marist Brasil

31/05/2011: Deceased Brother: Serafín García González (México Occidental)

31/05/2011: Brazil - PUCPR realises a twenty year old dream

30/05/2011: 100 years of Marist presence in Madagascar (in French)

30/05/2011: Deceased Brother: José Luis Urrutia (Cruz del Sur)

30/05/2011: First Pakistani Marist Community

28/05/2011: A pilgrimage with 3000 youth to Fátima

27/05/2011: Australia - Preparation to the feast of Marcellin Champagnat

26/05/2011: Marist News N. 157

25/05/2011: Brazil - 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

MARIST NEWS

N.º 158 - Year IV - June 1st, 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

To be a person is to have a story to tell

Br. Emili Turú - Message on the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, 2011

In recent months, various groups of Marist pilgrims have passed through our General House in Rome after visiting the Hermitage. I have taken the opportunity to meet with most of these groups, and have been able to observe the great impact produced in their lives by contact with the places of our Marist origins. Many, when they find themselves physically present in this damp and narrow valley through which the river Gier flows, wonder how such a worldwide expansion of the Marist Institute could have taken place from this humble spot. But I think what also leaves a great impression is knowing oneself to be part of a marvelous story that began in these lands in 1817 and which continues into our times on the five continents. We know that we are carrying on the dream of Fr. Champagnat, Br. François, our first Brothers and so many others who have followed since.

All of us have experienced, probably at one time or another, the delightful sen-

sation of knowing that our 'little' stories connect with a greater story which is unfolding around us and of which we can be part. For many of us today, in fact, it has become almost impossible to separate our personal journey from the Marist journey, one among many which come together in the great story of humanity and which seek to contribute to making the world a place of greater fraternity and harmony.

It seems to me that this sentiment is well expressed in Tolkien's famous novel, "The Lord of the Rings". Frodo and Sam, two hobbits, find themselves, without knowing very much how or why,

suddenly involved in a great and exciting adventure. They leave the comfort they have known to encounter dangers and constant surprises. They do not realise it, but they have a fundamental role in securing the future of the "Middle Earth".

On one occasion, finding themselves in danger, Sam addresses Frodo:



- ... I wonder what kind of tale we've fallen into.

- I wonder —said Frodo—. But I don't know. And that's the way of a real tale. Take any one that you're fond of. You may know, or guess, what kind of a tale it is, happy-ending or sad-ending, but the people in it don't know. And you don't want them to.

-... Don't the great tales ever end?

- No, they never end as tales -said Frodo-. But the people in them come, and go when their part's ended. Our part will end later - or sooner...

Unlike Sam and Frodo, however, I think that we are becoming aware of the type of story into which we have "fallen": a great story, one of those which never end, in which we want to take up "our part".

Today, as we celebrate the life and holiness of Marcellin Champagnat, is a day of thanksgiving. Because our personal lives have become knowingly interwoven in the service of a greater project that transcends us and gives us meaning and direction. Because we feel called to be a presence of Mary in the Church and in society.



Juillet Aleth Berthet

But it is also a day for renewing our commitment to the Marist charism and mission, defying all our resistances to set out in haste, with Mary, for a new land. It is almost two years since the XXI General Chapter, and the "horizons of the future" intuited in that assembly, continue to summon us urgently, demanding personal and collective commitment:

- A new consecrated life which promotes a new way of being brother.

- A new relationship among Brothers and lay people, based on communion, looking together for a greater vitality of the Marist charism for our world.

- A strongly significant presence among poor children and young people.

"I wonder what kind of tale we've fallen into..." We need not doubt it: it is an exciting adventure, and one to which it is worth giving one's life. As actors in this story we do not know how it will end, but that does not matter: we know that the goal is the journey, and that is enough for us.

Let us journey, then, with joy, with hope, and with renewed commitment on the roads of the Marist story, in which we are already actors. Following this journey together helps us to be more ourselves, since, as Isak Dinesen said: "To be a person is to have a story to tell".

May Saint Marcellin Champagnat, in whose footsteps we follow, bless us all, our families, and the children and young people we have been called to serve on the five continents.

Bro. Emili Turú



Preparation to the feast of Marcellin Champagnat

Australia - Champagnat week resources 2011

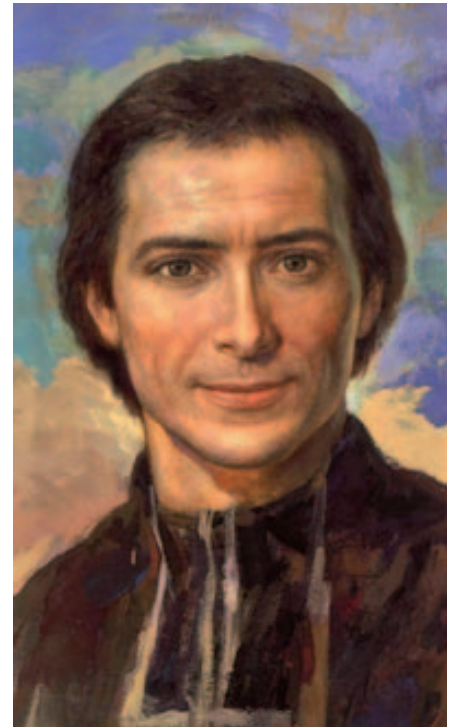
It's been practice in the last couple of years to send schools a complete set of resources to help them prepare for and Celebrate the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat on 6th June and the days leading up to it. Last year was the first time this was done nationally across the MSA schools. Your school will have received this DVD Resource Disk last week.

Our theme this year is Around the same table – a place for all, and we are encouraging students and staff members in our schools to actively consider how they might keep doors and hearts open to all people, so that each person they meet might feel at home in their presence and be invited into Greater relationship with them. The simple table at La Valla represents for us the experience of Christ's love shared by Marcellin

and his early companions, and so we come to understand it is God gathered with us around our tables of common-union where each person finds a place.

Aside from the usual prayer resources, student lessons, graphics and video, this year we're also running a Champagnat Week Design Competition with some great prizes for students in Upper Primary through to Senior Secondary. Perhaps there's a student you're connected with in a Marist school who would benefit from a gentle prod to submit something?

All the resources (except the high definition video files) and the design competition information are also available at www.msa.edu.au – look for the Champagnat Week 2011 box.



Leading Pakistani to "New Lands"

First Marist Community with Pakistani Brothers



Bro. Remigius Fernando from Sri Lanka has the honour to be the first Marist Brother to arrive in the land of Pakistan. Since then, Marists have sweated to educate the youth of

Pakistan from various countries, like Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, USA and number of other countries. Along with the education of the students in the schools run by the Marist Brothers, the Brothers, especially the Sri Lankan Brothers have played a vital role in the formation of young Pakistani men interested to carry on the charism of Marcellin Champagnat.

The young Brothers in Pakistan are growing in numbers and are taking slowly the key responsibilities in the country.

Early April, the first community with Pakistani Brothers was formed in Rawalpindi the adjoin city of Islamabad. The three Brothers are, Paul Bhatti, Adnan Asif and Francis Rehmat. They are the sons of the land and are full of spirit.

They work with young boys in John Paul II Boys Town, hostel and school. The Brothers live, eat, work, play and pray with them, teaching them, "How much Jesus Christ loves them" and leading them to "New Lands".

Blessed is the one who comes!

Marial Year in Marist Brasil



On the occasion of the commemorations of the Marial Year in Marist Brasil, the Provinces and the District of Amazonia have received an original statue, called «Our Lady of the New Land», which is making a pilgrimage of all the units of the Province. Here is an account of its passage made by the post-novitiate of Belo Horizonte.

On 15 May, International Day of the Family, our Marist family gathered around the pilgrim «Our Lady of the New Land». It was a day of feasting, joy and rejoicing! As well as the members of the Juniorate community, there were the parents of Brothers living in Belo Horizonte (Paulo Martins, Paulo Soares, Júnior, José Rogério, Raimundo Barbosa and Oldair), members of the Fraternities of the ChMMF, counselors from the Marist Youth Centre (CMJ), children and friends.

The religious celebration started off in the chapel, where the statue of Mary was welcomed together with the persons present. To her and to each group arriving we sang the refrain: «Blessed is the one who comes... bringing the peace of the Lord!» Then, in procession, the pilgrim Virgin was conducted to the premises where the ceremony unfolded

in a very prayerful climate, with a lively participation. At a given moment, those present, following the example of Saint Marcellin, placed in the heart of Mary the name of the person they wished to pray for.

The care taken in decorating and maintaining the atmosphere of prayer added a touch of joy and festive informality. The lunch and afternoon together crowned a day of blessings and family living.

After the departure of the guests, Our Lady of the New Land returned to the chapel for more personal and intimate encounters. On 16 May, after the courses at the Institute of Saint Thomas of Aquinas and the Faculty of the Jesuits, the community welcomed some young people from our school of Araçagy, MA, and two Mexicans who were taking part in the cultural exchange at the Dom Silvério school. They came with Mr. Paulo de Tarso Motta Ferreira, Director of CMDs and Mrs Ivanilda, a teacher. Once more, at Mary's feet, we implored and thanked, praised and blessed for all she has done and is doing among us! «Blessed is the one who comes, bringing the peace of the Lord!»



Portugal: Encounter of Former Marist Brothers

On April 16, we gathered in Fatima, at la Consolata—16 former brothers from Portugal (one of them, Father Serafim Marques, from la Consolata), along with five wives and a former-student friend. This meeting was different from the previous ones we have had. Various meetings have already been organized, including former juniors and, at times, former students. The participants sought, more than ever before, a key to deepen their Christian pilgrimage and for a way to be able to deepen what is distinctively Marist. All were able to speak of themselves and be open to the others, and to communicate with and listen to one another. There was sincerity, spontaneity, and at times, emotion. We all see ourselves as Marists, an identity that will be ours all the way to heaven.

Two former brothers were unable to participate because of last-minute complications. A number of others who had not registered expressed their regret for not participating, some because of health or family situations, others due to professional commitments.

The Institute was represented by Brothers Manuel Silva and Teófilo Minga. We chose the date so as to enjoy of Br. Teófilo's presence, as he was on his way back to Rome from Toronto, and to make a pilgrimage to this great Marian shrine. We felt at home in Fatima.

