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Provincial Chapter 2011

The Marist Province of Canada held its Provincial Chapter at the House of the Madonna on 23, 24 and 25 May 2011. Br Bernard Beaudin has had his term as Provincial renewed for three years. On the same occasion, the Chapter elected the new provincial council, which is composed of Brothers Réal C.-Jacques B.-Gérard B.-Yvon B.-Bernard B.-Réal S.-Marius F.



New Provincial Council

By means of a message sent by the capitulants to brothers and laity, the Chapter, through the mouth of Br Bernard, invited all "to let themselves be invaded by the Chapter spirit, which promises for the whole Province of Canada a time of hope and confidence in the future of new lands glimpsed, and even attained."

In his opening message, Br Bernard addressed us in words resolutely pointed to the future. Invited by our confrères to reflect on our Marist future, the delegates of the Provincial Chapter of 2011 have attempted to respond to the wishes of the XXI General Chapter, which invites us to imitate Mary and set out in haste for a new land.

But how to interpret this haste in our current conditions? Yes, the Province is aging. Yes, we are limited in what we do and what we can do, and for some, it is almost impossible. But this very realistic statement does not prevent us from believing that our "being" and "our ability

to be" can grow at any age. "An old apple tree does not give old apples", said one confrère during the meetings preceding the chapter.

So it is certainly in the present that we have to define ourselves. Yesterday, the brother's way of life corresponded to the historic present defined by the socio-religious and cultural context of the period. Today there is a new way of being brother. Am I so? Are we? In the thinking of the chapter, the new way of being brother is inclusive. It is defining itself at the same time as the lay Marist vocation.

A chapter is a time of questioning. In accepting the slogan "A decisive step towards a new land", we wanted to signify clearly that we are committing ourselves personally to make advances on serious questions, which are very different from vague dreams and which impose no obligations on anyone. Around the round tables, the word of each person was important for responding to the questionings raised by a new land to be explored

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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

and cultivated in the coming years. Br Joe Mc Kee reminded us of the importance of the method of fraternal dialogue in the meetings, which supposes listening and allows little miracles for the vitality of the Province and of the Institute.

Beyond the discussions, the most difficult thing remains to come. To enter the door of the future, the door of the unknown, finally so as to enter the new land, it is necessary to abandon something which is familiar to us and to combat a routine destructive for community life and the mission. In his Easter message, Br. Superior General said: "In fact, for the birth of a new era for the Marist charism to be possible, it is necessary to accept that something dies and to commit ourselves to a journey of personal and institutional conversion in the coming years."

More than ever, we must "convert" our ways of living and thinking. Mary and Marcellin are inviting us to do so. We have confidence.

In his letter making official the nomination of Br Bernard Beaudin, Br. Émili Turú invites us to follow a very practical approach, made up of attention to others, of daring openness, of sensible resourcefulness, of encouragement... He asks those responsible for the animation of the Province "to have the capacity for vision and for taking difficult and bold decisions for a better future... in pursuing the way with hope, holding on to the hand of Mary, the one whom the Angel of the Annunciation reassured: for God, nothing is impossible." We want to signal to Br Bernard our entire collaboration.

Finally, we do not forget that we form, religious and lay Marists, the living stones of an evangelical and prophetic community having Christ as corner stone. The variety of charisms and their combination constitute all its beauty and richness.

It is in union with the XXI General Chapter and resolutely turned to-

wards a vision of the future that we wish to take a "decisive step towards a new land" in adopting the following resolutions around three themes:

1. A new consecrated life, rooted firmly in the Gospel, which promotes a new way of being brother.
2. A closer relationship between brothers and laity based on communion for a greater vitality of the charism adapted to Canada. Signs of a new life in train of being born.
3. A strongly significant presence among poor children and young people. To see the world through the eyes of poor children.

Mr. Réginald Sauvageau
Chapter Secretary



Marist University of Mexico

Seminar on Updating on Educational Research

The Doctorate in Education Programme of the Marist University of the city of Mexico has convoked the First Seminar on Educational Research, extramural mode, which will be held in July 2011.

The Seminar is an academic initiative coming from a group of teachers and educational researchers of the Marist Universities of Mexico to inaugurate a space for the diffusion of research methods created by the

teachers and researchers working in the field of the third cycle in education. They also wish to link up

among them projects of national and international import which reinforce the academic resources of the third cycle, and encourage the participation of the education students of this cycle, the professors and directors of the different academic levels, in order to construct collectively a reference area with a view to enriching their research practices, promoting authentic learning and building up an important body of knowledge from the social point of view.



The proposal is addressed to teachers of the different academic levels, from elementary to higher, up to the third cycle.

The Seminar will be conducted on the extramural education mode. The persons enrolled will have the opportunity of reviewing educational material, taking part in forums where they can question the lecturers, deliver the results of the exercises of the programmed workshops, at the times and places convenient to each, within the period assigned for each session. The Internet will be used to enter the Extramural Education platform of the Marist University, by means of the assigned password.

Participants will be able to count on instructions, support and advice for facilitating the study.

Participation in this Seminar is an opportunity to obtain a guide for the drawing up of scientific documents in the field of education. At the end of the Seminar, the participants will receive a document certifying an academic validity of 40 hours. Those interested will have to participate actively in 4 weekly forums and submit an original academic essay on the topic of educational research of their interest. The best essays will be published in the Review of the Third Cycle of Education of the UMA.

Persons interested can ask for full information by addressing themselves to:

L.R.C. Karla Adriana Ocampo
Assistant of the Doctorate in Education Programme
Monday to Friday, from 12 to 20 h.

Leandro Valle 928
Col. Del Mar, Deleg. Tláhuac,
Cd.de México
Tel. (55) 5063 3070 o 5063 3099 extension 144 o 129

Courriel : doctoradoedu@umarista.edu.mx

Web: www.umarista.edu.mx



FMSI – ONLUS

First step towards the accreditation with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

FMSI was recommended for the special consultative status on the 23rd May, almost at the end of the 2011 Resumed Session of the Economic and Social Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. The Committee gathered in New York, USA, from the 16th to the 24th May to consider the applications for consultative status presented by the organizations of civil society that wish to develop a relationship with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, according to its resolution nr. 1996/31. The Committee is supposed to formulate a recommendation that the ECOSOC will then ratify.

In order to work at the UN, FMSI applied for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status in May 2010 and was then notified that its request was going to be considered during the 2011 Resumed Session. Since the NGOs that undergo this process have an option to send up to two representatives, FMSI was present in the Committee when its application was considered.

This happened the very first day. Following the common practice, one member of the Committee asked for more



information about FMSI's activity and more specifically requested that details on the projects carried out in Latin America and Haiti be provided in writing. The answer was transmitted by FMSI's representatives shortly after receiving the official notification of the request. The Committee acknowledged the receipt of the information required but didn't request to the FMSI's representatives to participate in the interactive dialogue that would have allowed the Committee to formulate its decision immediately. This resulted in a delay in the process of FMSI's application that was deferred to the end of the session for the final decision.



International Meeting of Marist Publishing Houses

International challenges in the publishing sector

The Marist Publishing Houses are invited by the Mission Bureau to a meeting in São Paulo (Brasil), from 2 to 4 November 2011. The programme is being prepared by an Organizing Committee. The following Publishing Houses have been invited to the meeting: "Editorial Edelvives" (Spain), "Editorial Progreso" (Mexico), "Gram Editora" (Argentina), "Editorial Champagnat" (Curitiba, Brasil), "EDIPU-CRS", Porto Alegre (Brasil) and "Editorial FTD S.A." São Paulo (Brasil).

The principal objective of the meeting

is to encourage integration, combined operation and co-operation among the Marist Publishing Houses in view of reinforcing the mission of the Institute in the publishing sector.

The specific objectives are: to survey the panorama of the international publishing market; to become acquainted with the organisation, structure, products, good practices and challenges of the Publishing Houses; to draw up proposals of co-operation for work on the network of the Publishing Houses of the Marist Institute within the pub-

lishing market.

The production of teaching resources for education in part of the Institute has been very significant from the beginning. The Publishing Houses remain always present in the service of education with major contributions. The extreme importance of education has prompted the Mission Bureau to encourage the search for greater mutual familiarity among the Publishing Houses, in order to contribute to the common location of topics of interest, exchange, and co-operation.



Bureau of Mission

Meeting of the European Mission Team

The meeting of the European Mission Team took place at Xaudaró, Madrid, on 19 and 20 May. Those taking part were Brothers Maximo Blanco (Compostela), Moisés Alonso Pérez (Ibérica), Aureliano García Manzana (Mediterránea), Robert Thunus (West Central Europe), Gabriel Villa-real Tapies (L'Hermitage), and Joao Carlos do Prado (Bureau of Mission).

After the welcome and motivation, the following points were treated: echos from the CMT meeting held in March; presentation of the Mission Bureau of the Institute and Action Plan; development of the work plan of the European Mission Team; approval of the "Marist" corporative image; reflection on the name of the representa-

tive of the European Mission Team on the International Mission Commission; agenda of meetings for the period 2011-2012.

The meeting was held in a climate of great brotherhood, which allowed it to focus on current common interests and on a future vision for the Marist mission in Europe. Among the principal challenges for this mission are: promoting the formation of Marist leaders (brothers and laity) to assure the continuity and the vitality of the Marist charism in Europe; facilitating communication and the exchange of experiences among the different mission situations; reinforcing the evangelizing mission of the educational works; developing the common lines of youth



ministry at the European level following the document "Marist Youth Ministry – Evangelizers among youth"; creating a culture of defence and promotion of the rights of children and young people in all fields of Marist mission in the Provinces of Europe, and moving ahead in reflection on the vision of the future of the mission in Europe.

