

[www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org)

## Updates

**13/06/2011:** Deceased Brother: Jean Harlé (L'Hermitage) ; Alexander Moss (Sydney)

**13/06/2011:** Liban - Champville Marist College

**12/06/2011:** Brazil - The Social Centres take part in the Week devoted to games with the pupils

**10/06/2011:** Assembly of Champagnat Marists from Fiji, Kiribati and Samoa

**09/06/2011:** Marist News N. 159

**10/06/2011:** Brazil - Affiliation to the Institute of secular priest Fr. Wilson Groh

**09/06/2011:** ChMMF - Nuestra Señora de Begoña Fraternity - Bilbao, Spain; ChMMF - La Inmaculada Fraternity - Zaragoza, Spain

**09/06/2011:** Canada - Provincial Chapter 2011

**08/06/2011:** Spain - Seminar on Updating on Educational Research, extramural mode

**08/06/2011:** The Journey of one Young Marist - Adelaide

**08/06/2011:** Champagnat Week Celebrations - Australia

**07/06/2011:** FMSI was recommended for ECOSOC status

**07/06/2011:** Photo gallery: Feast of Saint Marcellin - General House and L'Hermitage.

## Assembly of Marists from Fiji, Kiribati and Samoa

### Developing new structures of governance in the Oceania region



During the first weekend of May when school holidays in Fiji, Kiribati and Samoa more or less coincided, Brothers and Lay Marists gathered at Marist Champagnat Institute in Suva for an assembly to look at the realities of our present situation and to explore the hopes and expectations for the future in the light of the developing new structures of governance in the Oceania region.

The Columban, Fr Tom Rouse, was the facilitator and in attendance was Br Anthony Robinson, the newly appointed Oceania Regional Coordinator. As well, the Provin-

cial, Br David McDonald, deputy Br Terence Costello and Mr Alan Parker, director of Champagnat Partnership. Also participating from further afield were Br John Hazelman, a member of the Province working at MAPAC and Br Donovan Tami from the District of Melanesia.

The working groups were named after the first foundation communities set up by St Marcellin: LaValla, Le Bessat, Bourg-Argental, Saint Sauveur, Tarentaise and Marhles. After sharing their hopes and expectations for the assembly, participants got down to work. Some of the themes to be covered

#### MARIST NEWS

N.º 160 - Year IV - May 13th, 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](mailto:publica@fms.it)  
web: [www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org)

**Edit:**  
Marist Brother's Institute  
General House - Rome

were the identity of the Lay Marist and of the Brother and of how each sees the other in the developing new structures of Oceania.

The work of the Assembly included gaining a better understanding of the new structures of the Oceania region when Br Tony Robinson explained the developments since the Concurrent Chapters in Sydney in December 2010. This clarification led to participants exploring mission, spirituality, the relationship between Brothers and Lay Marists in the Pacific region of Oceania (Fiji, Kiribati and Samoa) and where the Pacific was to align itself in Oceania in

a way that the voice of the Pacific was heard effectively.

On the Saturday afternoon the two groups, Lay Marists and Brothers met separately to discuss their place and how they saw the way forward. Lay Marists strongly emphasized that they would continue to support and work with the brothers, whatever was decided, while the Brothers saw that connection to the new District council of New Zealand (currently the Province) was the best way to get their voice heard, provided that processes of communication were further refined.

On the Sunday morning the participants met as country groups, Lay and Brothers together, to put forward practical strategies in the areas of Lay Marist Partnership, Mission, Spirituality and Governance.

The Assembly concluded with an inspiring liturgy prepared by Br John Hazelman.

See more pictures in <http://www.marist-brothers.org.nz/about-us/news/may-2011-pacific-assembly/>



## Brasil Centro-Sul

### Affiliation to the Institute of secular priest Fr. Vilson Groh



The affiliation to the Institute of Fr. VILSON GROH took place on 28 May 2011 in Florianópolis, Santa Catarina State. The ceremony was held during the Mass in the Chapel of Caieiras, one of the social works established by Fr. VILSON on the island of Florianópolis.

This social work is located on the highest point of a hill of Florianópolis, occupied by neglected and poor people.

For more than 30 years, since he was ordained priest, Fr. VILSON has been working on projects of social

inclusion, rights and citizenship, especially for children and young people. With a grant from the Province and the help of the young Brothers of Florianópolis (Scholastics), he has recently built two large social centres in the hills around the city: one on Monte Serrat and the other in Caieiras. His social groups are of recognized public value. Fr. VILSON has a great love and devotion for the Marist Brothers; he is an enthusiast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat and admirer of Marist spirituality. He is a "man of God" in the sense of someone who is very human, very apostolic, and with a deep life of prayer. In the ceremony of affiliation, the Chapel of the "Obra Social Irmão Celso Conte" was full of ordinary people, friends, children and Brothers. On this occasion, Brothers Davide Pedri, Provincial, and Jorge Gaio, in charge of the Social Sector of the Province, took the opportunity once again to thank Fr. VILSON for his dedication to the Marist social works.



# Baseball in Cuba - A way of evangelising by humanising

"The children should meet once a week to see whom they could do some good for together."

**E**f Baseball is also known in Cuba as "the ball" or even "the passion". In fact, like any "passion", it is what Cubans give up last when they lack time, and what they place first when they have free time. It is also "the ball". Attention to the article "the" which relegates other sports, whatever they may be, to the back bench.

Without a doubt, baseball is the preferred sport of the people. It has countless virtues and attractions: it promotes athletic and also artistic development (it is a real ballet), it uses up free time in a street activity which relaxes, amuses and et distracts (tell that to the countless groups playing "taco" on street corners, with a ball which can be reduced to a mass of papers or to a plastic top, and a broom handle for bat). Baseball is also the arena allowing the exchange of animated verbal duels, in which the gladiators display their prodigious memories in recalling endless statistics.

One cannot be an educator in Cuba and not know the ball. What is more, I dare to say that an educator can find in it a marvelous springboard for humanisation and evangelisation.

These facts and reflections have led our Marist community to welcome on to our little 10 by 30 metres sports ground every Friday afternoon children between 10 and 11 years old.

Training starts about 4. 30, when the children arrive hurriedly after the week's classes. They get into line and training begins with the appropriate patriotic words. The dimensions of our ground only allow some warm up exer-



cises, ball throwing, etc.

In the theoretical part, we review the mistakes made in the previous game, spell out the rules and clarify them, and we congratulate the good players. Then we encourage the athletes to grow in the qualities we want to promote: discipline, concentration and team spirit. Each of these words conceals a programme of human and spiritual growth.

Discipline implies punctuality and order. Concentration requires being very attentive to know when one should tag the player, where one should throw the ball to get an "out", etc. Team spirit implies supporting the player who makes mistakes.

We finish the training with a salutation like the one we started with, we all shake hands and make a rendez-vous for 7'oclock the following morning.

At 7, one can already hear the voices of the first athletes arriving, dressed in their best, to let everyone know they are "peloteros" (baseball players). Some wear frayed caps, others pants tucked into their socks, those who can have a number painted or sewn on their backs. We sit on the steps in front of our sports ground and give the last instructions before the match.

Then we take our two backpacks which hold a precious treasure: nine gloves, three balls, a mascot, a left hand glove, the tools of the "catcher", face and breast guards, and finally the bat, and we go to the grounds of the neighbouring quarter of Tulipán. On the way, the children comment on the feats of the previous week's match and tell anecdotes about the national series and the fantastic team of the "elephants" of Cienfuegos who walk clear at the top of the championship.

To reach the Barrera ground, we have to go along about a dozen blocks. The little players walk proudly; for a few hours they belong to the highest level of the human species. Some passersby call out: "There goes the future team of Cuba", while others attack: "They are going to get skinned again!" And they begin to dream...

At 8.30, it is the moment of truth. With children of eleven to twelve we play five rounds quietly enough; with older ones, on the contrary, one plays hard, and seven rounds. With all its faults, our ground looking like the mountains of Russia seems to stand comparison with the "Latino"

At la Barrière, we always find Francisco Cantero, "the glory of the sport", waiting for us. He is an exceptional person who loves baseball and children and believes that through sport it is possible to dream of a greater homeland. From him we have learned how to hold the bat and handle the glove, but also how to run and keep off the sun... and, most importantly, responsibility, sporting pride and love of the homeland.

For two hours, the complications of everyday life fade away: worries, health problems, exams or home strife are banished to limbo; only the ball exists. It is impressive to see how the young players attempt – and sometimes succeed – the "squeeze play" and the "double play" and hope to obtain first "strike". A good crowd of neighbours and passersby take on themselves the role of commentators on the match from the surrounding streets.

If victory smiles on us, we celebrate by gathering on the little mound of the "pitcher" and throwing our caps in the air. If, on the contrary, we are beaten, we hang our heads and stay silent. We finish the game lined up before the "home" base, and listen to the analyses Francisco Caballero and each of the trainers make of the match. We mention not only the sporting deficiencies and merits, but also the positive and negative aspects of the conduct, the virtues and values displayed in the game. We congratulate the deserving players and shake hands. When we win, the natural instinct of some players is to mock the opposition. To make children aware that a good player is

not one who mocks a rival but rather one who congratulates the opposition takes a long time.

On the way back to the house, we comment on the match, savouring our victory or letting the disappointment of defeat evaporate. We talk about the mistakes and the "homeruns", about the ones who failed at the moment of truth and the ones who lived up to their task; "so and so saved us", "such a one smoothed the course to victory", "put me down as batter for the next game", "what suits me is the short (stop)", etc.

Everything finishes again in the Marist house with a glass of iced water from the carafe left in the refrigerator by Estrellita, our kindly cook. And rendezvous is made for next Friday.

I believe that the ball is a way to evangelize by humanising. And also a way of showing a new face of the Church, of being Church.

Br. Carlos Martínez Lavín, fms.



# Pakistan

## John Paul II Boys Town High School, Rawalpindi

To mark the 91st birthday and the beatification of Blessed John Paul II number of activities were organized. Essay writing on various topics related to John Paul II's life, quiz, drawings and sketches, poems and songs, including prayers were written. There were prizes offered to each participant.

To join the celebrations were the new Apostolic Nuncio, Edgar Pena Parra, Bishop Rufin, the bishop of Islamabad-Rawalpindi, Bishop Anthony Lobo (Emeritus) number of Marist Brothers, Priests, Religious Sisters, students

from various schools, youth groups and church choirs.

In the presentations, the life of the Blessed Pope John Paul II was dramatized. The young Themothians (youth group) were the chief organizers. It was the evening, full of JPII.

Blessed John Paul II model for the youth will continue to inspire the youth of Pakistan and especially the young students at John Paul II Boys Town.

John Paul II Boys Town High School, a

boarding school founded by the former bishop Anthony Lobo, for the youth of Islamabad-Rawalpindi diocese. The aim is to give good, solid catholic education to Pakistani young men and trained them to be leaders for the Church and the country. Another main aim is to raise the standard of education of boys, compare to the young catholic girls. In Pakistan, the Catholic girls are more educated and trained than the boys. Young women find it hard to find suitable young men to be their life partners in marriage. This has caused them to marry men from other religions.

