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## Updates

**23/06/2011:** MChFM - Fraternity Br. Gregorio Pastor - Santiago, Chile

**23/06/2011:** Mexico - Project Miravalles

**22/06/2011:** New book received: Religiosos hermanos hoy - Don para la Iglesia y la sociedad (E. Turú, E. Hernández Sola, D. Forkan, A. Rguez. Echeverría)

**21/06/2011:** Good news from Haiti

**21/06/2011:** Brazil - Formation meetings for lay Marists

**21/06/2011:** Christian out and about in the Brisbane Region - Australia

21/06/2011: Marial devotion in Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire

**20/06/2011:** ChMMF - Fraternity San Fermín - Pamplona, Spain

**20/06/2011:** India - Marcellin Sports Club

**17/06/2011:** Our laymen and women come together in Barcelona to celebrate Saint Marcellin

**17/06/2011:** ChMMF - Fraternity San José - Logroño, Spain

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**17/06/2011:** Voluntary work and new social conscience

**15/06/2011:** Philippines - Ten brothers profess their first vows

**15/06/2011:** Video: Marcelino Champagnat

## Good news from Haiti

### FMSI - Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale



In May, Angela Petenzi, projects co-ordinator of FMSI, visited Haiti with Angélica Alegría, co-ordinator of the Solidarity Bureau of the Province of "México Occidental". The purpose of the mission was to visit the projects set in motion with the funds collected after the earthquake, and to study new proposals presented by the local Marist communities.

Luis Barba Berlanga and Nancy Walker Olvera, in charge of the Mexican Association "Kóokay" ([www.kookay.org](http://www.kookay.org)), specialising in community development and sustainable technology projects, also took part in the mission. The Association has donated a solar panel installation for lighting the school at Latibolière and has offered its collaboration for developing

projects for access to drinkable water and electric power with the help of ecological technology.

The first stage of the journey was the capital, Port-au-Prince, where signs of the earthquake are still visible and numerous people still live in camps (villages of tents). The group, accompanied by Brother Frisnel Walter, visited the offices of the World Bank and the European Union to learn more about their programmes of co-operation and the possibilities of financing.

The mission then continued in the localities of Jérémie, Latibolière and Dame-Maire, where the three Marist communities are engaged in a splendid work for

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the betterment of Haitian youth. Our guide was Br Antonio Cavazos, responsible for the Sector of Haiti.

At Dame-Marie we visited the secondary school of "Notre-Dame de la Nativité", which is planning enlargement thanks to the Haïti Fund and the Province of "México Occidental". The need for new structures, more than those already planned for the project, was confirmed during the visit; a new budget is under study. The school presently numbers 368 students and, thanks to the project, this number will be able to be increased as well as the educational activities provided. In the same zone, another proposal presented concerns the primary school "Notre-Dame de Fatima", which needs restructuring work in order to be able to offer its 340 pupils sufficient space for the school and for games.

In the locality of Latibolière, the Marist Brothers conduct a secondary school where the students arrive each morning from the neighbouring villages, close to the forest, after long kilometres... A good number of them can only attend the school thanks to study bursaries. Br Laurent Beauregard has set up a programme of literacy and school reinsertion intended for those children who have never been able to attend the school. This programme

also provides a supplementary meal and recreational activities. Moreover, they are involved in enrolling on the civil register those who, for economic reasons, have not been enrolled by their parents and who, therefore, do not officially exist! The proposal presented to FMSI is to maintain the programme and to extend it later to a second group of children. And finally, it is at Latibolière that they wish to start a little installation of solar panels for the lighting of the main streets and the houses, in collaboration with the Province of "México Occidental" and the "Kóokay" Association already mentioned.

In the town of Jérémie, the Marist community has set in motion an integrated project of farming-stock raising production, created and promoted by the Marist University of Mérida (Mexico), which it is desired to promote among the local population.

The Brothers have also been involved for some time in social and animation activities for the children and young people of the quarter for whom the street is often their only meeting place. This has given rise to the other proposal presented to FMSI by the Haïti Fund, in view of the construction of a community centre for the development of social, recreational, sporting activities

for the children and youth, school support for children who have left school, literacy courses for adults, promotion of women, horticulture, diffusion of ecological technologies for having drinkable water and electric power.

In this future centre, it is desired also to run training courses for teachers and to disseminate the new teaching material of which the places visited are so much in need.

In Haiti, the most difficult task will not be the removal of the debris caused by the earthquake, but the construction of a new society by removing the obstacles which, up to now, have led to poverty and the exclusion of a large part of the population.

Among the good news, it is necessary to emphasize one item: the people of Haiti do not give up. The main market of Port-au-Prince, with thousands of persons coming to buy or sell, at innumerable little counters, proves this every day, as well as so many young people who, following the example of Ernsó and Onald, tell you about their projects.

The medium age of the Haitian population is about 20. The future of the population depends on education and the promotion of the young.



## India: opportunities for rural youth

Marcellin Sports Club has been inaugurated at P. Udayapatti to provide opportunities for rural youth to play and develop their skills in different kinds of sports. Brs. Johnson, Suresh, Rajakumar and Jeyaraj will be the coordinators in the club. There are about 40 students in the club now. There are both indoor and outdoor games and the students are free to choose any game that they like. However, they will be encouraged to play all the games to develop the basic skills and find out their favourite sport and that interest them the most. Thanks to the Brothers and friends for their support and encouragement.



# Let us celebrate the history, make way...

## Our laymen and women come together in Barcelona to celebrate Saint Marcellin

The celebration on Saturday, June 4th, 2011 was very simple and profound. A large mural some 12 meters long and 1.5 meters wide provided the backdrop and scene in the meeting hall of Immaculate College. In the mural, six frames measuring one meter by eighty centimeters, in the form of a mosaic rectangle, formed a "Life line", from the beginning of Marist life up to today. In the first frame was a yellow stain or spot which symbolized the start. From there followed Marcellin; Brother Francois, successor of Marcellin; Brother Basilio Rueda, Superior General from 1967 to 1985; Brother Virgilio Leon, Provincial of Cataluna from 1966 to 1974; Brother Henri Verges, martyred in Algeria in 1994; and a double image with Brother Ismael Valls, presently in Mission Ad Gentes, and Nereida Ruiz, who worked with BIS in Tanzania from 2008-2011.

In the room, six tables, with symbolic objects about each one of these six persons on each, together with short biographical sketches, was the venue of the meeting. The sixty people who were present could sit down to freely share responses, sentiments and dreams about what the mural meant to them.

For a while I withdrew a little from the scene. I had the feeling that I was observing what took place in the synagogues of old and among ourselves, the Christians, when we share the Word: on top of each table was found a life filled with God. The way in which the people looked at each other, spoke and listened to each other...; the tone of voice; the respect which was so palpable.... All exclaiming: God is present



here.

The Word of the Gospel was proclaimed (Matthew 20: 20-26, The Sons of Zebedee and the meaning of "service"). Then stickers were pasted on the images on the mural containing reflections that each of the participants wanted to emphasize and the song "You will be the Champagnat of Today" was sung. We gave each other the sign of peace and the finished with a festive aperitif. There was no discussion or homily... we got to know each other, listen to each other, discover and get to love the rich patrimony which we share and which propels us to a future filled with hope.

Finally, Pep Buetas, the representative of the Secretariat of the Laity, expressed words of sincere gratitude while dramatically saying: "Today we are able to feel like Brother Francois who, elected Superior General, recently witnessed the death of 'his father'. A deep human sentiment of being orphaned, coupled with a real worry about an

uncertain future was felt by this good man... but at the same time, his heart was filled with an indestructible confidence in God and Mary and he knew how to continue with the project. This same feeling of worry is familiar to many of us who can feel dizzy faced with a new and uncertain future. May the faith and the heart of our good Brother Francois be the light that guides our steps."

I believe that last Saturday we lived a true Easter celebration that we can apply to other Marist endeavors. This was made possible because of the enthusiasm and generosity of the whole team that prepared it and through the blessed circumstances in which we came together at Immaculate. We found ourselves to be a nucleus of people who met each other at Immaculate College, but for a long time had been a complex and fruitful network of friendship and tenderness, of love for all that is Marist, of spirituality and faith for the future.

Joan Puig-Pey



# Animation of the laity

## Brazil: formation meetings for lay Marists



In the course taken for the linking up and formation of lay persons, the Lay Animation Commission of the Province of "Brasil Centro-Norte" has chosen to invest in a group of multipliers. Given the geographical extent – 16 States of Brasil – and the multicultural character of the Province, priority has been given to working with a group of lay people engaged in different regions of the Province, starting with the holding of regional meetings.

In May, there were two meetings; at Belo Horizonte/MG and at Itamaracá/PE. The participants were lay people associated with the Schools, Social Units, Marist Youth Centres and the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, in addition to Brothers of the Provincial Council and the communities.

The meetings were organised around the three dimensions of formation – human, Christian and Marist, on the

axis of the crib – the first place, according to Marcellin, where we nourish our spirituality. So the participants had the opportunity to reflect, pray, share and deepen their understanding of their personal crib, the crib of Jesus, the crib of Champagnat, reviewing each of these places in their Life Project.

The meetings were the point of departure for a programme of formation which will unfold in extramural activities and in activities of required attendance, spaced out and continuing, in line with the recent thinking of the Institute with regard to laity. The Province hopes that by the middle course this group becomes a reference point for the formation, connection and organisation of lay Marists, thus contributing to other persons undertaking discernment about God's call in their lives, and from there, becoming missionary disciples of Jesus, in the footsteps of Champagnat.



## Lebanon

### Champville College

Parents and children of all the middle sections of the Nursery School Cycle at the Marist College of Champville were at the rendez-vous on Friday 27 May 2011 from 08h30 to 12h00. Were they having a celebration? Yes, but a celebration unlike any other.

In fact, the "Champagnat Paper Rally» was organized by the Cycle Team on the occasion of the annual feastday of Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers.

The workshops presented were linked around the life of Marcellin: parents and children had to reply to a series of questions in order to get to know Champagnat better and to pass from one workshop to another: composition of an intention and prayer and the decoration of the prayer/ construction of a decorated icon of Marcellin/ composition of a rosary to the Blessed Virgin/ planting of violets/ reconstitution of BD and their legends/ reconstruction of quotations/ meeting with the Director to collect information about the College/ preparation of sandwiches for a shared meal at the end of the morning...And to close, all the participants sang "With you Marcellin".

How much joy and love in what was done and lived that day. See you next time.

