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Plan of animation and government 2009-2017

2009-2017: The objectives of the General Council take concrete form

The General Council has just finished approving and making public its Plan of animation and government for 2009-2017. The work of programming and co-ordination has finally borne fruit. The methodology of analyzing needs, sharing initiatives and co-ordinating implementation requires time and patience.

The plan proposes eight objectives: Encourage the development of the "Marian face" of the Church; promote in the Institute a participative style of leadership; accompany discernment in the AUs and regions; foster in the Brothers a rediscovery of the enthusiasm and joy of their vocation; come up with a/o accompany new forms of living the Marist charism and promote the development of the lay Marist vocation; continue developing the Marist mission, with a greater presence among poor children and young people, promoting the defence of their rights; promote a better understanding and appreciation of intercultural living and internationalism; provide continuity to promoting and applying the "Evangelical use of goods" and the exercise of solidarity at all levels of the Institute.

The "Action Plan of the General Administration" was drawn up to facilitate the attainment of these objectives by co-ordinating and integrating the efforts of the various sections of the General Administration.

During the plenary session, the General Council made some appointments for the service of the General Administration. Some Brothers were appointed for a second three year term: Antoni Salat (L'Hermitage), Director of the General House; Javier Ocaranza (México Occidental), responsible for the Treasury and other management services of the General House; Edward Clisby (New Zealand), English language translator. In addition, Brother Antonio

Martínez Estaún (L'Hermitage) has had his mandate as Director of Communications prolonged for 4 months, until 31 December 2011.

Last year, Brother Giovanni Bigotto (Madagascar) completed his service as Postulator General, after a rich period of animation and such significant events as the Beatification of the martyrs of Spain. He was replaced provisionally by Brother



Juan Miguel Anaya, who united this role with his responsibilities as Procurator General. But Brother Juan Miguel has also completed his 9 years of excellent service to the Institute. Accordingly, the General Council has decided to manage these two tasks in a different way.

For the services traditionally carried out by the Postulator General, the Council will find the best person qualified as soon as a cause needs to be prepared and presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. The service of animation and diffusion of the lives of our saints will

be taken over by the Bureau of Brothers today.

For the main responsibilities attached to the office of the Procurator General, the Council has appointed Brother Franco Faggin (Mediterránea) as agent to represent the Institute with the Holy See, as from 1 September 2011, for a period of three years. Brother Juan Miguel Anaya (Mediterránea) will continue as canonical consultant of the General Council for the next three years. Since neither of these tasks requires residence in Rome, the Brothers can carry them out from wherever their Provincial

may assign them.

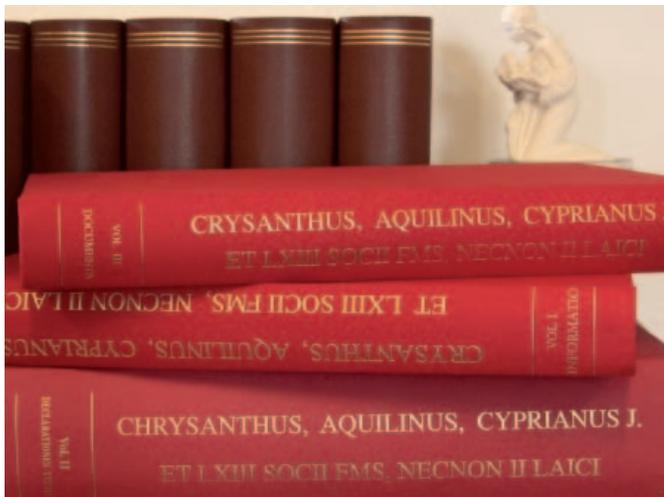
To prepare for the next General Conference, to be held in September 2013 at the Hermitage, a Commission has been set up consisting of Brothers Joe Mc Kee (co-ordinator), Michael de Waas, Óscar Martín Vicario (Compostela), Ernesto Sánchez, Emili Turú and Pedro Sánchez de León (Secretary). The Commission will meet for the first time in October in Rome.

The Plan of animation and government 2009-2017 is available on the web site of the Institute.



On the way to beatification

Brother Crisanto and companions, martyrs



El On Monday 27 June, a phone call came to our general house from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. On the end of the line, Don Claudio Iovine, Vice Promotor of the Faith (once called the 'devil's advocate'), was asking for the Congregation to be brought 10 copies of the "positio" of Brother Crisanto and his companion martyrs. The group is composed of 66 Marist Brothers and two laymen killed during the persecution of the Church in Spain from 1936-39.

The copies will allow the theologian censors (8) to read the positio and express their opinions on the validity of the demonstration of martyrdom.

In simple terms, what does this mean? It means that this group of our martyrs has taken the road to beatification and is in its final phases:

1. probably in March 2012 the work of the theologian censors,
2. a year later, 2013, the cause will be examined by a group of cardinals and bishops,
3. then the date of the beatification will be communicated to us. It has the chance of happening during 2014.

That seems a long way away, but three years pass quickly. We have hardly the time to prepare our hearts.

This group of martyrs, to which Br Crisanto gives his name, forms a complex cause. It brings together Brothers killed in many places of Spain on different dates: Las Avellanes, Toledo, Valencia, Vich, Ribadesella, Badajoz, Malaga, Madrid, Chinchon... Huesca, Denia, Arceniega, Barcelone.

It is true that we are not very familiar with these martyrs; if we took a little time, we would quickly come to admire them and be proud of them as members of our family. Before they were killed, many of them were told: « If you renounce Christ, you are free!» But they did not renounce Christ and for Him they lost their lives. These martyrs form part of our family treasure.

If you enter Our Marist Documents, in the book Our Models of Marist Sanctity, you will find more than 100 pages of information on this group of martyrs. Reading is easy because the text is made up of short and vivid chapters.

This news should arouse joy and gratitude: these are mem-

bers of our family who will be recognized as martyrs, that is, recognized as persons who preferred Christ to their own lives. Gratitude also to Brother Gabriele Andreucci who wrote the Positio: three volumes, altogether counting more than 2500 pages, format A4; a colossal work.



Marist Asia today and tomorrow

Extended General Council in Bangkok

Work on the second day of the EGC – 11 July – began with a talk by the Superior General on the state of Marist Asia today and tomorrow. Starting from the context of a world in process of change and the birth pangs of a new civilisation, affecting even the religions, Br Emili insisted on the need for a new consecrated life: to be a significant presence for a humanity full of divisions and material dreams, but also thirsting for spirituality. What can the Church in Asia expect from us? If we live our charism in the light of mysticism and prophecy, we Marists can contribute to the creation of a Marial Church, marked by Gospel simplicity, dialogue, and fraternity.



All were then invited to a personal time of silence, prayer and reflection, for listening to God in their hearts and observing the demands and questionings that arose. Each one had received a supporting text, from Sister Sujita Kallapurakkathu, SND, on « Opportunities and challenges for apostolic religious life and theology of consecrated life in Asia: some reflections ». The subsequent sharing brought to light points strongly emphasized by the different groups. Religious in Asia, although greatly appreciated for the services they provide, must be especially witnesses of the experience of God and spiritual guides. This presumes conversion and a visible

passion for Christ. Another key topic is dialogue which, according to the bishops of Asia, has to be triple: with the poor, with the religions and with the cultures.

After the groups were reconstituted, there was time for discernment about three questions:

- In what way do we, as Marist Brothers, make a difference in Asia today?
- The XXI General Chapter calls us to discover new ways of being Brothers; what does this mean for us in Asia?

- What would be possible new lands for us?

On 12 July, there was movement towards consensus in personal times, in the groups, in the respective Councils in plenary session. It was a matter of identifying two or three areas critical for Marist life and mission in Asia, as well as working jointly as a Region to provide a response.

Prayer times, particularly the Eucharist, created spaces for inspiration, interiorisation and celebration of the experience lived during these days, with the gestures and chants of the cultures of Asia.

The day of 12 July finished with a special celebration marking the Golden Jubilee of Marist religious life of Brother Luis G. Sobrado, former Vicar General of the Institute and current Sector Superior of the Sector Ad Gentes in Asia (AMAG). The brothers and laity of the three ad gentes communities of Thailand participated in the Mass, at the meal and in the festivities; they were the ones responsible for the organisation and animation. After the words of salutation, specially from Br Emili Turú, and the congratulations of the personnel of the Sector and the General Council, Br Luis expressed his gratitude and recalled the significant stages of his life and mission.

Wednesday 13 July marked the conclusion of the Extended General Council of Asia. The road travelled during the previous days led to the three units feeling and thinking more as a Region, finding in the mutual support a source of energy for confronting their own challenges. The need was recognized of forming the Marist Conference of Asia, so as to assure more stable con-

nections among all and the continuation of what had been experienced during these days in Bangkok.

The group reached consensus on various courses deemed priorities and at the same time viable, around the four main areas: Formation, Prayer and Spirituality, Mission, Community.

In the area of Formation, three tracks were mapped out: a program of preparation for perpetual vows for Marist Asia, collaboration with the Bureau of Laity in formation initiatives for the Lay Marists of Asia, ways of possible working together in matters concerning programs of initial formation.

A Commission for Asiatic Marist Spirituality should be set up in the Region, as well as a collection of digital resources for prayer and spirituality.

As for Mission, there was a wish to make the Regional Mission Commission more practical, sharing information more frequently among the Administrative Units and also sharing

personnel within the Region.

The central point in the area of Community was the formation of Community Animators.

After an open forum with the Superior General and the whole Council, touching on matters of interest in the Institute, Br Emili Turú underlined the richness of everyone's participation and the importance of the meeting for the Institute on the great continent of Asia. He thanked the organizing group for its work and the Sector AMAG for hosting the meeting. At the final meal, this thanks was extended to the superior of the house of the Camillans and whole service team.

At the end of the morning, during the celebration of the closing Eucharist, the participants received as a symbol the light of Christ, listening to the call of the Chapter in the various languages present: With Mary, go in haste to a new land!



Solidary heart

FMSI at the 4th Inter-American Meeting "Marist Hearts in Solidarity"

La FMSI participated in the 4th Inter-American Meeting of "Marist Hearts in Solidarity", organized by the Sub-Commission of Solidarity of the Marist Institute's Continental Mission Committee. The event took place in Mexico City from 10th to 16th June, and brought together the Marist solidarity organizations and offices of the Americas. The goals of the meeting were the following: to finalize the Marist Solidarity Inter-American Document; to identify strategies for the implementation of the Document at the regional level; to share meaningful experiences related to solidarity projects; to reflect

on possible ways for activating the Marist Hearts in Solidarity Network. FMSI was invited to assist as an observer to the work on the Document, to get involved in the networking process and above all to introduce its advocacy work for the rights of the child.

FMSI illustrated the activities carried out by its two offices in Rome and Geneva, focussed respectively on educational projects for disadvantaged children and young people, and advocacy for children's rights in the United Nations system. The Foundation stressed its role at the service of the Admin-

istrative Units of the Marist Institute. From this perspective, FMSI proposed to the participants the Cooperation Agreement, a document for reciprocal collaboration between the Foundation and the Administrative Units of the Institute. More specifically, the document lists the different forms of support that the Marist Provinces could offer FMSI to support its advocacy work for the rights of the child at the international institutional level, and the services that FMSI can place at the disposal of the Provinces, based on its presence in Geneva, in the UN system.

