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Updates

16/08/2011: MChFM - Fraternity Nossa Senhora de Nazaré - Belém, Brazil

16/08/2011: New Marist Secondary School to open in Bendigo

16/08/2011: Deceased Brother: Eulogio Belloso Diez (Santa María de los Andes); Segundo Pedro Baragán Eguíluz (Ibérica)

15/08/2011: Photo gallery: International Gathering of Marist Youth

15/08/2011: WYD - Signs are leading our reflection in Buitrago

14/08/2011: WYD - Visit to El Paular Monastery

14/08/2011: WYD - Using drama language to talk about the spirit

13/08/2011: WYD - A Marist colourful rainbow of languages and cultures

12/08/2011: First steps of the World Youth Day.

16/08/2011: Deceased Brother: John Francis Colbert (USA); Denis Austin Clarke (Melbourne); Gregory Michael Moran (Sydney); George Fontana (United States)

06/08/2011: Work session in Curitiba

06/08/2011: Animation of the Marist Fraternities of the province Mediterránea

29/07/2011: ChMMF - Juan Pablo II Fraternity - México DF, Mexico

World youth day 2011

International Gathering of Marist Youth

We wish to share with the whole Institute what is happening during the program of this Church event where thousands of young people from many countries, cultures and languages are involved. The numbers, at the moment, are for the final review. However, the atmosphere at the Barajas airport showed a strong movement of young people to Madrid.



Thee WYD of Madrid 2011 is organized in two consecutive moments. In the first one, the reception of the young people in the diocese, the churches, provinces or local communities is developed. The second one will be the meeting with the Pope in Madrid. The Marist brothers, at this first part, have organized an International Meeting of Young Marists with the slogan 'BELIVIN'. At this event will take part more than 400 young people from 22 different nationalities, 18 Marist Provinces and one District.

The Marist meeting was in four different places simultaneously: Tui (under the responsibility of Compostela Province), Alicante (Mediterranea), Barcelona (Hermitage), and Buitrago (Iberica). The purpose of this decentralization saw to enhance the communication in similar languages

and make easier the participation. In the three first places was possible to share life, ministry and faith experiences. The participants in Buitrago were people dedicated to leadership roles, animation, catechesis or pastoral in different areas.

After finishing the meeting in those places, the participants meet in Madrid, in San Jose del Parque school, on 15th August 2011, to conclude the meeting days with a Eucharistic celebration, a dinner and a music festival with the Marist group Kairoi.

During the meeting days the brother Emili Turú, Superior General, the brothers from the General Council Antonio Ramalho, Eugène Kabanguka and Josep Maria Soterias and the brothers César A. Rojas and João Carlos Do Prado from the Marist Mission and Brothers Secretariats were present.

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A Marist colourful rainbow of languages and cultures

Buitrago welcomes Young Marists from all over the world

Madrid has become the meeting point of all the participants to the International Marist Youth Festival. The welcoming point of arrival was San José del Parque school. All those coming from far away gathered there; all the buses heading to Tui, Alicante, Barcelona and Buitrago left from this spot.



A group of volunteers, once completed their mission of fetching people at the Madrid airport, organized the trips of the different groups of participants towards the four cardinal points of Spain. Then they moved to Buitrago.

The participants, coming from quite different countries of the Marist world, quickly create bonds of friendship and easy communication. The colours of the flags each group has brought from their countries made up a colourful Marist rainbow. BELIVING' is a slogan repeated once and again- the motto of this encounter.

The one writing this chronicle travelled in one of the buses heading to Buitrago. It was a chance to talk personally with some of the youngsters and to know their expectations for this encounter.

'I want to know better the work of Marist provinces and the way they do it' – said a young participant coming from Melbourne. 'I want to enlarge my knowledge of the Marist network, and to grow in the spirit of the Marist family' – added another boy from the same Province- however, at the per-

sonal level, I want to deepen my ways of belonging and sharing the Marist charism'. Most of these young people express their wish to 'meet and share' with their mates, and to check how Youth Ministry is implemented in different places of the Marist world. 'In this way – suggested Gabriel from Canada, I will be enriched with the experience of others'.

The three buses have taken the main road linking Madrid and Burgos. The weather is hot. We reach our destination, Buitrago del Lozoya, a Castilian village, where the Marist Brothers and the Conceptionist Sisters are running a Secondary Technical school named 'Santa María del Castillo'. 'I would like to find out my way for the future, and to make here an unforgettable experience',- says Samuel, from Belgium as he collects his travelling bag from the bus.

A group of volunteers, responsible for the organization of the encounter have been working hard to have everything ready. The spot is fantastic: the different buildings, covered with black slate tiles, break the austerity of the Castilian landscape, often marked by

the brown and yellow colours when the harvest is completed. Emilie, from Côte d'Ivoire, remembering her country, just coming out from years of political crisis, states, 'I am coming here willing to live a marvellous experience that will allow me to deepen my Catholic faith and to be more enthusiastic about the Marist charism; I hope to grow in my commitment and

to share in similar experiences and encounters'. André, from Brasil, as he enters the school Santa María del Castillo, surrounded by his friends who bring their suitcases, says 'I am happy to share and assume the dreams, the challenges and the feelings of being a Young man together with Marist friends worldwide'. Dozens of people coming from a variety of regions of the world: this will be a unique chance 'to know how to be and live as Marists from the perspective of other cultures, and to experience together that Champagnat's dream is alive among us'.

Together with her Mexican mates, who protect themselves from the heavy Castilian sun with their typical Mexican hats, Nancy is happy to participate to this encounter in order 'to know the path and the way the Marist charism expresses itself in different parts of the world and, at the same time, allow this charism to go deep within myself and to be part of the Marist community'. Joao, a Brazilian, makes a comment as he goes to the dining room to have a snack. 'I want to meet new people, to learn more about Marist congregation and to deepen the ways in which the Marist charism expresses itself.'



Sharing life as we walk together

11th August



To both young and old people, symbols are a language to be listened to in silence. This is what happened at the beginning of the Marist International Youth Festival in Buitrago. It was total silence among young people when the inner activity started. Those in charge of animation used masks as a resource to launch this time of reflection: masks and hearts.

The symbol of a heart was always present as a meaningful resource. The heart attitudes were strongly emphasized. We gave great importance to heart's attitudes. With all this motivation, each participant had to answer: Who am I?

The main hall of the school Santa María del Castillo became an improvised stage, full of big cardboard cubes, as pieces of an enormous puzzle. Action started with soft music. The main actor introduced four others. The big cubes, placed in disorder, simulated a rocky area. From some holes open on them, jets of water started flowing: there were long pieces of white cloth that, with the magic hands of the performers, became a mysterious figure: 'the Marist

charism'. This white figure started moving thanks to the skilful hands of the performers. All the participants were amazed and became involved in this drama performance.

This drama resource aroused the awareness that we all have a common motivation and we share it in the Marist works all over the world. 'We gather here – commented a young blond and thin girl seated next to me – because the spirit of Marcellin unites us'. Through the microphone, the performer stated, 'We were already a family before coming here; now we are proving that we are truly a real one'.

After this motivation, the participants introduced themselves. 'Where are you coming from? Which type of Marist work are you working in?' Then there were new symbols to identify the different groups of reflection and work.

The work started that evening was completed next morning with questions and challenges presented by brother Emili, superior general, 'Why are we here?'

He started presenting a kind of World



News: he put in front of us some painful, dramatic and tough events of the world in which we live that, when we look at them, seem big problems. Something similar happened in Champagnat's time. But Marcellin gave an answer. His commitment expressed itself through simple gestures. Today, -he continued- we are part of the world problems because of what we do or fail to do. We should also be part of the solution. Our answers should aim at building a Church with Marian face. Finally he asked a question, 'How can we do it?' And he suggested an answer, 'Being in attentive listening of what is happening around us, and what the Holy Spirit is whispering within us'.

All the activities of the day found its fulfilment during the evening Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Father Pedro García. The altar cloth was made up of the colourful drawings each one had prepared, enhancing what they have within their hearts. The fruit of the workshops of the afternoon and of the time of silence before the celebration were expressed in a colourful patchwork covering the altar. The penitential rite was an invitation to remove the masks that prevent us to see the realities of our world. The Gospel invited us to build our heart attitudes upon solid foundations, upon the rock. During a free moment of sharing, some of the participants explained the symbols used in their drawings and unveiled the treasures of their young hearts.

In one of the school rooms, the NGO SED had prepared a display of photographs that show the hard reality of our world. This show was a good starting point for the different workshops on solidarity implemented during the afternoon.



12th August



As we walked along the path, a couple of activities were proposed aiming at deepening our mutual sharing. Firstly, by twos, we shared about some meaningful moments of our personal lives. During the second stage, the final stretch towards El Paular became our road to Emaus. The dialogue was lively, animated and intense. The participants formed groups of three in order to share how the dream of Champagnat dwells in young people's heart. Along this path, we were still enlarging the table of LaValla around which we had started our morning prayer.

The day started around a table, a table that was becoming larger as new guests came in. The small tables of the different groups joined other tables to make a big one. Our sharing opened to new dimensions. Such was the activity that marked the beginning of the day. The participants moved from the little corners where they were seated towards wider spaces suited to a big community. Our little tables became the table of La Valla, powerful symbol of the richness of the Marist charism.

After breakfast, all the participants were provided with water and some food. The schedule foresaw to spend the day in contact with nature and, at the same time, to deepen our personal relationship. We moved with three buses from Buitrago to Oteruelo del Valle. From that village there is a rural shady path leading to El Paular Monastery. Rascafría was the first stage. The sun of midday was heavy; some refreshment was found walking under the trees.

From Rascafría we took an even road, parallel to a river and protected by the shadow of black poplars and old ash trees, which led us to the historical monument of El Paular Monastery. During our trip we enjoyed the wonderful landscapes of El Paular valley and the Lozoya river. It was a good moment to take a refreshing swimming and to have lunch together reinforcing our links of friendship



13th August

The day started with a surprise, hidden inside a big box. It was a gift that life offered to us in order to carry on deepening our Marist identity as we had done it at the beginning of our encounter. When the youngsters opened the box they found themselves in front of a large mirror on which they contemplated their own faces, their own identity. Starting from this experience, the participants were invited to ask themselves who is hiding behind each face, as an exercise of self discovery. The reference to the masks used in previous days, that hide our true identity, our own self, was obvious.

A round table on youth ministry as it is implemented in different places was the main activity of the morning session. There were four speakers: João Ribeiro Bastos, 18, from the Province of 'Brazil Centre-North', Law student at the University of Rio de Janeiro and much involved in youth ministry in his own Province. He developed a full range of pastoral activities that his Province is offering to young people, and the human and technical resources adopted to implement

them. Vincent de Paul Kouassi, a Marist Brother from Côte d'Ivoire, in charge of Youth Ministry in that country, shared the different initiatives going on at the service of the Ivorian children and youngsters. Norman Levesque, Canadian, 30 years old, who taught for a while in our Marist school of Laval, is author of a book on ecology and spirituality; he presented with great enthusiasm the work he is doing in the Canadian Church to combine environmental issues and Christian faith; some of these initiatives can be found in www.greenchurch.ca. Iñigo García Blanco, 38 years old, a Spanish Marist Brother, lives in Fuenlabrada, at the outskirts of Madrid. Together with his Marist community he is running a project called ESPIRAL; they offer education and technical and professional training to children, drop outs, young people in difficulty, marginalized or with problems of social integration.

During the afternoon, several simultaneous workshops were offered to the participants.

