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World Youth Day

Madrid 2011

In Madrid, from 16th till 21st August, took place the World Youth Day. Madrid was completely submerged by the young. One could see as they moved in groups, in an orderly fashion, from one place to the next, singing and/or chanting slogans. Their identification colours have filled the streets of Madrid. Groups of volunteers were settled in strategic places, ready to help if needed. In the metro or on the buses, one could see the faces of passers-by being in tune with what they were seeing. There were multicoloured flags to identify countries, organizations or groups of people. Behind this multicoloured scene, a complex and varied reality received communion with the same faith.

"Plaza del Sol" was like a world map, a jigsaw of many pieces drawn by young people coming from all around the world. They arrived with their rucksacks, cameras, hats, parasols, bottles of water, alcohol-free drinks, shorts, fans and mobile phones -to be in touch with their families and friends-. They sat on the street to eat, they sang, they chanted slogans, they waved flags, they were noisy. But they walked quietly, peacefully, filled with joy, participating to a big celebration. They were groups of friends, school friends and/or church groups. They exchanged smiles, shook hands and took pictures with people coming from other countries. Madrid became a mini world made by the young. In the midst one could see many religious with



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different habits, young religious women with an open smile and young priest wearing a clerical collar.

In the "Retiro" park, there were spaces organized for different events. The church of Barcelona organized an exhibition on Gaudi's church: the "Sagrada Familia". Further away, there was a sea of white sails that were confessionals all spread out in one of the streets of the park. This space bore the name "Celebration of forgiveness". People were queuing up waiting and it was possible to confess in five different languages. In another spot, there was a tent to

adore the Lord in silence. In another place was the "Vocation Show" with stands of seventy or so institutions that presented their own charisma.

The World Youth Day also offered to the participants catechesis sessions organized in linguistic groups. The talks were given by bishops coming from all over the world. In our Marist school "Chamberi" were organized vocation and solidarity workshops. In our school of "San José del Parque" Marist groups organized a folklore music festival with groups coming from different countries.

In Madrid we talked about being a young Christian today. Here is one of the things we heard: "Amongst the Rights of the Young there is the "raising of the level". What I mean by this is to have high aspirations, to dream about a better future and to act so as to allow it to happen, to trust in the intelligence and collaboration among people, to be aware of the necessity of receiving a good formation so as to achieve perfection" (Carlos Amigo).

The next World Youth Day will take place in 2013 in Rio de Janeiro.



International Gathering of Marist Youth

15 August - Conclusion of the Meeting

The International Youth Marist Meeting (10th- 15th August), ends with a beautiful celebration of thankfulness. Thankfulness towards God who offered us this wonderful experience. Thankfulness towards the people in charge of the house for their welcoming attitude. Thankfulness towards those who have organized the meeting. Thankfulness towards all those who have worked behind the scenes. An enormous "THANK YOU!" to all because this meeting has just been perfect!

And, before leaving, a time of reflection to fulfil our commitment. Around the property, in the garden or hanging on a base one could see a beautiful collection of pictures that reflected the realities of our world. The pictures were as open windows depicting the rash reality that lies behind the walls of Buitrago, all around the world. Young people stopped and looked at those they particularly felt sensitive about. These pictures made us think about our commitment. Go and tell what you



have seen.

In the meeting room some big pieces of paper were put on the floor. Each participant had to leave the print of his/her own hand on them. Symbolically, they represented his/her pres-

ence in the meeting and his/her personal commitment.

Brother Joao Carlos do Prado, Director of the Secretariat of Mission, announced that the next meeting would take place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

around the dates decided for the next World Youth Day. The meeting will be organized by the Brazilian Marist provinces. That announcement closed the Marist Youth International Meeting of Buitrago.

The celebration continued in the school of "San Jose del Parque". There were participants coming from Tui, Barcelona, Alicante and Buitrago. More than four hundred young people accompanied by a large number of Marist brothers. We celebrated mass at six o'clock in the afternoon. During the Eucharist, Emili Turù, Superior General, spoke about some of the things that

the Spirit was communicating through the Young Marists gathered in Spain. He said: "Marist charisma is alive and is a source of inspiration for thousands of young people of the five continents".

Our Brazilian brothers –who will be organizing the next International Meeting of Young Marists- gave an icon to the representatives of the five continents asking them to take it to the places where Marists work and live as preparation to the meeting of Rio de Janeiro.

The mass was very moving, many symbols were used that favoured the participation of the young. When people

exchanged peace signs, one could see a sea of faces in tune with what people were feeling. At the end of the Eucharist and according to the tradition of the Byzantine Church, blessed bread was distributed among the crowd. This special sign was very much appreciated by the representatives of Syria and Lebanon.

The day ended by a dinner in the open in the courtyard of the school followed by a music festival. The group invited was Kairoi. The young were able to sing and dance and the melodies of this group are now better known by young Marists.



A century of Marist presence

Apipucos, Recife - Province "Brasil Centro-Norte"

This year 2011 celebrates the centenary of the Marist presence in Apipucos, Recife (NE Brasil). The festivities commenced on 12 March, in the chapel of the Faculty of Medicine, and will finish on 8 December. The Marist expedition in the direction of Recife was marked by innumerable challenges, which did not, however, prove obstacles to the attainment of Champagnat's dream to reach all the dioceses in the world. Multiple roads, long journey, dangers and obstacles.

On 2 July 1910, Brothers Romildo and Martírio, with eight youths from the Juniorate of Aubenas, disembarked from the English steamer Oriana and took shelter in a house of the Ponte d'Uchôa station, thus forming the first Marist religious community. The following year, on 1st January 1911, Br Paul Berchmans founded, in a vast garret in Ponte d'Uchôa, the school of the Immaculate Conception, which received its first pupils on 6 February. The big building of Ponte d'Uchôa received once a week the pupils from the centre of Recife for the practice of sports. That same year, the great garret on Ponte d'Uchôa took on a new function, bearing the name of « Externato São Luís », with primary classes.

In this historical context, the climb up the hill of the Immaculate Conception was the great expression of thanks towards the Good Mother, our ordinary resource, a motive of gratitude and praise to the God of life. From the height of the hill of the Conception, the Brothers contemplated

what would be a new Hermitage. To contemplate a mountain, a hill... perhaps a new Tabor, a new mountain, a new climb towards the summits, where all find meaning...

Arriving at the summit of the mountain of Apipucos and breathing the pure air of the forest surrounding the hill, was the confirmation of a project which cast its first seeds in this place; it was necessary to steady one's steps and trace a new path.

On the occasion of its centenary, the house of Apipucos represents a place of encounter, conviviality, prayer, of strength at moments of crisis and difficulty, but especially a place of contemplation and prayer, a hermitage where each can recover strength for carrying out the great mission : « To make Jesus Christ known and loved ».

From the height of the hill, we wish to contemplate the innumerable challenges awaiting us over the next hundred years, with the profound conviction that we can do much more, showing ourselves simple and humble servants in the construction of a more fraternal world.

Today, the house of Apipucos harbours the Marist Faculty, a centre of academic formation of high prestige in our city. For that reason, it remains faithful to the project of Saint Marcellin Champagnat « to form good Christians and good citizens ».



Team of experts in finance

Seeking ways to finance the General Administration

The 21st General Chapter asked itself about a practical way of financing the expenses of the General Administration. In response to this question it recommended that the General Council appoint a team of experts in the field to devise a plan for financing the General Administration.

The General Council named the following to the commission: Brothers Roy Deita, Alberto Oribe, Nicholas Banda, Delcio Afonso Balestrin, Victor M. Preciado, and the laymen Juan Martin Cebrian and Rex Cambrey.



This commission had its second work session in the city of Curitiba, Brazil from the 9th to the 12th of May, 2011. Professor Marco Antônio Barbosa Cândido of the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná was invited to assess and to accompany the work of the commission during this session. Professor Marco Antônio is also Executive Superintendent of the Parana Association of Culture, which acts as the mantenedora of the University. With his presence, his professional ability and his dedication to the Marist mission he lent strong support and involved a qualified team of people from the Association of Culture: Valdecir Cavalheiro (Finances), Maysa Andreusa Godoy Simoes (Marketing), and Marcos Augusto Hochuli Shmeil (Information Systems).

In the framework of the first recommendation of the 21st General Chapter, the commission was asked to develop a stable plan of financing the General Administration and Solidarity and the strengthening of the structure of the capital of the General Administration.

The objectives presented for this meeting were the following:

- Culminate the proposal of the new model of financing of the General Administration.

- Determining how to transmit the new model to the administrative units.
- To consider other matters of advice to the General Council.
- To prepare the program to address the second Chapter recommendation regarding financing the administrative units. This will take place during the month of October in Malawi, Africa.

The work carried out in Curitiba was centered on the conclusions and the evaluation of the first meeting in September 2010; a study of the 2010 financial report and the 2011 General Administration budget; a financial analysis of the 2008-2009-2010 reports from the administrative units; and, finally, a study of the proposal of the new model, prepared previously by Professor Marco A. Barbosa Cândido and Brother Victor.

The financial analyses were developed and presented by Valdecir Cavalheiro, financial manager of the Parana Association of Culture in the Province of Brazil Central-South. These analyses, individual and global, enriched with commentaries, will be shared with the General Council and with all the administrative units.

The proposal of the model was presented to the General Council in June of 2011. Brother Victor has sent a communiqué to the provincials to initiate the phase of the presentation to the administrative units, organized by the members of the teams in their own regions, during the months from September through December 2011.

The General Council stresses the great importance of this topic, because of the newness of its content in response to the calls of the 21st General Chapter, and especially because it will only be possible to accomplish it and to put it into practice with the responsible participation of all. In the regional sessions it is considered fundamental that the Econome participate as well as part of the governing team of each administrative unit. The preparation of the materials and the dynamics of presentation are directed to facilitate a rapid understanding of the model. At the same time, the opportunity will be offered to gather input that helps enrich the model by the participation of all. The team, once the input has been collected, will again present the proposal to the General Council in January of 2012. After this course of events we expect that the approved proposal can be put into practice in 2013.