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07/09/2011: Brothers Emili Turú and Joe McKee visit the Dem. Rep of the Congo

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02/09/2011: Brazil - Enthronement of the statue of Saint Marcellin in a Marial sanctuary

01/09/2011: New books: Br. Frederick McMahon and Br. Brian Etherington - Australia

Centenary of Marist life in the DRC

Brothers Emili Turú and Joe McKee visit the Dem. Rep of the Congo



The Marists of Champagnat and their partners bid a cordial welcome to Brothers Emili Turú et Joe Mc Kee, the Superior General and Vicar of the Marist Brothers. Have a pleasant stay among us. These are the words inscribed on the memorable welcome signs for these distinguished guests at the official closure of the Marist Centenary in Kisangani.

The arrival of the Brother Superior General and his Vicar, both on a single itinerary, for the animation of the retreat of the Brothers and the closure of the Jubilee Year of the centenary of the Marist presence in the CONGO, give sufficient indication of the greatness of the decision and the importance accorded by the Marist Brothers'

Congregation to the value of the missionary involvement of the first Belgian Brothers, who wished to live forever the words of Champagnat: « All the dioceses of the world enter into our views » or again « I cannot see a child without wanting to tell him how much God loves him. »

There is no point in saying that before Kisangani, the welcome in Kinshasa was worthy of the representative of Saint Marcellin Champagnat in this immense country of the D. R. of the Congo. Since 1911, Belgian Brothers from the then Marist province of Beauamps, chose to make Jesus Christ known and loved in this country, at the cost of the ultimate sacrifice of their lives

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Br. Joe Mc Kee and Br. Emili

out of love, and their valuable work is carried on today by the Brothers of the Province of Central East Africa.

It was at the airport of Bangboka at Kisangani, their landing point, at the foot of the stairs from the plane, that Brothers Valentin Djawu Wa Lungumbu (Provincial of PACE) and Richard Mutumwa Kamonyo (Superior of the community), members of the UNELMA section Kisangani (Union of Marist Ex-students) and other Brothers gave these Brothers a fraternal and Marist welcome.

Torrential rain, forecast after the happy arrival of these distinguished guests in this part of the world, was a bearer of the divine benediction.

Responding to the welcome addresses of the President of UNELMA section Kisangani and the Provincial of PACE, the Superior General pronounced some just and judicious words recognizing the presence of the wisdom of many generations, the strength of a province with many young Brothers, and thanked each for the special welcome. The presence of him and his Vicar at Kisangani witnesses to the interconnection of the Congregation with the Brothers of Kisangani, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, of Africa and of the Marist world composed of around 80 countries in the 5 Continents, he emphasized. This connection extends between Brothers and laity who have discovered they can live their Christian vocation by being Marists. It was above all to recognize the fidelity of the Marist work in the Congo that the Superior General and his Vicar had decided to come together on this single itinerary.

He affirmed that, though the country had been through difficult times, the fidelity of the Marist actors had been equal to the problems encountered. During difficult times, one felt the love, solidarity and Marist spirit at work.

24 Brothers are going to take part in the retreat animated by Brs Emili et Joe, from 22 to 26 August 2011 in the Sainte Marie Community of Chololo in Kisangani. On the 28th, the closing of the Centenary will take place, in front of the central office of the Groupe Scolaire Sainte Marie, presided over by His Grace, Monseigneur Marcel UTEMBI TAPA, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kisangani, in the presence of the Marists of Champagnat and their partners in the DRC. To finish, let us note that this jubilee had its official and liturgical launching on 22 December 2010.

In accord with our family spirit, we say once again « feel welcome and have a pleasant stay with us. » All to Jesus through Mary, All to Mary for Jesus.

Br. Alphonse Balombe - 22/08/2011 

Jubilee 70 and 60 years of religious life as Marists

Kessel-Lo, Belgium

On this 27 August, five Brothers celebrated 70 years of religious life as Marists and four celebrated 60 years. Eight of them have been missionaries in D.R. Congo which is celebrating the centenary of the Marist presence this 28.

This was a Magnificat day and the celebrants renewed their vows to offer their lives for the good of the Kingdom of God and of the Marist mission. Their wish is that many more Brothers will persevere in fidelity and celebrate 25, 50, 60, 70, 80 years of religious life in the coming years. They kept repeating that no one should disqualify himself when it comes to following Jesus in his mission, since as weak and limited as they are, God has used them to do marvelous things.



Indian immersion

Marist College North Shore, Sydney

Our group was the first ever immersion to India from Marist College North Shore, a Catholic secondary boys College in the Marist tradition, located in North Sydney. We travelled to the Kolkata and to village areas some two hours north west. We stayed and worked with three Marist Brothers who make schooling available to tribal boys whose homes have no schooling available in the mainstream language of Bangla.

We found communicating with these children quite challenging at first because of our lack of a common language. However, through sport, music, games and language teaching we realised that there was a high degree of appreciation and understanding between us.

Visiting the home villages of some of these boys was also quite eye opening because we saw the contrasts in social



status of Indian society. We were really struck by how happy, welcoming and generous the poorest people were to us. They really went out of their way to help us to feel a connection with them. As one student said: "I have never been the one who was welcomed so much before. The hard work and pride that everyone showed when we were presented with gigantic bowls of rice, necklaces, numerous cultural songs and dances was just amazing. I am determined to be more welcoming of others myself in the future." These experiences will be held

closely by us in the future because they showed us what it really means to be part of not only a Marist Family, but part of the same world as these wonderful people.

Some of us took the opportunity to ride in a rickshaw, and in doing so were overwhelmed with the awareness that in lots of ways the world is unfair; for a human to be pulling other humans along in bare feet to eek out a living by getting the equivalent of a few Australian cents for each ride.

The difficulty of arriving in the country, and travelling to unknown places was buffered by the wonderful hospitality of the three Marist Brothers who took care of us. We thank Brothers Alex, Paco and Jose Maria for this and we admire them for their mission to the young boys of the Talit Hostel.

Br. Peter Corr - High Notes 47/11



Living the spirit of the Hermitage

Group of young Americans in Notre Dame de l'Hermitage

For one week, a group of young Americans, almost all in their twenties, have come to Notre Dame de l' Hermitage to live an original experience. Accompanied by Brothers Dan, Owen and Dominique, they form a very likeable and dynamic team. Certainly they have discovered and visited the Marist places stamped with the spirit of Marcellin

and his first Brothers, but more than that, they have wanted to live a Champagnat experience by organizing their stay as a camp-work site. Without waiting, from the morning of their arrival, they could be seen all together beautifying the cemetery, which was much in need of it. Another day, a team attacked the reopening of a path invaded by brambles

and scrub. The spirit of Marcellin is passed on through work shared for the common cause. One evening, when they celebrated the Eucharist in the woods around a great stone altar, I could not stop thinking of Marcellin celebrating in the wooden chapel during the construction of the HERMITAGE, surrounded by his little brothers.



In harmony with the World Day of Youth

Cuba - Summer School 2011

From 18 to 21 August, the Cienfuegos Youth Ministry held the Summer School of 2011 in the "Perla del Sur". This session was held to fit in with the WYD in Madrid. The objective: to live the experience of the WYD here, in Cuba, in harmony with the universal Church. The youth taking part came from the various parishes of the province of Cienfuegos.

At the start, a space was opened for the integration of the participants into Life Groups and to discuss: What are WYDs? What pastoral objectives do they have? What are some of the elements that form them and what experiences do they propose to live?

In drawing up a summary, the WYDs were seen to be an ecclesial event in which faith in Jesus Christ is expressed in an extraordinary way. Why extraordinary? Because the ordinary way is for each young person to live the following of Jesus Christ in a particular Church and their country, in ordinary daily life: "to be salt for the earth and light for the world".

The WYDs, however, are characterized by a festive meeting: where the youth demonstrate the dynamism of the Church and give witness to the relevance of the Christian message. It is a sign of ecclesial communion: young people from all over the world, from different associations, communities, groups and movements come together around the successor of Peter and the Bishops, united by the same love for Christ and the Church and for his mission in the world.

The motto: "Rooted and built up in Christ, firm in the faith", (Col 2:7) was the transversal axis of our Summer



School. As such, it is the clear, direct, enthusiastic proclamation of the faith of the Church in Jesus Christ.

The Catechesis of the mornings was centred on the person of Jesus, Mary, and Social Commitment. Brother Jesús Bayo Mayor, Mariologist, shared in the catechesis: "Like Mary, rooted and built up in Christ", where he studied and actualized the silences, looks and words of Mary in the Gospels. Brother Carlos Martínez Lavín, sociologist, was the facilitator of the catechesis: "Cuban youth, rooted and built up in Christ", which urged us to live "the Church of the towel", that is, the Servant Church. There was a space to take the pulse of youth commitment with regard to the Social Doctrine of the Church.

In the afternoons, the participants in the Summer School of Cienfuegos lived experiences of Faith and Life in Jesus Christ making use of the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, Prayer Vigils and sharing of their own lives. The experiences of the way of the cross and solidarity activity with most needy were left as tasks to be done on their return

to their communities.

On the afternoon of Saturday 20, they were able to join in directly, through the tv, the Vigil of Prayer with the Pope at the airdrome of Cuatro Vientos in Madrid and the start of the Eucharistic adoration. On Sunday 21, they were up very early to see in direct the Mass of closure of the WYD, with the Pope celebrating with the bishops and priests, and hear him address the young people to send them out to testify to their faith, as the Lord did with his Apostles.

On Sunday, after our eucharist in the S.I. Cathedral, there was festive sharing in the Cuban style, with each contributing something of his own creation to celebrate the God of Life.

Mons. Domingo Oropesa, who accompanied the youth in the experience, invited them to be missionaries so that many Cuban youth may have life in Jesus Christ.

This was how the youth of the diocese of Cienfuegos were able to live a different summer.