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What is the Spirit saying through the young?

Br. Emili Turú, Superior General



What is the Spirit saying through the Marist youth meeting for several days in Spain and representing many other thousands of youth of the world over?

Such is the question behind my attentive listening. Here is something I have learned from our youth:

- They feel themselves youth among many other youth; they are happy to live their Christian life as believers from the Marist charism; they wish to be involved in the construction of a Church with a Marial face.

- With grateful hearts, they love what they

have received and are receiving within the framework of the Marist Institute, and precisely because of this, they desire that we encourage even more strongly the evangelization of children and young people, and that we give them all the place that belongs to them.

- They dream of a different world and they are seriously committed to its transformation, through education, pastoral accompaniment, defence of the rights of children, adolescents and youth, safeguarding the planet.

- They seemed to me fully international, valuing the richness of cultural diversity and communicating among themselves

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beyond the language barriers. In the simple and transparent sharing of their personal stories, they appreciated the sacred value of each person.

- They want to follow up this initiative of the Marist Institute; so they dream of an International Youth Team which could also promote and accompany similar ventures in the future.
- I listened to the message some of the youth delivered through their silence, reminding me that there are continents which should take place in the front ranks and be better heard in society, in the Church and among us.

Briefly, what is the Spirit in train of telling me, what is It in train of telling us through the Marist youth?

- That the charism of Champagnat is alive and that it is the a source of inspiration for thousands of young people in the five continents; that the Marist mission is as relevant as it was 200 years ago. For this, « we must have brothers », and we must also have lay Marists – men and women – who wish to carry on the

dream of Marcellin.

- That we must continue to promote and reinforce the evangelization of children and youth, especially through the MYM.
- That we must accord children and young people all the place that belongs to them, so that they may be protagonists of their own story, and not simply passive recipients of our actions.
- That our horizon, like that of Jesus, is the construction of the Kingdom of God, with clear signs of our preference for children and youth in a situation of marginalisation.
- That we are invited to be more present among the young, welcoming them and listening to them: their energy, enthusiasm, joy... are a blessing for us all.
- That the Marist Institute must be capable of setting out in search of new spaces of interior growth, at the side of so many young people thirsty for spirituality.

- That, as Marists, it is demanded of us to present, in a particular manner, a special way of being Church, in Mary's way: the Pentecost community which, in the diversity of languages, is capable of making itself understood; an open, accepting community, which offers without imposing; which serves without looking for honours or recognition.

Mary, our good and tender Mother, thank you for your discreet but efficacious presence, all through these days of grace. Blessed are the young people who, gathered here or elsewhere in the world, joyfully bear your name. May they be sowers of the good news around them, committed Christians and active citizens, as Champagnat desired.

We place the Marist Institute in your hands, sure that you will continue to do everything among us.

Br. Emili Turú - Superior General
International Marist Youth Meeting
Buitrago, Spain - 15 August 2011



Message of the Marist youth

International Marist Youth Meeting Buitrago 14 August 2011

The Marist youth gathered at the International Meeting at Buitrago wish to give thanks for the opportunity of having lived this experience, in which we have all felt a single spirit, a Marist charism.

We are very grateful to the Marist Institute for accompanying us, for showing us what Jesus, Mary and Marcellin Champagnat can contribute to our lives, for betting on us as Marist agents, for believing in us as persons with multiple abilities.

We are grateful for the mission of the Institute and the model it lives and transmits, to be light and hope in the



situations of each province, and for giving us a model in our lives which helps us be persons and to improve the world at every turn.

Thanks for being an open institution: the family spirit, the welcome at any time, at any moment, make us really feel part of this family. This spirit has ensured that at this meeting we have been able to continue discovering and sharing the Marist charism.

Thanks for the opportunity of being able to share the faith with other young people, because this supports our hope of transforming the world according to the plan of Jesus.

Attentive to the reality of the world

We young people are part of the world and, as such, we wish to journey towards a new world, towards a new land. A land that can be at peace and where the disadvantaged can be on equal terms, where we can arrive at understanding through healthier and more comprehensive relationships.

We believe that it is important to become familiar with the situation in which we live and its needs so as to find answers adapted to our actual world.

We believe that solidarity is the way of expressing the presence of God in the world; Marcellin Champagnat knew how to read the situations of his time and to respond. In our times, we find ourselves confronted with a situation marked by the crisis of faith, injustice, and degradation of the environment and we Marists must be prepared to face up to these

situations through education.

We wish to foster a change of the structures of the world, the Church, the Marist Institute, ... so that they are at the service of society, especially of the most disadvantaged –in material and spiritual terms-.

Marist youth today

As Marist youth we feel a co-responsibility with the brothers and laity in the Marist mission.

We wish to transmit life –wherever we are- because it is the best that we know how to do. We want a living world, a world that feels, a world that loves: everything we do with sincere love is good for all.

We want to live and celebrate the faith without complexes, from the



spirituality, being heralds of the Good News with courage and perseverance.

What we can offer the world is our witness, our love, our commitment and our own persons. We want to cultivate a global view, but without losing any of the vision we have of working in a local way. We want to develop this task as active agents in each of our countries, in all our movements, in the schools, the universities... in order thus to actualize the experience of the Hermitage in

the world of today.

To the brothers

We young people also need some changes to feel ourselves closer to you. Do not remain enclosed in the Marist sphere, help us to open ourselves to the Church together with you, in the world. Find with us an equilibrium within the Mission shared between brothers and lay people, but do not lose your identity as brothers; we need you to keep on updating the institution of Marcellin in an accessible and humble form.

We young people need the brothers not to be afraid of expressing the word of God to us, the message of Jesus and the witness of your Marist life. It is really vital and crucial for you to be revolutionaries and brave men on this subject in the society in which we live. We possess a very clear Marist identity, but we also have the need to feel ourselves as Church, to be able to be the Marial face of the Church of today, to sense ourselves part and power of today's Church, open to the different charisms there are in the Church.

We share the concern for the future of the ageing of the brothers in certain

parts of the Institute, which could lead to a withdrawal from the Mission. Encourage the presence of the brothers among the little children and the youth. Encourage the formation of the Marist spirit and the closeness of the brothers so as to foster Marist vocations, whether to the brothers or to the laity.

Concrete proposals

Make possible the creation of Marist youth committees at the local, pro-

vincial, regional and international levels to continue generating and sharing concerns and proposals related to the life of young people and the Marist Institute (possibility of taking part in the next Marist mission Assembly).

Commit ourselves to the defence of the rights of youth through participation in political institutions.

The new technologies are a good opportunity for making us feel part of a network, for facilitating contacts, for making us feel close to one another, for sharing, for proposing solutions to the situation of the youth in the world,... (chat, blog, social network,...)

Take as reference for our pastoral work the document: Evangelizers among youth.

We propose that cultural exchanges be promoted between provinces and at the regional level so that we can continue being aware that the reality we live in our communities is very different from what they live in other places. Youth meetings are necessary for sharing experiences of life and also for proposing exchanges to do youth work in a different situation, because this favours personal growth and is a Marist work at the same time. To be aware of other realities generates in us a commitment towards others and provides us with a global vision at the time of working on the challenging task of changing the world; this is the good news from this Meeting.



FMSI

Consultative Status with the UN

On 6 September Brs Jim Jolley and Manel Mendoza presented themselves to the UN in Geneva to receive their Annual Grounds Pass under FMSI's new Consultative Status with the UN. This event marks the culmination of two year's work in applying for formal recognition of FMSI by the United Nations.



Until now our representatives in Geneva have gained access to the UN grounds to attend meetings and conferences under the name of Franciscans International (FI), who have had Consultative Status for over twelve years. Now our representatives are allowed access to the UN as FMSI representatives. This Consultative Status permits us to apply for visitors to attend meetings, such as the Human Rights Council sessions, under the FMSI banner.

This Special Consultative status, granted by the Economic and Social

Council of the UN (ECOSOC), gives FMSI the opportunity to attend the relevant international conferences convened by the United Nations and the meetings of the preparatory bodies of the said conferences. It also gives us a voice at certain UN conferences and allows us to make written submissions on particular issues, as participants.

So we celebrate another step forward in our quest to promote the Rights of Children on the International stage on behalf of the Marist Institute - FMS.



Perpetual profession

Rio Grande do Sul

The Marist Province of Rio Grande do Sul celebrated on 21 August the public profession of perpetual vows by Brothers Frères André Nosini and Valdinei Gabardo.

During the religious ceremony, celebrated in Garibaldi, the two Brothers made perpetual profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, by which they signal their definitive adhesion to the Marist Brothers. Nearly 500 persons accompanied the two during the ceremony, which was presided over by the Bishop of the diocese of Caxias do Sul, Mgr Alessandro Ruffinoni.

Br André, who is working in the community of Cachoeira do Sul, chose as motto the passage from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians: « I can do everything in him who strengthens me ». Br Valdinei, of the community of Ilha Grande dos Marinheiros (Porto Alegre), chose for his part the phrase from the Gospel of Saint John: « I am the way, the truth and the life ».

