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28/10/2011: New book received: Marcelino Champagnat (Inspirado no texto do Ir. Jesús Bayo)

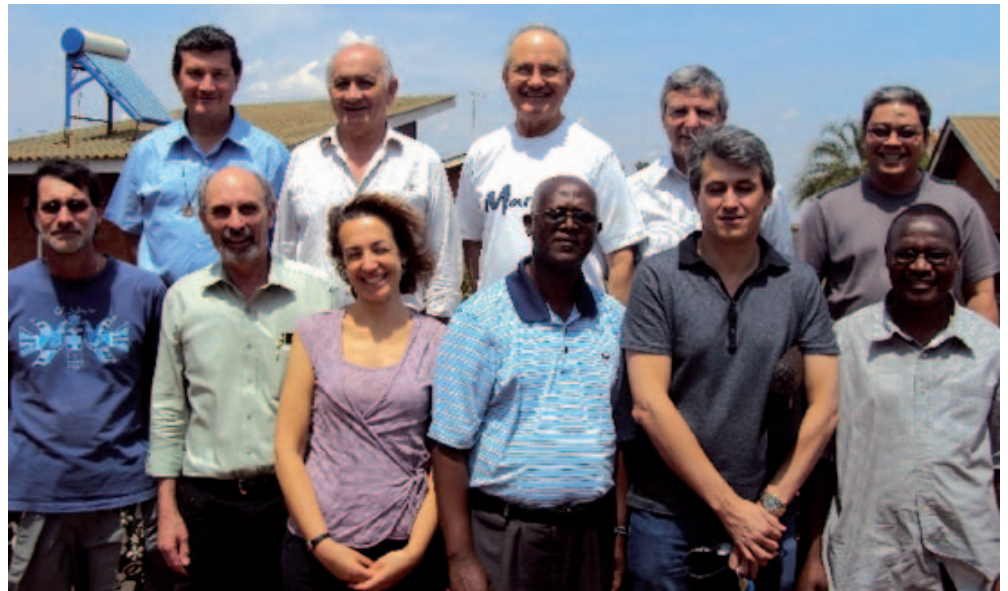
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III Meeting of the Financial Team

The Economic Autonomy of Administrative Units



The Finance Commission has met to work on the 2nd Recommendation of the XXI General Chapter ... to elaborate a plan to make progress in achieving the economic autonomy of the Administrative Units as well as the Mission Ad Gentes Sector.

The meeting took place in Lilongwe, Malawi October 17 – 21, 2011, with the participation of Brothers Alberto Oribe, Roy Deita, Mario Meuti (FMSI), Nicholas Banda, Víctor M. Preciado and lay members Rex Cambrey and Angela Petenzi (FMSI). The General Council extended a special invitation to Marco Antônio Barbosa Cândido (PUCPR) to serve as a facilitator at the meeting.

ing about the current situation in Africa. For this reason, the Provincial Economes of Africa and Madagascar – J. Antonio Ruiz y Oliver Tata (District of West Africa), Francisco Baeza (Afrique Centre Est), Nicholas Banda (Southern Africa), Matthew Mary Ogudu (Nigeria), Tousseint Randriamanantena (Madagascar), Vincent Chunga and John Bwanali (MIC) and Straton Malisaba (Economic Commission of the MIC) – were invited to the sessions during the first three days. Francisco Baeza and Malisaba were invited to join the Team for the entire week of meetings. Teodoro Grajeda also took part in this work as translator.

Items on the Meeting's Agenda

1. "Socio-economic realities in present-

The Team's agenda focused on reflect-

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day Africa: Examples of strategies for mobilizing resources," presented by Dr. Thomas Chataghalata.

2. "A Report from Each Province." Each Province took into account geographical, economic and cultural factors, the financial report of each Administrative Unit, where it stands in preparing brothers for administrative positions, its works that are currently self-sustaining financially, and presenting effective methods being used in projects that are generating income.

3. A dialog with members of the Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale (FMSI). Thanks to the FMSI representatives participants were able to become familiar with the new image and objectives of this institution that is organizing solidarity programs throughout the entire Institute. For their part the FMSI representatives were able to gather information about each Province's connections and experiences with regard to the financial assistance it renders to micro y macro projects.

4. A visit to the schools in Likuni and M'tendere. This visit was programmed as part of the Team's efforts to maintain contact with the Marist educational and pastoral work going on in Malawi.

5. A Workshop taking as its point of departure a "Preliminary proposal for sustainability," elaborated with the help of several brothers and a professor from PUCPR experienced in volunteer work in Kenya, and enriched with contributions coming from the first four above-mentioned items.

The work accomplished this week led to identifying the fundamental pillars of every plan for sustainability, not just for Africa and the Asia Mission Ad Gentes Sector but for any venue where the Marist Institute is found:

- Better practices and models of government
- Better practices and models of administration/management
- Competition in developing and carrying out income-generating projects, products and services
- A capacity for collecting non-reimbursable funds from external sources

The final step during the meeting was going through examples of plans and initiatives that could be useful in beginning to improve or strengthening improvement in each of the aforementioned fundamental pillars.

This meeting of the Finance Team fulfils the two recommendations made by the General Chapter:

1. To put in place a Model for Financ-

ing the General Administration, incorporating financing for its own activities and solidarity ad intra and ad extra, and also strengthening the structure for developing capital (funding) for the General Administration, enabling it to increase solidarity programs.

We are in the process of presenting this plan to our Administrative Units to familiarize them with it and to enrich the final version. When this process of dialog is concluded, the enriched version of the Model will be presented to the General Council at its next plenary session in January 2012 for its definitive approval.

2. To provide a "Self-sustainability plan" for the Provinces. In the near future this second task will be presented to the General Council for its approval.

Once authorized, both plans will go through the final stage, being implemented.

Sincerest gratitude to Brother Nicholas Banda and the Brothers in Malawi who took care of our lodgings and workplace, and offered us the opportunity to get to know and enjoy being at several Marist schools in Malawi.

Rome, October 28, 2011

Br. Víctor Preciado



Provinces of Sydney and Melbourne

New Australian Marist Province

A group of just over thirty Marists from around Australia gathered at Marist College Pagewood last 14 October for a consultation day on how matters are progressing towards the new Australian Marist Province. The thirty people included members of the two Provincial Councils, Brother John Klein CG, chairs of each of the various national committees and task forces that are working on the agenda of the new Province, and leaders of the key areas of ministry in the existing two Provinces. A proposed organisational map

for the Australian Province was proposed, discussed and supported. Following the day, the two Provincial Councils travelled to Mittagong for a two-day planning meeting facilitated by Brother John.

Quite significant progress has now been made, all working towards the formal inauguration of the new Province which will take place in Sydney on 8 December next year.



Mission among migrants

News from Samut Sakhon, Bangkok

In partnership with the Archdiocese of Bangkok, Brothers Ventura, Rafael and Marcos continue their work and mission among migrants living in Samut Sakhon. Aiming to address the needs of these migrant workers, they worked with the local church authorities to prepare for the establishment of a new center for migrants in the area.

Initial work began in July. The place was identified and prepared for the purpose. Family visits were conducted by brothers and teachers, allowing them to better understand the situation and realities of the migrant families. The work was tiring but rewarding! They won for themselves the joys of sowing friendships.

The location identified for the Center is strategic as it lies close to factories where migrants mostly from Myanmar and Cambodia are working. At the center, basic education is provided in Thai language, Burmese, Mathematics, and English. Added to these academic subjects, the center also renders services like health care and nutrition. About sixty (60) children aged 4-14 benefit from the operation of the Center. Our brothers also prepare programs for adult education in Thai and English language on Sundays.



Our three Brothers, Rafael, Ventura and Marcos are fully involved in different activities. Among others, they teach, organize, and visit families. They are assisted by two other teachers, one from Thailand and the other from Myanmar.

The presence of the Center has already attracted the attention and support of the local communities. It is, for

our brothers, an affirming experience of the relevance of their mission work. Indeed, the children of Samut Sakhon, through the missionary presence of our brothers, are given hope. And with the collaboration of local teachers and volunteers, it is hoped that the projects become sustainable and responsive to the best interests of children in need.



Province of l'Hermitage

Perpetual profession of Br Eduard Olivé

The Province of the Hermitage had the joy, on 12 October, of celebrating the final profession of Br Eduard Olivé in the par-

ish of the Holy Family of Igualada (Barcelona). Brothers of the Province and the many participants at the ceremony followed Br Eduard's

profession with joy and pride.

The ceremony was a simple one. Br Eduard's « personal stamp »

and the significance of making profession as a Marist Brother were evident on several occasions. The most relevant and most specific moment of the religious profession was certainly the acceptance by the Br Provincial, Maurice Berquet, of the taking of the perpetual vows – of poverty, chastity and obedience – pronounced by Br Eduard. The rite concluded with the bestowing of the professional cross.

Br Eduard was able to take note that he is in the heart of many persons: parents, Brothers, moni-

tors and youth of the Marist Scouts Centre (CMS), of the Federation of Youth Associations « Mà Oberta-Cor Obert », of the parish of Christ Redeemer in Barcelona, where he is working, as well as the teachers, pupils and Parents of the school « Maristas-Igualada » and, of course, his friends. All were anxious to accompany and congratulate him on this important step in the life of a Marist Brother.

The Eucharist concluded with a hymn to the Good Mother and to Saint Marcellin Champagnat. Cel-

ebrations continued in the Marist school, where those taking part shared glasses in friendship, in exchanging sentiments, experiences and joy. In the festive atmosphere, Br Maurice Berquet and the parish priest, Fr Ferré, presented a little souvenir to the family of Br Eduard in the name of the Hermitage Province.

And all that was possible thanks to the call made one day by Jesus to Eduard, and to his trusting and generous response.



Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family

Meeting of the fraternities of the Province of Ibérica

As at the beginning of each course, on 17 September 2011 the members of the fraternities of the province met in Lardero, to hold a weekend meeting in family. This year's meeting, however, had a special flavour: we were celebrating the silver jubilee of the fraternities' movement which, 25 years ago, commenced its journey with the Champagnat Fraternity of Pamplona.



From this first initiative, and without being very clear about what we were getting into, other groups emerged in Zaragoza, Bilbao, Logroño, Madrid,... so that now more than 100 persons in the Province of Ibérica form part of the Champagnat Movement, striving to be followers of Jesus in the style of Champagnat. And all that is what we celebrated in our family meeting.

We proclaimed our festival, we recorded our history in a type of review of our community photo albums, we reflected on the Marian face of our family with the help of Brother José

María Ferre, we shared prayer and Eucharist, around the same table, we shared experiences of solidarity and thanked God and the brothers who have accompanied us and given us the opportunity for living it all.

As in all good family gatherings, all played a hand in the preparation and development of the activity, and as all was prepared with love, it left us with a good taste in the mouth.

It may not have been a meeting with great conclusions: we did not program, we did not set out strategies or reach

great conclusions. Because this year we wanted to make fiesta and to be together, to celebrate and give thanks.

And for this reason, I remember the moment of the closing of the meeting, when Brother Ambrosio encouraged us to live this moment in our history as the beginning of another 25 years of shared life. As the motto of the General Chapter says, always on the way, always thinking of new horizons.

And as we have been working in our Province of Ibérica, because "Something new is possible"

