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Advent and Marist Solidarity 2011

Viewing the world through the eyes of a child

Following our custom of recent years, we approached a number of our contacts in various provinces for personal testimonies from children and young people on the theme of non-discrimination, which relates to article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This year's Advent prayer book contains many stories that highlight the myriad ways in which discrimination displays itself. For some, the painful experience comes through very strongly and even now the wounds are still strong. We ask you to pray for the person whose story occurs in the booklet from one day to the next. In a few cases we have used a pseudonym to protect the individual, instead of using their real name.

We are extremely grateful to all the children and young people who have contributed to this year's Advent Prayer Booklet and we thank our contacts around the globe who

have supplied these stories:

- Argentina - Mónica Linares
- Australia - Alison Baker and Gavin Dykes
- Brazil - Claudia Laureth
- Cambodia - Br Darryl Slater
- Colombia - Br Carlos Alberto Rojas Carvajal
- Kenya - Br Felix Muwawa
- Kiribati - Br Chris Poppelwell
- Pakistan - Br Noel Fonseka and Br Kamran
- USA - Br Dominick Pujja

Our hope is that you may become more familiar with the Convention of the Rights of the Child as you use this prayer book and that you become more aware of the plight of many young people who suffer discrimination on a daily basis. Your prayers for the young people who appear in this booklet will be greatly appreciated.

Br Jim Jolley, Editor

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FMSI

Per il Bene dei Bambini

Formation meeting for provincial secretaries

Provinces: Canada, Central West Europe and the Hermitage

The second meeting programmed by the General Secretariat for the introduction of the new database of the Institute was held in Lyon (France), in the Provincial House of the Hermitage, from 26 October to 2 November. The participants were the Provincial Secretaries plus one other person per Province: Mrs Sylvie Chapat-Alix and Br André Pigeon (Canada); Br Maurice Tailde-man (Central West Europe); Brothers André Thizy and Bernard Régis (L'Hermitage). From the General Administration came Brothers Pedro Sánchez de León, Secretary General, Marcelo De Brito, programmer, and Josep Roura, translator.



The first formation meeting of this type took place from 3 to 8 October, in the Provincial House of « Méditerranéa » (Guardamar del Segura – Spain), and was in Spanish for the Provinces of Compostela, Ibérica and Méditerranéa.

In both meetings, those taking part willingly accepted the new tool placed at the service of the Institute. They consider it practical, easy to use, and useful in uniting the criteria at the time of storing and using information; moreover, the new system will aid communication between the Administrative Units and the General House.

The objectives proposed for the two

meetings were:

1. To socialise the data structure of the new « Database » system and the principal modules of data management so as to be in a position to receive contributions contributing to the correction of errors and the optimisation of the information.
2. To refine the principal modules of data management in view of their imminent implementation.
3. To set in motion a new model of data management for the purpose of the parties concerned: the Administrative Units and the General Administration.

The next meeting will be held in Mexico D.F., from 28 November to 2 December, for all the Provinces of Latin America and the USA.



The Third Age

Course of Manziana

Manziana is a municipality in the Province of Rome located about forty kilometres north-west of Rome. Its position is elevated about 400 metres above sea level, and therefore it is cool in the autumn months. Approximately 7000 souls inhabit

this very old town with no resident tourists. On October 15, Manziana was the destination of fifteen Marist Brothers and five Marianist Brothers who arrived from various parts of the Globe. The Marianists are from the USA while the Marist Brothers come from Sri Lanka,

Nigeria, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

We are fortunate to have Marist Father Anton Verbraeken as our chaplain. Anton has been an Assistant General, Provincial and missionary in Oceania. More importantly, he brings a wonderful sense of simplicity and celebration to our liturgies in which he is aided by the Marist Manziana team of Brothers: Barry Burns of New Zealand, Antoine Kazindu of Rwanda and Anthony Hunt from Australia. Each of these men has gone out of his way to make us feel welcome and at home.



Our first few days were spent in a process of getting to know one another by listening to the history of each individual taking part in this two-month program. All of us would agree that the story-telling was an integral part of our learning about who we are and where we come from, not only geographically but also from our family backgrounds and Marist and Marianist histories. The varied personal stories and the challenges encountered in living out our vocation were humbling and inspiring.

Since our arrival, Marist Brother Don Bisson, a Jungian psychologist and spiritual director, flew in from USA to spend four days with us, exploring the psychology of aging. Don's insights from his years of experience helped each of us to examine and explore the issues related to this significant period of our lives. His insights were invaluable and will assist us in the years ahead.

Fr David Glenday MCCJ has also come to provide us with three days of talks that focus on 'Religious Life Today' and 'Praying in the Third Age.'

We have had visitors. In our first week Marist Vicar General Joseph McKee and Councilors General, John Klein and Michael De Waas, were with us for a meal. Three Marist Missionary Sisters, Pauline, Lolo and Shiela, who reside at their Generalate a short distance away, also made a brief visit.

There has been a recreational side to our time at Manziana. Our first Sunday together had some of us visiting the main street of the local town of Manziana for the annual Chestnut Festival where we saw the traditional

chestnut roast over a roaring fire in the town square, heard bands playing typical Italian music and saw actors entertaining and engaging the crowds by performing tricks as they walked about on stilts.

On two free days members of our group have had the opportunity to visit places such as Rome and Viterbo.

An outing together, traveling through the local area, took us to the picturesque town of Anguillara, the castle of Bracciano and the trattoria of Ceri where we had a meal to remember. What a delight it was to be in a bus, following narrow, winding roads, rather than forgettable freeways. From time to time trees reached out to touch us gently as we passed through undulating country, clothed with vineyards, olive groves, vegetable patches and fields lying fallow, waiting for the winter rains to bring to life crops of wheat, oats and barley.

At the end of the month both Marianists and Marists will depart for their places of origin, with the Marists going to France and the Marianists to Bordeaux and Spain. We are all looking forward to this opportunity to return to our foundational roots.

Participants

1. The Third Age Team: Barry Burns, Antoine Kazindu, Anthony Hunt.
2. Chaplain: Fr Tony Verbraeken SM.
3. Australian Marists: Kelvin Canavan, Gerry Steele, Terry Orrell, Joe Hughes, Bill McCarthy, Don Newton.
4. USA Marists: James Norton, Steve Kappes, Don Bisson (visiting speaker), John Malich, Eladio Gonzalez.
5. USA Marianists: David Murphy, Philip Aaron, David Quigley, Chester Burnog, Lawrence McBride.
6. Sri Lanka Marists: Ephrem Obris, Noel Fonseka.
7. Nigerian Marists: Mike Oruche, Isaac Ali.
8. New Zealand Marist: Doug Dawick

Br Bill McCarthy FMS (Australia) and Br James Norton FMS (USA)
Saturday 29 October, 2011



Sevilla Novitiate

The novitiate for all the provinces of Europe

The novitiate for all the provinces of Europe is in Sevilla. There Fabio is in his second year. Along with him is Rui, who is in his first year. Both belong to the Marist Province of Compostela and they are both from Portugal. Three other brothers complete the community.

Among their initiatives is the creation of a Bulletin by means of which they wish to share their experiences with those nearby, as well as with novices and young people in formation in other places and with youth who may be interested in learning what goes on in the novitiate. We are proud of this beautiful initiative that will allow them to open the doors of their house so that we can enter and learn how two young Marist



novices live the process of formation. We welcome this new Bulletin, which will broaden the already abundant information that we bring together on our web page.

You will be able to follow this information in the section "news", where we post the most up-to-date items that we receive.



New affiliation to the Institute

South Africa - Hubert - "Tubby" - Teubes

On 20 September 2011, at a simple ceremony held in the school chapel at St Joseph's Marist College (Cape Town), Hubert - "Tubby" - Teubes, a past pupil of the College was officially affiliated to the Institute of the Marist Brothers. The certificate of affiliation was presented by Br Joseph Walton, Provincial Superior, on behalf of the Superior General and his Council who bestowed the award.

After joining the College in the mid-fifties, Tubby soon established himself as a leader, a hard-working pupil, and a talented sportsman. After matriculating in 1958, his association with the school continued and he coached the first rugby team for many years, while continuing to play the game himself at club

level. Immediately after leaving school, he was employed by Old Mutual and still works for the organisation today. He became an active member of the Marist Old Boys Association and was elected to the post of secretary. Some years later, he became chairman of the Marist War Memorial Club.

Since the late 1990's he has been on the St Joseph's College Board and has done sterling hands-on work encouraging the Estate Manager and the marketing of the school. Tubby was a key figure in setting up the Special Needs Unit (SNU) at the College. The SNU caters for youngsters who are physically and/or mentally challenged, and integrates them into the daily life of the College as far as possible. The

interaction of these young people with the majority of the students who are not so handicapped has proved to be mutually beneficial. Tubby also served generously during the preparations for the 90th birthday celebration of St Joseph's (1918 - 1998).

Apart from his commitments to things Marist, he has been involved in a number of associations in the city and, together with his wife Mercia, is an active member of the Pinelands Catholic Church where he has served as chairman of the Parish Council. One of the parents at St Joseph's had this to say about Tubby: "Thank you, Tubby. You are blessed with an enthusiasm and dedication of service that is quite staggering."

