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Updates

13/12/2011: 78th Half-year Assembly of the USG (Union of Superior Generals)

12/12/2011: Deceased Brothers: Darryl Slater (Sydney), Alfredo Henz (Rio Grande do Sul), Edward Francis Vollmer (USA), Valerian Dorion (USA).

12/12/2011: Christmas Message 2011 from Br Superior General

10/12/2011: Scholasticate of Guadalajara – México Occidental

09/12/2011: Deceased Brothers: Anthony O'Brien (USA), Albino Herreras Agúndez (Compostela), Kieran O'Sullivan (New Zealand)

09/12/2011: Fraternities of Guatemala

07/12/2011: Marial Year in Marist Brasil - Closing Video

08/12/2011: Fourth version of the web www.champagnat.org

06/12/2011: Marist News N. 186

07/12/2011: Mexico - Education Ministry Team

06/12/2011: 'UMBRALES' Session – Escorial

06/12/2011: JMJ 2013 lança aplicativo 'Siga a Cruz'

05/12/2011: Marist International Centre - MIC

03/12/2011: European Meeting of Provincial Animation Teams

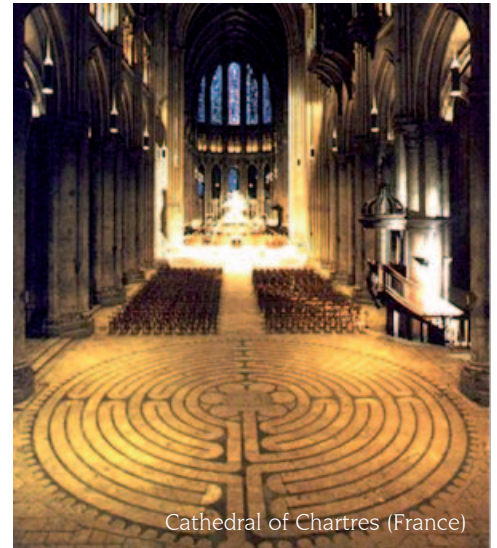
How is your heart, brother/sister?

Christmas Message 2011 from Br. Emili Turú

According to an ancient tradition, the Apostle James the Greater was buried in north-east Spain, in a place around which the present city of Santiago de Compostela developed. For more than a thousand years, his tomb has been the goal of pilgrims from all around the world, travelling these ancient roads on foot for weeks or months.

Many of the people who have travelled what is called the "road to Santiago" often speak not so much about having covered so many kilometres, but, more importantly, of having made an "interior journey" which brings them to their "centre". In fact, this is represented in a labyrinth traced in the floor of the cathedral of Chartres (France), probably as an alternative travelling space for pilgrims without the means to journey to the great places of pilgrimage like Santiago de Compostela, Rome or Jerusalem. Today, many still make this circuit which, following a long and winding path, leads invariably to the centre.

It seems to me that the period of Christmas is also an invitation to travel the road that leads us to the "centre", where each person can encounter him/herself and contemplate, in peace and silence, the Mystery dwelling within, inasmuch as "the Son of God by His incarnation has united Himself in some fashion with every



Cathedral of Chartres (France)

man" (Gaudium et Spes, 22).

Isn't this what Fr Champagnat invited us to, when he said that he desired for us the first places at the crib, the cross and the altar?

Making this journey to one's centre does not mean, in any way, encouraging isolated or egoistic persons, who have nothing to do with others. If this journey is authentic, in fact, it becomes manifest in signs such as peace, equilibrium, openness to others. It appears to me that the world would be very different, much more peaceful and just, if we could count on more people truly "centered". Martin Luther King expressed this in a very powerful way in his acceptance speech on receiving the Nobel Peace

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Prize in December 1964: "I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up again".

Some years ago, visiting our brothers in the State of Chiapas (Mexico), I was struck by the way in which the people of this region greet one another. Instead of our impersonal "hello", they ask "How is your heart, brother/sister?" Such a direct question provokes, in those of us not accustomed to it, reflection about how our hearts, spirits, souls, really are. It would be wonderful if we could all take time, especially in these days of Christmas, to ask ourselves this question and see how we are on our way towards our own "centre".

Persistent advertising, especially



at this time, encourages distraction and attention to the superfluous, increasing the risk of superficiality. But we well know that

there are gifts which can only be received in the calm of silence. The Book of Wisdom expresses it beautifully in poetic fashion:

"When peaceful silence lay over all,
and night had run half the way of her swift course,
down from the royal throne leapt your all-powerful Word" (Wis. 18: 14).

How is your heart, brother/sister? I wish you a marvelous and fruitful journey to your centre, in a way that all humanity may benefit from it, beginning with those around you.

May Mary, who "stored up all these things in her heart", be your blessing.

Happy Christmas!

Br. Emili Turú, Superior General



25th anniversary

Kenya: Marist International Centre - MIC

Marist International Centre, the International house of Post-Novitiate formation in Africa is celebrating its 25th anniversary. A number of activities have been organized to commemorate this anniversary and to foster the formative character of the Centre.

The closing ceremony will take place on 10th February 2012 in Nairobi.

Many Brothers have devoted years of their lives to the Centre, each one offering their best for the formation of our young Brothers. Marist Africa is most grateful to each and all of them!



Through this message, on behalf of the Conference of Superiors of the Africa Continent, we invite all Brothers who have been part of the staff of the Centre over the past 25 years to join us in this celebration.

You can imagine that it has been difficult for us to compile the list of your emails in full, and we don't want to exclude anyone.

We all count on your participation in this event.

We kindly request you to pay for your air-ticket and confirm your attendance to Br. Christian Gisamonyo (gisachris62@gmail.com, phone: +254721809898) the details of your arrival and departure.

KARIBU SANA

The Committee of the Jubilee
The Conference of Superiors
of the Africa Continent



Exchanges between provinces

Provincial management, animation and government

A pilot experiment for exchanging « good practices » in management, animation and government among several provinces took place in Brasil from 26 October to 1 November. The experiment was organised and accompanied by Brothers Josep Maria Soteras, Liaison General Councillor for the Provinces of America, and João Carlos do Prado, Director of the Secretariat for Mission. The exchange concerned mainly the Provinces of Mexico and Brasil, but among those invited were also Brothers Michael Green (Sydney) and Xavier Giné (L'Hermitage).

Those taking part were: a) « México Central »: Brothers Ricardo Reynoso, Provincial; Joaquín Flores, Provincial Councillor and Econome; Gerardo Torres, Provincial Secretary, and Mr Limón Mestre, accountant; b) « México Occidental »: Brothers Eduardo Navarro, Provincial; Javier López Godina, Provincial Econome, and Luis Roberto González, Provincial Councillor. From the Provinces of Brasil, many persons linked to the provincial teams and with UMBRASIL took part in the various meetings.

The meetings were held at the provincial headquarters of « Brasil Centro-Norte », in Taguatinga-DF (26/10); at the base of the Marist Union of Brasil, in Brasilia (27/10); at the « Brasil Centro-Sul » headquarters in Curitiba-PR (28-29/10),



and at the headquarters of « Editora FTD », in São Paulo (31/10 and 1/11).

The experiment seemed very successful and pleased all the participants. We wish to thank the Provinces of Brasil and « Editora FTD » for their warm welcome. Thanks, too, to all the participants for their subscribing to this initiative of the Institute.



Take off your shoes, this place is holy

European Meeting of Provincial Animation Teams

The European Meeting of the Provincial Teams animating the new Brother-Laité relationship took place at the Escorial, Madrid, from 14 to 18 November. The participants were 31 in number, lay persons and brothers of the European Provinces, with two representatives from Africa. Like Moses, we heard the invitation to « take off our sandals », and we danced bare foot to a song of the group « Ain Karem ». In sharing our common Marist vocation, we felt our bare feet touching holy ground. Holy, too, the life we share with the Provinces, the fraternities,

groups and communities. A life that fills us with hope.

Bare foot, without shoes or sandals, without prejudices, sisters and brothers, we feel invited to shed everything that prevents us from touching Marist life in depth. We have echoed the words of Br Emili: « We are invited to deinstall ourselves, to think outside the frame. » We have become aware that « something has to die so that new realities can see the day ». The invitation of the Lord to wake up resounded forcefully in our Meeting: to wake up

to a new era for the charism, to wake up so the dreams of our Marist hearts become reality.

The story of the Indian chief urges us to remove our shoes and climb the mountain, to where the horizon becomes larger and one discovers new valleys. Laité and brothers together, we realize that, following the example of one of the chief's sons, we can offer as a gift the view of a better future for our tribe. « The future will have your eyes », says an Italian author. The days at the Escorial inspired in us hope, openness

to the novelties of God, to surprise, to the God of life. Strong with that experience, we feel that our future is present.

The contemplative dance drew us in. We danced together. Your neighbour helped you keep step. The dance reminded us that we need one another. Its harmony comes from the fraternal attention awoken towards the other. During the meeting, laity and brothers, we felt ourselves heirs of the same charism of Marcellin.

We drank together at the same spiritual fountain. We wove together, in different colours, a beautiful net of mission projects. We sat around the



same table, shared the same bread. The accent was placed on the sense of region, of shared paths, of inter-provincial brotherhood. The experi-

ence told us that our future is one of communion.

The days of the meeting were a time of grace. Barefoot, we were better able to listen to the Lord inviting us to walk in communion, to accompany life, to be searchers and explorers, to promote together a greater vitality of the charism. The house of the Escorial, the environment, the moments of sharing with the brothers in the formation course, the attentions received, all that helped us perceive better the message of the meeting.

Br Javier Espinosa



Catholic Education

Spain - XVII World Congress

Organised by the International Bureau of Catholic Education (OIEC) and the Catholic Schools of Spain, the XVII World Congress of Catholic Education was held in the Central Seat of the « Caja Rural de Aragón », in Saragossa from 18 to 21 October.

The participants numbered more than 400: professionals in Catholic Education from 104 countries, delegates and regional secretaries from America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe, as well as the permanent representatives of the organisation to the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the Vatican. They shared and contributed ideas, alternatives and experiences to improve the situation of education in the world.

The Congress had the following objectives: a) Present the work achieved

by the Catholic School in creating a culture in favour of the rights of the person, from basic literacy up to the use of the new technologies. b) Reflect on and discuss the concrete challenges posed to the world of education by modern society, the numerous transgressions of personal rights, and to underline the role falling on the members of the Educational Community, teachers as well as parents or students. c) Through the Social Networks to define and encourage the desired initiatives so that education works positively for respect for the rights of the person.

The Marist Institute was represented by 11 brothers and 4 lay persons, members of the National Conferences of Catholic Education in Mexico, El Salvador, Chile, Argentine and Brasil, as well as Br João C. do Prado, Director of the Mission Secretariat,



and Br Oscar Montoya, of the Province of « Norandina ».

Brothers Alexandro Aldape Barrios, President of the National Syndicate of the Free Schools of Mexico, Jesús Triguero (Chilie) and João C. do Prado also took part, in the name of the Institute, in the Assembly of OIEC, held in Saragossa on 22 and 23 October. It dealt with the usual topics of the OIEC and the engagements for the next 4 years. It also elected the new OIEC Council.

