

RESPONSE TO THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Manziana: Meeting of the General Councils of the Marist Family

The house at Manziana, some 60 km from Rome, has been once more the site of a meeting of the Marist General Councils. It took place from 19 to 21 January, with Brothers Barry Burns and Antoine Kazindu providing a fraternal and generous welcome. Marist Sisters, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, Marist Fathers and Marist Brothers were present – 19 participants in all – with their respective Superior Generals, Sisters Jane and Georgeanne, Fr John Hannan and Br Emili. Apart from the possibility of enjoying a convivial and extended time together in a spirit of family, there were intense moments of prayer and the sharing of experiences. The reflection this year centred on the theme « Technology / Communication and our response as Marists ».

The message of Pope Benedict XVI for World Communications Day 2011 – Truth, proclamation and authenticity of life in the digital



age – inspired all present with its positive tone, open to encounter with the new reality of a technology and communication as a great chance to be seized, including for the evangelical values. Several interest groups were formed for the practical ac-

tivities of processing and putting into practice some of these new technologies. Then, all together and in Councils, the participants tried to draw some practical consequences for their own govern-

GENERAL HOUSE

The General Council has been meeting this week with the members of the Secretariats, FMSI, and those in charge of Ongoing Formation (Manziana and l'Escorial), three full days of sharing, communication and study in common.

Another event in the Institute has been the funeral of Br Charles Howard, Superior General from 1985 to 1993, at Saint Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, in Sydney, Australia, on Tuesday 24 January. The present Superior General, Br Emili Turu, was present.

ment and for formation activities in the respective Institutes. The group considered the meeting very positive and expressed their thanks to the organisation team: Sr Rita, sm,

Sr Nive, smsm, Fr Alejandro, sm, and Br Ernesto, fms, which had had the benefit of the technical support of Br Marcelo De Brito. A longer meeting is planned for January 2013,

at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, as an opportunity for a common pilgrimage to the places of the Marist origins.



MISSION AND INCULTURATION IN FAVOUR OF LIFE

IV Chapter of the District of Amazonia

A good number of Brothers gathered at Porto Velho from 15 to 24 December. The meeting properly speaking was preceded by a Marial retreat, very well directed by Br Afonso Levis, in the house of the Franciscan Catechist Sisters. Thanks to Br Afonso for his missionary journey into our Amazonia!

The IV Amazonia District Chapter took place in an intense atmosphere of union, dialogue and fraternity. The 16 Brothers taking part benefited from the presence of Br Provincial, Inácio Nestor Etges, and Sister Guaracema Tupinambá, president of the regional CRB of Manaus. Ida Cristina and Leina Matos were available from time to time to collaborate in the sharing about the mission and financial autonomy.

During the Chapter, the Brothers concentrated on the District Action Plan (PAD) for the years 2010-2017. They evaluated what had already been done so as to be able to give thanks and celebrate the successes. They detected gaps to be filled and studied the projects to be developed in the next few years.

As for the service of Animation and Government, Br Sebastião Ferrarini

and his Council were thanked for the services rendered during the last three years. For the next three, this service will be taken on by:

- Br João Gutemberg M. C. Sampaio – District Superior
- Br Sadi Cella – Vice-Superior
- Br Danilo Correia Bezerra – Councillor
- Br Jorge Luiz Lapa Maia – Councillor

(Br Sadi was not present. A supplementary Councillor will be elected if necessary).

- Br Sadi Cella – Secretary
- Br Luiz José Gerhardt - Treasurer
- Br Jorge Luiz Lapa Maia – Councillor
- Br Sebastião Antonio Ferrarini – Councillor
- Br Fideles José Beuren – Councillor

Brothers Delvino Decezero, Guilherme Bertassi and Zeferino Zandonadi were elected to the Fiscal Council.

Among the moments of joy during the Chapter, we highlight the renewal of vows of Br João Paulo Aranhaga Vargas, the 80 years of Br Guilherme Bertassi, the Golden Jubilee of Br Demétrio Herman, even if he was not present, and the news of the return to the District of Brothers Nilso Ronchi and Sadi Cella.



The District relies on a small number of Brothers. And we are in the process of reducing the number of communities. But this small size witnesses to the contagious enthusiasm of the brothers and laity looking for an ever more competent and updated presence in

the Region. With our support we wish to do honour to the motto proposed for our District Chapter: Marists in Amazonia: mission inculturated in favour of life!

The Juridical Commission has been set up as:

- Br João Gutemberg M. C. Sampaio – President
- Br Danilo Correia Bezerra – Vice-President



FONDAZIONE MARISTA PER LA SOLIDARIETÀ INTERNAZIONALE

A sincere thanks for the donations of 2011

Here is a brief account of the donations collected by FMSI in 2011, while we await a much more detailed report, which will coincide with the publication of the annual report we are already working on.

We have received donations from two Marist solidarity organizations (officially constituted NGOs): MAPS (Marist Asia-Pacific Solidarity), an international development agency created in 2002 by the Brothers of the Australian Province of Sydney, and MFMV (Maristen Fürsorge und MissionsVerein), based in Fürth, in Bavaria, which involves the schools of Mindelheim and Cham, situated in the same region of Germany. The donations received from the two NGOs amount to €13,500.

About €9,000 have come to us from Marist establishments, including the school in Toulouse (École Montalembert), France, and the Italian schools of Giugliano (Naples) and San Leone Magno (Rome).

Another part, very important for us, comes from private donors: almost €3,500. Even if the amount does not seem much, it testifies to the growing confidence of certain persons in the transparency and efficacy of our Foundation.

Sometimes, this money is dedicated to precise ends indicated by the donor, thus contributing to support a particular project of the Foundation: activities with street children in Hungary, the work of the Marist Brothers in Cambodia or in the shantytowns of Nairobi (Kenya), or for the school of Bafut, in Cameroon... In these cases we have,

of course, respected the wishes of the donors. Other donations, on the other hand, have come without any stated goal; quite simply, knowing the work of the Marist Brothers and sharing in the Foundation projects, some persons have wanted to support these projects and the work in question by their generous contribution. In the second case, sure of acting according to the donors' wishes, we have used the money for



those projects which have seemed to us most urgent.

We must add, as well, that the Foundation has received €106,230 in connection with the presentation of specific projects: €100,000 have come from the CEI – Bishops' Conference of Italy – and €6,230 from a private European organization. The two amounts have been credited to the FMSI account and

immediately transferred to the beneficiaries of two projects: Baucau in East Timor, and a formation initiative for the actual work and support of children's rights, in the care of the FMSI Geneva Office.

The solidarity activity of FMSI has naturally been much more important: the financing of 16 micro-projects and especially the assistance and accompaniment of numerous macro-projects, presenting them to the many European organizations and donors. Many of these projects have received substantial economic aid, and we are now at the stage of realization. We will next speak of all these activities on the web page and in an ad hoc publication which we are in train of preparing, which will treat of all the work achieved in 2010

and 2011.

While waiting for this, we can assure you that those working on the front line with children and young people much poorer than ours, rich and replete, receive in return their smiles and sincere thanks. We have experienced this ourselves on each of our voyages and at each of our meetings.

FMSI launches its Newsletter

The first issue of FMSI News was published last week. The newsletter will be monthly; it will be published in 5 languages (the four official ones of the Marist Institute and Italian), and will be sent in PDF format by e-mail.

With this publication, FMSI aims at reaching in a more comprehensive way its contacts: partners, collaborators, donors and friends and to keep updated even those who do not regularly access the Foundation's website. For them FMSI intends to come up with a selection of the news on its website

www.fmsi-onlus.org.

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN MISSION TEAM

Dynamism, vitality and linking up for the Marist mission in Europe

The European Mission Team met on 16, 17 and 18 January 2012 with the Marist community of Geneva, Switzerland. Those taking part were Brothers Máximo Blanco (Compostela), Moisés Alonso Pérez (Iberica), Robert Thunus (West-Central Europe), Gabriel Villa-Real Tapies (L'Hermitage), Aureliano García Manzana (Mediterránea), João Carlos do Prado (Secretariat of Mission) and Manel Mendoza Prario (Marist International Solidarity Foundation - FMSI).

The principal aim of the meeting was to become familiar with the structure and operation of FMSI with a view to greater linking and support with the Provinces of Europe. Brothers Jean-Claude Christe and Manel Mendoza, of the Geneva community, assured the participants a warm welcome. The 16th and 17th were devoted to the FMSI presentation: Br Manel gave an exposé on the Foundation's structure, organisation, functioning and lines of strategy. The Brothers took the opportunity to present to FMSI the initiatives on children's rights prescribed in the European Mission Team's Strategic Plan. They also suggested to FMSI some support initiatives for the development of the culture of children's rights in the Provinces and Districts.

One afternoon was devoted to learning about the offices which operate in concert with the Foundation: « Franciscans International » and « Edmund



Rice International ». The team also had the opportunity to visit the various UNO offices on a guided tour.

The 17th was reserved for treating two topics of the Team's order of the day. The participants studied and discussed the decisions of the European Marist Conference relating to the topics presented by the Team. They also studied the initiatives provided by the Strategic Plan for 2012, the new Marist label and

other matters proposed.

The meeting was judged very positive and acquaintance with FMSI allowed a greater understanding of its role and its potential for linking up with the Provinces. It was suggested to continue holding an annual meeting between FMSI and the Mission Team.

The celebration of Br Jean-Claude's birthday was also an important moment of sharing. The Team felt very well received by the Geneva Marist community, a fraternal welcome evident in the details and attentions lavished on all the Brothers. A good « raclette » served to bind the bonds of brotherhood even closer.

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