

CELEBRATION OF FAITH IN CHRIST AND THE RESURRECTION

Funeral of Br Charles Howard, 24 January 2012

The celebration of the Requiem Mass for Br Charles Howard, former Superior General, began in the chapel of St Joseph's College, Sydney, at 10:45 on 24 January. The Archbishop of Adelaide and president of the Episcopal Conference, Archbishop Philip Wilson presided.

Br Jeffrey Crowe, Provincial of Sydney Province, gave the welcome. The coffin of Br Charles was carried in procession by the members of the community of Campbelltown, where he had spent his last years.

At the beginning of the celebration, Br Julian Casey, Provincial de Melbourne, lit the paschal candle, symbol of the Risen Christ. The archbishop sprinkled the coffin with holy water and then some symbols were placed on it. First, four persons very significant for Br Charles: Margaret Geaney (friend), Maureen Kearney, (nurse), Mary Shanahan RSCJ and Noni Mitchel IBVM (like him, leaders of religious congregations) laid out a



white cloth, symbol of his baptism. Br Emili Turú, Superior General, placed a copy of the Constitutions, calling to mind words written by Br Charles: "We have the Constitutions which can serve us as guide and inspiration, seeing that together we are trying to follow Christ as Mary did, in his love for the Father and for all people". Br Richard Dunleavy, one of his General Council, laid down a Bible. Corinne McPhee, Health Co-ordinator for the Brothers, produced a rosary as symbol of his living of the motto "All to Jesus for Mary". The last symbol was the family portrait carried by his brothers, John and Jim Howard.

GENERAL HOUSE

Activities in the General House this week have been centred basically on two events:

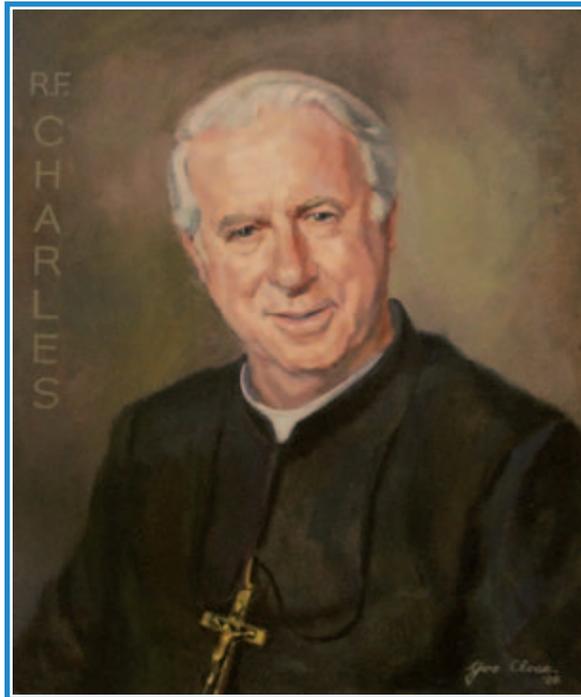
- The beginning of the process of external auditing for making the work carried out in the various offices and services of the General Government more efficient and effective.
- The participation of members of the General Council and of Br Cesar Rojas, director of the Secretariat Brothers Today, in the formation course for community animators being run at Manziana and the Escorial.

Br Séan Sammon, on behalf of the Brothers, and Clare Howard, Br Charles' niece, gave moving eulogies, recalling positive and relevant aspects of his life. Archbishop Wilson, his former student, shared some personal aspects and made some very appropriate comments on the Gospel.

The prayers of the faithful came from persons close to him: Sr Gail Reneker, former Superior General of the Marist Sisters, Br Desmond Murphy, for the Marist Brothers, Tricia Bainbridge, his cousin; Ross Tarlington, current Director of St Joseph's College, and Br Marius Woulfe, of the same profession group.

Other persons linked to Br Charles took part in the offertory procession: another two cousins, Maureen and Denise Howard, and Kadiatu Bangura and Remi Tirang, friends of the family.

The Magnificat was sung in thanksgiving after communion, and the Sub



Tuum, a traditional Marist canticle, at the end to accompany his mortal remains. The coffin was accompanied by his family to the exterior door and then by students of the college following the college tradition for deceased Brothers associated with St Joseph's. The prov-

ince had prepared a booklet with a brief biography of Br Charles and some testimonies, and this was distributed to all in attendance.

Lastly, some Brothers and family members accompanied the remains to the crematorium. Br Jeffrey Crowe, Provincial, spoke some words, Br Séan Sammon read article 38 of the Constitutions, "With Mary of the Fiat", and Br Emili Turú said the final prayer.

The first Glorious Mystery of the Rosary, the Resurrection was then recited, and concluded as traditionally with the singing of the Salve Regina.

May Br Charles already live the glory of the Resurrection, with Mary, St Marcellin, our Marist saints and martyrs, and the saints of his family!

In our site you can read the eulogies, see photos and also the video of the mass.



WWW.FMSI-ONLUS.ORG

New updating of the FMSI site

For a few days the FMSI site has also been online in French and Portuguese. The site, launched at the beginning of 2011 with new graphics and new content in three languages: English, Spanish and Italian, can be accessed by all the world. The idea of adding the French and Portuguese versions responds to the desire to cover all four languages of the Marist Institute and connect with a wider public. This improvement to the site has been made possible by the translation service of the General Administration,

which places its competence and spirit of collaboration at the service of FMSI.

If you wish to become more familiar with FMSI, go to the site www.fmsi-onlus.org. Here you will find information about the Foundation's mission, objectives and staff, but especially its concrete activities, such as the solidarity projects FMSI supports all over the world, and the work it undertakes with the United Nations in Geneva, in promoting and defending the rights of minors.

FMSI News

The newsletter will be monthly; it will be published in 5 languages 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.

Subscribe to FMSI News in www.fmsi-onlus.org



NEW AUSTRALIAN MARIST PROVINCE

One hundred and eighty Marist Brothers gathered in Hunters Hill

One hundred and eighty Marist Brothers from across Australia gathered at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, last week to discuss their future as they move towards forming a single new province in December this year. There are currently 170 Marist Brothers in the Sydney province, which stretches from Cairns to Canberra, and 80 in the Melbourne Province, which covers the rest of Australia.

In forming one province, the Brothers will look to spread the administration across Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Sydney Provincial Br Jeff Crowe said coming together as one province was the "natural step going forward" into the 21st century.

"There are many aspects of our life as Brothers in Australia that are common," he said. "In some ways it has been a natural progression being Brothers together in the one country. "Of course, there are the practical things of ministries, especially schools and education systems, where the national character is becoming so significant.

"So that's a step forward.

"Also in some ways the heritage that we have at the moment of two provinces does not recognise the way in which the lay people who are very much associated with us just see themselves as Australian, and that's their natural identity.

"We have been doing lots of things together for many years, and so, in terms of common vision and a common sense of purpose within the country, it's the right time also for taking this step."

He continued: "We don't regard this simply as a merger, and then a competition in the sense as to which system of the past will win out over any other system. We want to build up

a new province, exploiting the possibilities of a fresh start.

"We do have some younger people who are joining us as Brothers, and we also have lots of other lay Marist people whose lives are very much caught up with ours, who are intending a future as Marists.

"And so providing well for their future and vitality is crucial as we go forward."

Br Jeff said the Brothers have targeted three key dimensions which will form the basis of the direction of the new province.

"Firstly, how we want to live together as Brothers and be Brothers as consecrated men in Australia," he said.

"Secondly how we want to continue to grow in our relationship with lay people in terms of sharing charism and spirituality, and sharing responsibility for ministry decisions with lay people.

"And, thirdly, how we continue to ensure good initiatives for kids who are doing it tough in various circumstances."

He added: "We have lots of current commitments across the country. We are responsible either ourselves directly or in joint governance or on behalf of dioceses for more than 50 schools throughout the country, and we have quite a big welfare network which we call Marist Youth Care which is centred in western Sydney."

Br Jeff said joining the Brothers is an attractive option for young men, a life based on simplicity, fidelity and service.

"In times past we had groups of 30 young men joining up at any one time," he said. "Now they're coming in there ones and twos, but we're happy and full of admiration for these young men.

"Being a Brother enables you to be in ministry, in our case, particularly with young people. It's a very privileged and sacred relationship."



NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Br. Alberto Iván Ricica Siskova

Br. Alberto Ivan Ricica Siskova began his work as Director of Communications of the General Government on 1st of January, replacing Br Antonio Martínez Estaún. Br Alberto is from Guatemala, with parents originally from Czechoslovakia. Because of the II World War, they « landed » in Guatemala, where they settled and raised a family of 5 children.

Alberto came to know the Marist Brothers at the « Liceo Guatemala » where he did his primary and secondary schooling. He obtained a diploma in Sciences and Literature in 1967.

He entered the juniorate in Guatemala in 1965. From 1967 to 1969 he did his novitiate at Pontós, in the province de Gerona, Spain. Part of his scholasticate was spent in Miranda de Ebro, province of Burgos, and the rest back at the new scholasticate in Guatemala. He made perpetual profession in 1975.

Alberto studied Mathematics at the University of San Carlos in Guatemala and at the University of Valle. From 1986 to 1988 he was at the International College in the General House and obtained a degree in Moral Theology from the « Academia Alfonsiana » of the Lateran University in Rome.

His life has been consecrated to education, particularly of



view to obtaining a diploma in Educational Leadership and Administration in 2007 and 2008.

In 1986 he returned to Czechoslovakia with his parents. In 2010 he followed the spirituality course of the Escorial, at Los Negrales, close to Villalba, province of Madrid. Afterwards, he paid another visit to his parent's homeland with his sister and her family.

Br. Alberto has always been interested in electronics. Early on, he acquired a good mastery of the PC and other instruments, and software programmes relating to the treatment of text, tables, data base, graphics, animation and sound. He

has always been keen to become acquainted with new fields of this technology.

The request from the Superior General, Br Emili Turú, to be the successor of Br Antonio Martínez Estaún as Director of Communications of the General Government came as a surprise. In accepting it, he said he had always tried to give his best in all that he did, including the offices entrusted to him. Before commencing his work and responsibilities, he received due instruction from his predecessor so that communication with all the members of the Institute and friends of the Marists may develop for the better and in a creative way.

youth, first as teacher, then as director of the « Liceo Coatepeque », in the department of Quetzaltenango in Guatemala, director of the « Colegio Champagnat » de Santa Tecla in El Salvador, and the « Liceo Guatemala ». He has also been community superior several times.

In 1984 he participated in the Inter-American Congress of Catholic Education in Caracas, Venezuela. He also took part in a course for directors of establishments with a

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<p>Director Br. Alberto Ricica</p> <p>Production Mr. Luiz da Rosa</p>	<p>Redaction and Administration Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 C.P. 10250 – 00144 ROMA E-mail: publica@fms.it web: www.champagnat.org</p>
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Edit
Marist Brother's Institute - General House – Rome

4