

"GATHERED AROUND THE SAME TABLE"

New Zealand: Oceania Regional Meeting of Leaders of Lay Animation

The Oceania Regional Meeting of Leaders of Lay Animation met at the Franciscan Friary in Auckland, New Zealand, from the 20th to 23rd February 2012. Participants were from the Provinces and District of Melanesia (Ms Wendy Tame, Mrs Lucy Sinei, Mr Chris Lus, Br Rodney Pauru), Melbourne (Mr Joe McCarthy, Mr Mario Frazzetto, Ms Simone Boyd, Br Paul Kane, Br John McMahan), New Zealand (Mr Alan Parker, Br Carl Tapp, Br Terry Costello) and Sydney (Mr Tony Clarke, Mr Christian Nobleza, Mrs Carole Wark, Br Michael Callinan, Br Darren Burge, Br Michael Green, Br Anthony Robinson).



Joe McCarthy, a participant and one of the coordinators of the meeting offered the following reflection about his experience of the regional gathering:

Amongst everything else, two things I think we can be sure of:

1) The work we do is not easy – we

are operating on one of the cutting edges of church today, namely, how do we create engagement, offer spiritual development, build a sense of belonging and inspire mission for people saying 'yes' to the Marial face of church.

2) The work we do is essential – even if people are a little unsure as to 'what is next', we are building on a considerable history and an evolving story that is the Lay Marist journey, and there are many chapters yet to be written!

It was life-giving and supportive to work 'shoulder to shoulder' with each other as

GENERAL HOUSE

While the General Councilors are returning from Guatemala where the Enlarged General Council with Arco Norte took place, the General House is preparing a week with many guests. Tomorrow Wednesday is beginning the second meeting of the Commission entrusted with the study of the future of the General House and at the same time, the International Commission of the Mission will gather. Both meetings will finish on Saturday 10th March.

a region.'

The following statement is a reflection by the participants of the meeting in an attempt to capture the heart of their experience during the days together:

We are unified in our belief that God has touched us and given us a Marist heart. We are unable to live any other way, as we are Marists. We are guided by this same Spirit to explore new ways of living the charism.

The charism of Marcellin is a gift of God to the entire ecclesial community. Hence,

our respective vocations are lived in a spirit of communion. A clear and strong identity for both Brothers and Lay people is essential for the vitality of this relationship to take us into the future.

There is an urgent need to define and develop the Lay identity to enable new pathways of engagement and belonging. We see the importance of a new paradigm for Lay Marist vocation. We are committed to researching the practicalities of this and implementing the model.

There is a desire to provide opportunities for Lay Marists to explore their vocation

at greater depth through a variety of formative experiences. We are keen to build on the strong foundation that already exists in our formation programs and develop new ways for all Lay Marists young and old to access our spirituality.

This is our moment in Marist history. Now is the time to act. There is urgency within those gathered to identify specific ways forward, to abandon the answers of the past that do not satisfy and, with Mary, go in haste to a new land.



COME, YOU BLESSED OF MY FATHER

SED publishes a solidarity prayer book for Lent 2012

The NGO SED and the Spanish Marist Conference (CME) have published a free prayer book for the season of Lent. For 2012, the publication's title is « Come, you blessed of my Father ».

The book offers material for prayer and reflection for the days in preparation for Easter. As in previous years, the work also includes material for Easter week.

Centred around solidarity, the texts are an invitation to live this time of conversion from a perspective conscious of the surrounding situation and of the eradication of injustice, near us or outside our environment.

Through the words and testimonies of people who know the reality of poor countries,



the celebration of this Lenten season invites us to follow the footsteps of Jesus, the Master who has words of eternal life for all.

For, as the introduction reminds us in citing the words of Mgr Oscar Romero: « Everyone who struggles for justice... is working for the Kingdom of God ».

The book has been prepared by the usual collaborators of SED in topics of sensitisation. Once more, the Organisation thanks each one for his/her work and engagement in this project.

If you wish to receive a copy of the book, please contact one of the regional delegations or the central headquarters (delegaciones regionales o sede central) of SED. Orders will be taken until the stock runs out.



CHANGE – MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

Second meeting of the Organizing Committee for the International Marist Youth Meeting 2013

The Organizing Committee for the International Marist Youth Meeting (IMYM) – event prior to the World Youth Day, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro/Brasil – met from 15 to 18 February in the Colegio Marista San José, Tijuca, with persons invited from other parts of the world who were present at the two previous meetings (Sidney in 2008 and Buitrago in 2011).

This committee is formed by the Director of the Secretariat of Mission, Br João Carlos do Prado; representatives of the Marist Union of Brasil (UMBRA-SIL): Br Valdícir Civa Fachí, Br José de Assis Elias de Brito, Ir. Rosmar Rissi, José Messias Pina and João Carlos de Paula; representatives of the 3 Marist Provinces of Brasil that took part in the previous WYDs: Bruno Socher, Malu Resende, Br João Batista Pereira, João Bastos Cunha, Br Luis André, Karen Theline da Silva, Br Deivis Fischer and Jair Dutra, and representatives of the Marist Colleges of Rio de Janeiro: Edson Leite, Br Pedro Jadir de Araújo Melo, Br Marciano de Brito Silva and Michel Nantes. Those invited were Brs Antonio Alegre, Ángel Prieto Hernández, of Spain (co-ordinators of the 2011 IMYM), Daniel Martín, of America Central (participant in the IMYM of Buitrago), and Hendrika Duivenvoorden, a young Australian who took part in the IMYMs of Sidney and Buitrago.

There was some very significant exchange during the 4 days of the meeting between the representatives of the Sidney and Buitrago meetings and the members of the current Organizing Committee. There was also a visit to the site where the meeting will be held. In addition to this, the group was able to push forward with IMYM planning. It was decided that the slogan of the



meeting will be the same one proposed by the Holy See for WYD 2013: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28: 19). The theme will be: CHANGE – Make the difference!

The Organizing Committee will meet again on 15 and 16 March in the same Colegio Marista San José – Tijuca, to define the final details for the official launching of the IMYM and continue the work of the sub-commissions.

Further information on the next World Youth Day can be found on the official site of the WYD Rio 2013: <http://www.rio2013.com>



Orthodox and Catholics « Around the Same Table »

On Saturday 14 January 2012, the Lycée Léonin of Patissia hosted a Session of reflection on the theme: "The Vocation of lay marists" as it is presented in the book: "Gathered around the same Table".

The Session, which had the participation of all the members of the teaching and administration staff of the two Lycées Léonins – Néa Smyrni and Patissia – and of all the members of the Marist Fraternities (nearly 340 persons in total), aimed at studying the real meaning of the Vocation of the Lay Marists and the way in which this Vocation is linked with the Institute of the Brothers. The ultimate aim of the Session was certainly to assure the strengthening of the Marist Vocation at present and its growth in the future.



PATHS OF MARIST SOLIDARITY IN THE AMERICAS

Inter-American Solidarity Sub-commission

Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico hosted the first meeting of the new Inter-American Solidarity Sub-commission, which took place from 7 to 10 February. The new members were elected at a session of the full assembly at the IV Hearts in Solidarity Meeting in June 2011. They are:

Socorro (Coco) Álvarez, representing Arco Norte; Br Miguel Orlandi, representing Brasil; Juan Carlos Pellón, representing Cono Sur; and Angélica Alegría, representing the Inter-American Mission Commission.

The central proposal of this meeting was to reflect together on how to continue on the path initiated between laity and brothers from 2004 in Bolivia, up to 2011 in Mexico, when the inter-American document on Marist Solidarity entitled "Paths of Marist solidarity in the Americas: children and young people with rights" was validated. It will become public in a few more months.

The objectives of the meeting were:

1. To draw up the operational planning of the sub-commission for the period 2012-2017.
2. To give follow-up and continuity to the process of drafting, publishing, launching and propagating the Inter-American Solidarity Document.
3. Establish agreements for the dynamization of the Hearts in Solidarity network in America.
4. Share perspectives for the 5th Hearts in Solidarity Meeting to be held in 2014.

There was a sharing in an atmosphere of fraternity of opinions



and points of view on what had been done and with the participants in the IV Hearts in Solidarity Meeting. It was considered vital to continue with the great work achieved by the previous sub-commission and to keep to the challenge of sharing material giving direction to the path of Marist solidarity, in defence and promotion of the rights of children, as well as consolidating the Marist Hearts in Solidarity network in America.

A significant moment was a workshop with Br Joao Carlos do Prado, director of the Secretariat of Mission of the

Institute, in which we shared concerns, ideas, courses of work and strategies to bring into harmony the proposal of the Inter-American Mission Commission and the different sub-commissions which have been formed to animate the mission in America.

The lines of work seen as priorities by the Inter-American Mission Sub-commission are:

- * Promote the propagation of, reflection on and study of the Document on Paths of Marist Solidarity in the Americas at all levels of management and animation of the Administrative Units
- * Promote listening to children and young people and enabling them to take an active role in matters affecting them, as well as formation in the subject of their rights.
- * Push ahead with reflection to make concrete the mission of new presences in the Americas.
- * Promote and strengthen interprovincial exchanges, collaboration and agreements with ecclesial, civil society and state organizations for developing initiatives of promotion and defence of rights (advocacy).
- * Promote a/o strengthen the structuring of the area of solidarity of the provinces and districts, securing human, physical and financial resources for the promotion of solidarity and defence of the rights of children and young people in accord with the criteria of the Evangelical Use of Goods.
- * Promotion of international volunteer service in the perspective of Marist solidarity.
- * Formation of animation teams in solidarity and the rights of children.

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