

MARIST PATRIMONY

FMS Marist Notebooks 30

The Patrimony Commission has just published the number 30 of Marist Notebooks. This number has three studies and four articles: The Marist Family according to Brother Virgilio León (Antonio Martínez Estaún), The priest and the diocesan pastor (Frederick McMahon), The good Mother and the Virgin of the vow (André Lanfrey); The Bicentennial History Project (Michael Green), The Marist Charism in the land of Mexico (Aureliano Branbila), Sketching a History of the Institute (André Landrey), History Project of the Institute: Bibliography (Juan Moral).

In our site (www.champagnat.org) you can download the PDF file in the official languages of the Institute.

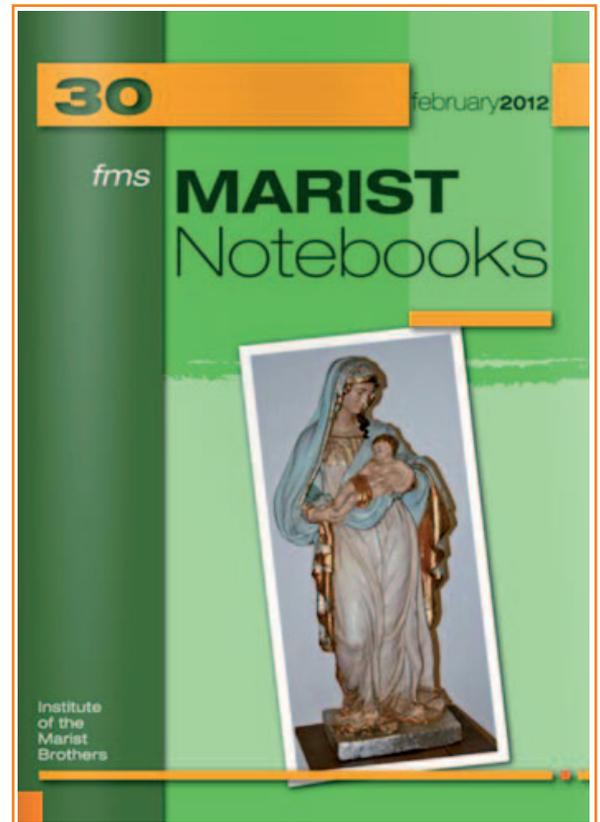
Below we publish the editorial written by Bro André Lanfrey.

This Number 30 of Marist Notebooks seems to me to have a rather special function: instead of the traditional articles reporting on various topics of research, it announces the end of two projects and the launching of another.

Marist origins

Published during 2011, and included in the collection *Fontes His-*

torici Societatis Mariae, was the three-volume compilation of everything written by Fr Champagnat, as well as the documents or records produced or commenced in his time. Entitled *Origines des Frères Maristes*, this work is the fruit of long undertaking by Brother Paul Sester, with the technical aid of several confrères: Jean-Rousson, Louis Richard, Claude Morisson, and Henri Réocreux.



GENERAL HOUSE

Everything is back to normal at the General House after a short break for Holy Week and Easter.

Br Michael De Wass, Councillor General, has joined in the visit of the Province of Melbourne.

Brother Joe Mc Kee, Vicar General, has gone to Korea to assist in the Brothers' retreat.

Brothers Javier Espinosa and César Rojas are meeting in Guatemala with the Inter-American Marist Spirituality Network team.

The Brothers of the General House join Br Mario Meuti, director of the FMSI Rome office, in his sorrow and hope for the death of his father. May he rest in peace.

The use of the word "Origines" in the title pays homage to the fundamental work of Frs Coste and Lessard who published *Origines Maristes* in the years 1960-67. Brother Paul Sester, in his introduction, emphasizes another reason: these documents are not all from the hand of Fr Champagnat and many of the notebooks and registers commenced in his time continue after him. The expression *Ecrits du P. Champagnat* being too limited, the title that was finally retained appeared the most suitable.

Volume 1 (566 pages) is entitled "From personal project to congregation". It includes Champagnat's resolutions, and the eight "Champagnat Notebooks" bringing together the rules of the Mother House, the Prospectus and Statutes, the projected rules, drafts of letters, summaries of conferences and instructions, and account books.

Volume 2 (785 pages) is entitled "Firming the identity of a religious family". It contains the register of admissions from 1822 to 1848 and Champagnat's correspondence, arranged according to subject: letters to the Brothers, to Fr Mazelier, signed administrative letters and minutes. Lastly, we find the sermons, discourses and instructions.

Volume 3, entitled "Structuring and developing the Marist Brothers", includes the registers: taking the habit, temporary and perpetual vows, deaths. Then, an "Ecclesiastical Memorial" groups all the notable religious events, such as blessings of chapels, erections of the Stations of the Cross, from 1825 to 1842. The work closes with the "Various individual writings" bringing together various acts of purchase and sale, but also more fundamental documents, such as the promises of the first Brothers and the Spiritual Testament of Fr Champagnat.

The second part of volume 3, (pages 509-698), is devoted to the different indexes: subject, names of places and especially names of persons, Brothers and non-Brothers. This collection of 687 documents thus completes the *Origines Maristes* of Frs Coste and Lessard as well as the *Letters of Champagnat* published by Brother Paul Sester in 1985 (Volume 1: Texts) and in 1987 (Volume 2: References), the latter with the aid of Brother Raymond Borne.

Thanks to this work, we now have in a single collection all the documents concerning the origins of the Institute and overlapping often enough with later periods since the notebooks and registers, published here in their entirety, often continued after 1840. Thanks to some detailed critical scaffolding (introductions, notes, index), it offers researchers an exceptional working tool.

Chronologie Mariste

The General House has also just published a new *Chronologie Mariste*, from the origins to 2009, drawn up under the direction of Brother Jean Ronzon, former Secretary General. This book of 535 pages in very polished form is Number 1 of a new collection entitled *FMS Studia* which is intended for the publication of significant works on the Institute.

The work completes the 1976 *Chronology* of the Institute, but in a rather different spirit. The listed events have been structured in a new chronological arrangement, which is less centred on the internal history (Mother Houses, Superiors General, etc) but attempts to situate the Institute within a general history. This is why there are brief introductions to give an overview of each of the historical phases or emphasize particularly important dates.

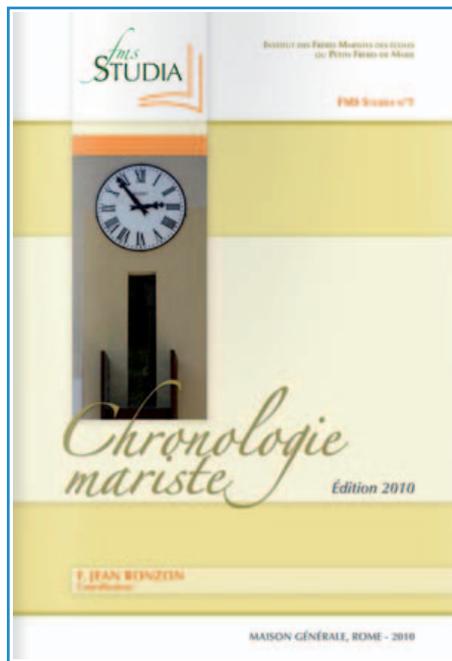
In addition, the citing of the source of each event, already present in the 1976 *chronology*, has been systematized, leading to the elimination of certain events not verified by reference sources. Finally, a certain number of maps, photos and appendices offer valuable visual summaries.

Project of a History of the Institute

With the year 2017 approaching, the Spiritual Patrimony Commission believes the time has come for a project of writing a general history of the Institute which, without being too academic or too detailed, could offer a serious overview of our two centuries of history. The material for such an enterprise is not lacking, as can be seen from the rich bibliography presented below by Brother Juan Moral.

But the main difficulty is, without a doubt, to craft it so that the final work remains within reasonable dimensions or does not become simply a compilation of histories of Provinces. This is why Brother Aureliano Brambila has written up, for Mexico, a methodological model giving an overall view, both documented and succinct, of a region of the Institute. For their part, Brs André Lanfrey and Michael Green have attempted to draw up outlines for an enterprise, which will doubtless call for collaboration and undergo modifications.

Thus, this *Marist Notebooks No 30* announces a certain ending to Marist research focused on Champagnat and the origins, while outlining the necessity of reflection on the Institute as a whole on the eve of its bicentenary. The article of Brother Antonio Martinez Estaun on the notion of Marist family, recently re-interpreted by Brother Virgilio Leon, seems to us a good example of this type of work.



COMMUNITY ANIMATORS COURSE IN ENGLISH

Session for Community Animators in Manziana

The Community Animators Course started very well in Rome with 8 participants from different parts of the Marist world. We had to move temporarily from Manziana to the General House on Thursday 2 February late afternoon due to a low heating system and to lack of water. This incident did not affect our morale. The warm welcome from the brothers at the General house made our stay enjoyable despite the first experience of cold and snowy weather for some of us.

The participants in this Community Animators Course are: Jacobo Song (South Korea), John Curry (Australia), Fortune Chakasara (Zimbabwe), Nicholas Banda (Malawi), Justin Kanaume (D.R.Congo), John Chong (Malaysia), Robert Thunus (Belgium), and Jean Bruce Rasamimanana (Madagascar). We are still waiting for Vitus Osuji from Nigeria who did not get his visa on time.

The facilitating team is composed of Anthony Hunt (Australia), Barry Burns (New Zealand) and Antoine Kazindu (Rwanda). Mokesh Morar, our chaplain comes from South Africa.

The first three days allowed us to slow down, share our stories and reflect on our hopes and expectations for the Program. Listening to each brother's sharing was helpful in getting to know one another.

At the General House, members of the General Council led us on the theme "Visioning Community Life through the 21st GC calls". They focused on "Fraternal Dialogue" and "Spirituality". Their presentations were very rich, deep and challenging. It became clear to us that there has to be a personal conversion in the process of finding



new ways of being Brother and community today.

During our stay at the General House, the liturgy and the prayers, which were prepared in turn by different groups, helped everyone to pray with the theme of the week. We had a wonderful opportunity of sharing prayers and meals with the General Council. Some days, we shared meals with the rest of the General House Community. We appreciate very much the sense of brotherhood which prevailed during all our gatherings and sharing.

On Friday 10th February, two small communities were formed in the presence of Brother Emil Turù, our Superior General. On Sunday 12th February at 11:00

Interprovincial Post-novitiate of « Cono Sur »

Did you know that the interprovincial Post-novitiate of « Cono Sur » has just been inaugurated? It is the fruit of the collaboration of two Provinces (Cruz del Sur, Santa María de los Andes) and a District (Paraguay). Did you know that the Post-novitiate has been launched in the community of the « Colegio La Inmaculada » of Buenos Aires, under the direction of Br Rubén Seipel, with 4 young Brothers: Miguel, Mario, Dario and Marlon? Did you know that these young men are doing studies at the ISMA, but that they are also working at the « Colegio La Inmaculada » and the « Colegio Macnab Bernal... and that on Saturdays they carry out apostolic activities at Merlo and Tigre? There is good news to share!

am, we returned to Manziana which we found still covered by snow and where Brother Anthony received us with a hearty welcome. We were joined there by Brother Sean Sammon, the animator of the second week on Marvelous Companionship.



PROVINCE OF « BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE »

Forum on the Marist vocation

A group of leaders of the Marist Province of « Brasil Centro-Norte » gathered on 9 March in Taguatinga/DF to reflect on the common and specific elements present in the ways Brothers and laity live the Marist vocation.

The reflection encouraged the sharing of life of the participants with experiences of the Marist charism lived in a variety of milieus: education, social, evangelisation, presence with youth, fraternities of the Champagnat Movement and provincial bodies. This sharing was the work base for identifying the common and specific characteristics of the process relative to vocation.

It was interesting to observe certain salient points: the awakening of a religious vocation was encouraged by a brother's significant presence; experience of Church preceded the living of the Marist charism; formation activities reinforced the call to

vocation; the relationship with the Province and the Institute is nourished in different ways.

At the same time, it seemed evi-

dence while the brothers live the charism starting from belonging to the institution, the call to vocation felt by lay people touches other areas of life – work, church and social

participation – and interpersonal relationships.

The Forum was judged very positive. It is a first step in the Province and it seems necessary to follow up reflection on other related themes, such as common

formation and co-responsibility in mission, taking into account the new relationship between brothers and laity. Many questions have been raised, to be developed in a course of common reflection and construction. There remains a long way to go before the New Land becomes a reality.

dent that the choice relative to the brother's and the lay vocation lead in different directions:



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