

## « PERGAMUM »

### Creation of the new archives management system of the marist institute

The « Pergamum » commission put in an intense amount of work from 19 to 31 March to perfect the third version of Archivum, the management system for the archives and documents of the Institute of the Marist Brothers. The work was divided into two different stages: the first, in Rome, centred on the conception of the computer system, and the second, at Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, for the initial formation of the archivists and cataloguers who are already using the preceding version of Archivum.

The « Pergamum » commission is entirely composed of persons attached to the Marist institution, the computer team of the « Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná », Brasil, and by the archivists of the different Marist Provinces of Europe. The team is directed by Br Josep Maria Soteras, Councillor General, and co-ordinated by Br Pedro Sánchez de León, Secretary General.



The « Pergamum » project is pioneering in many aspects, as much within the Marist Institute as in the field of Archives, since for the first time a management system of documents for the archives (Archivum, v. 3) has been created based on a computer programme conceived originally for the management of libraries (Pergamum).

Finally, the most important step in this new stage of Archivum consists in the management of the documents being able to be done at the level of the whole Institute,

## GENERAL HOUSE

Brothers Emili Turu and Josep Maria Soteras, Michael de Wass and Eugene Kabanguka, have been to El Escorial and Manziana respectively to support the current session of the course for community animators.

Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sanchez are still on their visit to the Province of Southern Africa.

Two communities from Barcelona, Mataró and Les Corts, spent several days from 28 April to 1 May at the General House on holiday and a cultural tour of Rome.

which will make the work of the institution and in network between the different Provinces and the General Government much easier. Resources will be improved and time saved, all while guaranteeing access to our documents and their conservation.

The « Pergamum » Commission is continuing its work calendar with the aim of launching Archivum 3 before the end of this year.

I conclude by stating that the implantation phase of the new database system for the Institute has been completed at Alcalá de Henares. We are already in the production stage, that is to say, the progressive utilization and successive improvements which mark the normal evolution of the facility in question. It has been given the name of « Knonos ».

Br Pedro Sánchez de León - Secretary General



# MANAUS, MARCH 25-27, 2012

## First Meeting of Marist Brothers in Panamazonia

The First Meeting of Marist Brothers in the Amazon took place from March 25 to 27th in Manaus, Brazil. The following took part in the event: Brothers Javier Espinosa (Secretary of the Laity, Rome), Damian Raul Provencs (Cruz del Sur), Carlos Saul Corzo (Norandina), Reinaldo Becerra, Isidro Azpleta, Fernando Pino, Juan Manuel Garcia and Hugo Bernola (Santa Maria de los Andes), Alejandro Gonzalez (Mexico Occidental), Jose Sanchez (Mexico Central), Antonio Quintiliano, Valdicer Civa Fachi (Umbrales), Alvaneu Finamor (Brasil Centro-Sur), Vinicius Tenedini, Romidio Siveris (Brasil Rio Grande do Sur), Adalberto Batista Amaral (Brasil Centro-Norte), Leido Jesus Matias, Demetrio Herman, Sadi Cella, Luiz Gerhardt, Joao Gutemberg Sampaio, Sebastiao A. Ferrarini, Valdir Raymundo Gobatto (Brasil D.M. Amazonia) and Sister Izabel Galvao (Marist Sister, Brasil-Ji-Parama).



portunity and privilege of navigating through the Amazon toward the meeting of the waters (the union of the Rio Negro – Black River and Rio Salomon – Salomon River) contemplating how nature is so extraordinarily generous with water, vegetation, air and rain.

The first day of work and reflection was centered entirely on information and the search for data that would help us fulfill our objective.

The second day of work centered on prayer, reflection, and discernment and sharing of the calls we felt for our Marist mission in the Amazon Region.

zon Region.

**Dreams:**

- We dreamed of communities that learned to live with the eco-system, being prophets of the ecology.
- We dreamed about restructured, international, inter-provincial, inter-congregational and intercultural communities.
- We dreamed of Brothers who love each other and love Jesus Christ, the poor and nature.

This meeting had as its theme: "Marists in the Amazon: "Inculturated Mission in Favor of Life", and its stated objective was to share the life and common Marist mission throughout the greater river basin of the Amazon, seeking ways of integration and mutual support.

The meeting began as a day with Nature. We had the op-

- We dreamed of strengthening the Marist communities that are already in the Amazon.
- We dreamed of the defense of life, the defense of the rights of children, as a Marist Educational Projects.
- We dreamed of a group of Marists formed and committed to issues of the Amazon.

**Proposals:**

- We propose that in the next five years (2017 Marist Bicentennial) an inter-provincial or inter-congregational project may be created in the frontier regions of the Amazon, or even better, to transform a community in the Region into an inter-provincial or inter-congregational one.
- We propose to intensify our vocation work in the Region in order to awaken more Marist Brother and Marist Lay vocations.
- We propose the promotion of an intercultural community

- in harmony with the environment that would promote the culture and life of the indigenous people.
- We propose to take advantage of our Marist education in order to teach the care for life and for nature.
- We propose that Umbrasil be able to create a political advocacy movement to protect the interests of the most abandoned in the Amazon region.
- We propose that the Amazon region be incorporated in the missionary project "ad gentes" of the Congregation.

The evaluation of the meeting was very satisfactory, as much for its simplicity, fraternity, reflection as for the dreams for the future of Marist life in the Amazon Region. We beg that God and our Good Mother bless our good desires and give fruit to our desires to be faithful Marists.

Manaus, March 27, 2012  
Brother Isidro Azpleta, Chile



# BR. FRANCIS LUKONG

## New District Superior of Western Africa

The Br Provincial of the Province of Mediterránea and his Council have appointed as District Superior Brother Francis Lukong for a period of three years, starting from his taking up office at the District Chapter to be held from 10 to 15 August 2012.

Br Francis was born on 2/4/1963 in Melf-Kumbo, Nso, Cameroon. He did his primary schooling in his home town and the secondary in Mankon-Bamenda (Sacred Heart College conducted by the Marist Brothers) and Soppobuea.

At MIC (Marist International Centre), Nairobi, Kenya, he obtained the Diploma in Educational Sciences and the Bachelor of Theology degree.

Subsequently (1994-98), he obtained his master's degree in French and History with honours at the Univer-

sity of Wolverhampton, in the United Kingdom. During this period, he took a course at the Jean Moulin Lyon



II University in France, obtaining the Diploma of French University Studies (DEUF). More recently (2006), he

gained a Master in Education at the 'Commonwealth Open University' and he is currently following courses in the Philosophy of Education at the same centre.

He has been engaged in teaching in the Marist colleges of Cameroon, and since 1999 has been Director, first at Saint Joseph's Catholic Comprehensive College in Mbengwi and then at Saint Albert's Comprehensive College in Bafut.

Since 2000 he has been District Councillor and at present he has the role of vice Superior of the District. Brother Sylvain Yao is completing his six years at the head of the District.

We wish Br Francis Lukong the best success in the animation of the District, its works and Brothers, and we ask Our Good Mother for her maternal protection.



# DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN KISANGANI

## Chololo Technical and Industrial Secondary School

**C**hololo Technical and Industrial Secondary School is located in the Oriental Province of Congo, in the outskirts of Kisangani, which is the third largest town in Congo. Kisangani was terribly destroyed during the war which took place in Congo from 1998 to 2003. From that time till today Kisangani was declared in french "La ville martyre" that is "a town which was martyred" by the armies of Rwanda and Uganda which fought in Congo. People lost their lives and goods. This has made the people of this town poor and despite the end of the war, the economy of the country in general is not recovering fast. On the other side, the Government does not take much care of schools and many children don't go to school; but for those who go, they do not have good conditions for study.

Chololo Technical and Industrial Secondary School, created in 1954 by Marist Brothers, was the first technical school in the Oriental Province of Congo. Due to some problems, the Marist Brothers left the school in 1977 and the management of the school was given to the diocese. Due to the political and economic situation of the country, the school was not subsidized and a lot of its infrastructures were not well kept. As if that was not enough, the school being behind a military camp, it was hit by bullets and bombs during the war which took place in Congo from 1998 to 2003.



Being the biggest technical school in the town of Kisangani, the school welcomes more than 2000 students every year, boys and girls, especial-

electricity, carpentry, masonry, automobile, general mechanics. In order to help students from this town, the provincial council of the Marist Brothers of PACE decided to take back the school in this year 2010-2011. The school has got 39 classrooms that are distributed into 6 big buildings.



ly from poor families. Students are trained in various technical fields:

Unfortunately, the Marist Brothers found the school at a critical state. Almost 500 students didn't have a desk to sit on, many classes are not electrified, they lack doors, windows and blackboards, a part of the equipment is obsolete. This discourages students who drop out of the school after two or three months of studies. With the assistance of the FMSI the Marist Brothers are trying to resolve this situation.

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

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