

APPOINTMENTS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

General House

Br. Jim Jolley, reappointed as Director of the FMSI Office in Geneva for 3 years.

* Br. Marcelo de Brito, who is now back in his Province of Cruz del Sur, appointed for 3 years as external adviser on the development of the new database of the Institute and for the operation of the computer system of the General Administration.

* Br. Aloisio Kuhn, translator into Portuguese for one year, residing in his home province.

* Br. Landelino Ortego, director of the ongoing formation program "Amanecer" (3rd Age in Spanish and Portuguese) as from August 2013.

* International Economic Affairs Council: Br. Víctor Preciado (Economie General, co-ordinator); Br. Mario Meuti (FMSI); Br. Alfonso Fernández (Ibérica); Br. Nicholas Banda (Southern Africa) Br. Délcio Afonso Balestrin (Brasil Centro Sul); Mr Juan Martín Cebrián (Sta. María



de los Andes); Mr Rex Cambrey (Melbourne); Br. Roy Deita (assistant to the Econome General).

* International Spiritual Patrimony Commission: Br. André Lanfrey (L'Hermitage, co-ordinator); Br. Demostenes Abing Calabria (East Asia); Mrs Heloisa Afonso de Almeida Sousa (Brasil Centro Norte); Br. Michael Green (Sydney); Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún (L'Hermitage); Br. Spiridion Ndanga (East Africa); Br. Patricio Pino (Santa María de los Andes); Br. Michel Morel (L'Hermitage, secretary).

GENERAL HOUSE

Brother Cesar Augusto Rojas C., director of the Secretariat Brothers today, met in the General House on 9 and 10 May with the vocations delegates of the provinces of Europe: Iberica, Mediterranea, Compostela, Hermitage and West Central Europe. The European Vocations Team is a body set up by the European Provincials Conference to promote reflection among brothers and laity on Marist Vocations Ministry, make concrete proposals to teams and youth working on the brother's vocation, be an element of co-ordination and animation for the provincial vocations ministry teams, enable training in accompaniment and the exchange of various materials, activities, and experiences available in the different provinces.

* International Commission on new models of animation, management and government: Br. João Carlos do Prado (Secretariat of Mission, co-ordinator); Mr Marco Cândido (Brasil Centro Sul); Br. Michael Green (Sydney); Br. John Klein (General Council); Br. Víctor Pre-

ciado (Department of Economy General); Br. Gabriel Villa-Real (L'Hermitage).

* Preparatory Commission for the International Marist Mission Assembly: Br. João Carlos do Prado (Secretariat of Mission, co-ordinator); Br. Paul Bhatti

(South Asia); Br. Javier Espinosa (Secretariat of the Laity); Mr Manuel Gómez Cid (Mediterránea); Mrs Mónica Linares (Cruz del Sur); Mr Frank Malloy (Sydney); Mrs Alice Miesnik (USA); Br. Mark Omede (Nigeria); Br. César Rojas (Secretariat Brothers today).



ALGIERS, 8 MAY 1994

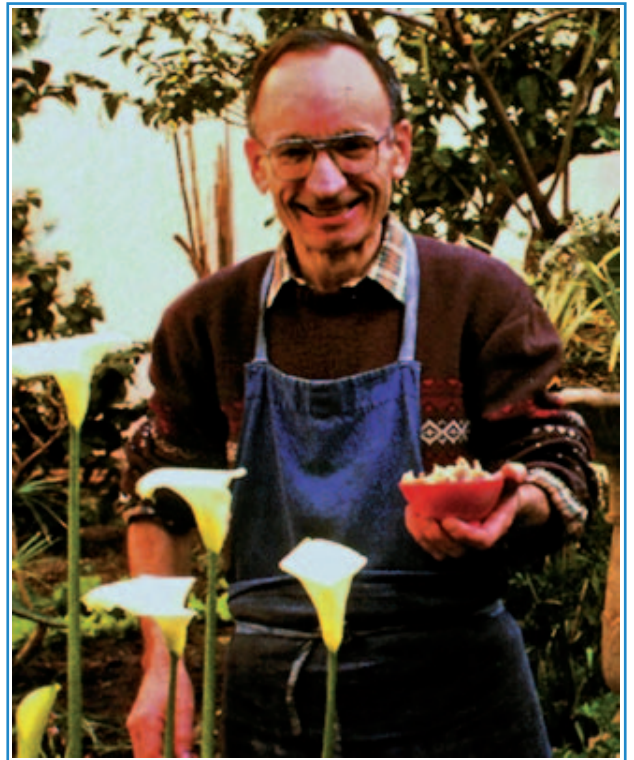
18th anniversary: Brother Henri Vergès

On Friday 8 May 1994, at the beginning of the afternoon, our Brother Henri Vergès and Sister Paul-Hélène were killed in their work place, the library of rue Ben Cheneb, the Casbah quarter, in Algiers.

On 22 May that year, Christian de Chergé, prior of the Trappist monastery of Notre-Dame de l'Atlas at Tibhirine, a friend of Henri, concluded his Pentecost homily, entitled: « The "martyr" of the Holy Spirit » with the following two paragraphs:

"If we think of our brother Henri and our sister Paul-Hélène – and how not to think of them? –, we know that their witness cannot go without what all those who were long beneficiaries of their lives so truly given have to say about it. They came, both of them, with the hearts of the poor, ready to receive, and they confessed to have received much from this crowd of poor people who are mourning them with us, testifying that they owe them much. The Spirit thus made the « bond of peace », and it is He who helps us live their sacrifice as a Pentecost by proclaiming on them and with them « the wonderful works of God ».

I leave the last word to Henri, during a meeting of ourribât, a year ago: « We are all inhabited by the Spirit... God walks with this people, with this religion, but I do not understand (I am like Mary). I am in search of this plan. I let myself be questioned and I question. I unsettle the other a bit and the other unsettles me. It is always necessary to try to find what is positive in each one, and encourage it. To be watchmen, it is also to be watchmen, it is to help people live according to the Spirit."



On this day, the anniversary of the witness (martyr) of our Brother Henri, we give thanks for his life given and, on his example, "in our daily relations, let us openly take the part of love, pardon, communion, against hate, vengeance, violence" (Letter of 4 February 1994, to Fr Christian de Chergé).

N.B. Father Christian was himself kidnapped and killed on 21 May 1996, with six of his brothers. In 2010, the film « Of men and gods », which retraced the spiritual journey of the community of monks, knew a great success.



ON OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY WITH MARY

Guatemala - VII Meeting of the Inter-American Marist Apostolic Spirituality Network

From April 11th to the 17th, our group of 17 brothers and nine lay men and women gathered at the Marist Formation Center, formerly the Marist University Residence, in Guatemala City. Actually this was the seventeenth annual meeting organized by the NETWORK since its inception in Chosica in 1996. In 2006, the Provinces in Canada and the United States joined us. Thus we became the INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK and this was our Seventh Meeting.

Faithful to the guidelines of the XXI General Chapter, as a NETWORK of spirituality in America we have proposed "animating the call to conversion on our spiritual journey with Mary by means of a program promoting reflection and accompaniment." (Horizonte: A Marist Brother, new heart for a new world, Action proposal 1)

As our Meeting progressed in its experiential, participative and high-spirited way, we prayed, reflected and celebrated "our conversion through the eyes of children born into poverty." We did this by means of splendid sojourns (to the Marist School in Chichicastenango where Br. Moisés Cisneros was assassinated and to areas where we could meet directly with the inhabitants of native villages and become familiar with their cultural riches, including the wide variety of their multicolored craftwork). Through presentations about the lives of children and young people in our own countries as well as true stories of vulnerable children that we condensed in a Booklet, we have been deeply moved and motivated to become much more involved in their midst.

From day one, we were accompanied by a cross with the white linen shroud



of the Resurrection. This enabled us to contemplate Christ crucified in each poor and vulnerable child and young person that we met. And also the risen Christ, present in so many current and newly emerging signs of hope and life that we see sprouting up but which are in need of rich soil to nurture them and produce the fruits of the Resurrection. Becoming involved with the boys and girls and the brothers who are working in these poverty-stricken areas, and witnessing the work being done by the Little Sisters of Champagnat and some

lay women whom we met, we have seen and felt evidence of the Resurrection. Every day we adorned the cross with various symbols that summarized the experiences that we were living. During the celebration of the Eucharist on our last day together, we placed our ID photos on the cross to express our resolve to take personal steps toward conversion and humility and to have our provincial structures promote and encourage an incarnate spirituality, one committed to our being true prophets in our societies.



Perpetual Profession of Br. Edson Rissi

On 6 May, after a vocational journey of some fourteen years, Brother Edson Rissi made his Final Profession in Serafina Corrêa, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Br. Edson offers a challenging thought to others, particularly the youth of our time: "It's worth dedicating oneself to noble causes. It's worth it to seek not only our own well-being, but also the happiness of others."



TO HEAR GOD WHERE LIFE IS CALLING OUT

II Seminar of Religious Brothers of Latin American

The Latin American Conference of Religious (CLAR) organized the II Seminar of Religious Brothers from 22 to 24 March. The meeting was held in Manaus and involved the participation of many Marist Brothers. The theme was "Religious Brothers, identity and leadership". The general objective was to further reflection on the specific identity and mission of Religious Brothers in the Church and in Latin American and Caribbean society.

Below we reproduce the final message of those taking part in the seminar.

Called together by the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious, we have come from the most diverse places and national situations of the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean and from the various missions of the Religious Life.

Following up on the I Seminar in Lima (March 2009), we deepen our reflection on the specific identity and mission of Religious Brothers in the Church and in the societies of Latin America and the Caribbean. We are Brothers by vocation and mission; this is our experience and our conviction.

Primarily, we are beginning to grasp the understanding of the concrete REALITY in which we live: the Region of Amazonía which is a concrete image of the situation where life is crying out and where our Religious Life sees its ideals taking shape. Thus, we have a global view of situation of this region, the countries that comprise it, the diversity of its peoples, its ethnic groups, its visions.

(...)

We share then in groups our experiences as Religious Brothers where life is crying out, sensing the reality, the sufferings and the yearnings of the people with whom we live.

In the same context, we did a reflection on "being man, being woman: a socio-anthropological analysis". This allowed us to look



at ourselves and think about the attitudes and contributions of our lives, as men, in the real world in which we live. So masculinity becomes the most precious gift God gives us to serve this world as brothers.

(...)

Conscious of our proper mission as Brothers in Latin America and the Caribbean, we wish to proclaim that our commitments are firmly rooted in Jesus of Nazareth, this person, this brother of ours on whom we seek to center our

lives. To do so, we commit ourselves:

* In our communities of Religious Life, to exercise leadership as Brothers, especially in service, and to promote much more human and fraternal communities.

* In our ecclesial mission, to form new types of leadership in the mission of the Church, favouring greater levels of participation, and moving towards a new way of relating with others, encouraging a more fraternal Church.

* In our social mission, to find responses of presence and support in the face of situations of conflict, and to be witnesses to a new form of relationship: the brotherhood proper to our vocation.

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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