

CHILD RIGHTS

FMSI child rights training workshop for "link" persons

FMSI's training workshop on Child Rights for the "link" persons started on Monday 21 May. These are the contact people for FMSI in Marist Provinces around the world, with a key role in promoting the rights of children through advocacy efforts in their home countries. The workshop is held mainly in Rome, at the headquarters of the General Administration of the Marist Brothers, up until the 2nd of June.

The facilitators of the program are:

Br Jim Jolley, fms, Director of Advocacy and Training for FMSI, Geneva;
 Br Manel Mendoza, fms, Advocacy Officer for FMSI, Geneva;
 Br Vicente Falqueto, fms, Advocacy Officer for FMSI, Geneva.

Another two outstanding speakers are participating: Laura Baldassarre, advocacy officer of UNICEF Italy, and Gabriella Lay, who shares her long term experience with ILO (International Labour Organization) focusing on child labour.



32 participants from 28 Marist Administrative Units and organizations worldwide attend the workshop.

You can read other information about the workshop in www.fmsi-onlus.org



GENERAL HOUSE

The General Council is at Campinas, Brasil, where it held an Enlarged General Council with the Regions of « Cono Sur » and Brasil from 23 to 26 May. During this period, the General Council met the Provincials and Councillors of the 5 Provinces and 2 Districts who represent the Marist presence in the two Regions.

From 16 to 21 May, a group of 8 lay persons and 4 brothers working in the General Administration made a pilgrimage to the sources of the Institute. It was a marvellous opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of the places where the Institute's charism was born.

VOCACIONAL ANIMATION IN THE AD GENTES SECTOR

Come and See 2012

Come and See!" was the answer Jesus gave to two young men who wanted to know where he lived. To young people in Bangladesh wishing and willing to join us, we gave the same answer: "Come and See!" We had a Come and See programme from 11th April to 18th April. Fourteen candidates were in attendance.

The following topics were presented to them: What is Vocation, Vocation and Motivation, What is Prayer, Personal experience as a Religious, Marriage as a vocation, Our Catholic Faith, History of the Church in Bangladesh, Mary and Our Founder St. Marcellin. Among those who presented the above topics were the Vicar General of the Diocese, two Taize Brothers, two Priests and three Sale-



sian Sisters. Due to language limitations, two of our Marist Brothers gave talks on Mary (Br. Marti) and St. Marcellin our Founder (Br. Eugenio).

The rest of us showed our affective and effective Marist Presence in leading the prayers in Bangla (Br. Vigilio), teaching Common prayers (Br. Mark), teaching

English songs (Br. George) and taking pictures (Br. Hilario). We ate, washed plates and did house chores together with them. This is what touched them most. They were inspired and edified seeing us eating with them and doing house chores together. Our Simple Life is what many of them gave as the main reason for their continued desire to become Marist Brothers. They want to share our Multicultural Marist Life as evidenced by our being 6 Brothers from all the five continents: Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania. This is what they "Came and Saw", our Marist Community

Life characterized by Internationality and simplicity - a new reality they want to be part of.



Meeting of media professionals in the Province of Brazil Centro-Norte

The Province organised a meeting of media professionals in Brazlândia, Federal District, on 26 and 27 April. Participants came from Colleges, the Instituto Marista de Solidariedade and the Instituto Marista de Assistência Social.

With theme, "A Culture of Communicating: Sign of Unity in the Province", the event aimed aimed at forming participants in carrying out the their role as facilitators, and

in deepening their understanding of the Province's Plan for Communications, in the context of the educational, social and pastoral aims of the Province.

The meeting formed part of the Plan for Communication for the Marist Province of Brazil Centro-Norte launched on 7 March 2012. The Plan aims at providing guidance and expertise to media personnel in the Province.



LOOKING AHEAD IN NEW ZEALAND

Workshop on the future of the mission

Br David McDonald, Provincial, invited Brothers in the New Zealand sector of the Province to assemble at Sacred Heart College, Auckland, for a 2-day workshop on the future of the mission in New Zealand, April 19-20. 25 Brothers worked in groups of 5 over the two days – the familiar “round table” approach so much favoured in our Marist gatherings of recent years.

The first session was devoted to reflecting on our life as Marists up until this year. Looking back. Questions were considered at the personal level, then table, then recorded for all to read. Such issues as personal highlights, inspiring Brothers (individually and as leaders), qualities exhibited by these men, personal satisfaction as a Brother today.

Then we looked at today. Using Br Emili’s recent circular, “He Gave Us the Name of Mary”, group work was carried out on our current fragility here in NZ and our response to this. Emerging here was the recognition of the importance of the developing movement of Champagnat Marists / Lay Partners.

Interestingly, a group of Champagnat Marists were meeting at Sacred Heart at the same time, discerning their identity and role in the life of the Province.

The next session had us looking ahead, with each Brother being asked to consider his vision of his role post-2012. Included in this was his role in ministry, in the promotion of the charism and even in Marist leadership. The concept



of leadership was extended beyond that of corporate leadership, as in Provincial Council and suchlike, to include that of personal responsibility within and beyond the community.

Br David challenged the group, as individuals, to acknowledge the importance of their assuming leadership within the Province. “If you won’t do it, who will? It is up to you.” He asserted that the future of the Province lay with the men gathered around him there. Not with the Provincial and his Council. Hmm, quite a challenge to those inclined to sit back and be dictated to from above. Or to sit back and do nothing. Quietly die.

Perhaps the most salient issue that emerged from the gathering was the importance of the role of Champagnat Marists. The final session of the two days was a “conversation” between the two groups, where, quite informally, members of each group shared their thoughts on the roles of both Brothers and Lay in living a shared Marian spirituality, developing the same call to mission and sharing in ongoing formation.

Br David expressed his view that new ventures are still possible in New Zealand and that such enterprises must involve both Brothers and Champagnat Marists. We may be fewer than before but the fire of Marcellin still burns in the hearts of those who bear the name of Marist, be they Brother or Lay.

A challenging and inspiring two days!

RETURN TO THE SOURCES

Managers of the works of the Province of « Mediterránea » at l'Hermitage

From 21 to 25 April, the administrators of the works of the Province of Mediterránea joined the members of the Provincial Economic Affairs Commission on a pilgrimage experience to the Hermitage and other Marist places. It was an experience of coming close to our origins, to the figure of the founder and the first brothers.

To make contact with our origins in order to drink directly from the sources of our spirituality, we formed a group of 35, brothers and laity, from the colleges and works of the Province (Spain, Italy and Lebanon) and we relied on the accompaniment of Br Fernando Hinojal and his knowledgeable explanations, and the presence of the novitiate community of Seville.



SRI LANKA

The vocation and the role of the lay partners

The lay partners of the Marist Brothers in Sri Lanka had a special encounter at the Marcellin Nivasa in March to add new spirit to their role.

Bro. Joseph Peiris and the three members who took part in the Asian regional seminar explained very clearly the vocation and the main role of the lay partners. After a brief life sharing the members discussed as to how they should proceed. A plan of action was drawn. There was a

proposal to inform the Brothers in India and Pakistan to look into the ways of establishing the vocation of lay partners in their own sectors. Mr. Chanka Siymbalapitiya was named as the convener of the group.

Following are some of the activities suggested by the group: 1. To meet once in two months. 2. To take part in the monthly recollection of the brothers to be held in November. 3. During an annual gathering of the Brothers, to have a secession to share the views of both Brothers and lay partners regarding the special call of the lay partners. 4. To invite Brothers to share with lay partners their experiences, life and the spirit of Champagnat.

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