

LOOKING FOR NEW WAYS OF LIVING COMMUNITY TODAY

Course for community animators II – L'Escorial

Reln response to the call of the General Council, 20 Portuguese- or Spanish-speaking brothers from 12 Provinces and 2 Districts, began the second course for community animators at San Lorenzo de L'Escorial on 26 April.

As Brother Emili Turú, presenting the course, reminded the participants, the objective is:

« In union with the General Council, to look for new ways of living community today in the Institute. »

The animation and accompaniment of the group is provided by the formators of the Marist Centre of L'Escorial, Brothers Angel Medina, of the District of Paraguay and Joacé Pinheiro, of the Province of Brésil Centre Nord. In collaboration with the General Council and the formation team of the Marist Centre at Manziana,



they have drawn up this formation programme which continues until 23 June. It includes an international community experience with all the participants from the two centres to take place at the Hermitage, as well as a visit to the FMSI office in Geneva.

The aim of the first few days of our experience was to create a community. Having exercises in common, times for relaxation, visits of the surrounding area were the

GENERAL HOUSE

The Brother Councilors return to the General House after the Enlarged General Council with the Provinces and Districts of Brasil and Cono Sur.

The brothers and laity from the various parts of the Marist world taking part in the "FMSI Workshop on the rights of the child for contact persons" have spent time in Geneva to broaden their experience, and returned on Wednesday to continue their formation to 2 June.

Br Javier Espinosa is in Canada from May 29 to 6 June for the Enlarged Secretariat of the Laity.

From 31 May to 1 June, there is a meeting of the Commission for the General Conference, composed of Brothers Joe Mc Kee, Ernesto Sanchez, Michael De Waas, Emili Turu and Oscar Martin Vicario.

means helping us become acquainted with each other. A visit to the city of Avila in the footsteps of Saint Teresa and sharing with the elderly brothers of the community of Notre-Dame de la Roca in Villalba were two very interesting moments at the beginning of our experience.

The entire first week of the course was animated by Brothers Emili Turú, Superior General, Josep María Soteras, Councillor General, and César Rojas, Director of the Secretariat Brothers today, working from the bases of spirituality and fraternal dialogue.

We, the Brothers taking part in the course, feel ourselves « called from the various situations of the Marist world to set out and live an experience of formation and brotherhood, in order to promote a new way of being brother and to cause new styles of community to flourish in the Institute. »



SECOND MARIST COMMUNITY ANIMATORS COURSE AT MANZIANA

Course in English

On Wednesday 25th April twenty two Brothers commenced their journey on the second Community Animators Course to be held this year at Manziana. A further nineteen Brothers also met at Escorial in Spain for the same course. In a number of ways this is somewhat of a Pentecost experience for all of us.

To begin with we come from many lands. In fact currently at Manziana there is at least one representative from each continent:

Africa: Cameroon, D.R. Congo; Kenya; Nigeria; Rwanda;

Asia: Cambodia, India, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam

Europe: Germany;

Oceania: Australia, Bougainville, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea;

America: United States.

Unlike the first Pentecost recounted in Acts, we at least speak one language here, although English is not the first language of every participant.

The renewal of the disciples and those who formed the early church was due to the spirit enlivening them. That is much

of our task over the coming two months. To be animated by that same Spirit, and to share that with our confrères back in our respective Provinces upon return.

Our course Animators who journey with us are an important part of the experience and themselves help make up

the rich tapestry of Brothers living and learning here.

Barry Burns (N.Z.), Antoine Kazindu (Rwanda) lead the course with the help of our General Councilors, including Emili, and further presenters and Animators.

Anthony Hunt (Australia) is the Ecologue, and our Chaplain, Mokesh Morar (South Africa) complete our team.

While these are early days, we have already commenced our learning, and the community is melding well.

We now look forward to the next two months and what we will learn.



“HERMITAGE” EXPERIENCE

General Administration – Rome: 8 laity 4 Brothers

On 16 May, a group of laity and brothers of the General Administration travelled to L’Hermitage with the objective of deepening their knowledge of Saint Marcellin, and better understanding his person and Marist spirituality. Since the experience, the group has felt that walking, touching, smelling, feeling these places is a little like the experience recorded in Mk 9:2 “on a high mountain, in a place apart, themselves alone”. I have also to mention that in these places one breathes in the presence of Mary in images, memories... The group recognizes that now it is our turn to follow the Marian attitude of: “preserving all these things in her heart”. (Lk 2:51)

The five days of our stay at L’Hermitage were times full of meetings, visits, walks, prayers and, above all, discovering the spirituality which pervades the Marist places. It has been a unique opportunity to touch the Marist charism at its roots, to know where the ideal and dream of Saint Marcellin was born, to see how St Marcellin made a step towards the humanization announced by Jesus of Nazareth (the Kingdom of God). As well, the group found very clear, from the beginning, that there each one encountered what he/she had previously carried in the heart.

I have to say that in the evaluation it was mentioned that there had been no times of strong emotion, but we felt the joy of being together, of savouring each event, each visit, each encounter, each smile... and all under the sign of nature. “How good it is and sweet when brothers live as one” (Psalm 133). In any relationship, there is first the sharing of the normality of life and then a deeper sharing of what one is. Things cannot be forced.



A symbol of this the “table” of the house at La Valla, this table made us feel the simplicity and the being together, as natural as the meal with a friend and feeling that something floods your heart and makes you feel special, different, in communion.

Special mention has to be made of the marvelous welcome on the part of the Communities of L’Hermitage, La Valla and Rosey.

If someone asks what was the most significant experience for the group, I would say personally, listening to the majority, “the walking”. Yes, the walking, as in life itself. During those days we travelled many kilometres on foot, pure and hard tramping: Marlies – Le Rosey, La Valla – L’Hermitage, Maissonnettes – L’Hermitage, Le Rosey – L’Hermitage. The contact with nature, with one’s travelling companion, times of walking alone, help one to encounter oneself, others, and the “the most basic Foundation of real-

ity” (God).

I would like to underline the day of the Champagnat Trail. I bore with them the effort shared to walk the 32 kilometres among the hills. Hope and spirit did not falter throughout the journey. The various personal rhythms combined in the rhythm of the group. A day to connect with the “Champagnat” experience (the journey he made to these places in fulfillment of his priestly ministry...); “nine hours walking” would mean nothing to one who was full of apostolic zeal. Neither effort or time pose any difficulty for the human group looking towards the same horizon and walking with the same hope of arriving. This experience of walking, between stones and water, climbing up and down, was an opportunity to feel the joy of a goal achieved, with the joy being multiplied for having reached the end in company with the others.

Another significant experience, out-

side the Marist places, was to conclude our pilgrimage with Sunday liturgy at Taizé, a place where many different languages can be heard and the most different cultures combine in welcoming thousands of young people each week. There the creeds become one and the text of Luke in the Acts of the Apostles 2: 17 is fulfilled:



"...I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, And your sons and daughters will prophecy; your young people will see visions..."

In the simplicity of this Marist pilgrimage, I wish to add that it was a lovely experience of laity and brothers, very much in harmony with the spirit of the new relation-

ship of these times. For a few days we could share the joy of being together, our own faith, the family situation, projects for the future, the problems of work, the food preferred or the use of free time. But the experience introduces into the new ways appearing in our Institute, where it is possible to talk about sharing the Marist charism, of journeying together in the complementarity of vocations, of feeling that we realize with others that a Church of communion is possible.

Br Pedro Sánchez de León - Secretary General



MARIST EUROPE

Meeting of the Marist European Conference

The members of the C.E.M. met in Barcelona from 24 - 26th april and discussed plans for the meeting of new communities in europe (august 2012), and the meeting of brothers under 45 years of age (august 2013).

The next meeting will be held in Valladolid from 6 - 8th november, 2012.

During the meeting the brothers were given a guided tour of the Sagrada Familia Basilica by the chief



Brother Maurice Berquet (L'Hermitage) has completed his term of office as president, and Brother Brendan Geary (Europe Centre-Ouest) was elected president for a term of two years.

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architect for the project. The brothers had an opportunity to hear about the construction and design, and to see parts of this extraordinary building which are normally closed to tourists.

