

DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

FMSI - Close of the Workshop on the Rights of the Child for the "contact persons"

After a full session of training and work, the Workshop on the Rights of the Child (FMSI) came to a close on Saturday 2 June around midday, with the presence of Br Emili Turu.

First, Br Jim Jolley spoke a few words, making clear the progress made in the knowledge of the rights contained in the international treaty of the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" (CRC).

Then the Diplomas of participation were presented by our Superior General. Each one was also given a pen-drive with the course material and a souvenir.

Br Emili then addressed some closing words to those present. He alluded to his closing words at the General Chapter: "to be experts in evangelization. And I would add



also: to be experts in the defense of the rights of children and young people. I hope that in eight years, when we look back, we can say that the Institute has taken some very significant steps in this direction". In fact, this course, like the one conducted for the Provincials and a delegate from each province in March, the "International Seminar on the Protection of the Child", are without doubt very concrete steps in

GENERAL HOUSE

The activities of the June plenary session have commenced. Last week we celebrated the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat with the presence of all the branches of the Marist Family.

The Superior General made his visitation of the community, with the General Councillors Josep Maria Soteras, Eugene Kabanguka, and Michael De Waas.

On 7 June, Br Michael de Waas returned to Sri Lanka, where he took part in a meeting of the World Council of Churches. As for Br John Klein, he returned to the General House on 10 June.

this direction.

He went on to refer to his circular, to the icons used: the Visitation, icon of service, Pentecost, icon of communion, the Annunciation, icon of interiority. He invited them to be the Marian face in the Church. May the Church through its attitude of service to the little ones reflect the face of Mary.

He encouraged them to live their profession of "educator" or of "social service" as a vocation, to put into

practice what the word profession means.

Finally, Br Emili, as a symbol of gratitude for all the work achieved and the meaning the Geneva community has for the Institute, in working for the Rights of Children at the international level, presented a ceramic representing the Pentecost icon used in the circular "He gave us the name of Mary". All present are like this circle presided over by Mary, forming communion, and receiving the Holy Spirit. Then the three brothers, Jim Jolley,

Manel Mendoza and Vicente Spssao Falqueto came forward to receive the gift.

In this way, simple but full of meaning and depth, the course came to an end. Thus was accomplished one of the objectives of the "Fundazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale" (FMSI), to offer awareness programs and training courses. To know the Convention of the Rights of the Child better and put it into practice.



EUROPEAN VOCATIONS TEAM

The great satisfaction of living as Marists of Champagnat

The European Vocations Team (EVE) held its evaluation meeting on 9 and 10 May in Rome. Representatives of the vocations animation teams of each administrative unit of our Region of Europe took part.

There were two main objectives for the meeting: on the one hand, to evaluate all the initiatives planned for this course and hence to begin to get a glimpse of the way to continue in September 2012; on the other, to facilitate a time for living together to celebrate Life in the Mission that unites us in this service.

We highlight the content of the meetings: evaluation of the Youth Easter in Roxos; a sharing on Chapter 2 of the document "Evangelizers in the midst of youth" (an interesting reflection to do from the perspective of vocations animation); management with respect to the comic

of Goyo on the life of the Founder. Very important, also, was the sharing on formation in accompaniment and discernment, which was emphasized by the realization already of Level 1 of



the three levels of the EVE programme; the posting on the part of practically all on the web www.buscoalgomas.com; the evaluation and analysis of the vocations web and its enrichment

as an instrument for the animation of vocations.

The meeting also surfaced some very interesting proposals of pastoral activities in line with vocations animation for the coming course.

Two final details. Br Emili Turú, Superior General, shared a short time with the group and encouraged us to live our service full of hope, so as to have the feeling of working to relate to others the great satisfaction we have in living as Marists of Champagnat.

From our Marist province of Mediterranea, D. José Antonio Rosa, member of the Provincial Vocations Animation Team, took the place of Br Juan Carlos, provincial co-ordinator of vocations animation, who is at present following a formation course at El Escorial.



10 YEARS ON THE ROAD OF THE MARIST COMMUNITIES OF CUBA

Intercommunity meeting Habana-Cienfuegos

On the occasion of the visit of Br Provincial and his Council to the Brothers of Cuba on 7 May, we came together for a sharing on our Marist presence in this land. The meeting had been prepared for by a document describing our journey over the last 10 years. Sharing on the historical precedents, national and ecclesial context, current presence of Marist life, the profile of the brother, Marist community and mission in Cuba, reflection on our poverty as religious, vocations ministry and Marist formation.

We were able to note the mysterious and efficacious action of God in the history of our journeying in Cuba since 8 August 2001, at the service of the Cuban Church and people. Our desire is to continue to spread the Good News of Jesus and his message of the Reign of God from a perspective of littleness and humility, but full of hope.

Numerous are the challenges we have to face but we hope that Jesus, Master



of Life and History, will continue to be our companion on the journey.

May Mary of the « Caridad del Cobre », patroness of the Cuban people, continue to encourage our march ; she is the one who will continue to be our ordinary resource.



PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA

Chosen the name of our new province

Is with great pleasure we announce that the name of our new province is the Province of Australia. The New Province Facilitation Group was grateful to receive the many submissions and indications of preferences which were fed to the Sydney and Melbourne Provincial Councils and in turn to the Superior General and his Council. Being 'named'

will certainly help us on our planning efforts on the journey towards the inauguration of the Province at the end of this year. There'll be celebrations in the cities of Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne to give thanks for and mark the end of the Melbourne and Sydney Provinces as we have known them.



THE ANIMATION OF VOCATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUTH

UMBRASIL arranges a Meeting for Animators of Vocations

Animation of vocations in the context of youth was the theme guiding reflections and activities at the National Meeting of Animation of Vocations, held in Campinas, SP from 23 to 27 April. Promoted by UMBRASIL, the event brought together some 60 participants : brothers and lay people from all the Provinces of Marist Brasil, the District of Amazonia and the Province of « Norandina »

The activities on the situations of young people were carried out with the collaboration of Mme Carmem Lucia Teixeira, Licentiate in Social Sciences, a researcher in the field of youth, who works also with other organisations in Brasil and Latin America. The role of the vocations animator was dealt with by the philosopher, writer, and Doctor of Theology, José Lisboa Moreira de Oliveira, who presented a methodological proposal for the 'vocational' itinerary and exchanged with the group about the mission of the vocations animator today.

Among the participants was also the Director of the Secretariat Brothers today, the Columbian Brother César Augusto Rojas, who approached the topic from the vision of the Institute. Apart from the conferences and presentations, the programme envisaged the study and production of Guidelines for the Animation of Vocations in Marist Brasil, directed by João Luis Fedel and Br Alexandre Lobo.

The Biblical passage which marked this year's edition was: « Go and wash yourself in the pool of Siloe.



So the blind man went and washed himself, and came back with his sight restored » (Jn 9 : 7), illustrating the experience lived by the participants. The group entered deeply into the topics discussed during the five days of the meeting and the result was a change of outlook. Another outlook on youth, another outlook on self starting from the realities which the animation of vocations discovers in the current situation. Now, the perspective in each Province having been outlined, the work continues in parallel with the

construction of the Guidelines, which should be ready in 2013.



Deceased Brothers

- 11/06/2012:** Dante Luiz Brugalli - Rio Grande do Sul
- 08/06/2012:** Richard Chabot - Canada
- 05/06/2012:** Alfano Ferrua - Méditerranée
- 02/06/2012:** Fernand Chappat - L'Hermitage
- 31/05/2012:** Bernward (Johannes) Gerlitzki - Europe Centre-Ouest / West Central Europe
- 24/05/2012:** Jean Thoué - L'Hermitage
- 22/05/2012:** Antonio Tejada Ramos - México Central

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