

MEETING OF CARDINAL JOÃO BRAZ DE AVIZ WITH THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Towards a better understanding of religious life from our being Brothers and Marists

Cardinal João Braz de Aviz is a Brazilian and currently Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. On 27 June, at 11 am, he arrived at the General House for a meeting with the General Council. Afterwards, he celebrated a Eucharist for all in the house, brothers and laity, and then joined us for lunch, in all simplicity.

The Cardinal wanted Br Emili Turú and his Council to ask him questions and to express to him their point of view. Taking their inspiration from the last General Chapter, the brothers presented their vision of the life of a Marist Brother and his mission in the Church, stressing the way of witnessing to the Marial face of the Church, through the figure of Mary and starting from the approach of Fr Champagnat.

For his part, the Cardinal expressed the wish for a hierarchy intending to be simple and accessible, the wish for a change in forms and attitudes.

He insisted on the fact that the present vision of man, his anthropology, must start from a theologi-



cal trinitarian vision of God, who is love, in which Mary is like a definition of God but from the side of the creature. The Trinitarian God is defined as one who is one and diverse. Man must know how to achieve unity and diversity in the Church and in the world. Balance between unity and diversity : that is what sometimes causes problems.

Cardinal Braz de Aviz appreciated the intuition of the mystery of God on the part of Fr Champagnat, which passes through the Incarnation, the Cross and the Eucharist. As a child of God, I am called to follow the same way of God in Jesus. He explained each of these aspects on the basis of the love of God who makes himself little.

He also insisted on the charismatic mission of Mary, who had no « authority », but without whom the Church would not exist. Then he offered a rereading of the three vows proper to religious. The charism and the priesthood are only useful in the measure that they are at the service of man.

UMBRASIL: 4TH MARIST EDUCATION CONGRESS

Horizons in the education of children and youth

With the aim of gathering together the educators and managers of education of Marist Brasil and to facilitate integration with other educational networks in the process of reflecting on and updating in topics and challenges of contemporary education, UMBRASIL will hold the 4th Marist Congress of Education - International Edition, on the theme Space-time and horizons in the education of children and youth.

This congress will be held at 'Anhembi Park – Congress and Convention Centre', in **São Paulo, from 17 to 20 July.**

Aimed especially at Marist teachers and directors, the 4th Marist Education Conference – International Edition will facilitate dialogue and the appropriation of concepts relating to the education of today's children and young people, in order to propose policies and practices which promote the right to quality education. It is hoped to assemble 2,600 participants, 1,250 of

them teachers of the Marist Institution, and the others from other confessional networks, private and public.



Objectives

The general objective is to facilitate, for teachers and directors of the establishments, dialogue as well as the appropriation of concepts relating to the education of the children and youth of today, for the purpose of proposing policies and practices which promote the right to quality education. Some specific objectives are:

- * To analyse the problems, challenges and opportunities of the different educational scenarios for children and youth, in order to reorganize educational space-time;
- * To stimulate the (re)construction of knowledge and practices for the reinforcement of a culture of life that is durable and in solidarity;
- * To reflect on the implications of educational policies in the networks dedicated to education;
- * To analyse the relationship between the new technologies of information and

communication, educational management and processes;

- * To exchange about the contributions from educational theories and other sciences in the conception of the school, the subject and the school course;
- * To harmonise spirituality, inter-religious dialogue, ecumenism and mysticism as fundamental elements of the formation process for the subjects of education;
- * To recognize the students as subjects with rights, agents in the different space-times of education.

Main conferences

1. Opening conference: The education of children and youth today.
2. Children's rights and education.
3. Approaches of Science, Politics and Spirituality for education today.
4. Emerging technologies and education: conceptions and impacts.
5. Closing conference: Culture as educational principle. La metodología

del evento prevé asimismo foros de experiencias, momentos de espiritualidad y una vasta programación cultural.

Seminars

1. Relations family/school
2. Science and faith
3. Intermediate teaching: new perspectives and challenges
4. Literacy and childhood education
5. Literature for children and youth: formation of the reader
6. Emerging educational spaces, mediation and multiple languages
7. Culture of life and durability
8. Neuroscience and education

The methodology of the Congress also provides for forums of experiences, times for spirituality and a vast cultural programme.

Other details:

www.congressomarista.com.br NM

MARVELOUS COMPANIONS

End of the Second Course for Community Animators in Manziana

We, the 22 Brothers participating at the second edition of the Course for Community Animators in Manziana have now completed the 8 weeks program here at Manziana. It was all Good News and in fact a new Pentecost for us in many ways. As we look back, we see how the Lord has guided us all through and how Our Good mother has journeyed with us through the intervention of various resource persons. A great sense of gratitude and hope animate each and every one of us.

We arrived at Manziana on Wednesday the 25th of May. This was in response to the invitation of our Superiors to participate in the course for Community Animators organized by the Superior General and his council. We received a warm welcome from the members of the Manziana community and staff. With a lot of joy, enthusiasm and at the same time curiosity we embarked on this journey of learning and being Community Animators as well as searching for "new ways of being brother and community" today. A great sense of family spirit characterized our ordinary daily activities. Our daily Eucharistic celebration and prayer were marked by simplicity and creativity given that the community members came from different cultural backgrounds. The first few days were spent around the table, telling and listening to our personal live

stories and experiences with the objective of getting to know one another. Gradually we grew into our knowledge of one another and became marvelous companions around the table.



The first four weeks of this pilgrimage were dedicated to the clarification of our role as Community Animators and equipping us with skills, resources and tools that can help us undertake this task in our various Administrative units. As we leave Manziana our sincere gratitude goes to:

- * Bro Emili Turu and the General Councilors who spent the first week with us orienting and deepening our understanding of the fundamental call of the 21st General Chapter which in fact was the cornerstone of this course.
- * Sr Christine Anderson FCJ and Jim Christie SJ who animated the second week with insights on Leadership in service of my Brothers around the table.

* Bro Brendan Geary FMS, provincial of the Marist Province of Europe Centre-West who generously fed us with knowledge on Transitions and Sexual Dynamics in Ministry.

* Our marvelous companion Bro Sean Sammon himself. It is amazing to know what we received from Sean with regards to community life. Sean did not only share his knowledge with us but went as far as cooking and serving all of us at table. What a privilege we had. What a marvelous companion Sean is.

We think the climax of our Pentecost experience was the time we spent at the

Hermitage between the 1st and the 9th of June. Here we were helped to go into a deeper experience of our origins- Fr Champagnat and our first Brothers and the Marist places. The members of the Hermitage community, Bro André Landfrey and Bro Alain Delorme played a significant role in this experience.

Returning to Manziana on the 10th of June, we had a week of syntheses followed by a three day retreat. We leave Manziana with a lot of enthusiasm and determination knowing that we are not alone on this pilgrimage; our Good Mother, Fr Champagnat and our first Brothers are journeying with us.

Brother Pascal Funsal
23rd June 2012

THE POWER OF PRESENCE

United States: Marist Youth 2012

Attending a Marist school provides students with a sense of service, simplicity, family and friendship. These ideals, while inspiring, are more-so when they can be seen and felt. To truly unite the vision of St. Marcellin Champagnat with the formation of the individual, the Marist Brothers began Marist Youth, a program dedicated to introducing students, faculty and staff of Marist schools to the mission of Champagnat on a much deeper level. The program launched in 2001 and has since grown into a international gathering of students from Marist Schools all across Canada, Mexico and the United States. The major event is a wonderful extension of the Marist Youth clubs that exist within each Marist School. By participating in this program throughout the year, students are able to further incorporate Marist heritage and values into their lives both in school and at home. This year, the gathering took place over Memorial Day weekend at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. Roughly 300 students from Marist schools came together to learn and grow together as one family in their Marist faith.

2012's theme "Power of Presence" commemorated 125 years of Marist Brothers in the United States, as well as shared with students, faculty and staff what it means to be Catholic and Marist in today's world. This was achieved through workshop presentations by the Marist Brothers in addition to discussion and reflection groups, social and community building events as well as various games and activities. Part of the program also



included an evening prayer service at the final resting place of many important Marist Brothers, including Br. Zephiriny. In an inspirational prayer service on Saturday evening, the names of 48 Brothers were read aloud and a candle was lit for each one. Part of the weekend involved a dose of nostalgia too, as the history of all the Marist schools represented at the gathering were on display in a special presentation on the Marist College campus.

In a press release, U.S. Provincial Br. Ben Consigli said, "It was a beautiful weekend at Marist College – we couldn't be more thrilled. We were blessed to have the opportunity to celebrate our 125-year U.S. heritage with such a diverse population of Marist youth in attendance." There

is indeed power in the numbers as the Marist Brothers were encouraged by the charism shone by all those in attendance – particularly the students who were given groups of their own peers to lead. Serving as role models, these leaders were able to relate their experiences in Marist faith to other students in hopes that they can do the same for others in the coming years. Br. Dominick Pujia, heavily involved in the planning of this event, observed comments from one student. "One young person told me, 'I never realized my school was part of a bigger reality called Marist. I am ready to work to carry this forward.' If our young people moved beyond the confines of their particular schools and connected with a greater reality, one which reaches across this nation and the world, then the Marist Youth Gathering was a rousing success." Br. Dominick believes the participating students, as well as many others in Marist schools, are ready to live the Marist vision today and carry it forward for future generations to come.

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