

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF MARIST HIGHER EDUCATION

New site for Marist Higher Education

The International Marist Network of Institutions of Higher Education is formed of the collection of the works of mission in which the brothers and lay people of the different Provinces and Districts of the Institute are working. Each Marist Institution of Higher Education is a node of the network, with multidirectional connections in interinstitutional and unidirectional communication, linked to a nucleus which co-ordinates the specific tasks and functions assumed collectively.

The Network was launched in 2004, when Brothers Emili Turú (Councilor General) and Juan Miguel Anaya (Secretary of the Mission Commission), of the General Government's Secretariat of Mission, organised the 1st Meeting of the Representatives of Marist Institutes of Higher Education, with the support of the Catholic Pontifical University of Paraná (PUCPR), at Curitiba, Brasil. The aim of the Meeting was to reflect on the role of the Institutions of Higher Education in the context of the Marist Mission, to initiate a process of mutual acquaintance and to study the possibility of future collaboration.

Since 2004, the Marist Institutions have been meeting every two years. In our day, organised into the « International Marist Network for Higher



Education », they have their own statutes and a Committee of Co-ordination. From 8 to 13 October 2012, the 5th International Meeting of the Network will be held in Mexico.

This is the context in which the Communications Department of the General Administration, with the support of the Secretariat of Mission and the Executive Committee of the Network, has created a web site which is intended to make the Marist mission in Higher Education known and promote knowledge and exchange between the Marist Institutes and then between the latter and the other Marist mission works.

The site address is : <http://www.champagnat.org/edu/>. Everyone is invited to visit it and become familiar with it. It will be an important instrument of communication and of integration of the Marist mission and strengthen the International Marist Network of Higher Education.

WE ARE NO LONGER BROTHERS BUT WE DO NOT STOP BEING MARISTS !

II Meeting of former Marist Brothers of El Salvador

I would like to share the experience of the II Meeting of former Marist Brothers living in El Salvador. I live in Guatemala, but I had the great chance of being present at their meeting.

There were about 20 former Brothers, of different generations, from the 1960s to our day ... There were people of all ages, accompanied by their wives.



This took place on 10 June, feast of Corpus Christi. We began with the Eucharist at 8 o'clock, in the chapel of the school « San Alfonso », with the people who take part in this celebration each Sunday.

We then went to the Hermitage – as the meeting room in the school building is called – and the “spectacle” began: embraces, greetings, cries of joy or surprise, enquiries about so and so, etc. ...

Br Hipólito Pérez made us welcome and co-ordinated the presentation of those taking part. One curious detail : someone, having lived many years with another, finally learned that the latter’s family name was « Napoléon » ... We also did a photographic tour of the different communities of the Province.

Br José A. Baños introduced us to the document Water from the Rock, which describes Marist spirituality.

We had a break and a snack ... It was especially a sharing in group ; people asked for news of so and so ... he has died ... ; someone else is living in ... and working at ... We did

not notice the time pass ! We were already being called to the next meeting.

Br Roberto Linares animated a little but very rich dynamic in little groups, well distributed, for further life sharing : a very profound presentation, an exchange about the aspects of the Marist life each one is living daily now, how each felt about sharing his life with someone who had been a Marist Brother, etc. And again we ran out of time.

Br Provincial took the floor again to share some news of the Institute, the Province, some concerns too ; the possibility, for example, of holding next year’s meeting at Los Cóbano ... The gathering ended with the singing of the Salve Regina. And then we went on to share a good meal and some pleasant conviviality.

Some Brothers had come from other communities ; it was good to see Brothers rediscovering former Brothers with whom they had shared important and sometimes difficult moments at a time in their lives. We celebrated the joy of meeting.

There is no doubt :we are no longer Brothers, but we will never cease being Marists !



Puerto Rico

Towards the end of the month of May 2012 Leadership School I was held for the young people who participate in the REMAR group (blue and yellow travesías) from the two Marist schools in Puerto Rico--Guaynabo and Manatí. Twenty-three young people participated, accompanied by a group of seven timoneles and four Brothers.

The peaceful atmosphere of the “Christ the Redeemer” retreat house, located in the town of Aguas Buenas, helped them to reflect, to pray and to encounter Jesus; creating an environment of friendship and living experiences of personal and group growth. The remeros are now prepared to commit themselves as Christian leaders in their daily life. Congratulations to the youth who participated and to their animators.



PROVINCE OF "IBÉRICA"

Provincial forum on identity and vocation of the laity

This is the motto that has accompanied us during the three-day provincial forum on identity and vocation of the Marist laity.

The forum was the endpoint of a process of reflection on the document "Around the same table: The Vocation of Marcellin Champagnat's Marist Laity" that took place in 15 different locations, involving more than 370 people. But it was also an important starting point of a pathway that we see ahead of us, which we brothers and lay people must build together.

That is the reason why brothers and lay people from different parts of the Province - 75 adults and 22 children in total - gathered in this space of encounter, dialogue and shared reflection. There was much anticipation and excitement.

The first day was mainly focused on the vocation, recalling how we approached the Marist charism, sharing our vocation stories in small groups, to find out that we had elements in common. We had to find a symbol that mirrored what we had shared in the group.

We enjoyed a time of sharing experiences with a brother and a Lasallian lay person who helped us perceive other realities that are similar to this journey that we brothers and lay people walk together in the same charism, but which also has its own peculiarities. We also had a moment of presentation of the new lay realities that are emerging in the Marist world, which made us feel part of something bigger. We concluded celebrating the vocation, giving thanks to the Lord for the call we received and inviting us to continue caring for and sharing it. The celebration included a moment of presentation of the symbols expressing the dialogue in the groups in a creative way.



On the second day, we were invited to reflect on several aspects: formation, mission, communion, community and bonding. The five thematic workshops helped us in a very participatory and dynamic way to think how to care for and develop each theme from our personal reality to find answers to our present and future. Later on, based on the conclusions drawn from the workshops, we were asked to perform an exercise to enrich a draft document made from the final syntheses collected by the groups that had worked on the document "Around the same table." There are many challenges for the future: there was much talk about formation, respecting the different personal or local paces to help awaken the call and strengthen the options, generating or changing structures so that brothers and lay people can gather as members of the same family, how to make ourselves visible in our own reality by forming Marist communities of reference; we asked ourselves what kind of sign or public gesture would help express and acknowledge being a lay Marist, form leaders who will accompany lay community experiences ...

The third day was an invitation to fix the challenges that we found out through this forum, both at the local and provincial level. The work was done by areas, more or less close. Despite the peculiarities of each of the areas, there were matching elements, which suggested us that the journey we started with this process has awakened the desire to continue.

The meeting ended with a sending celebration. We listened to parts of the Open Letter at the end of the document that we want to make happen, and received soil and seeds in return, an expression of the fact that we must take care of all this new life that is being born.

We believe that was not just another meeting for several reasons: what we worked on is the essence of our being Marists, the dynamics allowed us to deeply share among brothers and lay people a genuine desire to respond to the invitation by the provincial chapter, that is "something new is possible", in a family, simplicity and proximity spirit.

KUMASI, GHANA

St. Marcellin Champagnat School celebrate Champagnat day



The entire community of St. Marcellin Champagnat School gathered on 16th June 2012 to celebrate the climax of the feast day of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

The four days event which begun on Wednesday 13th June was characterized by several activities such as talks on the life St. Marcellin Champagnat, games, quiz and debate competitions. Pupils were asked to emulate the examples St. Marcellin Champagnat. Like the founder, pupils were to face their learning challenges with confidence and hope.

The headmaster of the school, Mr. Stephen Gerrar thanked the parents for their wonderful contributions to the development of the school and the education of their children. He encouraged them to make it a point to visit the school at least once every term to find out the progress of their children. The headmaster equally appreciated the effort of the

staff whose sacrifices whether great or small have led to our success stories. Mr. Gerrar told the parents that St. Marcellin Champagnat School is committed to providing holistic education to children in Buokrom and its environs. He announced that the school this year has acquired a set of musical instruments including 11 keyboards, 19 Guitars, jazz drums and 2 combos. This move according to the headmaster was part of the schools' strategies to unearth some talents and skills that are buried in our pupils.

In his homily Fr. Joseph Asante praised the effort of the Marist Brothers and their work of evangelization

in Ghana. "Children" he noted "are the most precious member of every society". Fr. Asante called on everyone to do their possible best to them up well. He reminded the public about child rights and encouraged parents to protect their children.

The day also coincided with the 4th graduation ceremony of the school. The ceremony marked the official completion of basic school of some 64 pupils. The P.T.A. of the school reaffirmed their promise made to the graduands a few months ago. According to the executive (PTA) anyone who would make aggregate 6 will receive an amount of GH¢100.00 (51.5464 USD)

During the occasion, prizes were given to deserving pupils. Hard-working and committed staffs were rewarded as well.

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4