

LOVE FOR THE YOUNG, ESPECIALLY THE POOR

Ad gentes: New community in Saen Monorom,
Mondulkiri, Cambodia

The opening of the new community in Saen Monorom, Mondulkiri, Cambodia proved to be challenging for the founding brothers Max, Pedro and Bernhard. Leaving Kampong Cham on 17th of January, they arrived and settled themselves in a Saen Monorom late afternoon of the same day. With no electricity and water supply, they managed to address their needs during those early days, delighting themselves with bare essentials: enjoying what they call a romantic candle light dinner every evening. It took several days before they finally had electricity and water supply.

The renovation and painting of the house, the garden and landscape of their surroundings and the installation of the 500 liter water tank were all the work of our brothers' hands.

Situated in a mountainous area, it was a challenge to cycle through its tracks to reach the market. Our brothers have to do marketing as often considering that they have no fridge for food storage in the community. Thanks to an Australian friend who gave our brothers a small motorbike that helped ease their mobility in the area.



Presently, our brothers are charting their mission directions through series of community meetings. The intention is to set a clear vision for their mission in Mondulkiri in the next 5 years:

"We strive to be apostles for young people,
evangelizing them through our lives and presence among them.

Love for the young, especially the poor,
is the distinguishing characteristic of our mission."

"Evangelizers in the Midst of Youth", 87

THE WORLD OF PARTICLES

Reflection of Br. Diego Zawadzky on FMSI's mission and in the Marist Brothers' Congregation

We are pleased to publish a reflection of Br. Diego Zawadzky on FMSI's mission and in the Marist Brothers' Congregation. Br. Diego is a Marist Brother and lives in Phnom Penh. He was appointed by Mgr. Olivier Schmitthaeusler, the Vicar Apostolic of Phnom Penh, as the Coordinator of the Catholic Church Student Centre project for the next three years starting from September 2011.

Br. Diego met the staff of FMSI office in Geneva during his recent visit to the Marist Community of Meyrin, Switzerland. He also met the staff of the Rome office of the Foundation during the workshop "Safeguarding Children and Young People" (March 21-28), organized by the Marist Institute at the General House.

During the first days of March I visited the Marist Community in Meyrin, Switzerland. Three of its members (out of four) form the staff of FMSI's office in Geneva. FMSI's mission is to carry out the congregational mandate of "become experts and advocates for the rights of children and young people; speaking bravely and prophetically in public forums" and "to challenge social, economic, political, cultural and religious practices that oppress children and young people" (With Mary, go in haste to a new land! Document of the XXI General Chapter of the Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools) through its advocacy work at the UN. I also had the wonderful opportunity to visit the facilities of CERN (an acronym for the French name of the European Council for Nuclear Research) located in the same town, not far away from the Brothers' house.

The center houses the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the largest and most powerful particle accelerator in the world: a ring installed in a tunnel 27 km in circumference, buried 100m below ground. In it, two beams of particles are accelerated in opposite directions to more than 99.9% the speed of light. When some of these particles collide takes place a shower of new particles. Physicists study them to better understand the universe because the collisions happen in conditions similar to



those given seconds after the Big Bang.

One of the results of the experiments carried out at the LHC is the production of "anti-particles" (subatomic particles with opposite charges to those of matter, so that would make up the "anti-matter"). These particles have very short duration and as soon as they come into contact with the particles of matter both are annihilated generating energy. According to Wikipedia (following the Spanish version of the article "Antimatter"), accepted scientific hypotheses assume that at the origin of the universe matter and antimatter existed in equal proportions, but the universe we observe apparently

consists only of particles and not anti-particles. This means that at any given time during the first moments of the evolution of the universe, there was an "imbalance" between the two types of particles resulting in the formation of the world as we know it. How this happened continues being a mystery...

However, CERN's research about antiparticles is already finding practical applications as, for example, on the creation of new methods for performing CT scans and cancer therapies.

Yes, very interesting ... but what all this arid explanation on Physics has to do with this article?

Well, that the similarities between the LHC and FMSI –considering its two offices in Geneva and Rome- were very inspiring to me: FMSI wants to "accelerate" the Marist world toward greater awareness and commitment to the defense and promotion of the Rights of Children and Young People through the diffusion of these rights; by the formation given to groups that -as "cutting edge"- should encourage this work in each one of the Marist Administrative Units; and through the use of mechanisms that allow us to become "the voice of the voiceless" in international forums. At the same time, FMSI wants to "accelerate" our Solidary Heart towards matching Children and Young people's needs with bold and creative responses.



Moreover, the LHC has been the result of a huge international collaborative effort promoted and supported by 20 Member States and more than 10,000 scientists and engineers from around 500 academic institutes and industrial companies take part on this scientific work. Therefore, the knowledge gained through the research taking place at the LHC is the fruit of the best human talent and the sum of wills around the world towards a common goal. Similarly, FMSI reflects the desire of our Marist family to put at the service of Children and Youth of the world our best resources, our best talents, our Heart and our Passion to make possible a better world for them.

which provide a vast global computing resource for the LHC experiments. FMSI wants to become the expression of the Marist Network that enables and makes Solidarity effective. This is

our "new technology" to make Child Rights resonate in the ears and hearts of thousands of people in every corner of the Earth. It is the "bandwidth" which allows us to connect needs with answers, poverty with resources, local problems with global solutions... It also keeps us in tune to capture "the cries of God in the world" and urges us to "see the world through the eyes"



Another point of comparison is "the Grid": a new networking technology developed by CERN. This links tens of thousands of computers worldwide

of those to whom we are sent in mission. It is the channel to avoid indiffer-

ence before anything that affects them, wherever they are.

And finally, in the physical world particles and anti-particles annihilate each other ... but at the end the particles are winning the game! Also, in this world where violence abounds, where greed does not respect any limits, where the will of power and dominion crushes anyone who stands on its way, where the ANTI-human becomes evident... here in this same world, FMSI allows millions of tiny "light beams" shine and become the best expression

of God's presence recreating true HUMANITY: schools where the bread of knowledge is shared together with the water from the Fountain of Life; projects that feed both the body and the spirit; joint efforts that allow the most neglected to reach something that rightfully belongs to them; reports that are written and voices that are raised to make visible, recognized and overthrown the evil that oppresses and kills.

I hope that throughout the Marist world bonds and commitments to FMSI will be maintained and deepened, recognizing it as an expression of the "New Land" where Champagnat's dream becomes life. And let's do not give space to fear or discouragement because, we know -now with a consistent scientific argument- we know who is winning the game!

Br. Diego L. Zawadzky Z.
Phnom Penh – Cambodia
April 10, 2012

YOUNG PEOPLE MINISTRY

United States: Marist Retreat House in Esopus

As the school year is ended, our responsibility of making Jesus known and loved becomes evermore essential. But with empty classrooms, how do we maintain our connections?

Since its revitalization in the mid-1970s, the Marist Retreat House in Esopus, N.Y., has welcomed nearly 4,000 young people annually to its 120-acre property in the Mid-Hudson River Valley. From late June until early September, this wondrous facility is home to campers of all ages -- those from the inner city and those with special needs and debilitating illnesses. Since the beginning, these camps have been staffed entirely by volunteers who possess a legacy of compassion,



"connected?" The Marist Brothers maintain communication and contact over multiple media platforms. Whether it's updates to our Facebook page and website or an e-newsletter like American Marist, we are only a prayer and click away.



Through camp experiences, student retreats, adult evangelization programs, social media and events like the Marist Youth Gathering at Marist College, where more than 270 students from the United States, Canada and Mexico came together to share their Marist spirit, our contact and

connections are enduring and growing.

So when that final school bell rings, please remember that the Marist spirit and mission is always in abundance, even during the dog days of summer. May God bless you and those you love during the months ahead.

Brother Ben Consigli, F.M.S.
U.S. Provincial

Christian service and joy. We are blessed to have these volunteers, as their work embodies the vision of St. Marcellin Champagnat to love and serve the underprivileged and marginalized.

So what are some ways we stay

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4