

FMSI IS WORKING TO GIVE A BETTER WORLD

The situation of adolescents in the world

FMESI is working to give a better world to children, adolescents and youth, so that their rights may be respected and protected, and they may grow up and mature in a healthy and safe environment, free from violence or fear, in expectation of a future full of hope and opportunities. FMSI updates its sources of information and offers them to those interested. This report from UNICEF presents information relevant to our work.

In the course of the last 20 years, adolescents have benefitted from progress in education and public health. At the same time, however, the needs of numerous adolescents are neglected; more than one million lose their lives each year, and dozens of thousands have no access to education. This is what the report of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), stated on 24 April. The document cites, for example, the south Sahara, Africa, as the place where life is most difficult for the adolescent. The number of adolescents in this region is growing ; according to estimates, there will be more adolescents in this place than anywhere else in the world in 2050. But only half the children of the south Sahara finish primary school, and youth unemployment is very high. The publication underlines the alarming consequences of the fact



Aracati, Brazil

that the benefits of progress are not shared in a fair way among the 1,2 thousand adolescents – boys and girls from 10 to 19 – alive today in the world.

Greater Investments

The report insists on strengthening the investments in all aspects of the life and wellbeing of children and adolescents, including the struggle for survival. Children crossing the threshold of adolescence face a greater risk of violence – a change with respect to early childhood, when sickness and malnutrition are the principal threats. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to violence in the home. They are often forced, girls especially, to leave childhood and take on adult roles before they are ready, limiting their chances of learning and growing up, and endangering their health.

Education

Worldwide, 90 % of children of school age are enrolled in primary schools, and secondary education is widespread in many countries. But enrolment in secondary schools

remains low in developing countries, especially in Africa and Asia. Numerous pupils of an age to attend secondary school are in primary schools. It is in the south Sahara that one finds the worst indicators in the world in regard to secondary teaching. Nearly 71 million boys and girls who should be in their first years of secondary do not go to school, and 127 million young

people between 15 and 24 are illiterate –the great majority in South Asia and in Africa, in the south Sahara.

The report states that significant efforts in the defence of rights are necessary, as well as programmes and policies to give concrete form to the rights of all adolescents. But the report also emphasizes that adolescents

must be recognized as true agents of change in their communities. Programmes and policies, to the extent that they consider adolescents as persons in the way of development, must recognize their capacity for innovation, creativity and energy to resolve their own problems.

The report : www.unicef.org



BR. VALENTIN DJAWU LUNGUMBU WAMBO

Appointment of Provincial of the Province of Central East Africa

Br. Emili Turú, Superior General, and his Council, after studying the results of the sondage carried out in the province, have decided to reappoint Br VALENTIN DJAWU LUNGUMBU WAMBO, as Provincial for another three year term, beginning during the holding of the next Provincial Chapter.

In his letter to the Brothers informing them of the appointment, Br Emili thanked Br Valentín for his readiness to continue serving the Institute in his mission as Provincial.

He took the opportunity also to congratulate the Brothers of the PACE for their active participation in the sond-



age, for their strong support for the provincial, and their dedication in the service of the Province.

Br Valentin was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He studied in Nairobi at MIC (1987), and exercised his apostolate at Bobandana (1992), becoming Superior of the community. In 1999 he was transferred to Kinsangani as teacher. In 2000, he was sent to Rome to complete his studies. During the last general government of Br Seán Sammon, Br Valentin formed part of the Mission Team of Africa. He took up his first term as provincial at the Provincial Chapter of 2009.



Marist Brother Memorial Statue, Athlone - Ireland



In May a statue was unveiled in Athlone, Ireland, to commemorate the contribution made by the Marist Brothers to education, culture and sport over the past 125 years. The Brothers opened a secondary school for boys in Athlone on 1st September 1884. The National School (primary School) was opened three years later. Another significant developed took place in 1940, partly due to the outbreak of World War II, when a novitiate and juniorate were established at Our Lady's Hermitage, for the Province of Great Britain and Ireland.

The statue was erected in St. Mary's square in Athlone, in front of the parish Church, adjacent to the Brothers' community house, and beside the former Primary and Secondary school buildings. The Past Presidents of the Marist College Former Students Association and the Town Council financed the statue.

FIRST GROUP OF EAST TIMORESE ASPIRANTS

An important first step in the Marist mission

In last May the very first group of East Timorese aspirants, Santiago Quintão, Marcos Pereira, Mariano Lobato, Andre Pinto and Floriano Marques (pictured L-R) began their Marist pre-novitiate formation in Baucau, Timor-Leste. They have had to wait over two months for the house that is being rented to house the formation community to be made ready for occupation.

In the spirit of the first Marist community at Lavalla, these young men have begun their formation journey with great enthusiasm, energy and resolve. Work has started on developing the plan for community living and other formation elements. A weekly community timetable and basic structure for the organisation of house responsibilities has already been determined together. Santiago, Marcos and Mariano are engaged in the Bachelor of Teaching program at the Catholic Teachers College. Andre teaches third grade at the local Catholic Primary School. Floriano is involved in various courses and volunteers as an assistant teacher at the Catholic Primary School.

Looking to the future, some of these young men will become the foundation stones of a new and unique expression of Marist brotherhood, building on the Marist Brothers who have gone before them, contributing to the further



development of the Marist mission in Timor-Leste. At this moment, we are grateful for the support of the prayers of the Brothers, Lay Marists and friends across the whole Institute. Be assured we also are praying in solidarity with and for you, especially as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

Br. Tony Clark fms



BR. ANTONIO GIMÉNEZ DE BAGÜÉS

Appointment of Provincial of the Province of Mediterránea

Br Superior General and the General Council, after studying the results of the sondage carried out in the Province, have decided to reappoint Br ANTONIO GIMÉNEZ DE BAGÜÉS GAUDÓ as Provincial of Mediterránea for another three year term of three year term. This will begin during the holding of the Provincial Chapter at the

end of the year.

In his letter informing the Brothers of this appointment, Br Emili thanked Br Antonio for his readiness to continue serving the Institute in the role of Provincial. He also congratulated the Brothers for their participation in the sondage,

their strong support of the provincial, and their dedication to the life and mission of the Province of Mediterránea.

Br Antonio was born on 17 December 1945 in Zaragoza, Spain. He did his juniorate, novitiate and scholasticate at Les Avellanes, Lérida, making first profession in 1962. He obtained the degrees of National Master and Licentiate in Physical Sciences, faculty of Electronics, at the University of Valencia. He began his apostolic work as a primary school teacher. Later he worked in the major juniorate and scholasticate of the former province of



Levante, and with the senior students of the secondary school in Alicante. For a year he formed part of a community of new presence in Valencia and worked with gypsy children.

Community Superior, College Director, Director of the Scholasticate of the former provinces of Castilla and Levante, Provincial Councillor, Provincial of Levante from 92 to 98 and Director of the Group Editorial Luis Vives (GELV) from 98. At the end of December 2009 he was elected Provincial of the Province of Mediterránea for three years.



OUR MARIST FUTURE A FUTURE OF COMMUNION

Colombia: Meeting of the Subcommittee of Laity for America

The first meeting of the American Subcommittee of the Laity, held in Bogotá (15-19 July), was a beautiful echo of what is expressed in Gathered around the same table: "Together we can think of how we want the Marist future to be, a large and shining home" (99). The subcommission, created by the Inter-American Conference of Provincials, met for three days to reflect on the processes of communion between brothers and laity in the three regions of America. Two or three members from each region make up the subcommission: Raúl Amaya and Patricia Garbarino from Cono Sur; Layza Maria Gomes and Fabiano Incerti from Brasil; Paty Ríos, Moisés Beltrán and Louise Fortier from Arco Norte. Br Balbino Juárez from América Central completed the group. Brothers Libardo Garzón, provincial of Norandina, and Javier Espinosa, director of the

Secretariat, took part in the meeting. The provincial house, with its many manifestations of hospitality, fraternity, Marist familiarity, was a wonderful setting for our reflection. The brothers of the community showed us it is possible for lay people and brothers to share the same table. Their tradition of open community allowed us to understand that, in the plurality of cultures and forms of life, it is possible to have a communion of hearts to promote together the vitality of the charism. Ten participants, ten nationalities, eight provinces, one charismatic in-

heritance, one Marist vocation, one faith, one Lord. Experience of communion. Laity and brothers, we feel equally invited by God to perpetuate the charism of Champagnat among our peoples. We believe that only from the complementarity of our specific vocations can we develop the charism in all its fruitfulness and fullness. With marist simplicity, we shared our sentiments, the spaces of our life, dreams, the situations of our provinces, our Marist journey... and it was easier for us to understand our future of communion.

With this vision of the future, we could initiate ways of dialogue with the Inter-American Conference of Provincials, with the provincial commissions of lay animation or the new relationship, with the Secretariat of the Laity and with other continental Subcommissions.

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