

SOUTHERN AFRICA MARIST ASSEMBLY

Lusaka, 8 – 15 August

Sixty-nine Brothers from Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi and Angola converged on St Dominic's Seminary, Lusaka for an Assembly from 8 to 15 August. The Province was delighted that the Superior General and Vicar General accepted the invitation to attend and animate the gathering. Their very presence was a source of encouragement to us. The Province is very grateful.

The first and last of the six working days dealt with the Province. To begin with, delegates were helped to understand the status quo by means of colourful collages of houses and works on display round the meeting hall. This exercise enabled everyone to get an idea of the diversity of situations and ministries in our countries. Other sessions enabled us to reflect on our communities, vocation ministry and financial situation.

The next four days were animated jointly by

Brothers Emili Turú and Joe McKee. On the first day, they invited us to go "back to basics" and reflect on the meaning of our faith in God and consecrated life. Subsequently, they devoted a day to each of the fundamental calls of the 21st General Chapter: (a) New ways of being a Brother; (b) A new relationship between Brothers and Lay Marists; and (c) A highly significant presence among poor children and young people. Their



GENERAL HOUSE

Brother Ernesto Sánchez, General Counselor, participated in the Assembly Meeting of the Mediterránea Province, which took place from 24 to 26 in Guardamar, Spain.

This week, Brother Joao Carlos do Prado, Mission Secretariat, will be in the "Evangelizers among Youth" meeting that will include all the Administrative Units of Africa. It will take place in Nairobi, MIC.

presentations and "assignments" challenged us to change – in the words of the slogan of the General Chapter – to form New Hearts for a New World.

To wind up on the final day, Br Joe Walton, Provincial led the Brothers of the Province to further reflection, particularly for the future. Brothers were also invited to compare what they experienced with the objectives of the Assembly.

The methodology used during the Assembly involved considerable use of "round table" discussions in small groups usually with about six members each. Very enlightening were two sessions when the Brothers from Rome answered written questions on aspects of the Institute, ranging from the realities of our Brothers in Syria and Ad Gentes, through lay Marists, and to vocations ministry.

The Assembly concluded with Holy Mass celebrating the Assumption of Mary during which twelve young Brothers renewed their vows before Br Emili and Br João Torcato marked the 60th anniversary of his first profession.

The long-term fruits of the Assembly remain to be seen. As Brother Emili would put it: Brothers, the future lies in your hands



EXPERIENCE OF INTERNATIONALITY

Canada: Gathering of the young brothers of Arco Norte

The Brothers Provincial of Arco Norte wanted to bring into greater focus the horizons emerging from the spirit of the 21st General Chapter, before the boldness of an unusual experience. In fact, from June 24 to July 4, the Province of Canada was suddenly rejuvenated with the presence of some twenty young Brothers arriving from five Provinces south of the 45th parallel: 9 Brothers from Norandina, 2 from Central America, 7 from Mexico and one from the United States. Representing the Province of Canada was a young man from the Marist Laity.



And so, Carlos, Robinson, Andrés, José, Héctor, Sixto, Jorge Rodrigo, Miguel, Hugo, Frantzley, César, Brian, Antonio, Luis Fernando, Jaime, Bernardino, Omar, Luis Manuel, were able to have an exceptional experience of brotherhood, despite most of them having never met before. How old was the youngest? 26! A good number of them are preparing for Perpetual Profession; others took final vows one or two years ago.

Their initial Project was Haiti. They lived this experience at "Camp Mariste" in Rawdon and "Operation New Life" in Desbiens, with the family spirit and love of work that Marcellin Champagnat longed for in the initial formation of his Brothers taking center stage. Their companions, Hugo, Félix, Charles, Marius, Bernard and all the young Brothers who participated, all praise the exceptional quality of welcoming and hospitality they received in these places, as well as in the Communities of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Château Richer and Valcartier.

It should be noted that this experience, throughout its ten days, was supported by sharing the lived experience, as well as spontaneous prayer;

Eucharist celebrated in each of the four important places of pilgrimage in the Province of Quebec: St. Joseph Oratory, the Basilica of Our Lady of Cap, the Hermitage of San Antonio and the Basilica of St. Anne de Beaupré.

We conclude with some comments from the participants:

"I want to thank all the Brothers of the Province of Canada who made this magnificent visit possible; it is appreciated by all of us."

"I learned much from each of you,

Brothers and Lay Marists from Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Rawdon, Desbiens, Chateau Richer and Valcartier."

"If the scenery is marvelous in your beautiful Province, even more so were your style of living, your message and your example. It is an invitation to life, no matter our ages or circumstances. It is a message of life that you transmitted to us."

Warm thanks to the Brothers Provincial of Arco Norte for having

"lent" us their young Brothers for ten days! This unprecedented opening is a prophetic sign and an unequivocal response to the fundamental call of the last General Chapter and a putting into audacious practice that heart without borders of our Founder and of the historic intuition on part of the Chapter of the international nature of our Institute.

Bernard Beaudin, fms – Provincial of Canada



APPOINTMENTS AND NEWS

From Br Superior General and his Council

During May, June and July, the General Council renewed the mandates of a number of provincials: Brs Libardo Garzón (Norandina), Ricardo Reynoso (México Central), Wellington Mousinho de Medeiros (Brasil Centro Norte), Inácio Nestor Etges (Rio Grande do Sul), H. Valentin Djawu (Central East Africa), Antonio Giménez (Mediterránea). Br Jeffrey Crowe was also appointed first provincial of "Australia", the new province formed by merging the present ones of Melbourne and Sydney.

The General Council also renewed the mandates of several members of the General Administration:

- Br Pietro Bettin (Mediterránea), as superior of the general house community, for three years;
- Br José María Ferre (Mediterránea), as personal secretary of the Superior General, for three years;
- Br Juan Moral (L'Hermitage), as archivist general of the

Institute, for one year;

- Br Roy Deita (East Asia), as assistant to the Econome General, for two months, to the end of October 2012.



The Teams from Manziana and El Escorial met for several days in Rome with the members of the Secretariat "Brothers today" to evaluate the program for community animators (2 sessions in each house for a total of 67 brothers). The evaluation of the teams, like that of the participants has been very positive. We believe that the dreams that emerged during the XXI General Chapter were able to continue taking concrete form during these months: internationality; fraternity in diversity; the practice of fraternal dialogue; living an integrated spirituality; new hearts for a new world; a Church with a Marian face; Hermitage experience on the basis of the lives of Fr Champagnat and the

first Brothers; the challenge of the new communion of brothers and laity building community, etc.



Evolutionary perception of Marcellin Champagnat

The course of the CEPAM took place in Loma Bonita, last July, with the participation of Br. Jean-Mance Louis-Jeune, Br. Devis Fischer, Br. Aureliano Brambila, Br. Javier Echeverry, Br. Vinicius Tenedini, Mr. Eduardo Armenta, Mr. Carlos Barreto and Mr. Sérgio Schons.



YOUTH: THE YOUNG FACE OF GOD

Brazil: Meeting of Evangelists among the youth

Marist Brothers, lay and youth from ten Provinces and two Districts met in Campinas, Brazil, to celebrate the Inter-American Meeting "Evangelists among the youth", whose main objective was to celebrate the journey of the PJM in America and look at the realities of the youth, analyzing their current context and the mission of evangelizing children and young people in America.

Br. Josep Maria Sotera of the General Council, Br. Wellington Madeiras, Provincial of the Brasil Centro Norte Province and member of the Standing Committee of the Inter-American Conference of Provincials, Br. Valdicer Fachi, Executive Secretary of the Brazilian Marist Union UMBRASIL and Br. João Carlos do Prado, Director of the Institute's Mission Secretariat accompanied the opening of the meeting.

Since the very beginning, the young participants representing the youth of their Provinces and Districts marked with joy and prominence this meeting, which gave all of us the chance to listen to them. Through a song, a play and a round table they themselves led, they invited us to listen to the youth, to involve them in the areas and structures of animation, to look at the different faces that Jean Baptiste Montagne has to-



day, to paint our face with the colour of hope and not to be afraid to sail with them out to a new land.

During the days of the meeting, the participants had the opportunity to share youth realities, their strengths, challenges and dreams of the Youth Ministry of each of the Provinces. There has also been the chance to look together at the horizons and perspectives of the Marist youth evangelization in America.

The times of prayer were moments to recognize the signs of God in life and history and through sharing life and spirituality we can say that the heart of everyone present there burned and that fire motivates us to get on track and share the mission, being more human and thus humanizing our reality.

During the meeting we got to know the responses of the Marist Mission through the Mission ad gentes, the International Marist Volunteering and the Inter-American Solidarity Document "Paths of Marist Solidarity in the Americas."

This part of the meeting was organized by the Sub-commission on the Marist Evangelization of the Americas.

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