

THE FIFTH CHAPTER OF THE MARIST DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA

A new superior, a new council and new priorities

The fifth Chapter of the Marist District of West Africa brought together 17 Capitulants and 3 invited members for five days running from the 10th to the 15th of August 2012 in the District House in Accra, Ghana. This came after months of preparation that included consultations for the election of a New District Superior. The invaluable contributions of the Brothers as individuals and as communities in faithfully electing the delegates and answering the survey suggested to them by the Preparatory Commission. Another level of collaboration included the preparation of reports in all spheres of life of the District and its members which constituted excellent working documents for the Chapter. The final phase of the preparation was an intensive novena by all the Brothers from the 1st to the 9th of August.

During the Chapter the Brothers shared their concerns and hopes for the District in an atmosphere of prayer and trust in Jesus, Mary and Champagnat. For the first time in the history of this young District, the Lay Marist branch was represented by Mr. Num Timothy, an invited participant from Ghana. This is an important milestone towards greater union or collaboration with our lay partners.

Together, the Capitulants entered



into a process of discernment in a bid to chart the way forward for the District over the next three years. At the end of it all the Brothers came up with the following three priorities and mandated the District Superior and his Council to work towards their realisation:

Formation: to adequately form Brothers and lay people in different areas of need and provide forums for spiritual renewal for the Brothers and lay collaborators, Community Life – Communities' Financial Autonomy in which the Brothers will work at building prophetic, healthy and self – reliant Marist Communities that witness the message of the Gospel and that promote the wellbeing of its members, ensuring that they live by what they earn and finally Vocations Ministry in which they will work at creating awareness of Marist vocations, also devoting special attention to those who want to consecrate themselves to the Lord in Marist Religious Life.

Noting that the above priorities had been discussed or addressed by previous Chapters, the capitulants observed a lack of practical implementation of the priorities

and therefore suggested a clause of implementation for the priorities to be followed up by the District Council. Hence, the District Council will see to it that a plan is drawn up to facilitate the implementation of these priorities and equally make sure that the objectives are evaluated at the end of every year.

Some of the inspiring moments of the Chapter were the installation of the new District Superior, Br. Francis Yufenyuy Lukong by the Provincial of the Mediterranean Province and the election of the District Councillors. In a spirit of faith, trust and transparency, the following Brothers were elected as District Councillors: Br. John Kusi Mensah (Ghana), Br. Daniel Taylor (Liberia), Br. Vincent de Paul Kouassi (Cote d'Ivoire) and Br. Kwame Frimpong Isaac (Ghana, working in Cameroon).

The Provincial of the Mediterranean Province, Bro. Antonio Giménez de Bagüés Gaudó, had also the opportunity to thank Bro. Sylvain Yao Kouassi Kan for the six years that he served the

Institute as District Superior.

Another key personality present at this Chapter was Brother Ernesto Sánchez, General Councillor, whose encouragement, accompaniment as well as in-



valuable insights and enriching experiences were very highly appreciated.

It was coincidental and fitting that this chapter ended on the Solemnity of the Assumption which is the Patronal Feast of our Congregation. On this day the Capitulants joined to pray for and to celebrate with Br. David Cooney who is celebrating his fiftieth anniversary

of Religious Profession. Br. David is one of the Brothers from the United States who worked for some years in Liberia and is currently in that Country to celebrate this anniversary with the Liberian Brothers.

This District Chapter was accompanied and enriched by very rich prayer ceremonies and Eucharistic celebrations that left the Capitulants very satisfied at the end, affirming strongly that Mary Our Good Mother had guided them safely and wisely through it all and hopeful that she will continue to inspire them with her spirit. In fact, the Capitulants left this Chapter inspired, renewed and determined to

contribute their quota as individuals and as communities towards the progress of the District and the Institute as a whole.

The twelve years – old District of West Africa has a membership of 75 Brothers amongst whom are two expatriates and three on Mission Ad Gentes.



ALL BROTHERS

Rome: Program about identity and mission of the Religious Brother

During the month of September the first inter-congregational program of eight Religious Institutes of Brothers dedicated to the educational mission will be held at the Mother House of the La Salle Brothers. A total of forty eight Brothers from all over the world will take part in this program. The eight Institutes are: Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, Marist Brothers, Brothers of the Christian Schools, Brothers of Our Lady of Mercy, Brother of Saint Gabriel, Brothers of the Sacred Heart, Brothers of Christian Instruction, Brothers of the Holy Family,

- The main objectives for the program are:
- To take an in-depth look at our common identity and mission as Brothers in the Church and the world today.
 - To foster mutual knowledge and relationships among Institutes of Brothers.
 - To have an inter-congregational formation experience that will help us to reflect, pray and live this important time of our history together.
 - To share a joint formation experience that may serve as a channel for other formation activities in the future.
 - To encourage the Brothers of our Institutes to meet to-

gether in order to have this discussion on the local level in our Provinces/Districts.

– To draw up materials that will aid in continuing prayer and reflection on this topic.

We all hope that this meeting will be a real experience of fraternity in which the participants can share the best of the rich history of our Institutes and the richness of our identity as brothers.



Inspired by the words of Jesus (Matthew 23:8), the program is entitled: "ALL BROTHERS". From our Institute, we will have these participants: John Hazelman (Samoa), Ador Santiago (Philippines), Joachim Ezetulugo (Nigeria), Antonio Quintiliano (Brazil), Juan Carlos Fuertes (Spain), Ismar Portilla (Colombia), Bernard Beaudin (Canada) and César Ro-



BR. EDUARDO NAVARRO DE LA TORRE

Appointment of the Provincial of "México Occidental"

Br. Emili Turú, Superior General and the General Council, after reviewing the sondage conducted in the Province, has decided to name Br. Eduardo Navarro de la Torre as Provincial of the Province of Western Mexico for a second term of three years. Br. Eduardo will begin this term during the celebration of the Provincial Chapter in December.

Thanks are due to Br. Eduardo for his openness and availability to continue serving the Institute in the capacity of Provincial. The results of the sondage clearly demonstrate that he enjoys the strong support of the Brothers of his Province.

Congratulations and gratitude as well to all the Brothers for their active participation in the sondage and for their dedication in favor of the life and mission of the Province of Western Mexico.

A brief historical review: Brother Eduardo, known familiarly as "Lalo", was born in Tepatitlán, Jalisco in 1950. His parents Domitilo and Fran-

cisca de la Torre enrolled him in the Colegio Morelos de Tepatitlán, Jalisco, where he began his studies. This school is renowned because about forty Marist Brother vocations have come from it.



Eduardo entered the juniorate on August 15, 1962 in Loma Bonita, Guadalajara, Jalisco. He made his postulancy in 1965, took the habit in 1966 and made first profession in 1967 in Morelia. He studied three years in the scholasticate at Loma Bonita in the "Anáhuac" Normal School.

Br. Eduardo's Marist apostolic career can be summarized in the following stages: eight years as a teacher in Aguascalientes, Tepic, Monterrey and Tepatitlán; seven years as a formator in the juniorate in Guadalajara, first as teacher and then four year as director; four years as a student of religious psychology at the Gregorian University in Rome; nine years as formator in the novitiate, as teacher and then sub-master, teaming with Brother Basilio Rueda; then for five years he served as vice-provincial and superior of the provincial house; and six years as superior and director general of Instituto México in Tijuana. He was also elected for four three-year terms as provincial counselor. Towards the middle of 2009, the general council asked him to take over as director of the International Center of Spirituality at El Escorial. But subsequently Br. Superior General and his council decided to name him Provincial of the Province of Western Mexico. He accepted, and took charge on December 23, 2009 for a term of three years.



Inauguration of the Valladolid Marist University Mexico, Morelia

August 13th was an important day for the Marist educational community of Morelia; the Valladolid Marist University was in fact inaugurated and it will hence offer a new proposal for higher education to the young of the State of Michoacán. The University has a strong Marist identity and its Mission is to "Form young university students academically, humanly and Christianly according to the educational charism of simplicity, family environment, love of work supported by the confidence of Mary, in a task shared by brothers and lay qualified both professionally and apostolically". The inauguration was attended by Dr. Alejandro A. Rangel Estrada, rector of the University; Dr. Francisco Javier Jasso Muñoz, General Manager of the Valladolid Institute; Br. Carlos Vargas, Vice rector; as well as Br. Eduardo Navarro, Provincial of Western Mexico and Br. Antonio Cavazos.



"CHANGE: MAKE A DIFFERENCE!"

Meeting of the Organising Commission of the International Encounter of Marist Youth, Rio 2013

The Organising Commission of CHANGE – International Encounter of Marist Youth Rio 2013 met in Rio de Janeiro (RJ) from 14 to 16 August. The Commission comprises representatives of the three Marist Provinces and the District in Brazil, members of União Marista do Brasil (UMBRASIL), and Br João Carlos do Prado, director of the Secretariat of Mission (Rome). The agenda included: explanation and evaluation of preparatory work already done; harmonizing requirements with regard to registration; formation of volunteers; accommodation; booth at the Vocations Fair; solidarity activities with NGO's; Missionary Week (before the encounter); meeting of the four branches of the Marist Family; communication and marketing; fund-raising; and the specific role of UMBRASIL as such during the event.



difference!" and motto, "Go and make disciples among all nations" (Mt 28:19). The Encounter provides an ideal opportunity for the strengthening of the Marist charism through reflection and practice. It will also provide opportunities to share experiences with regard to the promotion of the rights of children and young people throughout the Marist world.

The venue for CHANGE will be the São José Marist College, Tijuca, in the state of Rio de Janeiro (RJ). The event, scheduled from 17 to 21 July, will have as theme, "CHANGE – make a

União Marista do Brasil – UMBRASIL, a body that links the three Provinces and District of Amazônia, will coordinate and organise CHANGE, working jointly with the Organising Commission to ensure an outstanding meeting. Emphasis is already being placed on the preparation of the young people who will attend the Encounter and World Youth Day.

<http://2013change.org/>



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4