

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH ASIA

Sri Lanka: Provincial Team Leadership Development Programme

From September 23-24 The Provincial Council of the Province of South Asia participated in a Provincial Team Leadership Development Programme facilitated by General Councilors, Brother Michael De Waas and Brother John Klein. This was the third phase of a six-month programme designed to assist the provincial council to accomplish its mission by developing leadership skills. As a result, it is hoped that the members of the council will become more effective leaders who will truly make a difference in the lives of the brothers and all the Marists in the province.



GENERAL HOUSE



Br Emili is taking part in the Synod on the new Evangelization from 7 to 28 October. At the opening Mass on Sunday, presided over by Pope Benedict XVI, he presented the offerings.

Brothers John Klein, Chris Wills, and Joao Carlos do Prado are taking part in the meeting of the International Marist Network of Higher Education in Mexico City from 8 to 13 October.

Bros Ernesto Sanchez and Antonio Ramalho are animating the retreat of the Province of the Hermitage at ND de l'Hermitage from 9 to 15 October.

Br Teofilo Minga is away making visits to the AMAG Sector during October and November, and will travel to Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia.

THE CHAMPAGNAT TRAIL

France: Inauguration of the new descriptive sign on trail N°10 of the Regional Natural Park of Pilat

On 17 September, the inauguration took place of the new descriptive sign on trail N°10 of the Parc Régional naturel du Pilat, at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage. This trail was made and inaugurated in 1989, to mark the bicentenary of the birth of Marcellin Champagnat : it links le Rosey (Marlhes) to Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, to Saint Chamond; it is about 33 km.

On a proposal of guidance for the trail, made by the Brothers and those in charge of the diocese, the Parc du Pilat agreed to carry out a project to emphasize the originality of the Champagnat Trail. This has been translated into practice with the making of four new panels (124 x168cm) adding to the four topographical panels installed at significant sites of the life of Champagnat (Le Rosey, Le Bessat, La Valla and l'Hermitage). These panels illustrate through texts and photos what

Marcellin lived at each of these steps in link with the foundation of the Brothers.



The Parc du Pilat has carried out this work in close collaboration with several Brothers, in particular Brothers Jean Claude Longchamp and Jean Pierre Destombes.

To inaugurate this new signage, the site of l'Hermitage was chosen. About

sixty persons replied to invitations made by the Parc and the brothers: members of the Association du parc du Pilat, whose President, Fr Louis Tronchon, represented the Bishop ; Fr Bruno Cornier, parish priest ; Br Maurice Berquet, provincial ; brothers of the surrounding communities ; the normal photographer of the Progrès, Mr Monnerie ; representatives of the Mairie of St Chamond and various persons interested in this inauguration.

The speakers were in order: Mme la President du Parc du Pilat, Br Jean Pierre Destombes, Br Maurice Berquet and Fr Louis Tronchon.

There were congratulations all around for this achievement thanks to the good collaboration between the Park authorities and the brothers. Each was able to clarify what the value of this "Champagnat" trail meant for him: on the "ecological", human, and spiritual planes.



United States: The Call to Psycho-Spiritual Health: A Workshop for Community Directors

From September 21-23, 2012 at the Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center in Ossining, New York, thirty brothers, who have been entrusted with the animation and leadership of their local communities, gathered for a workshop dealing with the Call to Psycho-Spiritual Health. Our time together was facilitated by Sister Kitty Hanley, CSJ. The workshop was designed by the Province's Spirit-Life Renewal Team so that the local community directors could explore various practical ways to support one another in both the gifts and challenges faced by leaders of our local communities.



MARIST PRESENCE IN HAITI

Interview with Brother Antonio Cavazos

Brother, when did you arrive in Haiti?

I arrived in Haiti on 7 September 2008. In the days preceding, a hurricane had passed over Port-au-Prince; the city was suffering the consequences at this time, many people in the streets were carrying away the fallen trees, the debris of collapsed walls, broken electric cables. The chaos of the route. Brother Frisnel Walter very kindly met me at the airport and drove me to Villa Manrèse, a very restful place and showed me the city. We travelled by plane to Jérémie where the Postulancy was. My community superior, Br Lucien Renaud, welcomed me and took me to Dame-Marie where I was offering my services as Spanish teacher at the Marist secondary school of La Nativité. I was fascinated in contemplating the beauty of the countryside, the greenery and exuberance of the rural area of this land, as well as the transparency of the sea.

What struck you most on arriving in Haiti?

The poverty of the people. Their joy, and at the same time their sadness in lacking everything. Their faith in God and their love for the Blessed Virgin. The backwardness in social development after years of neglect, disorganisation and absence of planning. A country full of young people, without enough universities. A country full of poor people, lacking hospitals, transport worthy of the name (people walk for kilometres), roads in good repair, public services, work, hygiene... (there is much to do, or more accurately, everything to do). What is missing is some one who loves Haiti and efficiently promotes its development. What is missing is the Church (currently without prophets, gagged for a time, living comfortably without embarrassment).

What does your work in Haiti consist in?

Educator in the style of Marcellin Champagnat. A special attention to the teachers; I sense certain of them are without energy before their mission or without believing in it. I bring a special attention to pupils in difficulty: many of them are without hope, but with the desire to live and desiring a change.

What makes you suffer most in Haiti?

The schools do not educate to values, they offer only instruction. The youth are concerned only with passing their exams, without a clear opening on the future. The children who suffer from hunger. The poor who go to market with very heavy loads on their heads, concerned to sell something to gain a little money for their families. The lack of hygiene, the waste everywhere. A beautiful country and a dirty population, without means and without education. Abandoned like sheep without a shepherd. The marvellous tropical forests exhausted by exploitation. It is a mixture of this pain, of the joy and hope of the people. The young people and the children, with their games and exuberance, laughter, and this, in every corner.

What nourishes your hope?

The efficacious education provided by a real Marist school. From my point of view, education is the only way to make possible the change of situation for this population.

What is the situation of children and young people in Haiti?

The young people and children, boys and girls, are very intelligent, alert, open, joyful. All have the possibility of primary schooling. The difficulties

commence when they reach secondary and pre-university. The Ministry of Education chooses (by means of exams) those who can follow professional studies at a university; there are few universities; the rest have to choose another way. The majority of young people and children I know suffer from lack of energy. They eat once a day at home, then they have to look elsewhere or with neighbours for something to eat if they still feel hungry. In the milieu where I work, the pupils have no electricity to do their homework; they study by the light of candles or kerosene lamps. There is no supply of drinkable water, they have to go looking for springs, often some distance away. Some students have a two hour walk from home to school, then the same to return; here, we give them something to eat according to our means : if we do not, the students return home on empty stomachs. This makes me suffer a lot.

What other projects do the Marist Brothers have in Haiti?

Actually, we are a very small group of brothers. Certainly there are some lay people very committed to the Marist cause. Our project is to organise well the works we have : a primary school at Dame-Marie with 400 students; a secondary-preparatory school at Dame-Marie with 350 pupils; at Latibolière, a secondary-preparatory school of 500 pupils with a little primary school for the first two years of primary, for children in difficult situations or orphans. We also have the project of organising well the postulancy and even opening a novitiate here in Haiti. We have Haitian Marist Brothers in the houses of formation : we are waiting for them so as to organise with them new projects for the good of the country.

PROV. OF "BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE"

Project of continuing formation for Marist co-workers

The "Projet Mariama" was launched in Brasília on 19 September. It proposes to offer Marist collaborators a continuing formation programme to foster knowledge and living of Marist spirituality, charism and mission. At the launching gathering, the Provincial, Br Wellington de Medeiros, emphasized that Marist milieus should contribute not only to forming good professionals, but persons integrated, ethical, committed and co-responsible. "The charism received from our Founder, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, is a gift for the Church and the world," he

said. "It is a light which, as the Gospel says, should not be hidden under a bushel. It should shine in the lives of the many men and women in our universities. "Mariama" will help foster this awareness". "Mariama", a publication, is the 10th booklet of the collection "Escola em Pastoral", action co-ordinated by the Pastoral Committee of the Association of Provincial Organizations of the Province of "Brasil Centro-Norte".



PROVINCE OF SOUTH ASIA

Perpetual profession of Br. Susai Manickam

It was a solemn and memorable occasion in the life of Susai Manickam and in the annals of the Marist Brothers in India. The ceremony, in 7 July, was very carefully organized by Brothers in the Trichy community. Johnson was the master of ceremonies and Suresh conducted the parish choir. Saul and Raj along with Riyas, Jiji and the new aspirant Balan were hard at work attending to the minutest details of the ceremony. The Sisters of St. Anne decorated the parish church.



Holy Mass began with a cultural dance. The whole ceremony was interspersed with choice Tamil and Indian cultural aspects. At the end of the Holy Mass, Br. Shanthi, the Provincial Superior of the South Asia Province expressed his gratitude for the presence of the faithful, including Susai's father and family members (his mother is deceased). This was followed by a reception for Susai. Bro. Provincial, the Vice Provincial and Br. Godfrey were also welcomed by Susai's family and the Parish Council of Trichy.

It was heartening to observe the diverse talents of the young Brothers working together as one, as Fr. Champagnat yearned for on his death bed, that the Brothers have "one mind and one heart."

The ceremony began with the Vicar General of the Trichy Diocese, Very Rev. G. Thomas Paulsamy as the chief celebrant. The parish church was packed with relatives, friends, Religious Sisters and Brothers from the neighborhood, including all the Marist Brothers working in Tamil Nadu. It was noteworthy to see the presence of many priests from Sivagangai, Susai's Diocese.

India foreshadows a bright future for the Marist world.



MARIST NEWS
N.º 331 – Year V – 11 October 2012

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