

MARIST PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LAY MARISTS AND BROTHERS

New Zealand: Shared Formation Experience

We in New Zealand from September 30 – October 4th (Sacred Heart College, Auckland) completed a wonderfully successful Shared Formation Experience based on the experiences of St Paul Trois Chateaux in 2009, although much abbreviated. Here you find the final statement from this event.

We arrived from four Pacific nations (Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji and New Zealand), each with its own Marist identity, tradition, history and culture. We lived as equals. We confirmed our commitment to Marist partnership between Lay Marists and Brothers.

As Champagnat Marists, we firmly believe that we are continually being called by the Holy Spirit to strengthen our commitment to make Jesus Christ known and loved, by:

- * developing our understanding of Marcellin's charism and supporting one another in this
- * enabling disadvantaged young people to achieve their potential.



The Marist mission of Marcellin's people in the Pacific affirms our ministries as we work to bring young people to Jesus in the Way of Mary. We are called to connect with the charism enabling us to work effectively with the people of the Pacific.

Now that we have greater clarity regarding the Lay Marist vocation, we have together (Brothers and Lay Marists) a treasure in our Champagnat charism which we know has a future.

GENERAL HOUSE

Two General Councillors, Brothers Josep Maria Soterias and Eugène Kabanguka, have begun a visitation of the Province of Santa Maria de los Andes (Bolivia, Chile and Peru), which will end on 13 November.

We feel a true sense of belonging in which we learn from the past and the present as Champagnat Marists, sharing the same spirituality and mission. The Holy Spirit is challenging and calling us to create new ways to:

- * Deepen our Marist spirituality, focusing on the mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved, sharing our vision as we do so.
- * Strengthen our community by:
 - drawing others to the charism by developing formative pro-

- cesses both shared and particular
- enhancing openness in existing communities through shared formation experiences
- developing networks

*Enhance the mission by supporting each other in our ministries with commitment, action and creativity in mission. We must become organised with relevant structures yet to be established.

We need the support of one another

to continue and deepen the journey. This Shared Formation Experience has affirmed for us the value of St Marcellin's charism, and has supported us through the establishment of warm, caring and supportive relationships. We feel the Holy Spirit calling us to develop relationships that lead to a productive Marist mission, maintain their strength and keep the fire of the mission burning.

Like St. Marcellin, we are called to action with courage and conviction.



DEVELOPING A NEW APOSTOLIC WORK

Ad Gentes: News from Sen Monorom, Cambodia

It's raining - "pliäng" - and we're in full swing! Following an eight month quest we have now joined hands with the diocese and set up a project. It has required much talking, much travelling back and forth, much reflection... And in the meantime a thousand small stories have unfolded. So, for instance, Pedro got himself two rusty nails in his foot while working; he had to travel all the way to Bangkok to get proper treatment. When Max tried the new Hoover our dog came and ate the instructions. The City children gave us a kitten as a present. During mealtime she likes to sit on Max' shoulder and sniff at the dishes. Four times already I have found myself flat on my back in the mud on our "street", or rather, our dirt path. These aren't real accidents, seeing as how I was going slowly, but somehow the motorcycle suddenly disappears out from under you. Luckily, I ended up with only a few bruises and a shinbone wound but it is clear



that we urgently need an all-terrain pick-up truck.

Furthermore, we have had several visitors, including the District Superior (our dog chewed through the wire of his computer), friends, volunteers, and vermin in all shapes and sizes. The ants in particular are a constant plague; the mice and rats we can take care of fairly easily with a strong trap.

In August we travelled to the pastoral centre of the Camillians in Bangkok to participate in the annual retreat with the brothers from Vietnam and Thailand.

Now, as for our main work. So far, I have only been able to share our plans and inquiries. I can inform you now that, earlier this month,

we assumed full responsibility for two "hostels" (a type of Boarding College). It is a concrete project for us which is made real through several smaller projects.

In co-operation with the diocese we now run the existing church centre and our own study centre. The centres are open to visitors and people who need help, and offer accommodation, meals and study hours for 16 young Bunong people, male and female. We are now furnishing the two buildings for these purposes. And this is where the donations we have received are used.

And so we brothers find ourselves in a new situation again. The start-up difficulties, the repairs, being subject to unforeseen occurrences and the demands of the church -- all of this makes it impossible for us to lead a regular "monastic" life. We take life as it comes and are genuinely happy with it.

Now that we have taken up our new responsibility the first problems have arisen. Some young Bunong people don't really know what they should do. And so they sign up for the study hours, then sign themselves out, then up again. One girl who did not want to attend the study hours anymore



-- against her parents' wishes -- got involved with a young man and is now six months pregnant, so she has had to drop out. In some ways, the church's ideas about staff policy and admission requirements differ from ours. The rains spoil our English lessons at the Caritas and New Humanity Centre as the muddy street is impassable at

night-time. Our new "rooms" on the upper floor of our house have thin wooden walls and no ceiling. And so we hear every noise that is to be heard, feel every breath of wind, and hear every drop of rain on the corrugated iron roof. The ants, too, have an interest in the dry rooms. Hordes of them march up the outside walls and enter the house through the cracks, and so, for instance, they may come into the prayer room, where we already have two big geckos waiting to take part in our prayers and spend the night, which brings some coolness.

Despite all of this, or rather, because of all of this, life is worthwhile over here. Many thanks to all who support us and the people here with their prayers, ideas, visits, voluntary work, and money.

We all work together for the future of the people in the Cambodian jungle.

Thank you, "arkun tscheran", "Vergelt's Gott" from

Br. Bongpro Bernhard, Br. Max and Br. Pedro



CHANGES IN THE GENERAL HOUSE

Brothers and laity at the service of the Institute

There have been some changes in the General House in October. Br Roy Deita, who has been working as assistant to the Econome General for three years, returns to his Province of East Asia. In the restructuring of the Department of Financial Affairs and the management of the General House, the treasury services were confided to one person, Br Javier Ocaranza, and the accounting to Br Roy. From 1 October 2012, the accounting functions have been assured through a contract of outside services, with the presence of a professional, Mr Gabriele Raspatela, in his office in the General House three days a week, and the monthly supervision of another professional, Mrs Alò Maria Elena, of the same

consultancy.

Gabriela Scanavino, who has been working in the General House for some years – the last 4 as translator into Spanish – presented her resignation the same month but will continue exercising her profession as a freelance.

FMSI has a new collaborator for three months in the person of Luisa Cagnazzo, who has already commenced work. Luisa will help the Rome team in current office duties, especially in the management of projects, looking for financing, and updating the web page of the Foundation.



Rwanda: Perpetual Profession of Brother Crescent and Felicien

The 23rd September 2012 was a bright Sunday morning when the Sun rays threw its arrows to Byimana parish. Our two brothers: Crescent Karerangabo and Félicien Habiyaremye hailing from Rwabuye and Mururu communities respective-

ly attracted people from the 1000 hills of Rwanda to come and witness their perpetual vows to follow Christ in a Marist way.

The church was full to its capacity and even, overflowed with young and

old through its three entrances as everyone tried to glance so as to see what was happening on the Altar. The center of focus (Mass) was celebrated by father Jeremiah, a Dominican monk with other several co-celebrants.



BRAZIL: NATIONAL FORMATORS' MEETING

To encourage times of sharing between Brothers and Lay formators

Brothers and laity in charge of formation and vocations animation in Marist Brasil – nearly 50 persons – met from 2 to 5 October in Florianópolis, during the National Formators' Meeting. The theme for this session was Young people and Consecrated Religious Life, around the Biblical text : « Jesus replied: 'If you want to be perfect, go sell what you possess and give the proceeds to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven ; then come and follow me' » (Mt 19,21).

Organised by the Commission of Consecrated Life of UMBRASIL, the Meeting was intended to :

- * offer the formators times for exchange, formation, prayer and friendly sharing, in order to unify the formation processes of Marist Brasil ;
- * foster the living of fraternity ;
- * attend to the common formation of the formator brothers ;
- * reflect on and enumerate topics in keeping with the processes of formation ;
- * become familiar with and



integrate the guidelines of the Secretariat Brothers today.

The Brother Provincials of the three Provinces of Brasil took part in the Meeting, as well as Br Ernesto Sán-

chez, Councillor General, who presented some lines of animation of the General Council, and spoke in particular about the projects of the Secretariat Brothers today.

The programme touched on the topics of the Consecrated Life, youth and the new technologies. The time proved opportune for sharing at the interprovincial level on the Plan of Initial Formation and for having a round table on the identity of the religious brother.



MARIST NEWS
N.º 233 – Year V – 25 October de 2012

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