

BR. MICHAEL DE WAAS, COUNCILLOR GENERAL, VISITED TIMOR LESTE

Personal Reflection of a visit

I returned to Rome after a very inspiring visit to Timor Leste (Province of Melbourne) from September 25 to October 02. I would like to share some of my personal reflections on the visit.

I had some very encouraging conversations with our four brothers and a few others who are closely associated with our mission there. I was able to meet the brothers as a group to share their own experiences and vision for Timor Leste. The informal conversations with them spread over eight days were very fruitful, enriching and inspiring. The Brothers were excellent hosts. They took care of me very well. I enjoyed their company very much and my time in Baucau.

The brothers were very generous exposing me to many experiences from the time I arrived in Dili. They included a congratulatory ceremony for one of the Loretto Sisters, visits to the Catholic Teachers' College (ICFP), the Marist Aspirancy house, two projects (Oasis and Ponte Leste) funded by MAPS

and another supported by other agencies in Australia. I attended at a dinner hosted by the community for a group of students from Australia who were having their own immersion experience in Timor Leste.

I was impressed by the mission of our four brothers in Baucau, a continuation of the work the Brothers began in the year 2000.



The present mission of the brothers, both in the Teachers' College and the Formation house, gives clear witness that they are working hard to prepare young people for leadership in Timor Leste. I was happy to meet a good cross section of the staff and students in the college who are the beneficiaries of the many services that the

Brothers are providing.

The young aspirants for Marist religious life are well motivated. I could sense their keenness to follow in the steps of St. Marcellin. I believe that the formation program needs further assistance either from the Province or the Institute. Baucau, and I guess the whole country, looks like very fertile ground for vocation promotion. I believe it's worth investing our resources - personnel and others - to profit by the opportunities East Timor presents to the Institute at this particular moment of our history.

I was struck by the number of young people here in Baucau who are eager to learn. There is so much potential for education and formation. I consider it a wonderful venue for Mission Ad Gentes activities. It was heartening to learn that 98% of the population is Catholic and 52% of them are under 15 years of age. My limited association with the group called "Companions of Champagnat" tells me that it pro-

vides a very helpful base for the promotion of vocations for both lay and consecrated Marist religious life.

The Marist Asia Pacific Solidarity (MAPS) deserves heartiest congratulations for their efforts to support the various projects they are funding in Timor Leste. It is my impression that the funds are being used very well for developing the talents and abilities of the children and young people in the country.

I left Timor Leste with some precious memories and feelings. Young people in Baucau did touch my life. They also have challenged me about our

mission. The simplicity and generosity of people attracted me to their life style. East Timor and its people have invited me to appreciate the meaning of "going to a new land" and experiencing a "new way of being brother". I believe the Institute has a significant place in East Timor to carry our out the mission of Marcellin Champagnat in the way of Mary.

I am grateful to our brothers in Baucau for exposing me to a privileged moment for experiencing the life of the people here for at least a brief moment. In my opinion the Brothers get along well with the local church, members of other religious congrega-

tions and many others who support their mission in various ways. They seem to have found a good network of relationships to support themselves as human beings and their purpose in the mission. I admire their missionary spirit and their own appreciation to their vocation to be fully present here in East Timor. I would like to thank Bro. Julian Casey, Provincial of Melbourne, for his leadership and the support he and his council are extending to the brothers there.

Br. Michael De Waas
Councillor General



MARIST HIGHER EDUCATION

5th Meeting of the Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education

The Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education held its two yearly meeting of the Council of Rectors and Representatives at the Marist University of Mexico, from 8 to 12 October. 24 Institutions took part, 5 for the first time: "Universidad Marista Valladolid" (Moreia) and "Universidad de Monterrey – UDEM" of Mexico ; "C atolica de Santa Catarina" of Brasil ; "Instituto Cat olico para Forma o de Professores" of East Timor ; "Marist College – MARIST" of the United States. The "Marist International University Center – MIUC" of Kenya and the Universit  Mariste du Congo – UMC (RDC), also invited, could not come because of visa problems.



The meeting's motto was in harmo-

ny with the last General Chapter: "Marist Higher Education in network: construct a new land",and its principal objective: "Further the identity, mission and organisation of the International Marist Network of Higher Education and its challenges for the construction of a new land."

The meeting began with a speech by Mme Guillermina Urbano Vidales, which attracted a lot of attention, and a Mass celebrated by Mgr Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to Mexico. Br José Antonio Espinoza, Rector of the Marist University of Mexico, welcomed all the participants, making special mention of Brothers John McMahon, member of the Executive Committee, absent for health reasons, and Luis Dávalos, ex Rector of the Marist University of Guadalajara, who died this year.

The presence of other brothers enhanced the meeting: Seán Sammon, former Superior General, Ricardo Reynoso Ramírez (México Central) and Eduardo Navarro de la Torre (México Occidental), of the University Council, as well as other guests of the host University. Br John Klein, Councillor General, closed the day with a stimulating discourse.

Interventions were numerous. On the one hand, Br Clemente Ivo Juliatto spoke on "Identity and Mission of Marist Higher Education towards a new land", while Mme Manuela Suassuna and M. Manuel Carretero made a presentation on "Marist Higher education in network: challenges and perspectives".

On the other, there was a report on the results obtained over the last two years by the 5 working groups set up after the 4th Meeting in Porto Alegre.

Then it was the turn of some Institutions to present experiments they had carried out. The "Cátolica de Santa Catarina" (Brasil) presented its formation and identity process ;

"Notre Dame of Marbel University" (Philippines) shared its pastoral project ; "Universidad Marista de la Ciudad de México" presented several actions in connection with diplomas awarded, in accordance with its university approach and mission ; the Spanish Institutions demonstrated volunteer projects connected with Social Education ("Escuela Universitaria Cardenal Cisneros") and the Normal School ("Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca"). The latter also presented the aims and courses of action of the Institute of Marist Studies (Instituto de Estudios Maristas).

There was also time to learn about the educational projects of some of the new Institutions which



joined the network at this Meeting, as well as actions envisaged for the whole Institute.

As with the preceding meetings, important advances have been registered for the Network. For the time being, each Institution of the Network, has signed, before a notary, the Act of Constitution of the Network. Two exchange agreements have also been signed, one for students, and the other for teaching and auxiliary personnel. The operation of an Internet platform for the exchange of knowledge has also been presented and implemented. A logo and a web space: <http://www.champagnat.org/edu>,

have been inserted into the official web site of the Institute in order to improve the Network's visual identity. Some changes in the Statutes of the Network were also approved.

The Assembly took on various commitments for the period 2012-2014. First of all, the creation of a permanent Secretariat. The committee elected was: Wilfredo E. Lubrico, Maria Manuela Suassuna, Jaime Nieto Ramírez, Pablo J. Pardo Santano and Silvestre Jacob.

It was then decided to continue with two working groups: one to draw up a document which develops a common Marist university Pastoral Project, and another to draft regulations for the operation of the Network, in conformity with the approved Statutes.

Besides these activities and agreements, there was also place for religious activities (Eucharist and prayer) as well as visits to places of cultural and artistic interest. Not to mention the beautiful traditional dances of the different States of Mexico, living expression of the deepest cultural roots of the Mexican people.

The participants in their evaluation found the meeting, in general, very satisfactory from all aspects.

The 5th Meeting in Mexico is over, but the Network continues its work, looking forward to "Philippines 2014", when the 6th Meeting will be held. In the minds of all remains the conviction expressed by Br John Klein: "It is time to start running".

Syria - The marist community of Alep awaits new help

The FMSI have received a new appeal from Br Georges Sabe, who is co-ordinating the activities of the "Blue Marists" in Aleppo. FMSI feels in full solidarity with them and would like to do more to serve their urgent needs. After the news of the last days, some Marist establishments have already been in contact with us to learn how to send the aid. In the meantime, we are happy to see the growing number of young Syrian volunteers who are joining the "Blue Marists" and especially to hear that among them are young Moslems...

Thank you for all the interest you are showing in our situation and our mission in Aleppo. The situation is getting worse and worse. The displaced are becoming more and more numerous ! The cold is beginning to be felt. We have launched a campaign called "DAFA" = "WARMTH" to collect blankets and warm clothing. As well, we have launched another very Marist campaign: "I WANT TO LEARN", to help the children of these displaced families study. (Letter of Br. Georges)

To help, contact FMSI: <http://www.fmsi-onlus.org>



BR. ÓSCAR MARTÍN VICARIO

Appointment of Provincial of the Province of Compostela



January 2013.

In his letter to the province, Br Emili Turú expressed gratitude for the openness and availability of Br Óscar, as well as for the Brothers' participation in the sondage and the support they offered, together with the laity, to Br Oscar and the development and vitality of the province.

Brief biography: Br. Óscar was born in Burgos, Spain, on 10 September 1966. He completed his first Marist studies in the Juniorates of Arévalo (Ávila) and Miraflores (Burgos). He did his postulancy, novitiate and

scholasticate in Salamanca, where he made first profession (1986) and perpetual profession (1993).

He obtained his Diploma of Teaching and then a Licentiate in Spanish Philology, and later a Licentiate in Theology.

His work in the classroom and in youth ministry and animation took place in Segovia, Salamanca, Valladolid, and on the Pastoral Team of the Province.

He has been Vice-provincial and Co-ordinator of the Province's Animation Team, working especially in the areas of shared mission, formation of youth animators and teachers, and the accompaniment of brothers and communities. He was appointed for his first three year term on 2 January 2010.

Brother Superior General and his Council, after studying the results of the sondage in the Province, have decided to reappoint Br ÓSCAR MARTÍN VICARIO as Provincial of Compostela for a second three year term. Br Óscar will begin this new term during the holding of the next Provincial Chapter, in

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4

