

## THIRD AGE RENEWAL PROGRAM

### Marist and Marianist at Manziana

Seventeen participants were welcomed to the campus of "Istituto Fratelli Maristi" by the animation team comprising Brothers Barry Burns (New Zealand), Antoine Kazindu (Africa Central East) and Anthony Hunt (Sydney). The group includes five Marianists, all from the USA, and 12 Marist Brothers coming from the following Provinces: South Asia (1), West Central Europe (3), New Zealand (2), Nigeria (1), USA (1), Sydney (2), Southern Africa (1) and East Asia (1). The chaplain for this session is Marianist Alvin McMenemy, also from the USA.

During the first week, the participants, all senior citizens, were given the opportunity to share their life experiences in the large group. This exercise, very appropriate for this stage of life, enabled us to reflect on the significance of our life journeys both personally and within the group, and to grow as a community appreciating the richness of one



another. A day-long outing provided an appropriate rounding off of this part of the program. It included a visit to the Etruscan necropolis of Cerveteri, a meal at a medieval hilltop town (Ceri) and a visit to the shores of Lake Bracciano at Anguilara Sabbazia.

Comboni Father David Glenday animated three days of sessions on Religious Life and Prayer in the Third Age. A man with considerable missionary experience in both

## GENERAL HOUSE

Br Emili Turu took part in the Provincial Chapter of « México Central » from 17 to 19 November, and then returned to Rome. Brothers Joe Mc Kee and Victor Preciado are meeting in Rome from 19 to 22 November with the International Commission studying the future of the General House.

Brothers Josep Maria Soterias and Eugène Kabanguka have gone to Peru to animate the retreat of the Province of « Santa Maria de los Andes » from 22 to 30 November.

Brother Chris Wills, director of the Secretariat of International Collaboration for Mission, is on a visit to the Ad Gentes Sector from 18 November to 8 December, taking in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

Africa and Asia, he has been Superior General of his congregation, and currently serves as Secretary General of the Union of Superiors General that includes some 230 congregations of men of pontifical right. His contact with our Institute includes retreats for the Brothers preparing for Ad Gentes in Davao as well as a number of sessions at Manziana. Among the memorable phrases from his input are the following: "Listening with the ears of God" (Bonhoeffer); "The facts are friendly" (Eric Fromm); "At the bottom of every event there is a gospel"; "Prayer is the place where experience becomes wisdom".

Brother Mike McAward SM, Secretary General of the Marianist spent a morning at Manziana during which he gave an account of the spirit of the congregation making use of several key moments where Mary interacts with Jesus during his time of ministry. Of particular interest to us was

the method used by the Marianists to ordain some of their members (currently about one third, though there is no policy) to provide liturgical and other services in their communities and apostolic works. Mixed composition is part of their founding charism and care is taken to avoid extremes such as clericalisation among their Brothers or laicization of priests. Brother Mike spoke about the Marian dimension of the Church as an element of Marianist mission.

On the following day, Brother Emili Turu' FMS, Superior General, presented our charism largely making use of the three icons used in his circular, He gave us the name of Mary, and relating them to the themes of Inclusion (Visitation Icon), Interaction (Pentecost icon) and Interiority (Annunciation icon). Interestingly, he pointed out how vocations to the Dominicans in

Ireland have picked up substantially in recent years, with most of the enquiries coming through the internet. A survey of recent recruits revealed that elements influential in attracting them to religious life were an authentic community life and the deepening of personal relationship with through community. Naturally, he made interesting comments on process and content of the recent Synod of Bishops. At the end of October, the majority of the community braved the threatening weather to participate at the General Papal Audience.

In the weeks to come, we are still to experience are pilgrimages to the Hermitage and to Assisi, as well as sessions on Third Age Transitions, Choices of the Heart, Health and Wellbeing; The Kingdom; and Walking with Mary as well as a three-day retreat.

Br Mario Colussi



# SPANISH MARIST CONFERENCE

## The SMC launches a course for the Teaching of Religion in Spain

The Spanish Marist Conference, in co-ordination with the Marist pastoral teams of the four Provinces with works in Spain, is launching, for the first time, a training course for teachers of religious education in Spain.

It involves the updating and motivating of the persons who co-ordinate and animate the teaching of religion at the nursery and primary school level. The course will last two weeks, the first in November and the second in



February ; it will be held in the Marist houses of les Avellanes (Lérida), and Xaudaró (Madrid).

Objectives of the course

1. Form persons capable of motivating the teams of nursery and primary schools in the area of teaching of religion.
2. Prepare the participants for exercising leadership within these teams.
3. Form those persons so that they may be leaders of innovation in religion teaching in our schools.
4. Provide the participants

with useful pedagogical and theological tools so that they may be animators of religion teaching in their school establishments.



# CATCHING BREATH AT ALCALÁ

## I European Meeting of the animation teams of the Champagnat Movement

**R**estaurant « La Valla », around a table, an apron, a menu to choose... what was « cooking » in Alcalá de Henares ? Well ! something very tasty : the first European meeting of the animation teams of the Champagnat Movement.



On the initiative of the European Council of the CMMF and with the accompaniment of the Secretariat of the Laity, we gathered from 1 to 3 November, in the provincial house of the Province of « Ibérica », to share our experiences and ways of operating, to recall what the Champagnat Movement has been up to now, and to dream about what it may become.

We had the opportunity to reflect on the Marist laity, its links and its autonomy, and its situation with regard to the Marist Institute and the Church. The twenty or so participants experienced from the very first a great harmony in the way they looked at

things. At the moment of detecting the great challenges for the fraternities, four main themes arose almost unanimously :

- We believe in the value of the ACCOMPANIMENT of persons and communities.
- Processes of FORMATION, initial and ongoing, are needed for the lay Marists of the CMMF.
- We want to be VISIBLE and immediate signs in the situations which are ours.
- We ardently desire spaces of COMMUNION with the brothers. The future will be with them. We must act in such a way that our fraternities are open

spaces.

Mary's presence was constant throughout our meeting. We had the experience of the Church with a Marial face which goes out to meet others and offers to be servant wherever it is needed.

They were days of work, reflection, prayer, shared life. We hope that this type of experience will strengthen us and give us tracks along which to advance in the process of revitalizing the Champagnat Movement in the world just dawning...



# PROVINCE OF L'HERMITATE

## Champagnat Movement Assembly

**T**he General Assembly of the Champagnat Movement took place at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage from 27 to 28 October. This year there was an enlarged Assembly with, two or three members from each Fraternity joining the animators and the accompanying Brothers. Brother Albert André and three members of the Fraternities of Belgium were also present. Isn't that a concrete way of widening the space of our tent?



Our guest, Ana Sarrate of the Secretariat of the Laity in Rome, among other things, guided us on the way of our lay

Marist vocation in relation to the Champagnat Movement with this question : how to live the «call» in our Movement and how to integrate the riches of the document Gathered around the same table?

As a group we challenged ourselves to keep our Fraternities going as spaces for sharing life. Pep Buetas and Brother Miquel Cubeles of the Provincial Secretariat « Communion of Brothers and Laity » encouraged us to take the route of the forum.

On Saturday evening, we were caught up in a Power- Point

whirlwind which led us to live the rich realities of each fraternity in movement, music and colour ; and, as in any Assembly, the evening ended in another sharing, one of specialities always abundant and Oh so appreciated!

What is certain is that this meeting encourages each to live fully what the Lord has offered us: a place of life where the charism of Marcellin Champagnat blossoms, a Fraternity where it is good to live.

Annie Girka



# WE JOURNEY TOGETHER TOWARDS A NEW EMMAUS

## IX Provincial Meeting of the Fraternities of « América Central »

The IX Meeting of the Fraternities of « América Central » was held in El Salvador from 26 to 28 October, with the participation of 144 members of the Fraternities from Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Porto Rico and El Salvador.

The subject dealt with was the Mission of the Marist Laity, taking as model of growth the account of the disciples of Emmaus. Br Hipólito attempted to clarify the meaning of the mission and the apostolate on the basis of the following of Jesus. Then Nohemy Pinto, Mario Trejo and Ricardo Granada guided the reflection from three different and complementary perspectives: the Marist charism, Marial spirituality and fraternal life in the Champagnat way. Finally, Br Balbino presented the project of evaluation and updating of the Movement. The participants shared their journey in groups called 'faith communities'.



The experience had the benefit of the constant accompaniment of the

National Team of the Fraternities of El Salvador. During the closing Mass, several participants expressed their thanks for the organisation, the presence of the brothers, and the climate of fraternity and witness everyone had experienced.

Br. Balbino Juárez



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