

ADVENT PRAYER BOOKLET

FMSI - Advent reflections for every day of the season

This year the theme of the brochure is children with disabilities, whether physical or mental. Our collaborators have sent quite a few testimonies and since the stories outnumbered the days of Advent, we decided to share all of them and have included some in the appendix. The stories have not been selected, we have included them all.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities indicates that this group of people includes those with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. We hope that these reflections will help us get a little closer to these people who suffer when a form of disability prevents them from participating fully in activities that others can do normally. Let us include them in our prayers



GENERAL HOUSE

General Councillors John Klein and Michael de Waas took part in the meeting of the Leadership of South Asia on 23 and 24 November.

Br John Klein went on to visit the Brothers in India from 27 November to 3 December.

Br Joe Mc Kee leaves for Bangkok to take part in the meeting of the Council of the Sector AMAG (Ad Gentes) from 29 November to 3 December.

Br Javier Espinosa and co-director Ana Sarate take part in the Meeting of the European Commission of the Laity in Madrid from 28 to 30 November.

The Brothers and personnel of the FMSI offices in Geneva and Rome, with members of SED, have been meeting in the General House from 28 to 30 November.

and thus seek to better understand their lives.

Because of this theme, this year we will use two UN international conventions for the purpose of our reflection: the Convention on the Rights of Children and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We propose

some of their articles for our knowledge and reflection.

We also hope that the testimonies offered will help us consider these people with disabilities even more, be able to respect, help and be closer to them, as well as share our lives with their own, and especially to help them

be integrated in society.

You can download the text in our site or in this link:

<http://www.fmsi-onlus.org/risorse.php>

Br. Manel Mendoza



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Escalating violence is causing a new human tragedy

We are outraged and shocked by the escalating violence which started a few months ago in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and is causing a new human tragedy, said the statement sent to Fides Agency, signed by the "Bishop Presidents of the African Episcopal Conferences and Presidents of Caritas African " who met in Kinshasa for a meeting on the mission and identity of Caritas. The meeting, which was attended by Bishops from 34 African countries, was held from November 20 to 22.

of abuses, including recruiting of children into the army. This constitutes an offense to their dignity as human beings and children of God. "

gal exploitation of natural resources, which is the main cause of this war." For this reason the signatories ask the UN, African Union, European Union and the governments of the DRC and Countries "involved in some way in the war", as well as multinational companies in the mining sector, to find "a just and concerted solution, in order to put a definitive end to the suffering of the civilian population in eastern DRC, avoiding to throw them in despair and violence. "



The offensive in North Kivu by the guerrilla group M23, which culminated in the conquest of its capital, Goma, is blamed in this way by African Bishops: "Thousands of men, women and children, the victims of this war which is imposed on them, are displaced and abandoned in destitution in Goma and its surroundings. They are exposed to the bad weather, hunger, rape and all kinds

The Bishops reaffirm their conviction "that the time is no longer for war or conquest, but rather to promote cooperation between peoples," and denounced "the ille-

Br Emili Turú, Superior General, has been in contact with our Brothers in Bobandana, a town presumably among the objectives of the rebels. For the moment, the Brothers are well, although concerned about the unstable situation of the region. The boarding students have been sent home in the hope that the situation will improve.



PROVINCE "BRASIL CENTRO-SUL"

Forum on laity and shared life

The 1st Forum on the Laity and Shared Life took place in Curitiba on 8 November with the participation of about thirty persons, laity and brothers. The two other Provinces of Marist Brasil were also represented as well as the sector of Consacrated Life and Laity of UMBRASIL. The meeting's principal objective was to improve the Working Instrument Itineraries of deepening of the Marist charism for the laity. The document systematises the third stage of the formation process for the laity of the Marist Group, called Deepening.

During this stage, which is optional, the person, whether a collaborator or not, has the possibility of discovering and cultivating his Marist vocation with the aid of communitarian projects and experiences. Moreover, Deepening forseees the creation of spaces of shared life capable of reinforcing the common vocation of lay people and brothers. Due to a methodology which gave priority to group work and plenaries for discussion, the Forum underlined the importance of setting up programmes which encourage and facilitate the engagement of laity, based on the multiple ways of living the Marist charism.

The proposal also reinforced the role of the Sector of Consacrated Life and Laity of the Province, as the provincial organization responsible for the creation, connecting and



animation of spaces for the development of the Marist vocation. One felt among the participants the desire to take up a challenge: to envisage community experiences and processes of personal accompaniment for those who wish to deepen their adhesion to the spirituality and mission inherited from Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

At the end of the meeting, the participants gave a very positive evaluation of the Forum ; it was an excellent occasion for cultivating life in common and debate, and for proposing new paths for living the Marist charism. The numerous contributions to improve the Working Instrument will serve now to draw up a new version, to be published in 2013.



OCEANIA PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION

Meeting of the Commission of Laity for Oceania

On the 30th and 31st October the Oceania Partnership Commission – Subcommission of the Laity for Oceania gathered in Melbourne, Australia. There was a sharing of the current reality and developments of Marist life in each of the Administrative Units of Melbourne, Melanesia, New Zealand and Sydney. A priority of the meeting was to discern ways of supporting one another in the growth of Marist

life, as Brothers and Lay Marists together, in our region. The following elements were seen as important areas of action as a work of the Commission: to provide enrichment and study opportunities for members of the Commission on themes of Communion, the People of God and the Church; to continue to identify and support the formation of emerging Lay Leaders in Oceania; and to create a 'Marist Spirituality App' as an

important means of nurturing prayer and developing spirituality. The commission was also enthusiastic about the development of a daily 'Marist Prayer Book' for Brothers and Lay Marists to be introduced across the region at the beginning of 2013. At our next meeting there will be some changes in membership with new Commission members nominated for Melbourne, Melanesia and Sydney.



INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY SUBCOMMISSION

Paths of Marist solidarity in the Americas: rights of children and young people

The Province of "Santa María de los Andes" hosted the meeting of the Inter-American Solidarity Subcommission (SIS), from 5 to 9 November 2012.

The meeting took place at the University Marcellin Champagnat of Lima, Peru. It involved : Coco Álvarez, of "México Central" ; Br Miguel Orlandi, of "Rio Grande do Sul" ; Juan Carlos Pellón, of "Santa María de los Andes", and Angélica Alegría, liaison person with the Inter-American Commission of Mission.

The main topics tabled were:

1. Revision of the edition and layout of the Inter-American document on solidarity "Paths of Marist solidarity in the Americas : rights of children and young people". It will soon be brought to the notice of the American Provinces in the four official languages of the Institute, as a reference document.
2. Formation of a work group with members of the Hearts in Solidarity network, in order to give guidelines for the appropriation step of the document in all the Provinces of America.
3. Revision of the operational plan of the SIS to support the initiatives of the strategic plan of the Inter-American Mission Commission.
4. Visit of some associations linked with the world of children in Peru :School of "Sant José Obrero", Reception Centre of Manthoc, Marist School of "Santa María de los Andes", and meeting with the national co-ordination of NNAT's (child and adolescent workers).
5. Work in NETWORK : participation in the meeting of civil and Marist organizations (BICE, FMSI, RSM, SIS) to be held in Brasil, in September 2013.
6. On the way to the 5th Meeting of Hearts in Solidarity : preparation of the meeting to be held in March 2014.



Mexico: Diploma in the Rights of Children and Youth and their application in the field of education

On Sunday 11 November, in Mexico, 18 teachers from most of the Marist institutions successfully completed the course Diploma in the Rights of Children and Youth and their application in the field of education 2012, organised by the Marist NGO of Province of Mexico Central, with provincial support and the guarantee and collaboration of the Marist University "Campus Ciudad de México".

The course comprised 120 hours

of work (obligatory attendance and extra-mural) in order to attain two main objectives :

1. To become familiar with the basis and current state of human rights in

Mexico, in the light of the rights of children and young people, in order to reinforce the role of children and young people in the promotion and defence of their rights, especially in the educational domain.

2. To acquire the tools needed to implement a work plan with repercussions in the way of looking at the rights at the level of local educational processes (schools or milieus outside school).

MARIST NEWS
N.º 238 – Year V – 22 November 2012

<p>Director Br. Alberto Ricica</p> <p>Production Mr. Luiz da Rosa</p>	<p>Redaction and Administration Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 C.P. 10250 – 00144 ROMA E-mail: publica@fms.it web: www.champagnat.org</p>
<p>Edit Marist Brother's Institute - General House – Rome</p>	

4

