

## TO THE RHYTHM OF RAP AND AROUND THE FIRE

### Commission of 2<sup>nd</sup> International Mission Assembly

In our recent meeting in Rome, the young people of Nigeria expressed their desires and hopes to us to the rhythm of rap. The power of their chant and their language stirred us in facing up to the challenges the Marist mission has to take on in our world. We have accepted their chant as one of the hymns for the Assembly. If the rhythm of their song invites us to get moving, their message becomes a challenge and provocation for the main axes of reflection for the preparatory process: spirituality, vocation, new brothers-laity relationship and evangelisation. The traffic lights on the road to Nairobi will be given us by the contents of ten sub-themes, which will be so many spaces for meeting and dialogue for all the Marists engaged in the process, ready to move to the rhythm of the voices and the music of our children and young people.

As members of this commission



coming from five continents, we gathered for the second time in Rome around the fire, which means so much in African culture. It is the fire which surges in every Marist heart, the fire of Champagnat's apostolic zeal, the flame of the Spirit which inspires our

## GENERAL HOUSE

From 8 to 12 December, Brs Antonio Ramalho and Eugène Kabanguka took part in the Provincial Chapter of "Brasil Centro-Norte".

The launching of the new Province of Australia took place in Sydney on 8 December. Br Michael de Waas represented the Superior General. The new Province held its first Chapter up to the 12th.

Br Joe Mc Kee is taking part in the Assembly of the District of Melanesia in Papua- New Guinea from 15 to 21 December.

Br Josep M. Soterias is participating in the IV Provincial Chapter of "Rio Grande do Sul", Brasil, from the 10th to the 14th, while the Province of "Norandina" is holding its Chapter in Colombia from the 12th to the 14th of the same month.

mission. The logo proposed for the Assembly unites all these aspects. By the warmth of this fire, we have worked out the aids which will guide our steps as far as the Assembly : a guidelines manual, logo, hymns, prayer, symbols, celebra-

tions, letters, delegates, calendar...

It was in the spirit of Advent that we lived these five days, with the green of joyful expectation and the green of African vegetation. The green of vitality.

The call of God to foster a new epoch for the Marist charism. The summons to begin the path towards the 2nd Internationale Mission Assembly which seeks to launch new Marists on mission.



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## The conflict affects children and young people

The Marist fraternity "Cœur sans frontières", of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (RDC), has sent a detailed report on the situation of suffering of 60 persons under the age of 18 affected physically and psychologically by the violence unleashed especially in the city of Goma at the end of November. The report was made by members of the fraternity present in Goma, who were able to observe the tragic situation of these children and young people personally.

The situation of children in the city of Goma and all the territory of the province of North Kivu seems almost without resolution : murders, kidnappings, traumatism, abandonment in houses and streets, hunger, sexual violence... so many problems to which the children of North Kivu in general and those of the city of Goma, in particular, have been exposed from 18 to 28 November 2012. This situation puts the members of the fraternity Cœur Sans Frontières-RDC, present in Goma and in North Kivu, on the alert.

The war which broke out in Goma on Monday 19 November has caused the children much harm. Bullets, shells and bombs in certain quarters have killed a dozen children, and even if this estimate is an approximate one, "one child who dies unjustly is one too many !". That is why an investigation has been carried out by the members of the CSF-RDC in Goma, recording with bitterness the results above, even if they do not take into account all the children affected by these upheavals.

It must also be mentioned that this war risks increasing infant mortality among those born prematurely, since the incu-

bator machine in the provincial general hospital of Goma was wrecked by the rebel group during special operations.

It is urgent for the international community and the agencies for the protection of human rights, as well as



other organisations of protection to act without delay in order to avoid a dramatic worsening of the situation. It is advisable to :

1. Mobilise the government and humanitarian agencies for the assistance of the children and their families in

the camps of Mugunga1, Mugunga2, Mugunga3, the Scout Centre in KATOYI, etc. To help the host families and assist the populations of Goma, Rutshuru, Nyiragongo and Masisi, for no one has been spared the horrors of the war.

2. Engage all the parties concerned to put an end to the war and to bring stability to the East of the RDC by the effective application of a ceasefire.

3. Educate the communities (during and after the movements of displacement) in notions of peace and pacific cohabitation, despite the general state of psychosis in the province, in order to avoid and warn against other relapses in the future.

4. Appeal on the international level to obtain funds for the children in a situation of crisis in North Kivu.

5. Insist that the United Nations become involved in the restoration of peace to the East of the RDC, and the effective application of the convention relative to the rights of the Child (CDE) on the one hand, and the application of resolution 1612 on the other.



# SEARCHING TOGETHER FOR A GREATER VITALITY OF THE CHARISM

## First meeting of the Fraternities, laity and Marist Brothers in Ecuador

What was born as a project of the laity, members of the Fraternities, and the Brothers of the south of Ecuador became a reality at Loja, with the blessing of Jesus and our good Mother. The meeting, with the participation of 74 fraternity members, Marist laity and Brothers from the works of Quito, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchillas, Catacocha and Loja, began on Saturday 10 November with a welcome organized by Br Mariano Morante. Robert Sánchez explained the agenda, assisted by the delegate for the Province of Norandina, Br Wilson Torres, who presented the topics to be treated.

In the afternoon, Moisés Beltrán, coordinator of the Laity Team of Ecuador, did an analysis with us of the "Forms for the road : promoting together a greater vitality of the charism". In groups we attempted a first approach to the content, insisting on the fact that it is a work to be realised in the fraternities and lay groups over two years.

This sharing was followed by a meal in common, doing honour to the reputation of Loja as musical capital of the country : the various artistic productions, harmonious and beautiful, rejoiced the hearts of laity and brothers... There were also contests and... lots of humour !

Sunday, the Lord's day, commenced with some words from Br Wilson Torres with regard to the challenges facing the Marist laity in Ecuador. We then took part in the celebration of the Eucharist and, finally, the farewell well marking the end of the meeting.



The most important conclusions refer to the discovery of the new relationship between brothers and laity, between all who share the same spirit of Champagne ; the revitalisation of the lay groups and fraternities ; and the invitation to

organise a local Marist meeting on the feast of Saint Marcellin in 2013, then, in 2014, the second national meeting of the fraternities, laity and brothers of the north of the country.



### The Higher Administration of the PUCRS assumes its function

The Higher Administration of the "Pontificia Universidade de Rio Grande do Sul" (PUCRS) assumed its functions for the period 2013 to 2016 on the morning of 7 December. Brothers Joaquim Clotet, Rector, and Evilázio Teixeira, Vice-Rector, had their offices renewed by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Porto Alegre and Chancellor of the University, Mgr Dadeus Grings. Br Inácio Etges, Provincial, was among those present.

After the reappointment of those concerned, Br Joaquim Clotet highlighted some important points of the administration, such as the drawing up of the Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 and the Institutional Development Plan, the official documents of the University, and the progress signalled by the quality indicators in the fields of education and research, the capacity for undertaking and innovation , as testified by the official and non-official classifications

For the future, the Rector foresaw continual progress through quality and excellence in teaching, research and extension, and the insistence on the integral formation of the students.



# A FULL LIFE ON THE FOUNDATION OF CHAMPAGNAT

## Formation Meeting in the Province of América Central

The Meeting "Formar I and II" was held in the Marist Formation Centre of Guatemala, from 15 to 28 November. Accompanied by an animation team of six Brothers of the Province, 39 persons including teachers, members of the fraternities and administration personnel of the Marist establishments and works took part in the "Formar I" Meeting (tenth session), while 19 teachers formed the group of the third session of "Formar II".

In all, 52 lay people from Guatemala, El Savador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico lived this Marist formation experience, with the aim of achieving integral growth on these levels : human, relational, spiritual, Marist and solidarity.



# PROVINCE OF WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

## Meeting of Safeguarding co-ordinators in Mindelheim

On Thursday 21st November the Safeguarding co-ordinators of the Province of West Central Europe met in Mindelheim. There are five countries in our Province, and each country has different laws and ecclesiastical protocols in this area. It is necessary for us to prepare policies for each of our countries to reflect the different laws and requirements. Brother Jim Jolley, a member of FMSI in Geneva, facilitated the meeting. Bro. Jim was a member of the Congregational Working Group

that prepared the Draft Congregational Policy on Safeguarding.

Each country was represented by the Brothers who manage Safeguarding issues in their respective countries:

Brothers P.J. McGowan and John Hyland (Ireland), Ronnie McEwan and Colin Chalmers (United Kingdom), Maurice Taildeman and Robert Thunus (Belgium), Gerard de Haan (The Netherlands) and Alois Engel (Germany).

During the meeting, the Brothers identified tasks that we need to attend to in order to prepare policies in our countries. We also wish to ensure that each country can achieve "audit standard" in our Safeguarding practice.

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