

CELEBRATE THE VITALITY OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

Vatican - Candlemass Day,
feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple

According to the tradition of the Church, 2 February is celebrated as the day of Consecrated Life. At the Vatican in Rome, numerous religious men and women take part in the ceremony presided over by the Pope. Br Emili Turú was expressly invited to take part with other religious in the procession of candles in the liturgical ceremony. Here is a brief report.

On the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Pope Benedict XVI presided at the eucharistic celebration in the Basilica of Saint Peter at 5.30 pm, attended by a crowd of members of the consecrated life.

Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and the under-secretary of the congregation celebrated with the Pope.

In his homily, the Bishop of Rome addressed three invitations to his religious brothers and sisters to enter fully through the door of faith.



In the first place, the Pope invited them to nourish a faith capable of illuminating their vocation. He exhorted them to recall, as on an interior pilgrimage, the "first love" with which the Lord Jesus embraced their heart, not from nostalgia, but in order to feed this flame. To do this, he said, it is necessary to stay with Him, in the silence of adoration.

Secondly, he invited the religious to "a faith which knows how to recognize the wisdom of weakness". Because in a society of efficiency and success, their life, marked by being a "minority" and by the weakness of little ones, by its closeness to the voice-

GENERAL HOUSE

The General Council continues its plenary session. From Wednesday to Friday this week, it is holding a joint meeting with the Secretariats and the teams from Manziana and El Escorial.

less, becomes an "evangelical sign of contradiction".

Finally, His Holiness exhorted religious to renew the faith which makes them pilgrims towards the future, emphasizing that "by its nature religious life is

a pilgrimage of the spirit, in search of the Face which sometimes manifests itself and sometimes conceals itself". He desired that such should always be their hearts' momentum. He recommended them not to join the prophets of doom who announce the end or the

irrelevance of consecrated life in the Church of our times, but rather to put on Jesus Christ with the arms of light, remaining awake and vigilant.

After Radio Vatican



MARIST PRESENCE IN EQUADOR

The Marist community of Catacocha

The creation of the Marist work in Equador is a process that goes back to the year 1929 and came to completion on 10 November 1957. The morning of that day, Catacocha, a little town of the Province of Loja, in the south of the country, saw arrive seven valiant men, bold pioneers of Catholic education. They were: Luciano, Alberto, Jaime, Isidro, Bernardo, Félix and David, who thanks to the untiring negotiations of Mons. Jorge Guillermo Armijos, the local parish priest, made this dream possible. The Brothers took immediate control of the school "Nuestra Sra. de El Cisne", today converted into "Unidad Educativa Marista." Besides their concern for education, the brothers have carried out social projects in the rural communities or quarters of the canton, as well as promoting movements for children and youth with the objective of helping them grow in values.

The arrival of the Marist brothers brought about a true revolution in education, since at that period people practiced the philosophy of "letters with blood inside". The situation changed progressively with the pedagogy of love of Marcellin Champagnat: "to educate is to love." The Marist Community of Catacocha has given example, over these 55 years, of good will and solidarity through various social projects:

In the first place, is the accompaniment the Brothers provide, conjointly with the parish priest, for the rural communities. Evangelization through catechetics, and the weekly missions in the period of the school holidays, have become a custom.

In the last fifteen years, the project of the School Libraries has been carried out. There are 13 schools in the quarters surrounding Catacocha that with the aid of Cáritas of Valencia, Spain, have benefitted with a little library, furniture included, so that the

the school restaurant has been built.

Another interesting project was the "Cutting and making", carried out with the collaboration of two teachers of manual skills and eight sewing machines which arrive each weekend at each of the benefitting quarters.

The "Proyecto Manguera" is also something that has been carried out and is now continuing. This project consists in distributing "piped water" to all the houses of the rural communities around Catacocha, given the drought conditions of most of the year.



For this, the barrio is visited, the flow of existing waters examined with their respective heights and a simple sketch is made noting the houses that could be supplied and their respective distances. The Project distributes the necessary hoses and a cistern or tank of 500 litres per house. This project has helped 31 barrios. We have a total of 517 houses or families benefitting and some

children have within reach appropriate works for reading.

In the Barrio Naranjo Dulce, with the help of the NGO Manos Unidas, the hall – Chapel which was almost in ruins, has been refurbished. Equally, in agreement with the International Plan and the Municipality of Paltas,

160 kilometers of hoses used. This project has been financed by the NGO Medicus Mundi of Gipuzkoa.

Thanks be to God for the life he gives us and we will continue helping.

Br. Saturnino González - Catacocha



BR. MAURICE BERQUET

Provincial of the Province of l'Hermitage

The Superior General, Br Emili Turú, has communicated the appointment by the General Council of Br Maurice Berquet as Provincial of the Province of the Hermitage for a second three year term. The term will begin during the holding of the Provincial Chapter at the end of June.

In his communication, Br Emili and his Council thank Br Maurice for his openness and readiness to continue his service as Provincial. The results of the sondage show clearly that he enjoys the support of the great majority of the Brothers of the Province. Br Emili also congratulates the Brothers of the Hermitage for their active participation in the sondage and thanks them for their devotion and generosity in the service of the Province and the Institute.

Profile of Br. Maurice Berquet

He was born on 7 November 1947 in Sainte Foy lès Lyon and attended

the Marist Brothers' school in Chaponost, near Saint-Genis-Laval. He went on to the juniorate at Saint Genis Laval and then Saint Martin la Plaine. He entered the novitiate of N.D. de Lacabane, Cublac, where he made first vows in 1965.

He followed university studies in physics and obtained a doctorate in "Electronics and Instrumentation" from the University of Strasbourg. He spent four years in the Central African Republic (RCA) as teacher of mathematics and national counselor of the Young Christian Student movement (JEC). Then he worked in youth ministry in the service of the diocese of Strasbourg for more than ten years, before returning to the Lyon region as teacher of electronics at the N.D. de Bel Air High School in Tarare.

Provincial of the Province of Beau-camps-Saint Genis from 1994 to



2001, he served on Br Seán Sammon's General Council from 2001 to 2009. He was then appointed Provincial of the Province of the Hermitage for a first term of three years, beginning on 7 April 2010.



BROTHERS OF CANADA CEPAM COURSE

At the request of the Brother Provincial of Canada, Bernard Beaudin, a course of 10 jours (15-25 January 2013) was organized at CEPAM, for 12 Brothers of the Province. It was centred on the correspondence of Marcelin Champagnat. The methodology was the one used at this formation Centre, which requires the active collaboration of the participants.

Those taking part in the course were Brothers : Denis Carrier, Denis Croteau, Gilles Hogue, Gilles Paquette, Jacques Bélisle, Jean-Denis Couture, Jean-Pierre Cotnoir, Léon Hébert, Léopold Charland, Réal Cloutier, Roger Guertin, Yvon Bédard.



Deceased Brothers

11/02/2013: Julio Torres Villanueva - Cruz del Sur
 11/02/2013: José Enrique Foncea Orayen - Ibérica
 11/02/2013: John Parker - Europe Centre-Ouest / West
 Central Europe
 07/02/2013: Lelles Bighi - Brasil Centro-Norte
 04/02/2013: Normand Cloutier - Canada
 03/02/2013: Kenneth Curtin - United States

30/01/2013: Joseph Callaert - L'Hermitage
 27/01/2013: Fidentino Díez Rodríguez - Compostela
 19/01/2013: Agustín Montero - Compostela
 14/01/2013: Flavio Testa - Mediterránea
 11/01/2013: Alexis Pâquet - Canada
 10/01/2013: Anthony Whiteford - África Austral
 28/12/2012: Lucien Labelle - Canada

MARACAIBO – JANUARY 2013

Venezuela - School for Marist Animators

On Saturday 5 January, the closing of the School for Marist Animators took place in the town of Maracaibo, Venezuela. A privileged time for reflecting about the evangelization of children and young people, with the aid of Marcelin and Mary, our good Mother.

Animators of all ages met in the town to confront the new challenges for Marist Youth Ministry and respond to the demands made each day at the level of formation.

The year 2013 promises to be rich in activities of extreme importance and with very special characteristics, such as : the World Year of Marist Youth and the World Day of Marist Youth in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. Our meeting was a favourable moment to revise and co-ordinate the processes of the "Remar" and "Amis en Marche" Movements, flagships of our Ministry.

During the three days of the meeting, some questions surfaced : What is needed to be a better animator ? What is the real mission of the animator in the evangelisation process ? By means of these questions, and others, the young people reflected on the work within the movements and their commitment vis-à-vis society.



They discovered that it is necessary to follow the invitation of Jesus to take a break, to reflect : "You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while" (Mk 6 : 31).

There is still much work to do ; it is the young people who have the energy and motivation to accomplish it. Each of them is an "engine" driven by the love of God. It is Jesus who

guides them to carry out His mission on earth.

We wish to thank all the persons who made this experience possible. We departed, conscious that it is God who calls us, who truly entrusts us with a mission : to be a light in the darkness, the darkness that lies in wait for the young. It is always good to recall that if God entrusts us with a mission, he will also give us the tools to carry it out.

"I cannot see a child without having a strong desire to tell him how good it is to live, how great is the love of God in our regard", we would be able to say in the manner of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

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