

REDEVELOPMENT WORK AT LA VALLA

"From his breast flow streams of living water"

Tomorrow, 7 February, I will pay a visit to the worksite. The winter's night is very cold today. But I cannot resist opening for a few moments the window of my room in order to greet the Gier which is speaking to me. Its murmur, soft as the breeze, causes me to discover the echo of my own Gier. And I hear: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."

I left Barcelona a few hours ago. I am coming to the worksite which is calling me. But I am coming also to staunch "another thirst", an interior one. For, as Saint Augustine writes, it is one thing to go from one place to another with one's body, another to journey with one's heart, in changing the affections...

The trip was rather tiring, but I am content. I feel the healthy tension inherent on the worksite, despite the hitches. A worksite which is, perhaps, one of the more humble that the Marist Institute is working on this year: the conversion of the little house, the Bonner House, perched on the slopes of the Massif Central. My continual goings and comings with my plans and drawings do not prevent me from always bringing along with me my interior man, Joan, who desires ardently to love and to be loved. Little Joan who, in a surprising way, finds in La Valla a different source, less obvious, at which he quenches his thirst.

The day starts - 7 February. L'Hermitage wakes up today covered in snow. Our day will be dramatic ! Not easy to reach La Valla. The little road will be clear, but it will be necessary to take great care.



GENERAL HOUSE

The General Council continues its plenary session. For three days this week it has been meeting with the International commission of new models of animation, administration and government.

Champagnat receives us with his white soutane, like Br Neville Solomon, the Australian brother with whom I have shared so many moments, these last three years at the Hermitage.

The worksite is also white: the wheelbarrow, the crane, the street... Only the friendly fire, which competes with the snow, gives off colour and warmth.

I imagine the winters lived here by our pioneers. Not easy, that's for sure ! What force united those young men and their master, to surpass themselves and go ahead with their project ? Would they speak of "project" ? Were they afraid – like many of us, of times of uncertainty – changes, new times ? Or quite simply, did they live in following the momentum, the momentum of the spirit which set their interior aglow, like this fire ?

Christophe has a surprise in store for us: there is water inside the house, in the substratum, near the cellar, in "the hidden space". It flows through the rock, through the veins of schist of the excavated substratum. I can't get over it. During these days of rain, a spring has gushed up inside the house ! And a



has surfaced once more.

If, since recently La Valla signifies, for me, finding the Table and, through it, encountering Marcellin and the first brothers, it seems to me that in the near future, the vitality of La Valla will greatly "overflow" us...

It is obvious that we, the architects, must not leave the waters "at liberty" in houses, far from it ! But I am struck by this little discovery. I see it as a sign that our Origin remains vigorous. As simple as that.

I look at the stream in silence. And the murmur of yesterday evening returns, the one of my Gier. And with it springs the second part of John's text: "... From his breast will flow streams of living water..."

That word is fulfilled today.

Christophe, with Br Michel Morel, informs us that everything is in order: "It's OK !" Inside, Thierry, the economist, puts on an apron and serves coffee. We are grateful to him. Stéphane and Yves, my architect colleagues from Lyon, begin to review the different subjects, while the young workers, very warmly dressed, work in the frigid interior.

little flow of living water, fresh and crystalline, is carelessly crossing the room. This spring must have existed from time immemorial, for on the ground are traces of furrows gouged in the rock by the ancient inhabitants. According to Br Louis Destombes, superior of the La Valla community, the brothers had already channelled it for a long time. Today, in removing the substratum, it

Marists of the whole world: do not be afraid of the new times coming, rejoice !

The Lord is by way of telling us of Life renewed through these little signs !

M. Joan Puig-Pey, architect



Colombia: Interprovincial Novitiate of "La Valla"

We have the joy to announce that on Saturday 2 February, the community of the Interprovincial Novitiate "La Valla" marked the official entry of the new novices: Henry Danilo Hurtado (Ecuador), Duberney Giraldo (Colombia), Juan David Páez (Colombia) and Henry Araujo (Venezuela).



Numerous Brothers participated at the Eucharistic celebration, including the Provincial, Libarado Garzón and Alberto Rojas, Provincial Councillor. The celebration was marked by an ambiance of fraternity and sharing based on the vocational journey of those present, who encouraged the novices and invited them to face the challenges inherent in this new stage of formation with courage and hope.



POPE'S RESIGNATION

By his renunciation, the Pope "has spoken more strongly than many of his writings"

We know that on Monday 11 February, during the presentation of three causes of canonisation to the Consistory, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation, saying that "because of his advanced age" he no longer felt "the strength to exercise the Petrine ministry adequately". The reactions arriving from all corners of the world have been very numerous. Many have emphasized the Pope's love for the Church, and his detachment from power, his humility and courage, his freedom in putting a fullstop to his ministry as Pope ([read the Pope's declaration - www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)). Our Superior General has also expressed his opinion in the review *Vida Nueva*:

For Emili Turú, Superior General of the Marists, the gesture of Benedict XVI "is edifying", shows that "he does not cling to the powerful image of the Pope" and proves that every person has "his greatness and his limits". By his renunciation, the Pope "has spoken more strongly than many of his writings", which should make the whole Church "reflect". "His gesture has aroused admiration among believers, but many other persons have felt challenged in their turn," Br. Emili states.



PROVINCE OF AFRICA CENTRE EAST

Fourth Provincial Chapter

The Fourth Chapter was held in Nairobi as from 26th to 30th December 2012. Twenty-One (21) Delegates came from different countries of the Province, plus Four (4) invited Brothers. There were also Facilitators: Bro. Mike Oruche (Nigeria), Bro. Lawrence Ndawala (MIC Superior) and Bro Antonio Ramalho, of the General Council.



On the overall, it was a time to share our views about the Province. We not only voiced out our needs and aspirations but also, we highlighted our strengths and marked as well our strong challenges.

We appreciated very much the participation of the Brothers to this particular Event in the Province. It was indeed a real opportunity to show our brotherhood and our maturity in Christ. At the end of the Chapter, all the Delegates and Invited Brothers left the Chapter's

premises ready to start afresh and each one was commissioned to be a herald of this new era.

Bro Valentin Djawu commenced his second three-year term in the Office of the PACE Administration. Five Brothers were elected as Provincial Councilors: Bro. Edouard Yatha, Bro. Erik Silali, Bro. Teo Grageda, Bro. Théoneste Kalisa, and Bro. Alphonse Gahima.

Last but not least, the Chapter gave us also the occasion to celebrate our Silver Jubilees, our Brotherhood and our various Ministries among the Youth.

SED AND CME

Prayer of solidarity for the period of Lent

The Spanish Marist Conference (CME) and the NGO SED are publishing, for another year, the book of prayers of solidarity for the season of Lent. The title of the publication for this year 2013 is "Dare to look... with a look of solidarity".

This year's slogan is already in itself a reference point and a project for the journey. "Dare to look" is a clear invitation to stay awake, change the way we look at things and, please God, some of our habits.

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SUB-COMMISSION OF BROTHERS FOR AMERICA

"How precious it is for me that a child has the trust to embrace me!" (Oscar Romero)



Centro-Sul ; James Pinheiro – Brasil Centro-Norte ; Carlos Saúl Corzo – Norandina, and César Rojas – Secretariat Brothers today, met in the lands of Bishop Romero, from 28 to 31 January 2013, to put the finishing touches to the sub-commission's Strategic Plan.

We felt called and committed to giving impetus to and accompanying the processes of vocations ministry, initial formation, community life, with the aim of a better understanding and living of the identity of the brother today. We wish to do a work in communion with the spirituality network and the laity.

We are grateful to the Brothers of the Province of "América Central", and in particular those of the "San Alfonso" school, for the details of fraternity which contributed to making our work fruitful. We were able to experience how well founded are the words of the Marist song: "There where a Brother is, there I have a home".

May Jesus, Mary and Champagnat grant us light and strength to successfully carry out the projects and tasks to be realised.

We, the members of the sub-commission of Brothers for America: Gérard Bachand – Canada ; Carlos Vélez – America Central ; Oscar Montenegro – Santa María de los Andes ; Raúl Schönfeld – Cruz del Sur ; Antonio Quintiliano – Brasil

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