

SHARING LIFE

Escorial Spirituality Course "Senderos 2013"

On 31 January 2013 we commenced the adventure of our journey together as the SENDEROS 2013 group in the "Fuente Nueva" Marist formation house at San Lorenzo de l'Escorial. We arrived one by one to begin the 5 month experience in which we will share LIFE in this course "within", "towards others", "towards God" and "in the circle".

l'Escorial is for us a "place of Grace" which should help us "make a new star (community) shine in the Marist universe". This is how we became aware of the paths to be traversed during the course.

We have benefitted from special times to share our life with the Brothers of the communities of the Escorial house, of Segovia, of Villalba, as well as the young Brothers of the Province of "Ibérica" who spent a week-

has been marked by the passage of God. Later on, we will undertake a "voyage to the interior", aided by the Enneagramme, communication and personal relations. There will also be other "voyages" with a Marist colour and flavour: being brother today, in the school of listening; the land we walk upon; being religious today; Marist vitality with a new heart; stages of transition of life (sexuality and celibacy); introduction to the Bible, and the Marial face of the Church. The visit of our Brother Emili Turú and other Brothers from Rome will be an opportunity to revitalise us as brothers, in following the steps of Marcellin Champagnat today.

The animators of the group are Brothers Ángel Medina, of the District of Paraguay, as community superior, and Joaci Pinheiro de Sousa, of the Province of "Brasil Centro-Norte". The group is composed of Brothers: Luis Oscar Rodríguez (México Central), Humberto Badillo (México Occidental), Vicente Abanto (México Occidental), José Luis Sebastián (Norandina), Walter A. Eras (Norandina), Joarës Pinheiro de Sousa (Brasil Centro Norte), Nerí Depaoli (Brasil Centro Sul), João Pedro Zimmerman (Río Grande do Sul), Nelson Luis Feix (Río Grande do Sul), Eduardo López (Ibérica) and Luciano Andrés de Valles (Compostela).



We devoted the first week-end (31 January – 2 February) in becoming integrated as a group. The house of

end in our house. These moments and some community outings – visit of Segovia, the 'Valle de los Caídos', the belvedere of Mount Abantos and the house of the retired Brothers of Notre-Dame de la Roche – make us vibrate as Little Brothers of Mary.

During the first week, we looked at our personal history and the way in which it

Some experiences of contact with other realities will enrich us on our route: voyages to the Holy Land, l'Hermitage, FMSI in Geneva, and Taizé. We will share the joy of JOURNEYING AT THE SIDE OF THE GOD OF LIFE ON OUR PATHS.

Br. Humberto Badillo Alvarado
Province of México Occidental.

PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA

New Province Mission Council begins its mandate

The Province of Australia, which officially commenced on 8 December last year, has introduced a new model for leadership of the Province. The work of the Provincial Council will be much smaller, because it has delegated much of its responsibility to the "Province Mission Council". In future, the Provincial Council will consider matters limited to the Brothers' life and some canonical matters, while the Mission Council will deal with everything that concerns the ministries and works of the Province and also with Lay Marists. For example, everything regarding schools, youth ministry, solidarity and social welfare projects will be supervised entirely by the Mission Council.

The charter for the Mission Council was endorsed by the Province Mission Assembly last year, and formal-



ly approved by the new Provincial Council at its first meeting in January. Its members (both Lay and Brother) were nominated by the delegates to the Mission Assembly. It consists of four Lay Marists and two Marist Brothers, and is chaired by the Provincial. The Executive Director of Ministries

(currently a Brother – Michael Green – but in future probably a Lay Marist) is also in attendance. The Council held its first meeting on 6 February, and the new head office for the Province which is located in close proximity to Sydney Airport.



PERPETUAL PROFESSION

Br. José Alberto Quintero Galvis, Colombia

On Saturday 9 February, at 4 pm, the celebration began of the Profession of perpetual vows by Br José Alberto Quintero Galvis, a Colombian of the Province of Norandina. The solemn ceremony was held in the beautiful Gothic chapel of the Champagnat Institute of Pasto – Nariño – Colombia, the school where Br José Alberto exercises his apostolate among the students of the senior classes. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Andrés Carmona and two other priests, a Salesian and a Jesuit. Among the 400 persons invited from Pasto and other places in Colombia and Ecuador were Br José Alberto's family and relations, a good group of Marist Brothers representing most of the communities of Colombia, teachers, workers and senior students of the Champagnat Institute, religious men and women from many congregations in Pasto, and friends of the community.

At the end of the celebration, Br José Alberto expressed his sentiments of gratitude to all the persons who played a role in his spiritual and material growth, his work and friendships. All present then gathered in the "Galería del Coliseo" of the Champagnat Institute where Br Provincial addressed a message to Br José Alberto and to them all.



MARIST PRESENCE IN KOREA

A farmer went out to sow his seed

A farmer went out to sow his seed. Some sprang up quickly, some took a while to bear fruit, others never grew. In our life, sometimes we expect to see the plant grow and taste their fruits but that does not always happen. I remember a story about some seeds that were discovered in one of the ancient Egyptian tombs. These seeds had been there for hundreds and thousands of years. Nobody thought that they would grow but a group of scientists took some of them and planted them in a conducive environment - good soil, water and sunlight. And the miracle occurred! Those seeds had kept within them the energy to produce life and so they grew and bore fruits. This miracle doesn't only occur in the seeds but also within us when the charisma of Marcelin finds a conducive environment to grow.

Last December, I was in Seoul and had the opportunity to witness the strength and energy hidden in the seeds of the Marist charisma, which was sown in Korea in September 1971. The years passed quickly and it seemed as if nothing was happening, the seeds were not growing. But now, after

40 years, I was able to witness the growth – the seeds are finally starting to bear fruits.

In the place where the Brothers are working, I could see the faces of young people singing and dancing, playing and studying. They are part of the group of children and adolescents who attend the educational centre for youth every day. It was surprising to see the Brothers, who were postulants and novices years ago, directing these activities.

I was reminded of Ad Gentes and how the Brothers in each community are putting much effort in sowing hope and spreading the seeds of Marist charisma in new soils. Would we be able to see the fruit of this work? I don't know, but I believe that our effort will bear fruit and I am sure all the Brothers in the AMAG Sector share my belief. One day, the seeds that we are sowing today will produce fruit, one day the dreams of today will be the realities of tomorrow.

Hoan Castro, fms - AMAG



REFLECTION ON THE MARIST MISSION

Meeting of the Educational Works of the Province of L'Hermitage

On 2, 3 and 4 February, the directors and co-ordinators of the ministry of the Marist Educational Works of France, Greece, Hungary and Catalonia came together at N.D. de l'Hermitage for a meeting of reflection and to strengthen our mutual bonds.

The meeting brought together, for the first time in this form, the directors and co-ordinators of ministry in the school establishments, but also the directors of the social works.



The principal objectives of the meeting were to:
-Promote reflection on the Marist mission in order to integrate the dimensions

of education, evangelisation and solidarity in harmony with the guidelines of the General and Provincial Chapters and the Mission Assembly.

- Promote the common reflection of those responsible for the works of the Province and collect the proposals coming from the situations of the different countries.
- Foster mutual acquaintance and the creation of bonds between the various educational realities of the Province in order to deepen the sense of belonging to the Marist network.

The meeting commenced on the afternoon of 2 February with the presentations of the secretariats of provincial animation, as well as those of the diverse Educational Works of each country (France, Greece, Hungary and Catalonia). All this allowed the participants to become aware of the diversity and richness of the different situations of the Province.

The 3rd of February was the occasion for various workshops:

- Pastoral initiatives around work on the year's theme.
- Minimum common framework for the whole Province in the area of ministry.
- International exchanges.
- Today's poverties in our works: how to spot them? What responses to make to them ?
- Testimony of the experience of the members of the community of l'Hermitage.
- Champagnat the catechist.
- The social networks: how to make use of them in an educational way ?
- The pastoral orientation of inter-religious and inter-confessional components in our works.

The high point of the morning of the last day was the novelty of this kind of meeting, with the presentation of the Marist Social Works of Catalonia, alternating information and dialogue.

To these main work topics were added various items of information, the celebration of the Eucharist and convivial evening gatherings, the sampling of typical products of the countries represented. Special mention must be made of the youth choir "Les Maristes" of Bourg-de-Péage, who offered a quality show on one of the evenings. All this experienced in the incomparable surroundings of the renovated house of l'Hermitage and the warm welcome of its community.

To bring the meeting to a close, Brother Maurice, Provincial Superior, underlining the involvement of the participants, delivered a message of encouragement to carry on the task of education and evangelisation in each of the realities of our Marist works.

Albert Salazar



PROGRAMME OF FORMATION

Brothers of America follow a joint formation course in Cochabamba, Bolivia

From March to June, 14 Brothers of the Marist Provinces of America will take part in an interprovincial formation course in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The period, called "a journey of formation on the way to perpetual profession", precedes the definitive consecration of the young Brothers. The objective is to facilitate times of sharing and reflection on the vocational journey prior to the definitive consecration.

The formation periods will be assured by the Superior General, Br Emili Turú, Brothers Josep Maria Soteras and Eugène Kabanguka, General Councillors, and Brothers Ataide José de Lima (Brasil Cen-

tro-Norte), Francisco Javier (Norandina) and Lécio José Heckler (Rio Grande do Sul).

The initiative responds to a call of the Interprovincial Conference of the Americas and the XXI General Chapter, in the sense of promoting experiences which take advantage of the international nature of the Institute. The

participants will meet in the House of Youth of the "Fé e Alegria" (Faith and Joy) Foundation, for times in common, talks, and three periods of retreat and mission to the interior of the country.

The course is intended as well as a community experience of personal development, reinforcement of Marist identity, and of activities of solidarity and prayer.

The group is composed of representatives of the Provinces of: "Brasil Centro-Norte", "Brasil Centro-Sul", "Rio Grande do Sul", "Norandina" and "América Central".

MARIST NEWS
N.º 255 – Year V – 8 March 2013

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