

FORMATION PROGRAM

Manziana: English Speaking Midlife Renewal Program

We are ten Brothers of the English Speaking Midlife Renewal Program who are at present being enriched by this life-giving "Rekindling the Fire" formation journey. We are Brothers Arthur Ganiza (Malawi, Southern Africa); Patrick Bwalya (Zambia, Southern Africa); Sylvain Yao (Ivory Coast – West Africa); Elie Twagirayezu (Rwanda, Central East Africa); Dellys Randriamamonjy (Madagascar, Madagascar); Ranjith Perera (Sri Lanka, South Asia); Augustine Lee (South Korea, East Asia); Gilber Barillas (Guatemala - AMAG [Thailand]); Michael Callinan (Australia, Australia); John Hazelman (Samoa, New Zealand). We have a Chaplain, Fr. Neil Darragh, a Diocesan priest from Auckland, New Zealand. Our Formation Team consists of Brothers Anthony Hunt (Australia, Australia); Barry Burns (New Zealand, New Zealand) and Antoine Kazindu (Rwanda, Central East Africa).



Our experience of Community Living started last January 27, 2013 in which we experienced a brotherly warm welcome from our Formation Team. This sense of welcome was expressed through prayerful liturgies plus other rituals. The following

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Last Friday brother Emili visited the brothers in Manziana who are participating in the five-month English Spirituality course.

Brothers Joe Mc Kee, John Klein, Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez from the General Council participated in a course on International Leadership in recent days.

Brother Mario Meuti, from FMSI, is on a trip to Bangkok, Vietnam, Cambodia, India and Sri Lanka, with the aim of monitoring FMSI projects in Asia, and also to develop and strengthen institutional ties with FMSI.

Brother Javier Espinosa, from the Secretariat for the Laity, is in Mexico, meeting with several groups: the International Commission for the updating of the Champagnat Movement, the Provincial Commission for the Laity, the Marist Missionaries, the fraternities of the Champagnat Movement, and a group of former brothers. After visiting Mexico he will head to Guatemala and Cuba, and meet with the communities there.

four days were part of our Orientation program in which we focused on building community, getting to know each another as well as our surroundings. It culminated with an "educational" community outing to some historical places close by. Firstly, we had a formal and practical lesson on the Etruscan people (whose civilization was prior to the Romans). We learnt of the Tolfa hills and its medieval appearance and especially of its famous Etruscan tombs. Secondly, we had a wonderful chance to visit the picturesque Bracciano Lake and in particular the medieval town of Anguillara Sabazia.

Our experience of Community was further enriched with the arrival of ten women on Sunday the 3rd of February. Katrina Anderson, a medical doctor from Canberra, Australia and nine Sisters of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (smsm) arrived in Manziana for a week encounter on Wholistic Living. Dr Katrina, a woman full of enthusiasm, energy and creativity led us into a journey of physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing. She introduced Yoga and mandala

drawings which have since continue to be a practiced by some Brothers. Our week together culminated with a meaningful liturgy and social in which the different skills and talents of the sisters and brothers were shared in a spirit of companionship and joy. We realized that sharing our experiences with women who are also walking the mid life journey is not only rewarding but also enrich our relationship with Christ as Marists.

Earlier this week, Mrs. Alison Moore from Northern England, introduced us to what one Brother refers to as a 'new word in his vocabulary' ... a word call transition... in particular mid life transitions. We learnt how to notice and name our thoughts and feelings that we are experiencing as mid life male religious. We explore some of the midlife tasks that are expected of us and learning to recognize, develop, reconcile and integrate our inner polarities... especially young - old; creative - destructive; separate - attached; masculine - feminine polarities.

Lately, we are going through the process of getting a soggiorno, a resi-

dential card that would allow us to live in Italy and especially to be able to move freely in and out of the country. The process involves a visit to the local post office within 8 days of arrival and then later a trip to Rome (just outside the Vatican) for the final process of paper work and finger printing. Bro Anthony Hunt with his expertise in the Italian language and Italian immigration processes has been a great value to us.

Our former Superior General, Bro Sean Sammon is arriving today from the US. He will be our mentor for the next two weeks on the important topic of Identity and Consecrated Life. We are all anticipating another wonderful and enriching experience with Sean. Overall we continue to be enriched by creative and prayerful liturgies as well as the rich variety of inputs that will continue to nourish and help us live in this multicultural and dynamic community. Lastly, we offer an open invitation to any Marist who is in Rome or who will be visiting Rome to come and share with us in prayer and meal. Our program concludes on June 13, 2013.



THE WORKSITE OF LA VALLA EN GIER

The state of the works - February 2013

Starting around mid-September, the worksite of La Valla is moving according to the rhythm planned. The photos will help you get an idea of the progress of the works at the beginning of this month of February. Visitors to the Rome Marist website have already had a glimpse of the worksite, thanks to Joan Puig Pey on the occasion of Christmas.

It is good, for a start, to recall which are the parts affected by the renovations.

- the Bonner house (or cradle of the Institute): the cellar, ground floor, and the two upper floors;
- the construction of 1822, made by Fr Champagnat: ground floor and the two upper floors;
- and also the ground floor under the chapel, consisting of the former yellow room and two adjacent cellars.

Up to today, the works have essentially

been the digging up of the floors of all the rooms of the ground floor. At La Valla also, the house is built on the rock! It is hard work with the pneumatic drill and the pick, despite the presence of numerous trickles of water seeping from the hill. How much water will need to be channelled before relaying the floors!

Important work also at the level of the openings: all the old doors and windows have been closed, enlarged or re-

made, for some in freestone; new ones have been created, in particular on the 1st floor, a large vertical bay window overlooking the valley.

This work supposes a long labour of shoring up. The masons have been surprised to discover the type of construction: stones and earth by way of "binding". But the house has stood up well up to today, thanks in particular to a good construction technique and the thickness of the walls. For the moment, with all the openings redone, the house rather resembles a Gruyère cheese which needs better consolidation.

Another important work has been the demolition of the stairways and corridors linking the Bonner house and the chapel building. The two buildings at present are quite distinct. In place, a slab of concrete has been poured; below will be the corridor which leads to the new entrance to the house.

All the concrete slabs between the floors have already been made. This allows a more precise vision of the new arrangements. Only the Champagnat room, where the table of the first community is, will keep the same configuration and benefit from special treatment, at the level of the interior roughcast, the ceiling, the freestone window encasements; all that to preserve an ancient and rustic character.

In a few days, the demolition of all the roofing will begin. This is a major work which means, first of all, the construction over the present roof of a provisional one with a metallic structure to allow work under shelter during inclement weather, rain and snow especially, and also to prevent the walls from suffering too much damage!

The team of masons

As for the construction of l'Hermitage, in 1824, there are the "professional masons" and the workers. One remembers that only Marcellin Champagnat had permission to work alongside the professional masons. At la Valla, the chief is Christophe, stonecutter



by trade and journeyman. Those are his qualifications. Three young men in their twenties, Jérémy and Matthieu, twin brothers, and Dorian assist his as experienced masons. Three others, Valentin, Abdel and Amar, are engaged in the work of digging, clearing and the preparation of the materials; hard work!

Despite the difficulties of the work and the weather conditions (sometimes a temperature of - 8° Celsius), all form a good team with whom the Brothers of the community maintain a relationship marked by simplicity and cordiality.

They have been told about the history of this house and the project of renovation they are engaged in carrying out. There is no doubt that the work has a special meaning for each of them, the latest links in a long chain of builders. Witnessing the companionship in work which exists between the "Chef" and the young masons, a companionship formed by the transmission of knowl-

edge, mutual aid and complicity, one can quite easily imagine how Marcellin himself lived with his first companions!

Those in charge of the worksite and the renovation project of the "cradle of the Institute".

The direction of the building site has been confided to the same team of architects as that of l'Hermitage: Joan Puig Pey, from Catalonia, Stéphane Roulleau and Yves Poncet of Lyon. Every Thursday, they come for a meeting at the worksite, together with those responsible for the various enterprises and groups of tradesmen, as well as Brothers Héribert Pujolas and Michel Morel, representing the "owners".

The project was considered and the plan approved by an International Commission composed of Brothers Joe Mc Kee, Victor Preciado and Antoine Kazindu, for the General Council, and Mme Catherine Demougin and Brothers Pere Ferré and Benito Arbuès for the Province of l'Hermitage. This Commission in addition has asked a little team of Brothers close to the Marist places, Benito Arbuès, Jean Pierre Destombes, Xavier Barcelo and Michel Morel to reflect on the scenography and various practical points relating to the arrangement of the future areas.

The worksite is making normal progress. All should be ready for the beginning of September, the opening date of the General Conference, which will be held at the Hermitage.

Like Marcellin Champagnat, we ceaselessly repeat:

"If the Lord does not build the house, the builders work in vain".

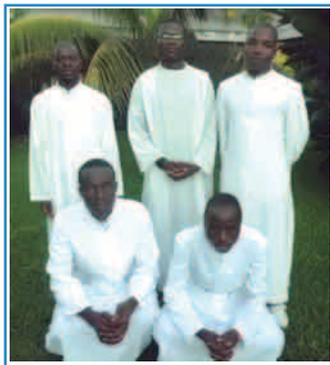
Brother Michel Morel



NEW NOVICES

Noviciate of Passo Fundo, Brazil

Eight young postulants have just entered the inter-provincial noviciate of Brasil at Passo Fundo, Rio de Janeiro, to begin an experience of religious life for the next two years. The ceremony marking the opening of this stage of formation took place in the noviciate garden at the beginning of February, and it marked at the same time the sending of the 2nd year novices into the communities for their apostolic experience. The eight postulants who have entered the noviciate are: Charles Alves (Brasil Centro-Sul), Deomar Biondo (Rio Grande do Sul), Gustavo Ribeiro (Brasil Centro-Norte), Jean Arcari (Rio Grande do Sul), Jean Marcos (Brasil Centro-Sul), José Sotero (Brasil Centro-Norte), Leonardo Piovesan (Rio Grande do Sul) and Márcio Castilho (Brasil Centro-Sul)



Noviciate of Matola, Mozambique

Moffat Phiri, Steven Banda and Stephen Muleba from Zambia and Chifundo Nkhoma and Steven Chinsolo from Malawi were officially accepted as novices last Saturday, the 16th February, 2013. They have entered into the initiation period or the rite of passage which will take them two years. In the noviciate a novices enters into an intensive spiritual journey. The period introduces the novice to religious life through a rite of passage from death to life. Cardinal Pironio says, "The very purpose of the noviciate demands that a privileged place be assigned to contemplation, to doctrinal and spiritual formation, as well as to the practice of sincere and open fraternal charity."

Noviciate of Medellín, Colombia

We have the joy to announce that on Saturday 2 February, the community of the Interprovincial Noviciate "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, Alberto Rojas, Provincial Councillor, the Brothers of the Santo Domingo community: Hugo Tapia, Orlando Muñoz, Héctor Colala, José Elber Peñuela, and the postulant Héctor Tusarma (who is doing his community experience), the Brothers of the



noviciate community: Marco Antonio Vargas (Master of Novices), Rafael Pesca (Sub-Master) and Julián Olmo (Econome), and the other novices: Sebastián Herrera, Juan Pablo Muñoz and Juan BolYears.

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