

II MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY - NAIROBI 2014

Letter of Br. Emili Turú, Superior General

Dear Champagnat Marists. We can truly say that the celebration of the first Marist International Mission Assembly in 2007, with the entire process that unfolded in the different provinces and districts of the Institute, was an historic event, the first time that brothers and lay men and women from all over the world, participating on an equal basis, set about reflecting on the purpose of the Institute now and in the future, as well as its very identity.

Though lived with varying degrees of intensity around the world, that experience was universally looked upon as a very positive one. So much so that the XXI General Chapter not only incorporated some of the ideas coming from that Assembly I, it explicitly issued an invitation "to organize another Marist International Mission Assembly in tune with the spirit of Mendes."

Convinced that the Assembly can



once again be a very effective instrument in service to our Marist mission, the General Council has invited an international Commission to put in place the process necessary to hold a new Assembly in 2014. The members of this Commission are Mrs. Alice Miesnik from the Province of United States; Mrs. Mónica Linares, Cruz del Sur; Br. Mark Omede, Nigeria; Mr. Frank Malloy, Australia; Mr. Manuel Gómez Cid, Mediterránea; Br. Paul Bhatti, South Asia; Br. César Rojas, the Secretariat of Brothers Today; Br. Javier Espinosa, Secretariat of the Laity; and Br. João Carlos do Prado, Secretariat of Mission and the Commission's coordinator. My sincerest thanks to all of them for the excellent work that they are doing, with great creativity and a very visible commitment to our

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brothers John Klein, Joao Carlos do Prado, Chris Wills and Javier Espinosa are taking part in the International Mission Commission meeting in Brasilia from 21 to 28 April.

Brothers Josep Maria Soteras and Eugene Kabanguka, CG, are present at the Workshop for Brothers under 55 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 24 to 27 April.

Brothers Ernesto Sanchez and Antonio Romalho, CG, attended the European Marist Conference (CEM) in Maimon, Spain, on the 24th and 25th of April.

Marist life and mission.

The logo chosen for this II Assembly features giant tongues of fire. Many peoples, in particular some from cultures on the African Continent, where the final phase of the Assembly will take place, are coming together around the fire to talk about and celebrate their lives. It is this beautiful experience that we are being called to reproduce at each level of participation: local, provincial and international. Being called to gather around the fire that captivates us, illuminates our minds and warms our hearts with its mystery.

Fire is also a symbol of the Spirit, and reminds us of the events of Pentecost. I think that all who participated in Assembly I unanimously agreed that the real star of those proceedings was the Holy Spirit, who made Her presence strongly felt, leading every participant



to personally experience discovering new facets of our Marist mission. And so starting now I invite all Marists of Champagnat to actively involve ourselves in these new international proceedings, very open to the action of the Spirit, present among us.

As the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Institute appears on the horizon, the invitation could not be more clearly expressed: "New Marists

in mission." How I hope that the road that all of us Marists of Champagnat are about to travel will allow us to continue to explore the profound meaning of that call to "newness" that we heard so insistently during our most recent General Chapter.

Mary brought the first Christian community together; today, too, as the "new" woman, she is in our midst to inspire and support us in our commitment to build a Church with a Marian face. Together we ask her to bless the proceedings of II Assembly, to bring about an ever greater vitality of our Marist charism.

Br. Emili Turú, Superior General
Rome, March 25, 2013

Read more about the Assembly:
www.champagnat.org/nairobi/



THE REMODELING OF LA VALLA

"Its Foundation is in the Holy Mountains"

Spring has come to France! After so much cold and snow, life returns. Dawn was breaking as I climbed on foot to the worksite through the old road. The green environment accompanied me. Deciduous trees are greening up. The reservoirs give a splendid and serene beauty to the landscape. I move in silence, listening to the birds' good morning greeting, while another song resonates within me, Psalm 87, a song of praise to Jerusalem: "Its foundation is in the holy mountains, the Lord loves the gates of Zion. Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God. They were all born in you; they all place their dwelling in you." What an audacity! I replace "gates of Zion" with "Maison Bonner", "City of God" with "La Valla"... What a beautiful updating! "We all find our dwelling in you, in your



hands," I whisper.

Having demolished the old outdoor stairs, the rock has appeared emerging from the ground.

This corner, hidden by the building of the XIX century, will be of great educational value for everyone: we are comforted when seeing, most of all, our house built on the "rock". But in this day and age, it also entails a profound evangelical message (Mt 7:24). Furthermore, seated on this rock as its foundation, a series of intertwined carved stones appeared, forming a rigid body to strengthen the angle, matching those at the edge of the chapel.

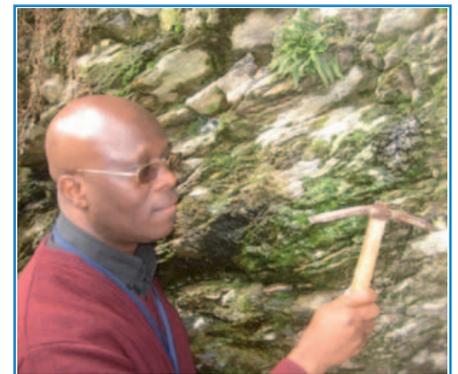
Fantastic! I'll leave this detail in sight,



Valla house thanks to a very clear architectural language: spirituality, fraternity and prophetic mission.

In fact, the house has three levels inside: the basement (with a small wine cellar), the ground floor and the second floor. Two small rooms with bathroom and a tiny kitchen have been built in the loft.

The house speaks for itself: Mission is supported on Fraternity, which in turn is founded on the Rock, on the inner treasure. This is the spirituality that permeates our house. Our spirituality. Everyone will be able to have this experience. La Valla is that simple. And that is how we should listen, because if the Hermitage speaks loudly, La Valla whispers beautiful words of love in our hearts. The same words that seduced Marcellin and the first Brothers. Fire of Pentecost that passionately launched them to the world from this humble corner of Europe.



I thought. In that way, when "coming home", we will listen to the Shepherd of Hermas, the lay writer of the second century, who saw the Church represented as a great tower built with living stones, the Christians. A Church which was already there, but always under construction at the same time. Just like us Marists!

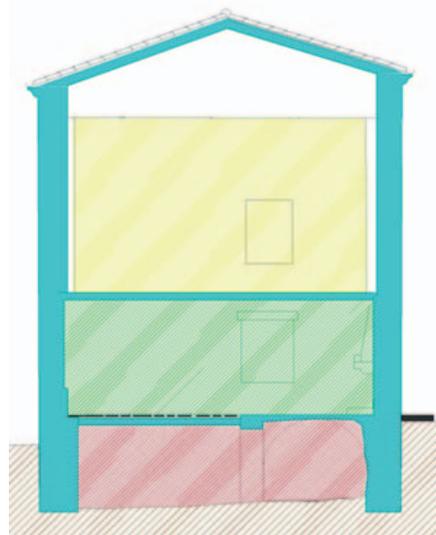
The works on Maison Boner are going ahead at the right pace. All the roofs are on and the floors are concreted. The spaces are already visible in the right proportion and measure.

What spaces am I speaking about? Last year the General Council and the Province of the Hermitage approved the remodeling of La Valla, one of our foundational places. Bonner House was in really bad condition. The only place worth a visit was the Champagnat room, with the table, the altar and not much else. Therefore the inside of the house was entirely demolished, except for the small room with the famous table. The external walls have been preserved and strengthened, and the covering was replaced, for it was very simple, as you can see.

Except for Father Champagnat's room, which is being restored in old fashion, we have proceeded freely, since the building is very functional, but without losing its home atmosphere.

Besides that, three pillars of Marist life are symbolically represented in the La

In the basement we find the "inner wine cellar", in the language of St. John of the Cross, "the hidden mystical space, into which you descend to find stillness, grounding and living water." The ground floor, at the entrance level, is transparent, warm and without barriers. Here we find the table, a symbol of our fraternity, which is supported on the "inner cellar", and founded on the evident Rock. This leads to the second floor, to the Upper Room: with its double height ceiling and large window overlooking the valley, it speaks about our Prophetic Mission today, going beyond borders to reach the world.



*The three levels
basement (red),
ground floor (green)
and second floor (yellow).*

Today, brothers and lay people "cut the rock" together and shape it with tenderness and conviction. In communion, and accompanied by Mary, they follow the path that began in La Valla, sculpting and constructing not only buildings, but people!

I will never be grateful enough for the fact that this place is only an hour flight away from Barcelona. That is why I would like to address these lines especially to those who may never be able to come. And if this message is able to transmit just a spark of the spirit that animates me, I will be more than happy, as I help you guard this treasure in your heart, the legacy of the small and humble Bonner House, where everything started, between a priest in his twenties and a handful of laymen!

La Valla, you have expanded up to the ends of the world: Africa, Oceania, Asia and America! Today we all come to you. For with you is the fountain of life, and in your light we see the light.

Architect Joan Puig-Pey



ON THE WAY TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 2013

4. From Vatican II to the Marist Bicentenary

The next General Conference (L'Hermitage, 8-3-29 September 2013) is situated in a world, ecclesial and institutional context which it is advisable to consider :

50 years after Vatican Council II, we recognize the whole path of renewal traversed by the Institute. In the face of the "prophets of doom", we regard the world, the Church and ourselves with hope, trying to be "prophets of hope" in this situation of exile of ours.



"The day is dawning" : the road to be travelled is still long, but we advance with patience and full of confidence in the future, for we recognize numerous signs of life :

Like the prophet in the midst of exile, we can repeat : "See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light ; can you not see it ? (Is 43 : 19).

And also like the sentry, the watchman... who actively waits, we want to be "watchmen for the morning" (Novo Millennio Ineunte 9; Is 21 : 11).

The horizon of the Marist Bi-

1. Subject and logo of the Conference
2. Participants in the General Conference
3. What is a General Conference?

www.champagnat.org/cg2013/

centenary offers us a reference point with regard to the 'dream' of Champagnat : "to awake the dawn" (Psalm 56). We have a rich heritage of two centuries, but we are thinking and dreaming of the years which will follow 200 years of Marist life and vitality.

"To awake the dawn" indicates an active attitude of engagement in the face of the great challenges which the last General Chapters have laid down for us and which could be grouped around the words "prophecy" and "mysticism".

At this historic moment, we look to Mary, dawn of the new times, in whom we find the inspiration to discover the attitudes with which we must accomplish our service.

"It is necessary to force the dawn to come to birth, by believing in it" (Br Basilio).

Other contexts which give light and hope to the General Conference :

- * The new pontificate of Pope Francis
- * The proximity of the close of the Year of Faith
- * The next International Marist Mission Assembly (2014)

General Conference
September 2014
Notre Dame de l'Hermitage,
France

MARIST NEWS
N.º 263 - Year V - 26 April 2013

<p>Director Br. Alberto Ricica</p> <p>Production Mr. Luiz da Rosa</p>	<p>Redaction and Administration Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 C.P. 10250 - 00144 ROMA E-mail: publica@fms.it web: www.champagnat.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Edit Marist Brother's Institute - General House - Rome</p>
---	--