

## NEW MARISTS ON MISSION

### Guatemala: 1<sup>st</sup> Inter-American Forum of the Mission Commission and Sub-commissions

The Inter-American Mission Commission (CIM), attached to the Inter-American Conference of Provinces (CIAP), held from 5 to 9 May the 1<sup>st</sup> Inter-American Forum of the Mission Commission and Sub-commissions in Guatemala, on the topic new Marists on mission.

The Forum had as objective to continue drawing up the Strategic Plan of the Commission and Sub-commissions of Mission of America, having as horizon the year 2017, to guarantee greater harmony and integration in the projects and activities, and to contribute to the durability of the Marist mission in the Americas.

It also focused on relations between CIAP, the Secretariats of Mission and International Missionary Co-operation and FMSI, CIM, the Sub-commissions and Marist Provinces of the Americas.



Those taking part in the Forum were: the Inter-American Mission Commission, the members of the Inter-American Sub-commissions of Education, Solidarity, Evangelisation and Administration. Brothers Hipólito Pérez, Provincial of "América Central", and Bernard Beaudin, Provincial of Canada, represented the Permanent Council of the CIAP.

The Forum took place in an atmosphere of discernment and participation, seeking to give impulse to new ways of Marist life and mission in the Americas, in communion with the guidelines of the Church and the Institute, in the light of the challenges of our time.



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brothers John Klein and João Carlos do Prado, members of the General Council and Mission Secretariat respectively, met with the Marist Youth Ministry International Commission, comprising of 5 brothers and 3 lay people, at the General House, from 13 to 17 May.

Br. João Carlos do Prado of the Mission Secretariat also participated in the European Mission Team meeting, with 5 brothers and a layman, held at the General House, from 14 to 16 May.

Also, brothers Josep Maria Soteras, Eugène Kabanguka, members of the General Council; Pedro Sánchez, Secretary General, Armando Alegría, in charge of the IT services of the General House, and Dorotea Cinanni, in charge of the General Archives, attended the Pergamum Course for America in Curitiba, Brazil, from 13 to 17 May.

Six brothers coming from various parts of the Marist World and members of the Committee for the Protection of Children, met at the General House, from 13 to 17 May.

# THE MISSION OF MARIST DIRECTORS TODAY

## Mexico: Second formation meeting for the Directors of the Americas

The second meeting of formation for the Directors of the Americas was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 12 to 14 April. The representatives of the Provinces and Districts present in the continent, accompanied by Brothers John Klein, General Councillor, and João Carlos do Prado, Director of the Secretariat of Mission, were summoned by the Sub-commission of Formation of the Directors of the Secretariat of Mission to continue their reflection on a project of Formation for the Directors of the establishments of the Provinces and Districts of the Americas, which will end in a document entitled "Model of formation for the Marist Directors of the Americas". This process of reflection and formation was begun two years ago with the first meeting held in Florianópolis, Brasil.



In our site ([www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org)) you will find the complete chronicle of the meeting, in Spanish, drafted in a symbolic language recalling the process of

the distillation of tequila, as a type of metaphor for the journeying of the Marist Directors.



# MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY

## Opening of the local phase in "Brasil Centro-Norte"

The official launching of the local phase of the 2nd International Marist Mission Assembly (IMMA) in the province of "Brasil Centro-Norte" took place on 6 May, by means of a video-conference transmitted from the Provincial House. The participants were brothers, directors, collaborators and youth of the school and social establishments and Marist communities of 16 States and the Federal District.

inho de Medeiros, insisted on the importance of the local phase of the IMMA for the Province and recalled that, at this time, all should be united in communion with the Superior General, Emili Turú, and his Council. "The Assembly places before us the challenge of a renewed consecrated life, which promotes a new way of being brother, in a new relationship of communion between brothers and laity, and with a significant evangelizing presence among children and young people", he said.

In his opening address, the Provincial, Br Wellington Mous-



# CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT OF THE MARIST FAMILY

## UMBRASIL launches a national Formation Plan and Guidelines for the common organisation of the ChMMF

After a process of collective work involving the Marist brothers and laity of the Provinces and the District of Amazonia, under the co-ordination of the Sector of Consecrated Life and Laity of UMBRASIL, two documents have been launched for the present and future fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family of Brasil.

The first, National Plan of Formation, aims to "offer guidelines for the provincial and local leaders of the ChMMF to give dynamism to the formation of their members" in the human, Christian and Marist dimensions. In it we find the lay person valued as co-responsible for the vitality of the charism and invited to live it in a spirit of community, in sharing spirituality, life and mission in the fraternities. The Plan also insists on the importance of accompaniment in a continual growth process; for this, it establishes a common system of reference adapted to the progress of each Province.

The second, Orientations for the common organisation, offers some guidelines for the ChMMF in Brasil, "allowing freedom of action according to the needs and possibilities in each of the provincial or local situations." Drawn up in clear and comprehensible language, it presents the minimal structures and the remits of the responsible members of the Movement, in order to guarantee greater unity in the way in which the fraterni-



ties are organized in Brasil.

According to the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers, "the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family is an extension of our Institute;

it is a movement for people who wish to share more fully the spirituality and sense of mission inherited from Marcellin Champagnat. In this movement, affiliated members, young people, parents, helpers, former students and friends deepen within themselves the spirit of our Founder so that they can live it and let it shine forth. The Institute animates and co-ordinates the activities of this movement by setting up suitable structures."

The documents are expected to give a greater dynamism to the ChMMF, contributing to the construction "of a new relationship between brothers and laity, based on communion, seeking together a greater vitality of the Marist charism for our time" (XXI General Chapter).

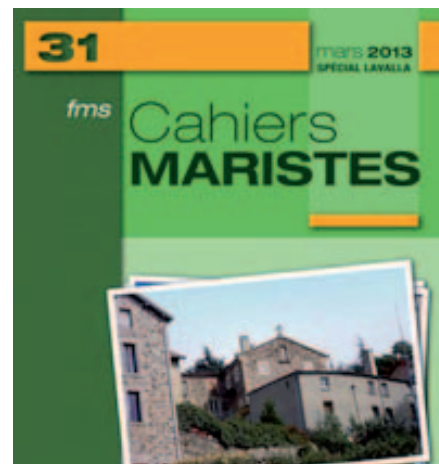


### Marist Notebook 31

#### Special Edition "Lavalla"

Last month we published Marist Notebook 31, a special edition essentially devoted to Lavalla. Now we make it available here in our site.

Readers will observe that this edition is essentially devoted to Lavalla.



# AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE BROTHER SAINTS

## Brothers Basilio Rueda and Henri Vergès

**O**n 8 May 1994, a Sunday afternoon, Brother Henri Vergès offered the testimony of blood after 25 years in the service of young people in Algeria. We recall his memory in associating it with that of Brother Basilio Rueda, who always supported Henri in his apostolate.

The Institute judged it fitting, a dozen years ago, to open a process for the beatification of these two Brothers. Such a process, which reveals our gratitude and admiration for their witness, each according to his way of life, can become a stimulus in our daily work.

The anniversary of Henri's violent death is an occasion for recalling the deep brotherly friendship he had for Brother Basilio, who fully returned it. The extracts from letters which follow testify to this.

On 24 December 1976, Henri writes to Brother Basilio, then Superior General, from Sour-El-Ghozlane, a little town on the high plateau, 120 km south of Algiers. He has been there several weeks, with another Brother, teaching Mathematics. Following the nationalisation of the schools by the Algerian State, Henri left, in June, the college of Saint-Bonaventure, in the heart of Algiers. He writes: "...Here we are, still more than in the past, in a situation of humble service speaking quite simply through our everyday life of our love for God and our brothers among whom we are present. It is indeed the life of Nazareth with its work, its humble daily concerns to prepare the meals, do the housework, its many contacts with the common people, its moments,



too, of silence and welcoming the Lord... I think it is a grace of God to be living at this time, strongly encouraged by those responsible for the Church in Algeria, in particular Cardinal Duval who has even promised us a visit soon, and which may also be a providential sign for our Institute. The more so as similar conditions of life must be lived by many of our Brothers throughout the world". (Cf. *Convergences*, p. 42, Rome 2002)

The letter of 20 April 1977 receives a reply from Rome, dated 4 May. Brother Basilio writes: "...I thank you sincerely for having sent me in advance the text you you have destined for "Étincelle" (the newsletter of the Province of Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage). I find it clear and precise and it will without a doubt be a subject of discussion among the Brothers. In fact, you are in some way precursors. Your experience and the way of life you are

currently leading is a witness as much for the surrounding population as for the Brothers following this experience with sympathy and much interest. As for me, my dear Brother Henri, I congratulate you on your courage and your devotedness to the young people of the country". (Cf. *Convergences*, p. 45/46)

Henri had asked, with the authorisation of the Provincial Council, for Algerian nationality. Brother Basilio replies to him from Rome on 26 May 1983: "...The gesture you are making in asking for Algerian nationality is particularly beautiful: it is a really evangelical incarnation and I congratulate you with all my heart". (Cf. *Convergences*, p. 97) Henri did not have the joy of seeing his request accepted.

These few extracts from correspondence give an idea of the reciprocal esteem and mutual affection of our two Brothers. The flame which burned in their apostolic hearts made them, each in his own way, servants of their brothers and young people.

Let us faithfully preserve their memory and ask them to communicate to us the pastoral charity with which they were filled. Let us entrust to them the Brothers and laity working in "Ad Gentes" and more especially our two communities of Mostaganem and Oran. It is difficult not to see them as fruits of Henri's love for the Algerian people, especially the young whom he loved to the extent of giving his life.

Brother Alain Delorme, vice-postulator for the cause of Brother Henri Vergès.



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

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