

BROTHER CRISANTO AND 67 COMPANIONS MARTYRS

Approbation of the Cause of Beatification

It is with great joy that we share some good news with you : we have just received from the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the DECREE of beatification of Br Crisanto and his 67 companions martyrs, signed by Pope Francis.

They will be beatified on 13 October this year in Tarragona, Spain. Let us thank God, the Blessed Virgin and Champagnat, as well as our Brothers who were declared blessed in 2007, for being able to count, for the Church and for the Institute, on this pleiad of martyrs, witnesses and models in the faith.

I invite you to have a thought in your prayers for Br Gabriele Andreucci and his collaborators, who worked ardently in the drawing up of the Positio for this Cause.



BURNING EMBERS, WITNESSES TO THE FAITH



On the occasion of the feast of the Founder of the Marist Congregation, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, on 6 June, Br Emili Turu, the Superior General, published a letter in which the traditional message for the feast was associated with news of the imminent beatification of 66 Marist Brothers and 2 laymen, martyred in Spain.

<http://www.champagnat.org/000.php?p=340>

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The General Council is in plenary session, beginning this week and finishing on 5 July.

On 4 June, the members of the presidency of the Latin American Conference of Religious (CLAR) came to the General House. They had Mass with the General Council, supper with the members of the community, and then a time of conviviality and dialogue with the Superior General and the Council.

Br Javier Espinosa, of the Secretariat of the Laity, is at Las Avellanas, Spain, co-ordinating the regular meeting of the Enlarged Secretariat from 4 to 6 June.

UNITED STATES

National Gathering of School/Ministry Governance Leaders

On Saturday, April 27, the presidents and board leaders of Marist-owned and Marist-sponsored apostolic works met for a full-day conference at Marist High School in Bayonne, New Jersey. In addition to Camp Marist, the following schools were represented: Archbishop Molloy, Central Catholic, Columbus, Guadalupe Middle School, Marist Bayonne, Marist Chicago, Mount St. Michael, Roselle Catholic, St. Joseph Academy,

St. Joseph Montvale and St. Agnes. Bro. Ben Consigli, the provincial of the US province, and the Provincial Council also participated.

The workshop included presentations on effective board leadership and the role of the board in the Catholic and Marist mission and identity of each institution, a panel discussion with the Provincial and Council on the role of the Marist Brothers in governance,

and two round table discussions on finances and on fundraising. The day ended with Mass and dinner.

In their evaluation of the day, the board members expressed their thanks for this meeting and their support for both the schools and the province. They also asked for future meetings and suggested several topics that they would find helpful.



KOSMOS Y ARCHIVUM

Formation meeting for Secretaries and Archivists of the Marist Provinces and Districts of Latin America

The formation meeting for Secretaries and Archivists of the Provinces and Districts of Latin America took place in Curitiba, Brasil, from 13 to 18 May. The principal objective of the meeting was to train the Provincial Secretaries and Archivists in the use and implementation in their Provinces of the programmes Kosmos and Archivum.

Kosmos is an application for managing the data on the persons and works of the Marist Institute. Archivum is a document management system for the integrated administration of the archives of the Institute.

The two tools were conceived and set in motion by teams made up of persons attached to the Marist institution, in order to optimise the human and technological resources of the Institute.

This meeting helped facilitate working in group and network among the different Provinces of Latin America, in all the common procedures capable of being standardised under the same work system, such as the management of data and documents.



The meeting took place in an atmosphere of fraternity, allowing close acquaintanceship between persons working in the very different situations of the various Provinces. It was a strong experience of personal growth. All the participants took back with them much more than the hours of training in Archivum and Kosmos.



BR LUIS CARLOS GUTIÉRREZ BLANCO

New Provincial of the Province of « América Central »



Br Emili Turú, Superior General, and his Council, after studying the results of the sondage carried out in the Province of « América Central », have appointed Br LUIS CARLOS GUTIERREZ BLANCO Provincial of this Province for three years, beginning in December with the holding of the Provincial Chapter.

In his letter to the Province, Br Emili thanked Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez for his ready response. The results of the sondage clearly show that he enjoys the support of the great majority of the Brothers of the Province. Br Emili also thanked the outgoing Provincial, Br Hipólito Pérez, for his spirit of service and his devotion during the last six years. Finally, he congratulated the Brothers of the Province for their participation in the sondage and for the generosity they witness to the Province and the Institute.

Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco was born in Trapagaran, Biscaye, Spain, on 25 March 1967. He pronounced his first vows on 8 June 1986 in the Province of « América Central ». His intellectual qualifications include studies in Social Education and Language, a Licenciante in Theology, Administration and Educational Supervision and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Puerto Rico. His apostolic mission was carried out in Guatemala, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico, as teacher, pastoral co-ordinator, academic

co-ordinator, administrator and community superior. He has been a member of the Guiding Committee and treasurer of the Conferences of Religious of Puerto Rico and Guatemala. Since 2004, he has been Provincial Co-ordinator for Education and the Marist Fraternities of the Province. At present, he is also head of our school in Guaynabo. He is a member of the Inter-American Mission Commission and the Inter-American Sub-commission of Education.



MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MYM COMMISSION

The second meeting of the International Commission of the Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) was held in the General House in Rome from 13 to 17 May.

The principal purpose of the meeting was to thank the Commission for its work and the holding of the Regional Seminars for the application of the document « Evangelisers in the midst of youth » ; to reflect on the future horizon of the MYM at the Institute level, and to discern about the best strategy to adopt in helping the Administrative Units implement MYM.



ON THE WAY TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE - 6

Mystics and prophets : Interview with Br Emili

Awaken the dawn, is the slogan chosen for the next General Conference to be held at the Hermitage from 8 to 29 September 2013. **Prophets and mystics for our time** is the sub-title which makes concrete the main topics to be covered at the assembly. We posed some questions on this subject to our Superior General, Br Emili.

Christian theology and spirituality talk a lot today about the "mystico-prophetic tradition".

I think it is not simply a matter of trying to transcend the antagonism between the two in the past, but also of a way of recognising that such an opposition is not part of the tradition. The prophets were mystics and the mystics were prophets. It was unthinkable that a person could call for justice and social change without having some experience of union with God. It was equally unthinkable for anyone to be an accomplished mystic if he did not speak openly and in a critical way of the injustices of his time.

Our life is very active. What does the mystic dimension involve?

It is precisely because of our type of life that we need to cultivate a mysticism which lets us live « centred ». I believe numbers of us have lived the intoxicating experience of action ; and we have had to take the means necessary to overcome addiction to unbounded activism. In my opinion, the first, the most essential and the purest call we feel within ourselves is that we are called to "BE brothers".

You place a strong accent on "BE brothers".

This is because many value us

because of what we do, as a simple « taskforce » at the service of the Church and society, while in reality our existence as an Institute has meaning in itself, without it being



necessary to highlight our specific function. « TO BE brothers » - mystics and prophets -, there is the core of our life, there where we risk our present and our future. To be what we are called to be. To be ourselves : it implies the enormous challenge of coherence.

And the prophetic dimension?

Prophetic action is the public face of mysticism, Sandra M. Schneiders says. Religious life is a form of charismatic life, which is born as a gift of the Holy Spirit to live, in a collective way, the prophetic character of the Church. What distinguishes this prophetic vocation from other ministries of the Word in the Church is that it focuses its proclamation of the Kingdom of God on a particular situation : the integral education of children and youth, in what concerns us.

And that does not go without demands...

Certainly. It involves fulfilling the prophetic mission in trying to respond to the signs of the times ; the concrete tasks may know variations, precisely out of fidelity to the charism. I believe that the living of this prophetic witness means, for us, to always show preference for the most vulnerable children and young people, and to be capable of seeing the world from their perspective. With them and for them, we will be capable of adopting a critical attitude, in word and especially in deeds, in the face of social and ecclesial values and structures, and of inviting to a systematic change, rather than contenting ourselves with temporary and limited solutions.

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