

## CHANGE: MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

International Gathering of Marist Youth  
Rio de Janeiro | 17 - 22 July 2013

A colorful celebration with plenty of music dance and joy marked the official opening of the International Marist Youth (EIJM - 2013). It was held, on Wednesday (17/07), at Marist College Saint Jose - Tijuca, in Rio de Janeiro / RJ. The event's theme is "Change: Make a difference!" The motto is taken from the World Youth Day, "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28, 19). The event brings together approximately 300 participants from 25 Marist provinces of the five continents, including more than 200 young people from 40 countries and guests from partner institutions.

Young people from Marist Africa, Asia, Europe, America and Oceania, were welcomed by the General Councilor of the Institute, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, on behalf of Br Emili the Superior General, and the Provincial of the Province Brazil Centro Norte ( PMBCN), Wellington



S. Medeiros, who spoke on behalf of the Higher Council of the Marist Union of Brazil (UMBRASIL) and Marist Provinces of Rio Grande do Sul (PMRS) and Brazil Centro Sul (PMBCS) and Marist District Amazon (DMA .) "Our goal here, during these days, is to awaken and nurture our sense of change for a more just world," said Br. Wellington Medeiros. "Tonight the heart of Champagnat celebrates with the marist people coming from the 40 countries" added Brother Ernesto Sánchez.

At the opening session Marist internationality was present in the different cultural performances. The show "Dream of a Peasant" portrayed the story of the founder of the Marist Institute, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, from the French Revolution until the arrival of the first Marist Brothers in Brazil in 1897. To show the beauty of Brazil and the cultural diversity of the host country, different Brazilian dances were performed: of capoeira, frevo, carnival and Parintins folklore.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brother Emili Turu will take part, from 28 to 31 July, in the Annual Conference of Marist Schools of Australia, which has as theme: "He gave us the name of Mary."

Brothers César Rojas and Joao Carlos do Prado are in Rio de Janeiro for the WYD.

Br Chris Wills, director of the Secretariat of International Collaboration for Mission, is visiting the community of Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Br Javier Espinosa is in Paraguay where, on the 26th, he takes part in the meeting of the American Commission of the Laity.



Several Brothers attended the opening session: brothers John Klein, Antonio Ramalho, Michael De Waas, general cpuncillors; Br. João do Prado director of the Secretariat of Mission; Br. Cesar Rojas, director of the Secretariat Brothers Today, the provincial of the Province Mediterranean Brother Antonio Giménez; Brother Claudino Falqueto. Leader of the local community; Mrs Shirlei Aparecida, director of the Institute of Solidarity (IMS), the director of the welcoming House, Alex Alves; the director of the Marist College Saint Joseph - Tijuca Edson Leite, and director of the Marist College -

Barra Brother Pedro Melo Jadir.

There were representatives of the National Association of Catholic Schools (ANEC), of the State Council of Youth; of the Saint Martin Association, and Saint Joaquin Foundation, the Association of Marist Parents, the Board of the Alumni Association Brothers of Rio, the International Paper Group and from St. Francis Hospital.

The EIJM will be close on July 22. The meeting program includes panels, lectures, prayers, and visits to local communities and to Christ the

Redeemer. Besides the participants EIJM, over a thousand young Marists are expected to WYD, between 23th to 28th July. During the day, will be welcoming the pilgrims.

#### Tent Vocational

During the breaks EIJM, young people are invited to participate in the Vocational Tent, mounted on the court College. The space was also officially opened on Wednesday (17/07), to provide young people, in an interactive way, the opportunity to understand the importance of being a vocations promoter.

## 18 - 19 July: Life and mission of youth

At the beginning of **Thursday 18/07**, after morning prayer, Br Emili Turú, Superior General, greeted all the young people and persons present, expressing his regret at not having been able to take part in the inauguration because of problems with flight connections. The day was centred on the "young community"; each group formed at random, mixing cultures, countries and languages. The members sought first to identify themselves, then to express what "to make the difference" means, and to specify some significant challenge for youth today as regards living the faith.

This challenge was presented during evening prayer, with the celebration of the light which presents Jesus "light" of the world, "light" of our lives.

**The next day**, very early, all the participants went to meet Christ the Redeemer, who was waiting for them with open arms on the hill of Corcovado. In the afternoon, they encountered Jesus in the social works for the poor, some of them situated in the "favelas". The celebration in the evening centred on the memory of the martyrs and the calls to Marist youth.



## 20 - 21 July: Service – silence – sisterhood

**Saturday 20** commenced around Mary, with invocations coming from the four corners of the earth, opposite banners representing her image in one of the central courtyards of the "São José" College. We were all there gathered around. The prayer subsequently finished in the gymnasium.

The morning was devoted to the communication of the General Government to the youth and other participants. Br Emili Turú, Superior General, began it with his talk : "mysticism and prophecy of young people". He summed his address up in three words : service, silence and sisterhood. Called to live the vocation of the Church of service, the Church of the apron. To live in silence, that is, to put aside superficiality to make room for depth. And called also to live sisterhood (fraternity) with tenderness, which in itself is a way of evangelizing.

Then Br John Klein, Councillor General, spoke about "Challenges and future perspectives". He proposed several points for the reflection of all : to be experts in evangelisation and in the defence and promotion of the rights of children and young people ; effective internationality ; communion between brothers and laity ; intentional community ; spirituality ; Marist youth ministry ; solidarity with the poor ; a new way of being Church ; new organisation of the Marist Institute, and Marist vocation.

Time was then given to the young people and other participants to pose their questions or express their concerns to the members of the General Council present.

In the afternoon, after a sports meeting between the youth and the volunteers, various workshops were offered as options : Marist spirituality in the life of the youth ; durability in the culture of well being ; youth – hearts in solidarity ; participation and leadership of young people ; youth ministry – building bridges ; life project – nourishing 'dreams' ; theological reality of youth...

The day ended with the celebration of the Sunday Mass and all the Brothers gathering to share



supper together.

On **Sunday, 21 July**, the day began with the Gospel Reading of the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus. Meeting first by provinces, then by regions, those taking part discussed one or more of the calls the young people are addressing to the Institute and their respective regions. These calls were presented to Br Emili Turú and shared with all. The day ended with the Eucharist centred on the Gospel call: "go and make disciples of all the nations". And before supper, a homage of thanks was paid to the various sectors which had made possible this great meeting of Marist youth from the different parts of the world.

## 22 July: youth from the four Marist branches

On Monday 22 July, there was an historic meeting of youth from the four Marist branches at the São José College in Rio de Janeiro. After the prayer, the four Superior Generals introduced themselves: Sr Jane Frances O'Carroll, Superior General of

the Marist Sisters; Sr Georgeanne Marie Donovan, Superior General of the Marist Missionary Sisters; Fr John Hannan, Superior General of the Marist Fathers, and Br Emili Turú, Superior General of the Marist Brothers. Then the young people, in groups,

took time during the day to share about being Marist. At the end of the morning, those who wished to do so, expressed their own Marist experience through personal testimony, dramatic representations, song or dance.

In the afternoon, an open panel of the Marist Superior Generals responded to questions and comments. Many of these questions and concerns were along vocational lines.

Before the moving and significant

Eucharistic celebration, there was a round table of eight representatives of the Marists to respond to questions relating to what it means for a Marist to be "the Marian face of the Church". Finally, the 4 Superior Generals transmitted their message

to the Marist youth of the world, represented by all those present at this meeting.

We reproduce this message below:

## The Message of the Marist Family to Young People Today

If you want to know what the Marist Family has to say to young people today -

### Look at Mary! Where is she? What is she doing?

**She is at Nazareth...** there is silence, simplicity, contemplation. Mary is among the people around her, she chats with them, rejoices and weeps with them, and above all she listens to them as she ponders the Word of God!

The Marist Family says to you:

- Be at home with yourselves, with your world and in touch with life - as she was!
- Look for Jesus at the crib, on the cross and at the altar - as she did.
- Be joyful, creative, courageous and compassionate - as she was.
- Ponder the Word of God in silence, simplicity, prayer and interiority - Mary wonders at the beauty of God's love for her.

**She is at the foot of the Cross...** She proclaims her belief in Jesus' mission by being 'there' with Him.

She witnesses to the open and loving heart of God. She is prepared to be vulnerable in her deeds with humble courage, she stands alongside the suffering!

- It was here that we, as a Marist people of God, were born.
- It is here today that we journey with the 'crucified' - daring,



trusting, and mobile - as Mary was!

**She is at Pentecost...** She proclaims her message by being 'there' among the Apostles.

- Like her, risk being energized by the fire of the Spirit!

**She lives in a profound relationship with God.** Discern God's action in the world around you..."God so loved the world..."

- Be optimistic about life, be on the lookout for what is coming to birth, and believe in its possibility!
- Stay with the struggle, risk 'failure'

and be prepared to begin again.

- Begin once more to build the Church of today by creating committed Marist communities!

Like our **Founders and Foundresses**, Champagnat, Chavoin, Colin, Perrotton and the Pioneers, we journey with and among people, are welcoming to all, friends of the poor, the overlooked, the powerless, those on the edges. Marists are 'instruments of mercy' for the poor, the hurting, the uneducated and others

on the periphery.

Mary supported the Church at its beginnings and will continue to do so until the end of time.

- We belong to a Marian people let us collaborate with all who seek to transform society!
- We are called to be passionately committed to doing Mary's work - anywhere, everywhere and with a sense of urgency.

As Marist Family, we call on you to respond to the call deep within you to build our Church anew, to imitate Mary's faithfulness, to draw on her strength and to 'glorify the Lord' as she did!

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