



GENERAL COUNCIL

Resignation of Br. John Klein as General Councillor for health reasons

I am sending out this family communication regarding Br. John Klein's request to resign from the General Council for health reasons, which he submitted at the beginning of July.

You will certainly all recall that at the beginning of April of last year, while he was visiting Australia, Br. John Klein suffered a stroke or a cerebral-vascular accident. Although the symptoms were initially quite alarming, a prompt medical intervention enabled a fairly rapid recovery.

As soon as it was possible, he travelled to the United States where all necessary tests were run to determine the cause of the stroke. Finally, an atrial septal defect in his heart was identified for which he later underwent surgery in May of 2012; however, there was no absolute certainty that that condition was the real the cause of the problem.

Since then, Br. John has been undergoing regular medical check-ups. At present, although his neurological recovery has been good, he experiences a clear reduction in his physical capabilities. In addition, as I said, there are still doubts about the cause of the stroke and the doctors say chances are it could occur again as unexpectedly as the



previous one.

For all these reasons, and following a long process of prayer and discernment, Br. John has decided to present his resignation, since he believes he no longer has the necessary physical conditions to carry out his responsibilities as a General Councillor.

I know this has not been an easy decision for John, in light of how seriously he takes the responsibilities entrusted to him, and, as he stated in his letter of resignation, given the affection that has grown among us over these last four years.

The members of the General Council and I have, however, accepted his resignation since we understand very well the reasons behind it. At the same time, it is not without regret at seeing a good brother in the community and an excel-

lent member of the team having to withdraw earlier than expected.

I wish to thank John for his wonderful service to the Institute as a member of the General Council. From the moment he was elected, he placed no limits on his commitment, offering the very best of himself; as a General Council, we have had the privilege of witnessing it, as have all of those among you who have benefitted from his presence. In the Council, he has always been a very positive, enthusiastic and joyful person who has enriched us through the wisdom of his experience in many different areas. Many thanks John!

Br. John will continue in office until September 15th, when he will withdraw from his service as a General Councillor.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all of you to pray in a special way for those of us who will gather at l'Hermitage for the General Conference. May this truly be a time of grace for the Institute as we continue on our journey towards the bicentenary of our foundation.

Let us entrust each other to the tenderness of Mary, our Good Mother.

Emili Turú - Superior General
Rome, 30 August 2013

FOUNDATION STONES

United States: A Marist Brothers' Vocation Program

We kicked off our Province's Year of Marist Vocations this past June with our first annual FOUNDATION STONES week. The intention of Foundation Stones is to invite students graduating from our Marist high schools in the U.S. to retreat together at our Center in Esopus. Foundation Stones offers the opportunity for these young men to explore the Marist Brothers' way of life through a seven-day experience, providing time to live, reflect, relax and work side by side with the Brothers. Support from the Province leadership was very strong as was support from individual Brothers. We had a total of 10 students participating, 8 first-timers and 2 current members of our Marist Accompaniment Program.

So what happened each day during Foundation Stones? The basic schedule consisted of gathering daily for Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. Various forms of prayer were experienced highlighting our Marist charism, the Liturgy of the Hours, Taize Prayer, Meditation, Rosary, Holy Hour, the Examen, and silence. Learning and singing the Salve Regina each morning and night was also part of the experience. By the end of the week, the young men could sing the hymn without the Latin words in front of them. To welcome the participants at the beginning of the week, our Superior General, Br. Emili Turu, videotaped a personal message from Rome highlighting the theme, 'Quo Vadis.'

Each morning from Monday through Thursday the young men participated in conferences and discussions facilitated by various Brothers. Topics included; celibacy (Br. Steve Schlitte), spirit of our Founder St. Marcellin Champagnat (Br. Ben Consigli), developing personal spirituality (Br. Don Bisson), and Marist life from the perspective of our youngest member (Br. Brian Poulin). Also joining us for the week was Sam Amos, postulant in



September. Each afternoon they worked side by side with Brothers Owen Ormsby, Greg Delaney, Dan O'Riordan, and Todd Patenaude in service projects on the property including refurbishing the Stations of the Cross pathway circling our cemetery and finishing a grotto to Mary, our Good Mother next to the Outdoor Chapel in the Woods. Time was also devoted to ice-breaking activities, rock wall climbing, one-to-one interviews and opportunities for theological reflection, journal writing, and quiet time. Community recreations included eating all meals together with many Brothers joined us throughout the week, as well as relaxing together at various times during the day.

Friday was a day of relaxation which began with Mass at Marist College presided by Fr. Richard LaMorte and musically accompanied by Br. Bill Lavigne. After lunch at the college we launched a 2-hour boat ride up the Hudson River, joined by about 12 more Brothers. The boat ride went up as far as our Esopus property.

Most of the young men were impressed to meet the many Brothers who visited Foundation Stones to share a meal, work side by side, pray with them, and basically show an interest in who they were. We Brothers were able to demonstrate what often comes so naturally to us: our way of living together and supporting each other. Young people do not always get to see this part of our lives since they know us primarily as their teachers, administrators, counselors, coaches and/or campus ministers. Foundation Stones accomplished its ends by enhancing their knowledge and experience of who Marist Brothers are.

The participating alumni were from all parts of our province: New York (Molloy, Mt. St. Michael,) New Jersey (Roselle and St. Joseph Montvale,) Florida (Columbus,) Texas (St. Joseph,) and Illinois (Marist.) Many came alone and, after overcoming those awkward opening silences, quite easily formed bonds that will carry them through further explorations of Marist life while they attend college. "It meant a lot to me to come together for a whole week with other guys considering the Brother's life," was echoed frequently in our follow up discussions/evaluations with the young men.

Br. Mike Sheerin



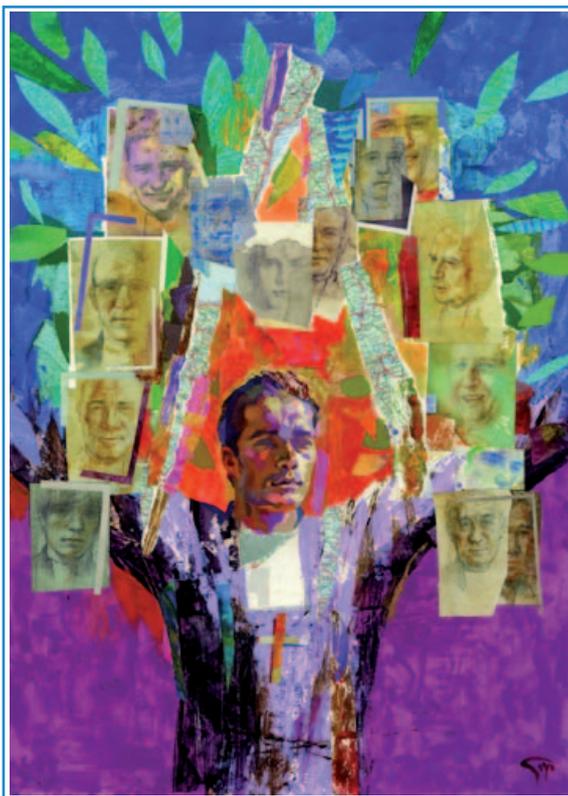
BEATIFICATIONS 2013 - TARRAGONA

Letter of the Brother Provincials of the four Marist Provinces with works in Spain

Dear brothers and lay Marists, we, the Provincials of the four Provinces with works in Spain, invite you, in line with the recent letter of Br Superior General, to take an active part in the ceremonies of beatification of the 66 brothers and 2 lay Marists, to be held in Tarragona on 13 October. It is an occasion for offering thanks to God together for the gift of the new blessed and the witness of their lives. We encourage you to live this event from the standpoint of faith and of gratitude to our martyrs who, in coherence with their lives, gave them up in the name of the faith they professed. This is why they are today « Witnesses for the faith », as expressed in the Marist motto of the beatification.

« The burning embers » - according to the expression of Br Emili Turú – which our martyrs have been and are, challenge us strongly about the style and the depth of our living the faith, about following Jesus and about our Christian and consecrated life. May this event rekindle the embers of our commitment and our consecration on the personal and community levels, and prompt us to give our lives for others, day by day, drop by drop, service after service, moment by moment. Brother Crisanto, first on the list, was more pained from having to be separated from his juniors than from having to die. He cared more for « others » than for his own life. The following of Jesus is linked to others. A faith without engagement, without the gift to others, is a faith closer to ashes than to embers.

We invite you, dear brothers and laity,



to read and to celebrate on the basis of faith the testimonies of these 68 Marists of Champagnat, beginning with the three French brothers who, able to leave Spain, did not abandon their companions in community ; passing by the young brothers only 19 and 20 years old, who gave their lives from the simple fact of being religious, and finishing with the testimony of two laymen : Julián (Chinchón, Madrid) and Ramón Emiliano (Villalba de la Sierra, Cuenca), so identified with the broth-

ers that they chose not to be separated from them at the risk of their lives.

The fact that the celebration is taking place in Tarragona rather than in Rome does not in any way diminish the importance of the event. We ask of you an effort to be there during that week-end in order to participate actively. Afterwards, there will be other celebrations in the respective provinces. We also invite you to take part in them, with the same interest.

We wish to thank very especially the brothers who have devoted so many hours, so much enthusiasm and work to organizing an event of this kind. We would not wish to forget those who have done so much since the beatifications of 2007, most especially Brothers Gabriele Andreucci,

Giovanni M. Bigotto, Jorge Flores and Mariano Santamaría. A thousand thanks, Brothers !

May the Lord, our good Mother and Champagnat inspire our lives as they inspired those of our Marist martyrs right to the end.

See more about the beatifications in Tarragona at www.champagnat.org



General Conference

During the month of September, we will be sending out a special bulletin each Monday with the chronicle of the General Conference being held at the Hermitage in France from the 8th to the 29th. Follow it on www.champagnat.org

PROVINCE OF "BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE"

The Province creates a site for the local phase of the International Marist Mission Assembly

The II International Marist Mission Assembly will be held in September 2014, in Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme of "New Marists on mission". The Assembly itself will be preceded by local and provincial phases, which will take place up to May 2014. In the Province of "Brasil Centro-Norte", the local phase began on 6 May and each organisation of the Province is in process of organising its own programme. A site has been created for sharing the Province's preparation : <http://marista.edu.br/aimm>, a virtual space for publicising the activities of the school establishments and social centres as well as the religious communities, in order to help live the proposed itinerary in harmony with the themes of the

Assembly : Spirituality, Vocation : New relationship, and Evangelisation.

This site is composed of news items, photos and videos of the local phase, as well as general information about the Assembly such as : history, Organising Commission, logo, programme, etc.

All the material for the organisation of the local and provincial phases is available on the site: www.champagnat.org/nairobi2013



MARIST EUROPE

European gathering of brothers no older than 45

The European gathering of Brothers no older than 45 took place in the house of Champagnat, Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, from 11 to 17 August. Participants numbered 52. Among them, 46 were aged under 45, mostly Spaniards, but also Portuguese, Italians, a Belgian, a Lebanese, to whom were added Br Allan from the Philippines and the French postulant Arnaud, of the Hermitage community. Br Emili Turú, Superior General, and Br Antonio Ramalho, Councillor General, participated in the whole meeting.

The central theme of the meeting was : « Young enthusiastic hearts ». And one strong point was, in fact, the extraordinary « connection » experienced by all and among all, a real sign of brotherhood in the Europe of today. But also connection with the social reality of the continent, the Church, religious life,

Marist centres : a realistic look, marked with hope nourished at the sources of the Gospel and our charism.

The programme was very well organised by the preparatory commission of the participants themselves, chosen by the EMC (European Marist Conference). It consisted of very creative animations, intense and participative prayers, times of relaxation and a pilgrimage to the Marist Places.

Br Emili animated two essential moments of the reflection ; he posed many

questions and gave many reasons for hope for the future. He invited the group to a time of silence to interiorise the experiences lived and the reflections made, thus preparing a later moment of open dialogue. At the end of the gathering, Br Emili said that a Europe could be a laboratory for what will happen, or has already happened, in other parts of a secularised world. A group of brothers such as this, with so much energy, could and should open roads. And Br Emili insisted : « Take an active part and be creative ! Be fully brothers (vocational coherence). Be fully young ('disturb', share your dreams).

The atmosphere of the place and the extraordinary welcome (and witness) of the community of the Hermitage contributed greatly to transform the week into lived times of deep Marist spirit.



MARIST NEWS
N.º 284 – Year VI – 12 September 2013

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