

OCEANIA PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION

Regional Lay Commission of Oceania

The Oceania Partnership Commission (Oceania Lay Commission) has a Charter that states how it will promote, support and develop a spirit of communion between the relationship of all Marists involved or connected to Marist mission and life, Lay and Brothers, in the Oceania region.

Its recent two day meeting in Sydney was under the leadership of Tony Clarke (Secretariat of the Laity) with the following present: Lucy Sinei (Melanesia), Br Tony Leon (Australia), Br Mark Kenatsi (Melanesia), Taatite Barbera (Kiribati), Peter McNamara (Oceania Council liaison Australia), Joe McCarthy (Australia), Br Carl Tapp (New Zealand). Carole Wark (Australia) was unable to attend.



Columban Priests Brian Vale and Patrick McInerney guided a challenging morning reflection with a presentation on an "Ecclesiology of Communion".

A revision of the Charter is planned to bring it in step with recent developments in the Institute. A sub-committee produced a paper proposing an electronic 'Marist Spirituality App' which would be a significant resource for reflection and prayer for Brothers and Lay Marists, suitable for the whole Institute. The development of a collection of electronic images of religious art and symbols reflecting Marist life and mission in the many

cultures of the region was commissioned. This was seen as a more effective way of communication and formation than the written word. Initial planning was done for another Regional Joint Formation Planning Programme for September 2014. Consideration was given to the need for accompaniment and how this can be satisfied. Training has been given for emerging lay leaders in our schools in Melanesia and the Pacific and they will benefit from further development.

The Commission received a report on the 'Australian Marist Community Forum', a gathering of Lay Marist animators and Brothers from throughout Australia, which was successfully completed in August. This Forum has proposed a canonical form of belonging for Lay Marists and Brothers. Participants expressed a need for a structure for their formation, spirituality, prayer life and mission. This may well lead to a template that could be relevant throughout the Institute.

The Oceania Partnership Commission covers a vast geographic area, with many cultures and many levels of development. It takes up the challenging role of guiding Lay Marists of Oceania.

INTER-AMERICAN MEETING

Meeting of the Solidarity Sub-commission

The meeting of the Solidarity Sub-commission took place in Porto Alegre from 25 to 29 September. This is one of the sub-commissions of the new structure of animation of Marist America. The others are the sub-commissions of evangelisation, education and administration. These four sub-commissions are linked to the commission of mission. The idea of this structure, as you have guessed, is to move forward together, in the same direction, as Marists of America, while respecting the diversity of the different provinces.

This meeting included several points on the agenda:

* To prepare the programme of the 5th Inter-American Meeting of Hearts in Solidarity, which will be held at the end of October 2014 in Ecuador;

* To establish a process and material to be sent to each of the provinces for the preparation of this meeting. This process should be underway in a short time;

* To finalise the French version of the document: "Marist path of solidarity in the Americas: rights of children and youth". The Spanish and Portuguese versions have already been published. The French version is all ready and will be printed soon. There

remains the English which should also be able to be completed soon.

Those who compose this sub-commission of solidarity are:

- * M^a. del Socorro Alvarez Noriega, Mexico
- * Juan Carlos Pellon, Peru
- * H. Miguel Antonio Orlandi, Brasil
- * H. Réal Sauvageau, Canadá

All took place in an atmosphere of work both intense and fraternal. This allowed us to attain our objectives as well as to visit some social works in Porto Alegre and even enjoy some hours as tourists in the region.



BR. THOMAS OMARI

Final Profession in Roo, Kenya

The final profession of Br. Thomas Omari took place on Saturday 12th October 2013 at Roo Community's premises. The mass's main celebrant was Bishop Philip Anyolo, the Bishop of Homa-Bay Diocese. Among the attendants of the ceremony were: Brother Thomas' family members from Kisii, the former students, our current students from Bishop Mugendi, Saint Martin/Ramba and Our Lady of Orote Primary School; some sisters and the Marist Brothers from the MIC community, Orote, Roo, Masonga and Nyakato.

The mass was animated by the choir of the outstation of Roo, which harmoniously sang in Vernacular (Dholuo) and

Swahili.

During his homily, the Bishop thanked the Marist Brothers for having organized such an important event in this area. The prelate stressed the importance of the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist as paramount and ultimate in Christian life and so in religious life.

On the other hand, during his occasional speech, Br Valentin DJawu, the PACE provincial, strongly reminded Br Thomas of the personal and individual aspect of his vocation in the Congregation of the Little Brothers of Mary. He also called his attention on the beatification of our 68 Spaniard martyrs, confreres and collaborators, which was



just a day after his final profession and challenged him to imitate these brothers in their courage and enthusiasm in living out their faith and vocation until the end.



WE DREAM OF NEW WAYS FOR MARIST LIFE

Inter-community meeting in Costa Rica

How much time does it take to travel from Alajuela to Los Chiles and vice-versa? It depends on the traffic, if one goes by bus or private car, if it is raining, if one leaves in the morning or the afternoon, if one stops a moment at the park of Zarcero or at the quay of San Carlos, etc. What is true is that it takes at least three and a half hours to reach the desired destination: the northern border or the central valley.

As far as we were concerned, it was at 9.30 on Saturday 12 October when we brothers of the community of Alajuela and of the Provincial Council, made this trip. We did not count the hours. When one is enjoying good conversation – serious or superficial – or better still the company of others, time flows by agreeably. We arrived on time for the meeting of the Provincial Council with the Los Chiles community, of course, but also for the Eucharist and other points of the fraternal gathering.

So it was on Sunday 13 that we held our community meeting. We awoke to a warm sunny day, as usual on the plains of the Guatusos, but were agreeably surprised when some opportune rain fell to alleviate the heat.

We prayed together around the Word, like any Christian community on the Lord’s Day. We had prepared ourselves well for the dialogue proposed by Br Hipólito about the future Marist mission in Costa Rica, in line with the previous reflections on the proposals of revitalising and reorganisation implemented by our Province.

Do we foresee new ways for the Marist mission in Costa



Rica? And do we believe? Do we want to help bring the dawn to birth? Mary helps us... Mary does not abandon us, and that is sufficient (M. Champagnat). On our side, to do our best and to keep our commitment to the children and youth of this land !

The return trip surprised us with the best postcard views of Costa Rica: a particular variety of tones of green vesting the prairies, mountains and valleys. After the rain, it seemed the whole countryside was opening up. Before our eyes, the best souvenir of the presence of the goodness of God which always accompanies and supports us. And also the best of news: this land calls us to generosity and boldness.

Los Chiles, northern border with Nicaragua.
Br Omar Peña



Three thousand news items on www.champagnat.org

A few days ago, we inserted news item no. 3,000 on our site, counting from 16 April 2004, when the second version of the [champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org) site was inaugurated. It is a good moment to draw up a balance and establish new goals.

During this period, we published an average of 0.86 news items a day. Since last year, the average has already passed one item per day, and each item is read by an average of 3,093 persons.

Another curiosity is linked to the origin

of the news items. According to the data of 28 October, most come from the General House (686), followed by Brasil (369), Spain (317), Mexico (121), Australia (110) and France (104).

From the point of view of the Ad-

ministrative Units, "L'Hermitage" has contributed 168 items, "Mediterránea" 150, "América Central" 135, "East Asia" 123, "Brasil Centro-Sul" 109, "Australia" 106 and "Norandina" 94. If the origin is considered in terms of geographical region, Europe appears in first place, with 1,352 items. Then South America (607), Asia (248), North America (242), Africa (236), Central America (155), Oceania (139) and the Middle East (30). There is a page where one may consult the complete statisti-



cal details of the items published.

All the news items published on the site are available and, considered together, are an excellent aid for showing the dynamic life and history of the charisma of Marcellin Champagnat.

The site is an open space which the Institute makes available to make known the activities which give concrete form to Marcellin Champagnat's project.



BR. JOARÊS PINHEIRO DE SOUSA

New sub-director of the Escorial team

Br Joarês Pinheiro de Sousa has been appointed by Br Emili Turu and his Council as sub-director of the Escorial team, to support Br Angel Medina. He will begin in 2014, with the course for Formators.



Joarês Pinheiro de Sousa was born in Maranhão, Brazil into a very large family of 21 children, 17 of them still living. His parents celebrated their 71 years of married life on 29 June.

Joarês heard the call to vocation through his brother Joaci Pinheiro de Sousa, a Marist Brother, but he did not decide to join him until 1986. That year, he arranged with the Provincial, Br Antonio Ramalho, to have an

experience in a Marist community in Aracati, CE.

In 1987 he entered the postulancy in Natal, RN, and in 1988 began his novitiate in Mondubim, Fortaleza, CE. Two years later, he made his first vows on 1 January 1990, and returned to Natal for his scholasticate (1990-1991).

In 1992 he returned to Mondubim, this time as a collaborator in formation. In 1995 he took charge of the juniorate, today called pre-postulancy, and remained there until 1997. From 1998 to 2000 he worked in the formation of the scholasticate at Belo Horizonte, as part of an interprovincial team. This term being complete, he was invited

to take part in the one year course for formators in Chile in 2001.

On return to Brasil, he took charge of the postulancy in Natal, RN, for a year and in 2003 assisted Br Ataíde José de Lima in the postulancy of Vila Velha, ES. At the end of that year, after the fusion of the former Provinces of Rio and Brasil Norte, Joarês was appointed master of novices of the new Province of "Brasil Centro-Norte".

He was master of novices from 2004 to June 2006, at Mondubim, from July 2006 to the end of 2010, at Maranguape, CE., and in 2011 at Aracati, with the second year novices. Thus he has passed almost all his Marist life as a formator in the different stages.

Academic formation: bachelor and master in Philosophy from the UECE – University of Ceará; Theology of catechetics from the PUC of Paraná, and a course in EFMA at Belo Horizonte, MG.

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