

PHILIPPINES EMERGENCY

Typhoon Haiyan

We finally received news from the Philippines, with the confirmation that all the Marist Brothers are fine and the communities have not been damaged by the passage of tremendous Typhoon Haiyan.

Their concern now is to bring relief to families who have lost everything, and especially to children who are disconnected from home and family. All the Marist communities, through the Provincial Superior, Br Manuel De Leon, appeal to our solidarity in order to be able to intervene effectively in their favor.

Please, use the key to the on-line donations of www.fmsi-onlus.org

Or the bank transfer account:

Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale Onlus
Piazzale Champagnat, 2 - 00144
Rome - Italy

Account Nr.: 615308724416
Bank: Banca Intesa SanPaolo,
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C. Pavese 397 - 00144 Roma Italia
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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brs Emili Turu S.G. and Joe Mc Kee V.G. met with the Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions in the General House in Rome from 8 to 12 November.

General Councillors Brs Ernesto Sanchez and Antonio Ramalho are visiting the District of West Africa from 1 to 24 November.

Br Jim Jolley of FMSI Geneva held a workshop in Geneva for brothers and laity of the Provinces of West Central Europe and the United States from 4 to 7 November. He is running the same workshop for brothers and laity of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 14 November.

Brs Joao Carlos do Prado of the Secretariat of Mission and Mario Meuti of FMSI Rome are attending the III Seminar on Education of the Unions of the Superior Generals of the religious congregations of men and women in Rome on 15 and 16 November.

THIRD AGE RENEWAL PROGRAM AT MANZIANA

Course for English-Speaking Brothers 2013

On 17th October fifteen Brothers and one Marianist priest gathered at Manziana to begin their two-month renewal course. The house was well-prepared and very comfortable and we settled in for a few days of orientation, during which we each outlined our family background and ministry experience. There was an amazing variety of experiences told, from years of primary school teaching to work in inner-city schools, then missionary work in Nigeria, East Timor and the Philippines. All told this amounted to a total of about 800 years of Marist ministry. We then moved on to special presentations by visiting lecturers, usually three days for each topic.



The participants are: Norbert Simms (Scotland), Kieran Nally (Ireland), John Nash, Patrick Hogan and Jim Adams (USA), John Horgan, Justin Guthrie, John O'Brien, Graeme Peacock and John Wagner (Australia), Denis

Turner and Kevin O'Mally (New Zealand) and Jude Pieterse (South Africa) plus two Marianist Brothers from USA: Tom Trager and Robert Juenemann. Our

chaplain is a Marianist priest, Patrick Tonry SM.

The program is led by Barry Burns and Antoine Kazindu, while Anthony Hunt

looks after our temporal needs and keeps the house in good order. Recently we had visits from Superior General Emili Turu who gave a presentation on the general situation affecting the Institute today, and from Br Michael McAward SM who gave a very clear outline of the Marianist charism and the concerns of the general administration of that order.

At the start of November we departed for our pilgrimage into France to visit the sites of the origins of the Marist project. As well as visiting the key sites connected with Champagnat, our group will travel one day to Taize, Cluny and Ars. The pilgrimage has emerged as one of the highlights of this renewal program, and we are all looking forward to the experience it offers.



II Marist International Mission Assembly

New Marists in mission - Nairobi 2014

The XXI General Chapter, within the context of the "new relationship between brothers and laity, seeking greater vitality together", invited the Institute as a whole to "organize another Marist International Mission Assembly in the spirit of Mendes".

An international assembly is a special moment in the life

of the Institute which offers the opportunity for brothers and laity to share, reflect on, celebrate, and build together Marist life and mission on equal terms, looking at the present times and envisioning the future, as we remain faithful to the charism. It is also an opportunity to strengthen our international and intercultural dimension at the service of children and youth.

CONCRETE PATHS OF ACTION

European Vocation Team

On October 7 we had our first meeting, at the novitiate in Sevilla. Present were one delegate from each Province, Br. César Rojas from Brothers Today, and the Master of Novices, Ernesto Tendero.

We began by sharing our reflections on Pope Francis' talk to the seminarists and novices of the world, that he gave on July 6, 2013. Once again he stressed themes such as: the importance of fidelity in a world that lives for the moment; joy, as a sign of a healthy and centered heart; seeing meaning in life; a fruitful ministry, that breaks with the image of old bachelors; doing away with a fear of praying and going out to evangelize; the importance of community life and friendship; avoiding criticism that is so damaging to ourselves; and finally, the four pillars in the formation of candidates: spiritual life, intellectual formation, apostolate, and community.

An entire program for us!

We also commented on our participation and involvement in different meetings/groups with a vocational character, at the ecclesial and Institute levels: CHANGE, JMJ, the gathering of young European Brothers at the Hermitage, supporting a congregation in its PV plan...

Later we discussed some actions for this year:

- * Advancing the proposal of a Marist "Erasmus" for youths who have to move because of studies and would wish to share community life in different locations that we would propose.
- * A follow-up of the Marist exposition that was held in 2011 because of the JMJ. This course would be in



Ibérica.

- * Our participation in the vocational web site buscoalgomas.com ("I'm looking for something more.")
- * Plans for the next Vocational Easter in Alcalá de Henares.
- * Participation in the formation course of PV de La Salle in Rome and in the National Days of Youth Vocation Ministry of CONFER, in Madrid.
- * Advancing of a vocational encounter of Marist youth of Europe, promoted by us, in Taizé, August 10-18, 2014.
- * Elaboration of level three of accompaniment on "vocational discernment", with an interprovincial character, related to the courses promoted since CME: the first at the provincial level, the second interprovincial and the third, our responsibility, in depth, also at the interprovincial level.

In the afternoon we shared various

vocational initiatives promoted for this year in the different Provinces. They are available for viewing on the Provincial web sites and the available materials can be downloaded.

Finally we discussed the fact that different Provinces are accompanying a number of young people who have expressed interest in Marist life. Some are already involved in a community experience or have taken steps toward making their postulancy. There are a total of nine young men in Europe who are being personally accompanied, and one who will soon enter the Novitiate.

These meetings are providing occasions for reflecting together, organizing ourselves, sharing ideas and materials, and making concrete proposals in an atmosphere of accompaniment and of Marist vocation ministry. Happy with who we are, we endorse them enthusiastically.



Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus, USA

Working to recapture the spirit and excitement of the early days of the Institute, young people and adults, young and old, journeyed to the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus during the weekend of October 12-13, 2013 to participate in the Lavalla Weekend Experience. The project, a joint effort of the staff of the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus and the USA Provincial Offices of Evangelization and Vocations, provided participants with a weekend of prayer, community, and service. More than thirty members of our Marist Family from around the USA worked together to build and complete the Champagnat Meditation Path.



This year's project was the construction of a Champagnat Meditation Path

adjacent to our Chapel in the Woods. This new meditation area focuses on pivotal moments in the life of our beloved founder, Marcellin Champagnat and allows us to tell the story of our Marist heritage to all who come to Esopus. The path includes several "stations" where participants can meditate on Marcellin's life and reflect on the challenges each station presents to those who wish to make the journey with him.

The path ends by the grotto dedicated to Our Good Mother, Mary, which now sits just to the right of the "chest-of-drawers altar" in the chapel area.



THE WORLD OF MIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

FMSI - Daily Reflections for Advent

We are pleased to have published the booklet titled: "The World of Migrant Children and Youth". Like every year during the time of Advent, FMSI has again in 2013 produced a tool for personal reflection which has been inspired by children's rights. This year, in particular, FMSI has proposed the theme of migrant children and their rights, which was the main focus during the Day of the World Debate in 2012 promoted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Furthermore, the theme remains a strong reality due to the constant and massive flow of migration

which concerns many countries in the world. These countries have become new locations for many migrants who leave their places of birth to escape poverty, war, and natural disasters. After all, the theme is particularly relevant at this time of the year, as we think about the family from Nazareth: Jesus, Mary and Joseph who were forced to migrate to Egypt and had to confront

many difficulties during that time. The booklet was created based on the testimonies of children and youth in the Marist world that have lived in migrant conditions with their families. FMSI would like to thank all of those who have contributed to this small publication for Advent; we would like to think the children and youth that have shared their life experiences with us, the parents that have given permission for their children's stories to be published and also the FMSI contacts in the Marist Provinces, without their cooperation this work would not have been possible.

Download: <http://www.fmsi-onlus.org> 

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