

MEETING OF PROVINCIAL ECONOMES

Provincial Administrators in an International Institute

From 11 to 15 October the General House hosted a meeting of Provincial Economes from all over the Institute, with the objective : To know one another, become conscious of being part of an International Institute and discuss topics of common interest.

Certain testimonies of those taking part, taken from the evaluation of the meeting, describe the experi-

ence of these days : "An experience indispensable for moving ahead as an Institute – The discovery of the Mission, immense, gigantic, marvellous, gives my work more meaning – It is interesting to meet other economies and share certain difficulties of our administration – Fraternity, support and mutual encouragement."

On the first afternoon, BrAfonso Tadeu Murad shared the knowledge, experiences and conclusions formulated in his book : "Ad-

ministration and spirituality, a half-open door. This topic accompanied the group's life during the days of the meeting. In their evaluation, the participants expressed deep satisfaction at having integrated the spiritual dimension in management.

In order to foster the vision of the Marist Institute which is found in various cultural, legal and economic realities, participants gave brief pre-



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sanchez return to the General House this weekend after visiting the District of West Africa since 1 November.

Br Javier Espinosa, of the Secretariat of the Laity, is in the Province of America Central conducting the annual retreats for brothers and laity.

Br César Rojas, of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, has returned from Canada after taking part in the "Marist Forum" and visiting some communities, from 8 to 17 November.

sentations of the internal and external scenarios of their administrative units based on a common schema.

The programme also touched on other topics with administrative content : The presentaion and analysis of the financial reports of each AU to the General Government using the web site prepared for this – The economic and financial information of the General Administration, which includes the economic means for the animation and the General Government, the programmes of ongoing formation, the support of solidarity projects and the maintenance of the General House. And finally, the subject of the new Model of Financing of the General Administration was also part of the programme.

On the last afternoon, Br Emili, s.g.,

greeted the participants and gave them a message posing a clear challenge in view of the future vitality of the Institute : to operate as an International Institute which makes its own the attention to the Montagnes of today in becoming involved in favour of the needs of the children and young people of this time, in acting on all occasions as signs of contradiction and challenge in the face of today’s culture and in presenting the Marial face of the Church. (LINK)

Internationality, at the level of administration, means to look at and go beyond the provincial frontieres, in sharing goods, persons and knowledge in a fashion of solidarity. And the dimension of the Marial face of the Church requires looking at the administration of goods with a sensitivity to solidarity, service, simplicity and attentive listen-

ing to the Spirit, like Mary.

Finally, we appreciated the response of all the Administrative Units by their presence at this meeting, which allowed us to experience meeting one another, knowing one another as persons and as provinces. Thus we were able to perceive our belonging to an international Institute.

Our gratitude goes also to the personnel of the General House for the services rendered, from the welcome at the airport, the attention to accomodation and the participation, on Saturday evening, in the eucharistic celebration and the festive meal where we shared an Argentinian barbecue.

Victor M. Preciado R.
Econome and Councillor General



CAMPAIN #BEINGMARISTBROTHER

The Province of Brasil Centro-Sul wins the Prize for Communicaton

The Province of Brasil Centro-Sul (Marist Group) has won an important Prize (Aberje 2013) thanks to its campaign #BeingMarist-Brother, granted by the Brazilian Association for Business Communication to the best communicators of the year and their projects. The campaign of the Province won the highest distinction in the field of Organizational Communication.

With the aim of presenting to young people a creative proposal of vocational animation, youthful in language and communication, clear and objective, the Provincial Team



responsible for the Promotion of Vocations has devised the campaign #BeingMaristBrother, which provides

information and guidelines on Marist religious life as an alternative to the drafting of a life project, a way to happiness, personal development and self-gift to others, the gift of one’s life and commitment to the cause of good.

Thanks to the social networks, the subject has become widely known and more visible, in particular for a young audience. In the little less than a year that #BeingMarist-Brother has been operating, more than 275,000 persons have been directly contacted by the campaign and about 640,000 indirectly.



A NEW HEART FOR A NEW WORLD

Commission for the revision of the Constitutions

The Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions met in Rome from 8 to 12 November. Under the responsibility of the Brs Superior General and Vicar General, it consists of seven brothers coming from different provinces of the Institute : John Hazelman (New Zealand), Deivis Fischer (Rio Grande do Sul), Diogène Musine (PACE), Patrick McNamara (USA), Juan Ignacio Fuentes (Cruz del Sur), António Leal (Compostela) and Nicholas Fernando (South Asia).

In one of its recommendations, the XXI General Chapter asked the General Council for the creation of a commission to carry out the revision of the Constitutions. The chapter assembly was very clear that a thorough revision of the text of the Constitutions, with a significant participation of the brothers, could be a valuable aid towards the revitalisation of our vocation and conversion of heart, conditions for the new world in which we are called to live. The first objective of this working group was to gain a clear understanding of the chapter mandate. A common vision, not simply in thought but of heart, was the result of a path we were able to construct little by little, sometimes in a slower, discreet, almost groping manner, at other times moving quickly ahead with evident results. For this, listening to one another was fundamental, expressing one's own idea or even aban-



doing it to take in another's, the fraternal celebration of the bread and the word.

It was also important to listen to other voices which helped us to harmonise and research this path – in broad outlines and calendar – with the other processes in course in the Institute. All form part of the path we wish to travel together with Mary to new lands.



PROVINCE OF "CRUZ DEL SUR"

National Meeting of Fraternities

On 4, 5 and 6 October, we were gathered at the "Villa San José" in Luján, Argentina. After the presentation of the meeting and the words of welcome to the twelve fraternities, we began by invoking the Holy Spirit to lend his presence and light throughout the meeting.

This year we had the joy of welcoming

two members of the "Hno. Gregorio Pastor" fraternity from Chile : Marina and José Retamal Carvajal.

On Saturday morning, we considered the topic of Mission, on the basis of the letter of Br Emili Turú, "To the ends of the earth". Br Demetrio Espinosa animated this time with clarity and depth. The presence of N.D. of Luján

and the meditated Rosary, at the beginning of the afternoon, prepared the hearts... In the afternoon, the topic of Spirituality, presented by Br Rubén Seipel, helped nourish the experience of prayer starting from life experience. The "desert" time in the grounds of "Villa San José" helped with interiorising the experience shared and its projection towards the future.

We also had a special thought for our martyrs who would be beatified on 13 October.

In the last working session, on Sunday morning, we received the guiding principles of the 2nd stage of the process of revitalisation of the fraternities. Thanks to the materials received, each fraternity, at the local level, will be able to continue the reflection aimed at renewal and adjustment to the current challenges of belonging to a fraternity of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family.



The Meeting concluded with the Eucharist celebrated with the elderly Brothers of the "Residencia Champagnat". These meeting days of the fraternities are always an occasion of enriching and reinforcing the living of the Marist charism



BR. COLIN CHALMERS

New director of the General Archives

The General Council has appointed as director of the General Archives Br Colin Chalmers of the Province of West Central Europe. From January 2014 he will replace Br Juan Moral, whose mandate has been extended to help facilitate the transition.



Born in Glasgow, Scotland on 4th June 1948, Colin had his secondary education with the Marist Brothers at the well-known St Mungo's Academy in the city. He did his novitiate in Dublin, Ireland in 1973 – 74 after training as a primary school teacher at a College run by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. In 1980,

the year of his Final Profession, he graduated from the University of London with an Honours degree in psychology.

Colin describes his life as a Marist Brother as "extremely varied", with most of it spent outside his own country. Teaching, counselling and spiritual guidance have been among the ministries which he has undertaken, as well as work with organisations helping homeless people, refugees and asylum-seekers either as a member of staff or as a member of Management Committees. Within

his own Province of West Central Europe he has served as Superior in Marian College, Dublin, and on a number of Province Commissions as well as a French-English translator. Colin followed the English-language Patrimony Course at the General House in 2008. This coincided with completing his dissertation on a spiritual history of the Institute for a Master's degree in Christian Spirituality from Sarum College, Salisbury, England. He feels that the Patrimony Course provided an excellent opportunity to carry out research in the Institute's archives.

Colin was awarded the Master's degree with Distinction the following year. In July 2008 he became Superior of Marist House, Glasgow and in October 2010 he was elected President of the Conference of Religious in Scotland.



MARIST NEWS
N.º 298 – Year VI – 22 November 2013

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Edit
Marist Brother's Institute - General House – Rome

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