

II INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY

Meeting of the Preparatory Commission in Nairobi

At the end of October the Preparatory Commission for the II International Mission Assembly met in Nairobi to plan further this most important gathering of Marists to be held in September 2014. Joining the Commission as facilitator was Sister Maria "Pilar" Benavente Serrano from the Order of Missionaries of Africa. Sister Pilar has many years of experience in such work and her intimate knowledge of Africa added greatly to our purpose

We were delighted to finally arrive in Kenya, and for many it was our first time in Africa. The warm welcome by the Marists here set the atmosphere for the week, which has been one of joy, laughter, purpose and prayer.

On the first evening we had the privilege to share a meal with 80 enthusiastic young Brothers in formation and the Brothers in leadership at the renowned Marist International Community (MIC). Our host and the Director of MIC, Brother Lawrence, left us inspired as we learned of the rich history and essential contribution MIC continues to make to the work of Marists throughout Africa. We are



looking forward to the generous support of the MIC community throughout the preparations and conduct of the Assembly.

Much of the first few days were spent investigating the necessary physical requirements for a successful Assembly. The Provincial, Brother Valentine generously accompanied us throughout the first few days of orientation. We visited the three Religious Houses where participants will be accommodated and the Assembly held. All are very well suited with comfortable guest rooms and first class conferencing facilities.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Br Josep Maria Soteras C.G. is visiting the District of Paraguay from 25 November to 6 December.

Brothers Ernesto Sánchez and Antonio Ramalho of the General Council are taking part in a meeting of the Provincial Councils of Europe in Germany from 27 November to 1 December.

Time was also spent on one afternoon familiarising ourselves with some of the sights in Nairobi, including the beautiful Basilica of the Holy Family, the Kenyan Parliament House and the Kenyan Square of Independence with the towering presence of the statue of John Kenyatta, the father Kenyan independence.

Brother Albert Nzabonaliba and Brother Teodoro Grageda have ably assisted planning for the twelve days of the As-

sembly. Brother Albert is from Rwanda, and is the secretary to the Province of East Central Africa. Brother Albert also lectures at MIC and the Jesuit College of Nairobi. He will be kindly assisting with many matters in preparation for the Assembly. Brother Teodoro is from Mexico and has worked in Africa since the early 1990s. He is currently the Master of Postulants and the Province Bursar and spent the week translating every word spoken into either Spanish or English. We are deeply indebted to him for his

time and expertise. Also joining the Commission in person for the first time was the talented Brother Miguel Angel Espinosa Barrera, the Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Mission, who also hails from Mexico.

Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated for a successful Assembly that will add much to the life and future of the Institute.



PROVINCE OF WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

Meeting in Schönstatt

During the week-end of 25th till 27th October our Province had the pleasure of welcoming our Superior General, Brother Emili Turú, who spoke to us about his circular. He gave us the name of Mary.

What he had in mind was not so much to re-read the circular but, rather, to deepen it. What lies behind the written word? That is the question.

The starting point for the meeting was the recently renovated house in La Valla. The architect has designed a three-storeyed ensemble. The cellar, furnished with a small cave, is the symbol of the inner life, the mystical dimension of our Marist vocation. The ground floor expresses the community space, with the table of our holy Founder, Marcellin, and the first brothers. This room retains a feeling intimacy, but has become more spacious. The upper floor gives access to a large, bright room with lots of natural light to symbolise the missionary dimension.

This little diversion allowed us to link the circular with our vocation. Brother Emili invited us to contemplate the icons of the Annunciation, the Visita-



tion, and Pentecost as he spoke of three "I's":

* for Interiority: The icon of the Annunciation depicts a moment of interiority. Mary is aware of God's presence. In her heart God is stirring. This is quite a mystical dimension, suggested by this moment in the history of salvation.

*or Inclusion: During the Visitation Mary joins her cousin Elizabeth. The movement of the two children in the womb stands for the sharing of the inner life as a community. Two hearts come together, feeling that they carry God's promise to Israel.

* for Interaction: The icon of Pentecost expresses the idea of being sent out on mission. Inspired by the Spirit, a new wind is blowing in the heart of the Church.

This session, which linked the three icons with the renovation of our house in La Valla, took place against the backdrop of the site at Schönstatt (near Koblenz, Germany), a site which breathes a practical Marial spirituality and invites contemplation.

Br. Maurice Godenir



IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO WITH OTHERS

Workshop on laity - brothers in Nairobi

In a recent Workshop promoted by the Secretariat of the Laity in mid-October in Nairobi, we were reminded of the African saying: "If you want to go fast, travel alone. If you want to go far, go with others". Laity and brothers from all the Administrative Units of the African continent had the beautiful experience of seeking to look far ahead to the horizon of African life in Africa and Madagascar, and from this arose a powerful desire to journey together to become organized and promote a greater union between brothers and laity and between the provinces.

The Workshop, animated by the members of the Secretariat, Tony, Pep, Sylvain and Javier, brought together six laymen, a laywoman and seven brothers from Ghana, South Africa, Madagascar, Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Nigeria and Kenya. The MIC was represented by one of the formators, Br Eugene Ezwugu. For three days, it studied the major topics concerning co-reponsibility and the lay vocation, the new relation between brothers and laity, formation processes, the future of communion for the Marist charism. If there is certainly a long way to go, the Workshop left a feeling of hope in the perception that we can go far if we go together.

This is how two of the participants expressed it:

"We have just completed the formation workshop on the communion of brothers and laity in Nairobi. I go away with great satisfaction because all the Administrative Units of Africa have been represented with brothers and laity, and we go with the African commis-

sion of laity and brothers already set up, with a layperson as president. I am convinced, as the last General Chapter expressed it, that the Marist future is a future of communion between brothers and laity. We have experienced it and I commit myself personally to making it alive where I am". (Br Rémy Mbolipasiko Dikala, PACE, R.D.Congo).

"Three days in Nairobi, together with the Marist Brothers and the Lay Marists

face the future together - without taking anything from each other; yet enriching each other; in a way of fraternal equality. The legacy of Father Champagnat continues in our continent. As Africans we know, 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together' As Marists, we go together." (Mike Greeff, Lay Marist, Southern Africa, South Africa)

The meeting proposed the setting up of the Commission of Laity and Brothers for Africa and Madagascar. This was formed by Br Elias Iwu of Nigeria, Mr Mike Greeff of Southern Africa, Br John Kusi-Mensah of West Africa, Br Rémy Mbolipasiko of PACE, Br Ernest Randriatsoalaivoav of Madagascar and Br Sylvain Ramin-dimbarisoa of the Secretariat of the Laity. The commission appointed its co-ordinator in the person of Mike Greeff, the layman in the group.



of Africa and Madagascar; the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Champagnat. In three days we saw the creation of a new awareness a new form of living the Marist Charism between Brothers and Lay People. We arrived as people who knew that we shared something but we weren't sure how to articulate it. We left with the confidence that we could

This Commission will be at the service of the Conference of Provincials, to accompany the processes of the new relationship in each Administrative Unit, in communion with the Secretariat of the Laity and the other continental commissions.



General House: Preparatory Meeting for the IMMA

On 21 November, the brothers and lay persons working in the General House came together to continue their process of preparation for the International Marist Mission Assembly, to be held next year in Nairobi. Nearly 25 persons were present.

The topic of the meeting was Spirituality. We reflected on the new elements of spirituality presented to us by today's world.



PROVINCE OF NIGERIA

Perpetual profession of seven brothers at Orlu

Seven Brothers of the Marist Province of Nigeria made their final profession on Saturday 9th November, 2013 at Holy Trinity Cathedral Orlu, Nigeria. The Brothers were: Jude Anani, Marcel Onwuasoeze, Lucky Paul, Mario Ogu, Emmanuel Ugbaji, Callistus Shomya and Samuel Okebaram.

The Profession Mass was conducted by the Catholic Bishop of Orlu Diocese, Rt. Rev. Dr. Augustine Okwuoma. The vows were accepted by the Provincial of Nigeria, Br. Joachim Ezetulugo.

In his Homily, the Vicar for Religious in the Diocese, enjoined the newly professed to keep the faith and remain faithful and committed to their



vocation.

The occasion was attended by priests, religious, family members of the Brothers, and the faithful among whom were traditional rulers, government

functionaries, Marist past and current students, staff among others. Other highlights included traditional dances, songs, and presentation of gifts.

Br. Henry Uzor, Provincial Secretary



MISSION AND MANAGEMENT

Marist Brasil evaluates trends and prospects for education

The Marist Meeting on Mission and Management took place at PUCRS. It was held by the Marist Union of Brasil (UMBRASIL) which evaluates the different national and international programmes, trends and prospects in the educational milieu. Those taking part included the presidents of societies of support, superintendants, directors of enterprises, those responsible for education, ministry and social work in Marist Brasil, which includes the provinces of Rio Grande do Sul,

Brasil Centro Sul, Brasil Centro-Norte and the District of Amazonia.

The meeting was held from 5 to 7 November, in Porto Alegre. It could count on several reporters, among

them the rector of the PUC of Paraná, Brother Clemente Juliatto, who spoke about the Challenges and Prospects of Mission-Management for Marist Brasil, the rector of the PUC of Rio Grande do Sul, Brother Joaquim Clotet, and the Director President of UMBRASIL, Brother José Wagner Rodrigues da Cruz.

Among other topics treated by the specialists, the use of advanced technologies in the education sector and the usefulness of distance learning, the e-learning.



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