

MARISTS, BEARERS OF NEW LIFE

Provincial chapter of Madagascar

On 2 January, feast of the Foundation of the Institute, a good number of Brothers and guests gathered at the Lycée St Joseph, in Antsirabe, for a commemorative Mass of the date and to attend the opening of the Provincial Chapter. During the celebration, the outgoing Provincial, Br Thomas Randrianantenaina, transmitted his message. Br Antonio Ramalho C.G., in the name of the Superior General, then read out the official appointment of the new Provincial, Br Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, who made his speech at the end of the Mass.

The Chapter continued its work at the Reception Centre Mahatamana from 2 to 5 January, with 15 capitulants, 5 invited laity (the first 2 days) and a number of observers. The Preparatory Commission had done good work and introduced the topics organised on the basis of a survey sent to all the communities. The Chapter reflected in commissions and assembly and offered the new government some guidelines on : Financial auton-



omy, Protection of children, New relationship between Brothers and Laity, Our school establishments, Vocations ministry, Initial and ongoing formation.

On the last day, the new provincial council was elected, composed of Brothers Michel Razafimandimby, Alexandre Rakotomalala, Toussaint Randriamanantena and Eugène Rabearimanana.

The closing of the Chapter took place during evening prayer on Sunday 5, Epiphany

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The General Council commenced its plenary on Monday 20 January 2014.

Br Mario Meuti of the Rome FMSI office completed his visit of the Marist works in Kinshasa and Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on 21 January.

Br Tony Leon, of the Province of Australia, has joined the Rome community to take up his task of assistant director of the Secretariat Brothers Today.

Br Marcelo de Brito, of the Province of Cruz del Sur, has arrived in the General House to complete his contribution to the "Kosmos FMS" program and collaborate in the systemizing of the net. He will stay for two months.

of the Lord. Br Antonio Ramalho spoke to emphasise the richness of the experience lived, thank Br Thomas and encourage the new Provincial and his

council. Br Sylvain then highlighted various aspects of the assembly and closed the Provincial Chapter. It all finished with a festive and fraternal

social evening, with the presence of all the Brothers of the four communities of Antsirabé and the service personnel.



EDUCATING THROUGH INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A new document of the Congregation for Catholic Education

Before the end of 2013, on 19 December, the Pontifical Congregation for Catholic Education surprised us with a new document on school education: "Educating through intercultural dialogue in the Catholic school" with the significant subtitle: "Living together for a civilization of love".

At the conference presenting the document, held in the Vatican press room, arranged with great solemnity and much media representation, the speakers included Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, Prefect of the Congregation, Mons. Angelo Vincenzo Zani, secretary of the same, and Professor Italo Fiorin, of the teaching staff of the LUMSA of Rome.

In his delivery on the topic, the Cardinal Prefect gave a description of the present panorama of the school in the world with its lights and shadows in the various countries; with surprising results in some of the places for their tradition and history. He emphasized the topicality and necessity of the theme if we are to achieve the final objective: to construct a civilisation of love so that all strive to fuse education with the proclamation of the Gospel, as Pope Francis has stated.

Mons. Angelo recorded briefly the iter of the document, formally begun in 2008, but under discussion since 1995, with the experience of the School for Europe in Bosnia Herzegovina.

In fact, the chronological horizon extends to 2015 with the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the



declaration of Vatican II: Gravissimum Educationis Momentum and the 25th anniversary of the publication Ex corde Ecclesiae, for which solemn celebrations are being prepared.

Professor Italo Fiorin spoke about the contents of the document, especially of the desire of the Catholic school to

bring its contribution to an objective vital for society.

It has five closely packed chapters: the challenges in the context of the plurality of cultures in which we live; the different positions of closeness to multiculturalism; the foundations of the intercultural; what proposals of dialogue can the Catholic School offer; and what is the contribution from all the school's sphere of influence.

If the school seeks to go beyond the academic-professional; if the teachers and directors can program objectives and values engaged with society, they have here a good basic instrument.

The school in which much, perhaps too much, faith is placed cannot be left alone. It is an ecclesial subject and the whole Christian community is called to support it as a precious good.

A challenging document in a living and real situation, such as we are involved in a world of immigration and multiculturalism.

You can download the document in www.champagnat.org



BR. GÉRARD BACHAND

New Provincial of the Province of Canada

Br Emili Turú, Superior General, together with his Council, having studied the results of the survey conducted in the Province, has decided to appoint Br Gérard Bachand Provincial of the Province of Canada for three years. In his letter to the Province, Br Emili thanks Br Gérard for his availability and the retiring Provincial, Br Bernard Beaudin, for his spirit of service and dedication.

Born in St-Liboire on 14 September 1946, the fourth of a family of 7 children and the second of five boys. Spent the first 13 years of my life on the family farm cleared by my great grandfather.

Entered the juniorate of Sherbrooke 30 September 1959, the St-Joseph Juniorate in September 1961, Postulancy and Novitiate at St-Hyacinthe, end of August 1963.

Inauguration of the new Central Scholasticate in Montréal-Nord in August 1965. There were six communities of teaching brothers established there. Obtained the A Brevet A (teaching) with options of mathematics and physics.

Perpetual profession 9 October 1971 at Granby. Second Novitiate in Rome 1983, under the direction of Brother Alain Delorme.



Teaching for 5 years in the fields of biology and chemistry. Obtained a Bachelor's degree in Biology in 1975.

From June 1976 to January 2001 my career took another direction by placing

me at Camp Mariste in Rawdon, where I took over as director in 1981. During these years, I was heavily involved in the Association of the Camps of Québec and of Canada, being president for several years. In November 2013, the Association des Camps awarded me the « Prix Hommage » for my involvement in the Camps. The Holiday Camps were a privileged type of education outside the school for youngsters from 5 to 16.

From 2003 to June 2014 working at the Institute of Integral Development with Sister Marie-Paul Ross, MIC, PhD in Clinical Sexology, as contributor, i.e. individual

accompaniment of persons of all ages and teaching of the MIGS Model (Model of Holistic Intervention in Sexology) developed by Sister Ross, a model especially adapted to treating, « curing » the traumatism and anxieties linked to the wounds of life and especially of childhood.

Have served on the Provincial Council several times. Member of the Pastoral Committee during the 1980s. Currently member of the Sub-Commission Brothers Today for the Americas and the Working Committee on the Protection of Children.

From the beginning, in 1998, I have been associated with the movement to place lay people in the different works of the province in order to assure the continuation of the Champagnat charism. This was the beginning of the MMQ (Marist Movement of Québec) which in November 2013 adopted the name of Marist Association of Laity.

Brothers of my generation, in Québec, were formed in the traditional way and have lived their active lives during a major transformation of our French-speaking society in North America, and we are invited to create a new way of being brother today for tomorrow. The sociological context in which we are immersed shapes people more profoundly than is generally thought.

As human beings we are faced with threats to our environment, our values, our faith and our commitments. As religious brothers we have the mission to travel new roads, new lands, and these lands are on the margin of official systems and not in structures.

We must face up to a certain immobility and act now in a local perspective harmonised to the inevitable globalisation. The great challenge of fraternity resides in sharing, exchange, and not leaving it in communication however technological.

We are in the spirituality of Elisabeth who realises her wish to bear a child when she thinks it no longer possible. I want to continue nourishing the hope, knowing that God will act in his own time. Champagnat and Mary are and will be my guides.

Br Jerome N'Sanda's Final Profession in Bobandana

It was on Saturday 14th December 2013 that Brother Jerome N'Sanda Otchinga made his final profession in Congo. The ceremony was graced by his Lordship Theophile Kaboy, Bishop of Goma Diocese. It took place in Saint Joseph Parish of Bobandana. The Eucharistic celebration was vibrantly and cheerfully animated by the choir known as "Les Petits Chanteurs", which was under Brother Jerome's pastoral care. The participants were: the Bobandana students, staff members, the parents of Brothers coming from this area, Br Jerome's Parents and relatives, Brothers from Nyangezi, Bobandana, Kisangani, Mururu, Nyakato and MIC communities.

1934 - 2014

Eighty Years of Marist Presence in Uruguay

On December 8, 2013 – accompanied by Brother Provincial, Horacio José María Bustos, and two General Councilors, Brothers Eugène Kabanguka and Josep Maria Soteras – the Marists of Uruguay started celebrating the 80th anniversary of their arrival in the country. Brothers and lay people from all the Marist works in Uruguay participated in a Eucharistic Celebration and had lunch together in a family atmosphere. We took the opportunity to give thanks for the service and commitment of several brothers who celebrated different anniversaries of religious profession: Juan Ignacio Fuentes, 25 years; Juan Walder, 50 years; Teófilo Gurrea, 60 years; and Quirino Calvo, 70 years.

This was the first of many ceremonies that will take place in 2014 to celebrate the 80 years of Marist presence in Uruguay.

When the brothers arrived in 1934, they first founded St Mary's School behind the Holy Land Parish in the neighborhood of La Blanqueada, Montevideo. The school operated there until 1939, when it moved to the current location on 2966 Ocho de Octubre Street. Other schools were



subsequently founded: Colegio Zorrilla of Montevideo in 1939; San Luis de Pando and San Luis de Durazno

in 1941; and Colegio Larrañaga in Rocha, which does not belong to the Institute anymore. The Marist Home of Montevideo and the insertion community of Tacuarembó were established in the 1990s. How many students, families, people and places, how many lives have been touched and transformed by the Marist charism throughout these years!

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