

BROTHER FORMATORS FOR A NEW WORLD

San Lorenzo de El Escorial, January-February 2014

Interculturality, small fraternities, availability, meditation, Brothers of the Congregation, new way of being Brother, blue week, communion, Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking, personal life project.... These are some of the most common expressions being repeated in our day-to-day living.

The new Community of Brothers doing the year of experience and formation "Brother Formators for a new world" has already formed. Coming from Latin America and Angola, there are 15 of us Brothers taking part in the experience, plus the two Brother animators: Ángel Medina and Joarés Pinheiro. The Provinces which responded to the call are México Central (2), México Occidental (2), América Central (1), Norandina (3), Brasil Centro Norte (2), Brasil Centro Sul (2), Rio Grande do Sul (1), Santa María de los Andes (1), Southern Africa (1). By nationality and place of mission, we re-



present Brasil, México, Colombia, Ecuador, Haití, Chile, Salvador, Angola and Paraguay.

Our first week passed in a program of getting to know one another, with much interaction and fraternal sharing. Becoming gradually aware of responding to a call of the

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Br Mario Meuti of FMSI and Br Joao Carlos are in Nairobi at a preparatory meeting for the formation of directors of Africa from 2 to 8 March.

The General Secretariat has organized a session for English-speaking provincial and district secretaries and archivists in the use of Archivum and Kosmos at the General House, Rome, from 3 to 12 March.

Brs Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sanchez, General Councillors, have begun a visit to the communities of the Province of West Central Europe from 5 March to 16 April.

21st General Chapter, which calls us to a greater understanding of the identity of the Marist Brother. So we intend, during the year, to integrate the different human dimensions as a person, through personal growth, community building by means of fraternal dialogue, intercultural understanding and accompaniment, and to acquire tools useful for the role we will assume as formators for the Institute. The living witness of Br Gonzalo (from his wheel chair) and Fr José Ignacio (from his monastic experience) enliven and edify us.

The second week we received the gracious visit of our Brother General Councillors Antonio Ramalho and Josep María Soteras, together with Br César Rojas, Co-ordinator of the Secretariat of Brothers Today. In the name of Br

Emili, they nourished our communion with the Institute and invited us to dialogue and reflect on our formation, its strengths and challenges, our condition as prophets and mystics, spirituality, fraternal dialogue and the internationality of the Congregation.

The third week was animated by Brazilian Sister Graciema. Her objective was to help us to a maximum integration of our life through balancing our body, mind and spirit. The Tibetan exercises, chakras, mantras and meditation, consciousness of breathing, the care and knowledge of our body, harmony and self-care were elements of learning that lead us to understand the continuing presence of God in our lives.

The fourth week was conducted by Br

Enrique Escobar (México) and centred on the topic of our cultural identities. We shared experiences and learned about healthy relationships, dominant cultures, resolution of conflicts, trust, community building and personal accompaniment.

The program continues, and we continue responding to the trust of our Provinces. We are introducing the small fraternities and composing our Personal Life Projects. We will also do our Community Project. In an especially brotherly and welcoming climate, the Lord continues modelling our vessels of clay. Not always an easy process, but we endeavour to place ourselves in his hands letting ourselves be shaped, in the same way that Mary did.



DIARY OF A MISSIONARY IN ASIA

Brother Eugenio Sanz, Marist missionary in Bangladesh, is author of a new blog on the site Periodista Digital, very well known among Spanish-speaking Christians for its session "Religión Digital". We invite all Marists to follow his reflections and offer below the text he sent to the blog on 17 February. The address of the blog is: <http://blogs.periodista-digital.com/misionero-en-asia.php>.

It is attractive being a Brother

There is nothing sweeter than hearing a youth call you "Brother". I am not saying that everything in the life of a Brother is the colour of roses, of course not. But there are things in life that cannot be paid for in cash: for example, to go to sleep each day with the awareness that you are in the right place, doing what is right for the persons who most need you. There is the weariness, of course, the unfaithfulness, the sins and miseries. But above that is that you are a Brother for the people, especially for the youth.

The brothers are not part of the hierarchy of the Church, and for this reason our institutions and our presences are,



for very many people, the unique point of contact with the Church. Persons who never step inside a parish church and who are far from any interest in ecclesial life come, on the other hand, close to us, entrust their sons to us, even if they belong to another religion, as is the case in Bangladesh. We are the caring, competent, educational, close face of Jesus for many persons.

After quite a number of years of being one, it still tastes delicious to me when someone calls me "Brother". If someone calls you "Father", you cannot call

him father in your turn, you have to call him "Son", whereas if someone calls you "Brother", you can also call him brother, in a symmetric relationship of brotherhood with respect to our Father, the good God.



PROVINCE OF L'HERMITAGE

Meeting on educational works at l'Hermitage

More than one hundred people took part in the annual meeting of the educational works of the Province which was held at N.D. de l'Hermitage from 4 to 7 February. The meeting brought together the directors of the school establishments and the social works as well as those in charge of ministry, from Catalonia, France, Greece and Hungary.



A special accent this year was placed on the protection of children, with the participation of Mme Araceli LÁZARO, of the Observatory of Children's Rights in Catalonia. The meeting also allowed the participants to share some experiences of innovation introduced in

various establishments of the Province. Finally, a visit to the renovated building of La Valla was organized under the guidance of the Brothers of the community.



ARE YOU A MARIST TOO?

Meeting in preparation for the Marist International Mission Assembly

On February 20, the brothers and laity of the General Administration held their third meeting in preparation for the Marist International Mission Assembly, which will take place in Nairobi next September.



together in the General House in 2014, as we get ready for the Mission Assembly in Nairobi.

We also reflected on what are the pillars that support and motivate our lives, which drive us to say yes or no as an answer, and orient our path in life. And finally, we reflected about the contribution that each of us can make so as to actualize Marcellin Champagnat's ideal as we walk together through the Marist pathway.

The meeting focused on the topic of vocation. Brothers Miguel Ángel Espinosa and Tony Leon implemented some group dynamics techniques to help us become more aware of our personal history, of

the answers we have given throughout our lives, which eventually brought us



Latest deceased Brothers

05/03/2014: Michael Odinigwe, Prov. Nigeria
25/02/2014: Elie Ceulemans, Prov. West Central Europe
23/02/2014: Santiago Fredeswildo Cisneros Rodríguez
 Prov. América Central
18/02/2014: Joaquim Panini, Prov. Brasil Centro-Sul
01/02/2014: Benigno Aller González - Prov. Compostela
28/01/2014: João José Sagin - Prov. Brasil Centro-Sul
25/01/2014: Louis-Maurice Goyat, Prov. L'Hermitage

17/01/2014: Henri-Louis-Pierre Reocreux,
 Prov. L'Hermitage
14/01/2014: Gaston-Eugène-Antoine Layral,
 Prov. L'Hermitage
08/01/2014: José Domínguez Vidales, Prov. Ibérica
06/01/2014: Justiniano González de las Heras,
 Prov. Compostela
29/12/2013: Vincent Lenehan, Prov. Australia

CONO SUR

Workshop on Child Sexual Abuse

A group of Brothers from Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Argentina participated in a workshop on child sexual abuse. Throughout the workshop we gradually became aware of and were deeply touched by the breadth and complexity of this issue.

Thanks to the excellent animation of Dr. María Paz Ábalos we were able to grasp the complex dynamics of the problem. We initially became acquainted with the victims' perspective in order to understand their silence and the importance of verbalizing during the healing process. We then approached the world of the perpetrator (aggressor), and of the other people who somehow are part of the situation, and were able to see the big picture regarding the impact of abuse in all the spheres of the victim's life and habitat. We were able to study these topics deeply thoroughly to the animator's in-depth knowledge of the subject, and to the many concrete examples coming from her extensive clinical experience.

We finally discussed the sense and

purpose of the child abuse prevention and treatment policies, and the respective protocol of action.



Given the challenges posed by this issue, we feel the need to help the

people involved in our works become aware of it, so that the necessary protocol can be established, defining the policies, the support and treatment guidelines, and the keys to prevention, making sure the entire staff understands the institutional proceedings regarding the problem.

The challenge is to decisively collaborate with this step humanity is taking towards a greater dignity of children and adolescents, fully respecting their rights. Time is pressing us to start doing everything in our power to banish all forms of abuse particularly targeting children and adolescents.

We thank the Province Santa María de los Andes for this excellent and helpful initiative aimed at helping us educators give an adequate response to all the people involved in our Marist works regarding the problem of child sexual abuse.

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<p>Director Br. Alberto Ricica</p> <p>Production Mr. Luiz da Rosa</p>	<p>Redaction Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 00144 ROMA E-mail: publica@fms.it Site web: www.champagnat.org</p>
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Edited by:
 Marist Brothers - General House – Rome