

SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH SUDAN

Report from Brother Christian Mbam

A lot of damage was done to our house in Malakal and things were taken. You know that the Community did not evacuate, but simply moved to another village named Rumbek to run the Teacher Training College programme for in-service group after the first battle in the town of Malakal. The community was still there when battles were fought and eventually the government forces took control of the town.

Then came the looting. The valuables were not removed because the plan was to come back and organise the March programme of teacher training. Now of course that programme is no longer possible. People are no longer in Malakal which was burnt down and is still not free from further incursion by the rebel forces, who are not very far from there.

So it is not safe yet to return there. Of course I left my own things there when I went on leave to Nigeria in December. The United Nations WFP flight I took from Malakal could only take 20 kg of belongings so it is hard to take much. I didn't have to so at that stage; similarly the other community members. That is why valuables were left behind. The biggest theft there is the land Cruiser van."

Malakal has since been subject to further battles and opposition forces have gained the ascendancy. Malakal is the capital



of the region that has the most oil and is very valuable.

Brother Christian is now based in Riimemze he comments, "Here in Riimemze I am still studying the many goings-on and to see where I fit in. One setback is the language deficiency. I have started to see how to bridge this too."



Cardinal Fernando Sebastián Aguilar CMF,
Former Marist Student in Calatayud, Spain



Cardinal Orlando Beltrán Quevedo OMI,
Former Marist Student in Marbel, Philippines.

PROVINCE MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

Preparation for II International Marist Mission Assembly

The Instituto México of Palmas, Tijuana, was the seat for the regional meeting in preparation for the II International Marist Mission Assembly. About 40 persons of the region, teachers, directors, Marist family and Brothers were present.

Br Eduardo Navarro, provincial, honoured us with his presence, and addressed us some words about the context of the Assembly and its repercussions at the international Marist level. The opening prayer invited us to recover the "little Marist virtues" and to highlight these virtues in introducing ourselves to one another. Then each delegation presented its progress on the study and reflection of the topics proposed by the international commission which is preparing us for the Assembly. This was followed by a long time of discussion on the question: How do you imagine the relationship between brothers and laity in a year's time? which each time had prepared beforehand. Some of the significant ideas of this sharing:

"We imagine we will be living in greater collaboration, understanding, much dialogue and shared animation. We wish to transmit together the joy of living with Jesus and being Marists, and share this experience with the



children and young people. This is the joyful message of the Marist spirituality which the Brothers are waging on for the Marist formation of the laity. To be Marist, brother or lay person, transcends the walls of the college, is a way of interpreting and living life. We wish to live enarmoured of the project of the reign of Jesus and make it a reality on the basis of the Marist values. We wish to live transmitting spiritual joy and depth to all, especially to children and youth. We want to move, leave our comfort zones, to go to encounter the most needy".

After this rich sharing, seven experts in youth, seven young people studying for the bachelor's degree, came and shared with us some of the things that concern them at this stage, their fears and joys, and also presented to us a "description" of how the young are... Finally, they spoke to us about what they were grateful to Marist education for, emphasizing the human formation and formation in values, being taken into account and feeling themselves important, as well as being always encouraged to give the best of themselves. They were grateful for the passion of the teachers and

the welcoming atmosphere, and felt that the teachers transmitted their knowledge with joy and passion, and that the college was worth the trouble. On the other hand, the young people also indicated to us some elements that did not help them in the college, such as the formalities placed between the students, the fear of what others will say and much criticism and scoffing among the students. Then they spoke about the places the young frequent and, finally, about how they feel listened to and attended to by the Marist work.

We spent time working in teams on some articles of the document 'Evan-gelizers in the midst of youth', reaching a commitment for each team "to be more active among the young people, making ourselves present, seeking new ways of getting them to approach us with greater confidence, listening to them and supporting them."

We finished with a simple prayer, re-constructing the logo of the International Assembly with some ideas that remain in our hearts.



FONDAZIONE MARISTA PER LA SOLIDARIETÀ INTERNAZIONALE

Bringing hope back to Haiti

Four years ago, on January 12, 2010, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, bringing death and destruction to the island.

As it happened in the past after the eruption of the volcano in Goma (Democratic Republic of Congo) in 2002, and the 2004 Tsunami in Sri Lanka and India, the local Marist communities swiftly took the initiative of helping the population, and along with them, the entire Marist Institute got involved.

In the case of Haiti as well, donations arrived from all over the world, and the Institute's General Administration added what remained of the Tsunami Fund I, while the Marist Brothers locally suggested some reconstruction projects which could contribute to the development of the country in the areas of schooling and attention to young people.

The FMSI was at the center of the entire initiative: it participated in the fund collection campaign, examined the projects to be financed, distributed

The process of reconstructing the country and improving the living conditions of Haitians has certainly not ended, nor the Fund is exhausted: the projects will continue in 2014, and also our work.



A piece of good news is the fact that the Haitian people never give up. The large open market of Port-au-Prince – with thousands of people coming and going, buying and selling, within a myriad of little stalls – gives evidence of this day by day, as well as the many children who come and tell you their dreams. The average age of the Haitian population is 21 years. At the FMSI

we know for sure that the future of the country depends on the education and social promotion of young people. This report is mainly aimed at thanking those who contributed with their generous donations, besides giving an account of how the Haiti Fund was invested. The following pages explain the use of the Fund up to December 2013.

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Download the report in: www.champagnat.org



Brasil Centro-Norte: Forum discusses joint formation and the new relationship between brothers and laity

Joint formation and the new relationship between brothers and laity was the subject chosen for the Forum which took place on 20 and 21 February during the meeting of those holding positions of responsibility in the province of Brasil Centro-Norte. More than 30 brothers and lay people, members of divers commissions and work groups of the

province, took part in the meeting, as well as the Provincial Council.

One of the objectives was to reflect on and develop further the meaning of the new relationship between brothers and laity, joint formation, and Marist spirituality.



REMEMBERING 1954

Australia - Brothers' school, Subiaco



On Wednesday, 26 February, a group of some 70 former Marist students and spouses gathered in St Joseph's Church, Subiaco, to commemorate the Blessing and Opening of the Brothers' school alongside the Church in 1954. Mass was celebrated by old boy priests.

The founding Director of St Joseph's was Br Lucian Gerber and Br Victor Chalmers and Br Ernest (Terence) Gleeson made up the community. In the ten years from its foundation, the school grew rapidly from 120 students to 572 on 1.5 acres of land.

MARIST INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Conference of Superiors of Africa

Following the teachings of Jesus Christ the good Shepherd, the Provincials and District Superior of the Marist Brothers of Africa: Brothers Joachim (Nigeria), Sylvain (Madagascar), Valentin (PACE), Joe Walton (Southern Africa) and Francis (West Africa), paid, in the beginning of February, their annual canonical visit to the MIC Community following the principles of good leadership. This visit of the Major Superiors to MIC is a service to those entrusted to them. Like the parable of the good shepherd cited by Jesus during his earthly teachings, the Provincials and District Superior of Africa and Madagascar have the good of their Brothers at heart.

Br. Joachim Ezetulugo the out-going President of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent introduced to the Community the in-coming Pres-

ident – Br. Francis Lukong and the new Secretary – Br. Spiridion Ndanga



who replaced Br. Albert Nzabonaliba the outgoing Secretary of the Conference. While addressing the MIC Community, he stressed on the

aspect of personal and mutual responsibility and as well encouraged the Brothers in formation to strike a balance in both their academic and prayer life.

On his part, Br.Valentin, the provincial of PACE, during his speech; compared the formation centre with a "SHAMBA " (Garden) which represents the hope of life in the African context. He also gave some presentations on the General Conference held in L'hermitage-France last year.

Finally, Br. Francis Lukong the new President of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent thanked the formation team for their untiring efforts and encouraged the brothers in formation to be the primary agents of their own formation.

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