

BROTHERS AND LAY PEOPLE

Meeting on Lay Association and Belonging

More than 50 lay persons and brothers are meeting in Rome from 26 to 29 March to reflect on Lay Association and Belonging. The meeting has been promoted by Br Emili Turu, Superior General, with the collaboration of the Secretariat of the Laity. Three Congregations (Marianists, Salesians and Scolopians) have been invited to present on their experiences in this area. The dynamic of the meeting will help the Institute visualize possible ways for the future, providing some recommendations for the General Council and the Administrative Units. Below you find the list of participants.

| | Name | Province/function | | Name | Province/function |
|----|---------------------------|----------------------------|----|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 | Br. Emili Turú | Superior General | 29 | Ms. Ana Sarrate | Ibérica |
| 02 | Br. Joe Mc Kee | Vicar General | 30 | Mr. José M ^a Pérez-Soba | Ibérica |
| 03 | Br. Antonio Ramalho | General Council | 31 | Fr. Maurice Berquet | L'Hermitage |
| 04 | Br. Josep Maria Soterias | General Council | 32 | Fr. Jaume Parès | L'Hermitage |
| 05 | Br. Eugène Kabanguka | General Council | 33 | Ms. Marta Portas | L'Hermitage |
| 06 | Br. Michael De Waas | General Council | 34 | Mr. Christophe Schietse | L'Hermitage |
| 07 | Br. Javier Espinosa | Secretariat of the Laity | 35 | Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa | Madagascar |
| 08 | Mr. Pep Buetas | Secretariat of the Laity | 36 | Br. Juan Miguel Anaya | Mediterránea |
| 09 | Br. Miguel Angel Espinosa | Secretariat for Mission | 37 | Br. Ventura Pérez | Mediterránea |
| 10 | Br. César Rojas | Secretariat Brothers Today | 38 | Br. Alfonso de Jesús Fernández | México Central |
| 11 | Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez | América Central | 39 | Mr. Pedro Chinchilla Sandoval | México Central |
| 12 | Ms. Nohemy Pinto | América Central | 40 | Mr. José A. Buenfil Guillermo | México Occidental |
| 13 | Br. Jeff Crowe | Australia | 41 | Br. Iván Buenfil | México Occidental |
| 14 | Mr. Joe McCarthy | Australia | 42 | Ms. Nadxielii Ruvalcaba Ruiz | México Occidental |
| 15 | Br. Alexandre Lobo Lucena | Brasil Centro Norte | 43 | Br. Libardo Garzón | Norandina |
| 16 | Mr. Eder D'Artagnan | Brasil Centro Norte | 44 | Br. Pau Fornells | Norandina |
| 17 | Br. Benê Oliveira | Brasil Centro Sul | 45 | Ms. Zunilda Silva | Paraguay |
| 18 | Mr. João L. Gonçalves | Brasil Centro Sul | 46 | Br. Patricio Pino | Sta. María de los Andes |
| 19 | Ms. Linda Corbeil | Canada | 47 | Ms. Eliana Rojas | Sta. María de los Andes |
| 20 | Ms. Véronique Dumais | Canada | 48 | Br. Nicholas Fernando | South Asia |
| 21 | Br. Gérard Bachand | Canada | 49 | Br. Paul S. Bhatti | South Asia |
| 22 | Br. Bernard Beaudin | Canada | 50 | Br. Jude Pieterse | Southern Africa |
| 23 | Br. Óscar Martín Vicario | Compostela | 51 | Mr. Alan Barbeau | Southern Africa |
| 24 | Ms. Maria do C. N. Maciel | Compostela | 52 | Br. Ben Consigli | United States |
| 25 | Mr. Roberto G. Alonso | Compostela | 53 | Br. Roy George | United States |
| 26 | Br. José Kuhm | Cruz del Sur | 54 | Br. John Klein | United States |
| 27 | Mr. Marcos Denevi | Cruz del Sur | 55 | Br. P. J. McGowan | West Central Europe |
| 28 | Br. Samuel Holguín | Ibérica | | | |

BROTHERS FOR A NEW WORLD

Program for the Formators in Manziana

We present here a testimony of Br. Saul Placious, from India (Prov. South Asia), who is taking part in the "Brother Formators for a New World" in English at Manziana.

Living as a Religious Consecrated person with deep Marist Values of in my life; be presence, Simplicity, Family Spirit, Love of Work and Marial attitudes, where I feel that my life is deeply rooted in God's Unconditional and Mercy. Deeply looking at my-self here at Manziana for the FORMATORS FOR THE NEW WORLD program is helping me and my inner-self to be a Man of "Hermitage" because our Hermitage structure is very much reflecting in my life to deepen my Marist spirituality of my Vocation as a Marist. 1. Reflecting and discovering God's invitation in daily life journey. 2. Community life; Living as a family like the early Christian lived. 3. Apostolic zeal; looking at the signs of the time and serve God's Kingdom.

When I am looking at myself as well as our Institution here at Manziana, Formation has become a Priority for each and every one of us. Not only for the new generation but those who live our (their) Vocation today as Brothers. Our BROTHERS FOR NEW WORLD Program inviting me personally to discover the invitation of the Lord in each day with in my life experience, what the

Lord is asking me to do for in His kingdom day today life and to live as a prophetic role to discover the signs of God in earthly realities of today and Witness the Charism of Our Institute. To be a Formater for BROTHERS FOR NEW WORLD "I wish to be the change in myself" ones I know what is happening in



me and around me and I will be aware of the spirit of the Lord moving in each and everything and I will be able to play the Prophetic role in my life.

BROTHERS FOR NEW WORLD program strengthen my Vocation as a MARIST and COMMITMENT to be a Religious,

Deepen my relationship with the Lord and my Spiritual Journey, ready to change my personal attitudes as a human. I feel it is a gracious treasure for me in my life and it is the "Pearl" where I am feeling to live, experiencing in daily life, strengthening by God's grace, motivating myself to follow in the footstep of our lovable Founder St. Marcellin Champagnat in the way of Our/ my Good Mother Mary, to be a brother to Kingdom of God and to our brothers and sisters throughout the World.

In our International Community in Manziana, I / We live with joy and happiness of sharing our self and helping one another with Brotherly care and love. I / We experience the important of The Call to be Prophets and Mystics in Contemplative Dimension, Community Dimension and Mission Dimension through our group sharing and reflection. It is very precious to listen and to be with our Brothers to journey with one another in the Spirit of Marist through this Program Present and Future of my / our Marist Journey.

Br. Saul Placious, India



With Mary, go in haste to a new land!

COURSE FOR SECRETARIES AND ARCHIVISTS

Course in the General House from March 3 to 12

From Monday 3 to Wednesday 12 of March, a training course for English-speaking secretaries and archivists took place at the Champagnat Hall of the General House in Rome. This project of integrated and digital management of the Institute's data and documents had offered a first training session to the provincial secretaries of Spain in Guardamar from October 3 to 7, 2011. On that occasion, the KOSMOS-fms data system was introduced for the first time, and the group suggested a number of adjustments, improvements and new developments.

With an updated version of the software, the implementation of KOSMOS-fms went on through a number of training sessions: Lyon, from October 26 to November 2, 2011, in French; Mexico City, from November 28 to December 2, 2011, for the USA and Latin America; Nairobi, from January 3 to 10, 2012; and Davao, from February 9 to 14, 2012. From March 11 to 15, 2012, the ARCHIVUM document management software (version 3) was presented in Alcalá de Henares, and the progress of the KOSMOS-fms software was assessed. From May 13 to 18, 2013, the final implementation stage of the KOSMOS-fms software took place in Latin America, and ARCHIVUM was also launched in that region, but was a pending task in the English speaking world.

The participants arrived from faraway places such as the District of Melanesia and the Pacific, the Provinces of Australia, South Asia, and East Asia. The African continent was represented by the District of Ghana, and the Provinces of Central-East Africa, Southern Africa, and Nigeria. From Europe we had the participation of the Central-West Province, and of the Province of the United States from the North American area. The group of 18 secretaries and archivists was a rich expression of diversity and internationality, to which we are now accustomed in the Institute.

The course revolved around the understanding and use of the KOSMOS and ARCHIVUM programs, two powerful tools in this type of work.

The technical details of the **ARCHIVUM** software were described by Roberto Porta Roigé, who presented the program together with Monserrat Sánchez, the person in charge of the provincial archives of the Hermitage:

It is a document management software for the integrated organization of the Marist Institute's files. ARCHIVUM 3.0 resulted from combining ARCHIVUM 2.0, its predecessor, and PERGAMUM, a library file managing software. This program enables the classification and description of several



collections of archive documents, either in digital or physical format. It also manages the documents' life cycle, and is therefore designed to introduce a document in the system from the moment it is generated until it is destroyed or permanently preserved. Finally, it includes a powerful query tool providing fast and easy access to documents.

ARCHIVUM is aimed at allowing the Institute to manage its documents appropriately, facilitating cooperation and networking between the Marist Provinces, optimizing time and resources, and ensuring both the accessibility of documents and the preservation of the Marist Institute's documentary heritage.

The **KOSMOS** database software was described by its creator and developer, Brother Marcelo C. F. De Brito (Province of Cruz del Sur):

It is a database software used by the Institute consisting in three main information blocks: Administrative Units, houses (communities and works), and the people (brothers and laity) who make Marist life possible in every corner of the world. It enables the data management required both by the General Administration and the Secretariat of each Province and District. It is also intended to offer statistics and information which can be useful when creating possible future scenarios, and also a retrospective look at the Institute through time.

It is a centralized system with decentralized management, where each Administrative Unit permanently updates its data. The basic approach is that whoever performs an action registers the corresponding data. On the other hand, it is an open system allowing the Administrative Units to safely integrate their data in local and personalized settings, maintaining a single database that provides information to different systems at the same time. In this sense,

KOSMOS-fms is starting to be perceived as part of a large integrated system for the Institute.

We also counted with the participation of the group in charge of the PERGAMUN program – which includes the ARCHIVUM software – from the Pontifical University of Parana (Curitiba - Brazil), represented by Wellington Mousinho Medeiros (head of the Pergamum System) and Marcos Rogério de Souza (Archivum program analyst). During free time, they also presented a new library software system.

The course began with the presentation of the KOSMOS program by Brother Marcelo De Brito. The second part was dedicated to the ARCHIVUM program in its full extent, which was presented by Brother Josep Maria Soteras (General Council), Monserrat Sánchez and Roberto Porta Roigé (Province of the Hermitage). The work was intensive and included both theory and online practice, which in the case of KOSMOS consisted in entering data about the brothers from the respective Provinces, and in the case of ARCHIVUM, in doing exercises about what had been explained. Practical tasks were carried out mostly in the late afternoon, and many participants spent some time in the evening completing their work. Besides the course teachers, practical work was also assisted by Emanuela Lisciarelli and Dorotea Cinnani, members of the General Secretariat.

Not everything was study and practice, for there was also time for sharing, relaxing and enjoying Rome and its surroundings.

On Saturday 22nd of March we visited the places where St. Francis lived and missioned in Assisi. The tour guide spoke about the religious, historical and artistic aspects of the Santa Maria degli Angeli and Saint Francis of Assisi basilicas. In the second part of the day there was an unguided visit to the Basilica of Santa Chiara and the Convent of San Damiano. There was always an atmosphere of spirituality, peace, calm and beauty. The weather of Umbria, a mixture of sun, clouds and light rain, accompanied us all the time. As we arrived in Rome in the afternoon we felt the delicious smell of an Argentinian barbecue that the brothers at the General House had prepared.

Sunday was a free day to visit Rome, St. Peter's Square, and attend the Angelus by Pope Francis. In the evening everyone was back home, relaxed, and ready for the final stage of the course.

The final evaluation acknowledged how useful both programs are to safeguard our heritage, which goes from the time of Champagnat to our days. One of their goals is to help recover, maintain and remember the origins of the Institute and its life throughout the past 200 years. The group recognized that these programs, among other means, help to promote our identity and a distinctive way of being Marists today.

Brother Carlos A. Huidobro FMS
Secretary General



Entry to the novitiate Marcelino Champagnat in Cochabamba, Bolivia

On Saturday 8 March, Oscar Chávez (Bolivia) and Javier Villanea (Chile), both of the Province of Santa María de los Andes, entered the interprovincial novitiate. They were accompanied in the celebration by the brothers of the neighbouring community of Ticti Norte and the Provincial Council who guided them in their decision and joined them at this moment so important for their lives as disciples of Jesus and Marcellin.

Br Raúl Shönfeld, Master of Novices, welcomed us to the novitiate. We informed him of what we

desired of the Church and the community of the Little Brothers of Mary: to continue our journey in the Marist life, now at the novitiate. Seeking to be disciples attentive to the Word of God, as were Mary and our Father Marcellin. This moment introduced the celebration of the Word and the subsequent

Eucharist.

At the time of the homily, Br Antonio Peralta, Provincial, gave us a warm welcome to the Institute and invited us to reflect on the Gospel of the 1st Sunday of Lent (Mt. 4: 1-11) which related the experience of Jesus tempted in the desert. He referred to the desert as an experience of founding love and also of pain. He invited us to come out of this time of formation "with the nostalgia for the desert", like Jesus who desired to turn to solitude and silence to pray and experience the intimacy and love of his Father.



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Edited by:
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