

BROTHER FORMATORS FOR A NEW WORLD

San Lorenzo de El Escorial – April and May

In our March post we mentioned that our formation course is like gentle and steady rain soaking our lives and slowly turning them into fertile soil that generates life. We would like to share with our brothers and friends how our process has flowed in April and May.

We started the month with a workshop about The New Paradigms directed by Carmen Barba, a lay person who helped us reflect on the great transitions humankind has experienced and become aware of the new paradigms we must assume: a level of awareness full of wonderment and amazement; the grateful memory of our personal story; an experience of God nourished day by day; relationships of friendship and trust; being joyful people with a sense of humor; assuming the most neglected people's position; appreciating and undertaking the process of personal accompaniment.

Then Father Bonifacio – a Claretian, biblical scholar, and theologian – helped us reflect about the topic of "Jesus in our lives". His deep theological and creative thinking led us to discuss what the place of Jesus Christ in our lives is. We studied several subjects: the importance of Christian identity conceived as an open-ended process; who is the God of Jesus; and the sense of following the trustful, hopeful and loving Jesus.

Brother Fernando Arriero, Marist, imbued us with biblical spirituality. Within a simple, warm and thorough atmosphere,



we reflected on different topics: the Scriptures as a precious channel of God's Word; the history of humankind and of the Holy Scriptures; biblical inspiration; the Pentateuch; the Bible timeline; the need for inner life when reflecting on the Scriptures; the Psalms; geography of Palestine; the Books of Wisdom; the Prophets; the New Testament; Saint Paul, and the Synoptic Gospels.

Father Vittorio, a Brazilian Jesuit, spoke about "the pedagogy of vocation" and helped us reflect on a number of issues: the relationship between the formator and those in formation; the formation process and its agents; formation as a process of humanization; transparency in the formation process; the nature of constructive relationships, and how to deal with

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

During this week, the General Council has continued its plenary session, discussing the Marist Spiritual Patrimony and the follow up of the preparation for the bicentenary of the foundation of the Institute and of the revision of the Constitutions. Two days are dedicated to a community experience on interculturality, with the help of Sister Maria Pilar Benavente.

The Ad Hoc Committee Keeping Children Safe, co-ordinated by Br John Klein (USA Province), has been meeting this week, from 9 to 12 June.

difficult cases and conflicts. We realize that being a formator requires much kindness and wisdom.

Then we spent two weeks with our dear Brothers Emili and Joe (Superior and Vicar General). The most important message we got from them was their closeness and brotherhood, and the overall picture of the Congregation they shared with us. We were glad to spend time with them, knowing that Champagnat was with us. In a coordinated effort, each of them took a week to develop a number of topics: the formator as a person, leader, and spiritual guide; the personal image of God; formators for today's world; the formation process; dealing with our perceptions; getting to know ourselves; and news from the Congregation.

Our dear Brothers insisted on the importance of spirituality in our Marist life. We meditated, had moments of quiet time, and personal conversations with other brothers.

Finally, we shared two weeks with Brother Patricio Pino,

Marist. He facilitated our study of the Marist Heritage, especially regarding Champagnat's letters and other historical documents. We worked hard studying the letters and several documents from CEPAM (Marist Spiritual Heritage Study Center in Guadalajara, Mexico). We also identified a number of formation key points and, after doing some research about them, we realized that Champagnat's writings are full of formation references that are most relevant for our mission today.

We are immensely grateful to the people who are helping us in this formation course. Thanks to them, the living waters are closer to us every day. Like the deer longing for flowing streams, we are now heading to the Hermitage. Our English-speaking brothers, who are following the same course in Manziana, will join us there. Together we will spend three weeks living in our Founder's presence. He will be our formator these days. We will be his Brothers.



PROVINCE OF "SOUTH ASIA"

New Models Project, and Marist Youth Ministry Seminar

From May 11 to 22, Mr. Peter McNamara (Australia), and Brother João Carlos do Prado (Secretariat for Mission) visited the Marist Province of South Asia to become acquainted with its ministries and organization, as part of the diagnosis stage of the New Models of Animation, Governance and Management Project, an initiative from the General Council aimed at helping the Institute respond to the present challenges of Marist life and mission. So far we have held two Regional Gatherings, carried out visits to several Provinces, and organized a meeting with all Provincial and District Councils of the Americas. The visits, meetings, and Regional Gathering with the District and Provinces of Africa will take place

in July. Besides working on the New Models Project during the visit to the South Asia Province, we also developed the agenda of the Secretariat for Mission. A seminar on Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) was conducted on May 17th with a group of 25 students from St. Joseph's Boys College (Nugegoda)

and Maris Stella College (Negombo). We shared about the MYM process in the Province, discussed the reference document Evangelizers in the Midst of Youth, and the reflection guide on Inspiring MYM.



The visit concentrated on Sri Lanka, where we met with the Provincial Council, the leaders of the Province, a group of lay Marists, and visited several communities and ministries. We will visit India and Pakistan another time.

The warm welcome and hospitality of the Province and communities was highly appreciated, as well as the great opportunity of experiencing the rich cultural and religious diversity of the country.



BR CÉSAR AUGUSTO ROJAS CARVAJAL

Provincial of the Province of Norandina

Br Emili Turú has notified the Province of Norandina of the appointment of Br César Augusto Rojas Carbajal as provincial. The General Council, having studied the results of the sondage carried out in the Province, has appointed him Provincial, an office he will take up at the Provincial Chapter, to be held in December 2014. Br Emili thanked Br César for his openness and readiness to serve the Institute as Provincial. The sondage carried out showed clearly that he enjoyed the support of the great majority of the Brothers of his Province. At the same time, he acknowledged the services and experience he had provided as Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, from the year 2010, having been reappointed in 2013. Lastly, Br Emili expressed gratitude for the commitment and dedication of Br Libardo Garzón to the service of the Province of Norandina during recent years as Provincial, and for his readiness to accept the challenges of his future role.



Br César Rojas gives some details about himself:

Born in 1966 in the city of Bogotá (Colombia) and belongs to the Norandina province. Son of José Alfredo and Mery. I am the eldest of four boys .My sister Claudia is the coordinator of the Marist Social Centre of the district. of La Paz in the south of Bogotá, my sister Constanza coordinates the fraternity Familia de María of the provincial house and my brother Carlos Alberto (Beto) is a Marist Brother and has been appointed secretary for Solidarity at the province level.

Did my primary and secondary studies in the Colegio Champagnat in Bogotá. From boyhood took part in the programmes of the Remar movement. Entered the community in January 1983. Made my first profession in August 1985 in the city of Medellín and my perpetual profession in July 1989 in the city of Popayán. I graduated with a Licentiate in Education and Religious Sciences at the Pontifical Univer-

sity Bolivariana of Medellín (1990). I have also a technical degree in Business Administration from the Santo Tomás University(1997) and a Licentiate in Youth Ministry and Animation from the Pontifical University Salesiana (2001). From 1990 to 1993 coordinated the Remar Movement and Vocational Ministry in the province of Colombia. From 1994 to 1998 was director of the Colegio de Cristo Rey in the city of Manizales. From 1998 to 2001 was part of the International Collage in Rome. From 2001 to 2003 coordinated once more the Ministry of Vocations and since 2003 have served as Viceprovincial of the Province of Norandina and Delegate of the Brother Provincial in Colombia.

Till 2010 my residential community was the Marist scholasticate in Bogotá.

In 2013 he was reappointed as Director of the Secretariat for a further three years.



BRAZIL: CMMF BRINGS ITS LEADERS TOGETHER

The national meeting of CMMF leaders of Brazil was held in Ribeirão das Neves, Minas Gerais, from May 16 to 18. The event was organized by the Marist Laity Commission of UMBRASIL (Marist Union of Brazil), and counted with the participation of three lecturers: Brother Javier Espinosa (Director of the Secretariat of Laity), who helped us envision the future of the Marist charism; Brother Adalberto Amara (Brasil Centro-Norte), who presented a picture of



the CMMF in Brazil; and Edison Jardim (Rio Grande do Sul), who spoke about the CMMF revitalization process. In addition to the lectures, the meeting provided an opportunity for the participants to work in groups, under the guidance of Layza Oliveira, and set up

the goals and commitments they wish to assume in the Marist Provinces of Brazil.

At the end of the meeting it became clear that there is a need to promote, along with the Movement's leaders,

spaces for reflection in order to set up itineraries designed to strengthen vocational perseverance, as well as the autonomy and leadership of the CMMF members in communion with the brothers as a challenge for the future.



BROTHER EMILI TURÚ, PRESIDENT OF SEDOS

Service of Documentation and Study of the Global Mission

SEDOS was born 50 years ago, as one of the fruits of the Vatican Council. In the house of the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) in Nemi, near Rome, a commission met to draft the decree Ad Gentes, which was approved by Vatican II in 1965.

Nine superior generals of missionary congregations took part in these meetings. And they wished to continue reflecting on and exchanging experiences of the missionary activity of the Church. Thus was born SEDOS (Service of Documentation and Study of the Global Mission).

Over the years, SEDOS has grown and been consolidated. At present, it is an open forum for Institutes of Consecrated Life which wish to go further into the meaning of the Mission. It has a web page: <http://www.sedosmission.org>, publishes a regular Bulletin in various languages, organizes conferences, meetings and, once a year, a seminar lasting some days.

SEDOS is organized as an Assembly of representatives of the Institutes adhering to it (already more than 100), with an Executive Committee, a Permanent Secretariat and a President, elected by the Assembly for



three years. Since December 2013, the President of SEDOS has been Br Emili Turú, a new honour and responsibility for our Superior General.

This year's Seminar was held in the Ad Gentes Centre at Nemi, from 20 to 24 May. Its theme was: Sent by the God of surprises: new ways of being

missionaries. 120 persons took part, coming from more than 40 religious congregations.

All took place in a most fraternal and international atmosphere: conferences, presentations of experiences, group work, prayer meetings. A simultaneous translation system provided translation into the four official languages of SEDOS: Italian, English, Spanish, and French. And everyone testified to the great richness of the informal meetings during these days.

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