

MARIST ASIAN YOUTH MEETING IN KOREA

Marist Korea-Japan Sector
East Asia Province

The Marist Asian Youth Meeting will be from August 10 to 12 at the Marist Education Center, Seoul, before the 6th Asian Youth Day to be held from August 13 – 17 in the Diocese of Dae-jeon, Korea. It will be a coming together of Marist youth from different Asian countries. This experience enables young Marists to participate in formation programs and plan their future spiritual lives. At the same time, the gathering aims to provide an opportunity for Marist youth to explore and renew their faith, so that they can share the Gospel and the Marist values.

The aims of the meeting are to:

enable the participants to know more about the life and work of the Marist Brothers;

provide a venue for the Marist youth from different countries in Asia to get to know one another;

give the participants an experience of the different cultures present in Asia.

The meeting was organized by the Marist Korea-Japan Sector (East Asia Province). The program will have 3 main themes: Mary, Champagnat and Marist.



Marist Asian Youth Meeting
August 10 - 12, 2014, Seoul, Korea

The number of possible participants is 22 (4 from Korea, 5 from Hong-Kong, 4 from Japan, 7 from the Philippines, and 2 from Vietnam).

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT OF MISSION IN TABATINGA, DIST. OF AMAZÔNIA

Missioning Mass of Verónica Rubí

In the setting of the Joint Retreat for Brothers and Laity, the Eucharist of Saturday 12 July took on special features as a rite of sending Verónica Rubí to the Interprovincial Mission Project.

The participants in the Retreat, as members of the Province of Cruz del Sur, her relatives and friends performed the missioning, praying for our missionary sister Verónica Rubí who, after some years of experience of mission in Mozambique, is joining the Collaboration for Mission, International - Cmi,



leaving in these days for the Marist District of Amazonia, and specifically for the locality of Tabatinga (Brasil) on the

border of Brasil, Perú and Colombia.

All accompanied her at this moment, taking part in a very significant ceremony, in which the wealth of symbols, the Word of God, the testimony of family and friends, and the prayers of everyone manifested the desire to offer all our support for the generous commitment of Verónica at this very special time. We wish her a fruitful missionary assignment.



A MEETING ON SOLIDARITY

Belgium: Sharing experiences

On 28th June a meeting took place in Habay, Belgium, on the theme of solidarity. Of the 17 people invited 11 were able to take part with more or less equal numbers of Brothers and laity. They represented several different areas of solidarity: marginalisation and the poor who are among us, health projects abroad, education and evangelisation in schools.

The participants had not all had direct contact with the Marists. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange ideas and get to know one another. Each one was able to

speak of his/her own personal experiences in this area which is of such great importance in today`s society.

For us Marists it was an opportunity to present our experiences in the Institute



with regard to our worldwide mission which is essentially directed towards the poor and the vulnerable.

On the back of this experience of the meeting certain ideas emerged to re-inforce what we are living and to continue to develop a process for possible collaboration of missionary work in Belgium.

A follow up to this meeting is that a further meeting should take place after the summer holidays at which all will be able to attend.



NEW MODELS OF ANIMATION, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Kenya: African Regional Meeting

The New Models Regional Meeting for Africa took place from July 23 to 25 at Roussel House in Nairobi (Kenya) in an atmosphere of fraternity, cooperation and openness.

The project – a General Council initiative – aims at ensuring the development and viability of Marist life and mission by proposing and implementing a set of principles, guidelines, and possible models of animation, governance and management for the General Administration and the Administrative Units.

There were two other regional meetings in May: Arco Norte and Brazil/Cono Sur. Oceania will meet at the end of August, and the meetings for Europe and Asia will take place in October.

There were 39 participants in this meeting: the Provincials of the four African Provinces (Madagascar, Nigeria, PACE and Southern Africa); the District Superior of West Africa; the members of their councils; brothers Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sánchez and Víctor Preciado from the General Council; brother Mario Meuti (FMSI), June Alisson Cruz from the International Finance Commission and Lawrence Ndawala (MIC); Luca

Olivari and Francesco Fusco from AT Kearney; and brothers João Carlos do Prado and Gabriel Villa-Real from the New Models Commission.

The meeting had the following ob-



jectives:

Getting to know the New Models Project: its origin, development, final scope, rationale, the proposed process, and the expected results.

Developing the first phase, diagnosis, by collecting information regarding the current situation of the Provinces and the Region, and about the current projections for the future (at the level of works, Provinces, Region, General Administration and Institute).

Promoting a better understanding between the Provinces in each Re-

gion regarding the aspects related to the Project.

Encouraging the Administrative Units' participation in the development of the Project.

The methodology and facilitation allowed the participants to reflect on the Provinces' current models of animation, governance and management, and about Marist life and mission today and its projection for the future, understanding the Institute as an international body.

The message from Brother Emili Turú SG at the feast of San Marcellin Champagnat this year inviting us to a new beginning inspired and motivated our reflection and sharing: "As we look back in time, we will realize that this need to start over again has been a constant in our Marist Institute. New historical, social or even internal circumstances have forced us, on a number of occasions, to be profoundly creative; they challenged us to find responses to new emerging needs. There have been, in fact, several new beginnings before this we are facing at the onset of the 21st century".



"In first place, it seems to me that for us brothers, the fact that the Chapter has explicitly recognized the vocation of the Marist layperson, has been very important. Upon doing that, it is recognizing that it is a gift of God. We speak of vocation, and vocation is a gift of God. Therefore, it is not that we, brothers, yield something of the Marist charism to laypeople. The lay vocation is a gift from God. Therefore this situates us in a relationship of equals: the vocation of a Marist layperson, the vocation of a Marist Brother".

Brother Emili Turú, Superior General

USA PROVINCE ASSEMBLY

The Power of Presence - A New Way of Being Brother

The Marist Brothers' Province of the United States now consists of 154 brothers, 85 of whom are retired and 69 are still in the active work force. Over 100 participated in an assembly from 20 to 24 July, in New Jersey. It was amazing to experience the vitality still present among these men who ranged from our youngest to some in their 90's. The energy which was generated in the presentations and discussions around the topics of mission, prayer and community filled us all with hope, confidence and motivation to continue to live our Marist Brotherhood with the zeal we had when we first entered. Indeed, the theme was a "New Way of Being Brother", which translated into some basics that Fr. Champagnat instituted at our very beginnings. Strong among these is the "power of presence": being aware of the power provided by God's abiding presence and love, enabling us to "do the impossible." Again it was affirmed that God answers prayers, and works through us to help others simply by our presence and actions, not necessarily by our words. Seeing the presence of God in others enables us to bond with them as we realize that God loves us through them as he is showing his love to them through us.

The power generated by this equation, for example, is enabling a new community comprised of Brothers from the region of Arco Norte to take shape in Spanish Harlem to



address the dire needs of recent immigrants. Thank God the Marist Brothers are again present to the needs of the times and are there to supply help and guidance as we were in post-revolutionary France. Age does not seem to be a hindrance to new and exciting endeavors, but brings the wisdom gained through experience to the POWER OF PRESENCE.

Br Rene Roy, FMS



Argentina: Retreat Session for Brothers and Laity

The Provincial Retreat Session of Cruz del Sur took place in Villa Marista, located in Pilar, Argentina, from July 9 to 13, 2014, under the guidance of Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of Laity. This space of prayer and joint reflection focused on the specific Marist vocation of laity and brothers, in tune with the path the Congregation has undertaken.

The Retreat Session developed a central topic: Starting with God's dream for the world, touching the mystical dimension; starting with God's outward impulse, embracing the prophetic dimension. In

this regard, the 21st General Chapter stated: "We desire to carry on his dream". It is up to us, Marists today, to carry on San Marcellin Champagnat's dream and inspiration.

As a necessary condition to take these steps, we addressed the issue of "changing our heart", understood

as setting out on the way, as a collaborative and constructive attitude regarding God's plan.

"This is the real beginning of conversion, the true point of personal inflection. Conversion means a greater availability and predisposition towards what makes us fully happy as persons and as a human community". Conversion means that God is near us; it is a path; it involves searching, and a call to move outside our comfort zone.

This personal conversion is closely related to and integrated with an institutional renewal.



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4