

MARIST CENTENARY IN GERMANY

1914 – 2014

The year 1914 is the foundation of the Marists in Germany. The jubilee that we celebrate this year brings together many friends: Marist Brothers, Lay Marists, co-workers and young people with whom they have been connected over the century both at home and abroad are united in this celebration. It is a jubilee which not only is a day of remembrance for the Brothers and their friends but one which offers the opportunity to take a glimpse into the history of the Marists in Germany. It also invites us to renew our awareness of the mission of the Marists both today and in the future.

So there are a variety of ways and occasions in which this jubilee is celebrated and remembered.

On 3rd February 2014 the school community of Recklinghausen celebrated the opening of the first Marist foundation in Germany. A formation centre with boarding school and the commercial production of, for example, Arquebuse, Hermite and various medicinal teas using the recipes of Frère François,



successor of Champagnat, gave some security to the foundation in difficult times.

On 13th and 14th September 2014 there was the first ever assembly of German Brothers within the Province of West-Central Europe to discuss questions and issues of today. Sunday 14th gave us the opportunity to thank God for the fidelity and perseverance of four Brothers celebrating and able to look back on 60 years as Marists.

On 11th October the Marist Family in Furth bei Landshut will celebrate the previ-

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From September this year, four priests are serving the general house as chaplains. They are from different parts of the world and are studying in the Pontifical Universities of Rome:

Fr Pablo Penaran Zepeda, Missionary of the Holy Family, Mexican, at the Gregorian University;

Fr Marquez Torres Jhon Edison, of the Archdiocese of Manizales, Colombia, studying Theology at the Gregorian;

Fr Eliseo Hernandez Morales, of the diocese of Tabasco, Mexico, studying Liturgy at the University Santa Croce;

Fr Guanglin Wang, of the diocese of Shijiazhuang, China, completing a doctorate in Spirituality at the University Santa Croce.

ous 100 years, commemorating the many foundations and apostolates of the Brothers and their co-workers in Germany and 33 others countries in which German Marists had settled in the spirit of Champagnat.

The Marist Family honour this jubilee in their own particular fashion with a variety of symbols and gestures:

- On the suggestion of a teacher from the Marist Real-schule in Mindelheim, master baker Michael Hölzle, a former student of the college at Mindelheim, created and produced a special bread. This bread has since been commercially sold as "Marcellin Bread" at the bakery in Mindelheim. This producing of the bread recalls the herbs and medicinal plants at the time of Champagnat in the raw environment of the Mount Pilat region of the South of France.

- On the occasion of the jubilee six stamps with the image of the founder, Marcellin Champagnat, were produced and distributed as 60 cent postage stamps by German Post. The stamps show Marcellin and point towards the possibilities of his mission in our own time. These stamps are recognised in Germany for sending letters throughout the world. It is a small sign of the world-wide and international outreach of the Brothers.

- The jubilee has also been the occasion for the publication of two new books on the history of the Marists in Germany. They clearly demonstrate in words and pictures the development of the German Province in these one hundred years. One of them bears the title, 100 Years of Marist Brothers in Germany, 1914 – 2014 and enriched with many photographs, gives a glimpse into the development of the Marists in Germany.

The second book was published in two volumes with the

title 140 Years of German Marist Brothers, 1874 – 2014. Volume one deals with those forty years in which there were several hundred German Brothers and yet no community in Germany itself. It was this situation that made possible very early on the widespread missionary activity on the part of German Marist Brothers. They fulfilled this missionary vocation from the end of the 19th century in over 33 countries. The book extrapolates from a variety of statistics and over-views the difficult development occasioned by three wars.

The second volume brings together the details of over 1240 Brothers of German origin since the entry of the first of those Brothers into the Institute in 1874. Due to data protection this volume is for the most part reserved for internal use.

- In one particular exhibition for the jubilee, twenty two metre length posters were displayed depicting the history, spirituality and mission of the Brothers and laity throughout the Institute; they were originally made for the World Youth Day in Madrid.

- In Germany the Brothers have produced and sold their own Arquebuse and Hermite since the 1920s. On the occasion of the centenary the distillery at Furth has created a new drink, a mixture of the two under the old name of "Maristiner". This is likewise a small recognition of our "spiritual" inheritance from our early days.

- As a fine gesture of remembering the tradition of the Marist College at Mindelheim it was decided to light a candle with the image of the founder Saint Marcellin at each meeting of the staff to bear in mind that his spirit and attitudes remain today as their guide and duty. "He who wishes to educate a child must love the child." (Marcellin Champagnat).



Marist Community helping FMSI in Geneva

"Helping others anywhere, open and available wherever there is a need; like you, Champagnat, a universal heart, we will share our lives, our time, and our place".

We wanted to begin this brief note with a quote from the Kairoi Band, which conveys the spirit we live in this Marist community located in eastern France, next to the Swiss border. From this week on, we actually have a full house. With the arrival of the two missing members, we are now at maximum capacity and, inspired by Marcellin's witness, with or hearts full of joy.



During the next few weeks, brothers, laity, and young people in our community will share more than meals, household chores, prayer, and work at the FMSI Office with the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland: we will share our lives, feelings, and our Marist way of being. The people presently living here are:

- Brother Evaristus Kasambwe (from the Province of Southern Africa, Malawi, who has already spent a year in the community).
- Gabriel Bernardo da Silva (Province of Brasil Centro-Sul, arrived in the community 3 weeks ago).
- Brother Jean-Claude Christe (Prov-

ince of the Hermitage, Switzerland, 8 years in the community).

- Brother Manel Mendoza (Province of the Hermitage, Spain, 8 years in the community).
- Michael Lee (Province of Australia, arrived a month ago).
- Brother Patrick McNamara (Province of the United States, just arrived in the community).
- Brother Vicente Falchetto (Province of Brasil Centro-Norte, 4 years in the community).

This cultural richness adds a lot of value to our community experience as we gather around the same table, and

belong to the same family, with one heart and one mind. Marcellin invited us to keep all the dioceses of the world in mind as the goal of our apostolic work. He was bold and invited us to be bold. In our community today, his "universal heart" challenges us to move in that direction through our availability to God's plan.

May Mary, our Good Mother, bless all the Marists of Champagnat worldwide! May we continue walking through new and daring paths in search of a New Land every day!



A NEW FORM OF BEING BROTHER

French language Third Age Course

A formation session in the French language is being held in Rome for Brothers of the third age. It began on 1 September and will end on 31 October 2014. There are 22 participants, religious between the ages of 65 and 80, from various countries: 7 from Quebec, 8 French, 3 Greeks, 2 Belgians, and a Carmelite priest. The session is being held in the General House of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

With the theme « a new way of being Brother », the course is a time for "updating" of Brothers of the third age who freely abandon their everyday rhythm of life in order to respond

to the call of the General Chapter of 2009: "With Mary, to set out in haste for a new land." For this reason, the session offers the opportunity for seeing how one can live this call personally and in community.

The program, therefore, follows the broad lines suggested by the General Council, consisting of promoting a form of conversion to the new situation presented by the present age in its world context.

Professional persons and specialists have been invited to help each participant journey at a good pace towards this

Beatification of the 68 Marist martyrs - 2013

Sunday 13 October 2013 was the date set for the beatification of 522 martyrs of the XX century, including 68 Marist Brothers. The ceremony took place in the grounds of the Catholic education complex in Tarragona. This was the largest beatification ceremony held in Spain, with a congregation of some 25,000 persons.

You can read more in <http://www.champagnat.org/000.php?p=339>



new horizon which covers all the aspects of our commitment in the following of Christ.

These are the topics:

1. Living brotherhood as prophets and mystics
2. celibacy and sexuality, affectivity and religious chastity
3. Marist and Marian spirituality of the Marist brother
4. prayer and interiority
5. one Church dies and another is born: a horizontal Marial church
6. desert in the city and the places of pilgrimage (our Marist places – Lourdes and Assisi)
7. when one grows older...
8. towards 200 years of existence of the Institute of the Marist Brothers, in 2017.



THE UTOPIA OF DAWN IN THE EVENING OF LIFE

Third Age Course in Spanish and Portuguese



This group of 23 Brothers are beginning to live the utopia of dawn in the evening of life. We started it this week in the General House on 15 September. The human utopia is achievable by the power of the Holy Spirit: "The world of the past has gone. Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new', he said. 'Write this: that

what I am saying is sure and will come true'." (Ap. 21: 4-5).

We are men with a median age of 73, coming from 5 Marist provinces speaking Italian, Spanish and Portuguese and from ten different countries. There are three Marianist Brothers and 20 Marist Brothers. We will journey together until 16 November.

Our procedure towards the realization of this utopia has been skilfully and meticulously prepared by Brs Landelino Ortego and José Kremer Feix. They have prepared for us an excellent program of exercises and activities for reaching our utopia. On our journey we will meet many Brothers who will point out very good routes to follow. We await them with hope and hearts open to all they will teach us in the name of the Lord of Life. Mary sings of the utopia of a new world in her Magnificat, and we will make our journey with her, as Saint Marcellin did. She always has Jesus in her arms or in her heart.

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