

TOWARDS A NEW BEGINNING

Meeting of New Provincials 2014

The meeting of new Provincials brought several brothers together in the General House, forming a small temporary community. The group came from the different continents of the Institute and met from October 13 to 18, 2014. We were 9 brothers (Saturnino Alonso, Robert Teoh, Gerard Bachard, Jean-Marie Batide, César Rojas, Francis Luckong, Juan Castro, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, and Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa) accompanied by brothers Emili Turú and Joe Mc Kee, plus several General Councilors who joined in at different phases.

The meeting was aimed at supporting each other in the leadership role within our respective Administrative Units, and at offering information and developing relevant topics to facilitate our mission.

We were able to study a number of issues, had personal interviews, and spoke with the link Councilors and different members of the General Administration.

The dialogue atmosphere allowed us to share experiences and life, and facilitated our integration as a group. Throughout the meeting, we had the opportunity to assimilate our personal experiences by writing a diary, and to share our reflections and echoes after "sleeping over them". As part of an important learning pro-

cess, we dealt with our personal situation at this time of our life, and then reflected about some key attitudes regarding our self-care, sense of realism, and life balance. We underlined the importance of setting priorities, and orga-



nizing our time and life rhythms well. To appreciate our leadership as Provincials better, we shared the valuable experiences of several second-term Brothers Provincial (Robert, Sylvain, Saturnino, and Juan). From their experiences, we collected a number of important ideas and tips regarding pastoral care. This introduced us to the reflection about being "a leader to yourself" and helped us carry out a self-exploration process. To do this, we had an interview with another participant using the method of "assessment inquiry", and then shared our findings with the entire group. The summary of ideas from this dialogue, including the characteristics of leader-

ship, were very enriching. We identified a number of key elements regarding qualities (passion, creativity, compassion and perseverance) and processes (participatory leadership, decision making, empowerment and good communication). These key elements helped us define a renewed vision of leadership based on the essential elements of our life and mission. Bro. Michael de Wass contributed to our reflection by explaining the process of feeling, listening, being present, becoming aware, and realizing (inspired by Otto Scharmer's U Theory).

We did not leave aside the permanent issue of spirituality. Our calling entails becoming "spirituality animators". Br. Emili Turú made a strong invitation to react vis-à-vis the signs of erosion regarding this dimension, and to promote a process of spiritual growth, and new expressions of spiritual vitality.

There were also several informative talks providing clarifying guidance in different areas: canon law (Bro. Juan Miguel Anaya), guidelines on affectivity and sexuality (Bro. Gerard Bachard), General Secretariat matters (Bro. Carlos Huidobro), General Administration (Bro. Víctor Preciado), and the formation of brothers (Bro. César Rojas).

Finally, Brother Emili Turú addressed

a few words of encouragement during the closing ceremony, and summarized what we had studied and lived. He also gave each of us a Marian icon recalling Pentecost.

Everyone evaluated the meeting in a very positive way, and we returned home with renewed energy and vitality.

Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez fms - Provincial of Central America



COURSE CHARISMA AND MARIST EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Marist education course offered to the entire Institute by PUCPR

The Pontifical Catholic University of Curitiba, thanks to an initiative of the Network of Universities Marist offers a course in the Marist charism and educational principles. The first group began in February 2014 and will finish in December. PUCPR now offers places for the second group, which will begin in February 2015. Below we publish a letter from the course coordinator, Adalgisa de Oliveira, communicating the call and providing details about the course and registration, intended for Brothers and Marists Laypeople.

I am pleased to announce that PUCPR has decided to open a new call for students to enroll in the specialization course *Carisma e princípios educativos maristas* (Charisma and Marist educational principles). As you may remember, this specialization is an initiative provided by the Network of Marist Universities as a Marist educational service offered to the Institute. The satisfaction of the students who joined the first group enrolled in this specialization, and whose program is close to completion as well as the expectations generated in some environments of the Institute led PUCPR to open up enrollments for a second group of students.

It is a great pleasure for us to offer this Marist educational service for brothers and laymen from the whole Marist world. The characteristics of a course with potential students in every country where the Marist mission is present brings an international and ecclesiastical dimension to this accomplishment, also in line with the proposals for the preparation of the celebration of the second Marist centenary to be held by

the Superior General and his Board.

We can already offer some practical information to guide those who want to take this course.

Registration dates and enrollment payment

The enrollment is carried out in three steps:

1. Course enrollment. Enrollment is formalized by the student by delivering the required academic documents and filling out the enrollment form that can be found on the course webpage: www.pucpr.br/carisma Students can enroll until the 26th January, 2015.
2. Enrollment confirmation. The PUCPR Secretariat will substantiate the enrollment requirements and issue the invoice listing the course fees, by the 30th of January 2015,
3. Enrollment fee payment. Once the notification of admission has been re-



ceived, the enrollment payment transaction can be initiated; payment must be done by the 9th of February 2015, by means of a bank deposit of the enrollment amount, in the account with CNPJ (Corporate Taxpayer's ID): 76.659.820/0003-13 in the name of ASSOCIAÇÃO PARANAENSE DE CULTURA. Once the deposit has been made in the Bank, the student shall

inform PUCPR by sending an e-mail to carisma@pucpr.br with a the copy of the INVOICE.

Enrollment fee

The enrollment fee is four thousand American dollars, which can be paid in full at the time of enrollment or in two installments of two thousand dollars, one at enrollment and the other at the beginning of the fifth subject (13 to 25 October 2015). Should the student choose the second option, the first amount shall be two thousand American dollars and the second one shall be two thousand one hundred American dollars.

The enrollment fee does not include bank fees related to the transfer of amounts, nor the costs of the final transaction of the title, nor does it cover any travel costs the student may have in order to be submitted to the onsite

exam before completion of the course.

The onsite exam and defense of the Final Graduation Project are two requirements of Brazilian law in order to recognize all distance courses, and thus being mandatory for Brazilians.

The Universities integrated in the International Marist Network of University Education Institutions can offer their students a double degree. Through an agreement with PUCPR, their students may attend the course about Carisma e princípios educativos maristas (Charism and Marist educational principles) via distance learning, offered by this University, and each University shall legalize this course validating it in the country where it is based.

Beginning of classes

Classes will begin on the 23rd of February, 2015

More information

For more information, visit the PUCPR's webpage www.pucpr.br/carisma where there is a section especially about the course, or you can contact us at: carisma@pucpr.br or by telephone: +55 41 3271-1795 extension 6397.

Trusting that Maria and Marcelino will follow our steps and comfort our hearts for us to reach a new world, in which the charisma and the Marist educational principles fertilize the family father's field, I am available anytime, to provide any whenever needed.

Dr. Adalgisa de Oliveira
Course Coordinator - PUCPR



SOUTH SUDAN 2015

International Communities for a New Beginning

In July Br Emili sent a letter to all provincials and district leaders outlining plans for the years leading up to the bicentenary of the Institute and our entry into the third century of Marist life and mission. There was information concerning itinerary for marking the 200 years; the process of the revision of the constitutions and an annexe, which announced a major Marist project "International Communities for a New Beginning".

In this communication the Secretariat Collaboration for mission, international (*Cmi*) announces the expansion of Marist presence in the newest country of the world, South Sudan.

For the last two years Br Christian Mbam from the province of Nigeria has been our Marist representative in a mission to South Sudan sponsored by the two Unions of Superiors General. Thirty three volunteers belonging to, or associated with, twenty three congregations form four communities of

mission in a collaborative arrangement which is probably unique. Br Christian was originally appointed to Malakal in the north of the country but the teachers' college there suspended activities during the upscaling of the conflict of 2014. He is now the administrator of a community agricultural project in Rii-



menze – a project that relies more on bullocks than tractors. He has finally found an opportunity to use his degree in zoology! Christian is the community coordinator of a mixed community of four – three women and one man – representing three congregations from India, Canada and Nigeria.

In 2015 the Marist presence in South Sudan will be increased by 200%. The province of Nigeria studied and discerned a commitment to the project, Solidarity with South Sudan in solidarity with Br Christian the Marist trail blazer. The province actively 'scouted' for volunteers and through the secretariat Collaboration for mission, international (*Cmi*) offered their services to the Superior General. Perhaps the brothers in Nigeria prophetically foresaw the July letter coming. They certainly responded to the call of the XXIst Chapter reinforced by the General Conference to "... go in haste to new lands"

In 2015 Brothers Longinus Dimgba and Matthew-Mary Ogudu will join Christian in Yambio and Riimenze in South



Sudan. Br Matthew-Mary has been the province economer for the last six years. He has a degree in accountancy and will be of great assistance in the administration of the agriculture project, which relies for support on many overseas NGOs. Br Longinus has degrees in Mathematics and is an experienced classroom teacher and school

principal. He will enhance the quality of teacher education at the Catholic Teachers College with his professionalism and experience.

Br Chris Wills – Director *Cmi*



DISTRICT OF ASIA

15 young men from Bangladesh an other 2 countries in the Postulancy

When I saw the group of new postulants in Davao, I felt a deep sense of gratitude - not only to God and our good Mother, but also to every Brother and Lay Marist who are part of this wonderful adventure. Six years ago, all this was just a dream. We were a group of Brothers filled with dreams, and doubts. Going to new lands, experiencing new cultures and living new ways of community life were not easy. Six years have passed, and the seeds we had sown during those times of uncertainty have begun to grow.

Now new challenges have appeared. Among them, how best to nurture young adults who are searching for meaning in their lives. A number of solutions have

been presented as each community has its unique way of approaching those who are interested in the Marist vocation. Since foreigners are not allowed to live with locals in some countries, our Brothers there have invited young adults to spend time with the communities, to "come and see", to witness and experience the Marist way of life.

After four years of planning and execution, we have finally established a

formation house in the Philippines. On the 13th of August, Brothers Luís Sobrado, Paco García and Pepito Mahong welcomed 15 young men from Bangladesh an other 2 countries to the Postulancy. Initially, we wondered how we were to prepare them for an international way of life and yet at the same time, preserve their identities. Our concerns were laid to rest when months later, we saw that although they are from different countries, they share the same spirit. They are proudly, the emerging face of the Marist district of Asia.

Br. Juan Castro, Superior of the District



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| <p>Director Br. Alberto Ricica</p> <p>Production Mr. Luiz da Rosa</p> | <p>Redaction Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 00144 ROMA</p> <p>E-mail: comunica@fms.it Siteb: www.champagnat.org</p> |
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Edited by:
Marist Brothers - General House – Rome

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