

CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION

FMSI: Daily Reflections for Advent

Like every year during the time of Advent, FMSI has again in 2014 produced a tool for personal reflection, which has been inspired by children's rights. This year, in particular, FMSI points out that there is a strong campaign to engage children and young people to participate in various activities. The campaign is basically to recognize them as active participants with views and voices that are worth recognizing. Letting children's views be recognized might not be easily universally understood due to cultural, traditional or political differences. However, there is one force, accepted by 193 States that is regarded as credible and plays a unifying role. This is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Adults have always played a leading role in deciding the needs of children and young people. Why have they done so? Is it because children and young people have not reached the age of maturity to make serious decisions for their own lives? Is it the question of tradition? Or is it that it will be regarded as lack of respect for elders if they are to lead in decision-making?

In most cases decisions have been made; in families, schools and communities without even seeking their views or children have not been given a chance to express what is in their mind before decisions that affect them are made. This is not ruling out exceptional and somehow emergence scenarios where decisions are made considering their best interest. Save the Children Organization encourages the policy that views of children should be respected when making decisions that affect them, "Seek children's perspective, recognizing them as people with dignity and evolving capacities; that they are empowered and assisted to speak out, have their views heard and become an integral part of process of change" Obviously if the right environment is created for them to exercise their right to participation the result will be marvelous.

The Advent Booklet can be download, in 5 languages, from the site of FMSI (www.fmsi-onlus.org) or from this link: <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=3453>.

2014
SEASON OF ADVENT
Daily Reflections for Advent



Children's Right to Participation



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From 25 to 29 November, the Superior General, Br Emili Turu, is attending the plenary session of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in the Vatican. Br Emili has been a member of this Dicastery since last March.

From 24 to 27 November, the working team on "Financial Autonomy of the Administrative Units" is holding its first meeting in the General House. Brs Victor Preciado, Councillor and Econome General, and Mario Meuti, Director of FMSI, are representing the General Administration, together with Angela Petenzi, FMSI Projects Co-ordinator.

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Consecrated Life in the Church of today

The Year of Consecrated Life will begin on Saturday, 29 November, with a prayer vigil at 7.00 pm in the Papal Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, on the wish of Pope Francis, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Dogmatic Constitution, Lumen Gentium, and the Decree, Perfectae Caritatis. On the following day, first Sunday of Advent, 30 November, a Eucharist will be celebrated at 10.00 am in St Peter's Basilica.

A strongly Marial touch characterizes both times of prayer: to the Mother of God, model and patron of consecrated life, consecrated life will be entrusted in its various forms: religious institutes, secular institutes, the Order of Virgins, Societies of Apostolic Life, new institutes.

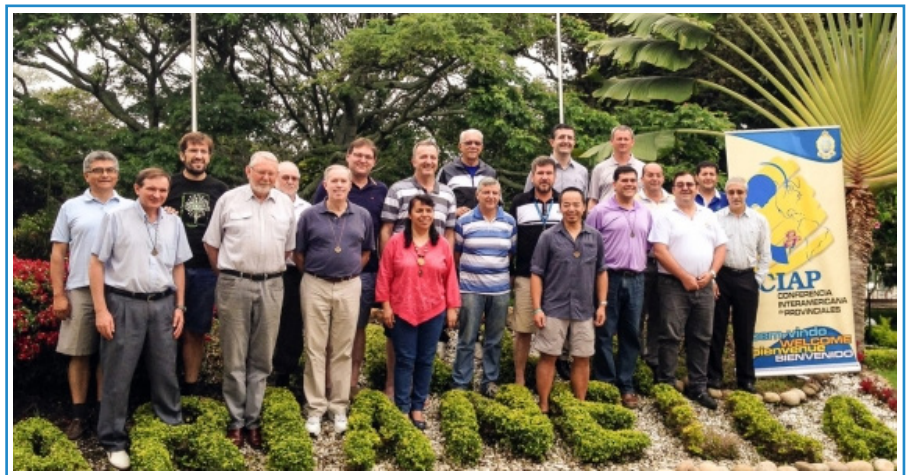


The activities are being organized by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The Year of Consecrated Life coincides with the holding in the Institute of the Montagne Year, in preparation for the Bicentenary of the Institute.



Inter-American Conference of Provincials

The Meeting of the Permanent Council of CIAP and the commissions: Inter-American Mission Commission and Inter-American Commission of Spirituality, Brothers and Laity, was held in Colombia from 5 to 8 November. Also present were some members of the Secretariats from Rome. The objective was to outline some joint paths of animation and management for life and mission in America.



Those present included Brothers Libardo Garzón Duque, Francisco Javier Pérez Paris, Horacio Bustos, Wellington Mousinho de Medeiros, Vicente Sossai Falchetto, Valdicer Civa Fachi, John Klein, Gérard Bachand, Carlos Vélez Cacho, Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Gregorio

Linaceros, Oscar Rafael Montenegro Cueva, Diego Zawadzky and the lay persons María del Socorro Álvarez, Gustavo Balbinot, Ernesto Reyes, Moises Beltrán, João Luis Fedel Gonçalves, Carlos Alb. Bonilla (translator) and Leidin Moreno (secretary). Brothers Tony León (Brothers Today), Mario Meuti (FMSI) and Chris Wills (Cmi – Collaboration for Mission International) attended from Rome.



SECRETARIAT OF THE LAITY

Meeting in Korea and Hong Kong

The Secretariat of the Laity held their meeting in Korea and Hong Kong from the 4th - 14th November 2015. During this visit and meeting Brother Javier Espinosa (Director), Pep Buetas (Codirector), Tony Clarke (Codirector) and Brother Jose Luis Grande (Translator) had the opportunity to work on the agenda of the Secretariat and encourage the promotion and growth of lay Marist life through their encounters with Marists in each respective country.



The key elements of the agenda of the Secretariat during these days included preparation for the Course for Lay Animators to be held in Rome in May 2015, the continued development of the Global Framework for Lay Vocational Processes and Forms of Belonging, and a review of the significant work and contributions of the new Marist lexicon. The Secretariat studied the recent Marist documents 'Just a Tent as the Heart of our Future' by Brother Emili and the 'Message from the Marist International Mission Assembly II' to discern the necessary and critical implications for the Commission in the promotion and development of Marist life into the future. Time was given to reflect on the proposed programmes for Brothers and Lay Marists to be held in conjunction with the Secretariat of

Brothers Today, and on the effective and ongoing work of the Continental Lay Commissions. The location of the meeting also allowed for the valuable opportunity to enhance the reflection on Communion and the Lay Marist Vocation in Korea and Hong Kong.

In Korea, Brother Domingo Lee hosted the Secretariat at the Marist Education Centre at Hapjung-Dong, Seoul. The Secretariat met and shared with some of the Brothers, staff and students at the special Marist projects caring for young people, projects developed to respond to the needs of some of the most vulnerable children in Korea. These ministries included the Marist Education Centre in Hapjung-Dong in Seoul and the Marist Home - Marist

Sheltered Workshop at SanChuck, Chung Ju City, a workshop and boarding home for 48 boys with intellectual and emotional disabilities. The Marists also run an Eco-Spirituality Centre at Bak un-Je Cheon City, offering a spiritual space and retreat experience for students and adults. In Hong Kong, the Secretariat meetings were held at Saint Francis Xavier's College, a Marist secondary school for boys located in Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon. Brother John Chong welcomed the Secretariat who had the opportunity to meet with students and deepen their shared understanding and experience of Marist life, vocation and mission with College staff.

Tony Clarke



Latest deceased Brothers

26/11/2014: Alipio Herrera Bolívar - Prov. Norandina

23/11/2014: Lédio de Jesús Matias - Prov. Rio Grande do Sul

19/11/2014: Miguel Angel Chaves Chaves - Prov. Norandina

01/11/2014: Ferdinand Sorochukwu Okororie - Prov. Nigeria

12/10/2014: Giovanni Bigotto - Prov. Madagascar

10/10/2014: Jean-Marie Girard - Prov. L'Hermitage

08/10/2014: Maiorino Bortolini - Prov. Brasil Centro-Sul

07/10/2014: Paul Boyat - Prov. L'Hermitage

06/10/2014: Silvestre José Starace - Prov. Cruz del Sur

05/10/2014: Paul-Aimé Gagnon - Prov. Canada

05/10/2014: Don Newton - Prov. Australia

01/10/2014: Juan Bautista Borrás Adam

Prov. Mediterránea

18/09/2014: Fabio de Jesús Urrea Hernández

Prov. Norandina

18/09/2014: Bertrand Webster - Dist. Pacific

L'HERMITAGE, A PARADIGM?

Program "Amanecer"

23 Spanish, Portuguese and Italian-speaking Brothers completed the AMANECER ROMA 2014 program on Sunday 16 November.

I wonder if the renovated house of the Hermitage can serve as a paradigm for interpreting, in some sense, what was happening to us on this journey towards our utopia of dawn in the twilight of our lives, in the light of everything the Lord allowed us to see in the 61 days our program lasted.

At the new Hermitage, the building erected by Saint Marcellin retains intact its exterior but all the interior was demolished and reconstructed, except for the chapel. Tons of debris were removed in order to make use of the same space but arranging the various areas so that they are now more bright, welcoming and functional. To do all this, they managed, in various places, to recover some of the original walls and floors, especially in the space called Champagnat: the chamber our saintly Founder occupied and the room of the first community. It is moving to tread on the same two hundred year old planks he trod and see the bare wall he saw for 16 years. The interior courtyard called after Saint Joseph was remodeled with a wide and elegant ceiling, making it a very welcoming space. The interior of the "Rocher" building was completely transformed. The old house, "Le Moulin," was completely destroyed and replaced by an ample and modern building full of light.

In the new Hermitage there is more light, more welcoming spaces but without losing the essential and the perpetual: the spiritual

energy of Champagnat and our first Brothers, faithfully reflected in the Brothers and Lay persons who make up the actual community.

The clear, murmuring and dancing waters of the Gier continue flowing. In connection with this, our good Br Benito told us in one of his many and profound reflections: our lives should be rivers which carry much life.



In our Amanecer program, we learned something of what Teilhard wrote, talking of his old age: "Oh God, grant me to believe that it was you who was painfully separating each and every one of the fibres of my being in order to penetrate to the very marrow of my essence and to carry me with you." This is pure realism.

At our age, we accept the demolition of many things, as in the Champagnat

building of the Hermitage, because now there is not much cause to think of grandiose personal futures. Our credential of retirement does not have an expiry date. But we are undertaking, like Abraham, a journey towards the new land of our old age where we are given the security of a new fruitfulness. On leaving Haran, he had excellent lands for cultivation and much wealth but he had no sons: descendants. But the instruction to leave his land and go to the land he would be shown was accompanied by the promise that he would have descendants. And Abraham set out following in the dark the call of God but always trusting in the promise of fertility. And we are promised the same: we journey towards the new land of old age but that does not mean, in itself, that our fruitfulness is finished. Our essence, of which Teilhard speaks, is to bear fruit always: even in our old age.

A true evangelist never retires. The evangelizing style of our life has to be today, more than ever, that of Mary: she was always evangelizing while remaining in the background. Always proactive but never in the foreground. She always left that to her Son. It is up to us to evangelize, above all, with our serene presence, smiling and prayerful in the apostolic activities of our Brothers.

Thanks to the General Council which organizes these courses of ongoing formation. Thanks to our Provinces which give us this time of grace.

MARIST NEWS
N.º 349 – Year VII – 27 November 2014

<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 Site: www.champagnat.org</p>
---	---

Edited by:
Marist Brothers - General House – Rome