

CONSECRATED LIFE AS MARISTS

Meeting of the general councils of the marist family

The annual meeting of the four Marist General Councils (Marist Sisters, SM; Marist Missionary Sisters, SMSM; Marist Fathers, SM; and Marist Brothers, FMS) took place in our house of Manziana from January 22 to 24. The central theme this year was: Consecrated Life as Marists – How to show the Marian Face of the Church? The facilitator was Sister Teri O'Brien SM. She helped us discuss the theme in a very creative and dynamic way, seeking inspiration and light in the sources of the four Marist congregations. The 20 participants were very motivated and engaged in the discussion, both in the small groups and the plenary sessions.



The four Superiors General also had the opportunity to speak about important topics that are presently concentrating the Congregations' attention and energy. The Organizing Commission within each of the Councils led the prayer moments and Eucharistic celebrations, which contributed to create an atmosphere of discernment and attentive listening to God's call for each of our

groups, and our common charism in the Church today.

In this meeting we said farewell to the Council of the Marist Sisters, who will celebrate their General Chapter next April. After several years working together, we realized how much we have grown regarding the family spirit, trust

and transparency between us, the solidarity we share regarding the challenges and hopes of each Institute, and our communion rooted in the common soil of our Marian charism and spirituality.

At the end, we had a fraternal birthday celebration for Sister Miriam SM and Brother Emili, our Superior General.

YEAR OF CONSECRATE LIFE

The Year of Consecrated Life challenges us to examine our fidelity to the mission entrusted to us. Are our ministries, our works and our presence consonant with what the Spirit asked of our founders and foundresses? Are they suitable for carrying out today, in society and the Church, those same ministries and works? Do we have the same passion for our people, are we close to them to the point of sharing in their joys and sorrows, thus truly understanding their needs and helping to respond to them? "The same generosity and self-sacrifice which guided your founders – Saint John Paul II once said – must now inspire you, their spiritual children, to keep alive the charisms which, by the power of the same Spirit who awakened them, are constantly being enriched and adapted, while losing none of their unique character. It is up to you to place those charisms at the service of the Church and to work for the coming of Christ's Kingdom in its fullness". (Pope Francis: Apostolic Letter to all Consecrated people on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life (21 November 2014) - See more at: <http://www.champagnat.org/000.php?p=371>)

PROVINCE "BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE"

Development course for vocations ministry teams

From January 19 to 23, the Province of Brazil Centro-Norte promoted the second module of the continuing professional development course for vocations ministry teams, which brought together 90 participants. Members of 40 religious congregations, and some of their lay partners, took part in the course, besides a number of Brothers from the Brazilian Provinces.



The Vocational School includes three major pedagogical axes: experience, theology/anthropology, and psychology/spirituality. The second module continued and elaborated the work that the group started in 2014, which they will complete in 2016.

The vocational school aims at offering accompaniment tools, including practical exercises, which can enrich the

process of listening to young people.

The course took place in Ribeirão das Neves, Minas Gerais, and was organized in partnership with the Brazilian Conference of Religious and the Catholic University of Brasilia.



El Salvador: Perpetual profession of Br. Alejandro Gustavo Herrera Galicia

Friday, January 2, 2015 took place in the Marist College San Alfonso of El Salvador, the perpetual profession of Brother Alejandro Gustavo Herrera Galicia. By his perpetual profession, Alejandro devoted himself to God, committing to follow Jesus as a Little Brother of Mary and in the service to the Church by the evangelization of children and young people. This special celebration, full of tenderness and joy, was attended by members of his family, his friends and the Marist Brothers.



At the time of the ritual of profession, Alejandro conveyed to participants the reasons which led him to make this decision. He stressed the expression of the Constitutions of the Marist brothers that he had chosen as invitation: "aware of my limitations, yet, trusting in God and in Mary. I put my life and my talents at the service of the Church and of the world, doing good quietly. (Constitutions, 5).

The 198th anniversary of the Marist Institute Foundation was filled with joy and gratitude by the testimony of Br. Alejandro.



Cameroon: Final Profession of Brother Dinayen Brendan Ghakanyuy

Monday December 22, 2014 marked another milestone in history of the Marist District of West Africa in Cameroon as many Marist gathered together with family members, the Christian community of Tatum, priests, many religious men and women, and well wishers to witness the final profession of Brother Dinayen Brendan Ghakanyuy. They all enlivened the Saint Pius X Catholic Church Tatum where the occasion took place, presided at by the Bishop of Kumbo, His Lordship George Nkuo.



In his sermon, he called on all to support Brother Brendan as he stood before the Lord to pledge his life commitment as a disciple of Christ by living the evangelical counsels. He reminded Brother Brendan of the fact that religious profession involves taking the evangelical counsels of poverty, obedience and chastity but living it is a matter of a life time. He called on him to be steadfast and courageous and to always look up to Christ in daunting and difficult moments. He ended by calling on all present to pray for Brother Brendan as he starts his missionary journey and called on Brother Brendan to always look to Mary as his model and intercessor.

In his address the superior of the Marist Brothers for the District of West Africa, Brother Francis Lukong, reiterated the fact that Brother Brendan had consecrated himself

to God as a religious in the congregation of the Marist brothers and is now available to render service wherever and whenever he is needed, to embrace and love everyone as brothers and sisters in Christ and to accept the will of God through his superiors. He equally thanked the parents of Brother Brendan for giving their son to the church. He furthermore reminded the congregation that the field of evangelization of the Marist Brothers is the school and that they are called to make the young people know and love Jesus in the way of Mary. After this, pictures were taken and dancing and singing graced the occasion.



NETWORK OF MARIST UNIVERSITIES

Course Charisma and Marist educational principles

I am pleased to announce that Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR), Curitiba, 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.

"Each generation of Marists has done its best to keep the flame of Champagnat's charisma alive as a gift for the Church and the world until the present day. They have left us a heritage that includes values, a spirit, ways of living, and traditions. They handed on a story to us, our own story, a narrative of the wonderful things they lived, which were burnt into their hearts for life. Their passionate lives and stories enthused other men, who in turn handed them down to the next generation." (Br. Emili Turú - *Just a Tent as the Heart of our Future*)



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 March 1, 2015.

2. Enrollment confirmation. The PUCPR Secretariat will substantiate the enrollment requirements and issue the invoice listing the course fees, by the 10th of march 2015,

3. Enrollment fee payment. Once the notification of admission has been received, the enrollment payment transaction can be initiated; payment must be done by the 20th of march 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. 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 7th of april, 2015

More information

For more information, visit the web page 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 3271-6397.

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.

Profra. Dra. Adalgisa Oliveira
 Coordenadores del Curso - PUCPR
 January, 26th, 2015.

