

A NEW WAY OF BEING A BROTHER!

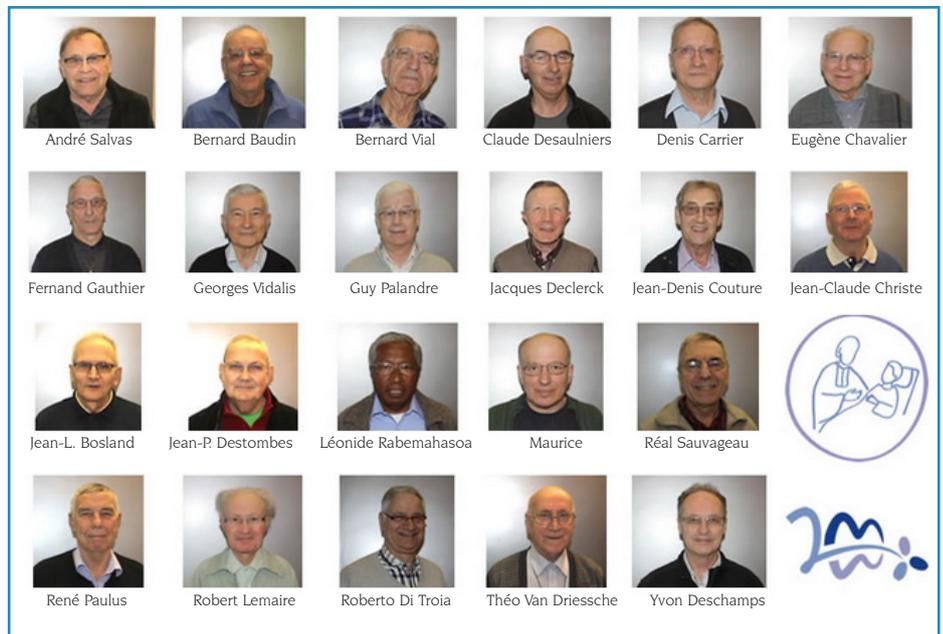
French Third Age Renewal Program

The Marist renewal session is taking place at our General House in Rome from March 15 to May 8, 2015. This eight-week lifelong learning is aimed at religious Brothers aged 65-80. It involves 22 Brothers: Eight from Quebec, seven French, five Belgian, one Greek and one Malagasy.

Two priests from Quebec, of Rome's Canadian College, are accompanying the group as chaplains: Steve Lemay (parish priest of Lac Mégantic) and Pierre Bougie, (Professor of the Major Seminary of Montreal). Here is the summary of the main objective of the session.

Under the theme "a new way of being a brother," the meeting is a time of "tuning" for senior brothers who, voluntarily, leave behind their little train of life to respond to the invitation of the last general chapter of 2009: "With Mary, go in haste to a new land". Therefore, the meeting offers the opportunity to see how everyone lives this call, personally and as a community.

To do this, the program follows the approach suggested by the General Council, which is to encourage participants to a form of conversion to the novelty



required by the current time in the context of globalization.

People, who are professionals in their own field, have been invited to give assistance to each one to help them walk at a good pace towards this new horizon that affects all aspects of our commitments to follow Christ.

The topics are:

- 1 Live brotherhood as prophets and mystics; Celibacy and sexuality, affectivity and chastity of monks and priests;
- 3 Marist and Marian spirituality of Marist

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The meeting of the Committee of the Project for the leaders of the Marist schools in Africa will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 to 29 March. The project, promoted by the Secretariat of Mission, is being financed by the FMSI. Brother João Carlos do Prado, Mario H. Meutti and Angela Petenzi, of the FMSI, are participating on behalf of the General Administration.

The Assembly of the Province of Brazil Centre-South will take place in Curitiba starting Sunday 29 March. Brothers Emili Turú, Víctor Preciado y Eugène Kabanguka will take part.

brothers; 4 Prayer and interiority; 5 A church is dying and another wants to be born: a horizontal Marian church; 6 Desert times in the city and in places of pilgrimage (our established places- Lourdes and Assisi); 7 On the way to 200 years of the birth of the Institute

of the Marist Brothers in 2017

Br. Bernard Beaudin (Province of Canada) - Animator
Br. Maurice Goutagny, fms (Province of the Hermitage)
Animator's deputy



DISTRICT OF THE PACIFIC

Projects managers from across the Pacific come together for a workshop

Br Allen Sherry and Mr Ashley Bulgarelli from Marist Solidarity (Australia), conducted a workshop on "Effective Funding for Mission" for Brothers and Lay from across the District of the Pacific. The meeting was held at the Pacific Noviciate in Lomeri, Fiji, 6-7 March. Eleven Marist project managers attended from Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand and Samoa. The facilitators were invited by the District of the Pacific leadership team to commence a more formal relationship with the District's projects.

mensions. Fiji currently hosts four immersion groups each year whilst Kiribati and Samoa are working towards



The workshop then moved onto types of funders, project cycle management and then onto the 14 step project proposal writing methodology. Each countries representatives were grouped together as they focused on a real-life project in their school and how to write a strong proposal for this project. It was especially useful for many of the younger Brothers who were new to these processes and to services offered by Marist Solidarity of Australia.

The two-day workshop started with an introduction to Marist Solidarity of Australia and to the newly developing arm – Marist Volunteers Australia, which included school im-

mersions later in the year.

There were many positive outcomes to arise from the workshop and has given these project managers the tools to access funding and develop their projects.



The Young Montagne

"He was summoned to a hamlet, one day, in order to hear a sick boy's confession. As usual, he set out at once. Before proceeding with the confession, he put a few questions to make sure that he was sufficiently instructed to receive the sacraments. To his great surprise, the child knew nothing about the principal mysteries and, in fact, didn't even know whether God existed. Greatly upset at finding a twelve-year-old in such ignorance, and fearing that he would die in such a state, he sat down beside him to teach him the mysteries and truths necessary for salvation. It took him two hours for the instruction and confession. It was extremely difficult to impart, even the most fundamental truths, to a child who was so sick that he scarcely grasped what was being said. Having heard his confession, and helped him make several acts of love of God and of contrition as preparation for death, the priest left him, to minister to a sick person in an adjoining house. As he went out, he asked after the sick youth, to be told by his tearful parents that he had died a moment after the priest's departure."

Br John-Baptist Furet, *Life of blessed Marcellin Joseph Benedict Champagnat*

THOUSANDS GATHER FOR CELEBRATION

75 years of Marist presence in Zimbabwe

Over 5,000 people gathered at a remote prestigious boarding school in Zimbabwe to celebrate the arrival of Jesuits and Marists to the country a century ago.

President Robert Mugabe, who attended St Francis Xavier's Kutama College himself aged 14, also took part at the event held on March 22.

He praised the Jesuits and Marists saying students there are "moulded into upright, principled and hardworking Zimbabweans," according to on-line news agency NewsdzeZimbabwe.

The College is in a rural area in the district of Zvimba. The closest village is Chegutu, 120 km southwest of the capital city, Harare.

The all-boys school is part of Kutama Mission, a Catholic mission originally run by Jesuits but now run by the Marist Brothers.

Brother James Langlois, of the Kutama College, said "our results are among the best in the country while we have a reputation for good discipline."

"I am hopeful for the future," he added in an interview with the Marist's General House in Rome. "I see our sector as a small remnant, but in it one finds unity, serious commitment and enthusiasm in the service of youth."

The Society of Jesus celebrated 100 years alongside the 75th anniversary of the Marists in the College.

The Jesuits landed in Zimbabwe in 1914. But due to problems finding suitable lay staff for the school, the bishop of Harare eventually arranged

for Marist Brothers to come help them some 15 years later.

"The celebration of the centenary and the 75th were scheduled to be held last year, but for a number of reasons, the festivities had to be postponed at least three times," said Brother Mario Colussi, secretary of the Marist's province of Southern Africa.

The full-day event began with 10am morning Mass on the sports field of the College under marquee-tents, celebrated by the Bishop of Chinhoyi, Bishop Dieter B. Scholz.

Bishop Scholz, a Jesuit himself, then



blessed a new building of classrooms and a new statue of St Marcellin Champagnat on the school grounds.

Both the former and the current school heads, Brothers Bernard Chirombe and Jacob Mutingwende, as well as the provincial superior, Joe Walton, addressed the participants. And after lunch, students of the College provided entertainment for the guests.

There are currently 11 Marist brothers in Zimbabwe in four communities. They help run three boarding schools in the rural villages of Dete, Kutama

and Nyanga with 2,000 students in total.

The Jesuits were the first Catholic missionaries to arrive to Zimbabwe, formerly known as the British colony of Southern Rhodesia, in 1914. They established a number of institutions, including a training college for teachers.

"Since it was not functioning well in the late 1930's, the Marist Brothers in Canada were invited to come and staff the school on very favourable terms," said Br. Colussi in an interview on March 20.

"A group of Marist brothers studying in London who had been destined to work in Lesotho, were told to alter their final destination to Kutama," he added.

They began teaching there in 1939 at the Jesuit's St Francis Xavier teacher training institution, making them the first Marists to land in Zimbabwe.

"So, 2014 also marked 75 years of the Brothers' presence in the country and this month's gathering, therefore, is a double celebration," stated Br. Colussi.

The Brothers undertook the building of the St Francis Xavier's Kutama College, organising the very making of the bricks to be used.

Br. Colussi added that although the "collaboration has proved fruitful in many ways," there are other major challenges like the drop-out of young brothers before making their final vows.

Presentation of the Graphic Identity Manual of Mexico's Marists

El A very important event for the two Marist Provinces of Mexico took place on February 25, the presentation of the institutional image. Brothers José Sánchez of central Mexico Central and Raúl F. Lara of western México, formed a committee to attend to the assignment of the Provincial Councils to carry out the development and implementation of the institutional image manual for Mexico's Marists. In turn they had the support of the staff of the Marist Animation Centre and an external consultant in the area of organizational communication.

The CEOs of Marist institutions and the responsible for communications

were invited to the event. Ninety people from the whole country, including the north and the south, took part.

Brother Ricardo Reynoso, the Provincial of Central Mexico, welcomed the participants and invited them to be open to the change of schemes. The fact that it is necessary to make an effort to make ourselves visible, make clear who we are and what we want to communicate was stressed. To homologate verbal, visual and virtual speeches. Looking after the image and taking care of the way we communicate it, promotes identity, belonging, having a better position in society as a network of Marist Institutions and it is also an opportunity to revitalize the foundational



meaning and essence of being a Marist. He then went on to the presentation of the graphical identity manual, prepared by Lic. Juan Francisco Orozco, Marist Animation Center.



Meeting of the Interamerican Commission on Spirituality, Brothers and Laity

El The second annual meeting of the Interamerican Commission on Spirituality, Brothers and Laity took place in Quito, Ecuador –Norandina Province –, from 2 to 4 March 2015, with the presence of: Br Tony Leon, Secretariat of Brothers Today; Br Javier Espinosa, Secretariat of the Laity; Br Javier Pérez París, Interamerican Subcommission of Spirituality; Mr Gustavo Balbinot, Interamerican Subcommission of Spirituality; Mr Moisés Beltrán, Interamerican Subcommission of the Laity; Mr João Luis Fedel Gonçalves, Interamerican Subcommission of the Laity; Br Oscar Montenegro, Interamerican Subcommission of the Brothers; Br Carlos Vélez, Interamerican Subcommission of Brothers and Coordinator; Br Valdicer Fachi, Coordinator of the Interamerican Commis-



sion on the Mission – Guest. The outlined objectives were the following: 1) To share the journey of our respective subcommittees: challenges, achievements, appeals ...; and the Secretariats of Brothers Today and the Laity. 2) To finish the strategic planning that began in Lima in 2014, paying attention to the appeals of our provincials: to find synergies, promote

internationalism and multiculturalism, to respond to these challenges, etc. 3) To continue to grow in team awareness and fraternal relations.

For three intense days, encouraged by the opening words of Br Luis Carlos Gutierrez, chairman of the Standing Council of the CIAP, by the greeting of Br Mariano Morante Montes (Ecuador sector) on behalf of the Provincial Brother, and with the advice of Br Valdicer Fachi, of the Interamerican sister commission within the structure of the CIAP, we approach the task and achieve a plan that integrates our three fields delegated by the Provincial Brothers, sharing the Mission, the Vision, Beliefs, Goals, Lines of Action, Strategies, Initiatives, and of course, Responsibilities.

