

'PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD BE LOST IF ELDERLY BROTHERS ARE FORGOTTEN'

Course for elderly Spanish and Portuguese speaking Brothers ends

After participating in a two-month programme in the Italian town of Manziana dedicated to elderly brothers, a Marist has stressed the importance of not forgetting those more advanced in age.

"If we ever forget the older brothers, we would lose the memory and historic presence of the Holy Spirit within the Institute," said Marist Father Mauricio Díaz García, the group's chaplain.

"That's why any help for the elderly brothers becomes a prophetic act and support of those who preceded us," the Mexican told the general house press office on Oct. 15.



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- The economic team met from Oct. 20 – 23 in Madagascar to talk about the Province's financial autonomy. Brothers Víctor Preciado, general councillor, Libardo Garzón, economo general and Mario Meuti, FMSI director, participated on behalf of the general administration.
- Vicar general Brother Joe Mc Kee is taking part in a meeting of the MAPAC team in the Philippines from Oct. 22 – 23.
- On Saturday, Oct. 24, 18 brothers who are participating in different activities in Rome will attend the encounter of congregations of brothers. Brother Emili Turú and other general councillors will be part of the group.
- The coordinators of the formation programmes in Manziana and El Escorial are taking part in a set of meetings at the general house to plan upcoming courses of permanent formation.

The course, titled 'Third Age Renewal Program for Portuguese and Spanish-speaking Brothers,' ran from Aug. 10 – Oct. 10.

Brother Roque Ari Salet, from Brazil, underscored that it "opened several doors" for him.

"I felt new calls, it provided an insight on my story of salvation, it helped me develop my personal life project, it situated me within the mission of this stage of life that I am living," he remarked.

Fourteen participated as well as an organising team formed by Brothers

Landelino Ortego Guerrero, the course director from Venezuela, Francisco Javier Ocaranza Sáinz, from Mexico, who helped him organise the course and Fr Mauricio, the group's chaplain.

The participants, aged 70 – 80, came from Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Guatemala, France and Brazil.

"The programme itself is very good and it does help you a lot in realising the full potential you have," said Brother Gerardo de Loera Romo, from Mexico. "We generally come with a fairly negative programming, but this course

opens your eyes and makes you see the potential that you have," he added.

Guest speakers included Brothers Juan Moral, Ramón Benseny, Josep María Soterias, Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Carlos Huidobro, Xavier Barceló, Ernesto Tendero, Teófilo Minga.

They also included Brothers José María Ferre, Father Antonio Gascón, doctor José María Pérez-Soba Díaz del Corral, superior general Brother Emili Turú and professor Eva López García.



FINAL PROFESSION OF BROTHER MALANGMEI

Talit, West Bengal

On September 7th Marist Brothers community in Talit welcomed our brothers and family members of Br. Malangmei along with our Candidates' parents.

We the community planned well for that day for two reasons: first, to welcome all our brothers and relatives, and secondly, to celebrate the birthdays of Brother Pepito (September 5th) and Brother Jose Maria (September 7th). In the evening Brother Alex prepared a short prayer service which included both celebrations and welcomed everyone for the celebration. After the prayer service, we had a simple get-together. The children of our hostel came forward to welcome the visitors and wish Happy Birthday to the brothers, singing a beautiful song. Brother Alex came forward to honour the Brothers who

celebrated their birthdays, giving each of them a gift a gift.

September 8th was the big day for us as Marist Brothers as well as for our hostel children in Talit, West Bengal. Yes, our Brother Malangmei chose the

a Marist brother. After 10 days of busy preparation a good number of the local people, religious, priests of the Diocese, Brothers and children gathered enthusiastically to begin the celebration. His Lordship Bishop Cyprian Monis was the Chief celebrant. Our special guests were Brother Shanthi fms, Provincial of South Asia, Bro. Juan Castro fms, Leader of the Marist District of Asia, 6 Brothers from South India, Brother Javier from Bangladesh, 8 Members of Brother Malangmei's family including his parents from Manipur, and Father Mark, who was Malangmei's vocation promoter of.

The presence of most of the Catholics living in Talit village and the parents of some of our hostel boys made the day one filled with abundant blessings.



birthday of our Beloved Mother Mary to make his final vows on his journey as



“BEING SPIRITUAL, BEING HUMAN”

West Central Europe Province Workshop

Forty nine participants from Ireland, Scotland, England, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany attended this workshop at Vallendar, near Koblenz, Germany. Brendan Geary, Provincial, leading the meeting welcomed the Marists, the young and the old, men and women, Brothers and laity, wishing them an interesting and fruitful meeting.

The theme of the meeting was, Being spiritual – being human, and the speaker Father Dennis Tindall from Bishop Auckland in England, who has known Brendan for some time, got the meeting off to a vivid start after the evening meal. Important points of this input were vari-

ous ways of meeting God, our daily communication with God and the knowledge that each one of us is a house in which God dwells.

The second part of the Saturday morning which involved small group meetings dealt with the questions of how God communicates with us, how we react to the needs of others, how we deal with our own shortcomings and just how much we depend on the grace of God. Other themes included the fatherhood of God and His unconditional love of everyone, as well as the task of the Church, loudly and clearly proclaimed by Pope Francis, to heal the wounded and liberate the

people. The fourth session highlighted the grace of God’s gifts, mercy and forgiveness.

In his self-emptying and incarnation the Son of God became man and through his suffering, death on the cross and resurrection brought redemption to all of good will. Incarnation does not mean simply the presence of God in every person and the recognition of Jesus in the face of the other, but is also an on-going process in which the incarnation continues through the course of time to repeat and renew itself.



43 YOUTHS ARRESTED AND FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED

FMSI calls on the Mexican authorities to make a general reassessment of the investigation

On October of 2014 the FMSI Cono Sur office called on the Mexican State to conduct an independent, prompt and effective investigation into the dramatic events in the town of Iguala in Guerrero state, on the night of September 26.

On that night, local police attacked a large group of students from the Normal Rural de Ayotzinapa School “Raúl Isidro Burgos” with firearms. As a result, 6 people were killed, over 40 injured and 43 youths were arrested and forcibly disappeared. The official record of the investigation indicates that both police officers and the army knew of the capture and violence towards the students.

A year later and based on the recommendations of the



Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR[i], FMSI has again called on the Mexican authorities to make a general reassessment of the investigation.

The Marist Provinces of Mexico and the Inter-American Marist Solidarity Network have also participated in different solidarity initiatives with the families of the missing youth.

The "Normales Rurales" are teacher-training centres promoted by the State after the Mexican Revolution, to train farmers as subjects of social transformation.

However, with the advent of neoliberalism, which began in the 80s, the Normales no longer count on State support. For this reason, they battle each year to not disappear.

The young students of Ayotzinapa have been a benchmark of social struggle and a major player for the political life of Guerrero, one of the states with the highest rates of social exclusion of Mexico.

Many sectors of Mexican society agree that this case represents the historical continuity of authoritarian politics, which ranges from the student slaughter in Tlatelolco

in 1968 until today. A recent visit of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) noted that there is a "serious human rights crisis that Mexico is experiencing, characterized by an extreme situation of insecurity and violence; serious violations, in particular forced disappearances, extrajudicial executions and torture; critical levels of impunity and an inadequate and insufficient attention to the victims and their families."

Driven by the prophetic attitude of Jesus in the Gospel, we have heard the call of the families of the 43 young people to clarify the facts, punish those responsible and locate their children.

Because Ayotzinapa represents a "point of no return, the situation that does not end, the solidarity that unites us," [ii] we invite you to follow the case and appreciate all the support of the Marists of Champagnat towards Mexico.

In this way, we hope to realize the dream expressed by the Second International Assembly of the Marist Mission in Nairobi (2014), that "we are recognised as PROPHETS because: we have left our comfort zones, and we are in a permanent attitude of departure to the peripheries of our world, driven to proclaim and build the Kingdom of God."



Pictures of the week



Australia (Sydney): Meeting of the Expanded Secretariat of Laity



Cameroon: Celebrating 50 anniversary of Marist presence in the country



Brazil (Belém)



Guatemala: Mission Assembly of Arco Norte



Italy (General House): Ad hoc committee for International Communities for a New Beginning



Syria (Aleppo): "Train The Trainers" Workshop held at MIT