



AN INVITATION TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BROTHER FRANCIS

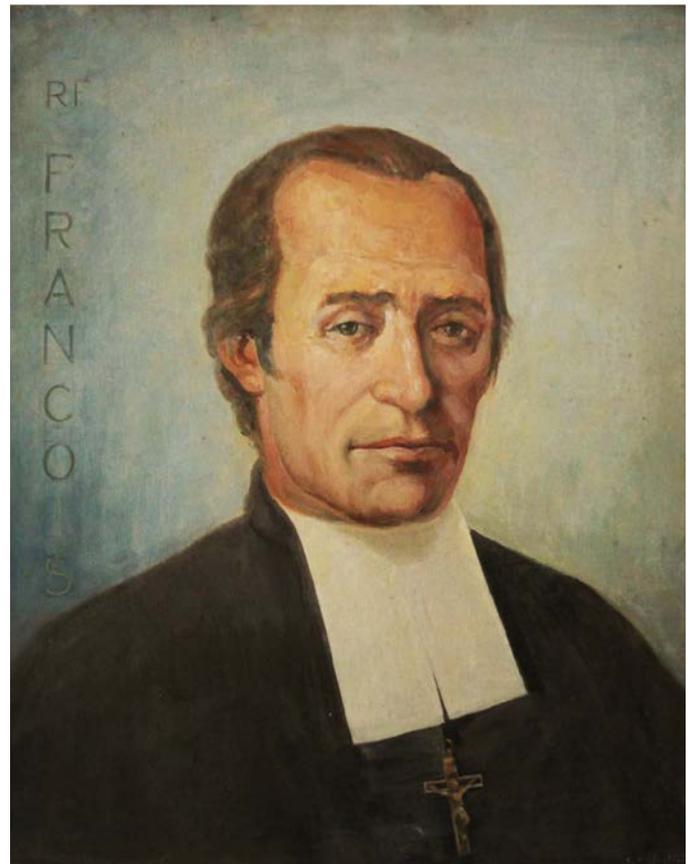
Yet another anniversary of the death of Brother Francis, when we call to mind his features and his life. And we also revisit the situation concerning the cause of his beatification. The cause of Brother Francis, from the point of view of the Postulation, demands great cooperation by the Institute to obtain, through his intercession, a miracle that will prepare the way to his recognition as beatus. Seen from the perspective of the Institute, this constitutes a strong call to exercise our faith.

Francis was a man of faith

Between 1848 and 1853 he left us four written circulars concerning the spirit of faith. It is wonderful to study the different editions of the Rules written for posterity, to inform ourselves of the great repercussions suggested by the calls of Brother Francis in the texts which provide motivation and rules of behaviour for our Marist life.

Francis is still to be discovered in depth by most of the members of the Institute. The institutional community has assimilated some important features of his life, but we are still far from the springs which nurtured him and led him to become a Brother. We could do worse than to celebrate this anniversary by reading the four letters which he wrote on the spirit of faith that must once again guide the life of the Brother. It could be a motivational gesture that would help us to become more aware of the basic dimension of our life. The just man lives by faith. Brother Francis invites us in his first circular (1848) "to think, to judge, to speak and to act in everything according to the perspective of the faith."

The life of faith or the spirit of faith that guides our life will encourage us to discover this model of a Brother as being a model of Marist sanctity for the present day. Francis invites us to reevaluate and to love our Brotherly vocation



more and more. This same spirit of faith will help us to intercede effectively before the Father in our needs and the needs of those who live with us. And we dare to request miracles through his intercession. Also this is a manifestation of our love for the Institute.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Up to the 22, Brothers Óscar Martin, General Councilor, and Valdizar Fachi, Director of CMI, together with the representatives of the La Salle Brothers, visited the Council of the Project Fratelli, in the community and the works of Lebanon.
- After the encounter with the administrators of the

Provinces of the Region Arco Norte, in Miami, Br. Libardo Garzón, General Bursar, will visit the Province of Central Mexico, up to January 25.

- From January 21 to 26, Brother Alvaro Sepúlveda, from FMSI, participates in the session of the Council of Human Rights of UNO, which takes place in Geneva.

Meanwhile we continue taking some small steps towards knowing and sharing of the life of Brother Francis.

'Marist places' in Rome

On the 26th of September 2018, the pilgrimage began to visit those ' Marist places ' in the city of Rome, under the auspices of the presence of Brother Francis Rivat. The news became public through www.champagnat.org accompanied by pictures on 05/10/2018. The group of older Spanish and Portuguese Brothers taking part in the 'Dawn' course were accompanied by the Brother Postulator General. They followed a pilgrimage from the General House to the Church of the Holy Name of Mary, situated in the Forums next to the Trajan column. It was with this visit that the route of the Marist places of Rome was inaugurated.

At this time the publication is under way of a selection of the reflections of Brother Francis, gathered especially from his notebooks and from the letters directed to the Brothers between 1840 and 1860. These reflections contain fourteen different topics contained in two long chapters: Francis the spiritual man and Francis the perfect pupil of Champagnat.

At the same time a group of artists is preparing a new graphic image of Francis which will accompany the spiritual image of his thoughts. We expect to send out this material about the face of the successor to Champagnat, sometime this year to different areas and Marist establishments.

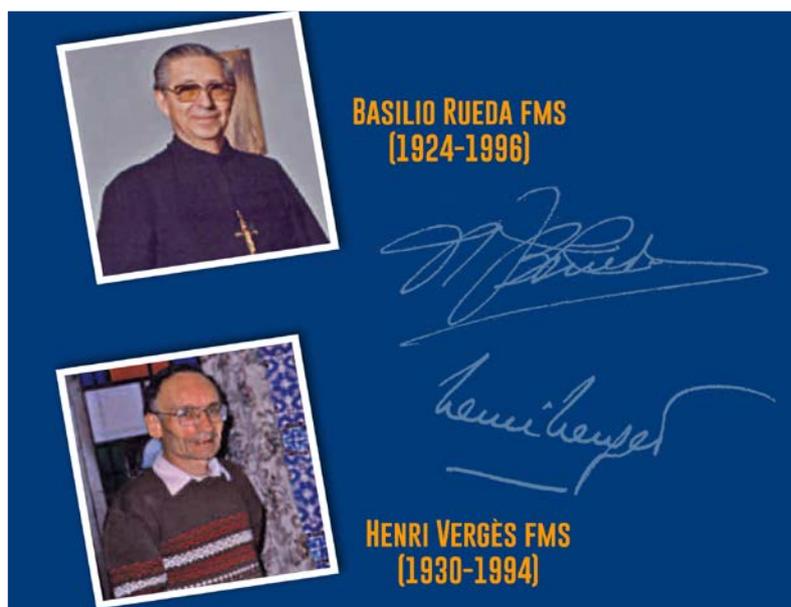
Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún, Postulator General

BASILIO RUEDA AND HENRI VERGÉS: TWO OF A KIND

JANUARY 21: AN ANNIVERSARY AND TWO REMINISCENCES

The anniversary of the death of Basilio Rueda (January 21) in this year of 2019 coincides with the final preparations being carried out by the diocesan tribunal of Guadalajara (Mexico) to complete diocesan process requested by the Congregation of the Causes for Saints in March 31 2017. The completion consisted in gathering the deposition of 21 more witnesses selected between the clergy and the laity to complete the survey carried out previously. At the moment the tribunal should complete the writing of the records and complete the requirements needed to put an end to the diocesan process before sealing it and sending it to Rome. Once this complete documentation is concluded and delivered to the Congregation of the Causes for Saints it will be added to the one that had already been submitted previously in 2016. The following step in the process will consist of the publication of the ordinance of validity of the diocesan process. Starting from that moment the process will begin in Rome.

At the same time, while these works were being carried out in Guadalajara (Mexico) we celebrated the beatification of Brother Henri Vergès in Orán on the 8th of December published in which the correspondence between Brother Henri and Brother Basilio were included. Henri living in Algeria and Basilio running around the world to animate the work of the Marists. These letters share a testimony of fraternity, dialogue and the search for the will of God. They are just a handful of letters. There are few, very few, if we compare them with the hundreds that Basilio wrote and which are kept in the archives



in Rome. But they tell us about the process of a shared interior journey. When bringing these two figures together in the same publication, whose aim was to enhance the feast of the beatification of Brother Henri as well as his 18 martyred partners from Algeria and the figure of Basilio whose proclamation of sanctity carries on amid a turbulent sea of paperwork and tribunals.

I believe that it can be a beautiful homage on this anniversary, as much for Basilio as for Henri, to study the pages of this book which some will be able to read in the printed edition in French, Spanish or English, or by consulting the digital edition that can be found here: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#).

Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún, Postulator General

Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún, Postulator General

BR. DOMINADOR AQUINO SANTIAGO

NEW PROVINCIAL OF EAST ASIA

The General Council, after studying the results of the consultation carried out in the Province, named, on January 14, Br. Dominador Aquino Santiago as the new Superior of the Province of East Asia, for a period of three years, to replace Br. Robert Teoh.

Br. Dominador will begin his mandate during the celebration of the Provincial Chapter, which will take place from April 23 to 28.

In the letter sent to the Province of East Asia, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, also thanked all the Provincial Council and Br. Robert Teoh for his service as Provincial during the last six years.

Br. Ador

Br. Dominador Aquino Santiago, FMS was born on March 3, 1967 in Davao City, Philippines. He is popularly known as Brother Ador among the Marist Brothers and school communities. Aside from being the 5th of the six children of Mr. Domingo Santiago (deceased) and Mrs. Carmele Aquino Santiago, he is the only boy in the family.

He finished his primary education in 1979, his secondary in 1983, and his tertiary in 1989. These were all spent at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, a Marist school. In addition, he was able to accomplish his master's degree in Theology at the Ateneo de Davao University in 1998.

Inspired by his early education in a Marist School, he joined the Brothers as an aspirant in 1985. Then, he entered the Novitiate in 1986. But to pursue his tertiary education, he left the Novitiate in 1987. However, the desire to follow the footsteps of St. Marcellin Champagnat was alluring that he went back to the Novitiate in 1989. Thus, he had his First Vows on May 20, 1990 and his Final Profession of Vows on May 25, 1996.

For fifteen years, he taught in the Secondary and Tertiary schools from 1990- 2004 and 2009 -2010 respective-



ly. He was also a researcher of Socio-Pastoral Institute for two years from the year 2004 to 2006. He became the Campus Ministry Director for seven (7) years in Notre Dame of Marbel University from 1998 - 2004 and in Notre Dame of Dadiangas University from 2007 - 2008. Besides, he was able to work at the Marcellin Home for street children in 2008 - 2009. Furthermore, he served as the School Director at Notre Dame of Cotabato for six years from 2010 - 2013 and 2016 - 2019.

He was called for a Missionary work in April 2013 to January 2016 in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. For almost three (3) years, he was working there as a formator of the Vietnamese Candidates and Aspirants. This was the

reason why he left Notre Dame of Cotabato in 2013. After the mission, he went back and served as the School Director for another three years. Because of these enriching experiences and remarkable exposures to the different Marist Institutions and Missionary works, he was elected as a Provincial Councilor of the East Asia Province in the Chapter of 2016. He served as East Asia Province's Councilor from 2016 to 2019.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

THE MARISTS OF CANADA HAVE PUBLISHED A DOCUMENT IN DEFENCE OF THE ECOLOGY



The Marist Province of Canada has published a document entitled " Environmental Sustainability ", committing itself to be involved in education and action for a fairer and more sustainable world.

The document promotes the vision that defends the protection of the environment, in line with the papal encyclical "Laudato Si" which promotes the protection of the earth. The publication recog-

nizes that environmental sustainability is essential for the health and the well-being of our planet, and also for the survival of every species.

This initiative also responds to the call of the XXII General chapter that asks us to "Waken in ourselves and in our surroundings an ecological conscience that commits us to the care of our common home".

More information on this initiative can be found on the [Province web](#).

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ MIGRANTS – SPAIN

The Mediterranean Province promoted an encounter in Alicante on migrants and displaced persons. In this event, one of the provocations proposed for reflection was “You are not only responsible for what you do, but for what you do not do, for what you do not defend and for what you keep silence”.

■ VOCATIONS - BRAZIL

The Province North-Central Brazil held another encounter of the “Vocational School”, in Belo Horizonte, and 73 persons participated. These meetings intend promoting vocational animation within ecclesial places, encouraging the creation of an itinerary of vocations.

■ SOLIDARITY ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Australian Marist Solidarity is an international Agency for the help and development of the Marist Province of Australia in the whole of Asia and the Islands of the Pacific. Its vision is a world, which reflects the desire of the Marists: that the more vulnerable young people, from the peripheries, be taken to the center through the access to education.

■ BOYS AND GIRLS – MEXICO

By means of the Campaign “I Want to Be President”, boys and girls from the whole country presented their proposals to the next President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, on how to fulfill and respect their rights. The principal objective is to diffuse the children’s proposals for the new Government, giving special attention to highly vulnerable groups such as street populations, migrant or indigenous children, boys and girls having some disability, among others.

PROVINCE OF BRASIL CENTRO-SUL

THE BEATIFICATION OF BROTHER HENRI VERGÈS INSPIRED A NEW SOCIAL SCHOOL



A life dedicated to young people and to the Marist Mission. This was the path of Brother Henri Vergès, one of the “19 martyrs of Algeria” beatified on December 8, 2018 in the Basilica of the Holy Cross, in Oren, Algeria. The Brother remained 25 years in the African country, carrying out work and dedicating himself to education and to the spreading and diffusion of the fraternal and tolerant word of Christ and Mary.

The great admiration caused by Henri Vergès because of his immense dedication and faith, has inspired and given name to a new educational work of the Province Central-South Brazil: the Marist Social School Br. Henri.

The educational Center found in the neighborhood Gtalha Azul, is one of the regions with the greatest social vulnerability of the city of Fazenda, Rio Grande (Metropolitan Region of Curitiba, State of Paraná). The establishment, which will be administered by the Executive Directory of Social Action of the Province (Marist Group), was possible through a public-private Association,

with the Municipal District Council, which constructed the building.

Beginning on February 4, the beginning of the classes, 550 children of Early Childhood Education and Primary School will be taken care of. For the year 2020, the goal is to increase the attention to 900 children.

“Brother Henri Vergès worked very actively in initial education and made great sacrifices in order to be able to carry out his mission in a country of Muslim majority. Nothing stopped him from continuing his mission as missionary and educator in an unstable territory and full of adversity. The new Social School is born from the ideal of being a significant and different presence in an extremely vulnerable environment, in need, impoverished and adverse. It is an honor to bear the name of Blessed Br. Henri, and we profoundly desire to drink from his witness and Charism, immortalized in his phrase: “More true is a word that I live than one that I say”, says the executive Directress of Social Action, Alessandra Hovorusko.

MARIST WORLD



Chile: Meeting of the Board of Directors in Limache



Samoa: Orientation with the teachers at Marist Brothers Primary School, Mulivai



Rwanda: Provincial council of East Central Africa meets in Kigali



Italy
Siracusa, Lavalla200>



Guatemala: The four Superiors of the Society of Mary in the International Gathering of Marist Youth



United States: Meeting of provincial administrators of the Arco Norte region in Miami



All the information on the International Encounter of the Young Marists – held in Guatemala from January 15 to 20, is available in the following link (<http://www.champagnat.org/000.php?p=801>), and will be published in the next number of Marist News.

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