

Walking together

"To live at the rhythm of the Father's will so that the dawn may be born"
(Br. Basilio Rueda)

➤ *Contemplative moment*

Circular of 2 January 1968: The special General Chapter
Some principles of government, in collegiality.



Government for the whole
Institute.

Respect for the decentralisation
determined by the Chapter.

Collegial
government, i.e.,
acting, whenever
possible, as a
team.

Walking together

Spirit of motivation
and animation with
a view to dynamic
action and sincere
enthusiasm.

Sincerity and openness.

Attitude of service and dedication.

Fidelity to God rather than to men, whose
will and truth I have to seek, communicate
and realise, even if it may sometimes cause
misunderstandings

To walk together with these principles?

- *Will to work and to strive together*
(Br Basilio, Special General Chapter, 1968).

"However, I would like to point out a particularly positive aspect of the work of the first session, which is reflected in the Chapter documents: the need to make authentic community life reign in our houses in the deepest evangelical and theological sense. In order to achieve such a beautiful aspiration, there is the best will to work and make a joint effort. But this happy situation cannot be reached by the simple fact of coexistence, but through vital unity in the love of Christ. This will lead a group of men, united in a common history and task, to place in communication, in circulation and at the disposal of others all that they have, and especially their friendship, their heart, their interior life, their collaboration and their service... Then these radiant, open, joyful communities will bear witness to the world of the joyful freedom of the children of God, condition and fruit at the same time of their singular kind of life: their consecration. They will be the ones who will become a shining beacon, capable of attracting to religious life the new lifeblood of today's youth".

- *Song*
Salve Regina - > https://youtu.be/E_YTs_q69l0

- *Psalm from the experience of gratitude*

Br. Basilio

"In conclusion, let us remember that not to seek new and ever more effective paths is to condemn ourselves to stagnation and extinction. Life is dynamic, and, like love, always seeks a better and better way, always more and better, within the divine plan. Always more and better within the divine plan and what the Church is asking of us through the Second Vatican Council".

"We have to confess that we are not accustomed to thinking about problems in depth. Paradoxical though it may seem, our way of life introduces us fully into a task in which everything is reduced to the everyday and to the apparently without transcendence; exposed to sinking into routine and mediocrity, or to slipping lightly, when this humble task demands a profound human vision, a serious commitment to the historical future and the serious conviction that our hands form or deform the type of man, the society and the structures of tomorrow...".

Psalm

Build our house, O Lord, and establish it in truth.

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early
 and go late to rest,
 eating the bread of anxious toil;
 for he gives to his beloved sleep.
 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
 the fruit of the womb a reward.
 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
 are the children of one's youth.
 Blessed is the man
 who fills his quiver with them!
 He shall not be put to shame
 when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Echoes of the psalm...

➤ ***Meditating***

In a spirit of synodality, what questions can we ask ourselves today that Br. Basilio asked in 1968?

Br. Basilio Rueda (Circular of 2 January 1968)

"As well as the doctrinal reflection on the great internal themes (consecration, common life and the essence of our Marist vocation), the Chapter needs to examine whether the Institute is doing quantitatively and qualitatively all that it should be doing today. It is not simply a matter of squandering treasures of generosity and self-denial, but of using them properly, intelligently and profitably. This calls for an examination:

- Are our men and our resources being used according to the spirit of our vocation in the most urgent and productive places and in the most productive matters? If not, why not?
- What circumstances prevent us from effectively employing our personnel in the service of the Church? What is it that immobilises us, or at least makes us less available and less productive?
- Are the apostolic dissatisfactions of not a few of our Brothers simply due to a mania for revisionism, to a disguised personal frustration, or are they, on the contrary, on certain occasions, the voice of the Gospel coming to us through these Brothers?
- What kind of man do we have to form for this historical moment? What kind of Christian? What kind of humanism should inspire the formation of this man and what kind of pedagogy should be used to achieve it?
- What should we think of the central and provincial policy as regards the use of personnel and funds? What about the means of financing in support of our services in order to democratise education, which is certainly part of the charism of the Founder?

(personal moment)

➤ *Concluding prayer*
(inspired by Pope Francis)

God, our Father,
You who gave Brother Basilio
an extraordinary heart,
a penetrating intelligence,
and a great passion for your kingdom,
grant that, penetrated by his spirit of communion
may we know how to walk together as Marists of Champagnat.

Help us to feel part of a Church of listening,
with the awareness that listening is more than hearing,
and that we all listen to the "Spirit of truth".

Give us the sensitivity to hear your voice,
to grasp your presence,
to intercept your passage and your breath of life
in our Institute.

May we be able to listen to you
by listening to ourselves,
without leaving anyone outside or behind.
May we not be afraid to enter into dialogue
and let us be impacted by dialogue.

Strengthen our faith
so that, together,
taking on the prophetic dimension of our state,
we may discern what are the ways of the Gospel
for the present moment of our Institute.
Amen.