

L'APEF INFO !



Welcome Readers again to this latest edition of the L'APEF Journal! Hello friends and loyal supporters of the Marists' Centres for the street children and the Promotion Feminine respectively. This Journal edition is even later than the one of 2011! Time seems to be always miles ahead of me! Anyway, I've finally completed it! It's better late than never! Once again this year 2012, has been full of activities in the both Centres of Nazareth and the Marist Centre for the Promotion Feminine. The Marists' Centre for the girls has just reopened its doors for the new school year, 2012 – 2013. So far there are 12 young women signed up for the courses of sewing, tying-dyeing, cooking, embroidery and literacy given at the Centre. We are hopeful that that number increases this month! Otherwise the girls are happy to be back!

MARISTS' CENTRE FOR THE

« PROMOTION FÉMININE »

The big news from the Marists' Centre for the girls is that for the first time early this year, 2012, we had 2 young women sit for the National Examination for all the Centres Promotion Feminine in Senegal and successfully gained their diploma in Sewing and tying-dyeing ! Our Congratulations goes to Ndeye Gnilane Ciss and Ami Senghor ! We are so proud of your achievements! You have done the Centre proud! We hope that this year 2012 /2013, the others will do the same thing during the examination period. In the meantime, classes have kicked off and everybody is happy to start again after a few months of holidays.



Girls at Marist's Centre

COURSES AT THE MARISTS' CENTRE

The courses chosen as priority this year 2012/2013, is the sewing/embroidery/blow painting and the Tie-dyeing. The cooking classes etc. will be also given but the priority will be given to the above stated subjects. Literacy is also very important for the young women since the exams this year will be given in French and not the local language Wolof! The Monitor and monitrices this year is Mme Diatta for the cooking and patisserie, Katie for the sewing/embroidery/crochet and blow painting, Louise takes the tie-dyeing and assists Katie with the sewing classes, and Me Papis takes the Literacy.



In action during a tie-dyeing course



Sewing Session in Progress!

During the month of October the Centre had the pleasure of welcoming Soizic, a French woman working and living in London –UK, to the Centre. Soizic came to Senegal with Fr. Rafaël Ramila SM and stayed on for a month to work with us at both the Centre of the girls and that of the street children. She worked very closely with Katie especially and participated also in various activities of the Centre for the street children. Thank you Soizic for your time with us and good luck with your work! To Fr. Rafaël, please get well soon and we thank you also for the week you spent with us!



Soizic with one of the street kids!

NAZARETH CENTRE :

WHERE ARE WE SO FAR?

We continue our activities with the street children in Dakar. Our team of animators continues to go out on the streets to meet the children where they live and circulate 2 days a week (Mondays and Thursdays). The Wednesdays' is still the day where the children come to the Centre for a day of activities. At the end of June early July we held the Camp for the children at the Benedictine Monks' place at Keur Moussa, like we did last year, 2011. We had 30 children for that camp as we had reported in the report sent straight after the camp.



Kids at the centre on Wednesdays and during some "street action"



At a soccer match!

FAMILY REUNIONS AND FOLLOW UP VISITS!

Early this year 2012, besides the 25 children reunited with their families after the Camp at Keur Moussa, we did also return other children to their families. There were also follow up visits carried out on most of the children reunited with their families by our animators. There are also other children returned home whom we are yet to do the follow up visits.

The 4 youngest boys (about 8 or 9 years old) whom we have returned home in the last year are all still at school at present. The 3 of those boys were checked up on earlier this year but have to be visited again later this year or early next year.



The animators visiting children in their villages! Below P. Martin Simna and Christophe

The follow up visits are very important for us since we get to check up on the progression of the children. There were 2 follow up visits to Touba also carried out this year. Since a lot of our children come from there, another trip is planned for the end of this year or early next year 2013.



Some photos of our last follow up visit to Touba



Our big problem as usual is keeping the children home with their families. Most often the parents (fathers' especially) agree to the terms agreed upon by all concerned, but once we leave the child with them, they change their minds! This results always in the child running away from home again and returning to the streets. The chance of returning him home gets very hard then at that stage. We continue just the same to do all that is possible to find them and try convincing them to return home. Most often now when we return a child, we get the parents to sign an accord with us that they will respect the agreed terms. This is our way of getting them to respect the wishes of their children in order to keep them at home.

A BEAUTIFUL STORY...



In the pas... shot of a photo dearly held...

This photo was taken 3 years ago when this mother came begging us to find her son, CI! She had luck then since Raoûl on the far left spent about 3 hours searching in all the places where the children hide! While Raoul searched for CI, (12 years old at the time) I, (S. Jeline), waited with the mother in front of the church in Pikine. She was able to bring home her son that night!



In the present...

At home in Touba, CI has grown up! He is now 15 years old, standing 2nd from right!

The photo was taken in November this year 2012! The young man standing 1st from the left was returned home 2 years ago and runs with a friend a tailors shop.

Once again friends and Supporters of the Marists' Project in Senegal, thank you very much for your constant support of us and our work here! Sorry again for being so late with this edition of the journal but it's finally out so happy reading! May you all have a great end of year celebrations and all the best of luck for the New Year, 2013!

I couldn't end this Newsletter without wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a joy filled 2013! May the birth of our Saviour Jesus bring us peace and joy - the Peace he alone can give! And may he reward you all for your good works and prayers! Finally but not the least, we invite you all to the Christmas Party in Nazareth on the 19th of December! It's the end of the year party for the children so if you can, come along at 15h!

Compiled by Sr. Jéline Giris, SMSM on behalf of Père Martin Simna SM and the Team!