



TRAINING YOUNG BROTHERS IN PAKISTAN **Education for All**

The Marist Brothers' presence in Pakistan commenced in 1966 and included two Australians in the original group. Other Australian Marists have since worked there, especially in the schools. Currently, Brother Walter Smith of Melbourne is working in training young Pakistani candidates for Marist life. Pakistan is primarily an Islamic country, so it is a frontier presence for Christians.

While this part of the Marist world has continued Australian connections, it is the responsibility of the Sri Lankan Marist Province.

The Marists, including two young Pakistanis, are responsible for:

- St. Mary's High School, Peshawar (near the Afghanistan border and mainly for Muslim boys)
- St. John's Hostel, Peshawar (for Catholic boys)
- Catholic High School, Sargodha (70% Catholic)
- St. Joseph's Technical School, Faisalabad (for school dropouts who learn a trade in a small school)
- Marist Formation House, Faisalabad (under construction)

Currently there is a renewed interest in Marist life in this country and three young Pakistani men are undergoing training in the novitiate in Sri Lanka under the direction of Br. Mick Sexton (Melbourne). In addition, there are ten young men in the pre-novitiate formation process under the direction of Br. Walter Smith. He is currently supervising the construction of a new training house in Faisalabad which is being funded through Marists co-financing with two European agencies.

The Melbourne Province Marist Solidarity Office (MSO) has undertaken to raise funds to contribute to the operating costs of this Faisalabad training house during 2005-2007, a replacement for a vehicle to be shared with the Technical Institute and also for furnishings needed in the new house.

The total amount sought from Australian donors for 2005/2006 is \$14,500AUD



Br Walter Smith with trainee Brothers