



June/Junho 2014

Marist Brothers - Irmãos  
Province of Southern Africa / Província  
Newsletter / Boletim

**Champagnat Novena 28 May**



## FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...



1 June 2014

Dear Brothers and friends,

When you receive this month's message, I will be in France. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> May, I have been on pilgrimage, with Brothers Jude Pieterse and Tomás Sawayenga firstly in Rome, and now at L'Hermitage. Together with a number of laypersons from our schools in South Africa, we have come to breathe in the spirit of Saint Marcellin, his charism that is so special to us as Marists. I am really fortunate to be here now to prepare for the feast of our founder in a special way – prior to celebrating 125 years of Marist presence in Johannesburg.

The 6<sup>th</sup> of June, the feast of St Marcellin, is an occasion when we can take stock of our Marist lives examining if we are faithful to Marcellin's

dream. There is no need for me to write something new on the topic as we have many beautiful documents to encourage us and show us the way we can follow Marcellin's dream. Pope Francis also says some important things that can also support us in living out the dream of St Marcellin.

So I am going to limit myself to providing extracts from "The Joy of the Gospel" (Pope Francis, November 2013), from "In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat"; and from our "Constitutions". Before Champagnat Day, **take time to read** these passages thoughtfully and **share your thoughts at a community meeting**. This process will help us discern whether we are in line with the dream.



The mother of 12-year-old Gabriel Rivat presents her son to Father Champagnat. He was to become Brother François.

My hope is that, when you reflect on these passages, you would realize the importance of teaching the students under our care a sound knowledge of their faith. We need to examine our **Religious Education** programmes to make sure we live up to the dream of St. Marcellin.

May you all have a wonderful St. Marcellin feast day.

Joe

Extracts from **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT:**  
**A Vision for Marist Education Today**

**Disciples of Marcellin Champagnat**

1. Marcellin Champagnat is the **life-giving root** of Marist education. Times and circumstances change but his dynamic spirit and vision lives on in our hearts. God chose him to bring hope and the message of Jesus' love to young lives in the France of his day. God inspires us to do the same in our time and place.

9. At the end of October 1816, Marcellin was called to the bedside of **Jean Baptiste Montagne**, who at the age of 17 was about to die without ever having heard much about God. In the eyes of this adolescent, he saw the calls for help of thousands of other youngsters, who, like him, were victims of tragic human and spiritual poverty. This event spurred him into action.

10. On 2 January 1817, Marcellin brought together his first two followers. Others soon followed. **La Valla thus became the birthplace of the Marist Brothers.** A wonderful spiritual and educational adventure was to begin amid human poverty and trust in God and Mary.

26. He nurtured in them an **apostolic spirituality** based on a sense of the Presence of a loving and faithful God, on leading a committed life **taking Mary as Model and Mother**, and on a spirit of fraternal care in community. He introduced them to the love of Jesus as expressed in the Crib, the Cross and

the Altar - not just as a focus for personal contemplation but as reminders of their own call to express love in down-to-earth ways. His love of the poor was a model for those who would claim the name "Marist".

**We are sowers of the Good News**

69. The core of Marcellin Champagnat's vision of mission was "**to make Jesus Christ known and loved**" His saw education as the way to lead young people to the experience of personal faith and of their vocation as "good Christians and virtuous citizens".

70. As his followers, we assume this same mission, firstly, by helping young people, whatever their faith tradition and wherever they are in their spiritual search, to grow to become people of hope and personal integrity, with a deep sense of social responsibility to transform the world around them. This work of promoting **human growth** is integral to the process of evangelisation. In promoting Gospel values, all Marist educators contribute to the mission of every Marist project to build **God's Reign** on earth.

p. 67 **We face the future with audacity and hope** In every corner of the world, there are thousands of young people whose lives are being touched by us. As educators we know the joys and pains of working with them. We know the good we can do. We believe in their future.



**LAVALLA Thursday 2 January 1817**  
**The first two Brothers enter "the cradle of the Institute":**  
**Jean-Marie Granjon (Br Jean-Marie) & Jean-Baptiste Audras (Br Louis),**  
**aged 23 and 14½ respectively.**



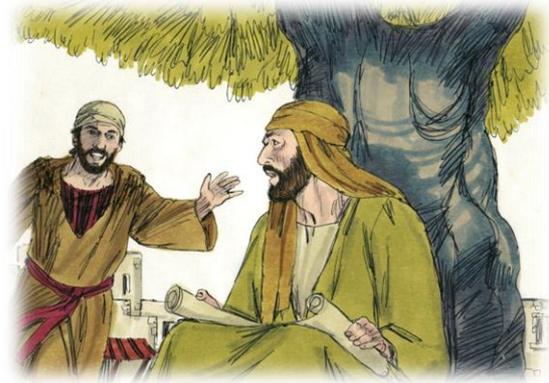
**The Cradle of the Institute (renovated 2013)**

Extract from **Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)** by Pope Francis

264. The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known? If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts. We need to implore his grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts to shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence.



Standing before him with open hearts, letting him look at us, we see the gaze of love which Nathaniel glimpsed on the day Jesus said to him: “I saw you under a fig tree” (Jn 1:48). How good it is to stand before a crucifix, or on our knees before the Blessed Sacrament, and simply to be in his presence!



How much good it does when he once more touches our lives and impels us to share new life! What happens is that “we speak of what we have seen and heard” (1Jn 1:3) the best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart. If we approach it in this way, its beauty will amaze and constantly excite us.

But if this is to come about, we need to recover a contemplative spirit which can help us realize ever anew that we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to love a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give others.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS**

01/06/1972	Lourenço Sapalo
05/06/1976	Jacob Mutingwende
09/06/1933	Fernand Dostie
09/06/1975	Tarcisio Postingher
09/06/1989	Steven Chinsolo (novice adm. 2013)
11/06/1973	Stephen Phiri
13/06/1964	<b>BERNARD CHIROMBE</b>

**50**

14/06/1958	Simeon Banda
14/06/1990	Manuel Simão (novice adm. 2014)
17/06/1984	Dominic Nyoni
25/06/1983	Peter Zulu
25/06/1984	Davy Mbasela
26/06/1956	Pedrinho Tambosi
27/06/1984	Carlos Catole
30/06/1990	Celestino Ngonjo (novice adm. 2014)

Extract from **OUR CONSTITUTIONS**

**Marcellin Champagnat as our Model**

81. Father Champagnat was alive with a zeal born of the Gospels and knew how to respond effectively to specific problems.

He felt himself called to form religious for the Christian education of little country children whom no one bothered about. He saw the mission of the Brother as helping children and young people to become good Christians and good citizens. Being a man of faith, he believed that it was prayer above all that influenced the

children to become gentle of heart. Good example and constant presence are other important elements of Marist pedagogy, which Father Champagnat summarised thus: "To bring up a child properly, you must love him."

As Marist Brothers, animated by the same zeal, we continue the charism of the Founder by responding to the expectations and needs of today's young people.

An extract from **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT:** (p. 67)

**As Disciples of Marcellin Champagnat we face the future with audacity and hope ...**

- We believe in the continuing relevance of his charism.
- We believe in our shared mission as Marist educators.
- We believe in our vocation to minister to all young people, with a special love for the poor and excluded.
- We believe in our mission to lead young people to life-giving values, to build a better world, **to make Jesus Christ known and loved.**
- We believe that, as Mary did for Jesus, to educate young people we must first love them, and love them equally.
- We believe in the value of the integral education we offer in our schools.
- We believe in the significance of our hopeful and creative presence among young people in all our places of ministry, especially among those most neglected.



## Br JOE WALTON - CALENDAR

### JUNE 2014

1 – 3	Pilgrimage, Rome & L'Hermitage (continued)
4 - 5	Johannesburg
6	Champagnat Day. Celebrating 125 years of Marist presence in Johannesburg
7 – 8	Johannesburg
9 - 10	Harare, Zimbabwe
11 – 12	Provincial Council, Kutama, Zimbabwe
13 - 14	Kutama
16 - 19	Dete, Zimbabwe
20 – 23	Harare , Zimbabwe
24 - 28	Nyanga, Zimbabwe
28 - 30	Johannesburg, South Africa

### JULY 2014

1 – 2	Lilongwe, Malawi
3 - 5	Likuni, Malawi
6 - 9	Balaka, Malawi

### PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Jun 11 – 12	Kutama, Zimbabwe
Jul 12 – 13	Chassa, Zambia (Diamond Jubilee)
Jul 21 – 26	Nairobi (New models for Animation & Government of the Institute –for African AU's)
Sep 1 - 2	Kuito Bié, Angola (Diamond Jubilee of Brothers in Angola)
Nov 13 -14	Lilongwe, Malawi



- For our Institute, the **LITTLE BROTHERS OF MARY**, including Lay **Marists** and all our associates.
- For **PEACE** in the world especially in **SYRIA, CENTRAL AFRICA, SUDAN** and **NIGERIA**.
- For **OUR DECEASED** and for the bereaved, e.g. **Br. Patrick Bushilya** lost his **father** during May.
- For **THOSE WHO'VE ASKED US FOR PRAYER**: e.g. **Br Peter Zulu** (1st yr MIC) whose father has been hospitalized in Zambia.

## LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN ...

During his recent visit to our Community in Uitenhage, Brother Joseph, our Provincial, invited my confrere Chris and I to provide some news for the monthly Newsletters. Brother Joe has a sentimental attachment to Uitenhage since he was brought up in this city. Here he began Grade 1 and completed his primary school education in buildings situated on the very property where we now live.



The Dominican Sisters, now retired, were his first teachers and their tradition is still alive through a team of very devoted and Christian lay people. In a nutshell the good formation he received at school (and from his own family) still persists with the passage of time among the children who now frequent the same school situated on a different part of the original property.

To illustrate the present time, let us look at two children currently in the Convent Primary School: Amy - Leigh and Michael, both in Grade 5. We can surely be proud of both of them. Here then are their stories. Since joining Grade 2 at the age of 8, Amy and Michael have never tired of sharing sweets or money with their pals or needy ones.

For her part Amy will come to me in a furtive way and with a smile hand me sweets or money taken from her savings. These are intended for the poor children I will visit at the soup kitchens in the afternoon. To that act of generosity, she will often add a self-drawn card reminding me of all the affection and love of a young child of her age has for the one she considers her best friend.

But what was that big surprise she came up with lately? In a letter she wrote (I can hardly believe it for one who is only 10 years old), she added among other beautiful things, heard, the following paragraph which still leaves me dumbfounded: "When you die I will take your place for helping the needy in the time when they most need us, both me and you. Love you with all my heart, Amy".

Isn't it sublime on her part to think of continuing to help the needy once her best friend (as she has often repeated) has died? No doubt, the influence of her family is very deep (her mother has contributed with children's clothes in the past), and together with the good education she receives at school is the reflection of Christ our Saviour who had a special love for the children and the poor.

Michael's story differs from Amy's but it is touching too. Like Amy-Leigh, since his time in Grade 2 (at the age of 7) he brings me money or sweets to be distributed to the poor children at the Soup Kitchens. To be frank, I often wondered why he was so generous. Recently, his secret was revealed. One day, I met Michael at school together with his father. I couldn't but tell the gentleman that his son was very generous, since he often offered me R2.00 or sweets for children. The father was delighted to hear this compliment. He remarked that every day he gave Michael money for the tuck shop plus an additional R2.00 to share with his pals. Michael was faithful in using that surplus money to help others. He proved to be trustworthy even when unseen from his father. How great too the wisdom of his father in teaching Michael how to share the gift of life.



To conclude, both family and school have a powerful influence in forming young ones for the future.

## A DROP OF WATER FOR MY PEOPLE

### - Our Brothers & the Marist Blues in solidarity with the people of Aleppo



Aleppo, Syria - 13 May 2014

To my brothers and friends, I am a Marist Brother Georges Sabe, I live in Aleppo, Syria. For more than 3 years my people have been suffering an atrocious civil war. The city of Aleppo, my city, where I grew up and where I am now, is suffering terribly. United with the more than 2 million inhabitants of my beloved city (new born, children, young people, adults, and the elderly), we, the Marist Blues, also cry: "WE ARE THIRSTY". The rebels have cut off the

water... We have been 10 days without having a drop! ...

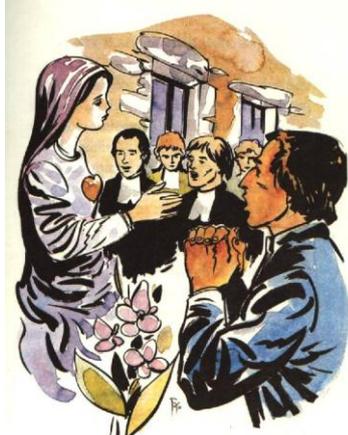


The "Marist Blues" in Aleppo (Les Bleues Maristes)

## CHAMPAGNAT DAY celebrations!

**JOHANNESBURG** - Our three schools, - OBSERVATORY - INANDA - LINMEYER will come together on the cricket field at Sacred Heart College ("OBS") to celebrate 125 years since the arrival of the Brothers in the city.

**ACTIVITIES IN YOUR SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY:** Please send the editor a SINGLE photo (including a caption) of ONE activity (e.g. sport, liturgy, drama, meal, etc.).



# Prepare for CHAMPAGNAT DAY!

## HOLY MASS and LITURGY OF THE HOURS

The official texts are available at <http://www.champagnat.org/000.php?p=171>

Under separate cover, the Editor is sending a modified version of the Liturgy of the Hours to the Superiors of the Communities. The hymns have been replaced by Marist hymns, and the intercessions have been made relevant to our situation.

For the Liturgy of the Hours, it is suggested that communities pray all three parts (Evening Prayer I, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer II) spreading them over three different occasions when community prayer is in common.



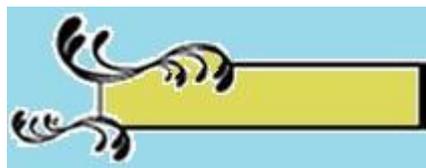
**ZAMBIA**  
**St Marcellin's Skills Training Centre**

**STUDENTS AT WORK IN THEIR RESPECTIVE WORKSHOPS.**

## Special Patrons of the Brotherhood

### ST. GERARD MAJELLA

1725-1755, (Feast: October 16). Son of a tailor who died when the boy was twelve, his family was left in poverty. Gerard tried to join the Capuchins, but his health prevented it. He was accepted as a Redemptorist lay brother serving his congregation as sacristan, gardener, porter, infirmarian, and tailor. When falsely accused by a pregnant woman of being the father of her child, he retreated to silence; she later recanted and cleared him, and thus began his association as patron of all aspects of pregnancy. His last will consisted of the following small note on the door of his cell: "Here the will of God is done, as God wills, and as long as God wills." Gerard was canonized by Pope Pius X in 1904.



## Something to think about

### ASKING OTHERS FOR HELP

One day a small boy was trying to lift a heavy stone, but he could not budge it. His father, passing by, stopped to watch his son's efforts

Finally he said to his son: "Are you using all your strength and all your gifts?"

Exasperated, the boy cried, "I am!"

"No you're not," said the father calmly. "You haven't asked me to help you."

**Dear Brothers, I beg of you with all the love of my heart  
... keep ever alive among you the charity of Christ.  
Love one another as Jesus Christ has loved you. Be of one heart and  
one mind. Have the world say of the Little Brothers of Mary, what they  
said of the first Christians: 'See how they love one another!'  
That is the desire of my heart and my burning wish, at this last  
moment of my life.**

## ARMED ATTACK NEAR NIVAVA!

### NEWS JUST RECEIVED!

14 May 2014 (received 26 May)

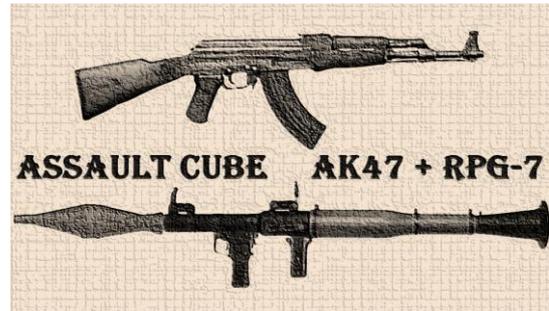
Dear Brother Mario

Greetings from Mozambique.

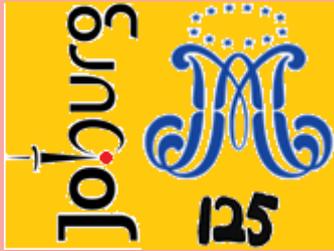
While on the way to Nivava by bus, accompanying our Brother Armando to his new community, we were attacked by members of Renamo. I am uncertain when the confrontation started, but it lasted until 17.45 local time. It wasn't possible to find out exactly what was happening, but the sounds of armed confrontation between government troops and Renamo were clearly audible. All vehicles were stopped, one behind the other, with passengers having to remain in their buses. Thanks be to God, we got out safe and sound.

Saudações

Felizardo Maceia



## JUBILEE CELEBRATION: 1889 – 2014



“The discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in 1886 was a turning point in South African history. Far more than diamonds, this changed South Africa from an agricultural society to become the largest gold-producer in the world”.

Within three years of the Witwatersrand being proclaimed a gold mining area, the Brothers opened the first boys' high school to be established in the mining town of Johannesburg. Three Brothers, Frederick, Dominic and Euphrase travelled by train from the Cape (possibly from Port Elizabeth) to Kimberley, and made the final 480 km by horse-coach. There had been no applications made before Sacred Heart College (1889-1965) opened at **KOCH STREET in October 1889**.



The first pupil was P. Busschau. Shortly after he arrived on the opening day, five more boys turned up; and at 10 a.m., a wagon loaded with 20 cheering lads from the Holy Family Sisters Convent drew up at the school, obligingly having brought their school desks with them. The foundation had been laid and the work was begun. Within a week of the opening, the school had to be enlarged and within a few years, the eight-hundred strong enrolment had to be partly accommodated in a marquee tent. In 1894, as there was no matriculation centre in the area at the time, the first Matric class, three in all, were accompanied by the Brother Principal to Bloemfontein (400 km to the south), where they sat the examination. All three passed.



Sacred Heart College, Koch Street, 1889 - 1965

### Subsequent milestones in Johannesburg

- **1924** The foundation stone for a new campus in **OBSERVATORY** is laid. The new school opened in 1926, initially with the name St Benedict's College, but changed to Sacred Heart a few years later. A boarding and day school for boys, primary and secondary. The Koch Street campus eventually became a primary school only.
- **1941** Opening of St David's Marist College at **INANDA** then a rural area on the northern edge of Johannesburg. Boarding and day school for boys primary and secondary.
- **Dec 1965 – Jan 1966** The primary school at Koch Street is transferred to **LINMEYER** on the southern edge of Johannesburg. The new primary school campus for boys is named Marian College. By 1970, it began adding high school classes.
- **1972** **CLOSURE OF THE BOARDING DEPARTMENTS** at Observatory and Inanda.
- **1977** Catholic schools in South Africa become **"OPEN"** to all, despite apartheid laws.
- **1980** Observatory becomes **CO-EDUCATIONAL**, followed by Linmeyer a year to two later.