



FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...



1 August 2014

Dear Brothers and friends,

For a number of years I have regularly received monthly prayers and reflections produced by Brother Kevin Wanden of the New Zealand Champagnat Marist Education Resources.

I have always found them good and have used them at prayer meetings and other gatherings.

The last few have spoken about elements of Champagnat Marist Spirituality. I find the reflections focused and simple. With the permission of the producers, I will share the reflection for March 2014 with you.

Elements of Champagnat Marist Spirituality

Marist spirituality finds its vision in the lives of Marcellin and his first Brothers as they together journeyed to God. While we share such a pilgrimage with many, we are conscious of our own distinctive Marist style. We are gifted to share in that transforming experience of being, with Mary, loved unconditionally by Jesus. From this experience flow the particular characteristics of our manner of being followers of Marcellin and Mary.

Some of the dimensions of Marist spirituality are:

- *An awareness of God's presence and love*
- *Trust in God*
- *Love of Jesus and His Gospel*
- *Following in Mary's way*
- *Family Spirit*
- *A spirituality of Simplicity*

For Saint Marcellin, the core of Marist spirituality was making Jesus known and loved. For Christians, Jesus is the human face of God. Central to this spirituality are three places where Jesus reveals God to us, the CRIB, the CROSS and the ALTAR.

At the **crib** we encounter a God who has become one like us.

At the **cross** we encounter the crucified Christ, the deepest expression of a God who is love.

At the **altar** of the Eucharist we stand as one with all who are members and deepen our relationship with the living presence of Jesus in our lives."

Based on: *Water from the Rock: Marist Spirituality flowing in the Tradition of Marcellin Champagnat*, pars. 12, 21-23." <http://www.maristbrothers.org.nz/spirituality/our-core-documents>

This month I would like to reflect and share some thoughts on **TRUST IN GOD**, the second of the dimensions of Marist Spirituality mentioned in the list above. Perhaps you ask why the second dimension and not the first which is “An awareness of God’s presence and love”. The reason for choosing “Trust in God” is that in these last few months I have been very concerned about the finances of the

What is your trust in God like? What is trust in God?

Trust in God is to trust that his way of unconditional love is the only way to live, and to genuinely make an effort to live it. This means that we must have out-and-out trust, that through love we can overcome all difficulties. We must believe that love can break all obstacles and change human hearts. To believe in God, we must have complete trust in his love, mercy and wisdom. To trust in God is not a feeling or an emotion or even to recognise that God is in our lives: it is a mixture of belief and deed. If we really want to put our trust in God we need to be humble, we need humility. Humility clears our hearts of pride and makes us open to what God wants. When we are humble we accept what God wants of us and we have trust in Him. We can never have true wisdom and peace without being humble.

God answers our prayers in a way that will make us people of greater faith and love. We should accept God’s help by trusting his decisions because he will help us by doing what is best for us. We should accept God’s will by allowing him to do whatever he feels is right.

In his General Audience of 18 June this year, Pope Francis spoke on the topic: *God’s endless love and mercy: Helping the church to be a blessing for the world*. In his words: “Abraham and his family listened to God’s call and set out despite the fact that they did not know who God was and where he wanted to

province. How are we going to manage? There have been other concerns too. I thought I do not have the same trust in God as St Marcellin had. He was concerned about finance and had many other concerns but always maintained his trust in God. I guess that this is what makes the difference between me and a saint.

lead them. It is true. Abraham set out when this God called him, but he didn’t have a theology book to study to find out who this God was. He trusted. He trusted in the love that God made him feel.”

The trust demonstrated by Abraham, by the Israelites and by Christians throughout the ages was not unwavering, the pope said. “From the beginning there were resistance and betrayals and sins that have marked the story of God’s people all throughout salvation history.”



But in ancient times and still today, “God walks with us,” Pope Francis said. “When we recognize that we are sinners, God fills us with his mercy and love, and he forgives us. He always forgives us. This is what makes us grow as the people of God.”

If we really want to develop a trust in God we must really know Him. To know God we must open our hearts to him in quiet listening to his voice in the depths of our hearts. Let the thoughts of unconditional love be in our Spirit. We need to take our time of meditation very seriously. In this way we will develop our

relationship with Jesus. We need to pray with the Scriptures.

Only by doing this, will we learn to treasure his love deep in our hearts. Then we will hear His voice and find peace in our trust in God.

We are so fortunate to have had St Marcellin as our founder, a perfect example of a person who had complete trust in God. Our document **“Water from the Rock”** clearly spells out Marcellin’s trust in God in Section 17:

“Marcellin’s relationship with God, combined with knowledge of his own human limitations,

explains his unbounded confidence in God. The depth of this trust amazed those who worked with him, and scandalised some who judged his actions as reckless. In his humble way, Marcellin saw God at work, and so acted with courage, audacity and commitment, let us not offend God, asking him very little. The bigger is our demand, the more we will be pleasing to God. Marcellin’s oft-expressed invocations: If the Lord does not build the house and you know my God, were the spontaneous expressions of this confident trust.”

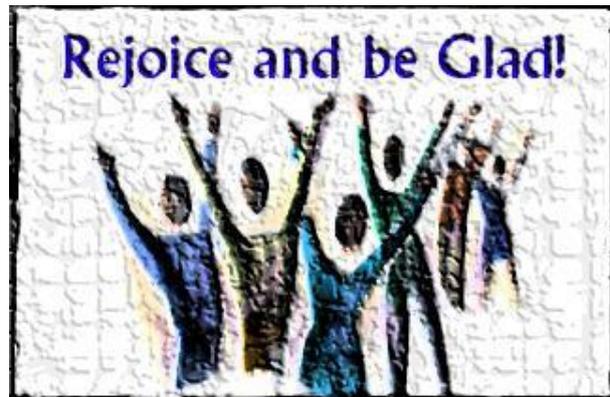
Pray for me as I pray that you too can develop Marcellin’s total trust in God.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following brothers

AUGUST

	Baptista Mulila Fernando
14-08-1981	David Kachoka
20-08-1983	Patrick Banda
21-08-1975	Tomás Sawayenga
23-08-1968	John Katumbi
24-08-1947	Joe Walton
27-08-1976	Joseph Nsambo
29-08-1964	Raphael Mariso.....50



FROM OUR MISSIONARY BROTHER IN THE MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA

“ At 44 years old, I am the youngest Marist Brother here in Bangladesh. I am well and so are the other Brothers. We are doing the best we can in laying a strong Marist foundation here in Bangladesh. This year we are sending four young boys from Bangladesh to the Philippines for their postulancy. I accompanied them for three years in English and they are now able to have a normal conversation in English. I am so proud of being part of the first Marist Missionaries here in Bangladesh.” **Virgilio Bwalya fms**

Comment: “Our Province, too, is proud of having sent a pioneer to foreign parts to make Jesus known and loved. You remind us of the debt owed to our own pioneers.”



A HEAVY SCHEDULE !

Br JOE WALTON - CALENDAR	
AUGUST 2014	
1 - 2	Lilongwe, Malawi
3	Fly to Johannesburg
4 - 5	Get Visa for Angola in Johannesburg
6 - 8	Retreat in Lusaka for new intake for MIC
9 - 15	In Zambia
15 - 22	Retreat - Zambia and Zimbabwe, Lusaka
23 - 26	Johannesburg RSA
27	Fly to Luanda
28	Travel to Kuito
29 - 30	Kuito 60 th Anniversary of Brothers in Angola
31	Provincial Council Meeting, Kuito
SEPTEMBER 2014	
1	Provincial Council Meeting Kuito
2	Travel to Luanda
3	Fly to Johannesburg, South Africa
6 - 9	Johannesburg, South Africa
10 - 16	Nivava, Mozambique
17 - 19	Johannesburg, South Africa
20	Observatory 1924-2014 90 th birthday
21	Observatory Struggle Years Celebration
23	90 th Anniversary Sacred Heart College,
24	125 Years of Marist in Johannesburg
25 - 28	Kabwe Final Profession Br. Reuben Banda
29 - 30	Johannesburg RSA
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS	
Nov 13-14	Johannesburg



Special Occasions

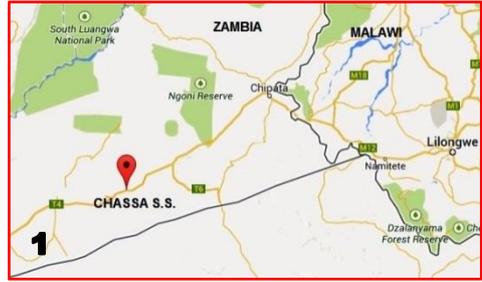


The photo shows Br Laurence Morrison at half his current age!



Superiors of African AU and their Councillors gather in Nairobi to study New Models of Government and Animation for the Institute

Marist in Zambia Diamond Jubilee at Chassa Secondary School



1. Location of Chassa, Zambia. 2. Administration Block. 3. Br Joe addresses the assembly after the outdoor Mass. 4. Form Ones prepare the dinner. 5. Visitors from the local convent very welcome. 6. Novice Steven Chinsolo dwarfed by the longest soutane in the Province; 7. Br Tomás from Angola under the watchful eye of security. 8. Wire-walking introduced by Br Denis Roy several decades ago!

Marist in Angola Diamond Jubilee



Present in the country since 1954, today the Marist Brothers conduct three schools where they teach 3,000 students: The Marist school of "Christ the King", in the capital Luanda ; the Marist teacher training school of "Saint Joseph", in Kuito-Bié, and the primary school "Saint Marcellin Champagnat", at N'Dalatando.

These establishments are free and enjoy the support of the Angolan government which pays the teachers and employees, while the Marist Brothers administer them. The schools of Luanda and Kuito belong to the Brothers, while the one in N'Dalatando belongs to the local diocese. The schooling follows the educational principles of Marist pedagogy and is inspired by the

charism of the congregation. At Kuito, in addition to the training college, there is a juniorate or junior seminary where 34 boys are preparing for religious life. Angola forms part of the Province of Southern Africa, and also has some Brazilian Brothers.



Reflections on the 2014 Pilgrimage of Senior Staff Members of the South African Marist Schools to Rome and Champagnat Country.



At Fourvière

The Pilgrimage has allowed us to gain a much deeper understanding of both Marcellin's values as well as the virtues that has allowed him to build such a broad network of goodwill through the Marist schools worldwide. When one considers that Marcellin himself had learning difficulties as a young scholar, it reminds us of our own profession as educators where we can make an impact on those with similar shortcomings as learners.

Getting to know about Marcellin's family gave us a clearer understanding of the value he placed on family life and simplicity. This was also evident in his interaction with the first young brothers while sitting around the table at La Valla where first taught them to read write teach, pray as well as share meals and conversation. In our own lives we should not forget to create a sense of unity within our schools by creating a family atmosphere. The love and care that the brothers displayed for each other and the guests at the Hermitage was once again evidence of this legacy of family spirit.

Marcellin's trust and belief in Mary's way has given us the belief and faith in the knowledge that God will help us in our own calling and vocations. It has reaffirmed for us that our faith is a resource for teaching and leading and living our cause. His fine example can also be used as an inspiration for success and that we ought to model what we want to teach by example.

The Pilgrimage has also allowed us the time for our own personal reflections and space to find peace within ourselves for the purpose and love for our individual callings in life.

The time in Rome too has brought its own reflections and lessons. The many basilicas, paintings and sculptures have left us in awe of what the human spirit can achieve. It has again instilled in us the values of commitment, dedication, persistence, excellence, not accepting mediocrity, setting high standards for ourselves and those around us.

The entire experience left us feeling blessed with the gift we received. Hopefully we can share this blessing and gift as we move forward. It has certainly strengthened our faith.

Tracy Edwards and Wayne Stuurman (Marist Brothers Linmeyer)



The Pilgrims at the renovated "Cradle" of the Institute.

LET'S VISIT MALAWI



Students of Likuni Boys S.S. at Mass on 6th June



Zomba Catholic S.S. "Box 2" Extension to Dining Hall



Marist SS Pick-Up after the accident involving Nicholas Banda



6th June - Likuni Marist Community with priest and altar servers after Holy Mass



Likuni Boys S.S. Graduation Day



Beauty in Area 9 - Br Joe's Aloe nook



Marist Novitiate, Matola



What a week that was!

Full of activities! That is how the week of 17 to 23 May can be described.

We are talking about the recent visit of Brother Chris to the Novitiate for a course on the Bible. The course started at the backdrop of a joyful and fulfilling pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Namaacha.

During the week, Brother Christopher developed various topics, including:

- Bible
- Sacraments
- Liturgy
- Mariology
- The life of Fr. Champagnat.



Brother Christopher urged us (novices) to live out our baptismal commitment, to be at the receiving end of God's grace, to be truthful in our daily dealings and to be opened to the formation so that transformation can take place.



At a recent meeting of the Marist Laity Commission for Africa in Nairobi. Mike Greeff from South Africa is second from the left.

In addition, he exhorted us to cultivate a deep love for Mary, by allowing ourselves to be consumed by her spirit of availability and service. Brother Christopher further challenged us all to be role models to those who do not know Jesus by becoming that "Bible" they will ever read.

The week can also be described as a moment of soul-searching and we are so thankful to Br Christopher.

We wish you good health, long life and wisdom from above so that you can continue gracing our province with such workshops.



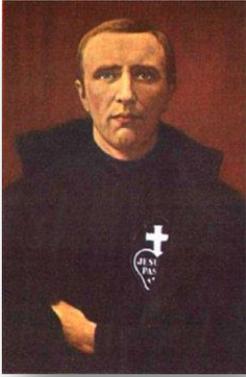
**Brother Patrick Bwana
1920-2014 RIP**



The bier arrives at Marist Secondary School; Brothers at prayer during the vigil; The coffin about to be lowered in the grave; At his request, Br Patrick asked to be buried next to Br Anacleti, the first Malawian to die as a Marist Brother (1993).



Special Patrons of the Brotherhood



BLESSED. ISIDORE OF ST. JOSEPH

1881-1916, (Feast: October 6). Isidore de Loor, was the oldest of three children born to a pious farm family in Belgium. He loved working the fields. He entered the Passionists in 1906 as a lay brother and made his vows on September 13, 1908. As a professed religious, he took the name Isidore of Saint Joseph and became known for an intense prayer life, simplicity, charity. He lost his right eye to cancer in 1911, and suffered through cancer during his few remaining years. Pope John Paul II beatified him in 1984.

Something to Think About

EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT

The priests of an Eastern People decided to make a wonderful statue of their God, and asked all the people to give their most precious jewellery, so that the statue could be made in gold, silver and other valuable materials. The priest went out in all directions to collect the metals and receive gold rings and brooches, silver ornaments and necklaces and bracelets.

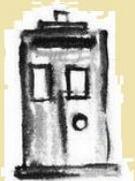
As one of the priests left the house of a very rich man, a maid servant girl asked if she could offer her brooch to be used in making this wonderful statue. The priest took the brooch and thanked her, but seeing that it was made from very cheap metal he decided that he would not put it in with the other valuable offerings.

The precious metals were melted down and the moulds prepared for this wonderful statue. The molten liquid was poured into the moulds, and when it had cooled down the casting was broken open to reveal the statue. It was not at all lovely to see. It was badly shaped and the colours of the metals had run together and the workmanship was spoiled. Sadly the workmen began again, and took the mass of metal to be melted down once more. A new mould was made, and again the molten metal was carefully poured in. when it was cool, the casing was broken open again; but once more the statue was spoiled and ugly.

The chief priest asked those who collected the jewels whether they remembered anything unusual among the items they had brought in. They could not, but one of them told how a serving girl had offered a cheap piece of jewellery which he had not thought good enough. 'We must put it in,' the chief priest declared; and once more the work began, but this time the serving girl's brooch was put in with the precious metals.

In due course the moulds were broken open to reveal the most wonderful statue the world had known; and there in the centre of the forehead of the figure was the brooch given by the serving girl. We need the contribution of everyone to make good and beautiful things or to do any worthwhile thing together.

900 years of time and space,
and I've never met anyone
who wasn't important.
- The Doctor



MARIST BICENTENARY

2017: Bicentenary of the Institute



Logo chosen for the celebration

29/07/2014: General House



The General Council asked various persons to design a logo for the celebration of the Bicentenary of the Institute. During the last plenary session, from among the proposals presented, one was chosen to accompany us on the way that leads to 2017. The logo chosen was designed by **Andrés Gil**, a Spaniard of the province of Ibérica.



2014|2015
Montagne

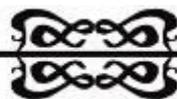


2015|2016
Fourvière

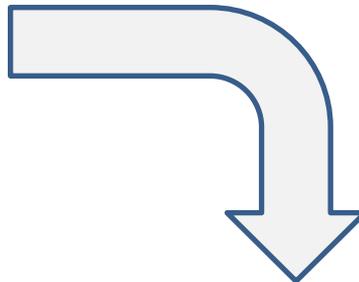


2016|2017
La Valla

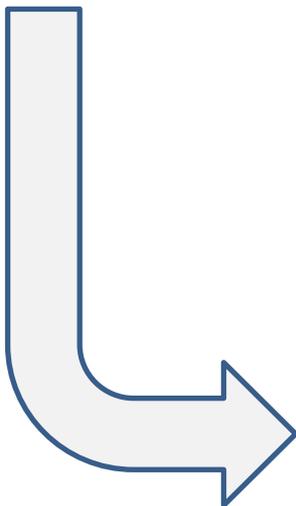
We have, as well, three years ahead of us to celebrate, in a spirit of faith, our Bicentenary: the Montagne Year, the Fourvière Year, and the La Valla Year. In addition to the logo, which will be the symbol of the process as a whole, each year will have its own graphic element. These 3 symbols will be created by the



MARIST BROTHERS PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
PROVINCIAL HOUSE



New
Address!



Sacred Heart College, Observatory, Johannesburg
Original building, foundation stone laid in 1924.

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

Marist Brothers, Sacred Heart College, 15 Eckstein Street,
Observatory, 2198, Johannesburg, South Africa.

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