



BR PAUL NKHOMA TURNS
90 ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK...

1 January 2015

Dear Brothers and friends,



God our God has blessed us (Psalm6:6).



In the first liturgy of the year we celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of God. In the reading for New Year's day God tells Moses to share a lovely blessing with the Israelites. This is what Moses says to them. ***"The Lord bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you, be gracious to you, and give you peace"*** (Numbers 6:24 – 26). I would like to share this splendid blessing with you, with your loved ones, and friends on the first of January and for the rest of the year.

The gospel also speaks of being blessed by God. Mary is grateful for what she experienced in Bethlehem: God blessed her with a healthy son. Visitors came to see her child. Even angels glorified God at Jesus birth. Mary treasured the blessings and pondered them in her heart. Mary's blessing would be her strength during difficult time in her future.

As we start a new year we should take some time to ponder the past year and praise God for the

blessings we experienced in 2014. These blessings can be our strength for 2015.

I was browsing in the shelves of books in Marist House in Harare, Zimbabwe and I came across a Marist book that I had not being aware of before. It was "A Certain Way, an Exploration of Marist Spirituality" by Craig Larkin SM published in 1995. I was interested to read what was said about St Marcellin so I searched for writings on him. As I browsed I found a poetic passage entitled "Hidden Life" that spoke to me. Let me share this poem with you as a challenge for this time of the year. Some of these lines would be good to reflect on when you think of the year ahead. For us brothers they could be of help when we meet and look at our community life plan.

Any "life plan" any living in community or family starts with the attitude of the individual. We all need to look at ourselves and as what are we like and in what way can I improve to make my community a happy place, a good home.



The New Year stands ahead of us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. Will 2015 be a good chapter in your book? What are you going to do to make it a good chapter?



Hidden Life

In their haste to reach Michelangelo's statue of David, tourists in Florence are often inclined to overlook the unfinished sculptures in the hallways leading to the room where "David" stands.

These pieces of sculpture have been called "The Prisoners", and they reveal what can happen to an ordinary piece of stone when the craftsmanship of a genius draws from inside it a perfection and a form that others would never had thought possible.

If a human genius can look at a piece of stone and see possibilities that others cannot see, what possibilities might God see in human beings?

What prisoner inside each of us unlikely people is waiting to be released?



And what would happen if people would allow Mary to shape and form and draw forth from the depths of their being a particular image of the disciple of Jesus?

And what might happen if these disciples of Jesus -men, women, children, priests, sisters, BROTHERS, lay-people gathered together to rebuild the church?

They would go anywhere in the world for it.



I hope you found this piece as challenging as I did.

Consider some ideas to improve community living.

What possibilities might God see in human beings?

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What if we promised God that we would go anywhere in the world for the Marist dream?

Each year at this time I have put in ideas for the community life plan. This year I would like each

community to think for themselves of some creative way to plan for their community life. We have the themes given to us by the Superior General for the next three years. As you know, the first of these years, the Year of Montagne, began on 28 October 2014, exactly 198 years since the event that was pivotal in Champagnat's life. It spurred him to start looking for young men to help him realise his dream of making Jesus known and loved to young people. Within two days he had his first recruit. What can you do this year to make Jesus better known? And your community?

Have a wonderful 2015!
All the best



2014|2015
Montagne



2015|2016
Fourvière



2016|2017
La Valla



TAKE A DAY OFF to celebrate your BIRTHDAY!!

“THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE”

01-01-1925 BR PAUL NKHOMA 90

01-01-1986	Br Valia Sábado
05-01-1980	Br Octaviano Kandumbu
07-01-1984	Br Raymond Mbao
07-01-1989	Br Christopher Chagunda
08-01-1977	Br Ebel Muteveri
16-01-1992	Br Oscar Kapito
20-01-1963	Br Evaristus Kasambwe
23-01-1977	Br Reuben Banda
28-01-1962	Br Alexander Damalekani



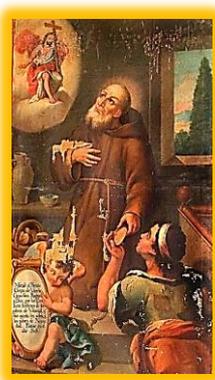
Brother Paul Nkhoma was born ninety years ago in Chanda, Malawi. At four-score-and-ten years, he is an eternal student. Amongst the books scattered on his desk-top, one can see a dictionary, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a copy of the Holy Bible, and a publication entitled “Teachers”.
A true disciple of Champagnat.



SPECIAL PATRONS OF THE BROTHERHOOD

St. Crispin of Viterbo

Saint Crispin of Viterbo, O.F.M. Cap., (13 November 1668 – 19 May 1750) was an Italian member of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin who is now venerated as a saint for his decades of devoted service, and the spiritual wisdom he developed in the course of his life.



Crispin was born Pietro Fioretti in Viterbo, Italy. When he was five years old, his mother took him to a shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary that lay a short distance from Viterbo, where she consecrated him to the Mother of God and placed her son under Mary's

special protection. The child was known for his piety and knowledge of the saints; so that the townsfolk of Viterbo were wont to call him *il santarello* (the little saint).

As Pietro one day saw the Capuchin novices walking in a procession, he was inspired with the desire to embrace the religious life. He was shortly afterwards received into the Capuchin Franciscan Order as a simple lay brother, and given his religious name. After having served for some time as a cook in the friary at Viterbo, he was

sent to Tolfa, a town not far distant from Civitavecchia, to fulfill the same office. From there he was sent to Rome and finally to Albano. Here Crispin was visited by illustrious men of the world, by bishops and cardinals, and even by the pope himself, who always took delight in conversing with the humble lay brother. It was Crispin's constant endeavour to imitate the virtues of his patron, St. Felix of Cantalice, whom he had chosen as his model of perfection at the beginning of his religious life.

Like St. Felix, Crispin used to call himself the ass or beast of burden of the Capuchins, and, having on one occasion been asked by a stranger why



he went bare-headed, Crispin answered, "An ass does not wear a hat." Enfeebled by old age and by his numerous austerities, he was sent from Albano to Rome by his superiors, there to end his holy life. His body, which even at the present time is still in a remarkable state of preservation, rests under one of the side altars in the famed Capuchin Church of the Immaculate Conception in Rome.

Venerable Saint Crispin was beatified by Pope Pius VII on September 7, 1806 and, on 20 June 1982, was the first saint canonized by Pope John Paul II.



PRIZE-WINNING TEAM FROM NYANGA



A commercial Company in Zimbabwe recently conducted an inter-school competition in the field of business managements.

Featured here at a recent Exposition is a group of Nyanga students with Brother Leonard Brito. This group was declared "The Company of the Year".

For their efforts, these young people will be heading for Gabon next year, presumably to take on challengers from other parts of Africa.

Well done and Congratulations!



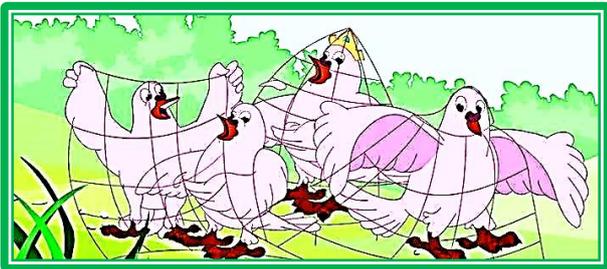
NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK FOR A-LEVEL AT DETE



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Unity is Strength

Once upon a time, there was a flock of doves that flew in search of food, led by their king. One day, they had flown a long distance and were very tired. The dove king encouraged them to fly a little further. The smallest dove picked up speed and found some rice scattered beneath a banyan tree. So all the doves landed and began to eat.



Suddenly a net fell over them and they were all trapped. They saw a hunter approaching carrying a huge club. The doves desperately fluttered their wings trying to get out, but to no avail. The king had an idea. He advised all the doves to fly up together carrying the net with them. He said that there was strength in unity.

Each dove picked up a portion of the net and together they flew off carrying the net with them. The hunter looked up in astonishment. He tried to follow them, but they were flying high over hills and valleys. They flew to a hill near a

city of temples where there lived a mouse who could help them. He was a faithful friend of the dove king.

When the mouse heard the loud noise of their approach, he went into hiding. The dove king gently called out to him and then the mouse was happy to see him. The dove king explained that they had been caught in a trap and needed the mouse's help to gnaw at the net with his teeth and set them free.

The mouse agreed saying that he would set the king free first. The king insisted that he first free his subjects and himself last. The mouse understood the king's feelings and complied with his wishes. He began to cut the net and one by one all the doves were freed including the dove king.

They all thanked the mouse and flew away together, united in their strength.



FIRST PROFESSIONS



Marist Religious Profession at Matola

After almost two years in the “desert” with the Lord, came the moment for our three young brothers to make a sound decision of committing themselves to follow Christ in a radical way as Marist brothers.

We are referring to the recent celebration of the first profession of Moffat Phiri, Steven Chinsolo, and Chifundo Nkhoma, which precisely took place on 6 of December 2014.



Following almost two years of formation in the novitiate, together with a week retreat at Namaacha, as stipulated in our Constitutions and Statutes, the three young men were ready to set off. Carefully selected and well-rehearsed songs, well prepared young dancers ready to embellish the whole celebration. With all this in place, nothing would have dampened the enthusiasm of the whole community in ensuring success of this important event.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Joe, the Provincial, with the help of Fr. Abidon Kabwe, CMM (*Mariannahill*), as the main celebrant with three other priests who concelebrated. Amid songs of jubilation and exultation, our three brothers made their vows in line with the evangelical counsels in the presence of many witnesses. They were joined afterwards by a group of well-wishers to congratulate and encourage them. The event was graced also by the presence of the High-Commissioner of Malawi in Mozambique, Her Excellency Dr. Chrissie N. and by distinguished persons such as the Marist brothers in Mozambique and parishioners who came to witness, pray and give support to the would-be professed brothers.



After profession the whole assembly was treated to a good meal and drink, and entertainment at the

Novitiate community. The festivities went on till dusk. An African adage says: “It will rain on your wedding day.” This was true in the case of the trio, because it rained heavily in the afternoon which might be understood as a sign of approval from above. Of course, it wasn’t a wedding in the literal sense, but a marriage with Christ.



We the Novitiate community of Matola, would like to wish the three brothers success in their new assignments, health and courage

(Novices Xavier Maramba and Paul Mbuyi).

To make Jesus known and loved is the aim of our vocation.

SUMMER CAMP 2014

18 December 2014 | General Interest

In 2009 inspired by the incredible work done by the Sisters of Mercy in the Sundays River Valley area, a group of past pupils from St Henry's Marist College in Durban decided to embark upon a journey that would hopefully change the area, little did they realise it would forever change them. The team has visited the area every year since then, and now help the Brothers and Sisters with an array of social outreach projects.

Langbos is an informal settlement riddled with social issues. Drug and alcohol abuse is prevalent and as a result there has been an increase in sexual abuse and violence. Child-headed households are the norm and so health related issues perpetuate in this environment.

Whilst December marks a time of celebration and increased expenditure for the rest of South Africa, this is not the case for all those living in Langbos, Valencia and the surrounding settlements. Moved by this unfortunate reality the Sisters of Mercy along with the Marist Brothers' started a summer camp that would provide a sense of hope and security to the many children who would not get to experience the joys of Christmas.

This camp is at the heart of what the Marist Brothers and Sisters of Mercy do because this week is all about the children. Over the years it has grown in popularity and although there is a great support provided by the local volunteers, there was greater prospect to involve Marist past and present pupils. There are five Marist Schools in South Africa these being, St David's, Sacred Heart, Marion College, St Henry's and St Joseph's in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town respectively. Facilitated by past head students from St Henry's – Jason Grieve (Head Boy 2007) and Patrice Madurai (Head Girl 2010) they have brought the Head Students for 2015 together in an effort to share the call of what it means to be truly Marist. Under the banner of Marist Mercy Care, these students have started their term as senior leaders by working tirelessly to provide the kids in these townships with a variety of fun and interactive activities. From rugby and netball to dancing and arts and crafts they have done all that they could to share the experiences that they so often take for granted.

What is Christmas without presents? Thanks to the Marists who collected 325 love boxes at their schools the last day of the camp ended off on a high note with the kids receiving boxes filled with toiletries, stationery, sweets, a toy and item of clothing. We know that we can't do everything but we can do something... It was such an honour to be a part of what we believe is a project that will raise up world changers and future leaders not just from the Marist schools but more especially from the townships in the Valley area.

Patrice Madurai (Head Girl St Henry's Marist School, Durban 2010) Now a student at the University of Cape Town



Marist-Mercy Camp - Volunteers

THE YEAR OF MONTAGNE (October 2014–July 2015)

Montagne

October 2014 – July 2015

David Tamm

Would you dare, like Champagnat, to take the risk of a new beginning? What concrete risks do you feel you are called to assume?



- That in the **YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE** more people will come to appreciate the vocation of the **RELIGIOUS BROTHER**
- For **BROTHERS UNDER SPECIAL MEDICAL CARE**
- For the **FAMILIES OF OUR BROTHERS** who have been recently **bereaved** e.g. Jesus Sánchez, Angel Mansoa, Felipe Moreno ...
- For Br **PAUL NKHOMA** who turns **90** on New Year's Day
- For **PEACE** in the many troubled zones in our world.

THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE 29 Nov 2014 – 2 Feb 2016

Pope Francis encourages promotion of the Lay Marist vocation

"In this letter, I wish to speak not only to consecrated persons, but also to the laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission. Some Religious Institutes have a long tradition in this regard, while the experience of others is more recent. Indeed, around each religious family, every Society of Apostolic Life and every Secular Institute, there is a larger family, a "charismatic family", which includes a number of Institutes which identify with the same charism, and especially lay faithful who feel called, precisely as lay persons, to share in the same charismatic reality.

I urge you, as laity, to live this Year for Consecrated Life as a grace which can make you more aware of the gift you yourselves have received. Celebrate it with your entire "family", so that you can grow and respond together to the promptings of the Spirit in society today. On some occasions when consecrated men and women from different Institutes come together, arrange to be present yourselves so as to give expression to the one gift of God. In this way you will come to know the experiences of other charismatic families and other lay groups, and thus have an opportunity for mutual enrichment and support".

APOSTOLIC LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO ALL CONSECRATED PEOPLE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE



WORKSHOP ON CHILD RIGHTS AT MIC December 2014

"SPOT" Brothers Fortune, Geraldo and Evaristus!



PERPETUAL PROFESSION of Br TERERAI GIJIMA 13 DECEMBER 2014



Back: James Langlois, Joe Walton, Fortune Chakasara
Middle: Tererai Gijima, Leonard Brito, Emmanuel Mwanalirenji, Vincent George
Front: Nicholas Zvenyika, Jacob Mutingwende, Ebel Muteveri

The picture includes all the Brothers who were present for the occasion. Notice how the newly-finally-professed poses modestly in the second row! Thank you for your generous self-offering, Tererai. And Congratulations! And at the end of your life, may the Virgin Mary show you the blessed fruit of her womb!



MIUC GRADUATION with DIPLOMA in RELIGIOUS STUDIES



On the 5th of December 2014, fourth-year Brothers of the MIC community graduated with Diplomas in Religious Studies. Among them were two Brothers from the Southern Africa Province: Davie Mbasela and Joseph Daka. Brother Francis Ndapisha joined them for a picture after the ceremony. Thumbs up Brothers for the achievement!

(Br Ignatius Matemba)



CELEBRATION IN MATOLA AFTER THE FIRST PROFESSIONS



Br JOE WALTON - CALENDAR	
JANUARY 2015	
1 - 4	Johannesburg
5	Johannesburg to Cape Town
6 - 16	Cape Town
17	Cape Town to Johannesburg
18 - 21	Johannesburg
22 - 23	Provincial Council meeting, Johannesburg
24	Celebration of Consecrated Life, Pretoria
25	Johannesburg
26	Johannesburg to Uitenhage
27 - 30	Uitenhage
31	Uitenhage to Johannesburg