



# Marist Brothers - Irmãos Maristas

Province of Southern Africa - Província da África A

Editor: [provsec@globem](mailto:provsec@globem)



2014|2015  
Montagne

April/Abril 2015

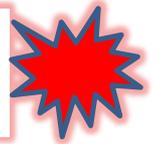
## Newsletter / Bolletim Inform

### FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK...

1 April 2015



**important notice  
on page 12**



Dear Brothers and Friends,



The Church will soon enter into the greatest three days of our liturgical calendar. Starting with Holy Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, we are in the holiest time of our year ending with Easter. Easter is a time of joy and celebration. The extent of our joy will depend on how well we

prepared for Easter during the season of Lent. I need ask myself whether my Lenten season was any different for me than any other season of the year. Was it so? Did I try any of the suggestions made in the March newsletter about my way of being in community or family?

As Marists, we often speak about "In the way of Mary". How deep is this aspect present in our souls, in our life, and in our being? It might seem as if I have jumped topics – from Lent to Easter to Mary - as if my mind is wandering. No! That's not the case! Easter is a special time for Mary. Mary experienced Easter with all the emotions, love, suffering and faith of a mother. I have often wondered what Mary's first Easter was like. Let us share some thoughts on Mary's first Easter.

After Jesus died on the cross and was buried, Mary went home. As a Jewish woman, even though she was suffering grief at the loss of her son, she had to celebrate the Sabbath. This started with her lighting the candle and singing, being in spirit with the people that went into exile and waited for the messiah. Even though Mary had suffered the loss of her son, as a good Jewess, she would gather with her family and

friends to praise God though she would have preferred to have pondered her suffering and try to understand and accept God's will.

After the prayers and the meal she would be silent. She would have thought deeply about the cross, the death of Jesus, and the loss of her son with a feeling of emptiness. Her child's life was over, and a piece of her life was gone. She would have been exhausted by all the events of the day. She would have endured the long night. She would have had to bear the pain, perhaps the sense of injustice and bitter sorrow. She would have experienced being the victim of evil deeds done by human beings. She would have had to wait till dawn on the first day of the week before she could go to the tomb.

I wonder if Mary spent the Sabbath day alone. Did Mary Magdalene spend time with her? Or the other women, who ministered to Jesus. Did they look after her? Did John immediately take the words of Jesus seriously: "Behold your mother" and attend to her. At this difficult time we see Mary's faithfulness, her endurance. She is a witness, who hands over of her life, her dreams, and her hopes until there is nothing left to give. This would be Mary's contribution to the Resurrection.



The Sabbath morning brought an abundance of life far more than she could have ever dreamed of. What was Mary's joy like? How could her heart contain such joy? With dawn and the coming of

light, this was the first day of the new creation and Mary knew it. A new covenant had begun and Mary knew she would be mother of a new family. What great Joy sprang up in Mary's life and heart! The Lord had lifted up the lowly and had done great things for Mary and all of us. Mary shares the joy of her child, her God, with all of us.

How do we as Marists make the way of Mary real in our lives? Was our Lent a time of struggle to

understand our lives as Marist? Were we in love with Jesus as Mary was? If we leave the season of Lent as better brothers, better community people, better family members and better all round, we will experience the joy that Mary experienced on her first Easter.

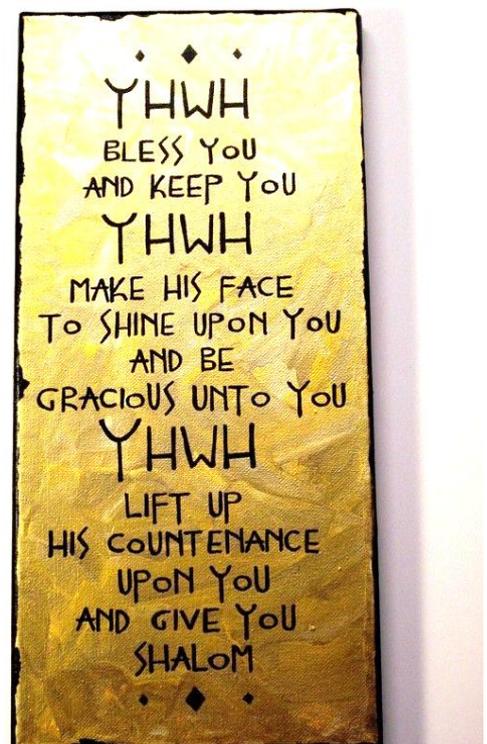
I wish you all the joy of Easter.

Joe



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

02-04-1982	Witman Phiri (Marist Sec.School)
03-04-1995	Augustine Mateyu (Novice 1 <sup>st</sup> y)
04-04-1972	Evans Musakanya (Kabwe)
04-04-1989	Ângelo Cassinda (Novice 2 <sup>nd</sup> y)
05-04-1968	Patrick Bushilya (Chassa)
08-04-1994	Patrick Rodrick (Novice 1 <sup>st</sup> y)
09-04-1935	António Pisco (Matola)
12-04-1969	Patrick Bwalya (Matola)
20-04-1992	Joseph Petro Lazarus (Novice 1 <sup>st</sup> y)
21-04-1966	Auxensio Dickson (Balaka)
24-04-1969	Norbert Mwila (Matola)



## MEETING OF VOCATION PROMOTERS

**T**HE HERMITAGE in Lilongwe, Malawi, welcomed the Vocation Promoters of the Province of Southern Africa for a two day session from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015. The convenor was Br. Frank Mwambucha, Provincial Councillor residing in Malawi. The following Brothers took part in the discussions: Br. Fortune Chakasara, Vice-Provincial, and Br. Tererai Gijima, both from

Zimbabwe; South Africa was represented by Br. Christopher Zimmermann and Br. Tomás Kalumbula flew in from Luanda; Br. Ângelo Atibo from Mozambique came in by bus accompanied by three future postulants who went to Champagnat House at Mtendere. Br. Asensio Njobvu bussed in from St. Paul's in Kabwe, Zambia. Malawi was represented by Br. John Katumbi from Balaka, Br. Patrick Banda from Likuni, and Br. Simeon Banda, Master of Postulants. (Br F. Dostie)



**Back row: Brothers Frank Mwambucha, Asensio Njobvu, Tomás Kalumbula, Fortune Chakasara, Tererai Gijima, John Katumbi.**

**Front row: Brothers Christopher Zimmermann, Patrick Banda, Ângelo Atibo, Simeon Banda.**

## LET US PRAY



- For **OUR BROTHERS IN ALEPPO** who continue to help the needy (regardless of their faith) while enduring the hardships and hazards arising from more than four years of civil war in Syria.
- For **CHRISTIANS BEING PERSECUTED** because of their faith – suffering harassment, dispossession, forced exile, and even death.
- For the people of **VANUATU**, ravaged by a recent hurricane. Pray for our **MARIST BROTHERS** there, and those associated with them.
- For those who have **ASKED** us for prayers or for whom we've **PROMISED** to pray, especially the **SICK** and **ELDERLY**

The state of **VANUATU** has a population of 267,000 spread over 65 islands lying north-east of Australia, 1900 km from Brisbane. It is part of the **Marist District of Melanesia**.



## MARY, UNTIER OF KNOTS

### A favourite devotion of Pope Francis

In the Eighties, during his studies in Germany, Father Bergoglio discovered this devotional image that dates back to the 1600's, "Mary, Untier of Knots" (*Maria Knotenlöserin*), currently preserved in Augsburg, Bavaria. The painting was commissioned in the 1600's by a gentleman in thanksgiving for the grace of the restoration of his marriage.

Standing at attention at Mary's side, one of the two angels holds out to Our Lady a ribbon, which is tangled with knots large and small. In the customs of the time, a ribbon symbolized conjugal union. On the other side, the ribbon, now smooth and reflecting the light of divine mercy and salvation, glides through the hands of the second angel, who shows it with an eloquent expression to the believer whose prayers have been heard, whose knot has been untied by the intervention of Mary's hands.

The image and Mary's gesture carry broader meanings suggested by Bergoglio, who refers to the words of Saint Irenaeus of Lyons (d. about 202): *"The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith."*

After returning to Argentina, the future Pope began to spread the devotion and immediately he met with remarkable approval among simple believers. As Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires, he worked to have a shrine dedicated to the image of "Mary, Untier of Knots." in the Church of San Jose del Talar in Buenos Aires, a reproduction of the image was enthroned in the presence of thousands of the Argentine faithful.

Here is part of a "Prayer to Mary, Untier of Knots" distributed with the imprimatur of the then-Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Jorge Mario Bergoglio:

Holy Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, with a motherly heart you loosen the knots that shackle our lives; we ask you to receive us in your hands and to free us from the knots and confusion with which our enemy torments us.



Through your grace, through your intercession, and by your example, deliver us from all evil, Our Lady, and untie the knots that keep us from being united with God, so that, free from all confusion and error, we may find him in all things, set our hearts on him, and be able to serve him always in our brothers and sisters. Amen.

(See: Andrea Tornielli Fioretti: *The Little Flowers of Pope Francis – Heart-warming stories of the Gospel in Action*. Pages 120-123)

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATION –Marist Secondary School

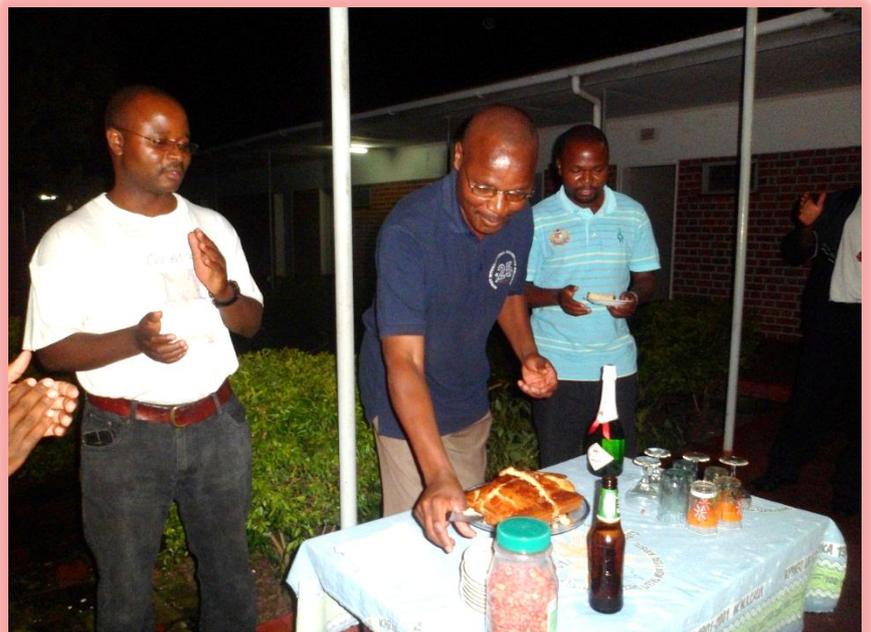
On 20 February this year, the community attached to Marist Secondary School in Mtendere, Malawi, organised a celebration concerning two of its members: Br Moffat Mbamera who had recently completed his 29<sup>th</sup> year and started his 30<sup>th</sup>; and Br Witman Phiri being officially welcomed into the community.

The Brothers at Mtendere Secondary School as well as the Brothers and postulants at Champagnat House were invited to the event. The provision of a well-prepared “fatted calf”, beverages and background music helped to create a lively and fraternal atmosphere.

During the celebration, the local superior, Brother Nicholas Banda, emphasised that **each Brother in the community is an irreplaceable pillar of the house.**

A celebration of this nature is not merely an occasion for relishing a roasted piglet and savouring Malawi’s renowned gin but mainly a means for helping each one to feel at home in the community and to

sense being part of a family. Following the example of those who have gone before us, we celebrate the life and work of every member of our community and foster the spirit of togetherness that is essential to religious life. *(Br Ângelo Atibo)*



**Brothers Witman Phiri, Nicholas Banda, Moffat Mbamera**



## RITE OF INITIATION

According to social historians ceremonies of initiation have a long history and are practised in many cultures. Within the church, the admission of aspirants to religious congregations is also marked by a ceremony of some kind.

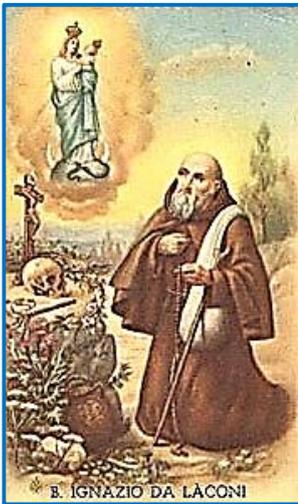
In our Province, the formal admission of aspirants to the postulancy takes place a few weeks after their arrival in Champagnat House. This year’s ceremony took place on 21 February, Proceedings were led by Brother Frank Mwambucha, Councillor for Malawi and Convener of the Vocations Promoters in the Province. In his remarks to the young men, he emphasised that religious life involves an element of detachment from the world and “rowing against the stream” of seeking personal gain. *(Br Ângelo Atibo)*



**Brother Frank Mwambucha  
addressing the new postulants**

## Special Patrons of the Brotherhood

# SAINT IGNATIUS OF LÀCONI



**F**rancis Ignatius Vincent Peis was born in 1701, the son of poor peasants at Làconi, Sardinia. As a young man he vowed, during a serious illness, that if he recovered his health, he would consecrate his life to God in the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. He regained his health, but kept putting off the fulfillment of his vow from day to day. There is some indication that his parents raised objections to his entering the Franciscans. In 1721 his life was again threatened when a horse which he was riding shied.<sup>[1]</sup> Ignatius called upon the assistance of Saint Francis of Assisi and renewed the vow he had previously made. This time his parents did not raise objections to his becoming a Franciscan.

He asked for admission at the Capuchin friary at Cagliari, but the superiors hesitated at first because of his delicate health. The young man then looked up an influential friend who interceded for him, and he was received into the novitiate, and became known as Brother Ignatius. Despite his physical infirmities, his ardor allowed him to attend the spiritual exercises of the community and excel in perfection of his observance of the Rule of Saint Francis.

After being employed in the community for several years at various occupations, he was appointed quester of alms because of his edifying conduct. He had good relations with the citizens of Cagliari, who realized that although Brother Ignatius was begging alms, he was also giving back to them in a spiritual manner. His modest demeanor was seen as a quiet sermon for all who saw him going about. He seldom spoke; but when charity required it, he spoke with exceptional kindness. He would also instruct the children and the uneducated, comfort the sick, and urge sinners to be converted and to do penance.

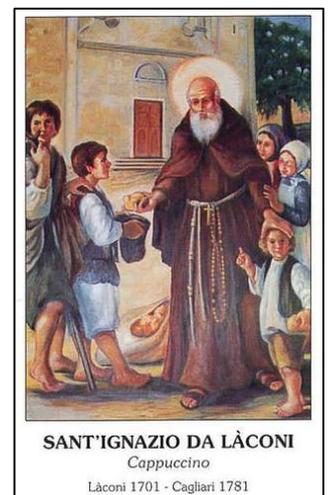
According to legend, Ignatius was known for punctually obeying his superiors, even when it required the denial of his own will. He was accustomed to pass by the house of a usurer, because he feared that in accepting an alms from him he would share the guilt of this man's injustices. But when the man complained and the superior commanded, Ignatius accepted alms from the man. On returning to the friary, St. Ignatius opened the sack offered by the usurer and blood flowed out.<sup>[1]</sup> To those around him the saint said, "This is the blood of the poor squeezed from them by usury."

Ignatius' sister had often written to him asking him to pay her a visit, so she could get his advice in certain matters. Ignatius had no mind to heed her request, but when his superior ordered him to do so, he at once undertook the journey. But he left again as soon as he had given the required advice.

When his brother was sent to prison, it was hoped that, in view of the reputation of Brother Ignatius, the latter could obtain his brother's release. His superior sent him to speak to the governor, but he asked merely that his brother be dealt with according to justice. Not for anything in the world would Brother Ignatius have kept anyone from doing his duty.

Despite his infirmity, Ignatius persevered in his work until he was 80 years old. Even after he became blind, he continued to make his daily rounds for two years. The veneration of the people increased, and many sick persons attributed miraculous healings to him.

He died on May 11, 1781, and many miracles were said to have occurred at his grave. Brother Ignatius was beatified in 1940, and canonized in 1951.



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

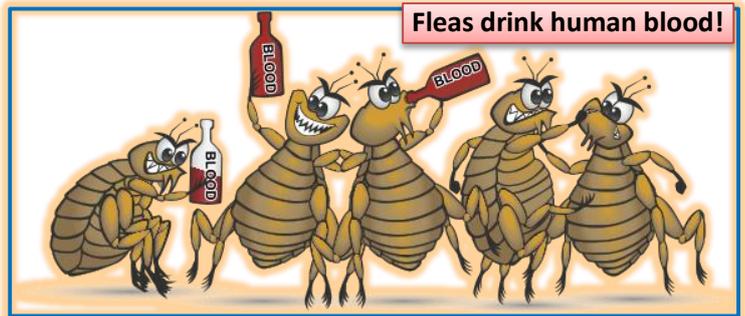


Close-up: Fleas on human skin

**Z**ig Ziglar (a well-known motivational speaker) relates that flea trainers have observed a predictable and strange habit of fleas while training them. When fleas are first put into a jar you can bend over and observe them jumping out of the jar. Of course fleas are known to be incredible jumpers.

The trainer begins when the lid is put on the jar. The fleas continue to jump, but now they hit their heads on the lid, over and over again. As you continue to watch them jump and hit the lid, something interesting happens. The fleas continue their jumping, but they no longer jump high enough to hit the jar lid.

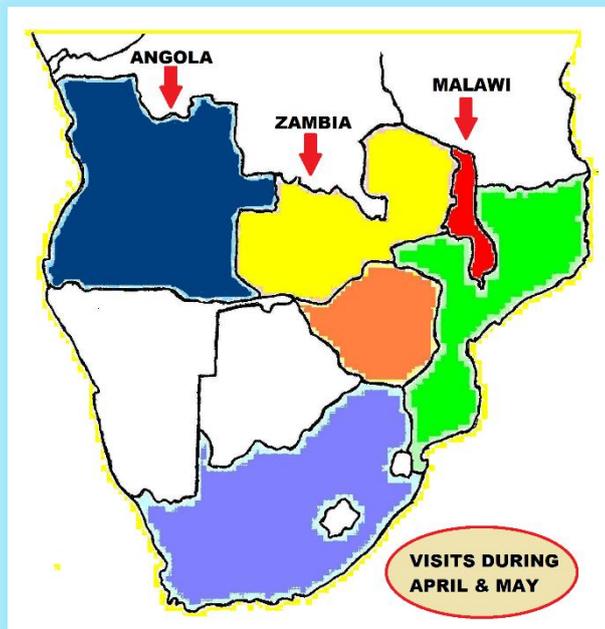
The flea trainer can then remove the lid from the jar. The fleas will continue jumping, but they will not jump out of the jar. Actually, they won't jump out because they are no longer able to jump out. Why not? The reason is simple. They have conditioned themselves to jump only so high. And, once they have conditioned themselves to jump just so high, that's all they can do.



Fleas drink human blood!

**Are you like a flea? Have you been conditioned to jump only so high?**

## BR. JOE'S CALENDAR



DON'T JUDGE  
EACH DAY BY  
THE HARVEST  
YOU REAP;  
BUT BY THE  
SEEDS THAT  
YOU PLANT  
- ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON -

### APRIL 2015

1 - 6	Johannesburg
7 - 11	Meeting on the Constitutions, Jo'burg
12	Travel to Luanda
13 - 23	Visiting the communities of Angola
24	Travel to Johannesburg
25 - 27	Johannesburg
28	Travel to Lilongwe
28 - 31	Visiting the communities of Malawi

### MAY 2015

1 - 13	Visiting the communities of Malawi
14	Travel to Zambia
15 - 20	Visiting the communities of Zambia
21 - 22	Provincial Council, Lusaka
23 - 26	Visiting communities of Zambia
27	Travel to Johannesburg
28 - 30	Johannesburg

**MONTAGNE YEAR AT MAPAC**  
**Marist Asia-Pacific Center, Manila**



**GOOD NEWS from MUNDO!**

9 March 2015

From Br Raimundo Puente  
(puenteraimundo49@gmail.com)

.....

"... I am fine. Waiting for the return  
ticket from Kasongo.

Greetings to all.

Mundo"



**HOW GOVERNMENTS CAN REDUCE EXPENDITURE!**



Pope Francis lunching with workers in the Vatican cafeteria

## SYRIA – MARIST BROTHERS IN ALEPPO

**A**fter four years, the civil war is far from over! Our Brothers in Aleppo continue their good work under extreme conditions.



“We are still suffering from a shortage of everything, from fuel, gas, to electricity,

water, medicine and many other essentials. The people of Aleppo have had a cold hard winter this year, with no other heating medium. We have a shortage of water as it is provided only one day out of six - [water sources in areas controlled by the rebels].

Syrians are desperate. They see no way out of the crisis. There is a continual flow of people leaving the country and without hope of return. Syria, and particularly Aleppo, is depopulated of its Christians.

We are afraid of ending up like the Christians in Mosul ... or those people in Hassake ... or die of a random shell, or shot by a sniper.

This is how we, **the Blue Marists**, continue our various programs and projects.

The "**Blue Marist housing program for the displaced**" continues and its path goes in crescendo. We have already helped 57 displaced families

Our **monthly food baskets** distribution continues. These baskets contain 22 items; In addition to commodities like sugar, rice, cheese, jam, lentils, oil, etc., there are eggs, meat, chicken and powdered milk for children; "**The basket of the mountain**" is for displaced Christian families in DJabal Al Sayde, "**The Blue Marists basket**" for displaced Muslim families, and "**The Ear of God Basket**" to families living in extreme poverty without being displaced. Besides the food, we provide clothing, mattresses, blankets and kitchen utensils, etc. Soon, we will distribute shoes to

all children. Every day, we distribute hot meals (lunches) to 550 people.

The "**Civil War Wounded**" program continues its mission through treatment, free of charge, in the best hospital in Aleppo, of civilians wounded by bullets or missiles, thanks to the generosity and volunteerism of the best doctors and surgeons in the City, and the dedication of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. In two years, we have solved hundreds of cases, and rescued dozens of injured. In recent times, unfortunately, it is non-stop work as we have many civilians injured by mortars falling randomly.

Of course, we continue caring for children and youth who are our top priority. The two projects "**I learn to Grow**" and "**I Want to Learn**" deal every day with over 150 preschool and school age children who do not go to school for various reasons. "**Skill School**" for teens and "**Tawassol**" for young mothers, resumed after the Christmas holidays.

Our training centre, "**MIT**" (**Marist Institute for Training**) did not stop. We are inundated with requests to participate in workshops organized twice a month for a period of three days each for 20 young adults. Recent workshops related to "time

management", "How to write a report", "Creativity", and "accounting with a computer program". The centre also organizes monthly conferences which are also much appreciated.

Finally, "**Oasis**", our spiritual formation centre for young Christians, has been organizing retreats for several months or monthly seminars for young people. It is becoming increasingly popular."



Syrians are desperate. They see no way out of the crisis. ...a continual flow of people leaving the country and without hope...

See more at: <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=3531#sthash.0Z1IYRsS.dpuf>

## KUTAMA – A DOUBLE CELEBRATION

100 years of the Jesuit-founded mission and 75 years of Marist presence

The weather on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> was ideal for the celebration. The two-hour liturgy was graced by liturgical dancers – a group of women, and one of little children. Speeches followed – in turn by a Jesuit, the Marist Provincial, the local chief, and the chairperson of the Kutama Old Boys Association (KOBA) that was responsible for raising funds to cover the costs of the function. Finally it was the turn of His Excellency, the President of Zimbabwe. Robert Mugabe was a 14-year old boy when the Marist Brothers arrived in 1939. Showing his 91 years, the President began with reminiscences of St Francis Xavier College under the guidance of the Canadian Marist Brothers. His speech



**Bishop Dieter Scholtz of Chinhoyi during the Mass of Thanksgiving; liturgical dancers, Kutama College students, marquees for some five thousand people**

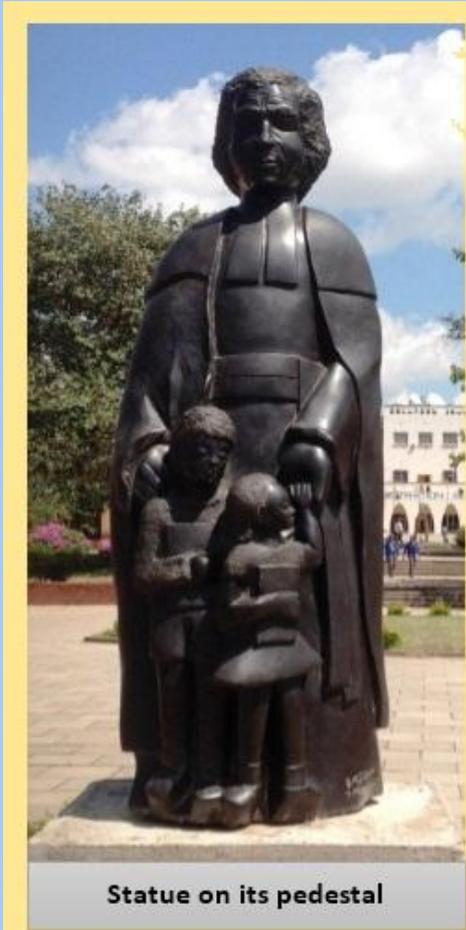
moved on to various themes: the role of education for young people: the development of the country; and international relations.

The conclusion to this address, some 85 minutes after the President took the stage, was immediately followed by the dramatic entry of a praise-singer, dancing, chanting, and surprisingly delivering his poetry in English! It was said that he was paid \$1500 for this service! Afterwards, the Bishop blessed the new statue of Champagnat (paid for by Kutama College) and new classrooms that were officially opened by His Excellency. Eventually at 17h30, the honoured guests sat down to a luncheon in a large marquee erected in front of the Administration Block. Importantly, a meal was also provided for the entire multitude gathered on the sports field! A day to remember!



**KUTAMA COLLEGE**

# MEMORIAL STATUE OF SAINT MARCELLIN



Statue on its pedestal



Carved in rock from the Masvingo region, the statue dwarfs a typical Form 1 student

**ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT**  
**(1789-1840)**  
**FOUNDER OF THE MARIST BROTHERS**  
**ERECTED IN HONOUR OF ALL MARIST**  
**BROTHERS WHO WORKED IN ZIMBABWE**

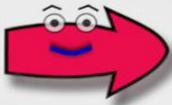
The plaque at the base of the pedestal

**BEGINNINGS** ... Bro Patrick Veilleux went to Roma in Lesotho in the late 1930's to arrange for a takeover from the Brothers of the South African Province who had been there since 1908. A contract was drafted with Bishop Bonhomme in Roma and then presented to the Provincial and his Council in Canada. The Bishop agreed that it would be good for the five pioneers to spend a year in London to perfect their English while working on a Diploma in Education. During that time, the Bishop created tensions by not respecting the contract. Bro. Patrick wrote to the Bishop but did not receive satisfactory answers. More or less at the same time, Bishop Chichester of Salisbury met Bro. Assistant General at a Congress in Cape Town and asked for Brothers to take over Kutama Teaching Training threatened with closure on account of poor staffing and facilities. Brother mentioned to him that some Canadians were studying in London: they might be willing to help. He invited them in writing soon afterwards. When their course was over in the middle of 1938 they sailed for Durban. From there Patrick sailed to Beira, and then by rail travelled to Salisbury. Bishop Chichester was very generous in the terms he proposed. Patrick liked Kutama and actually helped there during the third term. On hearing this, the Canadian Provincial agreed that we take over Kutama in January 1939. The four other Canadian Brothers who had stayed behind in South Africa [together with Brother Walstan Curtin, an Australian member of the South African Province] joined him in time for the opening of the school year in 1939. *(Br. James Langlois - edited.)*

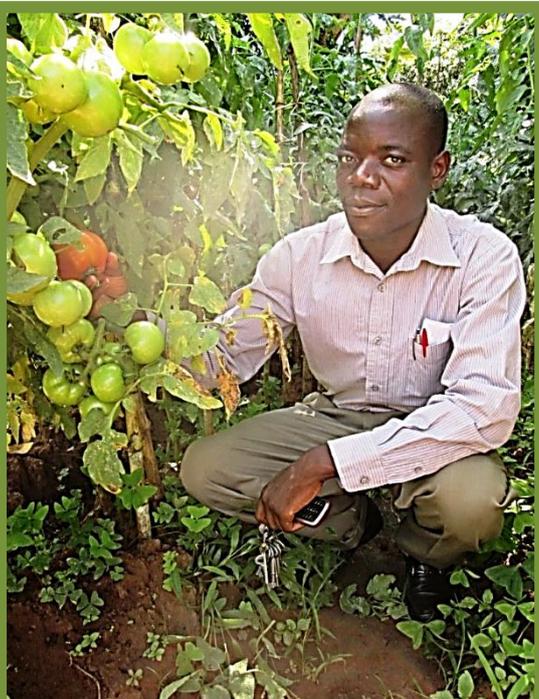
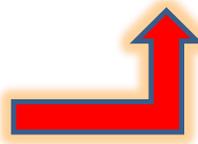
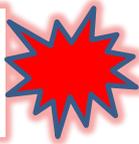


**YOUNG BROTHERS** applying to **RENEW THEIR VOWS** or to make **FINAL PROFESSION** must write to Br Joe by **10 MAY**.

**FINALLY PROFESSED BROTHERS** should send **REPORTS ON THE YOUNG BROTHERS** with whom they live ... also by **10 MAY**.



**important notice  
HERE IT IS !**



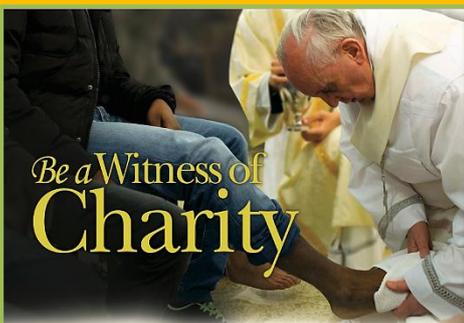
*You will eat the fruit of your hands ...*  
Ps 128: 2 ... Br. Patrick Banda, Likuni

### **THANK YOU, KUTAMA!**

The Jubilee was blessed by the presence of Brothers from faraway places: **Dete** - Bernard, Ebel, & David; **Nyanga** - Nicholas, Leonard and Tererai; from **other countries** - Joe, Jude, Mario, Felizardo, Tomás and Patrick. The **HOSPITALITY** offered during those busy days was all the more appreciated!

Our thanks for all the **hard work** done to prepare the event - to Jacob, Fortune and Aaron: and to James for his **WARM WELCOME** at the airport and numerous trips to Kutama over those days.

**THANK YOU! MAITA ZVIKURU!**



*“Without mercy, we have little chance nowadays of becoming part of a world of ‘wounded’ persons in need of understanding, forgiveness and love ...”*

*(Pope Francis to Brazilian Bishops in Rio de Janeiro 1913)*