



FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK



1 December 2015

Dear Brothers and friends

"And this will be a sign for you:
you will find an infant
wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)

I wonder whether you have read any of the writings of Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, former Archbishop of Milan. Born in 1927, he was ordained as Archbishop of Milan in 1979, and retired in 2002. He died at the age of 85 in 2012. Well-known as a liberal thinker, he drew many young people to his talks and services. I have taken an extract from one of the Cardinal's publications that I think has a wonderful Christmas message for all. For us Marists who serve Jesus in children, Mary is very close to us in this season.



"St. Luke's Gospel contrasts the splendour of the angels' announcement to the shepherds with the lowliness of Jesus in the manger. On that first Christmas Eve, the Gospel relates that the glory of the Lord shone upon the shepherds, and, struck with fear, they heard the multitude of the heavenly hosts singing.

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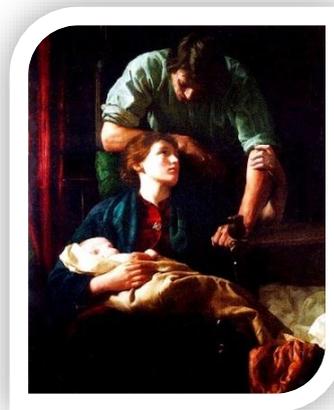
An angel then spoke of a sign given to them, a way in which they would recognize the Saviour. He was "an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 12) Earlier, Luke had spoken of Mary, giving birth to her firstborn son, "wrapping him in swaddling clothes and laying him in a manger." (Luke 2: 7)

Since ancient times, biblical commentators have sought out the meaning of the sign-- the "infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." In the Old Testament, "the wrapping of the child in swaddling clothes" was a sign of the parents' loving reception of their child (Wisdom 7:4; Job 38: 8-9; Ezekiel 16: 4). Ancient writers--Cyril of Alexandria, Leo the Great, Ambrose--saw the swaddling clothes as a sign that the divine nature had now been concealed in the new born. More recently, commentators have seen a relation between the "child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" with the body of Jesus "wrapped in a linen cloth and laid in a rock-hewn tomb." (Luke 23: 53)

Luke's Gospel notes that when the shepherds came to the manger at Bethlehem, they found not swaddling clothes, but "Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger." The sign of the swaddling clothes had been replaced by Mary and Joseph. Perhaps, Luke made this change to indicate that the parents of Jesus came to represent all that the swaddling clothes signified. They were the first to receive the new born child, to provide him with that love unique to parents. They were among the poor of Israel who had been awaiting the Messiah's coming with hope and expectation. Finally, they were first among those who would follow and be present to their son, even to his final destiny on the cross.

Commenting on the Nativity scene, Saint Augustine wrote, "O infinity become manifest, O marvellous humility, wherein is hidden the total divinity." The Virgin Mary was both mother of Jesus and the first to believe in him. Mary was the first to comprehend that God's word can be concealed in such a tiny reality as a child, and that in serving this reality the fullness or totality of the word of God is attained. Mary intuited the whole in the part, so that in serving the Child Jesus as well as in serving the little group of the first Christians, she served all of humanity. Her heart was capable of opening up to every creature, and this qualified her to be mother of the church, not only of the church that now is, but of that which ought to be and will be -- of all humanity." (Cardinal Martini)

This event is yet another challenge to all of us to be ready to serve as Mary served. A challenge for us as Marists to think deeply and to act sincerely in the way of Mary. We have been asked so many times to show the Marial face of the church.



Take some time to look back on 2015 and ask yourself if your style of teaching, or leadership or your way with people has been in the way of Mary. How can we become even more like Mary in 2016? We are called to make Jesus known and loved. What a privileged call we have!

May Jesus always be with you!

Joe



MANY HAPPY RETURNS!

DECEMBER	
12-12-1992	JIMMY SOKO
15-12-1936	BRENDAN O'SHEA
17-12-1936	POPE FRANCIS
23-12-1941	JOÃO REIS
23-12-1949	DENIS NTACYICA
25-12-1982	STEVEN PHIRI
30-12-1934	EMMANUEL LAPOINTE
30-12-1970	AARON MAZHAMBE



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are read by more than a few. But the one that is most read and commented on is the Gospel written by you. You write a gospel, a chapter each day, by the things that you do and the words you say.

People read what you write, whether faithless or true.

Say what is the gospel according to you?

Do others read His truth and His love in your life?

Or has yours been too full of malice and strife?

Does your life speak of evil, or does it ring true?

Say, what is the gospel according to you?



Misean Cara Mentorship Workshop in Mutare, Zimbabwe

Early in November, Misean Cara-(Mission Support from Ireland) hosted a workshop on 'Improving Development Effectiveness' in Zimbabwe. Twenty-six people from member organizations attended the workshop at the Golden Peacock Villa Hotel in Mutare for few days from the 13th October. Bro. Fortune and Bro. Brito had an opportunity to attend this formative mentorship workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Andrea Cortemiglia, Misean Cara Southern Africa Development Mentor. The workshop was attended by senior personnel from Mashambanzou Trust, Mavambo Project, Murambinda Hospital, Diocese of Mutare Community Care Programme (DOMCCP), Marist Camp Zimbabwe and Youth Alive.

The workshop revolved around project cycle management, and organisational development with an emphasis on peer learning, and the sharing of results-based management approaches. We drew on the experiences of members with the sharing of knowledge and insights from actual development projects. The workshop was participatory in nature, and guided by the priorities of the participants. Time was allotted to member presentations, group discussions, questions, feedback and advice.

The workshop and one-to-one-meetings improved familiarity with opportunities and requirements offered by Misean Cara funding schemes, and capacity development programmes. It was also an opportunity to enhance our knowledge about how to better serve vulnerable beneficiaries (with a focus on achieving results); how to address sustainability challenges (sustaining results); and how to go about accountability (demonstrating results). It was quite noticeable that many organizations are working for the betterment of vulnerable children and youth. As Marist Camp representatives we had an opportunity to share with Misean Cara our work in Zimbabwe. More significantly, the workshop helped Misean Cara gain greater insight into which kind of support would be most beneficial to us in Zimbabwe taking into account the resource-constrained context within which we operate.

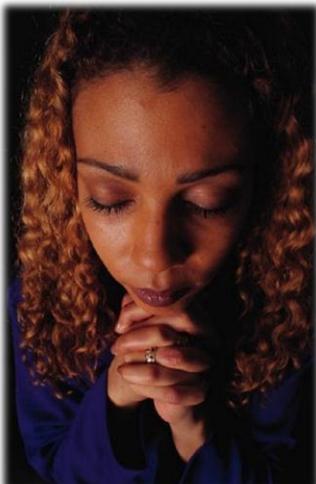
We are thankful to our Rt Rev Bishop of Mutare Diocese, Alexio Churu Muchabaiwa, who attended the entire workshop, providing inspiring and welcome remarks and words of wisdom and encouragement to the participants. More than learning about how to make a project the good news is that Misean Cara informed us that if we have a sound project and come up with a proper project proposal they are willing to assist us in our mission and various works in Zimbabwe.



Fortune Chakasara fms, Jeanette (South Africa- Denis Hurley Peace Institute), His Lordship Alexio Muchabaiwa (Bishop of Mutare Diocese), Dr. Andrea Cotmeglia (Misean Cara Mentor-South Africa), Leonard Brito, fms. Photo taken at a Primary School in Mutare funded by Misean Cara.



PRAYER INTENTIONS



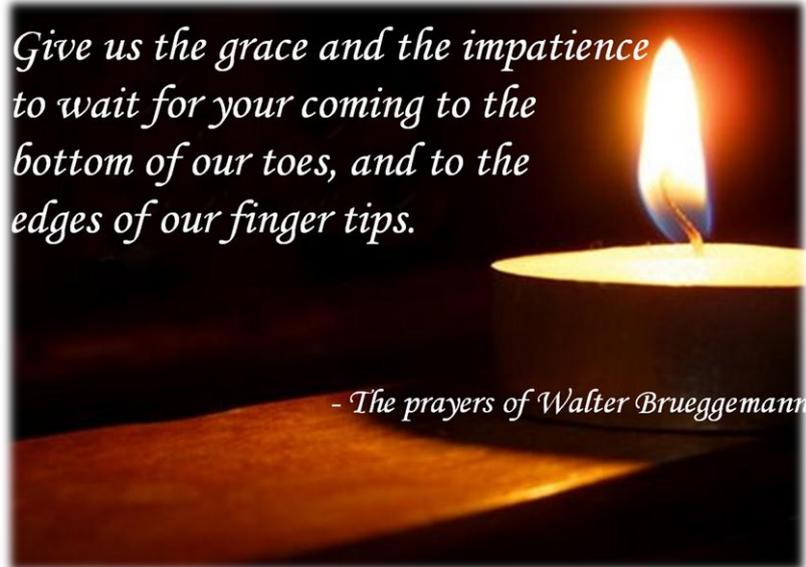
- Our Holy Father, **Pope Francis**, and his intentions
- The nine **2nd-year novices** who will make their **First Profession** on Saturday 5 December
- For the Brothers posted at our **Formation Houses**
- For all **those who share Our Educational Mission** – teachers, parents of our students, support staff, benefactors, collaborators



RECENT MEETING IN JOHANNESBURG (1)



Meeting of the INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS Jo'burg Nov 3 - 6
Back: Jorge Gaio FMS (Brazil); Bernard Kenna (Australia); Alfonso Fernandez FMS (Spain)
Middle: Adrienne Egbers (South Africa), Everson Ismael de Olivera FMS (Brazil)
Front: Libardo Garzón FMS (Econome General); Mario Meuti FMS (Italy)



*Give us the grace and the impatience
to wait for your coming to the
bottom of our toes, and to the
edges of our finger tips.*

- The prayers of Walter Brueggemann

RECENT MEETING IN JOHANNESBURG (2)



Brothers attending AFRICAN MISSION COMMISSION - Johannesburg 24-30 Nov 2015
Back: David Hall (Australia), John Kusi Mensah (Ghana),
Steven Mbaegbu (Nigeria) Miguel Angel Espinosa (Mexico & Gen. Admin)
Front: Michel Maminjaina (Madagascar), João Carlos do Prado (Brazil & Gen. Admin),
Erick Silali (Kenya), Fortune Chakasara (Zimbabwe). *Inset:* Manel Mendoza (Spain)



DOWN MEMORY LANE

Down Memory Lane



Brother Joe Walton, principal of Sacred Heart Primary during the 1990's, chatting with "Sammy" who has been selling ice-creams at our school since 1963!!

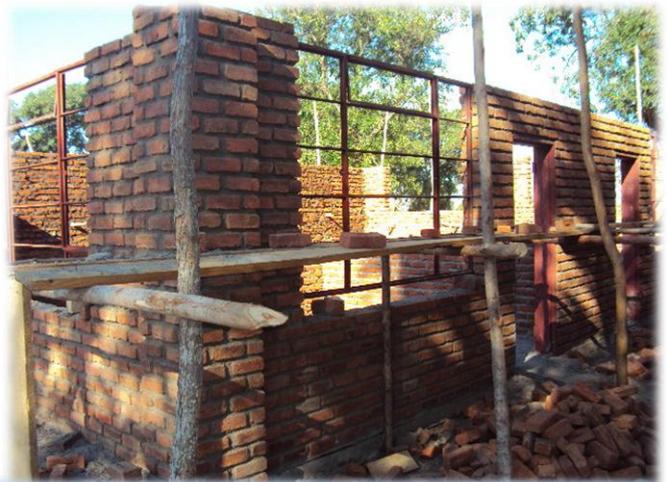


**Bro Joe's
Calendar**

DECEMBER 2015	
1 - 3	Provincial Office
4	Travel to Matola
5	First profession of Novices
6	Travel to Johannesburg
7 - 23	Provincial Office
26	Travel to Luanda Angola
27 - 30	Angolan Brothers' Assembly
31	Travel to Johannesburg



DINING ROOM EXTENSIONS AT MARIST SS



Brother Joseph Nsambo, Headmaster, inspecting the progress



NOVICES NOT AT PRAYER OR STUDY



Caring for the fowls



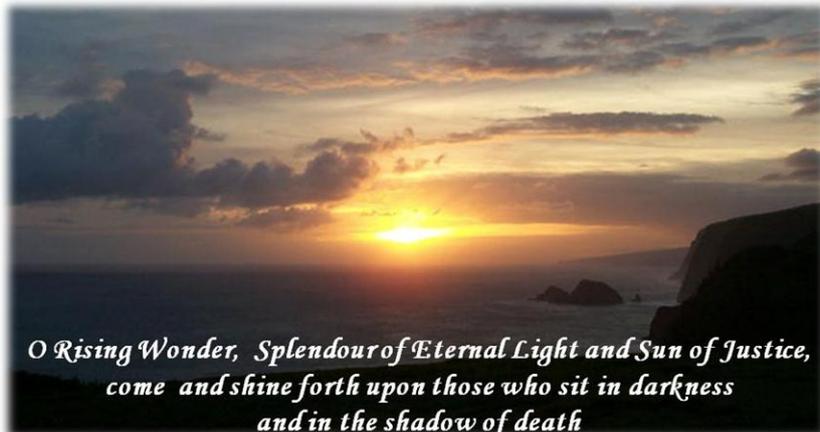
DESTRUCTIVE WIND STORM STRIKES CHASSA

Calamity at Chassa Secondary School

26th November, 2015



A strong wind blew part of the roof for the Duplex House!



*O Rising Wonder, Splendour of Eternal Light and Sun of Justice,
come and shine forth upon those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death*

FATHER CHAMPAGNAT COMES HOME

Phillip Babbage in Form One at Marist Nyanga High School, Zimbabwe writes about the erection of the new statue of our Founder as follows:

Memories fade as time goes on, but this one will never pass away. Thursday 4th November 2015 ... [the day that] Father Champagnat came to Nyanga....

Makeshift enormous scaffolding made an arch that we could of best make a lift with the help of a maze of bright blue rope. Strong and muscular men tied the huge statue and began the whole day's work. It was a game of pushing, pulling lifting and shouting. We did the watching and the moral support. He was heavy.

Shouts of joy, happiness and relief finally filled the air as he was put down eventually of the pedestal. Our Father with the children around him finally gave a live gaze on us in the evening sun as the men gave space packing their tools and swallowing their sighs.

We waited for you Marcellin and now with us you stay each day and remind us how much we are blessed to belong to your big Marist family.

Welcome home Father!

