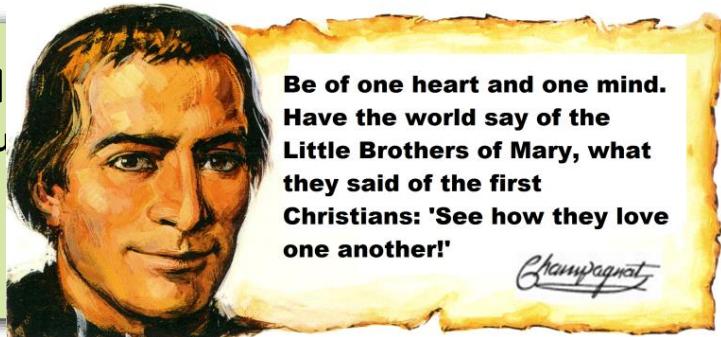




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Newsletter June/Junho 2016



FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...

1 June 2016

Dear Brothers and Friends,

We are nearing the end of the year of preparation for the bicentenary of the pledge made at Fourvière – a year that reminds all Marists of commitment. It reminds us of our Marist Founders who made a simple commitment to God and to Mary and kept the commitment throughout their lives. We have inherited this commitment today. Theirs is a story of zeal for God and Mary. On this score, St Marcellin's feast day is but a few days away. We all know how strong was his commitment to God and to Mary.

I would like to share some thoughts on commitment in today's climate. To begin with, read the following paragraph from the inter-congregational Marist website: www.maristinter.org

"Fourvière, Lyons, France 23 July 1816. It is early morning, and twelve young men are climbing the 800 steps leading up to the ancient Marian shrine of Fourvière on the top of the hill that dominates the city. Five of them had been ordained priests the day before; the others had not yet completed their studies for the priesthood. During the preceding months, they had formed a group and made a commitment. Now, they were about to separate. But, before they broke up, they wanted to seal their commitment before the venerated statue of Our Lady of Fourvière."

It is not easy to do justice to the topic of commitment to God in a short newsletter message. Those of us who are religious have our vows to help our commitment to God, but it is important never to forget that all Christians have a commitment by their baptism and confirmation. This commitment is to a large extent hidden: it is not expressed in public. Our vows as religious are a further commitment to God, but made in public.

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The fact that you may be a Marist Brother, already puts a priority on spiritual commitment and pulls you closer to God, that's good! So I can say the most difficult part of commitment has already been done. You already have the motivation.

How do we become more committed to God? How do we show our commitment? Unfortunately, I cannot give you a formula for how commitment to God should be expressed. I could suggest a certain length of time in prayer, spiritual reading and service, but we are all different, and our needs are different. Our relationship

with God goes through different seasons and strategies from year to year. What is right for *you* now might not be right for *me*. The process of becoming Marist is not the same as a mechanical device producing items on an assembly line with each of them exactly the same. We have to allow for who we are.



way to commitment to God in the light of the Marist spirituality.

We all have multiple commitments. We want to be committed to community, family, church, to apostolate, to personal growth, to prayer. All of these are good. But there is one commitment that always takes priority that should never be compromised – and that is commitment to God. This comes before other commitments – and in fact it is because we are committed to God that we also want to keep our commitments in all the other aspects of a good life. Commitment to God is the foundation for all the others: it is their *raison d'être*.

Put God first. There is no magic formula for putting God first.

The question I put to myself at times is. "Why aren't I as committed to God as I want to be? What are the obstacles, the things that compete for my commitment?" I should imagine you ask yourselves the same questions.

One major obstacle is time. We have only so many minutes in each day. We belong to communities and families that expect more out of us; jobs and ministries that have expectations; and so many other things that require more from us. Yes, we have machines that save us time and machines that waste our time. We also spend time trying to fix things that should save time. We have a 100 different things to do – that's just counting the good things. It's curious that the devil has two strategies to keep us away from God: he can tempt us with evil or he can distract us with things that are good. Most times we are distracted by good. We need to take

care that God does not come out second best in the battle for dedicated time.

So we must take control of our schedules, to say no to perfectly good activities, for the simple reason that we have something even more important to do. So I need to choose my YES's wisely, to make sure there is room for God in my life. My commitment to community, family, apostolate, etc. must lead to God, rather than crowd him out.

Another reason why we struggle with commitment is because we have other gods.

One common competitor is the god of money. Yes, even if some of us have professed the vow of poverty, we can lack transparency for the sake of money. Money is a powerful god! This is a god that makes us feel good. This is a god that allows us to be in control. This is a god that lets us make our own rules. It makes no moral demands: it requires no commitment. It just offers power. Now money can be good. It can be used to buy good things. But it is so helpful that it easily becomes tempting, distracting and deceitful. This is true whether we have money or not. At times money can control us and to the point we become its servants. We serve money when we think it has power. We serve money if we look to it to take care of our needs. Instead we ought to serve God by looking to him for the help we need. We serve God and praise him when we see him as the power to help us in our real needs, when we spend time looking to him.

There is so much to say about commitment to God as you can see I have only just touched the surface. I wanted to say something about our desires but I will go on for too long. Our desires are a measure of our worship. Do we desire God more than anything? Do we desire to do his will? Do we desire to spend time with God?

Commitment to God boils down to a desire for God. He is our treasure, our hope, our value, our supreme goal, he is our God – and there is no competitor.

Let us celebrate our Founder's feast by being as committed to God as he was in his life.

Make Jesus known and loved.

Have a joyous and blessed Feast Day!

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

Another month with 19 Birthdays!

02-06-94	Anderson Kafatsa (nov.adm.2016)
03-06-58	Joseph Murakho
05-06-76	Jacob Mutingwende
09-06-33	Fernand Dostie
09-06-89	Steven Chinsolo
11-06-72	Lourenço Sapalo
11-06-73	Stephen Phiri
11-06-90	Manuel Pombo (nov.adm.2016)
12-06-96	Paul Chikaola (nov. adm.2016)
13-06-64	Bernard Chirombe
13-06-92	António Muchima Kasombo (nov.adm.2016)
14-06-58	Simeon Banda
14-06-90	Manuel Simão
17-06-84	Dominic Nyoni
24-06-92	Kudakwashe Vambe (nov.adm.2015)
25-06-83	Peter Zulu
25-06-84	Davy Mbasela
27-06-84	Carlos Catole
30-06-90	Celestino Ngonjo



St Marcellin Champagnat
20 May 1789 - 6 June 1840



- For our recently deceased and the bereaved: the grandfather of novice **JOÃO MANUEL GABRIEL**.
- For our sick: Br **JOSEPH MURAKHO**.
- For wisdom in our choice of delegates for the **PROVINCIAL CHAPTER**.
- For the people of **SYRIA**, in its sixth year of civil war, especially for our **BROTHERS** and the **MARISTES BLEUES** in Aleppo.
- For **BR NORBERT MWILA**, our incoming Provincial Superior.

Something to think about

WATER PISTOLS

Once upon a time there was a fire in a small town. The fire brigade rushed to the scene, but the firemen were unable to get through to the burning building. The problem was the crowd of people who had gathered not to watch but to help put out the fire. They all knew the fire chief well – their children had climbed over his fire engines during excursions to the fire station, and the friendliness of the fire chief was legendary. So when a fire broke out the people rushed out to help their beloved fire chief.



Unfortunately, the townsfolk were seeking to extinguish this raging inferno with water pistols! They'd all stand there, from time to time squirting their pistol into the fire while making casual conversation.

The fire chief couldn't contain himself. He started screaming at the townsfolk. "What do you think you're doing? What on earth do you think you're going to achieve with those water pistols?!"

The people realised the urgency of the situation. How they wanted to help the fire chief. So they started squirting more. "Come on" they encouraged each other, "We can all do better, can't we?" Squirt, squirt, squirt, squirt.



Exasperated the fire chief yells again. "Get out of here. You're achieving nothing except hindering us from doing what needs to be done. We need firemen who are ready to give everything they've got to put out this fire, people willing even to lay their lives on the line. This is not the place for token contributions"

This story was originally told by Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard. He was urging us to realise that discipleship to Christ means much more than token levels of support to the church and God's mission in the world. It calls for wholehearted and total life commitment.

Source: Story retold from Kierkegaard.



Br Joseph Daka's Birthday in Lusaka

JOE'S CALENDAR

JUNE	
1	Johannesburg
18	Travel to Cape Town
19 - 21	Cape Town
22	Travel to Uitenhage
23 - 27	Uitenhage
28	Travel to Johannesburg
29 - 30	Johannesburg



JULY	
1 - 2	Johannesburg
3	Travel to Luanda
4 - 6	Luanda
7 - 9	Ndalatando
10 - 12	Kuito
13	Luanda
14	Travel
15 - 23	Johannesburg
17	Community Meeting
21 - 22	Provincial Council meeting
24	Travel to Nairobi
25 - 30	Nairobi
31	Travel to Johannesburg

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

An extract from the Provincial Chapter Regulations

1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1. The Provincial Chapter shall be made up of members by right and elected members.
- 1.2. The out-going Provincial and his successor are members by right.
- 1.3. All the professed Brothers, including those in temporary profession, who are **members** of the Province have active and passive voting rights with regard to the Chapter.

- 1.3.1. However, with regard to electing delegates to the Chapter, **student Brothers at the Marist International Centre**, Nairobi, have active and passive voting rights with respect to the student Brothers of the Province at the Centre only.
- 1.4. Additionally, all Brothers **on loan** to the Province who have been resident in the Province for at least three years have active and passive voting rights.
- 1.5. For the elected members: There will be one delegate elected for every five Brothers or part thereof appointed to each of the six units composing the Province.
- 1.5.1. Brothers appointed to a house serving the Province as a whole or more than one country within it will be counted in their unit of origin within the Province.
- 1.5.2. Newly professed Brothers who have been appointed to a country other than their own will be counted in their unit of origin within the Province.
- 1.5.3. Student Brothers resident at the Marist International Centre will elect one Brother from among their number for every fifteen or part thereof of student Brothers at the Centre.
- 1.6. For the election of delegates to the Chapter, Brothers may vote only for Brothers in their own country.



ASSEMBLY OF BROTHERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Sunday 15 May 2016 in Johannesburg



**Brothers Claude Audy, Neil McGurk, Joe Walton, Vincent George,
Emmanuel Mwanalirenji, Brendan O'Shea, Jude Pieterse,
Paul Mbuyi, Mario Colussi, and Christopher Zimmermann**

GATHERING OF GRADE 7 MARIST LEARNERS IN RSA

At Sacred Heart College 20 -21 May 2016

It was an all Marist affair at Sacred Heart College as girls and boys from five Marist schools – all with the same blue and yellow blazer – converged for two days of interaction in games, and other activities. The event was begun with Holy Mass in the College Chapel presided by the College Chaplain, Father David Dryden, SJ. Father Dryden has worked with the Brothers at three different Marist schools in the country.



**Five School Crests arranged within
the Five Circles of the Olympic Games**



**See them at play
on the next page**



GRADE SEVEN STUDENTS ENJOYING GAMES



LETTER FROM “MUNDO” – **(Br Raimundo Puente Calleja)**

25 May 2016

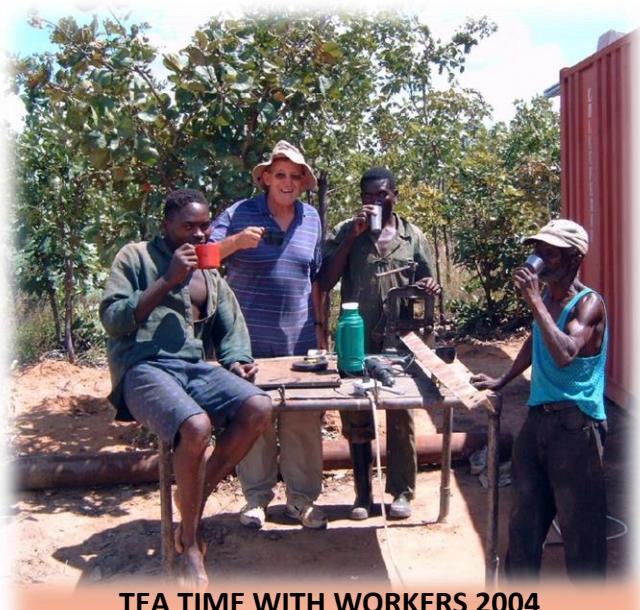
Dear Brothers,

Greetings from Valladolid, Spain.

Perhaps my departure on May the 5th, 2016 caught you unawares though the decision was communicated

to de relevant authorities sometime in November, 2015. Due to this lack of information was very difficult for me to announce my departure and to say bye. Sorry for that Brothers.

In order to mend that mistake I have decided to write this letter to you. I left Zambia due to health problems



TEA TIME WITH WORKERS 2004

basically. Before the ictus attack I suffered in October 2014, the cardiologist had detected malfunctioning of the mitral Valve. Due to the advice of the doctor and also the delicate situation of my mother and her age 95, I decided to go back to Spain. Though my mother passed away in February this year I continued with the original plan to return to Spain.

Brothers, the 33 years I have lived in Zambia have been years of happiness and successes and also some mistakes. It is not my intention in these few lines to mention any of them. I would like to say thanks to all Zambian Brothers and al the Brother in the Province for accepting me in the Province and keeping me for 33 years. I have enjoyed your company and brotherly love. But the time has come for me to continue my apostolate somewhere else if my heart allows me.

Thanks indeed Brothers. Thanks to Br Joe for facilitating my transfer to Compostela and for his continued support during his tenure of office. Thanks to Br Jude for entrusting me with the responsibility of the Chibuluma Project. I would like also to thank Br Oscar and Br Tomas, former and actual provincials of Compostela respectively for accepting me in their Province.

I appreciate the support I have received from the members of staff, students and workers of the Skills Centre and St Paul's. Brothers, staff, students and workers, if at any time I have offended you or disappointed you, I beg your pardon. I am very sorry for that.

I am back in Spain but my heart is still in Zambia. Thanks to all and every one. May God bless you all abundantly.

Thanks.

Br Mundo



From the PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Lusaka 26 – 27 May 2016



Firstly, we should note that the Council invited **Brother Norbert Mwila** to attend the meeting as a non-voting guest. In this way, he would come to experience some of the issues that have to be dealt with at the level of the Province. Br Fortune Chakasara, of course was absent again: his Diploma program on Child Rights does not finish until the middle of June.

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF MARIST YOUTH IN LYON DURING JULY

The initial plan was that Br Leonard Brito of Zimbabwe would lead the four “young” people selected to participate on behalf of the Province.

Circumstances beyond Leonard’s control made it necessary, however, for him to withdraw, and Br Tererai Gijima will now take his place.

We wish Tererai and his team a wonderful experience as they mark the 200th anniversary of the Marist Pledge at Fourvière.

Br EMMANUEL MWANALIRENJI is ready to take over as Master of Novices later this year. He leaves Cape Town at the end of June without having completed all the work necessary for the B.Psy. degree. The South African College of Applied Psychology has arranged that he can complete the requirements by distance education over the next six months.

We wish Emmanuel God’s blessings in this important service for the Province.

RETREAT FOR BROTHERS IN FIRST VOWS This will take place in a Retreat Centre in Chipata in Eastern Zambia from 26 July to 31 July. Thereafter the group will proceed to Lilongwe from where they will fly to Nairobi to begin their formation for ministry.



TWO RECENT MOTOR ACCIDENTS

In **Zimbabwe**: A motor cyclist collided with a vehicle driven by Br. **Nicholas Zvenyika** on the road between Harare and Nyanga. The cyclist was taken to hospital but died from his injuries a few days later. The legalities that have to be followed have prevented Nicholas from leaving the country to follow his plan to follow a renewal program in Manziana.

In Zambia. Very recently, Br. **Evans Musakanya** driving from Lusaka to Kabwe at night collided with the back of a passenger bus. Though the car was badly damaged, Evans was not injured.

We are grateful that both Nicholas and Evans are unharmed, and at the same time, warned to take care on the roads!

STUDIES BEING COMPLETED

Fortune Chakasara completes his Diploma in Child Rights in a few weeks and flies out to Africa on 20 June.

Francis Jumbe has completed an M.Ed. (educational counselling) at Tangaza in Nairobi and will soon return. His results were the best in the Institute of Youth Ministry.

António Viana in Angola has recently completed his B.Ed. qualification.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

VOTING for the delegates takes place on **19th JUNE**. Your Councillor has the **BALLOT PAPERS**

COMPLETED Ballot Papers should be sent to Br Mario Colussi at Sacred Heart College, 15 Eckstein Street, Observatory, 2198. **DEADLINE –FIRST WEEK OF JULY**

Dispatch the ballots by DHL courier, or equivalent service, and send the “tracking number” to Br Mario at mario.colussi@marist.org.za

Alternative: Give all the packages to the **SECTOR BURSAR** who is due in Jo’burg in the first week of July.

Brothers not in the country (or in Nivava) on 19th June will be allowed to vote electronically. Details will be sent to them in due course.

Scrutators Mario Colussi, Geraldo Medida, Vincent George.

APPLICATIONS FOR MAKING PROFESSION OF VOWS

There are 43 Brothers in the Province in Annual Vows. All of them requested to make profession of vows, including ten who requested to make Final Profession.

Let us thank God for this blessing: that they wish to continue their commitment as Little Brothers of Mary

