



Marist Brothers - Irmãos

Province of Southern Africa - Província da

Editor: provsec@



2016 July/Julho

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...

1 July 2016

Dear Brothers and Friends,
In just short of two months from now, we will have our seventh Provincial Chapter. What an exciting time for our province! The Preparatory Commission has been given material and ideas for the Chapter. I have written to you as well about what we need to think about when discussing issues at the Chapter. It is up to us to make the



By Frits Ahlefeldt

necessary **commitments and changes** for "New Life" in our Province. I wrote a few months back on the theme of commitment so this month I would like to share some ideas on change and the way to accept and embrace change in our lives.

I was reading an article from "Advanced Life Skills" by Jonathan Wells concerning how to accept change. He has some good ideas to help us with accepting change in our lives. A positive attitude enhances our ability to accept change. We need to cultivate a more optimistic and positive approach to help us with the quality of our religious life.

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"Our attitude toward life determines life's attitude towards us." ~Earl Nightingale

I know that to maintain a positive attitude during stressful times (change is always stressful) can be challenging. I would like to consider some simple steps to face and accept change.

1. **Gratitude:** This attitude exerts a powerful influence on your outlook. It does not only make you feel good at that moment it shifts your focus in a positive direction. You need to turn your attitude to blessings and keep them there. As you focus more on what you are grateful for in your life (even the really small blessings!), you will worry less about anything that may be lacking. As a result, you will practice a more general sense of happiness

"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others." ~Cicero



2. **Happiness:** We must choose to be happy. Being happy is not about circumstances or any outside force. It is a choice. Why not start now if you have not done so already? Let yourself be all wrapped up in happiness. Like a big comfortable blanket.



“The greatest part of our happiness depends on our dispositions, not our circumstances.” ~Martha Washington

3. **Change the word problem to challenge:** The funny thing is that the word Problem says, “Life is not what it should be.” So your energy is focused on repairing something that has gone wrong. Where problem is your focus, you try to repair. Instead, see a challenge and use your resources to search for an opportunity. Seeing an experience as a challenge will focus your attention on a positive outcome.

“The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”
~Winston Churchill.

4. **Stop and take time out:** When you are rushed and bothered it is difficult to maintain a positive attitude. Focus on some simple pleasures that can restore your sense of balance to your life.

“It is always wise to stop wishing for things long enough to enjoy the fragrance of those now flowering.”
~Patrice Gifford

5. **Start your day on a positive note:** Start your day with your prayers and meditation. Think positive thoughts. Think of people and events that will bring you joy or a sense of satisfaction. Let your positive attitude flow into you the entire day.

6. **Be positively aware:** Make it a habit to search for the positive side of everything. Become alert to all the reasons to feel optimistic about your life.

“When you change the way you look at things; the things you look at change.”

~Max Planck

7. **Act out happy:** When you make a conscious effort to walk the walk and talk the talk, your feelings will soon follow. If you act like a happy optimistic person, your mind accepts that as your reality.

8. **Mix with optimistic people:** Use the power of peer influence to feed your sense of optimism. The positive attitude of the people around you can be a powerful force for good. Seek out the company of those with a sunny disposition and let yourself be influenced by their optimism. Use the group dynamic to your benefit.

“Life is change. Growth is optional.



Choose wisely.”
~Karen Kaiser Clark

9. **Review of the day:** As you know, it is a great way to end the day. Before you go to sleep think of at least ten things that you are grateful for. Let yourself feel the joy that these things bring to your life. Fall asleep, thanking God while reflecting on your blessings.



“Reflect each day on all you have to be grateful for and you will receive more to be grateful for.” ~Chuck Danes

Brothers, we need to see life as a journey because a journey is an adventure of discovery. When we are on a journey we do not fear change. In fact, we welcome it. We look forward to new and unfamiliar experiences. On a journey we are optimistic about new experiences because we are filled with expectations of wonderful adventure. This would be a perfect positive attitude to carry with you concerning the Provincial Chapter.

Have faith in God,

believe in yourself,

and be optimistic,

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| 09-07-1992 | Elia Madimba |
| 23-07-1985 | Boston Ngulube |
| 25-07-1970 | Vigirio Bwalya |
| 26-07-1992 | Stephen Muleba |
| 28-07-1978 | José Hebo Francisco ("Richa") |
| 29-07-1969 | Geraldo Medida |



The Pledge of Fourvière – 23 July 1816

**We the undersigned, striving to work together
for the greater glory of God
and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus,
assert and declare our sincere intention and firm will
of consecrating ourselves at the first opportunity
to founding the pious congregation of Marists ...**



- For the **four MARIST CONGREGATIONS** who trace their roots to the pledge at Fourvière, and for the success of the **INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF MARIST YOUTH**.
- For our recently deceased: the grandfather of novice **JOÃO MANUEL GABRIEL**; the younger brother of Br. Felizardo, **ARCANJO VASCO DOMINGOS MACEIA**, who died early in June,
- For our **sick especially Brother EUGÈNE KABANGUKA**
- For God's blessings on our **PROVINCIAL CHAPTER** next month.

Something to think about OPTIMISM

My friend Jerry was one of the most positive people I had ever known. He was always in a good mood and always had something encouraging to say.

He was a manager at a restaurant. If his employee had a bad day, Jerry always helped him to look on the positive side of the situation.

Jerry's attitude truly amazed me. So one day I asked him: "How can you be so positive all the time?" He replied: "You see, every morning I tell myself, that I have two choices for that day – to be in a good mood or in a bad one. I choose the good one. And when something wrong happens, I can be sad and angry or I can learn from it instead. I choose to learn. Thus I choose the positive side of life." I said: "It is not that easy". He replied: "Yes it is. Life is all about choices. You can choose how people or situation will affect your mood, your life".

One morning Jerry left the restaurant's back door open and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. He tried to open the safe, but his hands shook due to nervousness and he slipped off the combination. So the robbers shot him. Fortunately, Jerry was quickly found and brought to the nearest hospital. After many hours of surgery and long intensive care, Jerry was released home.

When I met him, I asked what his thoughts were during the robbery. "I thought that I should have locked the back door", he replied. "Then, when I was

lying on the floor, I remembered about my choices in this case: a choice to live and a choice to die. I chose to live."

I asked, if he was scared. Jerry continued: "When they wheeled me into emergency room and I looked at the faces of doctors, I got truly scared. I knew that I need to do something. So when the nurse asked me, if I was allergic to anything, I replied "Yes". Doctors and nurses stopped working as waited for my answer. I took a deep breath and yelled "Bullets". They started laughing and I said: "My choice is to live, treat me as I am alive, not dead".



Now Jerry is alive owing to skills of his doctors, however his amazing attitude played an important role too. I learned from him, that every day we should choose to live fully no matter what..

There came to my mind the image of the Church as a field hospital after a battle; it's true, so many people are wounded and destroyed! The wounded are taken care of, helped and healed, not subjected to analyses for cholesterol. I believe this is the moment of mercy..

Whenever we refer to the Bible, mercy speaks to us of a more "emotive" God than the God we sometimes imagine...Discovering this can lead us to be more tolerant, more patient and more tender.

The revolution of tenderness is what we need to cultivate today as the fruit of this Year of Mercy: God's tenderness towards each one of us.

The Revolution of Tenderness

Words of Pope Francis in answer to an Italian journalist about what message the Church has to offer the world of today. "In a world where we are becoming so accustomed to hearing bad news, the Church needs to be good news, helping us to discover a God who is a merciful Father."

(See Brother Emili's circular dated 6 June 2016, p.2)

BR. JOE'S CALENDAR

| JULY | |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 1 - 2 | Johannesburg |
| 3 | Travel to Luanda |
| 4 - 6 | Luanda |
| 7 - 9 | Ndalatando |
| 10 - 12 | Kwito |
| 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 |

| AUGUST | |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1 - 20 | Johannesburg |
| 22 | Travel to Malawi |
| 23 - 26 | Provincial Chapter |
| 27 | Travel to South Africa |



Br SÁBADO VALIA, translator, a KEY PERSON during the New Horizons Workshop in South Africa during April



A KEY PERSON

WORLD YOUTH DAY

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016

KRAKOW, POLAND
JULY 24 - AUGUST 1



ANNUAL SCHOOL LEADERS CONFERENCE RSA

Marist Leaders of South African schools meet

07/06/2016: South Africa

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Me gusta



Leaders from the 5 Marist schools in South Africa met from the 25-27 May to look at the theme of 'Regeneration – seeing new visions, dreaming new dreams'.

They were inspired both by Pope Francis' call to 'look at our cities with a contemplative gaze, a gaze which sees God dwelling in their homes, in their streets and squares...' (Evangelii Gaudium; #71) as well as by Water from the Rock – 'Sustained by the faith and example of St. Marcellin and the first Brothers, Marist spirituality urges us to move towards unexplored

horizons (155)'.

As well as looking at the systemic regenerative projects in the city of Johannesburg, they also spent time reflecting on rejuvenating themselves professionally and spiritually, as leaders in education, and stewards of the Marist charism.



CHAMPAGNAT DAY AT THE GENERAL HOUSE



DIPLOMA of ADVANCED STUDIES IN SAFEGUARDING MINORS

Pope Francis to 1st graduates of Safeguarding Minors Diploma

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2016-06-14 Vatican Radio



(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis has commended the Pontifical Gregorian University's recently created Centre for Child Protection (CCP) and expressed his hope that new graduates will be "brave and committed" to the prevention of sexual abuse of minors. On Tuesday, 14 June, the first 19 students of the Centre's new Diploma of Advanced Studies,

"Safeguarding Minors" received their degree in a graduation ceremony in Rome.

In a personal letter to the president of the Centre for Child Protection, Fr. Hans Zollner sj, Pope Francis expressed his gratitude to the professors and graduates of the course: "First of all I want to thank you and your entire faculty for this commitment to the prevention of sexual abuse of minors. You have undertaken great efforts for the prevention and healing of minors who have been sexually abused. I extend my greetings to those who complete the programme. I wish you courage and patience; be brave and committed. I assure you that you will receive many signs of gratitude. I pray for you and I ask you to do the same for me."

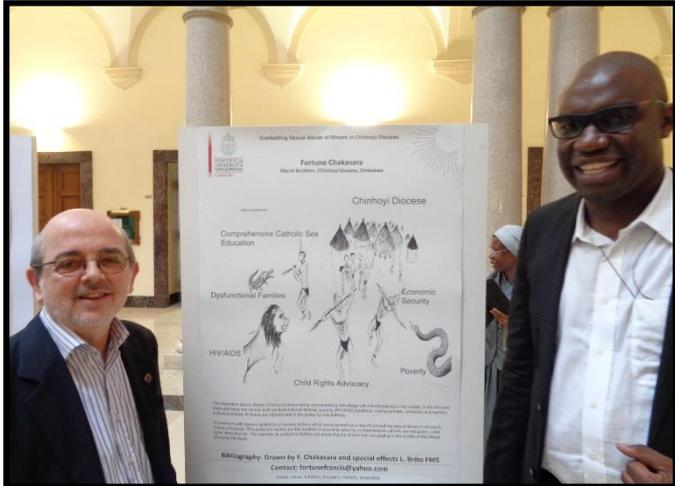
A University statement explains that the one term qualification programme educates international students as prevention experts to counteract sexual abuse of minors. This unique worldwide initiative was started as a part of the proactive prevention strategy of the Catholic Church in February 2016.

The CCP of the Pontifical Gregorian University awards the diploma. Instituted in 2012, the CCP is an institution of the Catholic Church advocating safeguarding measures and protection for minors and people in need around the world.

TWO SPECIAL PHOGRAPHS



Marist Brothers working in Bangladesh



Graduation Day Tuesday 14 June 2016



CHAMPAGNAT DAY IN SOME OF OUR HOUSES & SCHOOLS



**MALAWI ZOMBA CATHOLIC SS
Staff & Students share a Feastday Meal**



**Mrs. Shona Smith imparts a blessing at the
Champagnat Day Mass, RONDEBOSCH, CPT**



**SACRED HEART COLLEGE JNB-Musicians
accompany hymns at the College Mass**



**ST HENRY'S DBN celebrated with a Holy Mass
in the College quadrangle**



LINMEYER JNB Champaganat Day and Golden Jubilee celebrated together



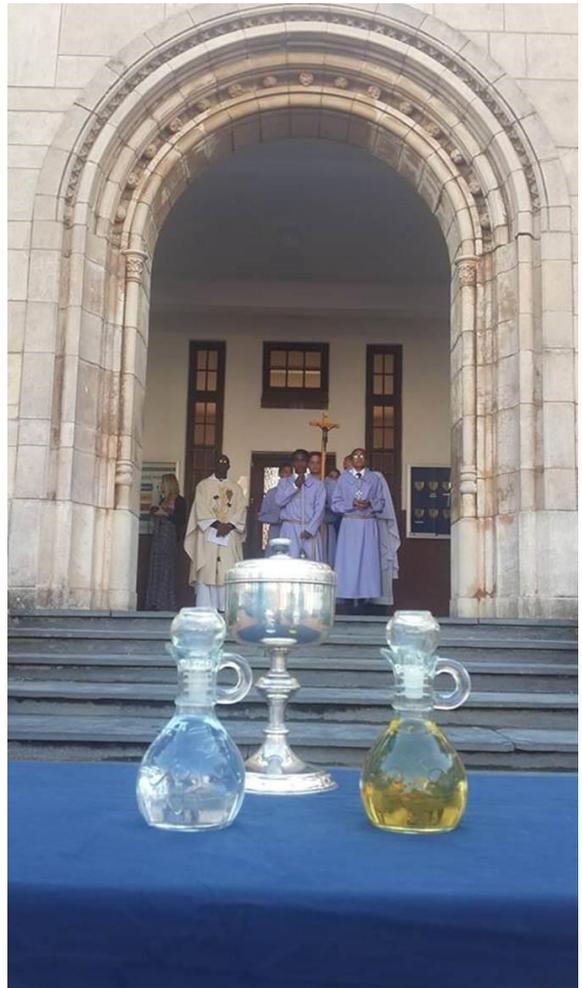
SACRED HEART COLLEGE Grade 12's twinned with Grade 1's for the entry procession



ST DAVID'S JNB Archbishop Buti Thlagale bestows a blessing on the Brothers at the end of the Champaganat Day Mass



KUITO-BIÉ - Offertory Procession at the Champaganat Day Mass



ST HENRY'S Entrance Procession



ST DAVID'S 75th Jubilee Mass Br Joe presents a statue of Our Good Mother to the College

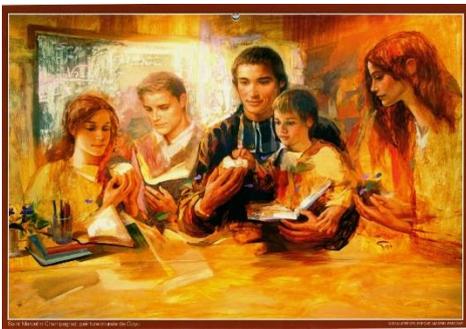


**LUSAKA - 6 June – at Christian Brothers Centre
Brs. Lourenço, Baptista, Raymond, Octaviano**

2 January 1817 - Foundation of the Marist Institute



DETE Form One students dramatise the departure of young Marcellin for the seminary



**KUITO-BIÉ Champagnat Day held some surprises
- Ice-skating in the tropics?!!**



**LINMEYER Flags of "Marist" countries
as part of the opening procession**



NOVITIATE - Holy Mass



NOVITIATE - Ordination of Champagnat



NOVITIATE - A Comida!

CHAMPAGNAT DAY CELEBRATION AT THE NOVITIATE

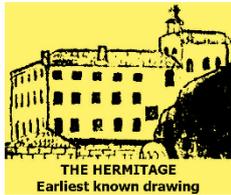
To celebrate the life of a Saint; his struggles, his triumphs, his virtues, his example, his teaching, is to endeavour to be like him. Saints are like stars, they enlighten us, they inspire us, they motivate us, so that we could follow their example.

In the novitiate house we spent the day of our Founder marvellously. We celebrated the day with the religious priests, brothers and sisters from different congregations that are around the community's locality, the youths, community workers and their family members. The celebration took place in the Novitiate premises on Saturday, 4th June, 2016, because it was a weekend hence it gave brothers the chance to celebrate with those who could have been busy on the actual day Monday the 6th June. Fraternally, the sector counselor Bro. Felizardo Vasco Maceia, Bro. João Reis, Bro. João Torcato and the Postulate Master Bro. Simeon Banda, who was on the community visit, shared their joy with the us.



NOVITIATE - Religious Communities

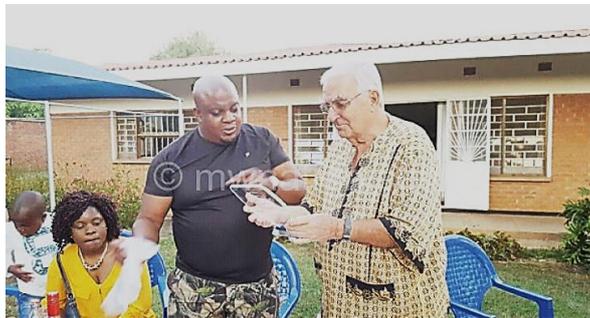
The celebration started with the Holy Mass. Father Roberto a Marian Hill priest was the main celebrant. He was together with Father Ranjdth, a Franceliano priest. During the mass, brothers had the moment of venerating the relic of our founder St. Marcellin Champagnat.



After mass before meals and recreation there was the exhibition of Marist Documents, Costume, Symbols as well as tools. Later after meals, there was a moment of recreation with some activities. Bro. João Torcato gave a talk on the life of the Founder. After that the Novices performed a play on the life of our Founder, poems and comedies. All in all, the day went on well and brothers had a remarkable experience.

Anderson Mphatso Kafatsa (1st year Novice)

MALAWI – “THE NATION” WRITES ABOUT A MARIST



Brother Dostie: The educator, mentor who loves Malawi

Sam Chunga June 19, 2016 0 Comments

Problem-solving and a passion for making people discover their God-given potential are two goals making Brother Ferdinand Dostie, aged 83, a significant person wherever he goes.

He came to Malawi in 1962 from his home in Quebec, in Canada, as a young man who had taught in his country for four years under the Marist Brothers of the Catholic Church.

In Malawi, Dostie first worked at Zomba Catholic Secondary School, where he taught English and Bible Knowledge. The school, popularly known as ‘Box 2’—going by the institution’s post office box number in the old capital city of Malawi—is one of the oldest secondary schools in the country.

He later taught at Likuni and Mtendere secondary schools, in Lilongwe and Dedza districts, respectively, before being appointed, in April, 1969, Superior of the Marist Brothers in Malawi and Zambia.

Having matured as a teacher and an administrator, Dostie returned to Zomba Catholic Secondary School in 1974 where he ran the school for an illustrious 20-year-period, to 1994, as headmaster.

The complete newspaper article can be found at:

<http://mwnation.com/brother-dostie-the-educator-mentor-who-loves-malawi/>



**MARIST BROTHERS LINMEYER celebrates its Golden Jubilee 1966- 2016
Staff and Pupils in formation on the sports field**



ST DAVID'S MARIST INANDA celebrates its 75th birthday 1941 - 2016