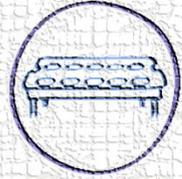




Marist Brothers – Irmãos I
Province of Southern Africa – Província da

NEWSLETTER

2017 March – April Vol.2 #5



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La Valla

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PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

Amen.



FROM BROTHER NORBERT

A HERO OF FAITH WITH GREAT LOVE AND CARE.

Two months ago on my visit to St. Joseph's College, Cape Town. I came across this phrase in a magazine: **"Every community and society has its own heroes and heroines."**



While thinking about some political and religious heroes and heroines of our time, I was led to thinking about the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph at Nazareth.



I focussed on Joseph, the head of the family, and looked at his whole life in relation to the depth of the love and care he had for Mary and the child Jesus. The idea that emerged in my mind became much clearer and shaped the theme of this article.

Experience has it that human and spiritual families have people with renowned qualities of life that make them live purposefully for the sake and good of others. There is no doubt that Joseph was a hero to his family, now to the universal Church, and for Christian family life.

When the angel of the Lord intervened in a dream that Joseph needed to take Mary home as his wife, he said yes, though initially Joseph as a just and an upright man intended to divorce Mary informally on account of the pregnancy he did not know about before. In genuine obedience, he accepted the will of God for him and carried it out for the true love of Mary and the mission entrusted to him: to be the foster father of Jesus.

When Joseph had to flee to Egypt with Mary in protection of the child in danger from Herod's distraction, he did what a hero, a loving and caring parent would do. He took a great risk, depriving himself of his own comfort and doing everything possible to protect and ensure the safety of his family.

He was a man with such great reverence to God that he responsibly and willingly sought God's will no matter how challenging and demanding it was.

"A good steersman is seen in bad weather."

In families and institutions, and in many societies, where children, young people and women are not treated as equally worthy of respect and dignity, Saint Joseph offers a great lesson of life in the way he treated Mary and the child Jesus.

A great measure of the inner richness of an individual and of a society is evident in the attitude and the care given to the less fortunate and the least favoured by life.

May we love and care for the needy and weaker members of society as Mary and Joseph cared for the child Jesus and in his adolescence.

Bro. Norbert Mwila – Provincial.

NORBERT



MATOLA – COMINGS AND GOINGS AT THE NOVITIATE

People come and go, but their memories cannot be erased from our hearts because they have contributed a lot to our well-being. For the past eleven years that Brother Mansoa has been at Matola novitiate house, his way of living inspired many people within and outside the community house. Those who did their novitiate in Matola will concur with me that he was one of the Brothers who provided much help as far as prayers are concerned and in many other things. Despite his age, he was very active in all the community programs and an inspiration to all of us. His great sense of humour and good relationship with people made him loved by everyone, in our community, the parish and those who come for solidarity. Indeed, he is a true disciple of Father Champagnat. We felt sad that he was leaving us; but overall we understood that, at his age, he deserves a rest. We wish him all the best and God’s graces upon his life.

The farewell party took place on 20 January. It was a double celebration in the community as the same event marked the official welcoming of the new novice master and community superior, Brother Emmanuel Emmanuel Mwanalirenji who had been appointed to replace Brother Norbert. We were very happy to have him around for we had been waiting for his coming for a couple of months. Saint Basil once said that ‘There is no Holiness without the Holy Spirit’ and there is the common saying that states that “There is no novitiate without the Novice Master, because the novitiate is where the Master is”. His coming brought joy and happiness to our community.

(Br Henry Ngeli, 2nd-year novice)



Time for speeches



Heartfelt Thanks

**MATOLA -
Igreja da paróquia
de São Gabriel**



OUR NEW NOVICE MASTER



Brother Emmanuel Mwanalirenji



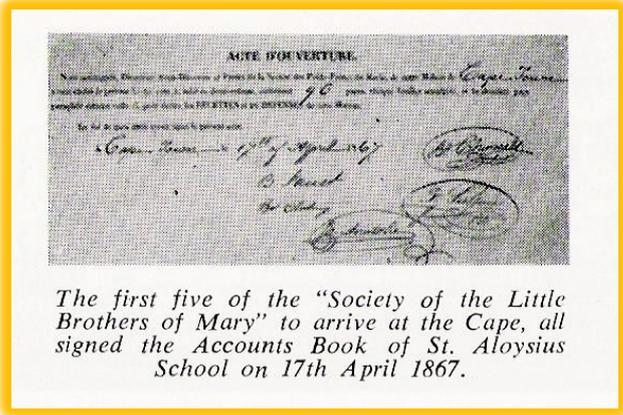
POPE FRANCIS & THE CURIA ON RETREAT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT



MARIST BROTHERS ARRIVE IN AFRICA 150 YEARS AGO

Within a few decades of Champagnat's death in 1840, the Marist Brothers spread rapidly through France, and also established themselves in Belgium, England, Scotland and Ireland. In 1863, the Vatican officially approved the Marist Brothers as an international congregation. Shortly afterwards, the Thomas Grimley, the second Catholic Bishop to be based in Cape Town, wrote to the Vatican asking for teaching Brothers for the diocesan *Mercantile and Commercial Academy* in Hope Street, seeing that the lay teachers had not proved successful. The request was passed on to the Superior General of the Marist Brothers and four years later, the Institute sent a group of Brothers to set up the first Marist Brothers school outside of Europe.

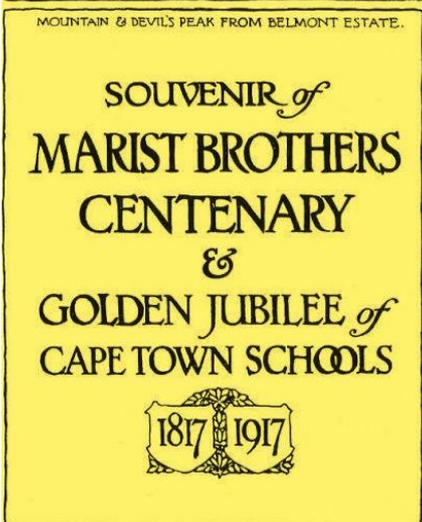
The five pioneers chosen for this mission, Brothers Chumald and Anatolie (France), Sulpice (Belgium), Faust (England) and Anthony (Ireland), set sail from Toulon in the French gunboat *L'Ephigénie* on 12 February 1867 and disembarked 63 days later at



The first five of the "Society of the Little Brothers of Mary" to arrive at the Cape, all signed the Accounts Book of St. Aloysius School on 17th April 1867.

Simon's Bay on 16 April. It needed another two days to take them and their belongings to Cape Town by ox-wagon.

The Brothers took over the diocesan school but moved it, almost immediately, to a site at the junction of Hatfield and St John Streets. No fees were charged, the financing being provided by the colonial government of the time.



St Aloysius School and St Joseph's Academy

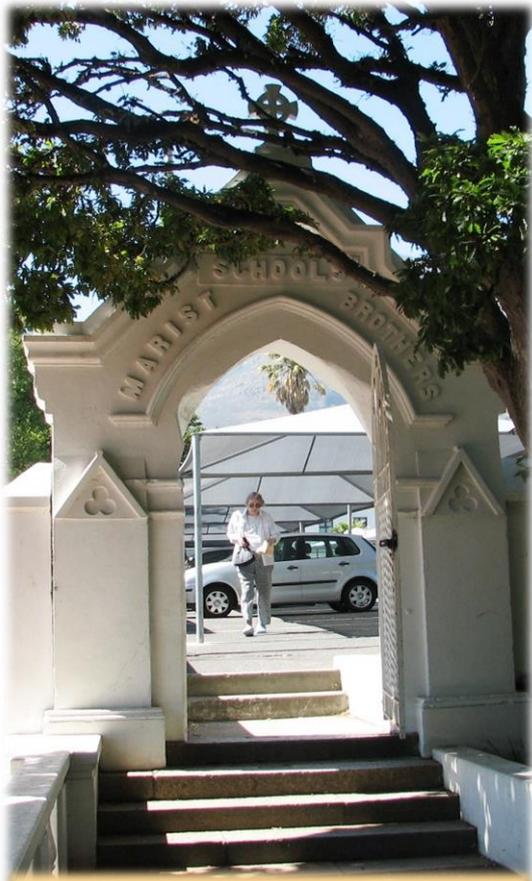
The Brothers renamed the diocesan establishment St Aloysius, and elsewhere in the city, they established a private school, St Joseph's Academy, which they later moved to the Hatfield Street campus. Both schools were for boys only. St Aloysius' School catered for the primary classes, while the first three years of secondary were offered at Saint Joseph's Academy. Both schools were open to boys regardless of "colour" until restrictions were imposed after the inauguration of the Union of South Africa in 1910.

In 1917, the Brothers celebrated both the centenary of the foundation of the Institute and the Golden Jubilee of the two schools in Cape Town (cf. the brochure produced at the time. The Academy is on the right hand side).

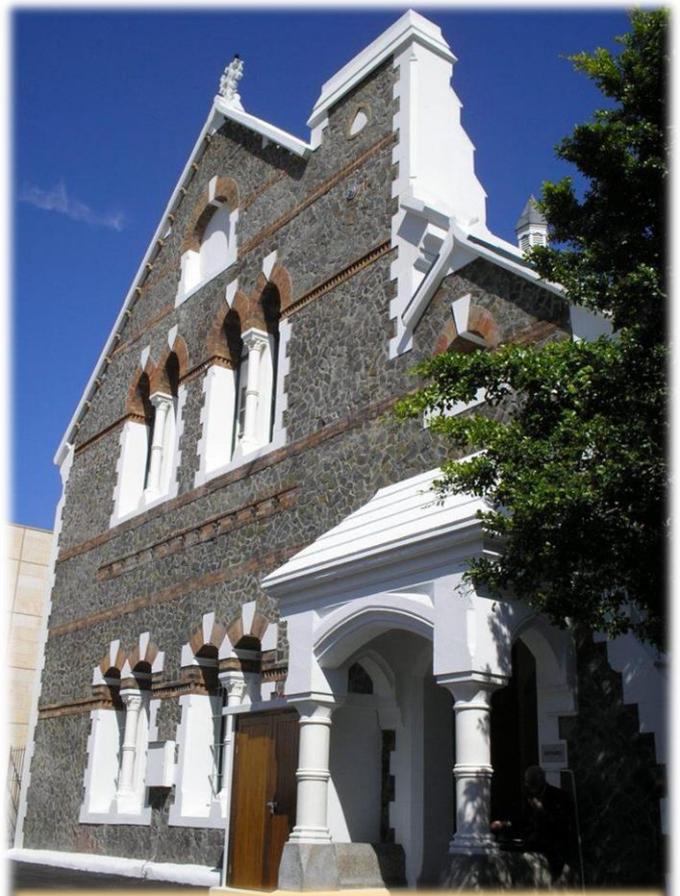
Subsequent History

In 1918, the Brothers established St Joseph's College, in Rondebosch, eventually covering both primary and secondary schooling. The Academy in the city continued until its closure in 1933. In the 1960's, the government let it be known that they would expropriate the property of St Aloysius to create an Annexe to the South African National Gallery. Therefore, at the end of 1970, our school in Hatfield Street was closed. It moved successively to two other church properties in the "City Bowl", until its eventual incorporation into St Joseph's College in 1985.

To this day, raised lettering reading *Marist Brothers Schools* can still be seen on the arched gateway leading from the Public Gardens to the property. The historically Catholic and Irish connections of the Annexe are revealed in the Celtic cross surmounting the building and the three-leaf clover design on the pillars of the external wall (cf. the picture of the portal on the next page).



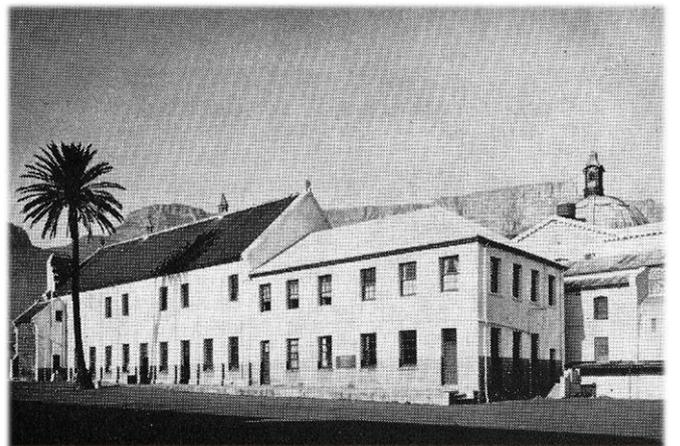
2017: Portal from the Company Gardens to the former Marist Brothers schools



Façade of St Aloysius' School facing Hatfield Street



View of Table Mountain from the former playground



St Aloysius' Primary School Cape Town Est.1867
Left: The Hall & Classrooms; Right: Brothers house.
The Jewish synagogue lies behind the school.



- ✓ Brothers **Kudakwashe Blessed Vambe** and **Geraldo Medida** wish to thank all those who sent messages of condolence after they had lost a family member.
- ✓ The **bountiful summer rains** over much of Southern Africa.
- ✓ Thanks for the **pioneer Brothers** who set out for distant parts of the world to bring young people the good news that God loves them.
- ✓ Thanks for all the **blessings on the Institute** over the past 200 years, and for our presence in Africa for 150 years.

RECENT PHOTOS OF INTEREST



Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSSAC) Meeting in Nairobi January 2017



Brother Claude Audy at Marist Mercy Camp in Addo, Eastern Cape, South Africa, December 2016



MIC Workshop on Marist Patrimony for the Brothers in First Year January 2017



Community at St Joseph's in Rondebosch, Cape Town Brothers Joseph, Gerónimo and Rufino February 2017



Br João Reis at the Celebration 1 February 2017

A Portuguese Missionary in Malawi

An official welcome was arranged to mark the arrival of Brother João Reis to Malawi and to the Postulancy. Representatives of all three houses were present for the occasion.

In a short speech of thanks, João acknowledged the peace and warmth he had experienced from the Brothers and the people in the area.



MEETING OF THE MISSION COMMITTEE IN ROME



The first meeting of the newly composed Mission Committee came to an end on the 25th February, 2017. The meeting brought together the members of the committee, the general council and the members of the FMSI Board.

The discussion centred on the mandate of the committee, the definition of roles based on the proposed new models, the synergy among the different secretariats at the service of our Marist life and mission and proposals on how the committee will attend to its work in the next two years.

The committee has commenced work in the following areas: Shared Services, Tactical Plan, Tailoring of Reports, proposal on Staffing, Change Management, and Formation on working in networks.

The Committee of Mission, nominated by the General Council, from January 2017 replaces the *International Mission Commission*.

In his letter to the Provincial (17th of July 2016), Br Emili Turú said, “The Committee, among its functions will have the task of advising the General Council in all that concerns Marist mission. In particular, and in conjunction with the General Council, the Committee will study both the delegation of certain functions and authority, which could be taken on by a future *Mission Council*, as well as the services that mission may require at general level.”

The Members of the Committee are: Frank Malloy (Australia), Br Gregorio Linacero (America Central), Mike Greeff (Southern Africa), Br Marciano Guzman (Mediterránea), Paulo Sirino (Brasil Centro-Sul), Br Ador Santiago (East-Asia), Br Victor Manuel Preciado, (General Council) Br Josep Maria Soteras (General Council) and Marzia Ventimiglia (Director FMSI)



- **PEACE** in Syria, South Sudan, D.R.Congo, Central ...
- Our Brothers who have recently lost family members: **BLESSED VAMBE** and **GERALDO MEDIDA**
- Preparations for the **22ND GENERAL CHAPTER**
- **BR GOTTFRIED PRECHTL** who died in Germany at the age of 87. He had spent some 20 years in Roo (Kenya). Many Brothers of our Province will remember his prayerfulness, zeal and spirit of work.

HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS ON ASH WEDNESDAY

Basilica of Santa Sabina

(Selected extracts)

In this season of grace that begins today, we once again turn our eyes to his mercy. Lent is a path: it leads to the triumph of mercy over all that would crush us or reduce us to something unworthy of our dignity as God's children. Lent is the road leading from slavery to freedom, from suffering to joy, from death to life. The mark of the ashes with which we set out reminds us of our origin: we were taken from the earth, we are made of dust. True, yet we are dust in the loving hands of God, who has breathed his spirit of life upon each one of us, and still wants to do so. He wants to keep giving us that breath of life that saves us from every other type of breath: the stifling asphyxia brought on by our selfishness, the stifling asphyxia generated by petty ambition and silent indifference – an asphyxia that smothers the spirit, narrows our horizons and slows the beating of our hearts. The breath of God's life saves us from this asphyxia that dampens our faith, cools our charity and strangles every hope. To experience Lent is to yearn for this breath of life that our Father unceasingly offers us amid the mire of our history.



Lent is the time for saying no. No to the spiritual asphyxia born of the pollution caused by indifference, by thinking that other people's lives are not my concern, and by every attempt to trivialize life, especially the lives of those whose flesh is burdened by so much superficiality. Lent means saying no to the toxic pollution of empty and meaningless words, of harsh and hasty criticism, of simplistic analyses that fail to grasp the complexity of problems, especially the problems of those who suffer the most. Lent is the time to say no to the asphyxia of a prayer that soothes our conscience, of an almsgiving that leaves us self-satisfied, of a fasting that makes us feel good. Lent is the time to say no to the asphyxia born of relationships that exclude, that try to find God while avoiding the wounds of Christ present in the wounds of his brothers and sisters: in a word, all those

forms of spirituality that reduce the faith to a ghetto culture, a culture of exclusion.

Lent is a time for remembering. It is the time to reflect and ask ourselves what we would be if God had closed his doors to us. What would we be without his mercy that never tires of forgiving us and always gives us the chance to begin anew? Lent is the time to ask ourselves where we would be without the help of so many people who in a thousand quiet ways have stretched out their hands and, in very concrete ways, have given us hope and enabled us to make a new beginning?

**LENT IS A TIME
FOR A NEW BEGINNING**



Lent is the time to start breathing again. It is the time to open our hearts to the breath of the One capable of turning our dust into humanity. It is not the time to rend our garments before the evil all around us, but instead to make room in our life for all the good we are able to do. It is a time to set aside everything that isolates us, encloses us and paralyzes us. Lent is a time of compassion, when, with the Psalmist, we can say: "Restore to us the joy of your salvation, sustain in us a willing spirit", so that by our lives we may declare your praise (cf. Ps 51:12.15), and our dust – by the power of your breath of life - may become a "dust of love".



BIRTHDAYS



| MARCH | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 03-03-1986 | Tererai Gijima |
| 03-03-1991 | Raphael Time Kenneth |
| 07-03-1973 | Leonard Brito |
| 11-03-1973 | Emmanuel Mwanalirenji |
| 12-03-1964 | José Antonio Pascual |
| 13-03-1984 | José Gemusse |
| 20-03-1974 | Francis Jumbe |
| 20-03-1992 | Joseph Lazarus |
| 25-03-1932 | James Langlois |
| 28-03-1961 | Nicholas Banda |
| 28-03-1990 | Golden Tati |

| APRIL | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 02-04-1982 | Witman Phiri |
| 04-04-1972 | Evans Musakanya |
| 04-04-1989 | Ângelo Cassinda |
| 05-04-1968 | Patrick Bushilya |
| 09-04-1935 | António Pisco |
| 12-04-1969 | Patrick Bwalya |
| 18-04-1993 | Pascoal Tchaculanda (nov.ad.17) |
| 21-04-1966 | Auxensio Dickson |
| 24-04-1969 | Norbert Mwila |



| MAY | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 01-05-1987 | Godfrey Kadzuwa |
| 01-05-1993 | Guilherme Aly (nov.adm.2016) |
| 06-05-1967 | Arthur Ganiza |
| 08-05-1936 | Jesus Sánchez Martin |
| 09-05-1984 | Victor Mwamba |
| 10-05-1956 | António Sanasan |
| 11-05-1971 | Gilbert Zenda |
| 15-05-1975 | Kasongo Mwape |
| 15-05-1994 | Mineses Artur (nov.adm.2016) |
| 17-05-1982 | Chrisantius Mwansa |
| 23-05-1941 | Neil McGurk |
| 24-05-1994 | Peter Joseph (nov.adm.2016) |
| 25-05-1987 | Joseph Daka |
| 25-05-1991 | António Armando |
| 25-05-1992 | Yob Mathias |
| 30-05-1995 | Constantino Tchilungo (nov.ad.2016) |
| 30-05-1996 | Daniel Sakals (nov.adm.2017) |
| 31-05-1936 | Christopher Zimmermann |

