



Marist Brothers – Irmãos Maristas

Province of Southern Africa – Província da África Austral

NEWSLETTER

2019 Nov - Dec Vol.2 #21

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SILVER JUBILEE OF PROFESSION

Br John Katumbi 1994 – 2019

Celebration at Rhumpi, Northern Malawi



THE CELEBRATION

The venue chosen for the event was the parish of St Denis in Rhumpi, not far from the home area of Br John Katumbi.

The local Ordinary, Bishop John Ryan of Mzuzu, not being well at the time, asked Bishop George Lungu of the Chipata Diocese to take his



HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY

Br Jude Pieterse – 1 September 2019



At the beginning of September, a number of Jude's relatives came to the Johannesburg community to celebrate the special occasion with us. In the photo on the left, his sister Margie is standing on Jude's right; the other sister, Lorraine, is seated on his left. Arthur, the first-born, completes the picture. The picture at the bottom was taken at a later celebration organised by the Custodians for South Africa.



Snapped at the
Birthday Dinner



**YOUNG BROTHERS
RENEW THEIR VOWS
BEFORE GOING TO
MIC IN NAIROBI**

Inocêncio FELISMINO, José DUNDU,
Daniel SAKALA, Benson TAONELE,
Pascoal TCHACULANDA, Paul CHIKAOLA



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER	
10-11-1984	Diogo Santana (Int. Comm.)
10-11-1994	Gerônimo Raimundo
13-11-1932	João Torcato
17-11-1968	Boniface Chirambo
21-11-1977	Fortune Chakasara
24-11-1968	António Viana
24-11-1994	João Gabriel
26-11-1995	Evance Masangano (nov.ad.2019)
27-11-1948	Vincent George
28-11-1986	Mark Chikandwe

DECEMBER	
02-12-1994	Necas Pululo (nov.ad.2019)
15-12-1990	José Ngongue
23-12-1941	João Reis
23-12-1949	Denis Ntacyica
30-12-1934	Emmanuel Lapointe

JANUARY	
01-01-1925	Paul Nkhoma
01-01-1986	Sábado Valia
07-01-1986	Raymond Mbao
07-01-1993	Christopher Chagunda
08-01-1977	Ebel Muteveri
20-01-1963	Evaristus Kasambwe
21-01-1995	Benson Taonele
23-01-1977	Reuben Banda
27-01-1994	Sydney Moyenda
28-01-1962	Alexander Damalekani
29-01-1978	Maria Bobillo (Int. Comm.)



PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for November and December:

- * That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East
- * That all countries determine to take measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority

CAMEROON That the conflicts in that country be resolved in peace, and for our Brothers and their students. Our schools in Cameroon have not been able to operate since the end of 2018.

FOR OUR ELDERLY AND SICK BROTHERS, among whom Br Paul Nkhoma and Br Jude Pieterse

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL Brother Norbert and the new set of Councillors would appreciate our prayers for them as they meld into a new team and work to promote the ideals proposed in our General Chapter of 2017 and in our recent Provincial Chapter.

WELCOME BACK ...



Once again, the Province of Compostela has “loaned” Brother DOMINGOS LOPES to our Province. He will be with us for another spell of three years.

We wish you well, Brother, as you join our community and school at Bilene, and assist the parish priest to set up a new “outstation” in the area.



The LORD lift up
his countenance on you,
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:26



THE “CAMINO” OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

A PILGRIMAGE INCLUDING BROTHERS OF OUR PROVINCE

From August 8 to October 5, thirteen Brothers¹ under the age of 45 participated in the "Horizons" program in Manziana. At the beginning of the journey, they walked the "Camino di San Francesco", from La Verna to Assisi. Brother Joaquim Sperandio, a member of the formation community of Manziana, tells us about that experience.

Walking the "Camino di San Francesco" is to realize that life is an eternal pilgrimage along little-known paths, overcoming challenges and barriers, and achieving little successes to reach the final goal. We covered 108 kilometres in five days. We started at La Verna, the place where St. Francis lived for some time and where he received the grace of the stigmata. "Here one experiences God," said one of the Brothers. There we were received by the local Franciscans, and stayed in their Convent. We participated in the Mass of the Assumption with many people and heard from a very communicative friar, a spiritual explanation of this poetic, mystical and sacred space, nestled between mountains and forests.



On August 16, guided by the "T" (Tau) that marks the route, we left early: Pieve di Santo Stefano - San Sepolcro – Citerna – Città di Castello – Valfabrica – Assisi. Between Città di Castello and Valfabrica (90 km), due to lack of time, we travelled by bus to Gubbio. We would have preferred to walk the whole way.

To do the "*Cammino di San Francesco*" is much more than mere walking. The experience leads to silence, to stillness, to spaces of contemplation, to the experience of spirituality, to the appreciation of details. We receive and exchange wisdom, inner harmony and breath. It is a personal experience, in a communal environment. It was necessary to help each other, especially on the second day, when we walked 37 km uphill and downhill. We slept in common rooms, we shared the same bottle of water, the same food, the same aches all over our bodies. And together we went on, with our eyes fixed on the final goal.

What fantastic landscapes we could see from the top of the mountains! We climbed peaks higher than a thousand metres. The nature of the Italian region called Umbria is exuberant! It's wonderful to hear the silence in those lonely places. It was there that Francis moulded his being and internalized his spirituality. He had reason to praise God in creatures.

Along the way, we met many people. Almost all sought silence, challenge, encounter with God in contact with nature and with other pilgrims. The greeting among the pilgrims synthesized what we carried in our hearts: "**Pax et Bonum!**"



The centres of art and culture responded to our curiosity. In addition to the monastery of La Verna, we visited a number of cultural sites with works of art –the Eremo di Cerbaiolo and the Eremo di Montecasale (places where St. Francis, St. Bonaventure and St. Anthony stayed), countless churches and ancient castles. The works of art of famous or unknown authors sensitized our hearts to the good and the beautiful.

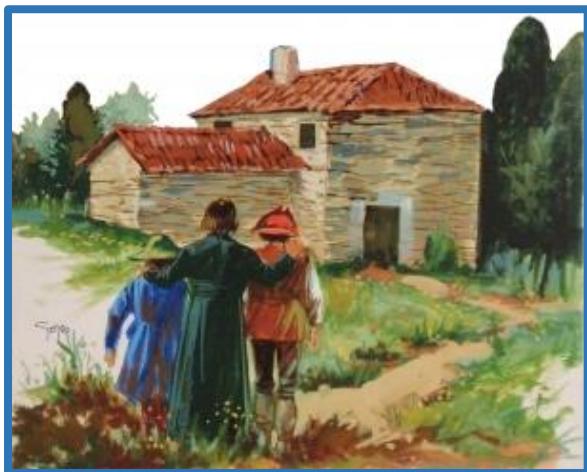
Words fail to capture how we felt on seeing the city of Assisi from afar with its monumental basilica at the top of the hill. Our hearts beat faster and the sore feet hurried. Finally, at about noon on 20 August we reached the Sanctuary of St. Francis, with grateful hearts, confirmed in faith, in spirituality, and strengthened in character. And with a spontaneous prayer, we joined the thousands of tourists to praise God.

On receiving the certificate for "completers" of the *Cammino di San Francesco*, we truly felt "**PAX ET BONUM**".

¹ Including Brothers Richard Chidothi, Patrick Banda, and Joe Walton



OUR NEW “RULE OF LIFE” “Wherever you go ...”(Ruth 1:16)



During the September plenary session, the team that drafted the Rule of Life submitted the final text to the Superior General for approval. On 20 September, the General Council, having studied the text, approved it and agreed on the next steps.

On 7 October 2019, this text was made public in Spanish and English, and a provisional electronic edition, without notes, will be published for provisional use in the Administrative Units and for translation into other languages.

The official approval of the document is scheduled for 2 January 2020 and then it will be presented to the whole Institute in the four official languages. The electronic form is now available on

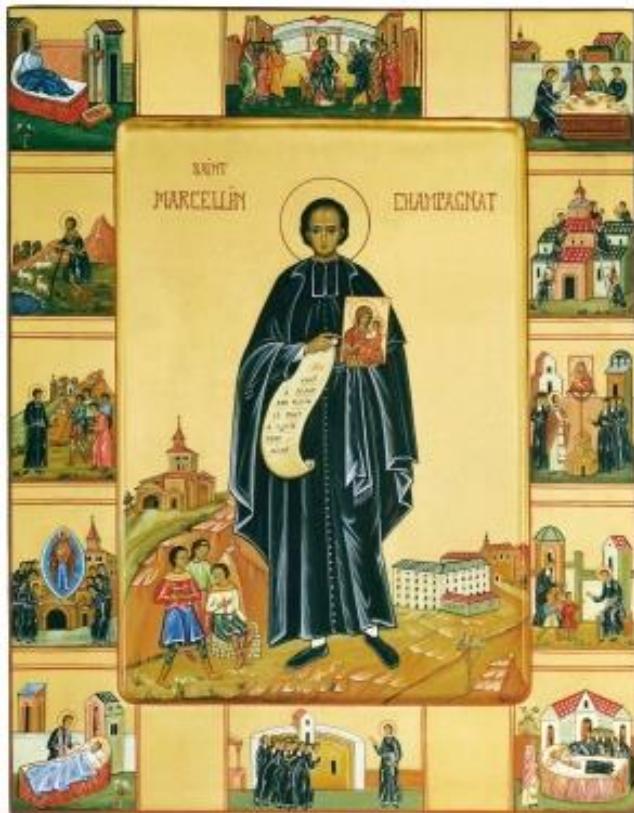
<http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=5313>

The **Constitutions** represent an established document, of a **canonical** character, which defines the religious life of the Brothers within the Church and approved by the Holy See. On the other hand, the **Rule of Life** is a **capitular** document, more flexible, capable of adapting to the times, with a less formal language, although it also forms part of the proper law of the Institute. It is made up of three chapters: the first addresses the **VOCATION OF THE BROTHER**, the second deals with **FRATERNITY**, and the third chapter deals with **MISSION**.



ADDRESS BY BROTHER ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ

at the launching of our RULE OF LIFE



Today, 7 October, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, an important document is presented to the Institute: *Wherever you go: Rule of Life of the Marist Brothers*. It is a text that allows us to deepen our understanding of our consecration, brotherhood and mission, and that can inspire an integrated approach to our spiritual journey. It belongs to our Proper Law, and is intended to be read, meditated on and prayed over, both personally and in community.

"Live your brotherhood with simplicity. Your primary mission is to be a brother and to promote brotherhood". (1) I repeat this invitation to all of you today: for this document to be more than a "Rule" or "set of obligations", but rather a source of inspiration and contemplation as we reflect on our contemporary Marist life and vocation as brother.

Ten years ago, in a reflection of the XXI General Chapter, we spoke of the need for a *conversion of heart*, in view of the ever-changing world in which we live. An in-depth revision of our Constitutions and Statutes was proposed, with a broad consultation of Brothers and with the purpose of helping us *revitalise our vocation*. Therefore, the Chapter recommended

We live out our CONSECRATION, our BROTHERHOOD and our MISSION, founded on a life-integrating spirituality

that this revision be carried out and a new text to be presented to the XXII General Chapter of 2017.

This process of consultation and revision began in 2013. We took up the reflection and conversations prompted by the guide, "*Stories of the Journey, Told Around the Fire*", and then had the chance to send in suggestions and amendments to the Constitutions and Statutes. The level of participation was high, and a large number of reports was received.

Along the way, the idea came up of producing a new document belonging to our Proper Law (3), a *Rule of Life*, which would contain inspiring thoughts and language, complementing our Constitutions and Statutes that are more canonical in character. This proposal was put to the XXII General Chapter and accepted. The Chapter welcomed the draft text and asked the General Council to develop further a final version and approve it.

.....

I would like to thank the editing teams for their effort and dedication. The text presented for the XXII General Chapter was prepared by Brothers Eduardo Navarro (México Occidental), Tony Clark (Australia), Antonio Peralta (Santa María de los Andes), Albert Nzabonaliba (PACE) y Sebastião Ferrarini (Brasil Sul-Amazonia). Brothers Seán Sammon (USA), Aureliano García Manzanal (Mediterránea) and Carlos Saúl Corzo Uribe (Norandina) worked on the text received from the Chapter. My thanks to Br. Josep María Soteras, from the General Council, who coordinated the work of both groups and accompanied the process from the beginning: both the revision of the Constitutions and Statutes as well as the writing of the Rule of Life. Thanks also to all who were consulted during the process.

With the assistance of this new document, may we seize the moment to revitalise our vocation and to live according to Mary's heart, as Champagnat wanted in giving us her name. Truly, it is worth the gift of our lives to be a BROTHER today!

Fraternally,

Br. Ernesto Sánchez B., Superior General.

MARIST YOUTH ON RETREAT AT ST LUCIA



Marist Youth South Africa, have been very blessed to spend a week away (26 – 30 Sep 2019) on retreat in St Lucia, on the north coast of KwaZulu-Natal. It was a wonderful experience for all involved, as it allowed each of us to slow down, and step outside the bustling busy lives we lead. It enabled us the chance to stop and truly examine our own spirituality and that of St Marcellin Champagnat. We had an intimate space for reflection, silence, prayer and discussion, encased by the beautiful surrounds - a haven for nature lovers. We were accompanied by buck, monkeys, hippos, and butterflies ...

Our group was global: South Africa, Brazil, Germany, and Australia.

We were grateful for the organisers who made this possible: Br Neil McGurk and Sr Elizabeth Marie Ansart. The experience was facilitated by Frances Correia and Pam Paton-Mills. Their knowledge, passion and spirituality gave strength to us all.

Marist Youth South Africa is still in its infancy, but the strength of the youth is strong. The desire and hunger for Marist connection is only growing, and I for one look forward to seeing this wonderful group of youth grow in the Spirit of Marcellin.

(Beth Code – Marist Youth Coordinator – South Africa)
youth@marist.org.za

Some reflections from attendees:

"St Lucia is a very special place and the Catholic Retreat Centre within St Lucia is an equally special place - evidence everywhere of the presence of the Holy Spirit. This was the backdrop to the 2019 Marist Youth Retreat attended by a group of young folk, all there for the purpose of Spiritual introspection (and some fun!).

Every time I had the opportunity to observe, interact with or contribute to the Retreat it was me who grew. The quiet hand of the Spirit using the experiences and voices of these young people to show me the way along my own journey. Another deep Marist experience of our mission." – (Mike Greeff – Marist Schools Council Director, South Africa)

"One of the (numerous) joys in being part of this Marist experience is with the possibility of establishing new bridges. Last week, Juliana and I had the grateful happiness to participate in a youth retreat from South Africa and, in addition to the activities itself, we were able to know a little more about the reality of such amazing people as well as sharing a little of our personal history and the international community of which we are part.

It was days of prayer, reflection, silence and communion in Saint Lucia, a true natural paradise surrounded by hippos, crocodiles and lush nature. And in the afternoons, activities with the children of Khula Village - our first contact with Zulu culture.

Being in a space like this, for a week, strengthens the feeling of belonging to a great global charismatic family!" – (Diogo Galline – Lavalla200 Community Member – Atlantis)



“RESPONDING TO EMERGING NEEDS” IN CAMEROON

Since November 2018, all the educational establishments run by the Marist Brothers in the Cameroon’s English-Speaking Regions have seen their doors shut. Many schools have witnessed the kidnapping of staff members or students or both. Equally all students who were previously in Marist run schools are either at home or have moved to other schools

Prior to the onset of the crisis in 2016, the Marist Brothers in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon had about 2200 students ... [in three schools. A fourth school] ..., *College Notre Dame des Nations*, Douala, lies in the majority Francophone part of Cameroon, and has not been affected.” (Br Peter Awoh)



Facing the reality

“The negative effects of the crisis in Cameroon are abounding: many people have died, some are internally displaced; many more are refugees, villages have been destroyed and many schools have been closed for the last two years. For the Marist Brothers in Cameroon this is a serious challenge: our apostolates have been greatly affected. This is the challenge in front of which we cannot remain indifferent. We have been reflecting and finding different ways of responding and we need to continue this process. We believe that we cannot afford be idle and irrelevant simply because our schools are not operating.

When Saint Albert’s Comprehensive College, Bafut could no longer operate, the Bafut Community had to figure out how to continue being relevant without a school. Faced with the ugly situation we opted to engaging in manual work aimed mainly at keeping the biggest Marist investment in the country intact. The brothers of the Bafut community have embraced this work with a positive attitude. We continually remind ourselves of work as something intrinsically good; we are co-creators of God’s world and work is part of our contribution in making the earth a beautiful home.” (Br. Tansam Elvis).

Renewing our service to all those in need

“The Brothers in Tatum Community had to redefine and reorient their apostolate and sense of brother-hood to embrace more and more poor young people caught in the violence, deprived of schooling and compelled to stay idle unlike their well to do friends fleeing to safer regions of the country. By occupying them with skills, development programs focused on fluent reading, basic study skills, public speaking and recreational games. Some of the young people had their eyes opened to hidden talents they can explore when the situation eventually comes back to normal. Besides these programs in moments of relative calm, the community became a makeshift refugee centre, welcoming and sheltering fleeing neighbours each time they were forced out of their homes by raging gun battles between the warring factions. Brothers have equally got fully involved in the Pastoral life of the Christian Community, offering spiritual and moral guidance where needed and collaborating to distribute material assistance to the displaced and homeless.” (Br. Stephen Kpansa)



Sowing seeds of love

(*The complete article can be found at
<http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=5281>*)

ALMOST 500 AFRICANS HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO GOD AS MARIST BROTHERS



Some months ago, Brothers Óscar Martín and Ken McDonald, link General Councillors for the African Region, completed their “contact visits” to the five administrative units of Africa and Madagascar.

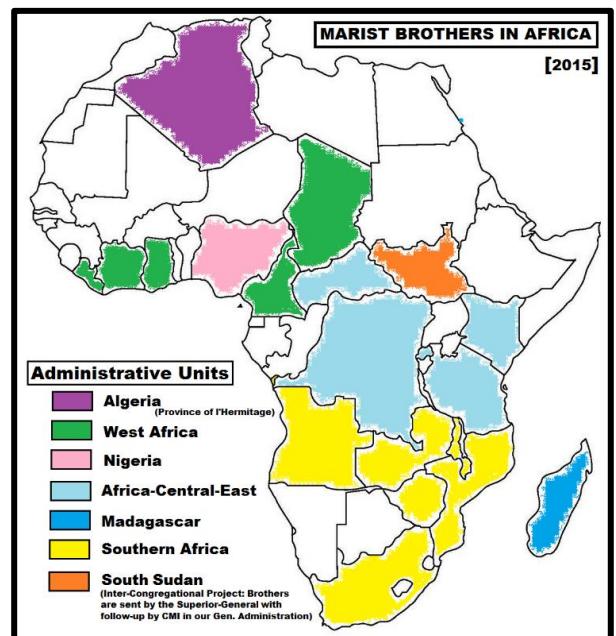
During their stay in each place, the Councillors spoke with the Leaders and Provincial Councillors and visited the houses of formation in West Africa, Nigeria, Southern Africa, Madagascar and East Central Africa.

Speaking of the challenges facing Marists in Africa, Br Óscar said that “they are growing well as a region, with the five administrative units developing closer ties. At the start, this was through formation; now it is through mission, as well, with small steps regarding Marist laypeople and other areas. So, Africa is moving ahead as a region in ways that we are envisaging for the whole Institute, that is to build a global family.”

Br Ken added, “We found that each province had a great deal of life, a great deal of energy. And obviously was bringing that life and energy to Marist life and mission.”

In the accompanying video, (use tools for subtitles) Brothers Óscar and Ken discuss the challenges of the Region of Africa and the commitment of the General Council to walk with them on their Marist journey.

[The Video is available at
<http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=5270>]



Young Brothers Annual Retreat

THEME

Journeying together as a global charismatic family,
a beacon of light and hope in this turbulent world.



A retreat refreshes and revitalizes, gives the opportunity for more time spent in prayer and contemplation, and rekindles and deepens one's relationship with God



Young brothers of the province of Southern Africa left their daily apostolic activities and met in Lusaka at Kasisi Retreat Centre run by the religious sisters known as *Little Servants of Mary Immaculate*, to deepen their relationship with God in prayer and contemplation, and to rekindle their Marist vocation.

The retreat was preached by Fr Nicolas, a diocesan priest from Ndola Diocese, and the author of a book entitled **Planted to Bloom**.

The theme, **Journeying together as a global charismatic family, a beacon of light and hope in this turbulent world**, was well covered. The Brothers appreciated the manner in which the retreat was conducted.

The retreat ended with the renewal of vows which were received by Bro Ebel Muteveri, the Deputy Provincial, on behalf of the Superior General.



(Br Peter Zulu)



PHOTOS



Sacred Heart College: Boys at the school protest outside the gates against gender-based violence. Passing motorists hoot in support.



Novice gardeners take a mini-break for the sake of a photo.



Novices at Matola enjoy their Mini-Soccer
Their Novice-Master has a booming boot!



Saint Lucia KZN



Boys at Sacred Heart College join a nation-wide protest against violence against women

OVER 100 MORE PORTRAIT PHOTOS ...

You'll find them in the colourful **MIC HANDBOOK 2019-2010**, downloadable from ...

<http://www.champagnat.org/shared/bau/MICHANDBOOK2019-2020.pdf>



GRAND OPENING

Marist Mercy Care continues to astound!

GRAND OPENING of Place of Mercy and Hope Baby and Toddler Care Centre in Addo, Eastern Cape, South Africa

The Place of Mercy and Hope, under the banner Marist Mercy Care, is known for its mission helping the poor in the Sunday's River Valley, Eastern Cape, South Africa and has been doing so for the past 13 years.

The Place of Mercy and Hope opened its newest project, a Baby and Toddler Care Centre in July 2019. The Centre, sponsored by Cape Span, a long-time supporter, has capacity for caring for over twenty children (aged 0-3 years) allowing parents to continue their daily work on orange farms knowing their children are in a safe and caring environment.



Sister. Martha and Sister Breda (Sisters of Mercy) and Jason Grieve (Marist Alumnus) were inspired by a local lady (Gloria) who was running a baby care facility out of an informal dwelling where the floor was sand and the walls and roof were made of a tin structure.



Gloria displayed so much love and care for these children that Sr.'s Martha and Breda and Jason wanted to develop her vision even further by providing a safe environment and structure where Baby Care could develop further. Gloria agreed to partner with us and so began the Place of Mercy and Hope Baby and Toddler Care Centre.

The Addo area, famous for the Addo Elephant Park, has Formal and Informal settlements with many disadvantaged communities. For the past 13 years, the Place of Mercy and Hope has been helping these communities by providing a Crèche and Pre School educating 160 disadvantaged children, Soup Kitchen's that distribute food to 400 starving children and adults weekly, Adult Education Courses educating 300 computer illiterate people annually, a Clinic helping the sick and dying, as well as helping families obtain birth certificates, identity documents and social grants.

The Place of Mercy and Hope not only helps communities but employs locals from the Addo area and provides educational development, when funding is available. Currently, the Non-Profit Organisation has a staff of thirteen dedicated people that help the Place of Mercy and Hope achieve its mission.

The Place of Mercy and Hope follows the ethos established by Br. Christopher (Marist Brother) and Sr.'s Martha and Breda (Sisters of Mercy). All children regardless of their background are cared for.

We are incredibly proud of our progress and are delighted to share this with the greater Marist world. We challenge Marist and Mercy from around the world to come and visit our wonderful projects in Addo, Eastern Cape, South Africa.





In August 2019, Marist Mercy Care extended a joyous welcome to Lea and Cazrine, our volunteers for the next ten months. Lea is a Marist Alumnus and joins us from CMI Marist and Cazrine is a local South African volunteer. We are thrilled to welcome these young ladies to Addo and be part of Marist Mercy Care!

Below are two short summaries of the first week experienced by Cazrine and Lea.

A very good, interesting and challenging week has gone by. Working at the Crèche with all the cheerful children around me is already such a fulfilling and exciting experience. I've also met a lot of new people and even if I don't understand at all about what they are actually talking about they are so kind and open - hearted. And as Sister Martha and Sister Breda say: "they all speak the language of love." Furthermore I

*started to experience the culture of South Africa, which is exciting as well as challenging in some points. Lots of love,
Lea*

*At another end of a wonderful week...I begin with THANKING the Lord for his mercy. There are so many things that I have been really grateful for especially making a difference in each child's life...I am grateful to have wonderful people by my side who has made me feel at home...I am so thankful not many words can describe what I feel. Meeting those kids has made my heart smile in so many ways...it's experiencing them smile, it's experiencing how they help each other up...That's the little moments that makes me happy from the inside...The kids are amazing...the teachers are wonderful...and mostly it's about helping one another out... As they say "It takes a village to raise a child" I have seen it in this community. I am grateful to be part of their lives. **Cazrine***



Sister Breda, Jason Grieve, Sister Martha



REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLANNING

Atlantis Lavalla200> Community

21/08/2019: South Africa

On 24th and 25th July, the Atlantis [Lavalla200>Community](#), South Africa, has reviewed your strategic planning. The first edition was written exactly one year ago, and it was necessary to update, since now the community has grown with the arrival of Juliana and Diogo. The facilitator of the activities was Sister of Holy Cross Aine Hugues, that welcomed all members in her own house.

During these two days, it was possible to evaluate this first year's walk, as well as share personal stories lived in Atlantis and review the analysis of strengths, problems, threats and opportunities. Besides that, there were time to reevaluate vision, mission and, after, dream of new ministry possibilities.

Many ideas have come to life, such as articulating - together to Atlantis leaders - a specific youth leadership training program (thinking of 'mission multipliers'). This initiative will be priority to the community in the next twelve months. Another point discussed was continue reinforcing activities with children, young people and parents to cultivate a nonviolent culture.

Like the sower, all the members are – send by God - trying to sow the seeds of hope in the holy ground of Atlantis.

The [Atlantis Community](#) is composed of Anthony John Clark fms, Bobillo Añel, Juliana Maria Fontoura Galline, Luiz Galline, Nnodu Onwutalu fms and Pietro Bettin fms

