

**FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK...**

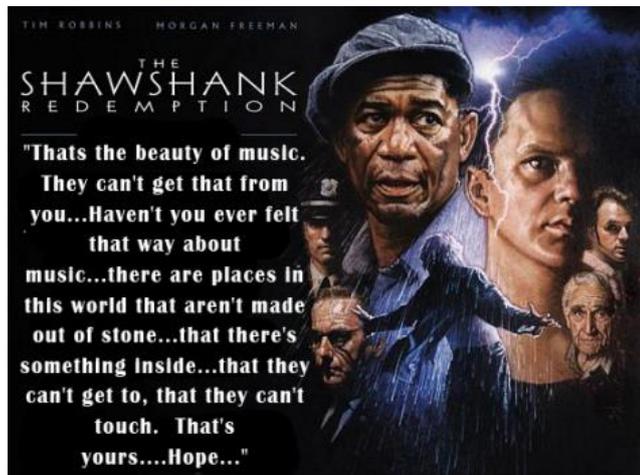
1 February 2015

On the 28 October last year Brother Emili wrote a letter to mark the beginning of our preparation for the Marist bicentenary. The last three pages of "Just a Tent as the heart of our Future" dealt with the theme of "Hope".



Nowadays, at the start of each day's proceedings, the Provincial Council reads and reflects on a meaningful text, and then

members are invited to share their reactions. While reading the Superior General's letter, a question arose in my mind: "What is hope?" Even though it was a few months ago, this question still nags at me. So I would like to share some thoughts on this theme with you.



When I was at MIC, I led the course on Media Education with the second year students. On one occasion I made use of the film *Shawshank*

*Redemption*, a remarkable production of an even more



powerful as the original novel written by Steven King. The theme of hope runs throughout the story. The plot centres on Andy Dufresne who was unjustly imprisoned for killing his wife. He became friendly with a fellow prisoner called Red. Andy eventually escapes after his terrible ordeal. I suggest you find the film and watch it, or read the book for its storyline.

*Shawshank Redemption* contains several insightful expressions about the meaning of hope that would help us understand the depths of hope. I have inserted the sayings with some pictures from the film.

Andy Dufresne's first reference to hope is when he tells Red that hope is something that can never be taken away from them. "Hope is a good thing. Maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies."

On other occasions, we hear Red saying: "FEAR can hold you prisoner: HOPE can set you free."



"I find I'm so excited that I can barely sit still or hold a thought in my head. I think it's the excitement only a free man can feel. A free man at a start of a long journey whose conclusion is uncertain. I hope I can make it across the border. I hope to see my friend and shake his hand. I hope the Pacific is as blue as it has been in my dreams. I hope."

*The Shawshank Redemption* is about HOPE and the sacramental foretaste of redemption. Can we as brothers and Christians have the same sense of hope as Andy Dufresne?

I would like to look at hope in even more detail. It is important for us as Marists to have joyful hope. What is this joyful hope? It is to believe that God has hope and a future

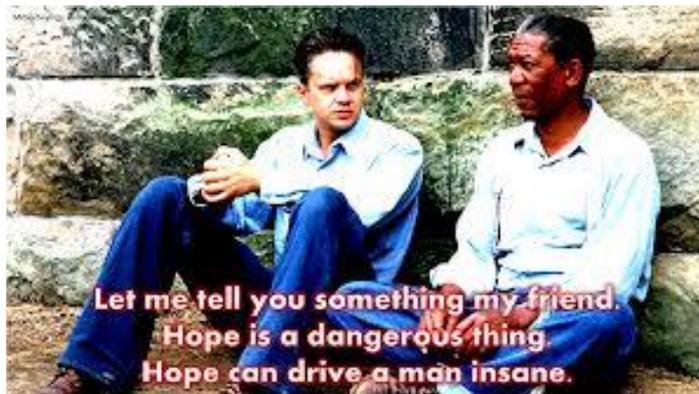
for us. Hope can be seen as one leg of a three-legged pot together with faith and charity. The three stabilize our lives regardless of the rough or uneven surfaces that might be uncounted. The scriptures are clear about the importance of hope. Paul, the apostle, taught that scripture was written that we “might have hope”. Our General Chapter of 1993 chose “**Choose Life**” as a slogan, a phrase from Deuteronomy, to encourage us Marists to be persons of hope for the future. “Today, I call heaven and earth to witness against: I have set before you: life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live” (Dt 30:19).

Many of us understand hope as merely wishful thinking, as in “I hope something will happen.” Without hope, life loses its meaning and in death there is no hope. Many things are possible for the person who has hope. Even more is possible for the person who has faith. And still more is possible for the person who knows how to love. But everything is possible for the person who practises all three virtues. Hope is critical to faith and charity. The things we hope for lead us to faith and charity,

Our Holy Father and our Superior General call us to be people of hope. In Advent last year we started the Year of Consecrated life. In Pope Francis’ letter to mark the occasion, he spoke of hope:

“This hope is not based on statistics or accomplishments, but on the One in whom we have put our trust (cf. 2 Tim 1:2), the One for whom

“nothing is impossible” (Lk 1:37). This is the hope which does not disappoint; it is the hope which enables consecrated life to keep writing its great history well into the future. It is to that future that we must always look, conscious that the Holy Spirit spurs us on so that he can still do great things with us.”



Cardinal Braz de Aviz

While announcing the Year of Consecrated Life said: “With this positive outlook on the past, we want to embrace the future with hope”. Although the crises that affect the world and the Church are also felt within consecrated life, he said, women and men religious remain full of hope, based not on their own powers, but on trust in the Lord. “In Him,” he said, “no one can rob us of our hope.” This hope, though, he said, cannot keep us from “living the present with passion”. This passion, the Cardinal said, speaks of “being in love, of true friendship, of profound communion.” This is “the true beauty of the life of so many women who profess the evangelical counsels and follow Christ ‘more closely’ in this state of life.” In this regard, he said, the Year of Consecrated Life will have an evangelical focus, helping people to realize “the beauty of following Christ” in the various types of religious vocations.

We also are in the Montagne year which is a year that reminds us of St Marcellin’s hope. His hope was to start a group of Brothers, a hope to make Jesus known and loved; hope to relate to Jesus as Mary did. I cannot encourage you enough to read and meditate on the letter of Brother Emili *Just a tent as the heart of our future*. The letter challenges me to be a *brother of hope*. What does it

do for you?

Let us never give up hope!

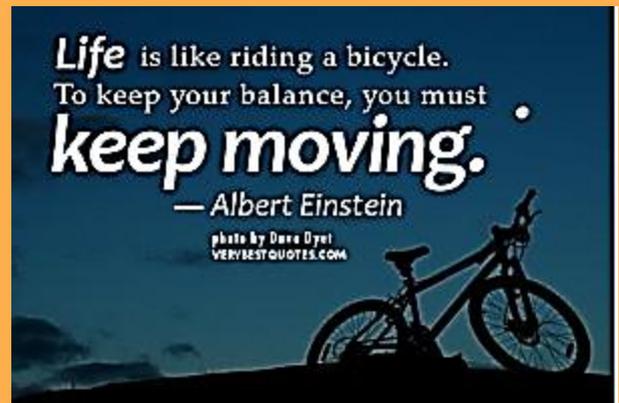
Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out

*Reed's News*

*Joe*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

02/02/1984	Mphatso Majala
06/02/1986	Moffat Mbamera
07/02/1987	Peter Justen
09/02/1979	Euclides Nangolo
14/2/1991	Mugove Chibwenga
15/02/1970	Frank Mwanbucha
16/02/1974	Felizardo Maceia
18/02/1987	Ignatius Matemba
19/02/1982	Richard Chidothi
21/02/1935	Angel Mansoa
22/02/1932	Claude Audy
27/02/1990	Chifundo Nkhoma
28/02/1987	Moffat Phiri



## MARIST BROTHERS AT NYANGA 13 DECEMBER 2014



*Back:* James Langlois, Joe Walton, Fortune Chakasara

*Middle:* Tererai Gijima, Leonard Brito, Emmanuel Mwanalirenji, Vincent George

*Front:* Nicholas Zvenyika, Jacob Mutingwende, Ebel Muteveri, Bernard Chirombe

**APOLOGY** - Bernard's name was missing in the December issue (*Ed.*)

## WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE 2 February 2015



The Presentation at the Temple  
WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

### Prayer for Consecrated Persons

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



SECRETARIAT OF  
CLERGY, CONSECRATED LIFE AND VOCATIONS  
[www.ForYourVocation.org](http://www.ForYourVocation.org) • [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

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## RELIGIOUS BROTHERS

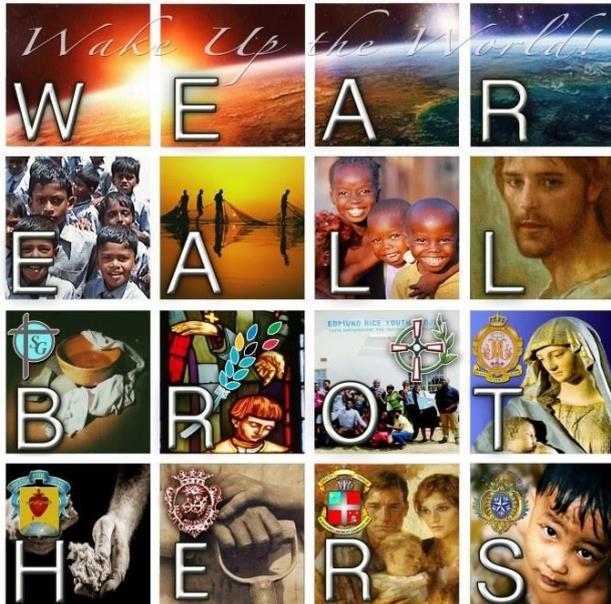
### Extracts from a Joint Document produced by 15 Congregations

4. "The lamp is put on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house" (Mt 5:15). Our common vocation as Brothers also needs to be seen, known, understood and appreciated in the Church. Our presence and our initiatives in this celebration of the universal Church are part of our religious life and our mission. We cannot remain on the sidelines as Religious Brothers. Our desire to change the world, the great visions and impulses we feel, our courage and our dreams, inspire in us the desire to use this year to give witness to the gift of our particular vocation for the Church today.



5. In the context of the Church-Communion-People-of-God promoted by the Second Vatican Council, the Religious Brother's vocation complements all other vocations. Although we are few in numbers, our Brother's vocation is a precious treasure that is worth appreciating, displaying, sharing, understanding, deepening and living. We receive the gift of fraternity and we want to share it as a constitutive dimension of the Church. With this belief in the meaning of the life, vocation and mission of the Religious Brother in the Church, the ... [Vatican Congregation that deals with Religious Life] ... is preparing a document on

**The Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church.** We are still awaiting publication, yet at the same time we know that what matters most is our presence and daily contribution to the message of the gospel to every heart.



7. In addition, this celebration [of the Year of Consecrated Life] gives us a special opportunity to celebrate our vocation as Brothers in a diversity of charisms. God acts in diversity and delights in diversity. While we are brothers and share the gift of a specific vocation, we are also different, fruits of the Spirit and of the sensitivity of men and women who have responded in different moments of history to the needs of the poor. This testimony of harmony and cooperation in diversity is an important component of the Good News that the world needs today. To get to know each other, appreciate each other and deepen our relationships is the first condition, so that all the people of God can also know and appreciate our vocation. Therefore, we ask all to "celebrate together in our diversity" as we have been doing."

*(The artistic design on the left was produced by a team of Brothers. It includes pictures contributed by various congregations)*

Life is a journey, a long journey, but a journey that cannot be travelled alone.  
Rather it must be traveled with our brothers in the presence of God.  
We are brothers. We journey as brothers.

*Pope Francis - Korea, August 2014*



## LET US PRAY



- That in the **Year of Consecrated Life** the vocation of the **RELIGIOUS BROTHER** become more appreciated.
- For victims of floods in **Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, & Zambia** that people come to their aid according to their means.
- For the **RECENTLY BEREAVED** e.g. Br **Raymond Mbao**; Br **Teodoro Grageda** (ex -MIC staff); Br **Paul Mbuyi**, novice); Br **Peter Zulu** ...
- For **PEACE** in Nigeria, Central Africa and South Sudan, countries torn by internal strife. Our Institute is present in each of them.
- For **PEACE** in the Middle East

## FLOODS IN THE ZAMBEZI VALLEY

From: Fortune Francis [mailto:fortune Francis@yahoo.com]  
Sent: 09 January 2015 09:47 AM  
To: Mario Colussi  
Subject: Re: Impact of Floods in Zimbabwe

Greetings Mario

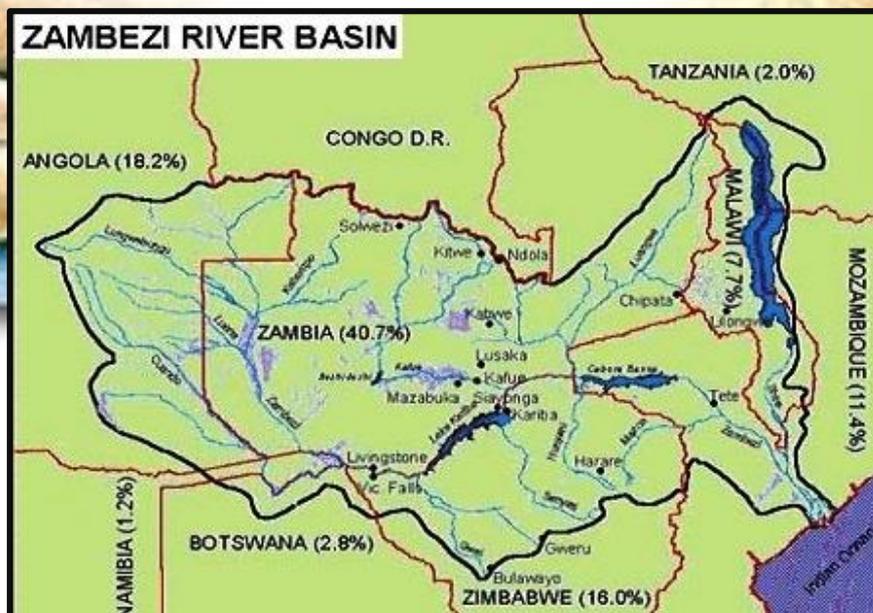
I pray and hope that you are well. I am writing to inform you that half of my home village has been swept away by floods, a local Secondary School, Library and Teachers houses were all swept away, literally by floods in the Zambezi Valley.

Unfortunately, the government is not doing much to assist, so most of my relations are now housed at a local primary school and in the church and church hall. I am at the moment with the help of some relations and friends trying to raise some money to assist with acquiring food stuff, blankets etc. the government has literally abandoned these people. This has happened in the Zambezi Valley and I intend to visit this place next week.

Keep well and feel free to circulate this information to Brothers and friends.

In Champagnat

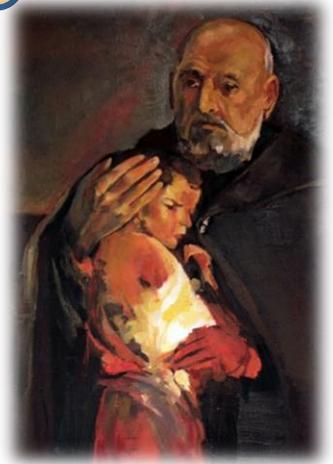
Fortune. FMS =



## **SPECIAL PATRONS OF THE BROTHERHOOD**

### **ST. ALBERT CHMIELOWSKI**

1845-1916 (Feast: 7 January). Born to a wealthy aristocratic family, he initially studied agriculture in order to manage the family estate. Involved in politics from his youth, he lost a leg at age 17 when he was injured during an insurrection. In Cracow, he became a popular, well-known and well-liked artist. A gentle and compassionate soul, he felt called to help those in need. He became a Secular Franciscan, taking the name "Albert." He abandoned painting, and began a life of working with and for the poorest of Cracow. In 1887 he founded the "Brothers of the Third Order of Saint Francis, Servants of the Poor" (aka Albertines). The Albertines organized food and shelter assistance for the poor and homeless. In 1949 Pope John Paul II wrote a play about the life of Brother Albert, which was made into a movie in 1997. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1989.



### **Something to think about**

## **A TUTOR BRINGS HOPE ...**

A priest tells of the experience of a young woman at a local Children's hospital. She was asked by a teacher from her local church to tutor a boy with some schoolwork while he was in hospital. The woman didn't realize until she got to the hospital that the boy was in the burn unit, in considerable pain and barely able to respond. She tried to tutor him, stumbling through the English lessons, ashamed at putting him through such a senseless exercise.

The next day, when she returned to the hospital, a nurse asked her, "What did you do to that boy?" before she could finish apologizing, the nurse interrupted her: "you don't understand. His entire attitude has changed. It's as though he has decided to live!"

A few weeks later the boy explained that he had completely given up hope until the young woman arrived. With joyful tears he explained,

'They would not send a tutor to work on nouns and verbs with a dying boy, would they?'

Sometimes we are invited into people's lives and into places and events that, on the surface, have no meaning or purpose to us. We ask ourselves, what are we doing here? What purpose do I have here? Often we define our lives only by what we can see or understand; we forget that we are a part of something larger than ourselves. When we forget, we miss opportunity after opportunity, those moments of grace, to affect our world for the better.



## THANK YOU, LORD

At the end of 2014 the two communities of Manhiça and Bilene came together for the Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated at the parish of St Martin de Porres in Bilene.



The night-time liturgy and vigil on the last night of the year, was attended by believers from the area. The prayerful behaviour of these people eager to express their gratitude to God for the gift of life was in sharp contrast to the boisterous activities of the many seasonal tourists seeing in the New Year.

The last day of the year is an occasion to reflect on our personal victories and defeats, and to be reconciled with others with whom relationships have become cool. We thank the Lord for the gift of Brotherhood and the example of the people of Bilene.

*(Ângelo Atibo 31-12-2014 - Abbreviated)*

## WHERE IS BILENE?



## A NEW COMMUNITY IN BILENE



**Mass in the Parish Church**

Foundation Day of the Institute 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1817. 198 years later, the dream of a new foundation in Mozambique became a reality. Just like the conditions at the “Cradle” of the Institute, the move into the house at Bilene by Brothers Domingos Lopes, Fernando Baptista Mulila and Sábado Valia, was no grand affair with pomp and circumstance.

At 9h00 am, Father Francisco, the local resident priest, celebrated Holy Mass at the parish church dedicated to St Martin de Porres in “Praia do Bilene” close to the beautiful lagoon in the area. The congregation included four Brothers and Mr Henriques Domingos (a former Marist novice) and his wife. Henriques has been in charge of the Primary School for many years now.

The liturgy was followed by a festive dinner at the rectangular table in the recently spruced-up dining-room in the residence. In his words of welcome, Br Domingos, Superior, expressed the desire that the new community should grow not only at the spiritual and human levels, but also gradually become more financially self-sufficient. (*Ângelo Atibo - Abbreviated*)



**Celebratory Meal in the New House**

Let us make one point, that we meet each other with a smile, when it is difficult to smile. Smile at each other, make time for each other in your family. *Mother Theresa*



**CATEDRAL de MAPUTO**



**CATEDRAL de LUANDA**

## MEDITATION for MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY

### PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

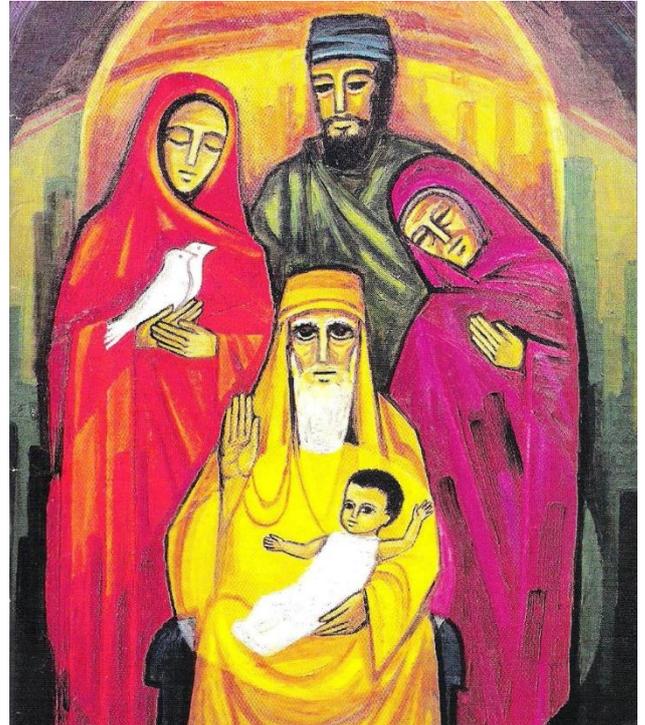
What is the artist saying? What are the characters saying?

Mary looks with sadness at the two doves - her sacrifice for purification. She holds them gently to her chest. Perhaps she sees in them her baby's life and death?

Joseph, the father who isn't, displays resolve, acceptance and understanding.

Anna, the old prophetess, has lived a life of fasting and prayer. Is there a sense of some satisfaction in the squint of her eyes and the set of her mouth? She speaks about the child as soon as she sees him (Lk 2:38). She is ready!

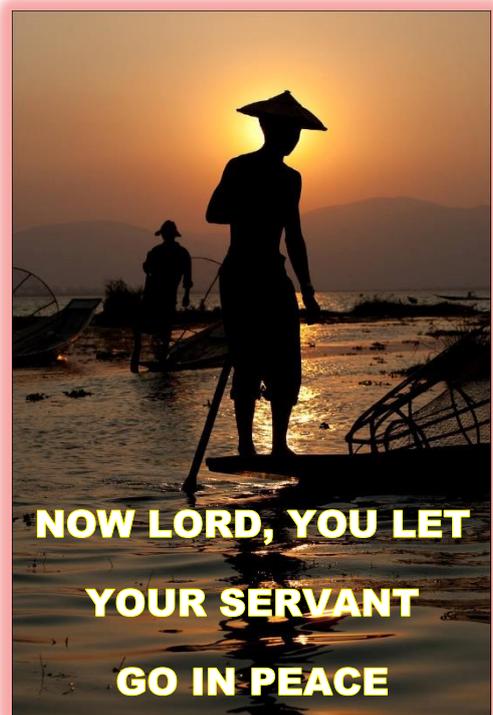
Simeon was neither priest nor prophet but a devout man who had been given a promise that he would see the Lord's Messiah before his death. No wonder he holds the child so proudly on his lap. He stares straight at me with a look that says, "I know" and leaves a question for me: "Do you?"



### Br JOE WALTON CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2015

1 - 6	Johannesburg
7	Talk at Vocations meeting
8	Johannesburg to Nairobi
9 - 11	Provincials' Meeting.
12 - 13	Workshop
14 - 22	Meeting our Brothers at MIC
23	Nairobi to Johannesburg
24 - 28	Johannesburg



# ROUND THE PROVINCE



MARIST CAMP ZIMBABWE  
Kutama, Zimbabwe, December 2014-January 2015



NYANGA - KUTAMA - CHASSA - MTENDERE

**PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**  
**22 January 2015 in Johannesburg**



**Jude Pieterse (RSA), Patrick Bushilya (Zambia), Tomás Sawayenga (Angola),  
 Joe Walton (Provincial Superior, RSA), Fortune Chakasara (Vice-Provincial Zimbabwe),  
 Felizardo Maceia (Mozambique), Frank Mwambucha (Malawi) INSET: Mario Colussi (Secretary RSA)**

**REPORT BACK ON II MIMA**  
 Mr MIKE GREEFF of St David's and Bro.  
 LEONARD BRITO reported on their  
 experiences in Nairobi

