



Marist Brothers - Irmãos

Province of Southern Africa - Província da África do Sul

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2016 August/Agosto

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...

1 August 2016

Dear Brothers and Friends,

This is the 70th (and last) Newsletter since I started as Provincial! Over the six years, I have based my thoughts on what was happening in the Province as I made my visits to the communities. Before



I hand over to Brother Norbert, I'd like you to know that it has taken me time and effort to marshal my thoughts to find an appropriate message before putting pen to paper.

What often came to mind was **"A Fresh Start"**. I have always found it exiting to start something new. That is what we as a Province are asked to do on the 23 August when Norbert officially starts his mandate as provincial. **Fresh Start** means new opportunities and stimulates me. The Chapter gives us this **Fresh Start** to look at what we need to do in the future: what to keep, what to change, and what to initiate. A Chapter, if we allow the Holy Spirit to be prominent in our deliberations, is a time to see clearly.



In 1972, Reggae artist, Johnny Nash released a single with the lyrics: *"I Can See Clearly Now."*

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I can see clearly now the rain is gone,
 I can see all obstacles in my way,
 Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind,
 It's gonna be a bright (bright)
 bright (bright) sunny day,
 It's gonna be a bright (bright)
 bright (bright) sunny day,
 Oh, yes I can make it now the pain is gone,
 All of the bad feelings have disappeared,
 Here is that rainbow I've been praying for,
 It's gonna be a bright (bright)
 bright (bright) sunny day.

These lyrics tell us about dusting the cobwebs out of our brains and making a **Fresh Start** in the province.

One thing I find most difficult about making a **fresh start** is actually letting go of the past. The past failures, the past attempts, the unkind or hurtful words spoken by well-meaning people in the past, the past defeats, the past disappointments and also the past successes. Actually the past can be one of our worst enemies when trying to make a fresh start.

On the other hand, the past can also be a good guide to the future if we look back with an open mind.

The prophet Isaiah 43:18-19 tells us clearly

➤ Change your way of doing.

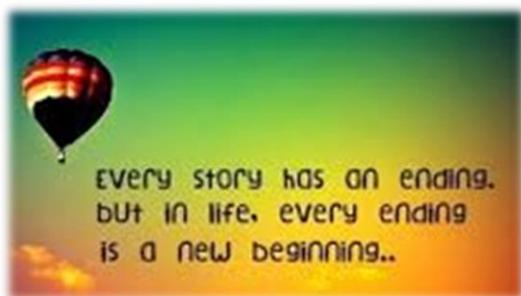
“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

Here are four things we must do for a fresh start to happen.

1. Forget the former things. They will only weigh us down and keep us from our goal.
2. Do not dwell on the past. This just jumbles our minds with garbage. There’s no room for garbage when making a fresh start.
3. Acknowledge the fresh start is a gift from God. He’s doing a new thing in us. “Do we not perceive it?” we are asked. Don’t miss it.
4. Trust God. He’s making a new way for us. Haven’t we done things in our own way long enough? Trust Him. Not for a quick fix, but in making a “new way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

One of the things I love most about a Provincial Chapter is the hope for a fresh start. And along with that hope there is a loving, supportive, prayerful community where we can come together daily sharing our hopes, dreams, struggles, and especially God’s Will!

What I need to ask of you not to be afraid to be audacious when discerning issues being considered at the Chapter. Be willing to change. The lack of willingness to change is at times what holds progress back in the Province. While moving forward we must remain relevant yet willing to embrace change. We need to acknowledge that what got you where you are today isn’t going to get you where you want to go tomorrow.



Here follow **Some Ways of Changing:**

- Do more of something.
- Do less of something.
-  ➤ Stop doing something.
-  ➤ Start doing something.

I would suggest that if you want a **fresh start** you write your personal mission statement. A mission statement that sums up who you are and what you stand for; one that brings focus and purpose to your life. A personal mission statement is a powerful tool because it provides you with a path for success, and it gives you permission to say ‘no’ to the things that are distractions. If we all do this we will all be powerful tools in the province.

Here is a verse that can help us get started with the new beginning in our lives and that of the Province.

Luke 2:10-11 “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.”



Yes, this is a verse from the Christmas story – but what better example of a new beginning is there than the birth of Jesus? A Saviour who came to give us good news and great joy – meditating on these things can help you put things in perspective as you enter a new phase of life in the Province. This verse gives us Jesus and Mary and as Marists we must not leave them out of our new start.

We should all be praying earnestly for the province in these days leading to the 7th Provincial Chapter. Let us pray that we can follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and journey in the direction that the General and his Council and Administration wish us to travel.

I can see clearly now the rain is gone.
I can see all obstacles in my way.
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind.
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
bright (bright) sunshiny day.

May Jesus, Mary, Joseph and Marcellin be with us in these coming important days.

All the best



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 11-08-1994 | Inácio Tchitumba (nov.adm.2016) |
| 13-08-1987 | Baptista Mulila Fernando |
| 14-08-1981 | David Kachoka |
| 18-08-1994 | Benson Chaula |
| 20-08-1983 | Patrick Banda |
| 23-08-1968 | John Katumbi |
| 24-08-1947 | Joseph Walton |
| 27-08-1976 | Joseph Nsambo |
| 29-08-1964 | Raphael Mariso |



MEETING OF BURSARS – JOBURG JULY 2016



- For our recently deceased: the brother of Br **RAYMOND MBAO**; the sister of Br **F. DOSTIE**; the maternal uncle of Br **GERALDO MEDIDA**; the uncle of Br **PAUL MBUYI**; the mother of Br **EVANS MUSAKANYA**; the sister of Br **PATRICK BWALYA**; ...,
- For our sick especially Brother **EUGÈNE KABANGUKA**
- For God's blessings on our **PROVINCIAL CHAPTER** this month.
- For **PEACE** in the world, especially in Syria.

Something to think about THE WOMAN AND A PICTURE

A publisher and his friend were once staying in Venice, in Ital, and one day the publisher’s friend said to him. “Do you know, every day I see a woman standing outside an art shop staring in at the window. I have seen her there at least a dozen times, always at the same hour, always at the same place, with an expression of rapt joy on her face that is beyond description. Perhaps we may see her there today.”

Sure enough, when they passed the art shop, there she was. She was poorly dressed, with an old black shawl over her head; and she was gazing in at a picture of the Virgin Mary – the Madonna, as the Italians call her.

Suddenly she turned and saw the two men looking at her, and she started to go.

“Don’t go” said the publisher. “We were admiring it with you. How beautiful it is!”

“Yes, signore,” said the woman with her face shining. “That is my only possession. The shopkeeper does not know, of course, that the Madonna is really mine – but I see that you understand!”

Several times after that the publisher saw her, and she greeted him with a friendly smile. Then one day he found her in the usual place, but lying in a miserable heap on the pavement weeping bitterly. He looked into the shop window – the Madonna was gone!

The publisher helped her to get up and tried to comfort her. “A rich American bought it,” she said sadly. “I have lost my only possession.”

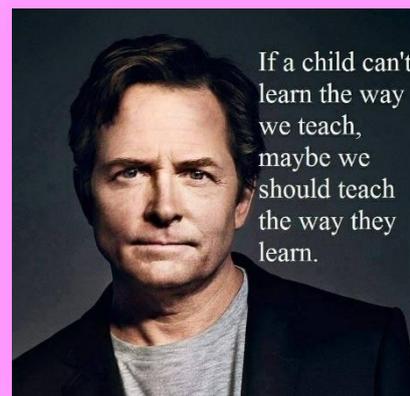
“No” said the publisher, “you haven’t lost it. The rich American may have the picture of your Madonna but the real Madonna is safely locked in your heart for ever.”

She stopped crying and was silent for a while. At last she turned to the publisher. “Thank you, signore, thank you. You are right,” she said. “No one can ever take my Madonna from my heart, for that is where my memory lives.”



BR. JOE’S CALENDAR

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



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME FOR POOR CHILDREN

St Joseph's College, Rondebosch, Cape Town

In the first week of the school holidays the Champagnat Club at St Joseph's planned a holiday programme for children from Lavender Hill. They hosted 28 children from this *crime-ridden area* to have a carefree week filled with fun and games. Many of the St Joseph's pupils offered their time to join these children in the programme and it enriched them greatly.



The children from Lavender Hill loved their time at St Joseph's. One child said that she just loved looking at the fish pond and the mountain; she said that she would be happy to just stay there all the time. We are grateful to Brother Neil who makes it possible for St Joseph's to reach out to vulnerable children. We hope to run this Programme in the December holidays as well.



**A QUESTION
for the reader! (Ed.)**

*What do you think of
providing this kind of
toy to children from
a crime-ridden area?*



THREE2SIX EDUCATION PROJECT FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

The **THREE2SIX Education Project** for children of refugees in Johannesburg was started at Sacred Heart College Observatory in 2008. These children are not easily accepted at state schools because of difficulties with language and other problems faced by their parents or guardians. Sacred Heart hosts about 150 such children every afternoon from three p.m. to six p.m. (cf. the name of the project). The goal of the project is to prepare the children with sufficient language and numeracy skills to enter the state school system, and at the same time to offer them a place to interact with other children in a place of safety. Whenever possible, the teachers are drawn from the refugee community. Transport to the school and a meal are also included in the daily regime. As a rule, the children do not remain at THREE2SIX for longer than 18 months.

In 2010, a nearby state primary school became involved: it has 50 refugee children in its project. And earlier this year, Holy Family College in Parktown began yet another Three2Six project. This project is currently co-ordinated by Bec Bromhead, a volunteer from Australia. In the article on the next page, taken from www.champagnat.org, Bec describes what happened on the first day that children for Grade R ("readiness year") and Grade 1 arrived at Holy Family College:

Choose a Province

15/07/2016: South Africa

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Me gusta

The Three2Six refugee education project Holy Family College campus held its first classes on Monday 6th June. 14 grade R and 1 learners attended, playing in the playground, drawing and colouring, introducing themselves to new friends and teachers, singing and sharing a meal. The occasion was marked by a small welcome ceremony with College leaders and Three2Six Committee. Rabbi Sa'ad from our project partner, Beit Emanuel Synagogue, led us in a prayer and then the children bravely introduced themselves and joined the adults for afternoon tea. The project's Coordinator, Bec Bromhead shares her strongest memory from the day:



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Children's Refugee Education Project

"The little Three2Six children got off the bus, still quite nervous, and we led them across the field towards the playground. Two Holy Family learners who were playing on the field called out to them 'are you the new school' and when we responded they called out 'welcome' and 'nice to meet you'. We arrived inside the playground gate and were immediately surrounded by curious Holy Family learners in the after care program. They listened on as we went over the playground rules and again there was a chorus of 'welcome' and 'oh yeah we heard about you' followed by 'come and play with us'. I was so touched.

But what happened next moved me beyond measure and I had to turn away to collect myself. Without any instruction or prompt, the Holy Family learners took our Three2Six children by the hand, one by one, and led them to go and play. Within seconds the playground was full of laughter. Holy Family learners encouraged small Three2Six children to climb the ladder and try the slide. A group called aside our two oldest boys to join their soccer game on the main field. A line of five Holy Family learners pushed five Three2Six children on the swings. And I thought to myself, 'this is the true South Africa. This is what we can be together. These children have so much to teach us about tolerance and acceptance'.

To our Holy Family learners - thank you for your kindness and warm welcome. To our Holy Family staff - thank you for teaching kindness and generosity. To our Holy Family parents and families - thank you for raising kind and compassionate young people. Let us continue to be a place where kindness and acceptance triumph over xenophobia and intolerance".



23 de julho - 200 anos da fundação da Sociedade de Maria



TWO PICTURES FROM KUITO-BIÉ, ANGOLA



Youth Group visits Franciscan Sisters



"Juniors" & their Formators



CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF THE FOURVIÈRE PROMISE

Marist Novitiate, Matola, Mozambique

As we all know, on 23rd July 1816, a group of twelve, including five newly-ordained priests, among them, Jean Claude Collin, Jean Claude Courveille and Marcellin Champagnat, climbed up to the sanctuary of Our Lady Fourvière to make a pledge. Together they made a commitment to form a Society of

assembled, Br. Oscar gave the insight on what is happening in the Marist world especially as we click 200 years of the Fourvière promises, because that marks the foundation of the Marist family. Then we watched the video, produced by the General House in Rome concerning the event, which features all the four Branches of the Marist Family.



First-Year Novices and Formators

After that we had a procession to the chapel whilst rejoicing and singing a Marian song. Br Patrick Bwalya led in the procession while lifting up the statue of our Lady of Fourvière followed by the candies. In the chapel we sat around the statue, praying, reflecting and sharing in small groups. We felt that this event is not only situated in the past but also in our time and in the days to come. It is like a challenge or goal, "firing" our journey as Marist Brothers.

Mary.

With a view to join the Marist World in commemorating this historical event, especially the group of young people that gathered in Fourvière, France, the very place where Fr. Champagnat and his colleagues made their pledge, we, at Matola Novitiate, celebrated this event with special prayers.

We had a special Fourvière prayer prepared and organized by Br. Óscar Vicario. As the community

For that matter, we, as the community repeated the very Fourvière promises. In this way we felt ourselves more connected to the group of Marists that gathered in France to mark the event.

(Henry Ngeli, Novice)

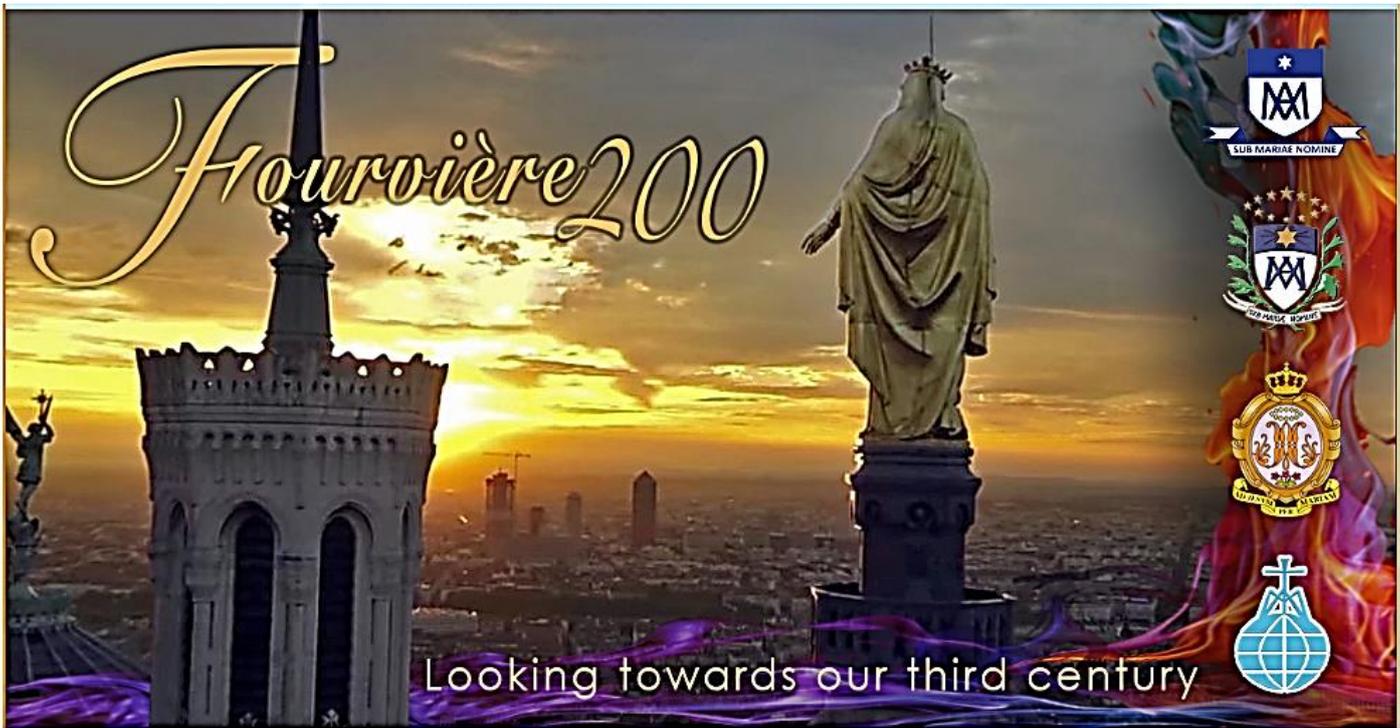
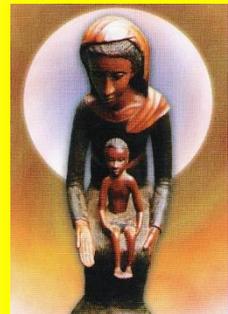


THE FIRST SIX MONTHS AT MARIST NOVIATE-MATOLA

Time flies for those who are happy. it's just like yesterday since we were officially accepted in the novitiate. Being in the midst of brothers from different cultures and background, is a gift from God. I exist because we are. Following Christ through the steps of Fr. Champagnat, automatically we become Brothers of the same Father, whose heart knew no bounds. In this regard I am a brother among brothers. The way we relate to each other, in them I see the face of our great Founder, Fr. Marcellin. Their presence makes me feel at home and move on in life as I work on my weaknesses. Quoting from one of the greatest popes, St. John Paul II "No one is so rich that he has nothing to receive and no one is so poor that he has nothing to give." I conquer with these great words because a Community is the group of people who live and work together, being in a Marist community, it's a special case because we go beyond that, we live according to the gospel values in a Marial manner. That is why the contributions of my fellow brothers have been vital to me and to my vocation as they help me to live according to the dream of Fr. Marcellin.

Every day comes with different news that is why life has both sides, it's like a coin. There are good and sad moments but all in all that is how life is meant to be. In our community we deserve to call each other brothers and friends because the life we lead manifests what it means to be a Marist brother today. In this way we complement one another and this is the community that Fr. Champagnat dreamt of as he often referred his first followers to the community of the first believers. Even though my contribution in the community is like a drop in an ocean, but that ocean would be less minus that missing drop as Mother Teresa aptly put it. We are neither a community of Angels nor a community of Saints, but we try our level best to do well and to help one another to grow. A journey of thousands miles begins with a single step.

May our Good Mother intercede for us as we journey towards holiness.
(Henry Ngeli, Novice)



IMPRESSIONS OF THE “DARE TO DREAM” WEEK AT LYON

by Jason Grieve, representative of the Southern African Province

When arriving in South Africa on Monday from the “Dare to Dream”, Marist Youth Gathering in Lyon, France I had only one word to say to Br Jude and that was “Incredible!”

The moment I arrived in Johannesburg and met Br Tererai, I knew that we were going to be excellent travel companions. We have a very similar sense of humour and immediately clicked as friends.

After a long flight we were met in Lyon by the “Dare to Dream” organisers. Whilst waiting for other participants to arrive it was clear we were going to meet incredible young and old Marists, many from different backgrounds and countries. All of whom were really easy to get along with.

Thinking that there would not be many people from Africa it was a wonderful surprise meeting at the Airport a young girl named Liberty who had been an English exchange student at St Henry’s Marist College a few years ago. Having someone who knew exactly where you were from, knew some of your friends and who knew the Addo project was fantastic.

We travelled by bus to our accommodation. Trekked up roughly 400 stairs with our luggage and settled in with ease.

Br Tererai and I formed a group of Southern Hemisphere Marist friends (New Zealand and Australia) we remained together the whole week, sharing Marist together. They were representing the Marist Sisters and Marist Fathers.

By 11pm, still on the day of our arrival, I had possibly met at least half of the participants. Representatives

from Canada, USA, Central America, Brazil, Mexico, France, Spain, Germany, UK, Ireland, Nigeria, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and who knows where else! All of whom are now great friends.

Two German Marist Girls came looking for me and introduced themselves as Marie and Jasmin. Marie had been in South Africa and had worked at Three2Six for a period of time last year as a volunteer. We all had something in common and once again they knew all



Jason with the portrait of Champagnat painted shortly after his death

about the Addo project. A huge surprise to know people around the world are hearing of the wonderful work that the Marist Brothers and Sisters of Mercy are doing in the Eastern Cape and the rest of South Africa.

An early start on the Monday morning welcomed the average week’s temperature of 30+ degrees. Coming from cold South Africa to warm Lyon was welcomed!

The program of the Dare to Dream kept us busy every day from 8am to 11:30pm. It was a packed week of group work, workshops, tours, dancing, singing and fantastic integration of the four Branches of Marist.

On the Tuesday we were divided into our Marist Branches and visited the significant areas of our Founders.

On our way to the Marist Brothers Community we stopped to see the remains of the house of Jean-Baptist Montagne. As you know a small pile of rock remains, however these small rocks had such a meaningful symbolises of Marist, Marcellin and its foundations.

Touring the Marist Brothers community of La Valla and L’Hermitage and seeing the pictures we had learnt at school finally become a reality will forever be a long lasting memory. Understanding and witnessing the hard work Marcellin, the Brothers, Sisters and Fathers had constructed was unbelievable. We walked the grounds seeing every historical aspect available.

Returning to Lyon, the next few days we listened to representatives of Marist, including the Superior Generals of the four branches talk about their missions and visions. A great deal was learnt.

I had the privilege of being introduced to Br Emili by Br Chris Wills.

We had further workshops learning about the work other Marist Youth are doing around the world. It was an enlightening experience. One or two ideas I can foresee being implemented in South Africa.



Jason Grieve, Br Emili Turú, Br Tererai Gijima

On a few evenings my group of friends and I managed to tour Lyon a bit and see the wonderful sights and historical buildings, at times with a local French Marist ensuring we did not get lost!

Fast-forward to Saturday 23rd July. We had the celebration of 200 years remembering the significant moment of the foundation of Marist in Fourvière. It was indescribably special. There must have been over two thousand people in the congregation celebrating Marist. The four Branches united.

With the program coming to end, it was difficult to say goodbye to not only Marists but people I now considered as close friends. Social Media is very powerful and thanks to it friendships are continuing even though we are so far away from one another.

The **“Dare to Dream”** was undoubtedly one of the best Marist experiences I have ever had the privilege of attending. It has made me want to get back to Marist Mercy Care work in the Eastern Cape as soon as possible. The **“Dare to Dream” Marist Youth Gathering** was a wonderful reminder of what it means to be Marist.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Marist Brothers of Southern Africa for allowing me to represent you at this Gathering. It was indeed an honour.

Yours in Marist

Jason

