



Marist Brothers – Irmãos Maristas
Province of Southern Africa – Província da África Austral

NEWSLETTER

2018 March – April Vol.2 #11

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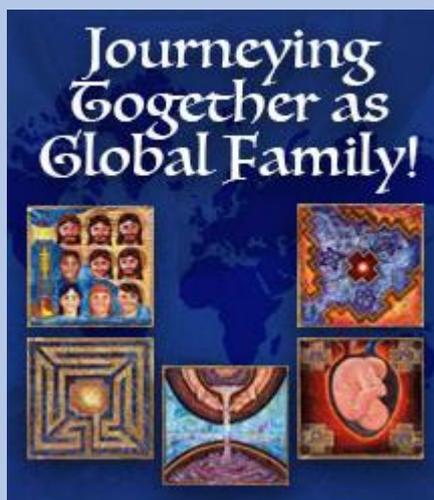
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The Icon of Champagnat Speaks to Us

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ICON OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

PRESENTATION

This icon of our Founder was produced in the **Carmel of the Theotokos** (of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church) in Harissa, Lebanon at the time of his canonization in 1999.

It was formally presented to the Institute by Brother Henri Vignau, a General Councillor at the time. Here follows Br Henri's text:

"We have thought it important, on the occasion of the canonization, to have an icon of Saint Marcellin Champagnat made, not to be fashionable, but to help us grasp his charism better through the prayer of contemplation.

An icon is not a religious object for decorative purposes. An icon has nothing to do with "western" painting, which is most often lifelike, aimed at pleasing, stimulating.

An icon is theology in image, oriented towards celebration, inviting us to contemplation, because it speaks to the mind, to the soul to our mystical sense. It expresses the mysteries of the incarnation, redemption, and glorification.



An icon is the fruit of contemplation, of a spiritual process. It is in a profound spirit of prayer, starting with the reading of Marcellin's life that this icon has been "written" (to use the terminology of iconographers) by the members of the Carmel community.

In this icon, Marcellin does not impose himself on us by his realism or his many accomplishments: the miniatures offer us a re-reading of the life his life issuing from a vision of faith. He reminds us of the essential point: to go to Jesus through Mary, no matter what your state of life is, your age, your talents, your limits. We are called to follow Marcellin in radiating the glory of the Risen One along the path to holiness that he proposes.

Sincere thanks to the Carmelite Sisters for this expression of Marcellin Champagnat's holiness. Sincere thanks for sharing their internalization of the Marist charism: they help us deepen its Marial and apostolic dimensions.

The Sisters invite us to an attitude of contemplation in order to live more fully the call to holiness addressed to each and every Christian."



*During the course of 2018, the Editor intends to offer readers explanations of details in the icon as provided by the Carmelite Sisters in Harissa. The central portion of the icon is dealt with further on in this issue. Readers who would like to have *.jpg files of each image are welcome to write to the Editor at mario.colussi@marist.org.za*

MESSAGE FROM BROTHER NORBERT

Saint Joseph – Rooted in Fidelity and Flexibility

Last December, I took part in a spiritual retreat at Chipata in Zambia’s Eastern Province. And there I noted a meaningful aspect of flexibility. Several of us had travelled over 500 km and arrived late in the afternoon on the very day the Retreat was to start in the evening. After supper and quite unexpectedly the director of the retreat offered us the opportunity to retire early to bed and announced that the retreat would start in the morning. I was personally touched and grateful at the same time since I had travelled in the company of other Brothers after attending the funeral of a dear cousin in Lusaka. It was an opportune moment to bless the director with a ninth beatitude as cited by Dr Robert Wicks¹: “Blessed are the flexible, for they will not get bent out of shape.”

Flexibility and faithfulness are among St. Joseph’s great human and spiritual qualities. After he had decided to divorce Mary quietly after knowing that she was pregnant without his involvement, the angel told him in a dream not to be afraid and to take Mary home as his wife. As a man of faith and with the ability to be flexible, Joseph did exactly as he was told, despite his earlier decision.

Some months later, the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream again, with the message to take the child and his mother, flee into Egypt, and stay there for a while. As before, Joseph responded immediately, rose, took the child and his mother by night, and departed for Egypt. Such a response called for both great flexibility and solid faith, as well as boldness in undertaking a trek to a distant country with a newly born child.

A third instance of Joseph’s flexibility is evident when, together with Mary, he turned back to Jerusalem when the teenage Jesus was nowhere to be found among the

group of pilgrims retuning home. Fidelity to their commitment as parents is also evident as they faced retracing their steps in search of their lost child.

In all the three instances cited above, Joseph acted faithfully and with an attitude of flexibility to the demanding challenge of doing God’s will. Fidelity to God’s will is not without paying the price of abandoning one’s personal will and plans. By so doing, one grows in relationship with the Lord and Master of life. It is evident that

Joseph’s obedience to God meant facing challenges. Being rigid and permanently opposed to God’s will makes one a seeker of his or her own will. God’s will is sometimes hard to understand and accept. From time to time in our lives as Brothers we are asked to do what one would rather wish not to do, or to go to places where we would rather not go on mission.

St Joseph, the patron of the universal Church, stands out as a great model for both married couples and religious when we wrestle between God’s will and our own. In our time, I pray for a special grace: that Marists of Champagnat, Brothers and Lay, a response positively to God’s will in both fidelity and flexibility.

In addition, I take this opportunity to wish **St Joseph’s Marist College, Rondebosch, Cape Town, a fruitful and joyful Centenary Celebration** with the blessing of Mary and Marcellin.

**With devotion to Mary,
couple devotion to St Joseph.
He is, as you know, one of
our leading patrons.
(Marcellin Champagnat)**



St. Norbert
NORBERT



St Joseph's Marist College, Rondebosch, Cape Town

¹ In the foreword to his book: *30 Days to Inner Strength*.

MARIST-MERCY SUMMER CAMP December 2017



The Organisers and Volunteers worked with over 400 poor children

An annual Summer Camp is held in Langbos in the Addo Valley. Langbos is one of the poorest townships in the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa. The programme has been in existence for over ten years.

Since 2014, the Summer Camp is run alongside the **Sharing Our Call** program involving the newly appointed South African Marist Head Students for the following year.

Both programs are run by the Marist Brothers, the Sisters of Mercy and Jason Grieve (Marist Alumnus 2007).

This year we welcomed over **400 children** from Langbos Informal Settlement and Valencia Formal Settlement.

Numerous activities were organised during the week for these children aged between four and fifteen years old by the Marists, overcoming the challenge of no water, no electricity, no formal infrastructure, no sports field and minimal equipment.

At the end of each day, the Marists were introduced to our Marist Mercy Care programs such as our Crèche and Pre-School, Soup Kitchens, Clinic and Addo Township Designs a sewing workshop producing attractive products for the market.



Is there love in this child's home?

The returning Marists ran a separate program for our older participants alongside the Summer Camp program.

This program consisted of career guidance, school subject choices, HIV/Aids, health awareness, computer lessons and sport.

We welcomed over **50 volunteers**, thirty of whom were Marist schools in South Africa. The others came from places such as Germany and Australia.

On the last day, we distributed over **650 Christmas presents** to the children of the area.



L to R: Mercy Sister Breda, Bishop Vincent Zungu of Port Elizabeth, Sister Martha, Br Peter Zulu



MORE PICTURES FROM ADDO VALLEY



LIFE VERSE
THERE
IS MORE
HAPPINESS IN
GIVING THAN
IN RECEIVING
-ACTS 20:35



*“The young person
is the first
and most immediate
apostle of youth”*

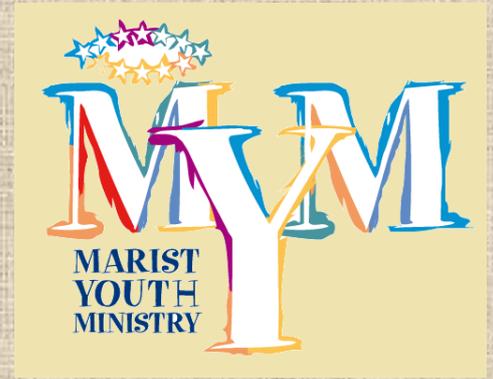


Jason Grieve & Co



Br Peter Z & Br Chris Z
Addo Elephant Park





DIPLOMA IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT MIC

Towards the end of the First Semester in 2017, fifteen Brothers in initial formation who had completed all the requirements for the Diploma in Religious Studies (DRS) were “capped” in a graduation ceremony. These Brothers had participated in a variety of courses during the “third semester” (May through June) over three years to fulfil the requirements of the program.

Six of the students are members of our Province of Southern Africa. From left to right in the accompanying picture they are: Fonseca FERNANDO; Raphael KENNETH; Victor MWAMBA; Godfrey KADZUWA; Boston NGULUBE; and Misheck MKANTHAMA.



(Thanks to Br Elia Madimba for the picture and an accompanying article: the above text is an edited version.)



WELCOME TO BR TONY CLARK

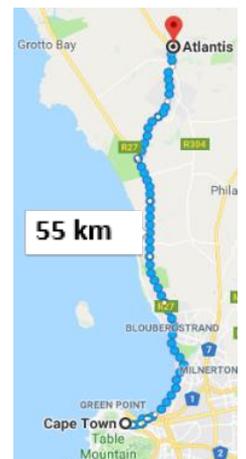


**Brother Tony Clark
(Province of Australia)**

The International Community due to set up in Atlantis north of Cape Town is approaching a full complement of four with the arrival of Brother Tony Clark who is due to land in South Africa during the first week of March. Br Nnodu Onwutalu of Nigeria is still awaiting his temporary residence and work permit from the South African High Commission in his home country.

Br Pietro Bettin and Ms. Maria Bobillo have been busy in recent weeks commuting to Atlantis and consulting relevant persons and institutions about how best to work with the young people in this poor and socially troubled area.

Welcome Tony, and may God bless your Marist International Community.



BIRTHDAYS

MARCH	
03-03-1958	Anthony Clark (Int. Comm.)
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



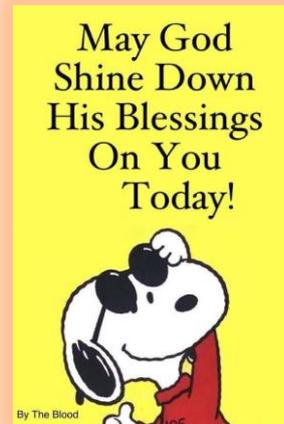
Leba Pass - the road from Lubango in southern Angola to the coast

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



Namib Desert, southern Angola

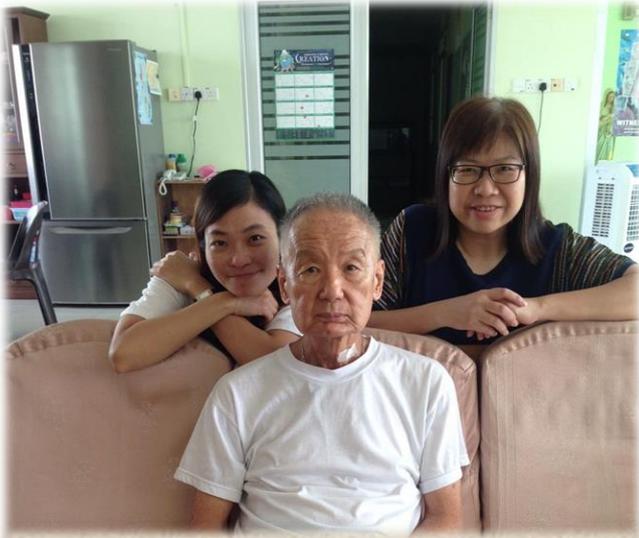
MAY	
01-05-1987	Godfrey Kadzuwa
03-05-1992	Andrew Mandala (nov.ad.2018)
06-05-1967	Arthur Ganiza
08-05-1936	Jesus Sánchez Martin
09-05-1984	Victor Mwamba
10-05-1956	António Sanasana
11-05-1971	Gilbert Zenda
14-05-1996	Hope Chinomba (nov.ad.2018)
15-05-1975	Kasongo Mwape
17-05-1982	Chrisantius Mwansa
20-05-1993	Samuel Longenda (nov.ad.2018)
23-05-1941	Neil McGurk
24-05-1994	Peter Joseph
25-05-1987	Joseph Daka
25-05-1991	António Armando
25-05-1992	Yob Mathias
30-05-1996	Daniel Sakala (nov.adm.2017)
31-05-1936	Christopher Zimmermann



“
 What a teacher is,
 is more important
 than what he teaches.
 KARL MENNINGER



A FARRAGO OF PHOTOS



A recent picture of Br. John Heng (formerly of Zambia & MIC), taken in Malaysia. His visitors from Hong Kong are Winnie (on the left) who was a volunteer at St Paul's in 2005-2006, and Imelda who worked at St Joseph's Girls' School in Kakrigu, South Nyanza, Kenya in the 1990's. Br. Norbert worked with both ladies while they were on mission in Zambia and Kenya.



The General Council at Castelgandolfo near Rome



Hibberdene 1962, on holiday. Recognize them?



The Jo'burg community enjoys watching its newest members!



Brothers Venantius Anochie of Nigeria and Jeff Rhey Antiquisa of Philippines recently graduated at the Gregorian University with the Diploma in the Safeguarding of Minors



Lebanon: Br. André Delalande celebrates his 100th birthday. (Spot Br J-M Ferre at MIC '86-'93)

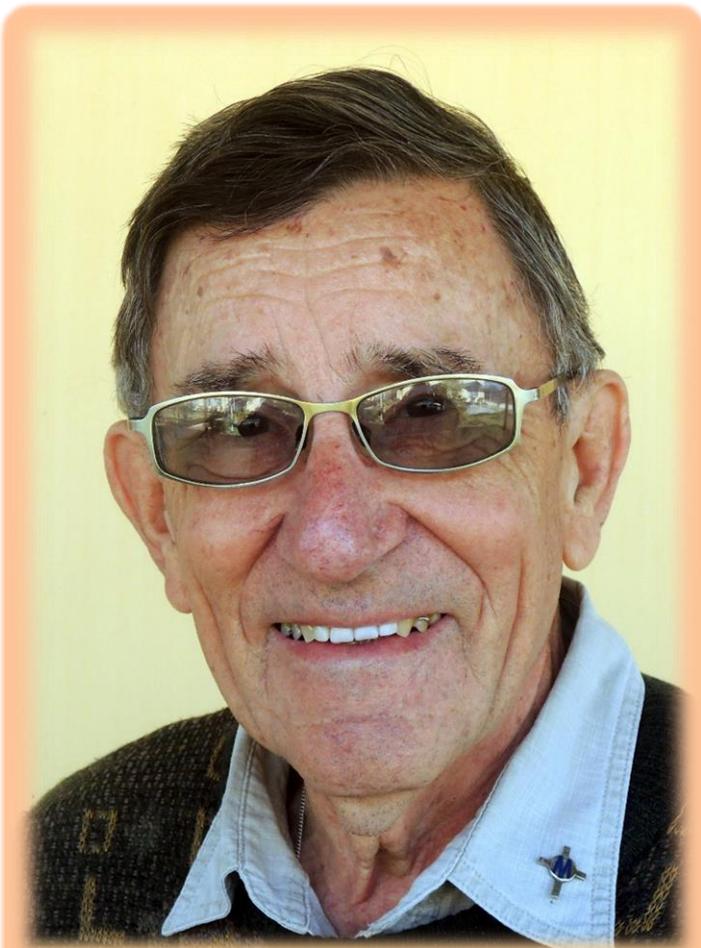
PRAYER REQUESTS



- For our Brothers (& their wider families) recently **BEREAVED**: **Gerónimo Raimundo** (an uncle aged 42), **Patrick Bwalya** (a nephew aged 25), **Peter Zulu** (a brother aged 17), and **António Viana** (a younger brother aged 43).
- For **PEACE** in **D.R. Congo**, **South Sudan**, the Middle East, and Burma.
- For **OUR NEW NOVICES** at Matola, and for all those in our **Formation Houses**.
- For the **YOUNG PEOPLE** we educate and take care of: that they may come to love God and their neighbours as themselves.



FAREWELL and THANK YOU!



Br James Langlois b.25 March 1932



Marists

Br Claude Audy b.22 February 1932

Born 86 years ago in successive months, these two Brothers have both by far exceeded the span allotted to us mortals according to verse 10 of Psalm 90: "70 years is our life-span: ten more for the strongest!" After making their first profession together in 1950, they have served in Southern Africa for many years: James since 1955 and Claude since 1966. They are now both returning to their native Canada for health reasons.

The Province says THANK YOU and wishes each of you every blessing in the evening years of your lives.



MARIST SCHOOL LEADERS meet YOUNG MARIST VOLUNTEERS



It was an evening of Marist blue and gold as the prefect students from Marist Brothers Linmeyer, Sacred Heart College and St David's Marist Inanda assembled to spend one evening together as Marist.

On the 12th of February, the "Marist Young Adults Johannesburg" group brought together students from the three Johannesburg Marist schools in order for them to spend time with each other but also to gain a better appreciation for Marist and the Marist Brothers. The ultimate vision of the *Marist Young Adults Johannesburg* group is to bring more current students into the greater circles of Marist so that once they leave school they still may be part of a great network of people, community service and other opportunities.

The evening, graciously hosted at Marist Brothers Linmeyer, began at 18:30 with a fun icebreaker to get everyone mingling. After a thoughtful reflection and introduction from Br Mario Colussi, Pam Paton-Mills and Mike Greeff, a hearty supper was enjoyed by all.

Throughout the evening, various speakers shared with the students and Marist guests their stories of working under the banner of Marist and their international Marist experiences. Something remarkable is how the speakers had experienced so



much and yet many were still so young. It is clear that giving back and working with others is not something that is defined by age. The second incredible thing is how no stories were similar. Benjamin and Michael from Australia represented the Three2Six refugee school, Sophia Falter from Germany shared about her pilgrimage to L'Hermitage in France, Nicole Mango walked us through her trip to the Marist Youth Festival in Australia and we heard from Jason Grieve about his journey to Lyon in the Marist Gathering for the Fourvière Year. These are but a few of all the people who shared their touching, unique, story about Marist and working with the less fortunate.

The evening, however, was not all talk. All attendees of the supper had a hoot of time playing a custom Marist quiz game, enjoying delicious ice cream and regaling in the hardships of Grade 12.



Our evening ended with the Marist Young Adults group sharing some of the local and international opportunities that are available to young Marists. Examples being the Three2Six program, the Addo project, becoming a CMI volunteer in Germany or travelling to the UN.

Seeing the way in which the Grade 12s left the evening made us, as the organizers, feel like we had achieved our objective. It made us feel that we had conveyed the beauty of Marist and the importance of togetherness.

(Daniel Hewlett for Marist Young Adults, Jo'burg)

For further contact please use the listed mediums:

Facebook – Marist Young Adults Johannesburg

Email – marist.youth.jhb@gmail.com

YET MORE PICTURES



2018 International Marist Solidarity Meeting in Rome including two representatives from Southern Africa



Sustainability of Mission in Africa and Asia Meeting in Rome 2018:
(Spot the delegate from Africa - well known to those who've lived in East Africa)



Nairobi 2018 Mission Commission for Africa



Oct 1999 Jo'burg: Provincial Council Meeting.
Brs. Lawrence Ndawala (Malawi – Vice Prov.),
Claudio Rockenbach (Moz'bique – Sector bursar);
Laurence Morrison (RSA – Sector bursar)



BRO NORBERT'S VISITS: FEBRUARY – JUNE 2018

04 Feb: Joburg to Nairobi

20 Feb: Nairobi to Lilongwe

21 Feb: Likuni

26 Feb: Zomba

03 Mar: Balaka

09 Mar: Mtendere Secondary School

15 Mar: Marist Secondary School

17 Mar: MALAWI ASSEMBLY - at Marist

18 Mar: Marist Secondary School

22 Mar: Hermitage, Lilongwe

23 - 24 Mar: Council Meeting - Hermitage

25 Mar: Champagnat House

31 Mar: Hermitage (inc. a break at Salima)

06 Apr: Lilongwe to Joburg

15 Apr: Cape Town

25 Apr: Joburg

01 May: Uitenhage

07 May: Joburg

25 - 26 May: Council Meeting - Joburg

29 May: Joburg to Matola

31 May: Nivava

07 Jun: Matola

09 Jun: Bilene

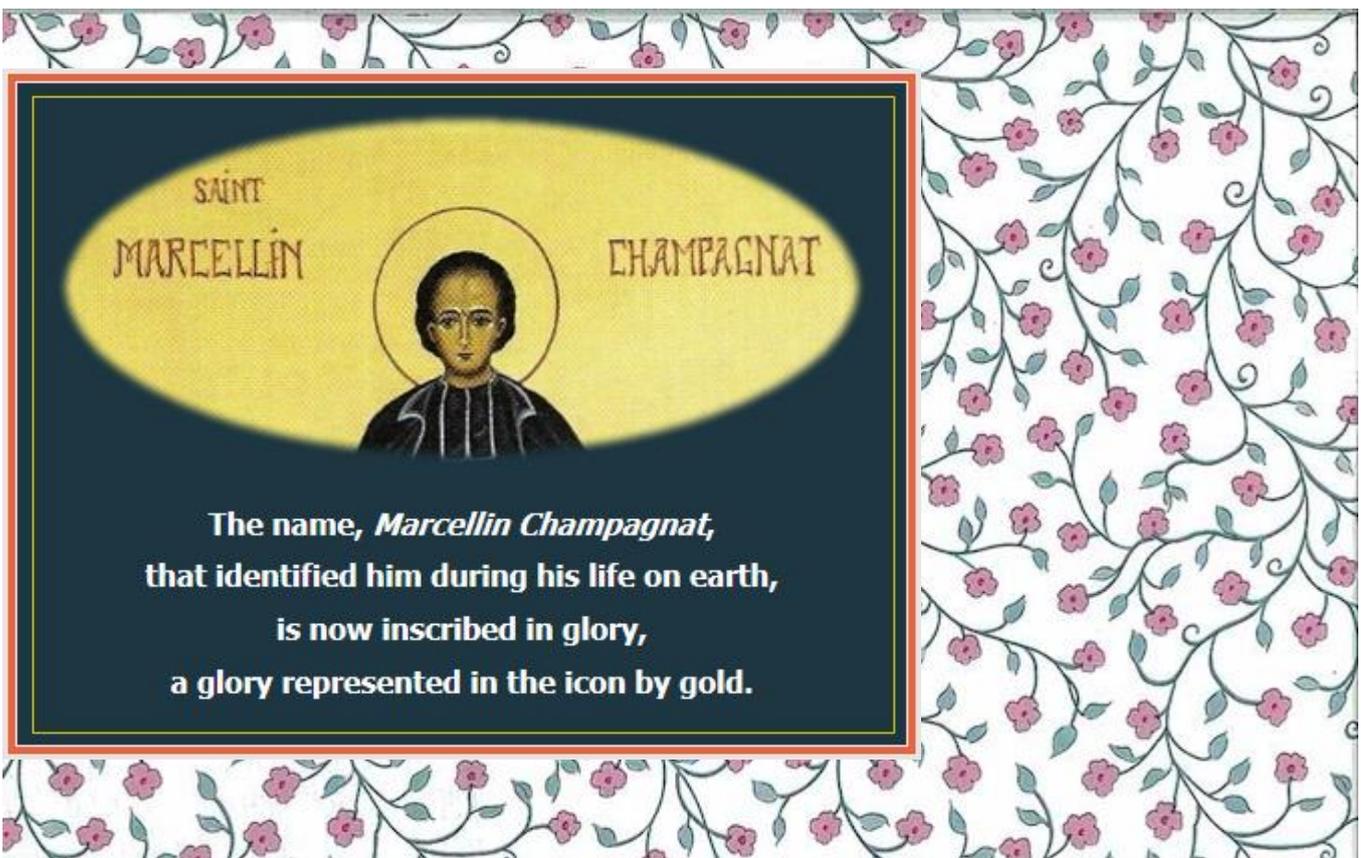
14 Jun: Manhica

19 Jun: Matola

27 Jun: Matola to Joburg



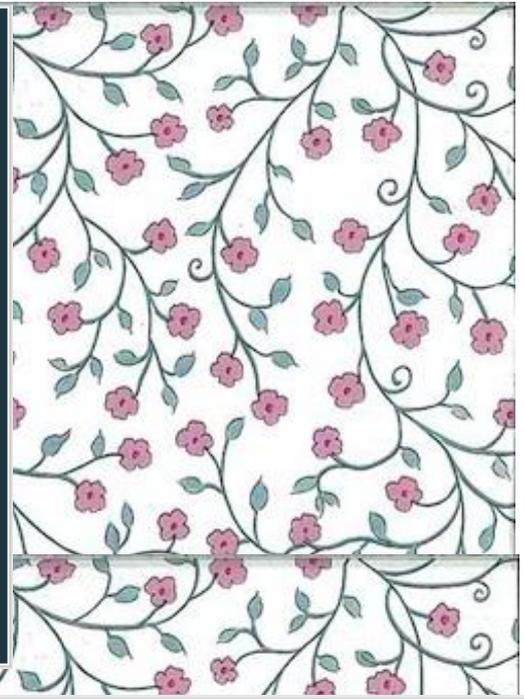
THE ICON OF CHAMPAGNAT SPEAKS TO US



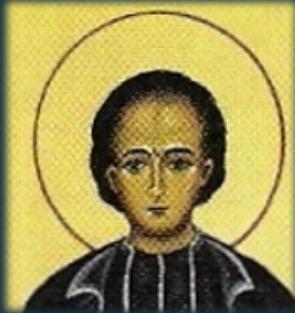
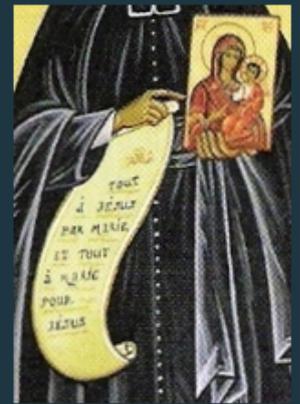


The saint stands and seems to lunge upwards as if he saw the Invisible. As curate in La Valla, he renewed the parish by his apostolic zeal. Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor steep and rugged mountain tracks deterred him when he had to help the sick and souls in distress.

In the words of Isaiah: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation."



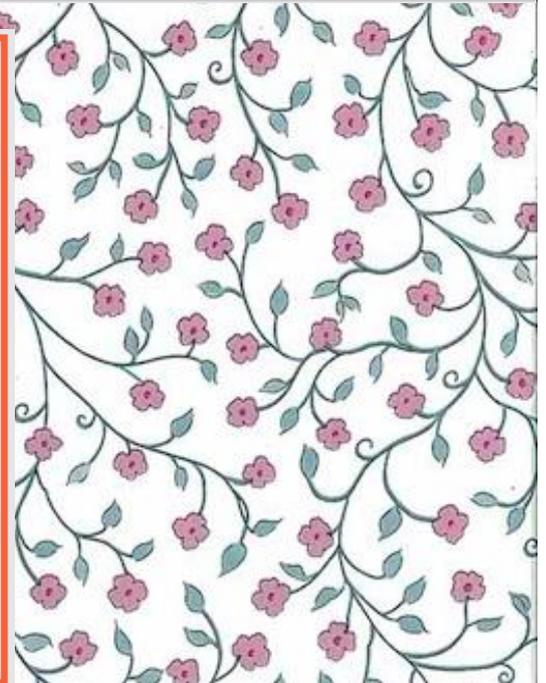
The Founder of the Little Brothers of Mary, bequeaths them his motto inscribed on the parchment: "All to Jesus through Mary and all to Mary for Jesus." The shining icon of the Mother of God, Gate of Heaven, attests to his marial spirituality. Marcellin tells us the secret of his holiness by pointing to the one who leads us to Jesus as in the *Hodegetria* icon he holds in his left hand. He had experienced the protection of Mary and he had understood that she would be one who would favour his Institute.

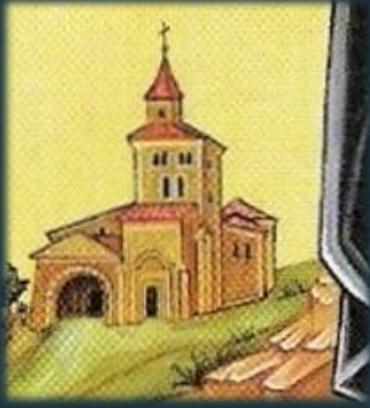


"Never would I dare undertake anything without having long recommended it to God."

The most essential feature of an icon is the face, for the head, in iconography, is the seat of intelligence and wisdom. Marcellin's high and rounded forehead reveals the intelligence and evangelical wisdom that are the prerogative of little children.

His intense look has a twofold movement. On the one hand, it is directed towards the faithful to enter his message; on the other hand, it is profoundly drawn towards the interior where he drew the faith and strength needed for his works.

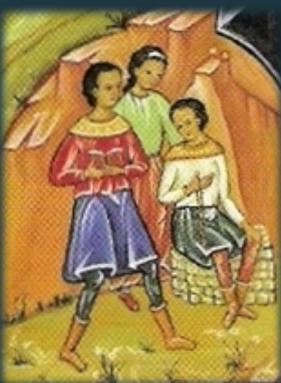
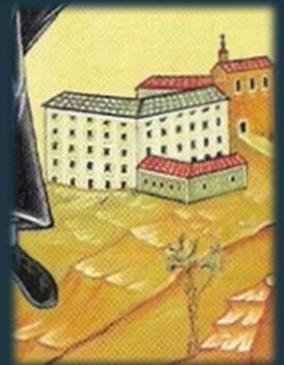




To the right of the saint lies the sanctuary of Our Lady of Fourvière where a group of newly-ordained priests, including Father Champagnat, pledged to found a Society of Mary.

To Marcellin's left rises "Our Lady of the Hermitage," built by the sweat of the Founder and his early Brothers. Inside its walls, the Institute was formed. This is where the Brothers saw the good example of their Father and heard his teachings and counsels.

It is from here that sallied forth the pioneers who spread throughout the world to exercise the charism of their holy Founder – including the first group to leave for Africa in 1867.



At his feet is a group of children. St Marcellin fulfilled his charism by founding the Little Brothers of Mary – to give Christian education to poor children and honour Mary by imitating her and spreading her devotion. One of the children carries a book, another the Beads.

"I can't see a child without feeling the desire to tell him how much Jesus loves him."

MARIST CAMP KUTAMA ZIMBABWE

27 December 2017 – 4 January 2018

The Official Report on this event was received shortly before publication of this Newsletter. It will be sent to the Province later this week. In the meantime, we include here only some brief extracts.

Beneficiaries of Marist Camp

Our campers came from Kutama village, Chinhoyi, Hurungwe, Karoi, Banket, Murambinda, Mbare, Hopely Farm and Epworth. They were independently identified and selected by parish priests, parish chairpersons, section leaders and Marist volunteers of these different places.

For most of the campers it was their first time to travel from their homes to a distant place. The leaders accompanied the campers from their different parishes to the Camp. It was indeed a great act of sacrifice and selflessness. The cooks and the leaders who were preparing the meals played a pivotal role in ensuring that everyone was well fed and looked after. Each one had an important role to play and played it very well in ensuring that the Camp was a success.

