



From the Provincial's Desk ...

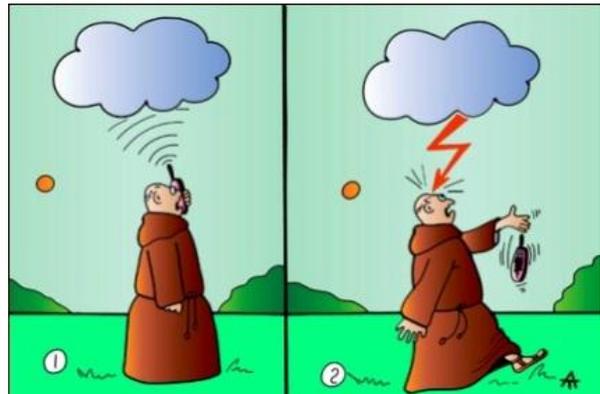
1 September 2012

Dear Brothers,

In the June newsletter I wrote about the spirituality of the evangelical use of goods. Allow me to share some more thoughts on the topic. Since I started to write and think about this subject I have done further reading which has helped me to clarify my thinking on this theme.

In Joe Paprocki's book, *7 Keys to Spiritual Wellness*, I found an interesting term "*lifestyle inflation*" that is worth elaborating on.

When we are in the novitiate we do not set out to be materialistic, it just seems to happen. This change is a reality for many religious even if we



wish to live simply as Marist Brothers. Let us consider four "effects" that we need to watch if we wish to avoid slipping into a materialistic lifestyle. These effects are very subtle and, if we are not careful, our simplicity can be jeopardised.

1. The windfall affect. When we start off as brothers we live very simply and our material needs are simple: clothing, books etc. Then bit by bit we acquire some extra clothes and receive gifts and, before we realise it, we have gathered an assortment of items that we didn't need before. The number of things has simply increased. Our lifestyle has reached a level.



Windfall fruit

2. The ripple effect. An example is provided by the computer. We needed it for our work, well and good. But then we found we needed the sound system to go with it and after that, the CD'S and the DVD's, until the system got ever more elaborate and fancy.



Pampering

3. The grass is greener effect. This effect is a sad one: it comes into play as a result of jealousy. We tend to compare ourselves with others. The media manipulates us to feel that we are missing out on something important. If one brother in your community has something that you don't have, you begin to feel that you want it too, whether there's a real need or not.

4. The pampering effect. You have worked hard and deserve a little pampering so you treat yourself to something special. As time goes on, you and your needs become the centre of your life. In this way, lifestyle inflation makes it difficult for us to really see the poor.

Jesus warned us about “*Lifestyle inflation*” in the parable of the rich man who did not recognize the poor beggar, Lazarus at his gate (Luke 16:19-31) The rich man suffered separation from God not because he directly

hurt Lazarus, but precisely because he didn’t take notice of him.

How do we stop this materialistic way of life? We need to outsmart it, by seeing how loosely we can hold on to our material possessions.



1. Step back and observe your pattern of behaviour taking notice of the reason and occasions that drive you to acquire in the first place.
2. Recognize that inner happiness cannot be achieved by external realities.
3. Understand the difference between healthy self-interest and healthy ambition and an unhealthy desire to possess that competes with self-interest and the ambition of others.
4. Ask yourself why you are about to acquire something and whether you really need it.
5. Distinguish between the emotional value of possessions and the functional value. When you are able to focus on the functional value, you no longer associate possessions with your happiness.
6. Shift from acquiring possessions to engaging in experiences as a means to feel a sense of enjoyment and contentment.

Brothers I challenge you to look seriously at your relationship with goods and compare it with how you relate to your brothers and other people. People must come first, particularly the poor and those in most need.

Joe



Birthday greetings to ...

01/09/1939	Jude Pieterse
01/09/1980	Bernard Kesakudza
01/09/1981	Cosmas Chembe
02/09/1940	Mario Colussi
05/09/1961	Lawrence Ndawala
08/09/1932	Andrew Fournier 80
08/09/1975	Nicholas Zvenyika
16/09/1983	Mathias Katandika
17/09/1961	Felix Muwawa
22/09/1974	Benjamin Machinga
23/09/1973	Andrew Sikelo
25/09/1942	António da Silva 70
28/09/1989	Misheck Hurry Mkanthama

What does the psalmist sing?

**But seventy years is our lifespan
... or eighty if we are strong.
(Ps 90: 10)**



Congratulations to the brothers who renewed their vows this year.

We thank God for the 38 brothers who renewed their vows this year. Let us keep them in our prayers that God bless and protect them in their vocation.

Brothers Alexander Chimera, Cosmas Chembe, Richard Chidothi, Jamal António, and Benjamin Machinga. (7th profession)

Brothers Bernard Kesakudza, Oswald Mkanda, Paddington Chakabva, Peter Simwinga, Reuben Banda, Tererai Gijima, and Witman Phiri (6th profession)

Brother Asensio Njobvu, Daniel Banda, David Kachoka, Mário Valia, Mathias Katandika, Mphatso Majala, and Vincent Kudzowe, (5th Profession)

Brothers Ângelo Atibo, Chrisantius Mwansa, Laurenço Sapalo, Moffat Mbamera, Baptista Mulila, Octaviano Kandumbu, Patrick Banda, Raymond Mbao, Vasco Novele, and William Shibwengo, (4th profession)

Brothers Clement Yambani, Davy Mbasela, and Joseph Daka (3rd profession)

Brother Catole Carlos Alberto, Daniel Jariosse, Dias Gemusse, Peter Justen, Francis Ndapisha, and Dominic Nyoni (2nd profession)

Diamond Jubilee

A very special word of congratulations also to Br João Torcato who celebrated his Diamond Jubilee of Profession at the end of the Assembly. Sixty years ago, on 15 August 1952, as a young novice he pronounced his vows for the first time. Your example of fidelity is a source of encouragement to all of us, João. Ad multos annos!



Best wishes to Brothers going to MIC

I would like to wish Brothers Catole Carlos Alberto, Jariosse Daniel João, Gemusse Dias Ernesto, Peter Justen, Francis Ndapisha, and Dominic Nyoni all God's blessings for their future at MIC. May you all be happy in this next stage of formation. Pray well, be good community brothers, and enjoy your studies as you prepare for ministry as Marist Brothers.

Nine-tenths of education is encouragement.
Anatole France

Br Joe's Calendar for the next three months

SEPTEMBER	
1-5	Lilongwe
6	To Johannesburg
7-9	Prepare pilgrimage
10	Pilgrimage begins
11- 17	Rome
17-24	L'Hermitage
25 - 26	Johannesburg
27 - 30	Lilongwe
OCTOBER	
1 - 9	Lilongwe
5-8	Provincial Council
10-13	Balaka, Malawi
14-17	Zomba, Malawi
18-19	Lilongwe
20-21	Via Jo'burg to Matola
22-27	Novitiate, Matola
28-31	Johannesburg

NOVEMBER	
1-10	Centenary Madagascar.
11	Fly to Johannesburg
12	Fly to Harare
12-15	Harare and Kutama.
16-18	Prov. Council (Kutama)
20-23	Dete, Zimbabwe
26-29	Nyanga, Zimbabwe
30	Fly to Johannesburg
DECEMBER	
1 Dec	Johannesburg
2	To Maputo
3-7	Manhiça
8	1 st Profession Matola
9	Nivava

Become what you eat!



Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating the Eucharist in his Cathedral in El Salvador on 24 March 1980. He challenges us today with

these words: "There are so many hungry people in this world, and their hunger is more than physical. Children are starving for love and affection. The elderly are groaning out of loneliness. People in our families and circle of friends are craving our time and attention. The poor and sick yearn for care and understanding. The wealthy hunger for meaning.

Our challenge as Eucharistic people is to become the Bread of Life for others. As St Augustine put it: **'Become what you receive.'** We, as Christians, must become the bread that feeds the hungry people around us. We are called to feed others with love, care, compassion, concern, hospitality and justice. This is precisely what we commit ourselves to at each Eucharist.

The challenge is addressed to each of us personally, and as a community: 'The Body of Christ', 'The Blood of Christ' When we say our 'Amen', we accept the challenge. We say, 'Yes! I am called to break my body and pour out my blood for everybody. Yes! I am daily bread for the hungry people I know and those I don't know.'

That 'Amen' is one of the most important words we say at Mass. We should think twice before we say it. It should make us shudder. To receive the Eucharist is to make the commitment to become the Eucharist - for whoever needs it.

Indeed, if we do not intend to **'become what we receive'**, we would do well to absent ourselves from the communion line."



FINAL PROFESSION AND SILVER JUBILEE

Brother Joseph Nsambo made his Perpetual Profession as a Marist Brother on 4 August 2012. This celebration, combined with that of the Silver Jubilee of Br Evaristus Kasambwe's first profession, took place in the church of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus in Chisitu, southern Malawi.

Br Joseph Walton, Provincial, was present to represent the Superior General in receiving the vows. Rt. Reverend Peter Musikuwa, Bishop of

the Diocese of Chikwawa, was joined by a number of priests in leading the liturgy.

Over twenty Brothers attended the function, as well as teachers, employees, former students, friends, and other religious.

Our prayers go with Joseph that he too may celebrate his Silver Jubilee (and more!) and with Evaristus as he looks forward to the Golden Jubilee (and more!)



Our two Brothers with family members

Provincial Assembly Southern Africa 8 – 15 August

Sixty-nine Brothers from Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi and Angola converged on St Dominic's Seminary, Lusaka for an Assembly from 8 to 15 August. The Province was delighted that the Superior General and



Morning Prayer

Vicar General accepted the invitation to attend and animate the gathering. Their very presence was a source of encouragement to us. The Province is very grateful.

The first and last of the six working days dealt with the Province. To begin with, delegates were helped to understand the status quo by means of colourful collages of houses and works on display round the meeting hall. This exercise enabled everyone to get an idea of the diversity of situations and ministries in our countries. Other sessions enabled us to reflect on our communities, vocation ministry and financial situation.

The next four days were animated jointly by Brothers Emili Turú and Joe McKee. On the first day, they invited us to go “back to basics” and reflect on the meaning of our faith in God and consecrated life.



New friends!

Subsequently, they devoted a day to each of the fundamental calls of the 21st General Chapter: (a) New ways of being a Brother; (b) A new relationship between

Brothers and Lay Marists; and (c) A highly significant presence among poor children and young people. Their presentations and “assignments” challenged us to change – in the words of the slogan of the General Chapter – to form *New Hearts for a New World*.

To wind up on the final day, Br Joe Walton, Provincial led the Brothers of the Province to further reflection, particularly for the future. Brothers were also invited to compare what they experienced with the objectives of the Assembly.

The methodology used during the Assembly involved considerable use of “round table” discussions in small groups usually with about six members each. Very enlightening were two sessions when the Brothers from Rome



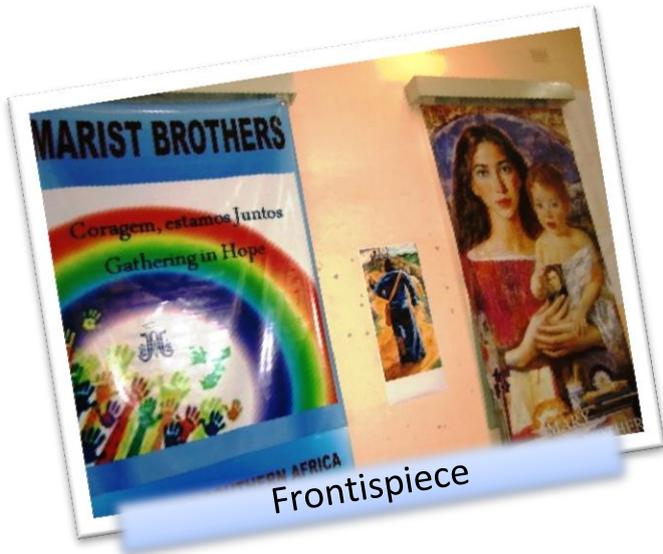
Round tables

answered written questions on aspects of the Institute, ranging from the realities of our Brothers in Syria and Ad Gentes, through lay Marists, and to vocations ministry.

The Assembly concluded with Holy Mass celebrating the Assumption of Mary during which twelve young Brothers renewed their vows before Br Emili and Br João Torcato marked the 60th anniversary of his first profession.

The long-term fruits of the Assembly remain to be seen. As Brother Emili would put it:

*The answer, Brother, is in your hands.
A resposta, Irmão, esta em suas mãos.*



Frontispiece



Let's go for coffee!

Our resistance to accepting and facing up to the symptoms of sickness in the Institute is provoking a process of degeneration which can lead to **DEATH** a firm REACTION in the face of the symptoms of sickness in the Institute will be our principal source of REVITALIZATION [BR EMILI]

Challenge!



Fala-se Português?



Collages

WELCOME HOME TO...

... Brothers **REUBEN BANDA** (Zambia), **PADINGTON CHAKABVA** and **TERERAI GIJIMA** (both Zimbabwe), and **BERNARD KESAKUDZA**, **OSWALD MKANDA**, **WITMAN PHIRI** and **PETER SIMWINGA** (all Malawi).

Fresh from some years of study and a recently completed term of teaching practice, seven former scholastics flew back from Nairobi early in August. A warm welcome to you all, and we hope to see you eager and enthusiastic in the ministry for which you have been preparing.

SERVICE, first of all, to the **Brothers in your community** and also, it goes without saying, service to **the young people** entrusted to your care.

Our best wishes and prayers go with you all.



Your prayers are requested for ...

- ✚ The family of Br Padington Chakabva (Zimbabwe). His uncle passed away on 24 July. RIP.
- ✚ The family of Br Baptista Mulila (MIC). His father passed away on 2 August 2012. RIP.
- ✚ The family of Br Vigilio Bwalya (Ad Gentes). His elder brother, Joseph Mulumba, passed away on 3 August 2012. RIP
- ✚ The family of Br Clement Yambani (MIC). His sister, Paulina, passed away on 7 August. RIP.
- ✚ The family of Br Steven Phiri (Zambia). His sister, Barbara, passed away on 7 August. RIP.
- ✚ The family of Br Geraldo Medida (Mozambique). His mother passed away on 14 August. RIP.
- ✚ The family of Br Felix Muwawa (Malawi). An uncle of his passed away on 17 August RIP.
- ✚ In thanksgiving for the blessings of the Provincial Assembly.
- ✚ Brothers Emili Turú and Joe McKee and their service to the Institute
- ✚ Brother Martin Whiteford (South Africa) who is seriously ill.
- ✚ Our three Brothers working in Aleppo, Syria.
- ✚ Brothers António Sanasana (25 yrs) and João Torcato (60 yrs) who mark their jubilees in a joint celebration at Manhiça on Sunday 2nd September.

Novices on holiday – living out our Assembly



For some time, the novices have been on holiday - not a time for doing nothing but a period for change of activities. Groups have been doing maintenance such as painting, building, welding and carpentry. Those familiar with the formation guide will notice that at the very end there is a topic called “practicals” meaning formation in skills needed to be effective in personal life, community life and apostolate.

In the accompanying photo you see a group improving the security of the property by replacing broken glass on part of the surrounding wall. Misheck is squatting on the

ground while breaking bottles and novice Felix (wearing a hat) is offering the broken pieces to Victor (wearing a beanie) working with a builder’s trowel. Quintas (in the blue T-shirt and perched on a ladder) is doing his bit in the construction too.

This part of the wall has been a weakness for some time. Access to the property was easy for any scoundrels! It was a convenient shortcut for them. Not long time ago a boy threatened a girl near outside the spot with a knife to rob her of the mobile phone. She panicked and threw the phone over the fence. The culprit simply jumped over the fence, grabbed the instrument and ran away with it.

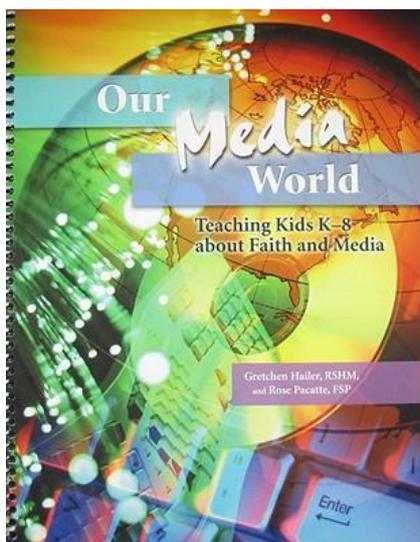


Little did the “building” group realise that they were living out the maxim on the miniature trowel given to each participant at the

Assembly by Brother Emili Turú:

***The answer, Brother, is in your hands!
A resposta, Irmão, esta em suas maos!***

Marist Youth Ministry MYM



The media – especially social networking – make a huge impact on young people. Here’s a book that will help you form young people in navigating the media world through the eyes of faith.

Gretchen Hailer & Rose Pacatte
Our Media World: Teaching Kids K-8 about Faith and Media.
Pauline Books & Media. (≈ \$8.00)

