



FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...

1 May 2013

Dear Brothers and friends,



As May is traditionally a month during which the focus is on Mary, allow me to share a few thoughts on the mother of Jesus and her role in our lives. There are a number of articles in the

Constitutions of our Institute that can be of great help to us in this regard. Among Christian churches this can be a very sensitive subject, particularly for those of us who grew up in a protestant country and in a particularly Calvinist town as well.

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis said that no subject in our faith needs to be approached more delicately than this, and one of the reasons he cited was that Catholics have a natural affection for Mary, and when Mary is attacked, Lewis says that Catholics respond with that "chivalrous sensibility that a man feels when the honour of his mother or his beloved is at stake."

As Marist Brothers how do we feel when others do not give Mary her rightful place? St Marcellin gave us a love for Mary and called her "Our Good Mother"

We call Mary "Our Good Mother" Do we really mean what we say or is it just a glib phrase that



can sound good and correct? Let us consider what "Our Good Mother" means to us as Marist Brothers. Some time ago, I came upon a text where the author spoke of Jesus as the "first-born son" of Mary. This description concerned me: I thought that "only-born" son would have been more appropriate term. While meditating on this the term "first-born son" began to ring true for me when I realised that we are all her sons and daughters. Mary is our true mother! Mary as Mother gave Jesus his body, his formal entry into the Israelite community of faith, and a name that would be his for eternity. We are reminded by her motherhood, and she teaches us how to follow her son. By looking at Mary, Our Good Mother, we see how to be Christ bearers to the world. This is our task today as Marist to bring Jesus to the youth we come in contact with.

Lewis wrote that Catholics feel this way about Mary "very naturally," but there is one person who feels that way about Mary even more naturally than we do: her literal Son according to the flesh – Jesus Christ."



Mary reminds us as Marists that every child needs a mother, even when the child is the Son of God. Without Mary agreeing to become the

Mother of Jesus, Jesus would not have been born. If Mary never attended to his needs Jesus would not have grown to maturity. Without Mary's care Jesus would have been emotionally and physically underdeveloped.

When we were baptised and then made our vows as Brothers Jesus asked us, "Would you give me your human nature? I want to use you." We are asked to carry and bear Jesus as Mary did. We are asked to bear and give Jesus to youth just as Mary did the Mother who brought Jesus to the world.

I would suggest that we read Brother Emili's circular during the month of May. The Circular "He gave us the name of Mary" is very rich in this theme. The time now is ripe for us to show the world the Marian Face of the Church. Consider the challenges that Pope Francis is presenting by his example in these first weeks of his pontificate: simplicity, humility ... It seems



to me that he wishes the Church to be gentler in character, an opportunity for us to present the Marian Face of the church to all we work with and for.

Brothers, let this month of May be a time of revolution for us to deepen our understanding of what Marist should mean in our communities, in prayer and our apostolates.

Our Constitutions give clear guidelines about the role of Mary for us in relationship to Jesus:

Marial Spirit

4. In giving us Mary's name, Father Champagnat wished us to live her spirit. He was convinced that it was she who has done everything for us, and he called her our Ordinary Resource and our First Superior.

To make Mary's spirit our own, we contemplate the life of our Mother and Model. Our ways of being and acting draw their inspiration and guidance from the attitudes that made her the perfect disciple of Christ.

Since God gave His Son to the world through Mary, we want to make her known and loved as one who will lead us to Jesus. In this way, we put into action our motto: "All to Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus."

Spirituality

7. The spirituality bequeathed to us by Marcellin Champagnat is Marial and apostolic. It flows from God's love for us, gains strength as we give ourselves to others, and leads us to the Father. In this way, our apostolic life, our life of prayer, and our community life are blended into harmony.



L'Hermitage - Our Mother House

Jesus was the whole focus of Mary's life; He is to be the focus of ours. In whatever we do, we act as she did, with her discretion, her sensitivity, and her respect for each person.

Following the Founder's example, we live in the presence of God, and we draw our dynamism from the mysteries of the Crib, the Cross, and the Altar. We are content to leave the results of our work entirely in God's hands, convinced that "if the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders labour."

I have chosen but two articles from the Constitutions to support my thoughts on Mary. The full list of articles in the Constitutions with reference to Mary is impressive: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 18, 21, 27.1, 30, 38, 46, 48, 49, 53, 54, 55, 67, 68, 74, 84, 91, 94, 97, 107, 114, 120, 163, 170, and 171. As you can see, our lives should be steeped in the spirit of Mary.

May we love Mary as Our Good Mother.

Joe



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

01/05/1987	Godfrey Kadzuwa
05/05/1983	Armando Soares
06/05/1967	Arthur Ganiza
08/05/1936	Jesus Sánchez Martin
09/05/1984	Victor Mwamba
10/05/1956	António Sanasana
11/05/1939	John Heng Hee Soon
11/05/1971	Gilbert Zenda
12/05/1964	Deodato Magomero
15/05/1975	Kasongo Mwape
17/05/1982	Chrisantius Mwansa
23/05/1941	Neil McGurk
25/05/1987	Joseph Daka
31/05/1936	Christopher Zimmermann

There are two ways to live:
 you can live as if
 nothing is a miracle;
 you can live as if
 everything is a miracle.

Albert Einstein



BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

This time the cameraman caught Brother Joe doing what he rarely does - namely looking down on people!

Sandra is a lay Marist from Brazil who has volunteered to work for a year in Mozambique. We wish her well in her ministry to young Mozambicans in Manhiça.

SADNESS IN ALEPPO - Sunday 31 March



To my friends around the world, my Marist brothers and friends, I am sure you thought of us in your prayer on Good Friday. I know you are worried about us. I know you wish for us a resurrection, an end to the war, a glimmer of hope! Unfortunately, I have sad news for you.

Since dawn, the quarter of Jabal el Saydeh, where we have been conducting our mission for more than 27 years and where we are at the service of 300 Christian families and 3 schools accommodating refugees, has been the theatre of fierce fighting. The people are terrorised, shut up in their houses, prisoners of the madness of shooting, snipers, mortars... They cannot leave their house in any way, they are afraid. We cannot get to them at all. When it is possible, we make contact by telephone.

What a Calvary! What a cross! What despair! I am not writing this to you to make you sorry for my people... I am writing because I am sad, absolutely sad, with a sadness that extinguishes the little hope remaining! I am writing to you to cry out loud: ENOUGH!

I have already expressed on other occasions this rejection of the war. All these questions arise within me, in the name of all these people, in the name of their children, the young people, the adults: Why? Why? And in the name of what? Who is the warlord who has decided to kill us, exterminate us, make an end of us? Who is the decision-maker who wishes such suffering to be our daily bread for month after month? Who is the one who invites us to the table of crucifixion?



I am ashamed to say that men on this land decide for death! ... (Brother Georges Sabe)

[www.champagnat.org 9 April 2013]

UPDATED in **Marist News # 264**
(worth reading)



NOVITIATE VETERAN takes a well-deserved break

Br. Angel Mansoa ready for home-leave in Spain.

All those at Matola Novitiate, bade farewell to him as he was entering into the car with his customary open smile. We will temporarily miss his services in the solidarity commission, his love of manual work, his touching insights during Marial devotion and on feasts of special saints. He has the knack of correcting others in a

gentle way. He also notices when the novices or neighbours have no soccer ball and often sends me to look for one.

Of late he has developed his computer skills and is up to date with current events. Any latest book creates an appetite for reading. He is the overall supervisor in allocating us to work places and works closely with the novice in charge. He consults widely before taking a decision to help the poor. He never complains when he is not feeling well and prefers to go to a local clinic rather than the hospital to be attended to. We hope that the holiday will strengthen his health and act as a period of convalescence. Thanks Irmão Mansoa and may God's blessings accompany you in the coming months. "Ide em paz e o Senhor vos acompanhe." (Brother Simeon Banda, fms Matola Novitiate, Mozambique)



POSTULANTS 2013



From ANGOLA

Angel Miguel Cassinda
Celistino Ngonjo
Simão Manuel



From MALAWI

Christopher Maloya
Christopher Chagunda
Matthias Yobu
Kyang'wa Dickson
Elijah Madimba



From MOZAMBIQUE

Domingos Eduardo Muchaiabande

From SOUTH AFRICA

Jean Paul Mbuyi
(from DRC, resident in RSA)



From ZAMBIA

Mariot Tembo
Diaz Nyati



From ZIMBABWE

Xavier Maramba Tawanda

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE FOR THE NOVICES



SEND-OFF OF 2nd -YEAR NOVICES

(L to R) Raphael Kenneth Time - NYANGA; Godfrey Kadzuwa - DETE;
Felix Chabu - LIKUNI; Steven Phiri - MTENDERE SECONDARY;
Boston Ngulube - MARIST SECONDARY; Misheck Mkanthama -KABWE;
Fonseca Fernando - CHASSA



MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

“Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.”

“Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?’ his Mother asked.”

“Well, no, Mom.. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!”

LATE NEWS – FIRE DESTROYS DORMITORY AT MARIST SCHOOL



Byimana, Rwanda, Tuesday 23 April: Just as the students were about to begin their morning classes, a great cry was raised. The dormitory housing over 250 boys in junior secondary school had caught fire. The cause? Probably an electrical fault.

Facilities on the campus were inadequate to control the blaze, and by the time the fire brigade arrived from Kigali some 60 km away, the conflagration was almost over. Precautionary measures had prevented the spread of the fire to nearby buildings.

The lads lost all their personal goods – mattresses, bedding, suitcases, documents – and have been sent home (at the school's expense) until further notice.

The community is grateful that no lives were lost nor injuries sustained. (Br Adrien Mercier, Community Superior www.champagnat.org 24 April 2013).

(Translated & abridged from the original French – Ed).



EDITOR

**TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THE NEWSLETTER-
make it yours by **SENDING**....**

- PHOTOS OF YOUR COMMUNITY – birthdays and other occasions ...
- PHOTOS OF YOUR SCHOOL – activities, individuals, campus
- PHOTOS OF SPECIAL PROJECTS –
- INCLUDE A BRIEF TEXT that can be used as a caption!

ADDRESS – provsec@globemw.net

MARIST SOLIDARITY in Argentina

More than 50 people perished in floods that struck the cities of Buenos Aires and La Plata in Argentina during the first week of April this year. The Brothers in the area have a Missionary Centre named "Brother Miguel Angel Isla". The Centre was made available to house 150 persons from families who had to evacuate their homes.

www.Champagnat.org 8 April 2013



Prayer Requests



- **Our Sick Brothers** especially Vincent Chunga and Aidan Bridge
- **Our Brothers in Formation** – postulancy, novitiate and scholasticate
- **Our Family members and friends** especially those with special needs at this time.
- **Our Colleagues in Ministry** – teachers, support staff, and many others.
- **Our Brothers in Aleppo** – including their families and collaborators and all the people of Syria
- **Our Brothers in Byimana, Rwanda** – as they cope with the aftermath of the recent fire.

Spot the familiar faces
at MANZIANA !



SPECIAL PATRONS OF THE BROTHERHOOD

St. Benedict Joseph Labre

1748 –1783, (Feast: April 20). The oldest of 15 children in a prosperous middle class family in France, Benedict Joseph was educated by his uncle, a parish priest. Following his uncle’s death, he tried to join the Trappists, the Carthusians, and the Cistercians, but was rejected by them all. He spent years wandering Europe, especially Rome, in complete poverty, passing his days in perpetual adoration in the cathedrals. Given to religious ecstasies when contemplating the Crown of Thorns; reputed to float, soar, and bilocate when in these swoons. Benedict Joseph begged in the streets, and if he was given more than he needed for the day, he would give the remainder to someone he considered more in need than he was. He cured some of his fellow homeless, and was reported to have multiplied bread for them. He was a noted counsellor to people of all walks in Rome. He died in a hospice, exhausted from his life of austerity. Benedict Joseph was canonized in 1883 by Pope Leo XIII.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The king and the picture of peace



There once was a king who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried and submitted their work. The king looked at all the pictures. There were only two he really liked, and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake, perfectly mirroring the peaceful, towering mountains all around it. Overhead was blue sky with fluffy, white clouds. It was the favourite of all who saw it. Truly, they thought, it was the perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains, too, but these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell and in which lightning played. Down the side of one mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. A less peaceful picture would be difficult to imagine. But when the king looked closely, he saw beside the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest in perfect peace.

Which picture would you have selected? The king chose the second picture. Do you know why?

“Because,” explained the king, “peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all these things and still be calm in your heart. This is the real meaning of peace.”



PROFESSION OF VOWS

BROTHERS IN TEMPORARY VOWS

Please send your **Written Application for Admission** to annual vows or to perpetual profession to Brother Provincial josephwalton@ymail.com, and copied to the Provincial Secretary at provsec@globemw.net.

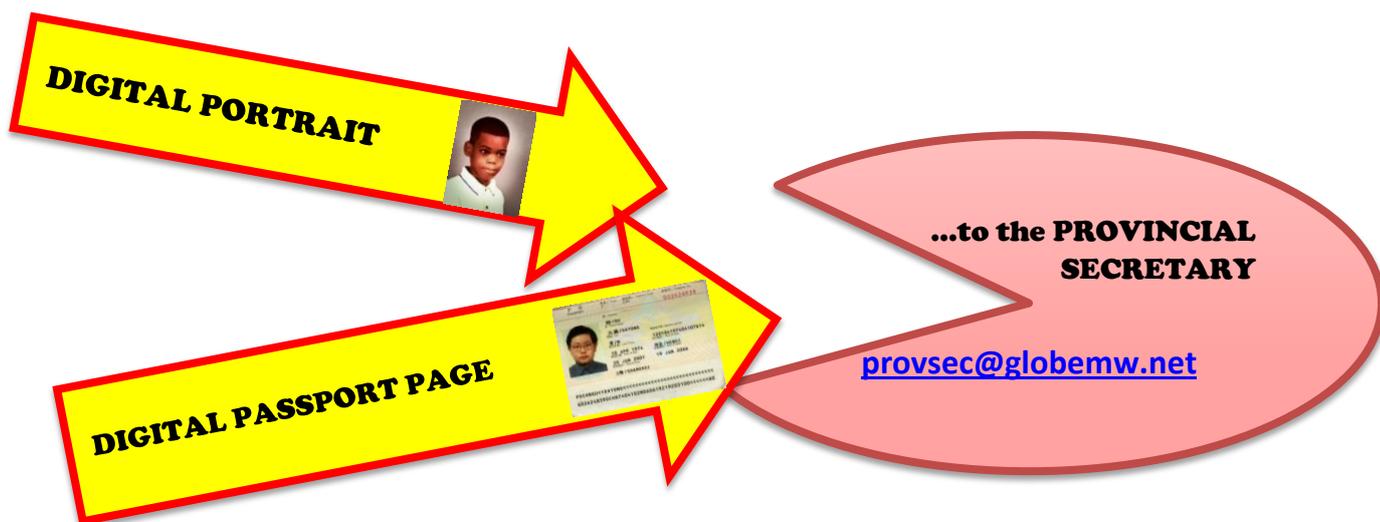
Extended DEADLINE 7 May 2013

PERPETUALLY PROFESSED BROTHERS

Please send a **Report on Each Young Brother** in your community to Brother Provincial at josephwalton@ymail.com.

Extended DEADLINE 7 May 2013

KOSMOS -REMINDER... Please send your...

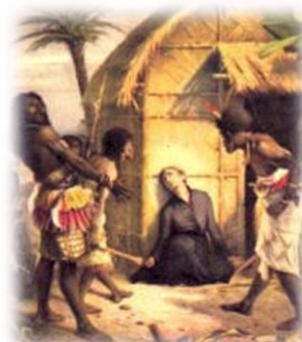


SAINT PETER CHANEL

Marist Father, Martyr †1841, Feast Day 28 April



St. Peter Chanel
Patron Saint of Oceania



PROVINCIAL'S CALENDAR

1 – 2 MAY	Johannesburg to get visas	1 – 5 JULY	Visit Melanesia (continued)
3 - 5	Nivava, Mozambique	5 – 18	Visit of Br Oscar, Provincial of Compostela: Jo'burg & Malawi
6	Johannesburg	21 – 31	LaVerna, RSA: Workshop to prepare for final profession
7 – 15	Visit communities, Zimbabwe	1 – 14 AUGUST	LaVerna RSA: continuation of preparation for final vows
16 – 17	Provincial Council, Zimbabwe	16 – 18	Retreat in Malawi
18 – 21	Visit Zimbabwe, continued	24 - 31	Finance workshop, Lusaka
22 – 25	Visit St Paul's, Kabwe, Zambia	31– 1 SEPTEMBER	Provincial Council, Lusaka
26 – 30	Visit St Marcellin's, Kalulushi	1 – 2	Finance workshop, Lusaka
30 May – 3 JUNE	Chassa, Zambia	8 – 29	General Conference, L'Hermitage
3 – 11	Lilongwe (3 June – p.m. Postulancy)	30	Johannesburg, RSA
12 – 13	Johannesburg		
14 – 30	Visit Melanesia to prepare for the General Conference		

MALAWI BROTHERS ASSEMBLY – 1st & 2nd April at Marist Secondary School



The Assembly made use of the “round table” method where groups dealt with strengths, weaknesses, challenges and the way forward.

The gathering was worthwhile for the participants, not least for the strengthening of community spirit among Brothers in the country.

