



## FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...

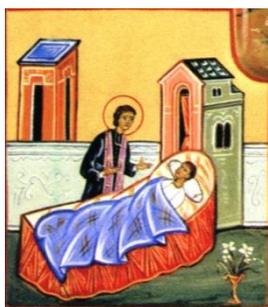
1 November 2013

Dear Brothers and friends,

*As you know, the 6<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter of the Southern African Province has just been completed. I thought it would be good to send you my closing address. Although it was addressed to the capitulants I would like all of you to take its message to heart. The Chapter has helped to clarify some of the journey we need to travel along in the next three years.*

### **Closing Address to the 6<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter of the Southern African Province**

I believe that if St Marcellin had walked into of Chapter room or mingled with us in the campus of the Marist community he would have felt at home. The spirit among us was truly one of family. The warmth and affection was truly brotherly. I felt proud to be your brother.



Gatherings like this make me think about St Marcellin and his short yet wonderful life. I recall his charisma and especially his love for the poor youngsters of his time. What caused a young country priest to

desire so much to found a teaching institute? It must have been more than ministering to the Montagne boy. There must have been some inner urge long before that incident: otherwise he would never have reacted as he did. I strongly believe it was his great love for Jesus and Mary. He must have fallen in love with them a long time before his visit to the dying lad. Falling in love could have had that effect. He fell in love with



God and Mary through the insights and intuitions deep within himself. When God called, Marcellin responded by taking great risks. He took these risks all through his life. He chose to centre his life on the Ones he loved and was willing to give up his security to do it. Marcellin challenged his brothers to live simple lives. He encouraged us Brothers to love poor children and youth and to reverence God in one another. St. Marcellin gave us the example of taking up challenges. Let us ask ourselves:

***Have we heeded God's voice at this Chapter?***

***Have we listened to God's prophet, Marcellin?***

***How much of this saint's challenge is part of our lives today?***

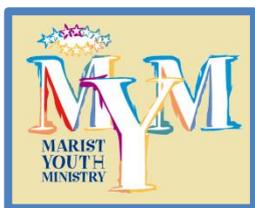
In the next three years we as a Province will really have face some challenges and make some changes in how we do things in the Province. We all will have to face some difficulties because of the changes that are there. We cannot be caught sleeping or complacent in the face of the urgent calls that have come from the Institute and come from the poor children around us. We need to become more like Mary who took a risk in saying her "Yes" to becoming the Mother of Jesus. I need your support in the risks that will have to be taking in the future. I need your "Yes".

During the Chapter I pleaded with you for your support, when you presented the priorities for the Province, you guaranteed that support. I hope I can hold you to your word. Winston Churchill once said, "To improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often." I believe if we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow we aren't really living. I wonder if we have not become

complacent because we have done well in the past.

In listening to the Chapter, I hear about a number of urgent matters to be addressed. Attending to these will demand that we will have to accept change if we truly to make progress. "Progress is a nice word", Robert Kennedy said, "but change is its motivator. But change has its enemies." I challenge you to embrace change so that we can be faithful to what this Chapter has called us to do.

The Chapter has called the Province to:



Examine the **youth ministry** in all the countries and to see how we can grow into a stronger relation with youth in areas we work. We need to continue to make Jesus known and loved in all our ministries.

Develop a stronger **vocations** program in the Province by freeing brothers so that they can give their full energy to this important task.

Re-study the issue of **on-going formation**.

Continue to work on developing **good communities** and to care for the young brothers of the Province. This is a new way of being brother.

Consider starting a **project** that will make our Province financially stable.

Formulate a **strategic plan**.

These are matters to think about.

Brothers thanks for your whole-hearted and enthusiastic participation in the Chapter. Also thanks for the atmosphere you created. Even at some tough moments we never lost the sense of our brotherhood.

Thanks to the three host communities who housed us during the Chapter, particularly the Marist Community who fed us so well. Thanks. Thanks to Brother John Katumbi for his excellent catering. Thanks to Brothers Daniel, David and Mathias for assisting in the care for us during

these three days. I would also like to thank the cooks and the other workers who prepared the meals and prepared our rooms. Thanks.

Mario, Witman and Alex thanks for the great work you did as secretaries for the Chapter. It is really appreciated.

My thanks to Brothers Tomas Sawayenga, Frank Mwambucha, Felizardo Maceia, Jude Pieterse, Patrick Bushilya and Fortune Chakasara for taking on the service role as Provincial Councillors. You are going to have your hands full for the next three years. I thank Brother Fortune for accepting to be the Deputy Provincial. To all of you, I am most grateful.

Brother António, thank you for your presence and guidance during the Chapter. Thanks for giving us this time out of your busy schedule. It was good to have you back in our Province. Please extend my gratitude to Brother Emili and take with you our promise of support and our respect for him and his Council.



Once again, brothers, thanks for the faith you have shown in me. I will try my best to continue to serve the Province for the next three years.

Brothers, a final note to all of you capitulants. This is the last session for the Chapter but this is not the end of the road for you. You need to take back to the Brothers of the Province all you have gleaned from your sharing and deliberations. You also need to support all the suggestions made when the Council puts into practice what you have asked us to do.

Brothers learn to **take risks** and **not to be afraid of change**.

May God bless you

Joe

## PROVINCIAL CHAPTER – CAPITULANTS AT WORK



**ROUND TABLE 1: Geraldo, Brendan, Patrick, Fortune, Tomás, Boniface**



**ROUND TABLE 2: Frank, Euclides, Patrick, Ebel, Francis, Chris**



**ROUND TABLE 3: Felix, William, John, Patrick, Tomás**



**ROUND TABLE 4: Evans, Gilbert, Felizardo, Norbert, Nicholas**



**Br Antonio Ramalho  
is delighted  
with the clock  
presented to him  
by Br Joe Walton  
on behalf of the Chapter**



**The Chapter blesses the new Provincial Council at the final liturgy**



**Secretarial Team - Witman, Mario, Alex**

## CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIALS



**Superiors of Administrative Units in Africa**  
*Back: Valentin Njawu, Joe Walton*  
*Front: Joachim Ezetulugo, Francis Lukong,  
Thomas Randrianantenaina*



- **Brother JOE WALTON** as he begins his second mandate as Superior of the Province.
- **The NEW PROVINCIAL COUNCIL:** Patrick Bushilya, Fortune Chakasara (Deputy Provincial), Felizardo Maceia, Frank Mwambucha, Jude Pieterse, Tomás Sawayenga,
- The families of **Ignatius Matemba & Witman Phiri** who lost a dear one recently.



## THE SCHOOL FOR DETAINEES: THEIR SECOND CHANCE

*(Courtesy of FMSI Annual Report 2012)*

Maula Prison, Lilongwe, Malawi

Local Partner: Marist Brothers

Contribution: €52,000

Financing body: *Misean Cara*, Ireland

**Brother Fernand Dostie**, since 2009, has been running a school programme inside “Maula Prison”, in Lilongwe, capital of Malawi. This large prison houses 2,000 detainees, men and women. Currently about 200 of them are attending lessons of primary or secondary school. In the teaching programme computer lessons are also included, since Br. Dostie has succeeded in setting up a computer room. The scholastic activities are conducted by internal teachers, themselves prisoners, and among the students are also some of the prison staff who have not completed the school course. On a visit of FMSI some months ago, Br. Dostie stated with satisfaction that 73% of the students had passed the final exam and this was absolutely the best result.

In collaboration with the local Bunda agricultural school, Br. Dostie has also begun an agricultural training programme. Tanks have been installed on the land inside the prison for activities of fish farming and horticulture which supply food

produce for the prisoners’ meals and constitute a project-laboratory for the agricultural training.

In parallel, in collaboration with TEVETA (Technical Entrepreneurial Vocational Education and Training), he has initiated another programme for training in the sectors of tailoring, woodwork, masonry, carpentry and welding.

The prison situation in Malawi is particularly harsh because of living conditions and overcrowding. The prisoners are for the most part young men from 16 to 30, in prison for petty offences frequently caused by hunger or poverty. The most common element behind them is the lack of education and the impossibility of finding work. Usually, once they have served their sentence, they find themselves poorer and more marginalised than before, exposed to the risk of reoffending and in living conditions on the edge of survival. All the male and female prisoners who have attended the course have been able to use the training on leaving the prison and the overall result has been that they have committed no more offences.

Following their visit, FMSI received a project aimed at broadening the professional formation through the building of a dedicated centre.

The objective is to provide these young people with the tools that allow them to insert themselves again into their village, have an economic activity, and lay the foundation for a different future. It is not a matter of “keeping the prisoners occupied”, but of offering them a second chance of a new life. The specialties are chosen in collaboration with TEVETA, according to the demand of the local market and the possibility of using simple equipment in a way that later the prisoners can work with it in their village. The programme, in fact, includes providing the prisoners who leave prison having finished the course with a kit of tools so as to be able to go to work immediately..

*He has sent me to proclaim  
liberty to captives*



**MUCHAS GRACIAS, FELIPE, AND BEST WISHES !**



Earlier this year, Brother **FELIPE MORENO** left Zambia to return to Spain. Felipe Moreno came to Zambia at the age of 26, and worked there for thirty years. He began by teaching at St Paul's Secondary School. Later he founded and directed Lulamba Skills Centre. The last ten years of his stint in Africa was spent in Kalulushi where he built the Marist Education Centre, and became head of the ICT Department at St Marcellin's Skills Centre.

Many young people in Zambia have enjoyed the fruits of your hard work, Felipe. We say thank you for your very presence as well, and wish you every blessing in the future. And remember, that should you decide to return, you will be welcomed with open arms!

**Felipe at Work**



*By the tasks they perform,  
Brothers employed in  
administration or in manual  
work co-operate in the  
apostolate of the Institute.  
(Const. 85)*



## MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO ...

13/11/32	JOÃO TORCATO
13/11/83	OSWALD MKANDA
13/11/82	ASENSIO NJOBVU
15/11/49	RAIMUNDO PUENTE CALLEJA
16/11/84	FRANCIS NDAPISHA BWALYA
17/11/68	BONIFACE CHIRAMBO
18/11/90	FELIX CHABU
18/11/89	STEVEN BANDA
21/11/77	FORTUNE CHAKASARA
24/11/68	ANTÓNIO VIANA
27/11/48	VINCENT GEORGE
28/11/86	MARK CHIKANDWE

## A MYSTERY POEM

When opening a brand-new book about a week ago, I discovered a decorative note containing a sensitive poem describing the feelings of someone who had visited Champagnat country.

Who is the author?

How did the note get there?

I would love to know!

[mario.colussi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mario.colussi@yahoo.co.uk)

*I left my heart in La Valla*

*I left my heart in La Valla*

*And dancing in the Gyer  
to the music of her babbling flow;  
with rocks that hold the smooth  
secrets of eons past.*

*I left ~~it~~ there in that contented  
peace  
As it dragged its heels to leave  
the bubble of inspiration & spiritual  
nurture.*

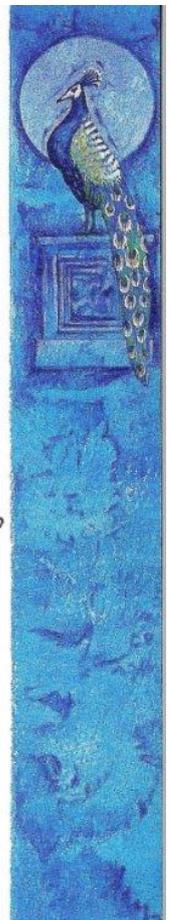
*I know it will slowly wend its way home  
to inhabit me fully again*



*But first it must soak up the  
mystery & awe  
of faithful servants who leave  
noble footsteps for me to follow.*

*And then it will  
return*

*Bringing for me a piece  
of the river, the rock  
& the spirit of St  
Marcellin  
to live always in my  
soul.*



**BROTHER JOE'S CALENDAR**



**NOVEMBER 2013**

1 - 11	Lilongwe
12	Travel to Durban
13	Durban Community
14 - 17	Seminar on Religious Life
18 - 19	Durban Community
20 - 21	Johannesburg Community.
22	Farewell St David's SS principal
23 - 26	Provincial Council Johannesburg
27	Johannesburg Community
28	Farewell function at Linmeyer
29	Johannesburg Community
30	Farewell St David's PS principal

**DECEMBER 2013**

1 - 3	Johannesburg Community
4	Travel to Maputo
5 - 6	Novitiate Matola
7	First profession
9	Travel to Johannesburg
10 - 11	Johannesburg
12	Travel to LUANDA
13 - 31	Visitation ANGOLA

**JANUARY 2014**

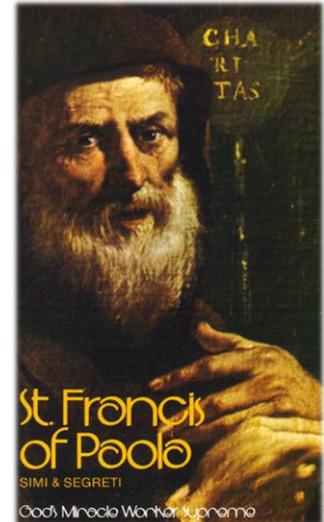
1 - 4	ANGOLA
5	Travel to JOHANNESBURG



## Special Patrons of the Brotherhood

### ST. FRANCIS OF PAOLA

1416-1507, (Feast day: April 2). Following a pilgrimage in his teens, young Francis became a hermit in a cave near Paola, in southern Italy. Before he was 20 years old he began to attract followers. By the 1450's the followers had become so numerous that he established a rule for them and sought Church approval. This was the founding of the "Hermits of Saint Francis of Assisi", who were approved by the Holy See in 1474. In 1492 they were renamed the Franciscan Order of Minim Friars, which means they count themselves the least of the family of God. A defender of the poor and oppressed, Francis also advised kings and assisted popes. He used his position to influence the course of national politics, helping restore peace between countries. Francis was canonized by Pope Julius II in 1512.



## Something to think about

### DISTRACTION IN PRAYER

St Bernard was riding his horse one day, lost in prayer. He met a beggar on the road and engaged in conversation with him. The beggar asked Bernard what he was doing on the horse as he went along, and Bernard said he was praying.



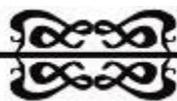
"But I often have distractions in my prayer," Bernard confessed.

"Oh, well, I never have distractions when I pray," the beggar said.

"That's nice", said St Bernard. "I'll give you this horse if you can say an 'Our Father' without once being distracted."

"Oh, that's easy," the beggar said, and he began to pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name...." The beggar paused. "Say. Does the saddle come with the horse?"

**Application:** When we pray we should not lose heart if we are distracted or if the prayer seems dry. Do we persevere in prayer?



**FEAST DAY 6 NOVEMBER -**

**Our Blessed MARIST BROTHERS MARTYRS in Spain**

**(47 were beatified in 2007 and 68 in October 2013)**

**SUGGESTION: Use the Office of the Founder** (write to the Secretary for a copy)

# OCTOBER: MONTH OF THE ROSARY

How the Blessed Virgin is celebrated at our school in Kuito-Bié, Angola

