



FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...

1 June 2013

Dear Brothers and Friends,



At our previous meeting in March, the Provincial Council covered its usual agenda including formation in all its stages. Numbers always arise during discussion. We have at least 30 young aspirants at different stages of preparation, 13 postulants, 12 novices and 18 temporary professed Brothers working in the Province and 26 student Brothers at MIC. These figures sound promising, but numbers are not the only consideration. What really constitutes a blessing is the quality of the young men that come to join us and the solidity of the formation provided. All the formators at the different stages are really working hard to ensure that they encourage good habits for Marist Religious life. I thank them for that.

There is a group of Brothers, however, who go largely unrecognised and unappreciated the **VOCATION PROMOTERS**. And I say a big thanks to them!

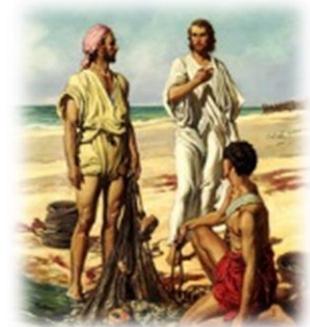
We often leave the task of vocation promotion to this small group. Because of our limited resources, they carry out this important task as an extra, over and above their other apostolic work. The Constitutions, rather, call upon **ALL THE BROTHERS** to encourage vocations.



EVERYONE IS INVOLVED

94. Every Brother in the Province should feel deeply the need to encourage vocations. The most persuasive invitation to follow Christ comes from the witness given by our consecration, and by our life of simplicity and joy lived in a community which is in solidarity with the poor. We call young people to discover our life of brotherhood and apostolic action, and we invite them to commit themselves to this life.

We pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to spread the Gospel. Mary is our inspiration in the work of encouraging vocations, as she was for Marcellin Champagnat. We ask her to sustain and develop what she has begun.



94.1 The Brother Provincial has the primary responsibility for the work of encouraging vocations in the Province. With the help of his Council, he sets up the necessary structures.

94.2 We willingly undertake to be the confidants and counsellors of young people who are searching for their vocation. We encourage them by inviting them to our communities and welcoming them in a warm brotherly spirit.

Note that Section 94.1 lays the primary responsibility for the work of encouraging vocations on the Provincial. I do not think I have made a big enough effort in this regard. I will not make any excuses, but wish to say that at the level of the Council we need to take a serious look at the situation. The time is now for vocations in our region of Africa. We must not let the opportunity slide by. In saying “we”, I mean all the Brothers, the Provincial and Councillors, Superiors, Headmasters... We must not leave the task to the vocation promoters alone.

Let us not forget to **PRAY** for good vocations, but not to limit our efforts to prayer. The scriptures tell us to pray, but also to do good works. So see what you personally can do to promote vocations.

Each community should have a meeting on this subject and report back to the vocation promoter(s) in their country. The vocation promoter needs to report to the Councillor of his area and the Provincial Council will take up the ideas from there. We cannot, as I said earlier, let this time pass us by. It would be good if we could have the reports from the vocation promoters by the 10 July 2013.

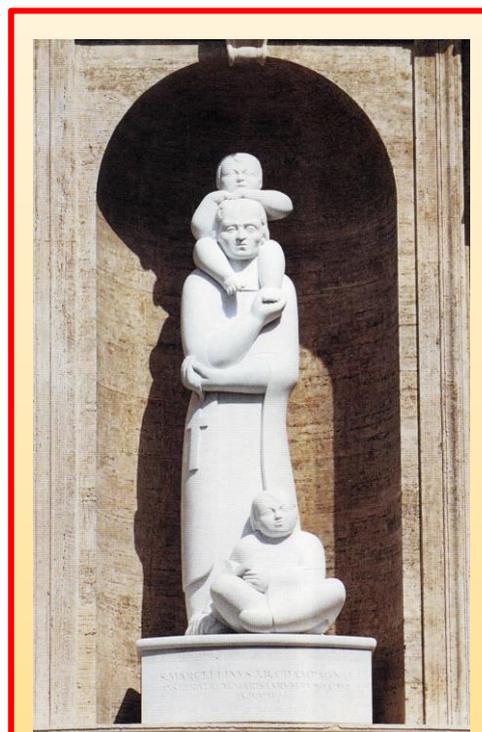
Let me take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful day on the **FEAST OF ST MARCELLIN**. May his example inspire us to follow Jesus as Mary did. May we be always grateful to him for the gift of our brotherhood and let us share this gift with the lay people we meet and with young men who feel the call to religious life.

May God bless you in your vocation.

Joe

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

03/06/1932	Kizito Bute
03/06/1958	Joseph Murakho
05/06/1976	Jacob Mutingwende
09/06/1933	Fernand Dostie
09/06/1975	Tarcisio Postingher
09/06/1989	Steven Chinsolo
11/06/1972	Stephen Phiri
01/06/1972	Lourenço Sapalo
13/06/1964	Bernard Chirombe
14/06/1958	Simeon Banda
17/06/1984	Dominic Nyoni
22/06/1983	Vincent Kudzowe
25/06/1983	Peter Zulu
25/06/1984	Davy Mbasela
26/06/1956	Pedrinho Tambosi
27/06/1984	Carlos Catole



Statue in the Vatican opposite the front door of *Domus Mariae*, the hotel for guests where Pope Francis currently resides

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6th JUNE

PROVINCIAL'S CALENDAR

30 May – 2 JUNE	Chassa, Zambia
3	To Lilongwe and Postulancy
4 - 11	Lilongwe
12 – 13	Johannesburg
14 – 30	Visit Melanesia to prepare for the General Conference
1 – 5 JULY	Visit to Melanesia (continued)
6	Br. Oscar arrives Johannesburg
7	Oscar JNB - Lilongwe
8-10	Br Oscar visits Malawian schools
11	Lilongwe
12-13	Provincial Council Lilongwe
14	Joe & Br Oscar to JNB
15-16	Visit Jo'burg schools with Oscar
17	Br. Oscar to Maputo
18-20	JNB preparation for retreat &

	workshop La Verna
21-31	La Verna retreat for prep. Final Vows
1 – 14 AUGUST	La Verna RSA: retreat continues
16 – 18	Retreat in Malawi
19 – 23	Lilongwe
24 – 31	Finance workshop, Lusaka
31– 1 SEPTEMBER	Provincial Council, Lusaka
1 – 2	Finance workshop, Lusaka
8 – 29	General Conference, L'Hermitage
30	Johannesburg, RSA
1-5 OCTOBER	Johannesburg
6-10	Marist International Laity Commission JNB
19-21	Provincial Chapter, Mtendere

A YOUNG LADY WITH THE ZEAL OF CHAMPAGNAT



REGINA BIASIBETTI (26) was born in Santa Cruz do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. She spent 13 years at Colégio Marista São Luís and has been in Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) for 13 years as well. A Masters graduate in pharmacy and biochemistry, she has interrupted her doctoral studies at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul to come on mission to Kuito-Bié, Angola.

“Some of my friends,” she writes, “who were also part of JUMAR (the former name of MYM

in Brazil) have already had a mission experience in Africa. It has been a long-standing wish of mine to go on mission but I had always felt ill-prepared. A Marist formation course (VIDAMAR) in our Province of Rio Grande do Sul, resurrected the idea, and I took a decision: *the time has come*. After consulting the Marist Brothers and the Avesol (a Marist NGO) and possibilities. And here I am on African soil a few months later.”



JUMAR at prayer with contemplative sisters

In the Marist Teacher Training College, São José in Kuito-Bié, Regina teaches biology, chemistry and volleyball, and is very active in the group of young people belonging to JUMAR.

“The Brothers’ community has made me feel most welcome. The students are very respectful and also help me with some differences in the use of language. It has been very enriching to be among Angolans, a unique experience. The difficulties and challenges that crop up daily have been great learning experiences.”

Kuito-Bié, JUMAR Group Prayer



CHILD RIGHTS WORKSHOP for the PROVINCE



From the 23th to 28th of April a workshop on Children's Rights was held at Kasisi Retreat Centre outside Lusaka, Zambia. The workshop was run by Br Jim Jolley, Director of the FMSI Office in Geneva, and Br Fortune Chakasara, the link person between the Province of Southern Africa and FMSI.

It was attended by a delegation of eleven Marist Brothers and four lay Marist educators from all six countries of the province of

Southern African. FMSI (Marist International Solidarity Foundation) is a Marist NGO tasked with promoting children's rights throughout the Marist Brothers’ Institute.

The overall theme of the workshop was to create an awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and what we are doing, and can do, as Marist educators to make the world a better and safer place for children.





The workshop started with great detail about the workings of FMSI in the United Nations and the Convention of Children's Rights. As the course progressed it became apparent that one needed detailed information about the CRC and the UN to grasp and be fully engaged in discussions about the implications of the CRC.

The workshop consisted of group discussions, practical tasks, a role play, several PowerPoint presentations and sharing information about our respective schools and countries. These days have enlightened us in ways of knowing how we, as individuals, can become involved in participating in getting governments to change legislation using the route of NGOs and the UN.

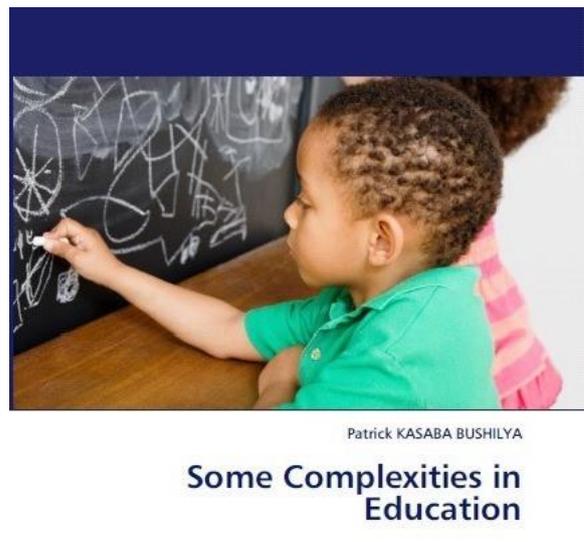
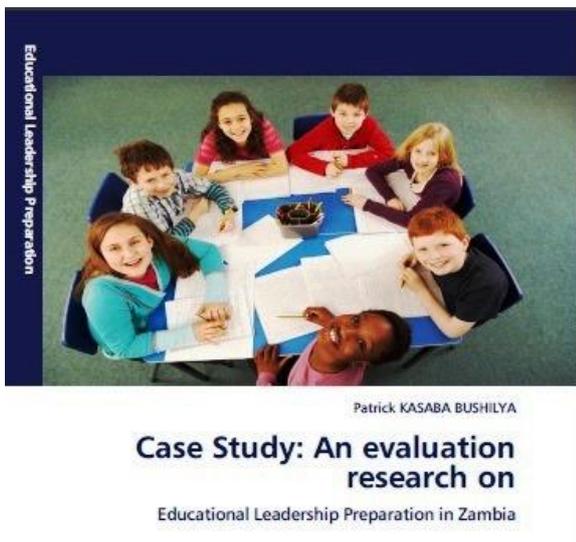
The experience opened up the opportunity for Brothers and lay Marist educators to interact and share the wide variety of experiences across the six countries of this province. It has made us conscious of the need for a good understanding the CRC in everything we do in our schools and youth ministry.

All participants have come to realize that we have a responsibility to continue this advocacy by drawing attention to government policies and creating an awareness of the CRC. It is our duty as educators to become experts in the defence of children and the young.

Rene van Zyl & Tammy Peters-Newman.



PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



Spot the author's name and contact him in Chassa!

FIVE MINUTES WITH CHRIST: *Spiritual Nourishment for Busy Teachers*

These inspirational reflections by **Lou DelFra CSC and Ann Primus Berends** on Christ the Teacher provide educators with the spiritual nourishment they need during their busy days.

Each reflection is based on an event in the life of Jesus and invites the reader to connect with him in the chaos of daily life.

This US publication is a fruit of the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education.

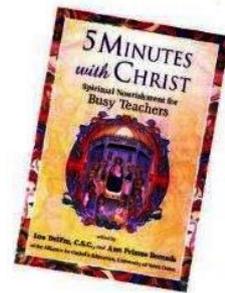
Paul Faller of the Catholic Institute of Education in South Africa comments: "Teachers will enjoy the ability of the writers to contextualise over-familiar passages of Scripture in the everyday world of the classroom in a way that makes them refreshingly new."

Read some of the reflections for yourself on the website in the opposite column:

BOOK REVIEW

5 Minutes with Christ: Spiritual Nourishment for Busy Teachers

Lou DelFra CSC & Ann Primus Berends



These inspirational reflections on Christ the Teacher provide educators with the spiritual nourishment they need during their busy days. Crafted by graduates and associates of the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program, the most prestigious Catholic teacher-training program in the United States, each reflection is based on an event in the life of Jesus and invites the reader to connect with him in the chaos of daily life.

From the back cover

Teachers will enjoy the ability of the writers to contextualise almost over-familiar passages of Scripture in the everyday world of the classroom in a way that makes them refreshingly new.

Individual teachers as well as school staffs will find this book a useful tool for reflection. The more than 50 reflections are organised chronologically tracing the journey of Jesus from the Annunciation to his Death, Resurrection and Ascension.

The book is a handy size (13x18 cm) and reasonably priced.

Paul Faller
CATHOLIC INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

<http://www.amazon.com/Minutes-Christ-Spiritual-Nourishment-Teachers/dp/1594712751>

FOURTH MARIST PLACE TO SUFFER STORM DAMAGE SINCE JAN 2011

Likuni-Nivava-Matola, and now ...

... CHASSA

On 18 March, 2013, heavy rains coupled with a strong wind brought disaster to Chassa Secondary School. The roofs of Zambezi hostel (Rooms 5 and 6) and the School Tuck-shop were blown off. No deaths or injuries were incurred. *(Br Patrick Bushilya)*



ST. JOSEPH'S MARIST MERCY MISSION 2013

Beginning on the 15 March, nine matrics (final-year students) from St. Joseph's Marist College in Cape Town, along with our principal, Mr. Kervin Grove, left for Addo 800 km away in the Eastern Cape. The purpose of the trip was to go visit and help both the Marist Brothers and Sisters of Mercy, who work in the townships and informal settlements there. However, the trip was not only a community service project but also a life-changing experience.

Before leaving for Addo, we were all quite nervous because we did not know what to



expect, but when we arrived there the experience was so incredible.

In Addo we visited an area called Valencia where the Brothers and Sisters have set up a crèche. The reception that awaited us was overwhelming and the children immediately took to us. They were all so loving and excited to play games

and have us in their classrooms. Most of them live in extreme poverty but despite this, they have infectiously happy dispositions. We assisted the teachers during meal times and even got to plan a lesson for the Grade R class. Probably the most fun part of our mornings at



the crèche was the break times we spent playing in the playground. Being able to interact and serve those children in that capacity was amazing

As Marist learners we take our

example from St. Marcellin Champagnat, who truly personified a life lived for other people. This trip really allowed us to walk in the footsteps of Marcellin and live out the ethos taught in our school. As a group we will be forever grateful for this incomparable experience.

(Zara Canterbury, Grade 12, St Joseph's Marist College, Rondebosch)

Prayer Requests



- **Our Superior General and General Council** in their tasks of governance and animation on the occasion of the Feast Day of Father Champagnat
- **Our Deceased and the bereaved**, particularly Br **Vincent Chunga** and close relatives of Brothers **Norbert Mwila** and **Angel Mansoa**.
- **Our sick**, particularly Brother Aidan in Johannesburg.
- **Our families, friends and benefactors**
- **Our former students**

SHARING OUR CALL SOUTH AFRICA 3 – 5 MAY 2013

Number of participants:

St Joseph's:	5
St Henry's :	3
Sacred Heart:	7
St David's:	7
Marist Linmeyer:	9
Total	31

Presenters:

Br Jude Pieterse FMS - <i>The Marist World</i>
Br Michael Burke CFC – <i>The vocation of the Teacher -The Singer and The Song</i>
Madeleen Gorst-Allman – <i>The Catholic School as Counter-Culture – Facing the future with Audacity and Hope</i>

Programme:

We started off with a prayer and offering candle and school magazine from each School. This was followed by a group activity of the **Five Pillars**. Br Jude then presented the **Marist World**.

On Saturday we had a reflection – **Who is packing your parachute?**. This was followed by a power packed **Ethos** presentation by Madeleen Gorst-Allman- The Catholic School as Counter-Culture – Facing the future with Audacity and Hope.

Br Michael Burke did a very thought provoking-workshop on **The Vocation of the Teacher** – The Singer and The Song.

To end the late afternoon session Barbara Kirchner did **The Armour of God**. Delegates got a bookmark with Ephesians 6:10-18 and then had to develop skills in making a bookmark with the armour charms.

Sunday morning started with Father Chris Schonenberger leading the **Holy Mass**, with the message that we are the **Light of the World**. Br Jude ended the weekend with very interesting information about the Brothers and especially in the Southern African Province.

The feedback from all was that it was a weekend well spent and that we have a common CALL.



MARIST CAMP ZIMBABWE MOVES TO A NEW VENUE!

At the end of March, 4 Marist Brothers and 16 Daughters of Calvary postulants and novices conducted a three-day MARIST CAMP for the poor children living in the vicinity of Dete. The days included games, singing, prayer, and of course meals with some special treats for the kids. The event was much appreciated by the youngsters and their parents: Marist Youth Ministry in action! The animators included Brothers Leonard, Fortune, Jacob and Ebel and support staff from Dete.



SHARING OUR CALL, KUTAMA, ZIMBABWE 4 – 7 APRIL 2013

Kutama College hosted the second Sharing our Call Workshop from 4th-7th April. There were thirty-five participants from our three schools, Kutama College, Nyanga High and Marist Secondary-Dete. The workshop was facilitated by Bro. Fortune Chakasara and the main presenters were Fr. Joe Arimoso SJ, Mr. Peter Muzawazi and Bro. Leonard Brito. There were a lot of group dynamics and input. Among many things the participants learnt that main purpose

of a Catholic school is to evangelize and pass on Christian values and to form good honest citizens. Special reference was made to Fr. Champagnat's five core values in educating young people: presence, family spirit, simplicity, love of work and in the way of Mary. It is the hope of the organisers that participants will return to their posts imbued with the spirit of Marcellin, and educate their classes well by first of all loving their students.



SPECIAL PATRONS OF THE BROTHERHOOD

St. Charles of Sezze

1613-1670, (Feast: January 7). Born to a poor but pious rural family near Sezze (a hillside town about 60 km south-east of Rome), he worked as a shepherd as a child. His family encouraged his vocation to the priesthood, but Charles was a terrible student, barely able to read or write, and had no hope of success in seminary. He became a Franciscan lay brother at age 22 at Naziano. Poor health prevented his going on foreign missions, and he served in assorted positions, such as cook, porter, and gardener at friaries near Rome. Brother Charles wrote several mystical works, and at the direction of his confessor, his autobiography, *The Grandeurs of the Mercies of God*. Charles had a strong devotion to the Eucharist and the Passion. A bearer of the stigmata, this simple layman was sought out for spiritual advice, and the dying Pope Clement IX called Charles to his bedside for a blessing. He was canonized by Pope John XXIII in 1959.



1st-year Novices enjoy a boat trip during a two-day excursion to Bilene!

Behold, how good
and how pleasant
it is for brethren to
dwell together in
unity!
Psalms 133:1



..... to Brother Andrew Fournier !...

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

According to an old Hindu legend...

...there was once a time when all human beings were gods, but they so abused their divinity that Brahma, the chief god, decided to take it away from them and hide it where it could never be found.

Where to hide their divinity was the question. So Brahma called a council of the gods to help him decide. "Let's bury it deep in the earth," said the gods. But Brahma answered, "No that will not do because humans will dig into the earth and find it." Then the gods said, "Let's sink it in the deepest ocean." But Brahma said, "No, not there, for they will learn to dive into the ocean and will find it." Then the gods said, "Let's take it to the top of the highest mountain and hide it there." But once again Brahma replied, "No that will not do either, because they will eventually climb every mountain and once again take up their divinity." Then the gods gave up and said, "We do not know where to hide it, because it seems that there is no place on earth or in the sea that human beings will not eventually reach."

Brahma thought for a long time and then said, "Here is what we will do. We will hide their divinity deep in the centre of their own being, for humans will never think to look for it there."

All the gods agreed that this was the perfect hiding place, and the deed was done. And since that time humans have been going up and down the earth, digging, diving, climbing, and exploring--searching for something already within themselves.

Lesson: Don't be distracted by worldly kicks - find truth and happiness in yourself

God is closer to me than I am to myself

St Augustine Confessions, III, 6, 11

**"PILLARS"
of MARIST EDUCATION**

