



MIC Digest

2ND EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2011 ISSUE

A Publication of Marist International Centre, Nairobi - Kenya



A community of new hearts and new people

*CARE FOR ENVIRONMENT
MIC MOURNS THE DEATH
LIFE AND TIME*

THEME FOR 2011/2012:

BUILDING A COMMUNITY WITH NEW HEARTS IN MARY'S WAY

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SEPTEMBER 2011

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Editorial

As the saying goes *a journey of a thousand miles begins with a step*. I am happy we have taken a second step by producing the second publication of the MIC newsletter. The Marist world is rest assured of information from this corner.

It is fascinating to take a look at what recently happened in the Arab world. Power has shifted and now rests in the hands of the people. Power in MIC shifted not to the young Brothers but to a more dynamic and brisk person. Who is he?

The centre moves on with a newly installed technology, and what does it mean staying at the centre for four years and obtaining a degree plus.

At last, an easy passage into the centre through its newly constructed road.

To acclaim self a pioneer does not end without some challenges. So those who enjoy today should not fail to realize that their joy stems from the sweat of others.

Also fun to read the fact file of a young brother who at some time animated his fraternity.

These and a lot more, we say thanks to all our contributors and Keep it up.

Meyanui Valentine, FMS



To Marist (MIC)

**Bro. Lawrence Lucius Ndawala, FMS,
DIRECTOR (SUPERIOR) OF MIC**



Some key aspects expressed as regards what he expects to achieve or rather call it his dreams, he says

Being at MIC, I see myself as one of the disciples with Jesus in the crowd before the possessed young man (Mk 9:14-29). At the same time I feel like shouting with the man, "I do believe,

I feel proud to be back and work as a formator

help my unbelief"

MIC is the cradle for Marist

Africa. As one of the pioneers, I feel proud to be back and work as a formator. I see this as a privilege. I pray that I may be useful to this Marist project. I strongly believe and this is my challenge that this is the place where the region of Africa and Madagascar and why not other regions can be empowered for Marist mission for humanity today.

MIC Digest caught up with the new Director of the Centre. It's worth noting he is an old player in the field. Here are a few details about him.

Bro. Lawrence Ndawala was born on 5th September 1961 in a family of Mr

& Mrs Ndawala (Lucius Ndawala and Theresa Jailosi). He is the seventh born of eleven children: six girls and five boys.

He went to primary school at Kapeya Full Primary School, Chiradzulu, St. Pius Boys, Blantyre and Utale 1 in Balaka. He went to Balaka Secondary School where he finished in 1984.

He joined the Marist Brothers Postulancy in 1984 at Mtendere, Malirana, Dedza - Malawi. In 1985, went to the noviciate at Mulungushi, Kabwe, Zambia. He professed his first vows on 1st November 1986 at Mtendere and proceeded to Nairobi for the post-noviciate formation between 1986 and 1989. He came back to Malawi and worked at Mtendere Juniorate in Dedza and did his final profession on 6th September 1992 at Utale 1 Parish. The same year he became the headmaster at Mtendere Juniorate until 1994.

He was sent to Europe in 1994 for studies to prepare him to become a formator and came back in 1998. He went to the noviciate in Zimbabwe.

In 1999 he was asked to return to Malawi to become a Provincial Councillor for three years. He finished and went back to the noviciate in Zimbabwe until 2004 and was appointed Provincial in 2004 where he led the Province of Southern Africa, (Angola, South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi) from 2005 to October 2010. *He is currently director of the Scholasticate in Nairobi, Kenya where all Brothers from Africa and Madagascar, after first profession go for their post noviciate formation.*

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: **TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD**

By Br. Jean Bosco



Irrigated Field



The Spread of advanced Technology is one of towering achievements in the 21st century. This skill enables one to gain more with less physical effort. When we talk of Technology, for sure, minds are turned quickly to well-known office machines, Laptops, and other sophisticated technological tools. In Marist International Centre, such kind of Technology becomes more and more part of history, because at hand now is the new Technology of caring for the environment which also increases the productivity of our facilities and somehow contradicts the theory of diminishing returns propounded by economists on land use.

...we will redeem the land estimated at ksh70 million. The Irrigation System will enable us not only to have an evergreen place but also, the well-managed field will help us to exercise physically



Today, through **BIOBOX Company**, MIC is equipped with five tanks with which we manage to collect and recycle the water and sewage from our fraternities and the main kitchen. This powerful project offered solution to our big land which was wasting because

of the extension of septic tanks. We also managed to sort out the issue of bad odor from the septic tanks once they were overfilled. This excellent initiative led to emergence of the Pop up Irrigation System.



Watered field remains green

The Pop up Irrigation System is carried out by **VESI Company (Engineering & Environmental Service Ltd)**. This System, by use of recycled water of BIOBOX Company, enables us to water our football field and keep it evergreen throughout the year. This advanced Technology uses an automatic machine with which time is set for starting and stopping irrigation. Once the machine is on, the hidden holes in the field rise from underground where they are connected and the pipes disseminate water all over the field while rotating.

We have installed 32 holes in a whole system; each one has a capacity of reaching a diameter of 20 m with flow of 0.51m³/h.” said Mr. Samuel Kinyanjui, Engineer of VESI Company. “This is our first experience to put this system on a large surface like this field, we used to work on relatively small areas” noted one of the Engineers of VESI Company working on the project.

According to Major Dr. Richard SEZIBERA, actual President of East African Community, “there is no small country when people are open-minded”. The same can be said that there is no small land or few facilities and low income; when people think and plan with open minds and clear vision. The outgoing administrator and estate officer, Br Vincent Chunga said that water cycling and pop up irrigation system will benefit both the college and community by drying up the area which was used as extension of septic tanks, redeeming the land estimated at ksh 70 million. The Irrigation System will enable us not only to have an evergreen environment but also, to have a well-managed football field to do physical exercise. This evergreen field shall be hired at a

reasonable price to those who may want to have different functions there. This will increase our income.” This is just to mention a few; we will enjoy the project in different ways; as time and resources allow us to perfect the project.” he added.

While everybody admires and appreciates this grandiose initiative, I would say that, this project actualizes the command of God in the creation story: “ Fill the earth and subdue it” (Gen 1:28); and “the Lord God then took man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it” (Gen 2:15).

Thanks to the initiators of the project,

Thanks to the Engineers of the Project;

Thanks to Br. Vincent Chunga for his creative mind!

God bless you!



Our evergreen garden

Welcome young Brothers and formators to MIC

Each year, the Lord keeps blessing this part of Africa with more and more people to maintain His vineyard. Last year, the community had over 120 brothers (both formators and young brothers). Many have gone, more came but the number remains the same. Currently, there are 104 young brothers and 16 formators.

Marist International Centre is referred to by some as a “melting pot” because it is a place in which everyone is called to be transformed. In fact, the day you stepped into this centre signified a new stage of your life. Often, we learn how to stand on our own feet to face the challenges of life. Wishing you good luck and a happy stay at the centre.

FACT FILE (Just for Fun)

Name: Br: David kachoka

Nickname: youngest animator

Province: Southern Africa

Country: Malawi

Fraternity: François (room number F4)

Occupation: Student Brother (MIC)

Favourite Course: RSD Theology of Religious life I
(vow of chastity)

Why: None of the lecturers asked the students to put on the “lab coats” for practicals. In fact, practicals are at owners risk

Highest achievement in MIC: To be acting animator (9 June to 9 July 2011).

Most embarrassing moment: Failure to go to Cham-pagnat Fraternity for supper on third Sundays of which the Brothers complained that I caused a deficit to the fraternity (François).

Ambition: To become Br. Vincent Chunga in MIC

Sport: football

Best player at MIC: Even though I have never scored a goal during any match and not even scoring against my own goal keeper.

Best Accompanier: Br. John McDonnell

Advice to the Brothers: Each Brother should stop jok-ing with his future, as the scripture says time will come when I will tie your belt and neck tie, comb your hair and finally take you by the hand to a place where you do not want to (Jn 21:18.)

Favourite drink: St James (straight from the mortuary)

Favourite Bible passages: Mtt 14:22-33, PS 23:1-6

Prediction: In five years time each young brother will have his own formator and will substitute formators in champagnat fraternity

google them at [www. David. Com](http://www.David.Com)



WHO IS A BROTHER

A Brother is someone special whom you can always depend on, you find as you grow up together he's a loyal and warm hearted friend...

In hard times he'll be there to help you he always knows what to say, When you really need someone to turn to, he's the one who will bright-en your day...

Although you may not always tell him just how you really care, there are times when you hope he will realize how lucky you feel that he's there...

A Brother is more than just a family member,

He's part of whatever you do,

He's someone always to be proud of

And someone you love a lot, too.

(An edited extract)

By Br Abutu Edwin



Preparing to start a retreat at Resurrection Garden

Value of Duty



100 YRS OF MARIST PRESENCE IN DRC

Brothers from the Province of Africa Central East (PACE) animating the Liturgy as Congo sector celebrates a centenary.



Members of the media group

Standing L-R Brs: Gabriel, Asensio, Anthony, Valentine, Witman, Tiburtius.
Stooped L-R Brs: Edward, Fernando, Njakatiana

The world needs to know the intrinsic value of duty. As individuals, groups, organizations and institutions, we sometimes do not know or have an ambivalent and mediocre attitude towards our duties even for those we are paid for. We fail to measure up to expectation. It is a sacred duty and one who fails to give their utmost best to it, will have to answer why, to the supreme creator on the Day of Judgment.

Today after going through this Hindu expression of what duty is supposed to be, evaluate your attitude towards your duty as a child, lecturer, administrator, student, couple, leader and pastor. This will help you to either increase your efforts or change your attitude towards the duty conferred on you.

“Duty is done without the want of return.

It is the sacred duty of every person to serve his or her parents:

[God, Employer, boss, organization and institution]

Just think! Our parents brought us to this world,

We should see them through.

When we were weak and frail,

They protected us. Fed us. Clothed us.

Taught us. Even tolerated us

Is it not our Duty to return their love and care?

Our parents were there when we breathed our first.

We should be there when they breathed their last!”

From Hindu Religion

Tayu Celestine, FMS

Our parents were there when we breathed our first. We should be there when they breathe their last!”



Creating more playground

Brothers exhibit their talents during the celebration of the liturgy

MIC MOURNS THE DEAD



By Br. Tyokor Emmanuel

Within the period of 31 days, death smashed the parents of four young Brothers in MIC: the Father of Br Ndahayo Sixte from Rwanda, Mr. Mbasela,

Father of Br. Davy (Zambia), Mrs. Victoria Ifeoma (Nigeria) mother of Br. Kevin Nnanji and Mr. Paul Nyambani (Zambia), Father of Br. Clement. This is a predicament!

O death, how bitter it is to remember you for someone peacefully living with his/her possessions, for someone with no worries and everything going on well and who can still enjoy his/her food! O death, your sentence is welcome to one in want, whose strength is failing, to one worn out with age and a thousand worries, resentful and impatient! Whether your life lasts ten or a hundred or a thousand years,



it doesn't matter. May their gentle souls rest in perfect peace. Amen.



We are apostles of the youth

Assumption at MIC By Br Cho Nchana

On the 15th of August 2011, feast of the Assumption of Mary, the entire Community of MIC had a breathtaking day. The day began with Morning Prayer in the main chapel which was well animated and coordinated by Br Fabian. All the brothers of the community were present.

At 11.am, the Brothers once more assembled in the main chapel for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist which was well animated by the choir.

In his homily, Father Thomas (the resident priest) reminded everyone of the importance of such a great day and emphasized the uniqueness of Mary in God's plan of salvation. After the homily, the perpetually professed were invited to renew their commitments publicly. Each one took his turn in doing this by echoing out the words clearly and audibly. Prior to this, Br Lawrence (superior of MIC) made a distinction between the renewal they were about to make and that made by brothers in temporary profession. He said that it was a unique opportunity for the perpetually professed Brothers to remind themselves of the commitment they had made some time ago and it fell within the traditions of the Marist Brothers.

The day did not end in the chapel but continued in the dining room where there was a delicious meal served during lunch as well as supper. Indeed the Feast of the Assumption of Mary is a unique day that many always look up to. We pray through the intercession of Mary for God's guidance and protection as we strive to become living witnesses of the Gospel.

CHAMPAGNAT DAY IN MIC JUNE 6TH 2011

BY EMILIEN TWAGIRAYEZU, FMS

Champagnat Day is a great day for us Marist Brothers and associates. This feast is to be celebrated with fervor throughout the Institute in thanksgiving to God, who endowed the Church with this apostle of youth (Const Art 75). Champagnat is the apostle of youth: It is not surprising that we celebrate Champagnat Day during school session in order to share this joy with our youth. On this day we gather to celebrate the birthday of our founder in heaven. We invite people around us and share this joy with them. Marist students all over the world enjoy this day because of the various activities which are organized. These activities include celebration of the Eucharist, retreats, conferences, charity works, sports and others which make us aware of the legacy and holiness of our Founder St Marcellin Champagnat.

At MIC, Champagnat Day was celebrated with other functions in the College. These functions included the blessing of the new college building and matriculation of new students. In preparation of this day students had recollection at Resurrection Garden (a retreat house) on 4th June which was animated by Br. Joseph Udejah (Principal of the colleg). The theme of the recollection was "St Marcellin Champagnat and Integrity". I was a participant. It was a great opportunity for us to feed our spiritual life. We were nourished by Br. Udejah's comprehensive and rich input about Champagnat and Integrity. Integrity is one of the basic Christian and human values that distinguishes human beings from other animals. St Marcellin, our founder is a real model of integrity for us. He was always full of love and compassion for his fellow human beings especially the young ones. He did all he could to provide them with good Christian education to empower them.

Personally, I was amazed by the passion and will our students had - know more about our founder. I felt that they needed more input about him. I am a member of College choir. During singing practice in preparation for the Liturgy I could

During singing practice in preparation for the Liturgy I could see students enjoying St Marcellin Champagnat songs even though some were in French (most of the students do not understand French). That is a family spirit which is growing in them. A spirit of belonging which attracts them to the Marist charism. We should cultivate this spirit in our students and workers. We show our pupils that we are not only their teachers, but also their brothers (Const no. 88). During Eucharistic celebration, assembly ground meeting (matriculation of new students) lunch together, various sports I could see this family spirit being realized. Family spirit is our way of life. The Water from the Rock document states that from our family spirit develops a spirituality that is strongly relational and affective. Marcellin's way of relating to God and to Mary was through family terms: Jesus in his sacred heart, Mary as our Good Mother.

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Champagnat Day is an excellent occasion for making people more aware of the man and his work. The Church recognizes that the insight of Saint Marcellin continues to be alive in us today and he is a gift of God for the world. Our students, our collaborators and people around us

will always learn more about him if we put much effort in celebrating Champagnat day and other feasts with them.



Staff and students listening to a talk/dancing on Champagnat day celebration

MARIST LANE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Marist road is being repaired. It was a dusty dirt-road filled with potholes that could easily swallow a car. No lanes were marked so it was a free-for-all cars weaving back and forth in an effort to avoid the worst holes and bumps. This road construction is a plus in bringing both increase in security and enabling inhabitants to easily attend to their daily activities and access to the college. The achievement of road construction is a mile stone in attaining government's initiative of improving roads. May God bless their efforts. By Br Gabriel U

Hinduism: A religion with no difference

By Br. Dorbin Emmanuel

My experience in the Hindu temple, on the 20th of June, 2011 affirms the adage -experience is the best teacher. According to what I had heard about Hinduism, I used to think Hinduism is a religion where the followers worship idols. To my amazement the Hindus worship almost the same way the Catholics and Muslims do, although not completely the same. Hinduism as a religion is not different from other religions. A wonderful thing to note that they



Bros @ the Mosque

have living saints. Hindus equally believe in the Supreme Being (parabrahman) just as other religions do. Members of some religions do accuse Catholics of

worshipping idols. This is simply because Catholics use icons and carved objects as a conduit for worshipping the Supreme God - same as in Hinduism.

Among the Hindus, during meditation one needs to involve the entire being to communicate with God.

The Hindus believe that if you want to meditate, you need to focus on the image of your God. The man who led the tour highlighted five pledges of Hinduism:

- Do not steal
- Do not eat meat
- Do not take alcohol or any toxicant
- Do not commit adultery
- Do not indulge in impure life

This is to say that faith in God is the father of all values. It is the beginning of wisdom, the source of strength and the provider of inner peace and joy. Therefore, no religion is superior to the other but the ways of worship differ because all these religions mentioned have a supreme being which they believed to be the creator of the universe and all that is in it.

There Is Formation in MIC

By Br Divine S



Formation in MIC involves completing and deepening the work of the novitiate, by managing to lay the foundation in which the adult of the little Brother of Mary can be built up. This formation has the primary aim of harmonizing the young Brothers' studies and his apostolic activities with the life of prayer. Thanks to the formation team in MIC and the acceptance of each young Brother that the aim of formation in MIC is yielding fruits. Young Brothers are formed for mission. In trying to respond to the signs of the times, they leave MIC with both a Diploma in Religious studies and a Degree in education. Before graduating with Diploma in Religious studies, the young Brother must have completed the following.

Seventy five hours of apostolic formative activities

Seventy five hours of accompaniment/monitoring sessions

Twenty five hours of Programme for Pastoral Instructions (PPI)

Twenty four course units

Coursework and examination in each registered course

The young Brother must also participate in workshops on youth ministry, Marist patrimony, discernment, spiritual direction and retreat direction.

All these requirements are means of forming young Brothers in their spiritual life and preparing them for the mission ahead. As a young Brother, I am convinced that no Brother will graduate from MIC without being transformed. I feel that only those who have not observed what is happening in MIC may make a hasty conclusion that there is no formation in MIC

I appreciate the efforts of the formation team and teachers who are dedicated in imparting this type of formation to the young Brothers. I also thank all the young Brothers for embracing this formation with eagerness and seriousness.



Each year, the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC) is charged with the responsibility of approving/ amending the proposed budget of the community as well as evaluating proposed projects for the year. It is also known to be the highest decision making body of MIC.

MY PRECIOUS LITTLE-STUDENT TEACHERS

BY BR BOIMA JONES

When we started the Program for Pastoral Instruction (PPI) I was given class eight at the Uhuru Garden Primary school in Nairobi. I thought of all I could do to make my experience with the children a memorable one. I used the following strategies: presence, good teacher-student interactive relation, relevant teaching aids, inspiring stories, etc.

But the students taught me a lot the moment I stopped being the sole teacher and paid keen attention to each of them. This allowed their enriching diversities to implant numerous seeds in the fertile soil of my heart. They all sat in the same class, had the same uniform, listened to the same teacher, but were uniquely different and passionate about just the same thing. NOT KNOWLEDGE. BUT TO BE LOVED, UNDERSTOOD AND CARED FOR.

Philomena Muia-She didn't want to do anything because she was extremely shy. She never had faith in what she could actually do and would rush in and out of class, avoiding my asking her a few questions or initiating a chat with her. Actually Philo wanted to be there; wanted to be noticed; wanted to announce her arrival and departure, but she didn't do the things she felt like doing. From my observation, she lacked all the courage it takes to do the things she really wanted. On the other hand Philo was an amazing student: she was always neat, always on time and said a lot of things not by word but by her nervous and childlike smiles.

Natasha Awinda- Natasha rarely smiled. She was always calm, collected and confident, never afraid of making mistakes whenever she did things in class. She read well, had a good penmanship and her grammar was "bigger" than her age and class. She could ask me for something as though she didn't need it. For example she could ask me for a rosary as if it was useless having one. She could never take her assignment or class work for granted and did her work very well.

Stephen Omondi-This small guy was a real puzzle for me. I couldn't possibly tell what he was thinking, what he liked, what he knew. He knew a lot but could say nothing unless when being asked; and he didn't like too many questions.

Anthony Maingi-Tony could smile without end, so much that it was difficult to tell that he was angry. He was easy to approach, could say a lot once you were listening and had profound love for soccer. Tony was the first person at Uhuru Garden that approached me with a hand shake and asked 'Brother, what is your name?'

Ruth Mueni-I would really refer to her as the one who could do everything every time she was called upon. She wanted to be always in action or rather in motion. Ruth wanted to go for some sticks of chalk, wanted to clean the chalk board, wanted to pray, and wanted to do everything that could keep her out of her seat. She knew "everything" about the other person yet could say nothing about herself.

Teresia Mbula-The girl with the one million and one questions in the short period I stayed with them for PPI. If asking too many questions were a pathway to heaven, for sure, Teresia was going to be the first person there. Her questions were never irrelevant, although sometimes they were out of context. They were centered on how and why.

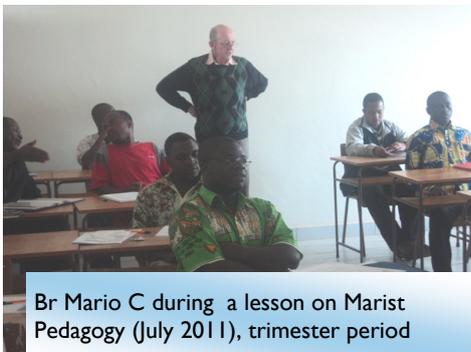
Morris Oimbo-He worked better with his hands than with his mouth. He was a practical young man who knew exactly how things could be done rather than how things could be said. He wanted everything said in class to be proven. He could sometimes say, 'how do you do that.'

PIONEERS

By Reuben Lungu Banda -FMS

Thanks be to God for granting us the Grace of realizing the long awaited dream. What seemed impossible is now possible. I mean subject combinations. Words of gratitude to our Provincials, the District Superior, the Superior of MIC community Bro Spiridion (former), the Principal Bro. Joseph, the Task Force Team, our formators and all who worked tirelessly to ensure that MIC formation program is what it is as of the moment. Today, young Brothers can proudly say they are happy for what the future life of the institute would be - of great Vitality.

My colleagues and I started with a combination of Mathematics and Religious studies until we finished our second year in April, 2010.



Br Mario C during a lesson on Marist Pedagogy (July 2011), trimester period

During a short holiday before starting the trimester (May-July 2010), the Principal announced to the community the issue of changes for those with

questioned combinations. This mostly had to do with those taking Mathematics and English. For sure, it was unbelievable to hear that.

A word of thanks also goes to Brothers Oswald Mkan-da, Jean-Luc Maombi, Peter Simwinga, Roland, Felix Bannam, Valia Sabado Mario and Jean-Claude Bundu

Kalumbi for coming to a consensus on a probable combination with Mathematics. Mrs. Roxona Gathogo the H.O.D for Sciences also deserves a word of thanks for encouraging us to chose Physics since the two correlate (Mathematics and Physics).

With this advice we took four units at once in that trimester so as to make-up for first year only. It was not easy to do four different units of Physics at once but with God's grace, we were able to. Meanwhile, we were left with five units to complete the sixteen units to be covered in a four year degree program.

On the other hand, English student- brothers also had to go for English Literature since it is the only option for the unit. I presume that their challenges were more than ours but we are all very happy about these changes.

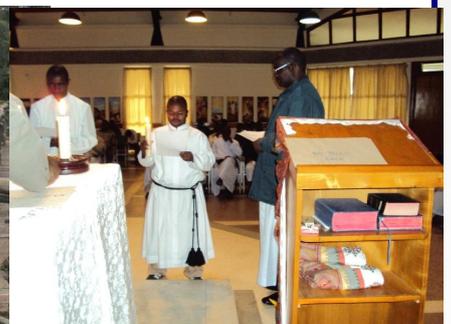
Nevertheless, Religious Formation courses are now set for trimesters only. They are also academic and examinable after which a diploma will be awarded in a normal way by Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).

May God continue guiding and giving more wisdom to our superiors of the Institute, the Formators and the Principal in particular who ensures the implementations. On behalf of my colleagues, we say:

Thanks; Twatotela; Zikhomo; Obrigado; Merci; kanimambo; Asante.



Brothers out on recreation



Renewal of Vows

CHANGE

*Change is like a lion, that roars and frightens all.
Irrespective of age, colour, Social status and position,
Everyone bows down to it.
Have you seen world demagogues?
In times of uprisings by the populace
They shiver in hiding bungalows like leaves
In a storm with no hope of a future.*

*They may come out publicly and camouflage
But be opportune to eavesdrop their discussions
in hiding.*

*Were you privileged to hear, see and think of
Mubarak of Egypt, Ben- Ali of Tunisia,
Gbagbo of Ivory Coast and Gadaffi of Libya?
A pity, because of being recalcitrant to change
When you avail yourself, it protects you
From the monotony of the past
And gives you a self actualizing future
It refreshes and consoles you from stigma at old age
Like a cold - breeze in a very hot day*

*Did you hear Mubarak almost collapsed when he
heard of his trial?
Have you seen the old moron on a wheel chair during
trials?*

*Did you see Laurent Gbagbo in a white singlet?
Did you hear the coarse voice of colonel Gadaffi?
Learn to accept change for your growth and maturity*

*Change will be your life companion if you accept it
It will immortalize you if you form a rapport with it.
Don't you enjoy the inner peace and world admiration?*

Accorded to the famous African Icon-Nelson Mandela

Be on your guard for it can come at any time.

Tayu Celestine, FMS



Br Joe McKee briefs the MIC community about news around the Marist world where he reiterated the calls of the XXI General Chapter: New ways of being brothers. Hence at the level of the institute establishment of some secretariats

- To advocate for the rights of the people and of being in solidarity with them
- For initial formation for brothers
- To look into the issue of lay Marists
- For mission which implies one heart and one mind.

He also encouraged brothers to develop a sense of internationality because the world today is multicultural, ...should be ready to go and help anywhere when asked by the Institute.

On his Part Br Antonio explained to the community the works of FMSI

LIFE AND TIME

By: Bro. Peter Chifundo Simwinga.

Every other good mother who puts the happiness of her children at heart knows what is best for them. When she prepares food for them she adds salt in it just enough for the children to enjoy. Just as the mother puts enough salt in the food, God gives each of us life and assigns enough time to it. This helps us to contribute fully to this wonderful world of ours.

There is enough time for everyone and for every life. As salt does not depend on the type of food for its taste but rather food depending on salt for its taste, life depends on time given to it and not vice-versa. Hence life lives in time as function of time. We draw satisfaction from life when we are certain that our time was well used and hence life well spent.

There is enough time to do all the evil in the world and have enough time to rot in hell. Also, there is enough time to do all the good. As a Christian, the purpose of my life is not to do evil even though I do evil sometimes. St. Paul the Apostle acknowledges this weakness when he says "The good that I would, I do not do; and the evil that I would not I do" or when Martin Luther King Jr. (15 January 1929 - April 4, 1968) says, "Every time you set out to be good, there is something pulling you, telling you to be evil". What next when evil is done? Wake up and vow never to do it again because there is always enough time for conversion of heart. Don't waste time!

Staying idle or procrastination or taking too much time on one simple thing would prove great sins in Christian circles. Dante the writer of *The Divine Comedy* held that laziness and procrastination and idleness are sins because they are part of one of the greatest sin the world can ever have. By being idle or lazy we commit sin because we deprive the world of something that it needs by not doing it. The only appreciation we can give to the Giver of life on who we are and the life we enjoy is shown not only in the words we say but in the manner we use our life wisely with respect to the time given. The parable of talents in the gospel can be of great inspiration to all of us. It summons us to work in order to increase what God has given us for free. If you and I do not assign time to the realization of that, then we are sitting on talents which will later suffocate and die due to lack of fresh air. God will be angry.

God, the giver of life expects a lot from us who live. Remember, someone has been lying on his/her sickbed for hours, days, weeks, months or years now. They pray for their own good health and even though they are sick they also pray for our good health. Others are displaced by natural disasters and wars they pray for themselves and pray for us too. Why do they do that? Because they feel they have time to pray for us. If as of now you and I are here healthy and safe shall we answer their prayer by improper use of our life and time? No! This world needs a lot more work to do so as to create what God left to us to create. There is a lot more to repair because our own hands and minds have destroyed quite a great deal. There are more problems to be solved that we should not think someone else will solve. Can't you see the problems? (*To be continued in the next issue*)



*For comments and suggestions, you
can reach MIC Digest through.*



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