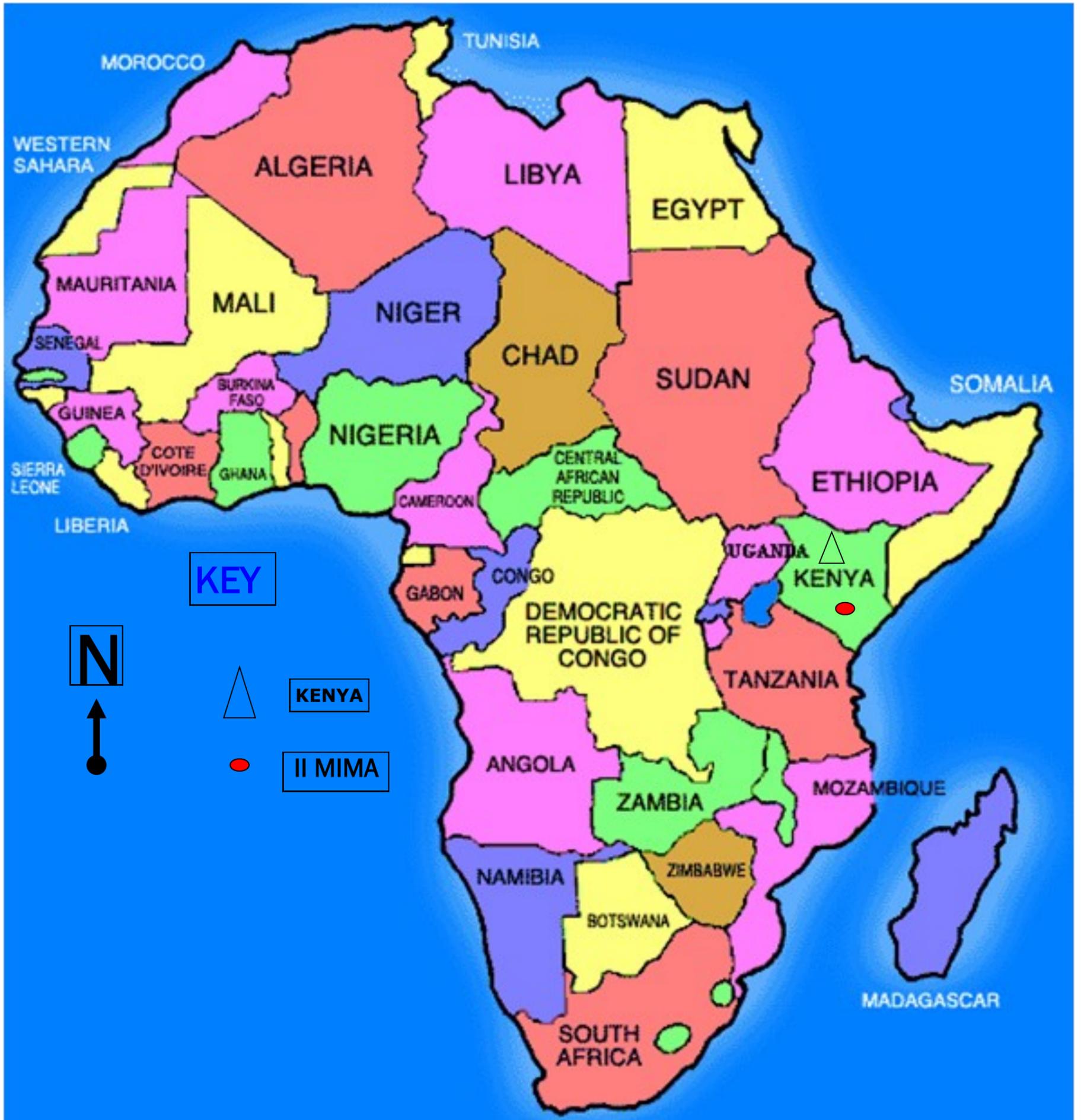


**MARIST INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
NEWSLETTER**

CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME FROM AFRICA?

Volume 2. No. 6.



***NAIROBI HOSTS II MIMA
16TH—27TH SEPTEMBER 2014***

“WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER AS BROTHERS OR PERISH TOGETHER AS FOOLS” MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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BR NYONI DOMINIC

Editorial

The Second Marist International Mission Assembly (II MIMA) which was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 16 -27 of October, 2014 was a privileged moment for Lay Marists, Marist Brothers, youth and other invited participants to deepen their understanding of their Mission and to rekindle their fire for the right cause of the Gospel .

MIC Digest Commission is indebted to all II MIMA participants for their generosity and availability to share with the entire Marist World what transpired during this auspicious occasion of the Marist Family of Champagnat. Sincere gratitude goes to Br João Carlos (Secretariat for Mission) the coordinator of the commission for his untiring efforts in making possible the connections with all Lay Marists throughout the world and Br Teofilo Minga as well as Rev. Fr Yeicinio Aberto for being faithful companions as far as translation from English to Spanish is concerned. We regret that we were unable to hear from our Lay Brothers and Sisters from Oceania due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

As you sit back and enjoy varied testimonies about II MIMA, it is our prayer that you may be inspired to bring Home the II MIMA and that it may be reflected in your daily activities - Keep the fire burning.

MIC Digest commission is pleased to welcome on board its able new members and to congratulate Brs Ignatius and Quintas as they leave for other commissions. We value and appreciate your contributions.

MIC DIGEST NEWSLETTER TEAM



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BR QUINTAS JOSÉ

OUT -GOING MEMBERS

KWAHERI-GOOD BYE



BR MATEMBA IGNATIUS

"AS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE, WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE GREATEST APPRECIATION IS NOT TO UTTER WORDS, BUT TO LIVE BY THEM" John. F Kennedy

II MIMA -AFRICA GAVE THE ANSWER



Brother, in few words may you describe the proceedings of II MIMA in your humble opinion?

Br Eugène Kabanguka, fms

Many people identify Africa as the “dark continent” not just for its majority black population, but also for its endless wars and struggles for survival. Only its minerals, its fauna and flora attract non-Africans. However, people who want to get a bit of wisdom, of family spirit, of celebration of life, of solidarity, of spirituality in communion with creation ...borrow a lot from the continent of the first human being.

This time, from 16 to 27 September, the Marists came to Africa, not in search for minerals nor for fauna and flora, but for experience of communion. For 10 days, Nairobi became the centre of Marcellin Champagnat’s Marist Family. Coming from the five continents, we were more than 120 participants in the Second Marist International Mission Assembly. In unison, we responded to the chorus “Iende Mbele Injili”, “Let the Gospel move forward”! We affirmed our mission “to make Jesus known and loved”. To bring the Gospel to all the Dioceses of the world, even to places where it is very risky, we need to be many.

The African proverb is very true: “Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile will not eat you.”

Thanks to the active participation of MIC’s various teams, we all felt at home in Nairobi.

As an African Marist Brother, how practical is the issue of Lay Marist in the African context?

In all its spontaneity, at the sound of the traditional tambour, the African culture displayed its colours, melodies and rhythms, and narrated its rich stories around the fire. We praised wisdom as a catching fire spreading to purify and warm up missionaries’ bodies and hearts. “New Marists in Mission” was the theme.

The horn of abundance was plenty for all, Lay and Brothers. We shared spiritual and folkloric experiences and we learned from one another. We learned that the Charism inherited from Marcellin Champagnat is a gift or talent in a biblical sense. If it is not used it gets lost! The more we expand it the more it produces fruits: **“Wisdom is like a baobab tree; no one individual can embrace it”**. Each person embraces only a tiny part of it. Only God has it all.

Speaking about Lay and Brothers sharing Charism and mission, we know that “Milk and honey have different colours, but they share the same house peacefully”.

During the assembly, we literally answered Pope Francis’ call to the Church “to come out of it and start moving toward the peripheries of society”. We seriously took his challenge: “Obviously, when you go out, there will be accidents, he insisted: “But I prefer a thousand times more a Church that is damaged than a Church that is sick from closing in on itself. Go out, go out!” (May 18, 2013).

Holding the assembly in a blacklisted continent as a home to insecurity and terrible sicknesses such as Ebola and Aids was a blow to the international media. A prophetic sign of what together Lay and Brothers can do in the world and in Africa in particular. Our ancestors told us that “What you help a child to love can be more important than what you help him to learn”. Together we can instil passion and compassion beyond all kinds of prejudices, thus forming good citizens and good Christians as Marcellin Champagnat commanded us.

Is there anything or comment you may wish to make or share with the Brothers and Lay Marists in general or in particular?

Before concluding, let me express my strong conviction. Our strength is not only in numbers, but also and most of all in our significance, in our rootedness in Jesus who overcame evil and death. In Jesus, Lay and Brothers, we are strong. During the assembly, we strongly experienced what it means to be mystics and prophets: to be rooted in Jesus and to risk our lives as he did so that many may live. Knowing that “An army of sheep led by a lion can defeat an army of lions led by a sheep”, we will dare to live out of passion for Jesus and compassion for children and young people.

With this, we will be unstoppable mystics and prophets. We are actively participating in the awakening of a new dawn of the Marist Charism, answering the cries from today’s Montagnes beyond our home countries.

We are New Marists in Mission.



Bro. Eugène Kabanguka with Bro. Leonard Brito at MIC during II MIMA

THE POWER OF ECSTASY



Br Obinna Osuagwu

Ecstasy is an uncontrollable motion embedded in every human race.

The demand of the society has restrained man to live artificially against the natural sense of actions and expressions especially in public. In the African context, it sounds disgraceful for a man to release his emotions of pains through crying, screaming and wailing. What a coward! The structure of the society has provided us with different spectacles through which we view our world and pass our subjective and objective judgements on ourselves.

It is through these spectacles that the wife of King David wondered why a King of high dignity could dance in public in that manner. He could not resist the joy of victory over his enemies in praising God. The power of ecstasy never spared King Saul who in the midst of the prophets prophesied after being prompted by its power. Society is the people and the people are society, they promulgate social norms and sub-pedal them in irresistible circumstances especially during social functions when the strong hands of ecstasy have grabbed them.

This power did not spare as well the participants of II MIMA; irrespective of their calibre of persons, cultural backgrounds and religious spirituality all succumbed to the power of ecstasy and resulted into singing, dancing and other fun play as expression of joy, happiness and oneness in the spirit of one holy family. When Igba Ndi Eze (the traditional dance of the Igbo people; the dance of the King “Igwe”) was brought the brothers and sisters were overwhelmed by the power of ecstasy they imitated the dancing steps and expressed their joy and, that was the climax of oneness brought by II MIMA.

Above all there was flow of tears as II MIMA came to a closure. We love Africa, we love II MIMA, we are one, we are proud of Fr Champagnat and we appreciate your vision and mission.

Long live Marist Brothers of the Schools, the Little Brothers of Mary.



CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS AT MIC- KARIBU PARTY

“WE ARE ONLY STRONG AS WE ARE UNITED, AS WEAK AS WE ARE DIVIDED.” J.K . ROWLING, HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

BRINGING II MIMA HOME



PREPARATORY COMMISSION POSE WITH BR SUPERIOR GENERAL, BR EMILI TURU

How would you describe the preparatory activities?

The preparatory activities for the II IMMA were quite intensive. They began in March 2012. In the first meetings, the focus was on defining the theme, contents, process, methodology and place for holding the II IMMA. Once the Provinces and Districts began the local and provincial/district phases, the Preparatory Commission passed on to work on the organization of the Assembly of Nairobi and the accompaniment of the work of the Provinces and Districts. The Commission met for 2 to 3 times a year and this allowed them to give an account of the planned preparatory work.

The success of the II IMMA is due to three important elements: the commitment and availability of the participants; the support received from MIC and PACE; and the quality of the work of the Preparatory Commission and all the groups and persons supporting the Assembly. We are very happy with the Assembly and with its fruits. It surpassed our expectations. The colours offered by Africa to the II IMMA were of great richness for the Marist charism and will leave their mark on its story.

What was the special call that you received from Jesus, Mary and Champagnat both during the preparatory meetings and during the actual II IMMA?

During the preparation, I was called especially to be faithful to the dream of Marcellin, and to the calls of the 21st General Chapter and of the Church to go to the peripheries of the world. Africa was the place where God willed to meet us and so it was. On the eve of the II IMMA we were doubtful, afraid, but we were able to overcome this. This even gave the Assembly a special flavour.



Br João C. COORDINATOR

At the Assembly, there was great Marist brotherhood, sharing and reflection. God was very present. Mary and Marcellin accompanied us day after day.

The core of the message of the II IMMA “prophets and mystics in communion” is a call that involves all the Brothers and laity. We have to bring about in our various situations the beautiful vision we gained of the future of the Marist charism.

Now that II IMMA is over, what is the way forward as far as the Mission of the Marist Brothers and Lay Marists is concerned?

Nairobi was a time of profound experience, dialogue, sharing and reflection. Many excellent ideas emerged from the II IMMA. The challenge is how to communicate the experience lived and make it a reality in our daily life. It was an assembly of all the persons involved in the Marist mission: laity, youth and Brothers.

This was very beautiful. It was an intense experience of community around the Marist charism. The participants at the Assembly are the first who have the mission of propagating all they have lived.

Now it falls to all the Marists of Champagnat to look at the II MIMA and interpret what it is saying for the Marist Institute and charism today. How God is manifesting himself in it and how he continues to call us to go beyond. This is a commitment for everyone.

What is your message for all our esteemed readers all over the world?

First, they should gain a better knowledge of the II MIMA and its message. It has much to tell us. It is worth the trouble to study and respond to its challenges. Second, let each of us be a living message of the II MIMA in our daily life, in all the dimensions of our life and mission. Let us all, Brothers and Marist laity and youth, be “Prophets and mystics in communion”.



II MIMA PREPARATORY COMMISSION MEETING



II MIMA LOGO

MEDITERRANEA CHALLENGES

Mr Edourd Jabre



What mentalities and world-view did you have in mind about Africa before you arrived here?

Well it's not my first time in Africa. I've already been to Ivory Coast a year before Kenya, so wrong mentalities and world-view about Africa have already changed. Basically, before it had changed, I was expecting to find people dying on the streets, and many armed people and groups, but I understood I was wrong. However, the beautiful things I imagined were true: an amazing nature, kind people and simplicity of life...

How has your visit and stay in Nairobi, Kenya, helped to demystify some of the myths about African Continent?

Basically, contact with African people helped me to demystify many things. For example, I thought that Christian faith in Africa was very mixed with pagan beliefs. But I found a very alive and mature Christian faith. I thought I would find a greater influence of the tribes, but instead I found a real solidarity and a real spirit of African belonging within people I met.

Second (II) MIMA has finally come to a successful close. How will you put into practice on an individual level all that the Assembly has inspired in you?

I was very inspired by what we dialogued and prayed about prophecy, communion and fire in the Assembly. On a personal level, I will work hard to impulse Marist vocation, of Brothers and Lay, among young people in my country and I will try to get the Marist Mission here move much more towards the poorest.

Any comment about the Charism and Spirituality of Marcellin Champagnat as a gift of the Holy Spirit?

The Charism and Spirituality of Marcellin Champagnat are a very actual answer to many needs in our world today. They still inspire a big number of persons, because they are very practical and meant to be lived in everyday's life.

Regards,





I LIVED AND NOW I WITNESS

Br Jean Bosco

The Second Marist International Mission Assembly (IIMIMA) was held in Nairobi from 17th to 27th of September, 2014. This historical event gathered together Marist Brothers, Marist laity, invited members from other Religious Institutes and young people from all over the world to envision the Marist charism.

The dialogue and fraternal spirit characterised the process of the assembly. The methodology adopted allowed the sharing of one topic each day, group dynamics and plenary session. The topics shared included: Building the community, Sharing our journey, The fire that lights our flames, Brothers and Laity in new spirit of communion, New Marist in Mission, Looking at the World through the eyes of children and young people, Birth of new era for Marist charism, lighting up lives and Bringing the dawn to life.

The nine topics above tackled systematically the themes of mystics, prophets and communion. Every day, the participants were called by the rhythm of African drums to gather around the fire to begin the day. Fire and drum are strong symbols in African tradition of communication, communion and community building. In African tradition, drums are for calling people to gather together around the fire where constructive ideas are shared and disputes resolved for the good of the community. Indeed, this was a Marist experience blended in African culture!

The two African proverbs: “If you want to go fast, walk alone, if you want to go far, go together” and “I am because we are” enriched the spirit of brotherhood and communion.

With these, the participants of II MIMA felt a strong call to be New Marist in Mission with new expressions of Marist charism. On the horizons of the third centenary of Marist charism, we dream of the Marists of Champagnat being recognized as mystics, prophets and in communion aware of the opportunities and challenges at hand.

The II MIMA reaffirmed that the charism of Champagnat is the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Universal Church. It is not a private property. Whoever feels called to live the charism of Champagnat needs nobody’s permission but the impulse of the Holy Spirit alone. The charism of Champagnat is the same but expressed in two different styles of life: the vocation of lay Marist and the vocation of a consecrated Marist Brother.

Therefore, the vocation of lay Marist is not, in any way, a threat to the vocation of a Brother. In fact “we need to be happy that many people feel interested in our charism” Br Joe McKee, V.G. Each one of us needs to be firm and deep in the conviction of our identity as Marist lay or Brother. The communion does not imply mutual exclusion or absorption between two expressions of Marist charism. We are all called to be responsible of the vitality of Marist charism, equal partners in the mission and encourage one another on the journey towards our ultimate vocation: Holiness!

On the mission, the voice of the assembly resounded vehemently the call to discover the Montagne of today, leave our comfort zones and move to the peripheries and be significantly present among the youth; to go to the swampy areas.

The life in II MIMA was not all about intellectual reflection. The Holy Spirit inspired us through dance, songs, laughter, celebrations and excursions. The best of all welcome parties was organized by the Brothers in MIC to the honour of the participants on 16th September. The participants sensed, danced, celebrated and enjoyed the different African rhythms, drinks, smiles and cuisine. There was Hakuna matata (no problems) and kwaheri (Goodbye) party. Worthy mentioning were colourful cultural presentations and prayers from different regions. Oooohwaaw! I miss you II MIMA!

Without fear of contradiction, I find it proper to declare that the experience of II MIMA held on African soil was immensely enriching both spiritually and socially. We suggested the ways for the future of Marist charism and we experienced the African hospitality. Just at the eve of the closure of the assembly, I conducted a quick opinion poll on the experience of the participants in Africa, one wrote: “Africa was so welcoming, so vibrant! The people, the rhythms, the music, the joy embraced me like a warm blanket! I will never forget the experience.” This is II MIMA, this is life in Africa!

May all the Marist own this declaration made by the participants: “In the hands of Mary, we have heard in our hearts the invitation to continue to respond to God’s call as she did, and scream out loud the prophecy of her Magnificat. Like Mary, we want to live an attitude of total availability to new situations emerging in our ever changing world.

We welcome her invitation to ‘do whatever He tells you’. We recognise the centrality of Jesus Christ in our lives and we feel sent by Him to be the Evangelisers and Missionaries.”

Let’s be New Marist in Mission every day!



JUST IMAGINE: THINK AS YOU ARE



Br Pally Newton



A group of tourists went to a National park. As they were moving around the park one of them, passing by the elephants, suddenly stopped confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg; no chains, no cages.

It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not. He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. The trainer said to him “Well, when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size of rope to tie them and at that age, it is enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away.

They believe the rope can still hold them so they never try to break free.” Ahaaa! The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they could not, they are stuck right where they are.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something simply because we failed it at first?





Mission Sunday



Fr Yeicinio Alberto Tobón Muñoz mxy

Jesus Christ, sent to evangelize the world, supports and accompanies our missionary efforts. This year 2014, the Mission Sunday fell on the 19th of October.

In his Homily, Fr. Yeicinio Alberto, using the words of Pope Francis said: "La Iglesia ha Nacido -en salida-" which means "the church was born 'to go forth'".

The concept "mission" belongs to the Latin word 'missio' meaning 'to be sent'. Every time we participate in the Mass, we remember our being sent.

The Church tradition and the magisterium help us to understand the meaning of mission.

Throughout the Holy scripture, there are many references on mission. For instance, the mission of Adam was to continue recreating and protecting life; Abraham, to lead the Israelites wherever God directed them; Moses, to liberate the elected people and unify them as chosen people of God; Jeremiah, to announce the message (Word) and the will of God; Mary, to give life to the Word of God and Jesus to be the living presence and fulfilment of God's promises.

God's mission is mediated by contexts, specific situations, historical events and so on and so forth. This means that God is a real God in a real time, with real people, solving real situations with real power.

In the History of the Church the protagonist of the mission is THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The apostles communicated the personal and communitarian experience of Jesus to all people especially the poor, rejected, oppressed, abandoned.

The Fathers of the Church and the first Christian communities witnessed mission through Martyrdom.

What is our mission in Africa today? It is reconciliation, justice, peace and unity.

In 2006, Pope Benedict XVI stated that "The soul of the mission is charity" and in the following year, wrote "The responsibility of mission is not only to Missionaries."

He also affirmed in 2010 that "the key of mission is building ecclesial communion" and in 2012 when finishing his pontificate, wrote "We must recover the apostolic zeal."

This reflects the message of Pope Francis on Mission Sunday in 2013 that "Mission belongs to every baptized person."

Are you a Christian?

Then, you are a missionary!



Sonnet: "Called for Mission"

Br Matemba Ignatius

Lord, you have seduced me beyond compare

My strength of resistance have totally failed

Yours is a Mission and I am going there

Your choice of me has left me humbled

But who can resist your calling

Coz you leave one with a deep longing

Like a watchman's longing for the morning

A thirst that you alone can quench

In your vineyard no one sits on the fence

Everyone is a participant, active and zealous

No one should have a heart of jealous

Coz we are all called and gifted

Called by him alone and lifted

Lifted, blessed and sent to be broken.

CRUZ DEL SUL INSPIRED



MR ACHARD JUAN

What would be your advice to the African Continent as far as the vocation of the Lay Marist is concerned? What structures are lacking to make Lay Marist deeply rooted in Africa?

I am in no position to advise but I certainly can share my experience and let each one of you draw your own conclusions. I am convinced that Lay and Brothers share and carry the same Marcellin's Charism.

What is really different between them is availability. Brothers dedicate 24 hours a day to the mission, which is their main target. In my case, my priority is my family but my life project and my mission coincide with the Charism. My "place in the world" is to be a Marist, inside my family and serving my community. It is forty years since I joined the Marist world, as a pupil first, as a worker, as a member of the directive Board, as a father of pupils and I married a Marist ex-student... and now as a director. The Brothers have given me a place, they have allowed me to specify my commitment, they have trusted me and they believe that I want that this Charism may be embraced by more and more Christians. Maybe that is the Key to feel that the Charism is for all. The vocation of Lay and Brothers complement each other

What will be your message from II MIMA Africa to America?

This African adventure has, without doubt, changed my life. As each strong experience that one goes through makes us different and hopefully more human.



This experience has moved many of my personal dimensions. Being a racial minority in a different continent where praying is done mainly with the body makes me long for such a relationship with dancing and music. I have paid special attention to the significance and value you give to water and native ethnic people. These are all messages I have treasured for me, my family, my co-workers and pupils. We have to learn from the fact that there are other ways to watch the world and to connect with the planet.

My take away message is therefore very powerful. We are a very strong Institute that rests on founding a common experience (Montagnes) and that places us all looking towards the same horizon. It is clear for us that our place is the periphery, besides those that are less privileged and more vulnerable. In these 200 years our place has changed, it is not a better or a worse place, it is a different one. We are now in America sharing between Lay and Brothers the Charism, managing in community and making the best of the strong points of each other. Africa has not yet used the Lay power, there are enough callings among you to maintain the mission. Europe is searching to keep a balance...Everyone is searching for the best ways to seize our good name in order to be an activist on the protection of Children's and adolescent's rights. We also agree that women and young people should have equal place in our Institute. Lay and Brothers must treat themselves horizontally so as to construct long living structures that allow us to empower the mission.

Did you find any differences or similarities as far as Liturgy of the Mass is concerned in comparison with your own Liturgy in America?

Enemos la misma liturgia, a pesar de la frontera idiomática, la liturgia es universal y me sentí muy a gusto. Lo cierto es que en el Uruguay existe una minoría racial negra de mucho peso que ha dado origen entre otras cosas a la música popular que nos identifica como uruguayos, el Candombe. Destacaba más arriba el espacio que Uds dan a la danza y la música en el rito, acá ese lugar está vacío y lo completamos fuera del templo tocando candombe en las calles.

Our language differs, nevertheless the liturgy is the same, it is universal and I felt very much at ease. In Uruguay there is a very strong Afro-American minority that has founded great part of our popular music; the Candombe is the name of this musical style.

We do not dance and have music in our rite, but we fill that empty space by playing our drums (Candombe) on the streets. I do it every Saturday.

Asante sana Brother.

Kumkumbatiakubwa!!!

Muchas gracias Hermano. Gran abrazo!!!



SANTA M. DE LOS ANDES PROVES MS PÉREZ SYLVIA

How is the formation of the Lay Marists in Santa Maria

De Los Andes?

(Describe in brief the formation

stages, number of years and the content of the formation in Santa Maria De Los Andes)

¿Cómo es la formación de los laicos maristas en Santa María de los Andes? (Describábre brevemente las etapas de formación, número de años y el contenido de la formación en Santa María de los Andes)

Provincia Santa María de los Andes Equipo de Espiritualidad y Laicado

LAICOS Y LAICAS MARISTAS DE CHAMPAGNAT

ITINERARIO DE LA ETAPA INVITACION

Tiempo 1 año

Descripción de la etapa

Esta etapa busca dar espacio a cualquier manifestación vocacional de laicos y laicas que se relacionan con el mundo marista, a la vez que procura brindar información sobre la propuesta vocacional marista laical y los itinerarios de crecimiento que se ofrecen en este ámbito.

También ofrece las instancias establecidas para incorporarse libremente a estos itinerarios.

Itinerarios de crecimiento

- 1. Comparto mis búsquedas e inquietudes vocacionales con otras personas.
2. Conozco la propuesta vocacional marista laical.
3. Oro, reflexiono y discierno mi respuesta a esa propuesta.
4. Respondo positivamente y pido formalmente iniciar el proceso.

Medios y ayudas

- 1. Tríptico vocacional laical marista y otros recursos gráficos (testimonios de vocaciones laicales maristas, de voluntarios, campañas de oración, pendones...).
2. Lecturas de profundización sobre la vocación laical.
3. Invitación personal vocacional a laicos y laicas.
4. Invitación desde las instancias ordinarias de la Provincia: diplomados, jornadas EAM, retiros de directivos y otros retiros, etc.
5. Jornada o retiro en torno a la vida como vocación. (dos días)
6. Subsídios de formación sobre vocación laical.
7. Jornada o retiro para discernir la respuesta personal a los llamados que se van experimentando y para configurar los posibles grupos para vivir la etapa siguiente. (dos días)
8. Acompañamiento personal (Entrevista).
9. Presentación de la solicitud para pasar a la siguiente etapa.

St Aloysius Gonzaga YCS/ Choir at MIC

By: Margaret Eunice

In Kenya, there are thousands of students sitting for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education. Some of them manage to go to Colleges or Universities of their choices. Marist International University College is a place that anyone would want to be at any given time.

St Aloysius Gonzaga is one of the schools that take their graduates to Marist International University College for further studies. It is a school that offers a variety of courses.

The students in the University are well rounded, God fearing and well groomed. The school is situated in a very nice and clean environment, the brothers and sisters around make it even more comfortable to be in the environment of the school compound.

The YCS members of St Aloysius on 14th of September, 2014 were invited to celebrate the Holy Mass together with the students of Marist International University College. We must admit that we did not expect the accolade we got after animating an International Mass. It was International in the sense that we had to sing songs in Portuguese, Chinese, Lingala, French, and Pidgin English among other international languages. Actually, the YCS members were not willing to leave the compound immediately; they had a fresh breath of the surrounding vicinity.

Finally, we were (YCS) taken around the University compound before gathering in the College Auditorium for motivational talk and entertainment. All in all it was really a fantastic experience.



Would joint international formation of Lay Marists and Marist Brothers be possible? How?

¿Podría la formación internacional conjunta de laicos y hermanos maristas ser posible? ¿Cómo?

En algunas Provincias ya es una realidad la formación conjunta entre hermanos y laicos/as. La Provincia Santa María de los Andes tiene mucha experiencia al respecto: Con representantes tanto de hnos y laicos/as hemos vivido experiencias muy ricas de formación conjunta y sabemos que Cruz del Sur, Norandina también

¿Cómo? A través de:

- Encuentros de formación en el Carisma
-Talleres en Patrimonio marista
-Diplomados en Ciencias religiosas, acompañamiento.
- Semana de espiritualidad (Espiritualidad Apostólica marista)
-La red inter-americana cada año tienen una reunión de formación entre hermanos y laicos.
-Asambleas
-Retiros

En este sentido puede y debe ser una realidad la formación conjunta de laicos/as y hermanos.

What do you think about the Lay Marists in the African Continent?

¿Qué piensa usted acerca de los laicos maristas en el continente africano?

Yo tuve la oportunidad de conocer a un laico marista africano líder en Roo, pudimos compartir un poco nuestra vida de laicos, yo le compartía como en mi Provincia llevábamos adelante toda la formación y acompañamiento de los laicos/as maristas. El me habló de su experiencia y de los laicos maristas que acompaña. Fue un compartir muy rico a pesar de mi falencia con el inglés, pero en realidad fue muy poco tiempo. Yo creo que, como en el resto del mundo debe haber en África muchos miles de laicos y laicas maristas que desean conocer un poco más el carisma, desean mayor formación y acompañamiento. Pero yo no tengo mayor opinión al respecto. Creo que debemos apostar por el laicado y reconocer su vocación en la iglesia y en el mundo marista.

Is there any issue of interest that you may wish to share with our esteemed readers of MIC Digest all over the world?

¿Hay algún tema de interés que es posible que desee compartir con nuestros lectores estimados de MIC Recopilación de todo el mundo?

Después de la experiencia vivida en la II Asamblea internacional los participantes de la Provincia "Santa María de los Andes escribieron una carta a la Provincia que desee compartirla. (favor abrir adjunto) Un abrazo fraterno y muchos saludos y bendiciones para todos los hermanos maristas del MIC.

Infographic titled '¿Cómo ha surgido el Movimiento laical en el Instituto Marista?' containing text, images, and a diagram of an itinerary with four stages.

MARIST CULTURAL WEEK

By: Matemba Ignatius



Have you ever asked yourself why the rainbow is such an amazing and beautiful sight to see? Maybe you have not or even thought about it. Simply put, the rainbow finds its beauty from the many different colours it has. Can you imagine the rainbow having only one or two colours? Diversity is what brings out the beauty of life and makes it even more interesting and mysterious as well.

As a way of appreciating this beauty in diversity, Marist International University College (MIUC) dedicates a week during the academic school year to showcase and appreciate the different cultures, communities and nationalities that make up the "rainbow" of this University College. This year's Cultural Week celebrations were slated in the second week of October, from the 6th to the 11th. The 11th of October was the climax and a day to round the Cultural Week festivities: it was a day characterised with talents, beauty, skills and what have you. Splendid performances were done by groups from Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Cameroon, Nigeria, DRC, just to mention but a few.

This year's Cultural Week was a unique one as well because for the first time in the history of Marist, students and invited guest witnessed the selection of Mr. and Ms Marist, in the persons of Mr Anikpe Kingsley from Nigeria and Miss Sabine Meya from DRC. Congratulations for this achievement to the two, their names I believe will appear in the History books as being the first Mr and Ms Marist. These two have been given a challenge to bring out the beauty of Marist as a center with diverse Nationalities.

I believe the rainbow teaches us a great lesson on the beauty of diversity. Elders say, "he who forgets his roots is doomed to get lost." Thanks to Marist for always giving us this special time to appreciate our roots.

2014- 15 MR AND MISS MARISTS CROWNED



CULTURAL WEEK HIGHLIGHTS



WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT MARTIAL ARTS

By: Br Jarlosse Daniel



On 11th October 2014, Onesmus, and I were graded with Yellow belts (8th KYU yellow belt) in recognition of our successful completion of the basics in Shotokan Karate Do, while Johnston got 2nd KYU Brown Belt - NIKYU as a senior member of the sport. Ever since I started with this sport in 2010 in the Novitiate, I answered as many questions as the number of people who came on my way. One of those queries is: "what is interesting about Martial arts?"

Some have come to associate Karate with violence. It is normal to think that way. I also felt the same for many years and I never thought of embracing it till I thought of finding out what is it really all about. I have realised that there are some Christian values in Karate such as discipline, self-control, and respect for both juniors and seniors. For instance, Taekwondo class (the one I trained for the two years of my novitiate) begins with the following words: Sir, I will practice in the spirit of Taekwondo, with Courtesy for my fellow students, Loyalty for my instructor, and Respect for my juniors and seniors, Sir! And it ends this way: Sir, I shall live with Perseverance in the spirit of Taekwondo, having honor with others, Integrity within my self, and Self Control in my actions, Sir! As you can see, there is no violence involved, yet there is stress for virtues of respect, kindness, courtesy, patience, humility, and the drive to develop personal skills to the maximum possible. Under no circumstance will any form of karate be taught by a member to any non-member.

One of the requirements in Karate is to have sound health of body and mind. A good karate member only fights where his/her life is endangered, in self defense but he/she should avoid any confrontation.

I am certain that if Jesus came as God, human beings would have deserted him before he landed on earth. God knowing our human limitations decided that Jesus would come in a human form to identify himself with us. He ate with sinners and mixed with many other people marginalised in the society but at the end he saved us all. Thus, if you want to save young people from all sorts of anxieties, difficulties, identify one of the areas they are interested in such as sports, music just to mention but a few and develop it. It does not matter the number of PhDs if you cannot reach their expectations. There are many ways of reaching to them. Choose yours.



PRAYING WITH YOUR NAME

By: Br Zulu Peter

Did you know that your name can help you to pray?

Names are very special tools for prayer. Someone may ask; **how?**

Check this out. I am going to use my name as an example. I am Peter Evans Zulu Benevuula.

Peter

is my first name and it means the **rock**

Evans

is my middle name and it means **group of people**

Zulu

is my surname and it means **High Mountain**

Benevuula

is my clan name meaning **the rain makers**

How do I use these names to pray?

Everyday in the morning I pray saying:

Lord Jesus, help me to be strong in my faith as a Christian and in my vocation as a religious Brother. Help me to be as strong as a **rock** on which you built your church.

Help me to live well in the Marist family (**group**) as we live as companions on the journey.

Let me be used as a **mountain** to those who long to see far as they come in contact with me.

As the **rain** falls, bring life and hope to those who are hopeless. Let me be used to radiate the life and hope to the people I will meet today.

I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever amen.

Get the meanings of your name and use it to pray.



PRAISE & WORSHIP

“I AM THE THIRD”

By: Br Mkanthama Misheck

Saturated with prayer and community life the disciple as usual went to his guru for accompaniment. The disciple gazed with awe at the new picture flamed words in bold and capitals placed between the icon of Mary and the picture of Jesus, that read, “I AM THE THIRD”. After receiving the spiritual and human growth injection of accompaniment, the disciple did not bother to ask what it meant instead he concluded with a deep sigh and puzzled left the office. He took the words as a thought of the week. After two solid weeks of deep thinking, reflection and meditation, searching the truth of the meaning, nothing fruitful came out and he remained in the puzzled state since the statement opposed his philosophy for he believed to be always the first since childhood.

The disciple went again to receive spiritual and human growth dosage of accompaniment from his master. “I AM The THIRD, What does it mean? The disciple questioned the guru without hesitating. After a short adoration-like silence, the master explained:

Firstly: I put the will of God

Secondly: I put the will of the community (others)

Thirdly: I put my personal will hence “I AM THE THIRD” in the hierarchy.

Challenged by the spiritual wisdom of his master, the disciple went straight to the chapel for meditation and later he told his master that he discovered he was THE THIRD not the first.

In our lives, where do we belong? Are we the first, the second or the third?

Do we sometimes belong to all the three? Life is a journey of discoveries; you may discover where you belong.

1



2



3



PRAYING THE CURSING PSALMS: THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Br Hembraor Silas



One of the innermost or integral parts

of every religion is Prayer. The psalms of the Old Testament obviously are the prayers through which the Jews brought before God their troubles, fears, perplexities, hopes and aspirations, as well as their joyful expressions of gratitude and praise.

In reading and studying the psalms, one would rightly observe that they contain a whole range of human emotions and moods, both sad and happy, that each one of us experiences in the different circumstances of our life. It is in reflecting the shared human condition that has given the psalms their universal appeal to people of all places and cultures, as a means of approaching God in their own particular situation.

It is in respect of those human emotional and sentimental expressions found in the Psalter with particular reference to the “Cursing psalms” that this piece will bring to fore the Christian dimension on how and how not to pray those psalms in question.

The Psalter has its meaning, composition and division. Originally, the word Psalm is derived from the Greek word “Psalmoi” meaning “songs sung to a harp” are a collection of 150 Old Testament religious lyrical or Prayer poems known also as the Psalter. Some were no doubt composed orally and spontaneously, whereas others were literally composed in a more formal sense.

They were originally composed by many authors, spanning perhaps a thousand years. About seventy three psalms name David as the author, while the rest are under the authorship of Moses, Solomon or one of the five minor sources.

Some of the Psalms appear to have been written for individual recital, others for recital by the congregation. Many of them were written by professional Musicians and include musical directions for instrumental performers. A few directions, such as the congregational response “Praise the Lord” or “Hallelujah” is still understood liturgically.

The present Psalter is divided into five sections: 1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106; 107-150. Each one is marked at the end by a doxology, perhaps in imitation of the Pentateuch (Torah), the first five books of the Old Testament.

The Hebrew title of the book is Tehillim (Praises or songs of Praise). Psalms is the first book in the writings, the third part of the Hebrew canon. It is found between the book of Job and Proverbs in Christian Versions of the Bible. It is worth noting that the Septuagint (LXX) and the Vulgate numbering of the Psalms differ slightly from that of the Hebrew Bible. **TO BE CONTINUED....**



SOUTH ASIA ECHOES

Mr Matloob Hayat

What has been your experience of Africa especially in Nairobi, Kenya, during the II MIMA?

Thanks to II MIMA for bringing me close to true African life. If someone likes to experience a clear picture of nature then Nairobi could be best choice for him/her. The wild life and especially the Big Five of Africa is a good attraction.

Is there anything new that you have learnt, observed about Africans and Africa in general and would you like to share your testimony with us?

Of course, I would like to share my testimony with others just to let them know how practical experience can change someone's views about a particular place and people. Initially it was in my mind that Kenya is a place with poor health facilities and having low education rate.

But, I was pleasantly surprised when I visited MIC. It's really a great seat of learning; MIC is playing a vital role in imparting quality education to the young generation.

Secondly, Nairobi is not far behind in health department too. The "Nairobi Hospital" is recognized as a modern diagnostic and treatment centre and "Karen Hospital" is one of the fully equipped hospitals in Kenya.

How would you describe the proceedings of the ten days meeting of Lay and Marist Brothers together in Nairobi?

My visit to Nairobi and attending the II MIMA was absolutely fantastic. I never ever thought to be on such an excellent international platform. No doubt these ten days could be rated as the best days of my life. The atmosphere was full of life the brotherly and friendly relations were at their peak. Lay and Marist brothers on the same board was a superb sight.

Do you have any other comment as far as Africa is concerned?

The hospitality at Dimesse and MIC was a great example of African hospitality and love. The people and their way of welcoming the guests were marvellous. Their singing and dancing was a great scene of entertainment. This place provides a great peace of mind and right place for meditation. I should say that one must visit this place at least once in life.

May God bless you all.



MIUC ANNUAL BURSARY FUNDRAISING



BY: Br Okon Sylvanus V.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle pointed out that, "there is no effect without a cause" and so it is in the Marist International University College (MIUC) annual bursary fundraising. MIUC witnesses tremendous increase in number of students from humble backgrounds seeking higher learning opportunities. As a result MIUC Board management responded to this need in 2010 by instituting an annual bursary fund kitty for the plight of the needy ones in MIUC. Last year a total of one hundred and nineteen (119) students benefited from this scheme.

This year's annual fund raising event was held on the 6th and 27th of September 2014 respectively. On the 6th of September, 2014, there was the students' union "mini-harambe" which was chaired by the chief guest Mrs Elizabeth at the College's cafeteria and the main annual fundraising event was held on the 27th of September, 2014, at the assembly grounds and had Mrs Araka as the Chief Guest. The occasion was graced by Fr George Maina, a member of the Psycho-Spiritual Institute (PSI) resident of Basilio Fraternity at MIC Community.

During the course of the annual bursary fundraising day, there were some remarks that are worth noting. The principal Rev. Br Dr Joseph Udejah pointed out to all that the driving force of the scheme is one of the core values of MIUC which is concern for the poor and holistic education for all, especially the most neglected ones which is the anchor of Marist Brothers mission in the world. Others who spoke during the fundraising to the service of humanity noted that people are products of "harambe" because in one way or another we have all benefited from our Benefactors and Benefactresses.

There was a call to MIUC Management Board to open an account for monthly contributions towards the bursary project and all beneficiaries of the kitty were called to be appreciative by being focused in their studies and get ready to serve the society in future.

On a personal note, the bursary fund of this year 2014, was more of community mobilization for the fight against "ignoramus" for the plight of the poor, in accordance with the "harambe" spirit of Kenya (pulling together for the service of the community) and that of the Mission of St Marcellin Champagnat who responded practically to the deplorable situation of the neglected young people of his era in France. However, there was a low turn up to the event.

Finally as God is the lover of the cheerful giver, may He bless all who contributed in cash and in kind to the success of MIUC 2014 Bursary fund kitty.

Long live MIUC and the bursary fund kitty. "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it to me" (Matthew 25:40). Amen!



IBÉRICA SPEAKS



How has II MIMA been of help in enrichment and growth of your understanding of the Lay Marists and Marist Brothers' Vocation?

MS RAQUEL ESPUELAS RUIZ

En los días de la II MIMA realmente viví en una comunidad internacional mixta. Como se nos recordaba en una de las ponencias el carisma no pertenece a nadie, es un don del Espíritu y un regalo para la Iglesia. Nunca he visto problema en la diversa vocación marista; creo que entre todos (hermanos, hermanas, laicos y laicas) nos enriquecemos.

How would you describe the participation of Brothers from Marist International Centre (MIC) towards II MIMA's success or failure?

Agradecer a los hermanos del MIC su gran acogida y participación, sobre todo en las "Voces del fuego" de las mañanas con los cantos y en las fiestas de las noches. Para mí ha sido todo un éxito y una suerte el haber podido compartir con ellos.

What inspired you to become part and parcel of the Lay Marists Vocation?

En la familia marista he encontrado mi lugar en la Iglesia. Conozco otros grupos, congregaciones y ambientes pero donde me siento mejor es con los maristas.

Siempre estudié en un colegio marista pero para mí lo más importante fue el grupo de la PJM donde he crecido como persona y en la fe. Ha sido tan decisivo para mí que por eso todo lo que recibí gratis ahora lo doy gratis.

What is your general comment about the just ended II MIMA which was held in Nairobi, Africa?

Fue una gran vivencia, de esas que te cambian la vida. Con lo que me quedo es con las personas pero haber tenido lugar en Nairobi ha marcado la diferencia porque para mí ha sido un cambio de perspectiva que me anima a ponerme en movimiento.





SOUTHERN AFRICA AFFIRMS

What was your impression of commitment of Lay Marists to Marist Charism and Mission?

Mr Michael Greeff

It was a wonderful confirmation to me to see the depth and the breadth of the commitment to our Marist Charism. In trying to describe this to people who have enquired about what happened in Nairobi, I have explained it like this; Marist across the globe - our strength lies in our diversity and this was evident by the sheer number of people from every corner of the globe, all so different. However, if our diversity is our strength then our sameness is the glue that binds us together.

Our sameness comes from the vision that we share; Brothers and Lay Marists alike. Wherever you are in the world you know when you have entered a Marist community and at our gathering in Nairobi those communities came together to create a II MIMA Community.

Has your interaction with Lay Marists from all over the world increased your zeal (or weakened it) of being a Lay Marist?

It would be a real worry for anyone to have to respond to this question by saying that our zeal was weakened. Personally, it was the single most profound experience I have had with such a pure focus on being Marist. The only place to start with the spreading of the II MIMA spark is with ourselves; each and every one of us.

My commitment made in Nairobi, to myself and to the Marist world, has already borne fruit and I fully intend growing this wherever I can. I feel more confident than ever that we are in the right place and that what we are doing is the right thing; this is what our Lord wants us to be doing.

Is there anything of interest that you would like say to the Marist Brothers and Lay Marists all over the World?

In Nairobi specifically we said and in Africa generally we say, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This has to be our focus as we carry the flame of II MIMA home as its stewards for future generations of Marists. Let III MIMA, wherever and whenever it takes place, look back on our work with gratitude and excitement.



EAST ASIA CONCURS

How deeply rooted is the vocation of Lay Marists in Asia as compared to Africa?

MS ANGELA UNRAR

I cannot compare the Lay Marists of Asia with those of Africa because I know only a little about those of Africa. It is based only on what I observed and heard at II MIMA from among the participants coming from Africa. Lay Marists in Africa are committed in their mission as expressed in their testimonies.

In Asia, the Lay Marists are strong in terms of their commitment as mission partners of the Brothers. Oftentimes, they call themselves Mission Partners instead of Lay Marists. They humbly translate their Marist Spirituality through living in simplicity, radiating the spirit of family and co-responsibility and being present with each other in work, advocacies on social and moral issues, institutional gatherings, formation activities, prayer and liturgical celebrations. These experiences strengthen the personal and professional communion that brings mutual enrichment among Brothers and Lay Marists.

What is your opinion on having held the II MIMA in Africa? Was it a wise move or not?

It was a wise a decision that II MIMA was held in Africa. As what Bro Emili Turu fms, said in his opening message during the assembly that as Marists, we should not concentrate at the centre, rather we have to go to the peripheries and do our mission. This is a big challenge to all of us. I am sure the future MIMA's will also be held in places at the peripheries so that the participants will feel more their vocations as Marist Missionaries.

Aside from this statement of Bro. Emili, choosing Africa as the venue was a right decision. The community was very welcoming. The ambience was suited for the assembly. There was no problem in security. The culture is very rich. Personally, I was touched and inspired by the African's perspective in life. They are happy people as I observed in their celebrations and the way they relate to people.

How is the vocation to both Lay Marists and Marist Brotherhood viewed in your continent? Is there any hope of the future of the vocation of the Lay Marists and Marist Brotherhood in your continent?

It is viewed here with high importance that the number of Brothers taking perpetual vows and the Lay Marists volunteering for mission work is increasing.

At present there are already communities here in Asia composed of both Lay and Brothers. There are also communities which are already international and intercultural. Yes, there is a big hope in the future for both Lay and Brothers in terms of their vocation.

Do you have any other comment as far as II MIMA is concerned?

The Second Marist Mission Assembly held in Nairobi, Kenya was very successful because of the great preparation done by the Preparatory Commission. The process led the participants to silence and reflection to listen to what God was telling the participants to be mystics and prophets to the Montagnes of today. Activities were smoothly done because every detail was well prepared. The participants did their part.

The statement made is the expression of what were echoed in the assembly. My experience at II MIMA was very enriching and inspiring. It widened our perspective of being a Lay Marist because of its internationality and rich activities (inputs, processes, prayer sessions, celebrations and camaraderie among participants.).

It challenged me as Lay Marist to be a "Voice of Fire" of being mystic and prophet to the Montagnes whom I will come in contact with. I am so grateful to the Provincial of East Asia for choosing me to be one of the participants of this memorable international gathering.

I thank God through the intercession of Our Good Mother and St Marcellin Champagnat for making my way to II MIMA. To the preparatory commission, KUDOS for the job well done! Finally, congratulations to the MIC community. You did a great job for the success of II MIMA. Keep it up!

SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!



SUCCESSFUL WISHES TO BRS PATRICE HAJA T. AND PASCAL UBANZI AS THEY DO THEIR TEACHING PRACTICE AND FIELD ATTACHMENT RESPECTIVELY

GRAB A COPY FOR YOURSELF OF II MIMA CD'S AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE WHILE STOCK LASTS



Composition:
Bro. Modest Flavian, Bro. Anthony Okoye & Bro. Jérôme N'anda
Voice Arrangement:
Bro. Modest Flavian, Bro. Anthony Okoye & Bro. Jérôme N'anda
Instruments:
Bro. Jean Marie Ingabire, Bro. Jules Benoit, Bro. Modest Flavian, Bro. Anthony Okoye & Bro. Jérôme N'anda
Singers:
Jerome Nkwira, Sharlize Ndombi, Bro. Jean Baptist, Bro. Jules Benoit, Bro. Modest Flavian, Bro. Anthony Okoye & Bro. Jérôme N'anda

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Let's Evangelise
SONGS

1. We Gather by your Name
2. Mima Africa
3. Set our Heart on Fire
4. The Call is Urgent
5. Call to Be
6. I Sing for You
7. Send Me
8. Let's Evangelise
9. Let it Be Done
10. Sing Champagnat

New Marists in mission
#Marist International Mission Assembly

Marist International Centre (MIC) Band

BRAVO 2014 GRADUATING CLASS



BRS ADOLPHE PALUKU AND ACHARI FREDRICK REPRESENTED THEIR 2014 GRADUATING CLASS AT CUEA ON THE 3RD OF OCTOBER. BRAVO BROTHERS FOR MAKING IT. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. MIC AND THE INSTITUTE AT LARGE IS PROUD OF YOU.



For comments or suggestions, kindly write to
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