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February 20, 2017

Dear Brothers,

A REFLECTION ON COMMUNITY LIFE:

My reflection is based on articles I read recently, written by Brother Jean Clement Ishimwe, "Community Life: A challenge to young Brothers". Br. Clement shares enriching but simple reflections on "Building a Healthy Community". He points out five most important and crucial moments where **the community comes together to share and grow in one direction.** These moments that he calls "the best locus" are: **meal times, prayer and faith sharing times, fun times, happy hours and meeting on common values.**



What matters is the quality of these moments. Br. Clement says in his article that "coming together provide opportunity to listen to others, share one's own thoughts, review and evaluate experiences; think and plan together. In addition, in order to build fraternity we need to know one another and to communicate more extensively and more deeply. But where will we come to this if not through those moments of being together?"



To come together as a community and to live a meaningful life we need not be extraordinary, we only need to be genuine to the life we have voluntarily chosen to live without getting tired. In simple words, the main task of a religious community is to live together in real love, and to treat others with genuine love by doing small things of daily life. Br. Sean in his Circular "Marvelous Companions" names the simple things of daily life as "little virtues". Br. Sean adds the following list

of little virtues needed for today: "answering the door, providing a welcome to all who visit, remembering birthdays and other special occasions, offering a word of thanks or congratulations, simply saying 'hello' to those with whom I live, an ability to celebrate".

Does the time and energy we invest in community building take us away from our work or mission? Not at all! Instead, a healthy community gives us joy, happiness and energy that we take back to our mission. When we are happy and feel cared for in our community, there is such an extra outburst of energy and a willingness to go the extra mile, and do things for one another without even being asked.



The Dance of Mission – Emili Turu

“We talk about Montagne, about being mystics and prophets, of opting for the least-favoured, and of going to the peripheries.... What can we do to ground these beautiful words in us, and so bear fruit in abundance?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Appointments**

At the Provincial Council meeting held on 3rd to 6th February at Marcellin Nivasa, following decisions were taken.

Appointment of Brothers to the Finance Commission of Sri Lanka and the Province Sustainability Committee:

1. **The Finance Commission for Sri Lanka:** The following Brothers were appointed to the Finance Commission of Sri Lanka sector of the Province of South Asia. Bros. Devasiri Fernando, Chinthana Nonis, Charles Fernando, Clinton Perera and Mervyn Perera.
2. **Province Sustainability Committee:** Bros. Rajkumar, Devasiri, Farancis, Charles, Roshan and Mervyn.

- **Renewal of vows of the Brothers in temporary profession**



Following Brothers will renew their temporary vows in February, March and April

- Bro. Paulraj Anthonysamy in February, 2017
- Brothers Kamran Yunas, Niamat Rohail and Qummar Anthony in March, 2017
- Brothers Dulaj and Jiji on 8th April 2017 at the Marist International Novitiate, Tudella.
- **Preparation for Final Vows**
Bro. Paulraj Anthonysamy and Jiji Dasan will follow a two months renewal in Fiji, from 20th of May to the end of July 2017 as a preparation for their Final Profession, under the guidance of Bro. Barry Burns of New Zealand.



- Bro. Sunanda Alwis left for Melbourne, Australia on 9th February on a study tour to familiarize himself with the Marist Lay Movement and activities in Australia. He is expected to lead and coordinate the Lay Marist activities in the Province. Sunanda will return to the country on 9th March 2017.

- After completing the two years of MAPAC formation program in March, 2017, Bro. Zubair Yaqub will be joining the St. Mary's Community in Peshawar and he will work at St. John Vianny High School, Kohati Gate, Peshawar with Bro. Hadayat.



- The Provincial Council has decided to appoint management/advisory committees for the following Schools (Maris Stella & St. Joseph's, Nugegoda) and institutions (Marist Brothers Farm) in order to help the management and continuity of management systems

Reminders for Sri Lankan Sector:

Annual Retreat 2017

Dear Brothers please make arrangements to have the following days free for the Province Retreat and Recollections. The retreat will be animated by Br. Teofilo Minga and the recollection in May by Br. Tony Leon.

- Retreat: **13th to 19th of August 2017** at Monte Fano, Ampitiya, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Recollection 2017

- Recollection : Serene Pastures Retreat house, Bolawalana, Negombo
 - (1) 19th to 21st May 2017
 - (2) 10th to 12th November 2017

Community Life Plan

*Please send me your timetable, your reflections, and any practical goals you wish to work towards as a Community in 2017. It would be best if I received them by the **1st of March** so that we can discuss your reflections and goals at our Council planning meeting held after this date.*

SRI LANKA

Bi-Centenary Celebrations

The bicentenary of the foundation of our Institute was celebrated on 2nd January 2017 at Maris Stella College, Negombo. Brothers from Sri Lanka, together with Lay Partners, well-wishes and some youth, rallied round the altar to thank our Almighty Father for graciously guiding our Institute for two centuries. The celebration took us back to the table at La Valla where Fr. Champagnat sat with his first Brothers.

“A New Beginning” is the theme of the bi-centenary year. We gathered round the table with Fr. Cyril Anthony to celebrate the thanks-giving liturgy.

Bro. Mervyn Perera, the Provincial of our South Asia Province solemnly declared open the Bi-centennial year at the beginning of the Mass.



Athletics Meets of Maris Stella Colleges, Negombo & Thimbirigaskatuwa.

The Inter House Athletics Meet of Maris Stella College Negombo was held on Saturday the 28th January 2017 with the participation of Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Parents and distinguished Invitees. Mr. Sunil Jayaweera, the Special Advisor to the Minister of Education, presided as the Chief Guest. Colourful Drill and Gymnastic Displays added more life to the event. Lewis House won the overall championship at the meet.



The Athletics Meet of Maris Stella College, Thimbirigaskatuwa was held on Friday the 10th February 2017. Mr. Upali Amarathunga, Director-Sports of the Ministry of Education, presided as the Chief Guest. The event was a mixture of many attractive items such as Band display and a Karate Display. Lewis house was leading at this meet too and became the champions.



Leadership training program

A two days leadership training program for Negombo Division school prefects was held at Marist Stella College Thimbirigaskatuwa on February, 10th and 11th organized by the Brothers and Lay Marists.



PAKISTAN

Inauguration of Bicentenary Celebration at Sargodha Catholic High School

On 7th January, five days after the sector celebrations of the Bicentenary of the Foundation of the Institute, the staff of Sargodha Catholic High School decided to have their own reflection on the foundation of the institute and the characteristics that would mark the new beginnings: GRATITUDE, FORGIVENESS AND COMMITMENT.

Tribute was paid to the Founder of the Marist Brothers, St. Marcellin Champagnat, and the daring work he did laying the foundation of the institute, watching the challenges he and the first Brothers faced, responding to the criticisms and opposition leveled against his adventure, even the moments of humour that made those years of toil so joyful. Bro. Francis led the reflection with a well prepared Power Point Presentation. It looked as if St. Marcellin came alive for our teachers both, Muslim and Christian.

The day was full of symbolic gestures and rituals to grasp the spirit of the day. To continue the memory of the event we planted a tree, which we all undertook to look after. At the end of this presentation, as a symbolic gesture, we, the teaching and the non-teaching staff, stood forming the figures 200, looking upward hopefully, for a NEW BEGINNING. Finally we marked the NEW BEGINNING, by cutting a cake and sharing it.



A hearty gratitude to Bros. Anthony Qamar, Rohail Niamat, Remigius Fernando and Mr. Anil for their wonderful ideas and support to make this day a success. (Br. Remy)

SCHS Marists (Brothers and Lay), are sitting together and studying the Document, "Gathered Around the Same Table" as part of their monthly reflection and study.

(Bro. Farancis)



INDIA

Bi-centenary Celebration in India

We were very happy to celebrate 200 Years of existence of our Congregation with our young people and parents. It was a nice celebration and there was a procession and our young people carried St. Marcellin's picture, a digital flex of the bicentenary logo, with grateful hearts. The symbol of our Founder's photo was given to the Brothers and Lay People by our young people, remembering our service for the poor and needy. A talk on Fr. Champagnat was given to the gathering of parents and young people.



Rainbow Family celebrated the Tamil festival of Pongal

On January 8th our Rainbow Family celebrated the Tamil festival of Pongal. The students from Bharathi Dhasan University, Jamal Muhammad College and Bishop Heaper College organised some activities and games for the children and the parents. Rainbow ladies and young people drew the Kolam (mandala) and out of twenty five, three got the prize for the best Kolam. We provided cloths for the families and the program ended with a very nice meal. Mr. Isaac's Family, Mrs. Amaliya's Family, Mrs. Ravathi's Family and Mr. Kannan from South Indian Bank were the guests of honour at the event. The cultural events were organized by our Marcellin Youth Club.



St. Marcellin Youth Club day outing

On 16th of January our young people from St. Marcellin Youth Club went on a day outing. We visited the Shanthivannam Ashram, Poondi Madha Church



and Kallani Dam. It was a wonderful time for our young people and they enjoyed each other's company.

(Bro. Saul Placious)



BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH : "Happy Birthday!"

February

01st Ranjith Perera (94) 71 8582475
 02nd Clinton Perera (94) 77 6199525
 10th Benedict Wijesooriya (94) 77 1941089
 11th Gregory Appuhamy (94) 71 4309536
 16th Arockiasamy A. (91) 9003585575
 24th Devasisri Fernando (63) 9088217922
 26th Alex Arockiyasamy (91) 9735150029

March

8th, Linus Fernando (94) 77 1475584
 9th, Zubair Yaqub (92) 3327534947
 11th, John Peter (91) 9789559351
 19th, Joseph Fonseka (94) 72 1280076
 23rd, Younas Kamran (94) 77 1196412
 26th, Sandalal Alwis (94) 77 9331673

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR

- Brother Victor Fernando
- Brother Sandalal Alwis
- Our Senior Brothers.

Blessings and Best wishes,

Brother Mervyn Perera,
 Provincial