



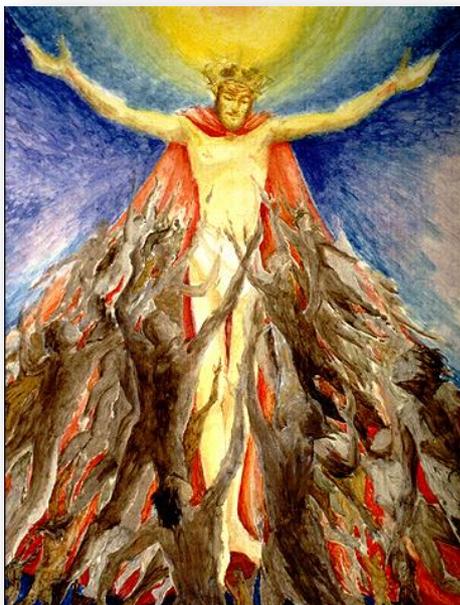
From the Provincial's Desk

1 April 2012

Dear Brothers,

Within a few days, we enter Holy Week with all the extravagance of the liturgy that commemorates with the great events of Easter. What does the paschal mystery mean to you as a Marist Brother? How do we make sure it is not just another long weekend but an event that we should whole-heartedly take part in? It is a special weekend, one that can help to strengthen our own spiritual lives and those of the people around us.

On Good Friday we are invited to selfless love: we are asked to imitate Jesus on the Cross in our daily lives through service to one another and in our apostolic lives. It's a time to pick up our cross and follow Jesus into a new life. The Feast of Easter gives us a courageous hope to live in the present, and enjoy in spirit that glorious life with the God of our destiny that is yet to come. As Brothers, teachers, administrators, and other apostolic works we can show Jesus to the world. This is our



journey as Brothers, not one of futility, but one in which we live in the Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, of Mary, and of Marcellin. We do not retreat from the demands of everyday life but rather we engage more intensely with apostolic life in the name of Jesus, who renews our work and our hearts.

The power of Easter for us is hope. Each mystery of Holy week speaks to us of hope in the midst despair, futility, death, as well as a hope which moves us beyond all earthly successes. At Easter, we are invited to celebrate God's unbounded love for us. It is this love which is the true source of our hope.

Our Founder gave us Marist brothers a way of being Easter people in our communities and apostolic works. It is a simple way, as all Marcellin's ways are - through our presence. Presence is not just being there but being fully present, alert and active, and giving yourself to others.

As Easter people and Marist Brothers, "we educate above all through being present to young people in ways that show we care for them personally. We make time for them beyond merely professional contacts, getting to know each one individually. Personally and as a group of adults, we seek to establish relationships with them founded on love, which create a climate for learning in an educational setting, for passing on values, and for personal growth" (*In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat* p.43, §99).

We have many great hints in our Marist traditions that help us live out the Easter mysteries in our daily lives. And many Brothers do so!

May you have a wonderful Easter not only on Sunday 8 April but throughout this year.

God bless you all

Joe

Time at Marist International Centre

Last month I spent over two weeks at MIC. It was a very interesting and busy time, beginning with the excellent day-long Silver Jubilee celebrations (reported in the previous newsletter). The next week was spent at two meetings: firstly, the Board of Governors of Marist International University College (MIUC) and then the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Conference of Superiors of African Continent. I stayed on to interview each Brother of our Province at the Centre – student Brothers and the seven Brothers doing different tasks as formators.

It is always a privilege to meet the young Brothers and to understand them better. I am very happy with the progress that I perceived. Their recent academic reports are a sign of the efforts being made in studies. Things look bright for the future: we have 28 student Brothers at the Centre, constituting a large percentage of our province. The Centre and the College are fine institutions that we Brothers of Africa can be justifiably proud of.



**The most important thing
we can give a child
is our time**

ASSEMBLY FOR OUR PROVINCE

- **WHY?**
To develop unity and a common vision while deepening our Marist vocation
- **WHEN?**
Wed 8 August evening – Wed 15 Aug morning
- **WHERE?**
St Dominic's Seminary. Lusaka, Zambia
- **SPECIAL GUESTS**
Brothers Emili Turú and Joe McKee
- **WHO WILL ATTEND?**
All Brothers who live in the Province are invited

Welcome to General Councillors Antonio Ramalho & Ernesto Sanchez

At the time of writing, the Councillors have already visited two of our houses in South Africa and one in Zambia. They are currently on their rounds in Malawi before they proceeding to Angola and Mozambique.

Early next month they will conclude with the remaining houses in South Africa and Zambia, as well as Zimbabwe.



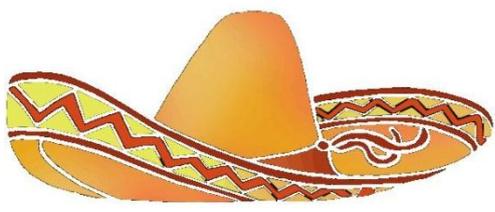
Bem Vindo , Antonio!

Chimarrão



Bienvenido, Ernesto!

Sombrero



PREPARING FOR THE ASSEMBLY

LISTEN CAREFULLY ... TO FIND THE WAY

**Your Teacher will not hide
... but your eyes shall see your
teacher
...your ears shall hear
...a word behind you, saying,
..."This is the way; walk in it"
(Isaiah 30:20-21).**

As Brothers we constantly ask ourselves how we might know "God's will." We all know how difficult it sometimes is to make a decision that might be in keeping with what God would want for us. It is especially hard when all the options seem to be basically good ones. How do we choose? How do we know what God desires for us?

The prophet Isaiah speaks of God as our teacher. We need to trust that God will be with us in our searching and our decision-making. If we long for God's way, the Holy Spirit will surely guide us and teach us to listen. Rarely will we hear the word of God as clearly as is expressed in Isaiah, but if we attune to God through prayer, try to be open, to be aware of our resistances, and live life the best we can, then I believe we can trust that our decisions will be good ones.

An Assembly is an opportunity for us as a Province to listen to God and try to do his will. (Adapted from Joyce Rupp's *Inviting God In.*)

I am grateful that Brother Emili Turú and Joe McKee will be at the assembly to help us in our joint search.

You might wish to say the following short prayer daily for the success of the Assembly.

God bless you all, may Mary our good mother assist us and St Marcellin inspire us.

Joe

God, our teacher

...I ask you to guide us

...in your ways and with your wisdom.

Help us to listen

closely and deep within ourselves

... and to trust you with the outcome

of our forthcoming Assembly.

Let us pray for:

- ✚ The success of the VISIT OF GENERAL COUNCILLORS Ernesto Sanchez & Antonio Ramalho
- ✚ The guidance of the Spirit in our PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY
- ✚ The family of Br EVANS MUSAKANYA whose elder sister passed away on 25 February. RIP
- ✚ The family of Br BONIFACE CHIRAMBO whose uncle also passed away late in February. RIP
- ✚ The family of Br F. DOSTIE whose nephew (77) died recently. RIP
- ✚ The family of Mr TUBBY TEUBES, affiliated member. RIP 20 March 2012
- ✚ The speedy recovery of Br JOSEPH NSAMBO of Marist Secondary School Community

**OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE OF NEW NOVICES AT MATOLA, 3 MARCH 2012
PARABENS!! CONGRATULATIONS!!**



**Front (l.to r.): Felix Phiri (Zambia); Walter Mandiziba (Zimbabwe); Felix Chabu (Zambia).
Back: Misheck Mkanthama(Malawi); Raphael Time Kenneth (Malawi); Kingford Mwaanga (Zambia); Inácio Fonseca Fernando (Angola); Father Ranjit MSFS from India, chaplain; Godfrey Kadzuwa (Malawi); Boston Chaipila Nugulube (Zambia).**

NEW POSTULANTS 2012 - WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU

Postulants 2012

Banda Steven ZA

Chinganji Christopher MA

Chinsolo Steven MA

Correia Paulo AN

Jailosi Chifundo Nkhoma MA

Mukupe Edmond ZI

Muleba Stephen ZA

Muvandi Claudious ZI

Phiri Moffat ZA

Our three Provincial Councillors meet at Notre Dame l'Hermitage



Combined groups from El Escorial and Manziana celebrated Holy Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fourvière

“I rejoiced when I heard them say, let us go to God’s house and at last our feet are standing within your gates, Oh Jerusalem” These echoes from the psalmist could be heard from the hearts of the Manziana group of Community Animators as we were arriving at Notre Dame de l’Hermitage. For the psalmist Jerusalem had great and significance to his faith. “It is there that the tribes of Israel go.” It was the centre of the Jewish faith. In the same way, for us, l’Hermitage is central to our Marist foundation and spirituality.

The first eye catching glimpse of the solidity of the rocks and the buildings reflect our solid foundations both spiritually and physically. We were founded on a deep and solid structure like the rock of l’Hermitage. These rocks, walls and the River Gier had stories to tell us in the days that followed. All the words from St. Marcellin came to life by looking at the Hermitage upon our arrival. “Unless the

Lord builds the house, in vain do the builders labour...”

Our experience of this deep and profound pilgrimage was going to be very good and fruitful. The other group in a Community Animation programme, those from El Escorial, were joined with us for the pilgrimage. In spite of differences in languages and culture, we created our own Tower of Babel and Marist Brotherhood overcame this challenge. Apart from the group from Spain, we were also joined by the “Brothers Today” secretariat represented by Bros. César Rojas and Eugène Kabanguka (CG) who accompanied us in all the activities. We really felt supported and encouraged by the Institute.

The pilgrimage covered areas like the tour of the house, looking for the treasure, a pilgrimage to Marhles, a walk to Le Rosey, sharing in groups, the Memorare in the snow

and Montagne experiences. On one of the days we had a very rich sharing on the lives of our early Brothers by Bro. Alain Delorme. We also visited Maisonnette and walked to La Valla, prayed at Our Lady of Pity and walked back to L'Hermitage. In response to our last Chapter's message we went to Genève, Switzerland to visit our Brothers, to see the work they are doing for the protection of Children's Rights and also toured the UN and lastly visited the Lake.



Unfair basketball play in Europe!

Among the topics covered was the one on Marist Family led by Bro. André Lanfrey. After the sharing we went to visit La Neylière where there are the Museums of Father Claude Colin and Oceania. One evening we had a meeting with L'Hermitage community. We also had a

chance to visit Fourvière in Lyons, where Champagnat and the other newly-ordained priests made a pledge to form the Society of Mary at the foot of the statue of Our Lady in the shrine. We had the Eucharist there and made our pledge as a group to live the charism of the Marist Brothers.

When all had been said and done we had a day set aside for the retreat and had prayers in the cemetery and the chapel in the woods. In brief this is what the pilgrimage covered. All of us came back feeling impelled to spread and share the spirit of Hermitage with all our Brothers. Everyone felt Champagnat's spirit alive flowing from the River Gier to the rest of the Marist world and incarnating itself in all the Marists of Champagnat worldwide today.

Like the psalmist in psalm 122 and for the love of our Brothers and Lay Marists of Champagnat we will say, "Peace be upon you L'Hermitage!" For the love of the Institute we will pray for your well-being.

Our sincere gratitude to the secretariat of "Brothers Today", L'Hermitage community, Escorial Community, all the Brothers and the General Administration for allowing us to have this great experience in our Marist journey.

(Bro. Fortune F. Chakasara.FMS)



Marist Cripple Club!



Early in March, news came that Br Joseph Nsambo of the Marist Secondary School community has joined Francis Jumbe as the second member of the Marist Cripple Club. He is suffering from the effects of a leg fracture incurred during a enthusiastic soccer match involving our postulants. Community life at MSS still continues or rather hobbles along!

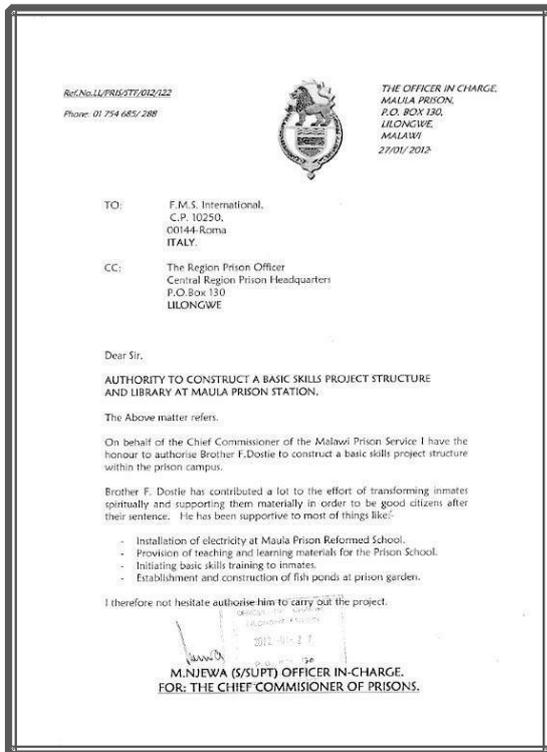
At the time of writing, Joseph Nsambo has been hospitalised a second time for further treatment.



Letter from the Chief Warden of a Prison addressed to FMSI in Rome

Below is the image of a letter written by the Officer-in-Charge of Maula Prison in Lilongwe authorising Brother F Dostie to construct a basic skills structure and library at the prison:

The text can be read in the right-hand column:



Dear Sir

AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT A PROJECT FOR BASIC SKILLS AND A LIBRARY AT MAULA PRISON STATION

On behalf of the Chief Commissioner of the Malawi Prison Service, I have the honour to authorise Brother F. Dostie to construct a basic skills project structure within the prison campus.

Brother F. Dostie has contributed much to the effort of transforming inmates spiritually and supporting them materially in order to be good citizens after their sentence. He has been supportive of a number of things:

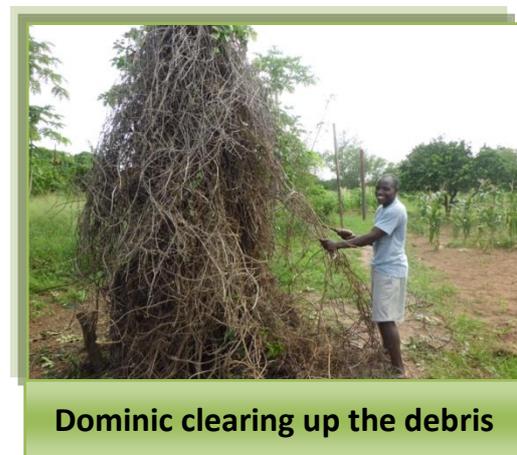
- *Installation of electricity at Maula Prison Reform School*
- *Provision of teaching and learning materials for the Prison School*
- *Initiating basic skills training for inmates*
- *Establishment and construction of fish ponds with the prison garden*

I therefore do not hesitate to authorise him to carry out the project.

M. NJEWA

A young disciple of Father Champagnat at work

During December, newly-professed Brother Dominic Nyoni from Malawi was assigned to our Marist ministry in Kuito-Bié, Angola. Pending the issue of the correct visa, he joined the novitiate community for several weeks – and for much manual work besides! There he impressed the novices, new and old, with the prodigious amount he did – pruning, harvesting honey, and introducing cooked oats for breakfast. Patience and hope were duly rewarded by the Lord and the authorities and Dominic was able to travel on 23 March. According to a Chichewa proverb *Mulendo akudza mkalumo kakuthwa* - The visitor comes with a sharp razor blade! (Br Simeon Banda – edited)



Something to think about *(from Br Joe)*

Jesus died for us and rose for us.

Are we willing to put ourselves out for him?

Dr. Martin Luther King once wrote: "One night...I was settled into bed late...and just as I was about to doze off, the telephone rang. An angry voice on the other end of the line said, 'Listen, you ..., we've taken all we want from you; before next week you'll be sorry you ever came to Montgomery.' I hung up... and sleep would not come. It was as if my fears coalesced into one giant terror. I got out of bed and began to work the floor.

"Finally I went to the kitchen and made a pot of coffee. I was ready to give up. With my cup of coffee sitting untouched before me, I tried to think of a way to move out of the picture without appearing a coward. In this state of exhaustion I decided to take my problems to God.

"With my head in my hands, I bowed over the kitchen table and prayed aloud. The words I spoke to God that midnight are so vivid in my memory. 'Lord, I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But now I'm afraid. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if

I do not stand before them with strength and courage, they also will falter. I am at the end of my power. I have nothing left. I can't face it alone.'

"At that moment I experienced the presence of God as I had never experienced God before. It seemed I heard the quiet assurance of God's voice saying: 'Stand up for righteousness, stand up for truth; and I will be on your side.' My fears evaporated and my uncertainty disappeared. I was ready to follow God and face anything."

To what extent are we willing to put ourselves out for others?

Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe?

Expedience asks the question: Is it political?

Vanity asks the question: Is it popular?

But conscience asks the question: Is it right?

[M.L. King]



Birthday greetings for April

APRIL	
02/04/1982	Witman Phiri
04/04/1972	Evans Musakanya
05/04/1968	Patrick Bushilya
09/04/1935	António Pisco
12/04/1969	Patrick Bwalya
13/04/1985	Paddington Chakabva
14/04/1975	Henry Chikwesa
21/04/1966	Auxensio Dickson
24/04/1969	Norbert Mwila



Br Joe's Calendar

APRIL 2012	
1 - 5 April	Barcelona and Rome
6 - 8 April	Johannesburg
8 - 19 April	Lilongwe
19 - 22 April	St Paul's Kabwe
22 - 30 April	Zimbabwe



DEADLINE

30 April 2012

FOR BROTHERS IN TEMPORARY VOWS

Written applications for admission to vows should be sent to Br Provincial josephwalton@ymail.com with a copy to the Provincial Secretary provsec@globemw.net

FOR PERPETUALLY PROFESSED BROTHERS

Please send reports on Brothers in temporary vows to Brother Provincial josephwalton@ymail.com