



Marist Brothers – Irmã

Province of Southern Africa – Provin

NEWSLETTER

2019 May – June Vol.2 #18



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And remember,
I am with you always,
to the end of the age.
- Matthew 28:20

OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE TO THE NOVITIATE

On 2 March 2019 we were officially accepted to the Novitiate.

Using the theme of this official acceptance ceremony, “We walk by faith not by sight”, Brother Emmanuel reminded us that we are called not only individually but also to become part of a community. This call has to be answered personally.

Prominent in the celebration was the hymn with the appropriate words: “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back. The world behind me, the cross before me, no turning back.”

May these lyrics remain in our minds as we say YES to God’s call every day.



L to R: Brothers Emmanuel Mwanalirenji (Master of Novices), Eulálio Celestino (MO), James Masikiya (MA), Corneilo Catumbela (AN), Chafio Rachide Hilario (MO), Evance Masangano (MA), Thokozani Aubrick (MA) Necas Pululo Cuca (AN).

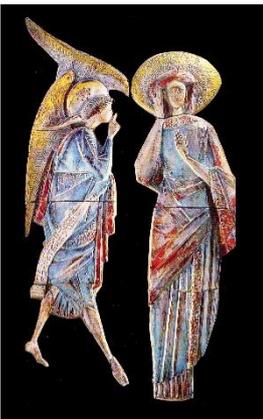
The novitiate is a time of initiation in the requirements of Marist religious life. The novice, helped by the Master and his team, discerns God's will for him and tests his motivation and aptitudes in light of the commitment that he is contemplating. By living the evangelical counsels, he sets out to follow Christ in the manner of Mary. He experiences the kind of life lived in the Institute and learns to live according to the Constitutions. (C. #97)

MESSAGE FROM BROTHER NORBERT

MARY MODEL OF LISTENING AND HOPE.

Three months ago, in the company of Bro. Mario Colussi and Bro. Christopher Zimmermann attended the Marist School Leavers' Dinner held at St David's Inanda. The event organised by the Marist Young Adults of Johannesburg is designed to raise awareness among the Grade 12's of the possibility of continuing to be Marists by offering one's services as a volunteer.

During the course of the evening several volunteers and school leaders gave short presentations on the impact that was made on them by their encounters with poor children in places such as Addo or with the kids at the Three2Six Project. We listened to accounts of the experiences of the young Marists including South African volunteers to Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Germany last year. We also heard from the participants at the Addo Summer camp in the Eastern Cape; and Daniel Hewlett spoke of the Marist Youth Gathering in Guatemala at the beginning of the year.



While listening to the speakers, a special event came into my mind: the annunciation scene and the productive dialogue between Mary and the angel. I asked myself how Mary's experience would resonate with the Marist young Adults and the matriculation groups in relation to the emerging needs of our world.

- What are young people called to be and do?
- What are they called to respond to?
- What help and support do they need in order to respond to the calls at hand?
- Who is there to accompany and journey with them?

Mary of the annunciation may help us to discern possible ways of helping young people respond to the calls they receive. She stands out as a model of listening and hope.

She had a typical human reaction. Did the angel wonder what would be the end result of the dialogue with Mary? She was "greatly troubled" by the call she received: her mind was shrouded in fear.

The angel invited Mary to hear God's voice resounding in her heart through the breath of the Holy Spirit. She was reassured not to be afraid but to listen to the Holy Spirit who proposes bold choices.

Listening to the enthusiasm of these young Marists I was filled with hope. They had come to realise that every man and woman has a vocation to serve other people. Mary has become the voice with which we speak and are identified. What did her eyes see and what did her ears hear? She offers our modern world so many attractive qualities and opportunities. She give us the sense of being alive and enthusiastic for things of God and those in need, especially children and young people.

It's a wonderful thing to see and hear young people speaking enthusiastically of the sense of service and reaching out to the suffering of poor people of society; young people longing for service and affirming that they are a part of a global family that seeks togetherness and solidarity. We are seeing and experiencing young people who like Mary have heard the Lord's call and are undertaking the journey of going and announcing the gospel by their lives.

In our call to Marist life and mission, we are never alone, there are young people with us who are equally eager to commit themselves and take part in the Marist life and mission, our own Brothers in communities, the Lay Marists of Champagnat and those who invite and challenge us to embrace the Marian face of the Church.

In this month dedicated to honour Mary, What difference does remembering her and her attitude of attentive listening make in our life as Marists of Champagnat?

To conclude, I quote a relevant message from the launching the year of Consecrated Life, 21 Nov. 2014):

"I entrust this Year of Consecrated Life to Mary, the Virgin of listening and contemplation, the first disciple of her beloved Son. Let us look to her, the highly beloved daughter of the Father, endowed with every gift of grace, as the unsurpassed model for all those who follow Christ in love of God and service to their neighbour."
Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter.

Norbert
NORBERT

PRAYER INTENTIONS ...

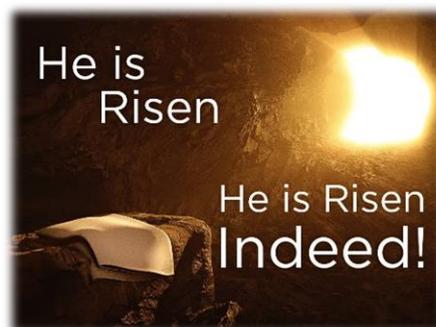
- ✚ In **GRATITUDE** for the good work that has been in educating and caring for youth within the Province over twenty years.
- ✚ In particular, gratitude for the **GROWING NUMBER OF LAYPERSONS** who wish to share our Founders' spirituality and to take part in Marist mission.
- ✚ **ASKING PARDON** for our failures to respond from time to time to the calls of the Spirit to take renew our mission and our institutions.
- ✚ **RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT** to the mission of the Church in the spirit of Marcellin Champagnat.
- ✚ The **VICTIMS OF CYCLONE IDAI** in three countries of the Province: Mozambique, Zimbabwe & Malawi
- ✚ **ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO AID SURVIVORS** of the disaster providing food, shelter, and striving to prevent the spread of disease.
- ✚ For our Holy Father, **POPE FRANCIS AND ALL THE BISHOPS** of our Church as they deal with the abuse crisis.

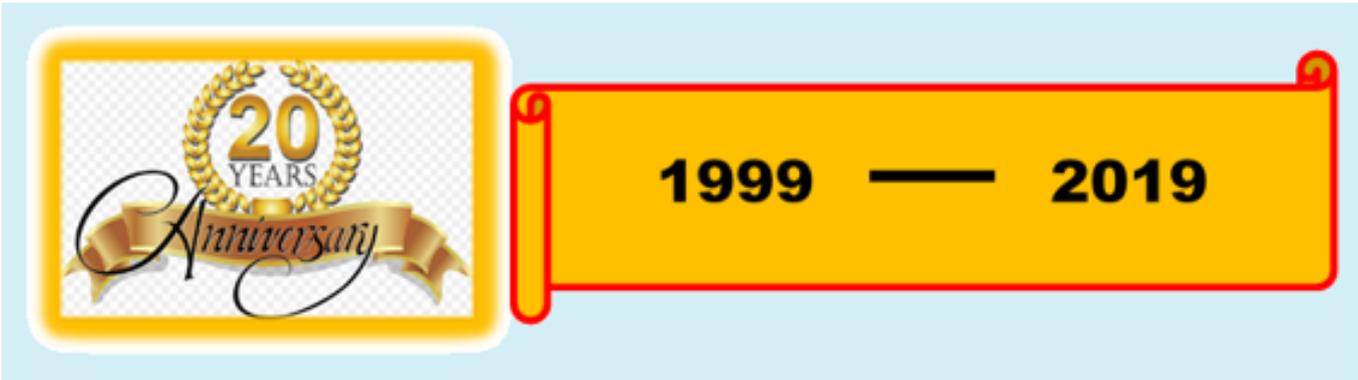
BIRTHDAYS

APRIL	
24-04-1969	Norbert Mwila

MAY	
01-05-1987	Godfrey Kadzuwa
03-05-1992	Andrew Mandala (nov.ad.2018)
06-05-1967	Arthur Ganiza
08-05-1936	Jesus Sánchez Martin
09-05-1984	Victor Mwamba
10-05-1956	António Sanasana
11-05-1971	Gilbert Zenda
14-05-1996	Hope Chinomba (nov.ad.2018)
15-05-1975	Kasongo Mwape
17-05-1982	Chrisantius Mwansa
20-05-1993	Samuel Longenda (nov.ad.2018)
23-05-1941	Neil McGurk
24-05-1994	Peter Joseph
25-05-1987	Joseph Daka
25-05-1991	António Armando
25-05-1992	Yob Mathias
26-05-1986	Juliana Fontoura (Int.Comm.)
30-05-1996	Daniel Sakala
31-05-1936	Christopher Zimmermann

JUNE	
01-06-1973	Lourenço Sapalo
02-06-1994	Anderson Kafatsa
03-06-1958	Joseph Murakho
05-06-1976	Jacob Mutingwende
09-06-1933	Fernand Dostie
09-06-1989	Steven Chinsolo
11-06-1973	Stephen Phiri
12-06-1996	Paul Chikaola
13-06-1964	Bernard Chirombe
13-06-1992	António Kasombo
14-06-1958	Simeon Banda
14-06-1990	Manuel Simão
24-06-1992	Kudakwashe Blessed Vambe
25-06-1983	Peter Zulu
25-06-1984	Davy Mbasela
30-06-1990	Celestino Ngonjo





OUR PROVINCE IS 20 YEARS OLD ... AND COUNTING!



St Francis Xavier Kutama College, Zimbabwe
Venue for the first Provincial Chapter

Delegates to the Assembly/Chapter from each country were chosen according to the formula: one delegate for every five Brothers or part thereof.

Two delegates were sent by the General Administration of the Institute: Brother Charles Howard, former Superior General (1985 – 1993), and Brother Richard Dunleavy, currently the Secretary General of the Institute. Their roles included animating the meeting and monitoring the election of the first Provincial Superior. The election process was to be unique, in that it was to be the only occasion in which the appointment of the Provincial was to be determined by the votes at the meeting. Subsequent appointments of the Provincial Superior would be by the General Administration after a consultative “sondage” within the Province.

The two-fold task gathering was to elect the first Provincial of the new Province and to begin drawing up the first edition of the Norms of the Province. Brother Jude Pieterse was duly elected as the first Superior of the new Administrative Unit.

The newly-formed Province of Southern Africa, initially had only five countries. The General Council decided to add Angola to the Province during the course of 2001 and, eventually, it was formally included as part of the Province on 2 January 2002.

Twenty years ago, on 9 April 1999, a large group of Brothers living in six countries of Southern Africa came together to initiate a new Administrative Unit of the Institute.

At that stage, South Africa had been a Marist Province since 1908. The other countries were either Districts or Sectors of Provinces in other continents: Angola was dependent on a Brazilian Province; Mozambique on Portugal; Zimbabwe on the Iberville Province; Zambia on Castilla; and Malawi on the Province of Québec. These Administrative Units were to be merged according to the Institutes program of “restructuration”.

This gathering was to be the culmination of a consultative process that had lasted a number of years, involving Brothers from these countries, Brothers from the “home” Provinces, as well as members of the General Council. It should be noted that Angola was not included in the merger at that stage.

The site chosen for the assembly, which was to become the first Provincial Chapter of the new Province, was Saint Francis Xavier College in Kutama, Zimbabwe.



DELEGATES AT THE ASSEMBLY-CHAPTER 1999



Charles Howard



Dick Dunleavy



Fernand Dostie



Andrew Fournier



Aaron Mazhambe



Alberto Ortiz



Jacques Larouche



Teofilo Minga



Réginald Racine



David Dryden, SJ



Cristiano B. da Costa



Emmanuel Lapointe



Emilien Picard



Jude Pieterse



Raimundo Puente



Nicholas Banda



Wilfrid Breton



Patrick Bwalya



Patrick Bwana



Mario Colussi



Alex. Damalekani



Nimrod Diamond



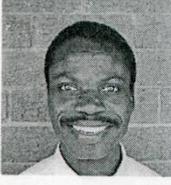
Henry Dzikolatha



Fernando Garcia



Léon Hébert



Evaristus Kasambwa



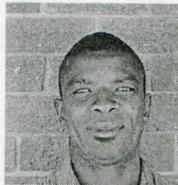
James Langlois



Raphael Mariso



Thaddeus Maunga



Felix Muwawa



Norbert Mwila



Lawrence Ndawala



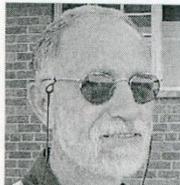
Martins Nthenda



Succeed Nyuke



Brendan O'Shea



Zeferino Zandonadi



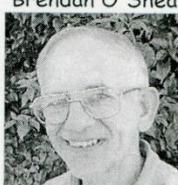
Antonio Sanasana



João Torcato



Joseph Walton



Chris Zimmermann

WALKING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE MARIST BURSARY FUND



Every year, MIUC organizes some events to source funds for needy students. Among them is the Marist bursary fund walk from MIUC to Karen shopping centre (some six km from the campus).

During the walk funds are solicited from people on the road, especially motorists. In this way, the school is able to advertise itself and sell the T-shirts towards the same purpose. Students and lecturers are the main participants of the walk, but each year Brothers take the lead and join in solidarity with the needy students.

It is a lively event, with the walkers singing songs and dancing, often animated by the Brothers. *(Henry Ngeli)*



MARIST YOUTH FESTIVAL AT MIC

As part of formation at MIC, every Brother is assigned a place for apostolate. Those who do their apostolate in schools attend meetings of the YCS (Young Catholic Students).

From time to time, MIC organizes a get-together of these groups at our Centre. Activities are arranged that will foster their learning, help them to pray, and enjoy one another's company in various games. *(HN)*



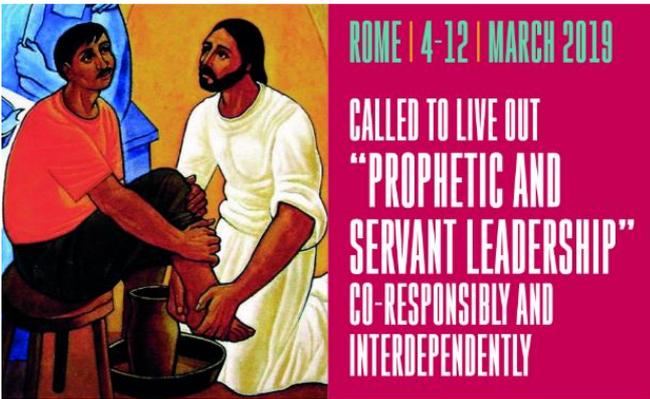
PHOTO PAGE



ATLANTIS COMMUNITY March 2019
Nnodu, Diogo & Juliana, Maria, Pietro, Tony



SPRING TIME IN ROME
Peach blossoms at our General House



Logo for the Meeting of our Provincial Superiors with the General Council



LATE WINTER IN CANADA
Our Marist house at Château Richer!



BEST FRIENDS

MEETING IN THE VATICAN ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Impressions of Br Emili Turú



Brother Emili Turú, Former Superior General of the Institute, took part in the [Meeting held in the Vatican](#), from the 21st to the 24th of February, concerning the protection of children. He was invited in his capacity as Secretary General of the Union of General Superiors, together with a number of Superiors and General Superiors, representing more than 800.000 nuns and religious from all over the world.

At the end of the convocation in the Vatican, Brother Emili shares his impressions.

First impressions?

The meeting was very well prepared, with very high-quality interventions. The people who were invited to share their thoughts came from every continent and, the great majority, were of a critical mindset. In the Synod room we heard very strong and brave interventions.

I remember that in 2009 I took part in a meeting organized by the Gregorian University together with the Holy See and to which were invited a good number of bishops from all over the world. 10 years later I believe that things have improved: it has gained much in sensibility, in understanding the extent of the phenomenon of sexual abuse, as well as in transparency and in establishing mechanisms of accountability.

Something in particular that caught your attention?



I am always greatly moved by the stories of the victims and survivors. Their voices were listened to throughout the meeting, some on tape, others in person. The tragedy through which they have lived reminds us, unequivocally, that always and in every case, they must have priority, and not the person or the institution involved in abuse.

Their voices called out, somehow, saying "never again" and claiming safe spaces for the children, beginning with the Church.

Some people who suffered abuse were very disappointed by the meeting...

They have every reason to demand that the hierarchy of the Church should take this topic seriously and that it should act with decision and with very concrete measures. And I understand that some people had expectations that have not been met. Others, however, maybe because at the beginning they did not expect much from the meeting, say that it has exceeded their expectations.

And what do you think of the meeting?

I believe that it addressed the objectives that had been suggested from the beginning. It is a further step, neither the first nor the last, in the battle to eradicate sexual abuse, to use the strength and knowledge of the Church, and to commit ourselves in the defence of the rights of children.

The reality of the Church is very diverse, as I have been able to see in the working groups. And if promoting a culture change in any human group is an enormous task, it is the same with the Church. The bigger and more diverse the group, the more complicated the culture change.

And also, I clearly saw that the Pope wants to use all the means within his reach, in order that change is carried out, and soon. And he has wanted to do it in a collegial way, calling on the presidents of the Episcopal Conferences and religious representatives.

Some people said that this meeting has meant a point of no return on how to prevent and to treat the topic

of abuse in the Church. I believe that this was already undertaken some years ago and this meeting is a confirmation of it.

Do you believe that there is still some resistance?

I believe that some bishops - it seems to me a very few - reflect, in a dogmatic way on what happens in their cultures of origin, either denying that the abuse of children takes place in their countries or thinking that "their dirty linen should be washed at home". But I find that the great majority are acutely aware of the problem as a social and universal problem, and that it is necessary to implement every possible means to prevent and to either solve in a fair way cases of the past or situations that could take place at the present time.

In principle, then, strong agreements. But then, when we move on to the concrete, this is where I still find that there is some resistance. For example, on the topic of transparency, when Cardinal Marx or the journalist Valentina Alazraki spoke, they seemed to hesitate...

There is resistance, often unconscious, but progress is being made. It will take time to discover all the

consequences of the three words centring on the meeting: **responsibility**, **accountability** and **transparency**, but I did see the will to move forward, beginning with the Pope.

And the religious?

At the end of May, in the next Assembly of the Union of General Superiors, we will deal with this topic, following on this meeting which has just finished, to continue walking together, as we said in our recent Declaration, and to make our contribution to the eradication of this social plague.

I believe that many Congregations have had their protection protocols and campaigns of prevention for years, but we want to study what type of answer we can give to the strong call of the Pope as he concluded the meeting.

<http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=5062>



CYCLONE IDAI

Hundreds of thousands of people are in need of food, water and shelter after [Cyclone Idai](#) battered Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. **As of 8 April**, at least 847 people had been reported killed by the storm, the flooding it caused and heavy rains before it hit. Following is an outline of the disaster, according to government and United Nations officials.

MOZAMBIQUE Cyclone Idai landed on the night of March 14 near the port city of Beira, bringing heavy winds and rains. Two major rivers, the Buzi and the Pungue, burst their banks, submerging entire villages and leaving bodies floating in the water.

People killed – 602; People injured – 1,641; Houses damaged or destroyed – 239,682; Crops damaged – 715,378 hectares; **People affected – 1.85 million**; Confirmed cholera cases – 2,772; Confirmed cholera deaths – 5.

On March 16 the storm hit eastern **ZIMBABWE**, where it flattened homes and flooded communities in the Chimanimani and Chipinge districts.

People killed: 185, according to government. The U.N. migration agency puts the death toll at 259. People injured – 200; People displaced – 16,000 households; **People affected – 250,000**

MALAWI Before it arrived, the storm brought heavy rains and flooding to the lower Shire River districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje in Malawi's south. The rains continued after the storm hit, compounding the misery of tens of thousands of people.

People killed – 60; People injured – 672; People displaced – 19,328 households; **People affected – 868,895.**

TOTAL NUMBER AFFECTED – about 3 MILLION!



Map showing the path of Cyclone Idai March 2019

THE GRACE OF CELIBACY

The revelations of clerical abuse and misconduct by priests and monks have put celibacy in the spotlight. Is it at the root of the problem? A Benedictine scholar and spiritual director warns against a superficial judgement. This article is by **DOM ERIK VARDEN OCSO** Abbot of Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, Leicestershire, U.K.

(An article from **THE TABLET**, 1 September 2018)

IN 2009 Hungarian television broadcast a courageous documentary entitled *Confessors and Traitors* about Hungary's Catholic Church under Communism. After Mátyás Rákosi seized power in 1945, the Church was subject to fierce persecution. It brought forth confessors and martyrs. The integrity of faith was kept alive in small pockets of believers, often driven underground, while the institutional Church was gradually brought to heel by an atheist government. Through a mixture of incentives and threats, seminaries and monasteries were infiltrated. Episcopal sees were filled with loyalists reporting to the state. Fear did its work, as did ambition and indolence.

BY 1989, when Communist rule ceased, Hungary's Church was compromised. How badly, no one knew: many were tempted to resist retrospection and look ahead, to let bygones be bygones. *Confessors and Traitors* insists that this is not an option. In the film, the Benedictine monk and bishop Asztrik Várszegi, Archabbot of Pannonhalma, calls for determined engagement with the past, "the way a watercourse must be cleared of obstructions to permit new impetus and flow." Only thus, he goes on, "can trust in the Church be restored. We cannot preach the Gospel truly until we are again found trust-worthy." An analogous challenge faces the Church as a whole as we strive to come to terms with a harrowing catalogue of misconduct and abuse. It is not only a matter of bringing individual cases to justice – vital though that is. It is a matter of seeking healing for the ecclesial body, which has carried this legacy as a pollutant for far too long. People are calling for action, for heads on platters. The prevailing sentiment, understandably, is one of anger. Anger, prudently channelled, can serve righteousness. But it can also blind.

I perceive a certain dull-sightedness in much that is said about celibacy. Celibacy is widely considered to be at the root of the problem. There are those who think it an impossible requirement, a dehumanising regimen that will naturally repel those of sound inclinations and attract others whose intimate lives are troubled. We

should be wary of such assumptions. They are at odds with very many luminous examples of joyful, integral, fruitful celibate lives: I hope every Catholic has known some such. Further, there is the risk that we lean only on purely secular notions of sexuality and sexual pathology, forgetting that celibacy pertains to the order of grace and posits the whole person's chaste transformation in Christ.

GRACE BUILDS on nature, by all means. Any vocational discernment must first ascertain if sufficient aptitude exists for consecration in freedom. It is irresponsible to let someone undertake a sacred commitment he or she does not have the resources to keep. Yet it would be wrong to see celibacy just as a function of natural disposition. I wonder, indeed, whether we have not come to take it too much for granted, as part of the package of priestly or religious life? In the early Church, celibacy was viewed as a sign of the eschaton. In his treatise *On the Incarnation*, St Athanasius adduces chastity as proof of Christ's power to restore human nature in a way unthinkable without divine intervention: "Who has destroyed the passions in men's souls to the point of rendering fornicators chaste, [...] to give courage to those held in the grip of fear?" "Who", he goes on, "has considered that virginity is not an impossible virtue for man?" Only Christ! To vow oneself to this virtue is an immense, heroic proposition. Do we prepare our seminarians and novices for it? I fear we have often failed.

HOW ARE men and women best assisted to prepare for celibacy? Not chiefly by lectures and study, though these can help. The crucial thing is to help them develop the courage to face the deepest strands of their being and to put these into words. **Before I joined the monastery, a monk told me: "The monastic life is unbearable if you do not have someone to whom you can say absolutely everything." I can confirm the truth of that claim.**

We must be able to speak humbly, frankly, even about our desires, to work out what they mean, to direct them in healthy ways. Monastic tradition offers a wealth of lived wisdom. The Fathers recorded long disquisitions on *porneia*, or lust. We may be surprised at their preparedness to call a spade a spade, to name the twistedness of wayward impulses. We will be no less struck by their stress on the potentially Godward orientation of our desires, recoverable by grace.

“Everything”, says Saint John Climacus, “is possible for the believer. I have watched impure souls mad for physical love but turning what they know of such love into a reason for penance and transferring the same capacity for love to the Lord. I have watched them master fear so as to drive themselves unsparingly towards the love of God.” Anyone tempted to dismiss this statement as cheap sublimation might read it in context – and discover that Climacus had few illusions about sinful humanity’s potential for perversion. What he helps us realise is that “perversion” and “conversion” are cognate nouns. If we believe we are created in God’s image, that this image extends even to embodied desire, the direction and hallowing of desire becomes a key ascetic task, with the potential to open our whole being to the transforming power of



grace. We should not be naive. But neither should we lose hope. What matters is to be truthful.

Sister Emmanuelle, commonly regarded as a saint for her long ministry among ragpickers in Cairo, wrote her autobiography for posthumous publication. It came out just after her death in 2008, at three weeks short of 100. Sr Emmanuelle voices her conviction that, “when the naked truth of a human life is told, God is revealed between the lines.” She is unsparing with herself and speaks openly, not least about her struggles with celibacy. She relates an experience that occurred when she was well into middle age, a seasoned

Religious: “From head to toe my body was live embers.”

IT WAS MORE than she could bear. She could not pray. She could not think. She did not know what to do. At last she went to see an old nun: “I put my burning hands into her cool hands and murmured, ‘I can’t do this anymore, I’m worn out.’ I raised my downbeat eyes towards hers. They had the translucency of a wellspring. I felt myself reborn to innocence.” Their dialogue was brief and essential. The old nun knew.

She said, “You’re being tried by fire. That’s good for a Religious. Fire purifies metal, and tests it.” The remedies she proposed were simple: “We shall seek together. You must pray, but act, too. Help yourself, and heaven will help. Now you see only your difficulty. Open your heart to the hurt of others, and your own wound will be healed.”

Sr Emmanuelle refers to this trial as a turning point in her life of discipleship. But what would have happened had she tried to keep the fire under a lid? Neither John Climacus nor Sr Emmanuelle provide blueprints. But they set standards to which we should dare to aspire. A standard, first of all, of honesty and fidelity, of readiness to seek help, to struggle, to trust grace, to believe that holiness is possible; a standard, too, of conversation.

How many priests and religious speak with their bishop, superior, or director at this level? How many bishops, superiors, or directors would be prepared for such exchange? To become trust-worthy, we must learn to entrust ourselves. No structural reform can do that for us. No amount of cerebral training can heal the heart’s wound, only the experience of being fully known. If we would clear the watercourse of grace in the Church, it is not enough to stop the occurrence of abuse – though this is paramount. The body needs to be purified and re-oxygenised. Decades after writing *On the Incarnation*, St Athanasius composed his best-known work, the *Life of Antony*. Antony of Egypt, the founder of monasticism, lived to be 105. Each day he would say to himself, **“Today I begin.”** He summed up his spiritual testament to his brethren in the words, “Let Christ be the air you breathe.” Those are words of life for the present, words to meditate on, to live by.



MORE PHOTOS TO ENJOY



Scholastics at MIC "spring cleaning" the house of the Cottolengo Sisters



On-Going Formation Team at Manziana: Joe Walton; Ángel Medina; Teófilo Minga; Joaquim Sperandio; Antonio Peralta



Good Friday: A view of the 11th Station during the annual Via Crucis at Sacred Heart College,



This Billboard was recently photographed somewhere in Africa. What do you make of it?



Jo'burg: Meeting of Country Bursars Geraldo (MO); Ebel (ZI); Adrienne (RSA); John (Province & MA); Bernadette (RSA), Lourenço (AN), Reuben (ZA)



"SAMMY" with his bike and side-car packed with delicious ice-creams has been a feature at Sacred Heart since 1963 (56 years!!)

NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL: Within a few days USD 1 BILLION was donated for reconstruction!

CYCLONE IDAI affected nearly 3 MILLION PEOPLE. How much was donated to assist the victims???

SHARING OUR CALL WORKSHOP - MALAWI



This Workshop involved plenty of Action!!

On the 18th and 19th of February, 28 teachers, with 2 Brothers accompanying, gathered at Mtendere to deepen their understanding of our Marist call, led by Mike Greeff and Pam Paton-Mills. The workshop combined information and practical experiences so that the treasures of Marist values and characteristics could be understood not only with the head, but at a deeper heart level. The workshop followed the metaphor of a trail, and the stops included the Ubuntu watering hole of **Family Spirit; Presence Gorge; Mary's Grotto; Lake Simplicity** and **Passion Peaks** of enthusiasm in work.



We also practised the Marist dimensions of spirituality, community and mission through various exercises and experiences. One of the highlights was a visit to St Marcellin Champagnat Secondary School where some of the issues that the young students face

were addressed, first in an assembly, and then in a moment of accompaniment with one teacher to two students. This allowed for real and life-giving dialogue about things like feelings of inferiority, the struggles of finding love and coping with daily pressures of finding food. The encounter touched both teachers and students alike – a real experience of mission.

From the 20th -22nd of February, 7 Lay Marist leaders continued with further sessions that deepened their understanding and experience of spirituality, community and mission. They explored different ways of encountering God's love through Silence, appreciation of nature and creation and the practice of Examen. They engaged in deepening relationships through sharing both in small group discussion and accompaniment in two's, as well as building community through a range of activities from cooking international dishes to a beautiful day at Lake Malawi. On the last day, they spent a morning with the children



and new born babies of Mtendere hospital, offering both practical support through food parcels and their loving presence to patients and their families.

To finish, the leaders looked at practical ideas for starting Marist Life groups, covering the Calls of the Chapter as one way to engage Marist understanding. The closing liturgy was a joyful occasion and we thank Brothers Frank and Andrew for their accompaniment and support, as well as Brother Dixon and the community at Mtendere for their hospitality. Finally, we give thanks to God for the excitement of new beginnings for Lay Marists in Malawi, where the gift of the Marist charism can be felt afresh, and the dream of St Marcellin Champagnat lives on.

(Mike Greeff and Pam Paton-Mills)



INTERVIEW OF OUR ONLY 4TH-YEAR SCHOLASTIC

Br Henry Ngeli of 1st Year speaks to Br Steven Chinsolo

HN: Briefly tell us about your family and vocational background.

SC: My full name is Steven Nathaniel Chinsolo from Kasungu, Malawi. I was the first-born into a family of five, one boy and four girls. My father passed on to glory in September, 2015, when I was newly-arrived at MIC and my mother is currently living in Kasungu. I came to know the Marist Brothers when I was staying in Area 25 in Lilongwe through a booklet called *'Congregations in Lilongwe diocese'*. With inspiration from the charism of the Marist Brothers, I applied to join them in 2011. In December 2011 I was called for a *'Come and See'* programme at Champagnat house. I was recommended to start my postulancy in 2012. Then in 2013 I proceeded to the novitiate in Matola, Mozambique. I professed on 5th December 2014 together with Moffat Phiri and Benedicto Chifundo . Then in August, 2015 I joined MIC.



HN: Describe your experience at the Novitiate?

SC: Well, I had vast experience in Mozambique during my novitiate. The novitiate is at the heart of the institute, I was really open enough to learn new things about the Institute that made who I am today. I met good formators who have always inspired and helped me a lot in spiritual nourishment and other aspects of life as a religious. As our group was small, it made each one of us to be responsible enough. Language was another experience that made me realise that language is very important to me as a missionary. I relied on sign language in the first days as a means of communication.

HN: Tell us now about your experience at MIC and MIUC?

SC: MIC being a big and busy community, I have had wonderful experience in the sense that, I have met Brothers from different parts of African continent with a variety of world views. The clashing of ideas because of our backgrounds has really made me accept others as they are and to realise that I am not always right. When it comes to studies, I have made it because of the Brothers and friends in school that I have journeyed with. Some are ahead of me while others are behind. Despite the challenges I have been facing, God has always been on my side.

HN: How do you feel as the only Brother from our Province in fourth year?

SC: I feel bad, because I know that my group mates wished that we would finish and go back to the Province together. It does not make me feel perfect or special. But still what I believe is that everything happens for a reason and that God has called each one of us by name.

HN: Some final words of advice to the scholastics at MIC?

SC: I would like to thank the formation team and my fellow student Brothers for the support and encouragement on my formation journey. I would like also to encourage those coming behind me to continue doing good in everything. **GOD BLESS YOU. THANKS!!**



CYCLONE IDAI – FLOOD DAMAGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



Alexander Muyambo walks past his destroyed family home in Copa. Muyambo's father, who was a school headmaster and supported his extended family, was lost to the floodwaters after the tree he climbed was uprooted. Muyambo was in Mutare studying for an electrical engineering diploma when the cyclone hit his home village. After hearing the news, he walked 50km from Chimanimani to find out what had happened to his family.



MOZAMBIQUE: Watch the video to be found at >>>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-47685429/cyclone-idai-what-the-aftermath-looks-like>



MALAWI - Flood-affected areas

SOME MORE PICTURES FOR YOU



LYCÉE CATHOLIQUE SAINT CHAMPAGNAT,
Antananarivo, Madagascar. 2100 day students,
aged 4 to 20, boys and girls, 70 teachers



Jo'burg Community Garden-
Hail left behind after a recent 20-minute storm



Mid-Life Renewal Group at Manziana
Spot the four Brothers from our Province!!



Notre Dame of Marbel University
Filipinas, Korodonal City, South Cotabato



Brothers Daniel Banda (MA) and Nicholas Zvenyika (ZI) are doing Masters degrees at this campus. In return for complete sponsorship they are teaching some classes at the Marist Secondary School on the campus.

PLEASE CLAIM THESE SPECS!



LOST AND FOUND!! A visitor to the Observatory Community left these behind in the chapel!

EASTER SUNDAY TRAGEDY IN SRI-LANKA

Message from the Superior General and his Council to the Marists of Champagnat in Sri Lanka

April 24, 2019

At this time when you are grieving over the terrible attacks of last Easter Sunday, 21st April 2019, on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka, I want to express in the name of the Institute and the General Council, our profound sadness, consternation and sorrow for these totally unjust and inhuman acts of violence which we vigorously condemn.

We want to express our solidarity towards Brother Mervyn Perera, Provincial, and the whole Church of Sri Lanka, along with all men and women of good will of whatever faith or ideology. We are deeply sorry to learn that there are three students and some parents and alumni of our own schools, Maris Stella Negombo and Maris Stella Thimbrigaskatuwa, who have lost their cherished and irreplaceable lives. We extend our condolences and prayers to their families, to those of all the others who were killed or wounded, and to the whole people of Sri Lanka.

In like manner, we want to reaffirm our faith in seeking peaceful solutions and in the power of love as the Christian way and the only and basic response to build lasting peace and justice.



We ask all the Marists of the world, in all their different networks, to unite with us in prayer, passing on this message, and making some

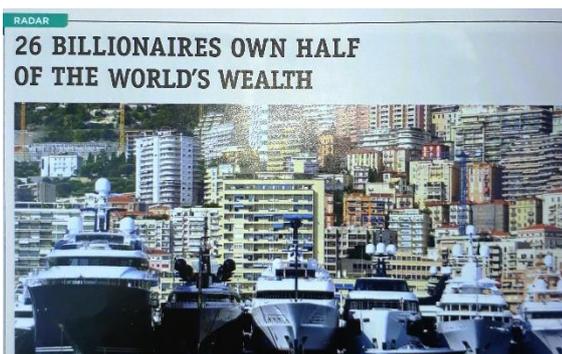
gesture of solidarity, for the eternal rest of those of our Marist community and other innocent victims who died, for the recovery of those wounded, for the consolation of all their families and friends, and for stable and enduring peace in your beloved country.

With affection,

Br. Ernesto Sánchez, SG, and the General Council



SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT WITH THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC SYSTEM



The above photo headlined an article in the popular **WORLD-WIDE** magazine (Apr-May 2019) summarizing key points of the recent annual report by OXFAM, a development charity based in the UK. The report is timed to appear just before the start of annual **WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM** meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

“... 2018 had been a year in which the rich had grown richer and the poor poorer.”

“26 richest billionaires own as many assets as the 3,8 billion people who make up the poorest half of the planet’s population.”

“The wealth of more than 2,200 billionaires across the globe had increased by \$900 billion in 2018 – or \$2,5 billion a day. The 12% increase in the wealth of the very richest contrasted with a fall of 11% in the wealth of the poorest half of the population. As a result, the report concluded, the number of billionaires owning as much wealth as half the world’s population fell from 43 in 2017 to 26 last year. In 2016, the number was 61.”

“... there is enough wealth in the world to provide everyone with a fair chance in life.”



BR NORBERT'S TRAVELS: MAY 2019– JUN 2019

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|--|---|
| 27 Apr: Custodian's Meeting Joburg | 01 Jul: Travel to Joburg |
| 05 May: Travel to Lilongwe - Hermitage. | 07 Jul: Travel to Nairobi |
| 10 - 11 May: Council Meeting. Malawi | 08 – 13 Jul: Conf. Sup. Africa |
| 13 – 17 May: Sustainability Workshop – Lilongwe. | 15 Jul: Travel to Joburg |
| 19 – 23 May: Likuni. | 20 Jul: Custodians' Meeting |
| 24 – 29 May: Zomba. | 26 – 27 Jul: Council Meeting |
| 30 May – 4 June: Balaka. | 30 Jul: Travel to Luanda |
| 05 – 09 Jun: Mtendere Community. | 2 Aug: Travel to Kwito |
| 10 – 13 Jun: Marist Sec Sch Community. | 3 Aug – 8 Aug: Kwito |
| 14 – 19 Jun: Champagnat House. | 9 Aug – Travel to Ndalatando |
| 15 Jun: Malawi Brothers' Country Assembly. | 10 – 15 Aug Ndalatando |
| 20 Jun: Travel to Lilongwe – Hermitage. | 16 Aug Travel to Luanda |
| 21 Jun: Travel to Joburg. | 17 – 20 Aug Luanda |
| 24 – 27 Jun: Cape Town, Rondebosch. | 21 Aug Travel to Joburg |
| 28 Jun: Visit Atlantis community. | 25 Aug Travel to Harare & begin Retreat |
| | 31 Aug End Retreat |

