



FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK



1 August 2015

Dear Brothers and Friends

I hope you will all take time to read the recent encyclical by Pope Francis: **Laudato Si': on caring for our common home**, the planet earth. All teachers should educate their students on how to care for the environment. I really feel it is our duty. I will not write a personal message this month but only give you some hints taken from the text on how to care for our environment.

ENCYCLICAL- June-18-2015 *What to do? The pope's practical tips for helping the environment*

By Carol Glatz (Catholic News Service)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home" is a call for global action as well as an appeal for deep inner conversion.

He points to numerous ways world organizations, nations and communities must move forward and the way individuals -- believers and people of good will -- should see, think, feel and act.

Here are some of the pope's suggestions, with references in parentheses to their paragraphs in the encyclical:

-- Do not give in to denial, indifference, resignation, blind confidence in technical solutions. (14, 59)

-- Have forthright and honest debates and policies; issues cannot be dealt with once and for all, but will need to be "reframed and enriched again and again" by everyone with plenty of different proposals because there is no one way to solve problems. (16, 60, 185)



-- Reduce, reuse, recycle. Preserve resources, use them more efficiently, moderate consumption and limit use of non-renewable resources. (22, 192)

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-- Slash pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. Transition to cleaner and renewable energies and replace fossil fuels "without delay." (26, 165)

-- Promote green construction with energy efficient homes and buildings. (26, 180)

-- Protect clean, safe drinking water and don't privatize it with market-based fees for the poor. (27-29, 164)

-- Keep oceans and waterways clean and safe from pollutants; use biodegradable detergents at home and business. (30, 174)

-- Be aware that synthetic pesticides and herbicides will hurt birds and insects that are helpful for agriculture (34).

-- Leave room for wandering and migrating species by creating "biological corridors;" don't let dams, highways and construction lead to their extinction. (35)

-- Protect biodiversity, especially wild forests, wetlands, coastal areas, mangrove swamps (39).

-- Promote smart growth. Create liveable communities with beautiful design and plentiful green spaces for everyone, especially the poor. Tackle noise and "visual pollution," and save cities' cultural treasures. Design

spaces that help people connect and trust each other. (44-45, 113, 143, 147)

-- Put an end to "mental pollution." Think deeply, live wisely, and love generously (47).

-- End the tyranny of the screen, information overload and distractions. Watch out for media-induced melancholy and isolation. Cultivate real relationships with others (47).

-- Get down from the ivory tower and stop the rhetoric. Get to know the poor and suffering; it will wake up a numbed conscience and inspire real action (49).

-- Stop blaming problems on population growth. The real threat is excessive consumerism and waste. (50)

-- For genuine change, put the common good first. Special interests manipulate information, offer "superficial rhetoric, sporadic acts of philanthropy and perfunctory expressions of concern." (54)

-- Sweat it out. Increasing use and power of air-conditioning seems "self-destructive." (55)

-- Even if it doesn't fix the world, beautification and goodwill gestures inspire and remind people that "we were made for love." (58, 113, 212)

-- Get back to nature -- "the caress of God" -- to recharge. Be more attentive to its beauty and wonder and revisit places that left you with happy memories. (84, 97, 215, 233)

-- Be consistent. Pro-life, environmental and social justice movements are all connected. Protecting vulnerable species must include the unborn, endangered animals and the exploited. (91, 120)

-- Use technology to solve real problems and serve people, helping them have more dignity, less suffering and healthier lives (112).

-- Believe in a happy future, a better tomorrow. Slow down; recover values and the meaning of life. Putting the brakes on "unrestrained delusions of grandeur" is not a call to go back to the Stone Age. (113-114, 225)

-- "Business is a noble vocation." Create jobs that allow for personal growth, stability, living out one's values (124-128).

-- Listen to, protect lands of and involve indigenous peoples. The disappearance of cultures is even more serious than losing a species. (145)

-- Create neighbourhood networks and improvement programs. Create welcoming spaces that help people connect and trust each other. Do something nice for your community (148-150, 152, 219, 232).

-- Make public transportation a priority and a more pleasant experience (153).

-- Provide essential services to rural areas (154).

-- Accept and care for the body God gave you. Value sexual differences and your own gender. (155)

-- Join, implement and police global agreements on sustainable development, caring for the ecosystem, limiting greenhouse gases, handling hazardous wastes, ozone protection. Nix the "ploy" of trading carbon credits. (164, 167-171)

-- Politicians: don't be afraid of long-term goals and upsetting people with measures that affect levels of consumption, financial risks. Citizens: put pressure on your representatives (177-180).

-- Less is more. Stop needless consumption. (193, 203, 222, 211)

-- Harness purchasing power. Examine what you buy and know that boycotts

make a difference (206).

-- Plant a tree. Take mass transit. Car pool. Turn off the lights when you leave the room. Chilly? Wear a sweater. Little things add up (211).

-- Moms and dads: teach kids to use things properly; to respect, take care of others; to ask permission politely; to say, "Thank you;" to control temper; to ask forgiveness; share (213).

-- Find happiness in simple things: get-togethers, helping others, honing a talent, enjoying art and music, praying (223-224, 226).

-- Say grace before meals (227).

-- Love your enemies (228).

-- Practice "the little way" of St. Thérèse (230).

-- Go to Sunday Mass; receive the sacraments; encounter God in everything; rest on Sundays (233-237).

-- Sing as you go (244).

-- Pray. (246)

May God bless you all.



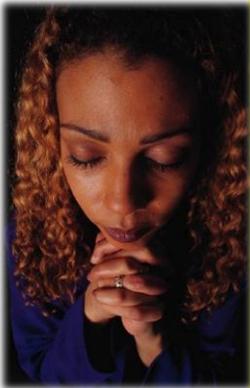
Joe

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

| AUGUST | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 13-08-1987 | Baptista Mulila Fernando |
| 14-08-1981 | David Kachoka |
| 15-08-1991 | Lazarus Jailosi (novice) |
| 18-08-1994 | Benson Chaula (novice) |
| 20-08-1983 | Patrick Banda |
| 21-08-1975 | Tomás Sawayenga |
| 23-08-1968 | John Katumbi |
| 24-08-1947 | Joseph Walton |
| 27-08-1976 | Joseph Nsambo |
| 29/08/64 | Raphael Mariso |



LET US PRAY



- ✚ To mark Fourvière Year, let us pray for the other Marist Congregations: **Marist Fathers**, the **Marist Sisters**, and the **Marist Missionary Sisters**.
- ✚ For **Br Tomás Sawayenga** who lost his dear mother and **Br Ebel Muteveri** his eldest sister during July.
- ✚ For **PEACE** in our world
- ✚ That the message of **LAUDATO SI'** by Pope Francis reach persons with political and financial power and influence them to take decisions that will benefit all humanity and ensure the future of our common home.



FOURVIÈRE YEAR
*The 2nd phase of our preparation
 for the Bicentenary of the Institute*



Shrine of Notre-Dame de Fourvière



Statue



The ancient *Chapelle de la Vierge* at which the first Marists made their pledge is topped with the **golden statue** of Mary. To the right in the picture lies the great Basilica that was built long after Champagnat's time. The statuette labelled *N.D. de Fourvière* is shown here without its usual "vestments".

Fourvière has always been a popular place of pilgrimage. There has been a shrine at Fourvière dedicated to Our Lady since 1170. The chapel and parts of the building have been rebuilt at different times over the centuries, the most recent major works being in 1852 when the former steeple was replaced by a tower surmounted by a golden statue of the Virgin Mary sculpted by Joseph-Hugues Fabisch (1812-1886).

On 23 July 1816 twelve Marist aspirants, priests and seminarians (including newly-ordained Marcellin Champagnat), climbed the hill to the shrine of Our Lady of Fourvière and placed their promise to found

the Society of Mary (Marists) under the corporal on the altar while Jean-Claude Courveille celebrated Mass.

On 21 January 1851, Peter Julian Eymard (already a Marist priest) prayed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fourvière and was inspired to found the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. He was canonised by Pope John XXIII in 1962.

When the city of Lyon was spared in the Franco-Prussian War (1870), the community committed to build the present Basilica alongside the ancient chapel. The completed Basilica was consecrated in 1896.



The Pledge of Fourvière

**We the undersigned, striving to work together
for the greater glory of God
and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus,
assert and declare our sincere intention and firm will
of consecrating ourselves at the first opportunity
to founding the pious congregation of Marists ...**



Prayer by Br Emili Turú for the Fourvière Year



Mary,
first disciple of the Lord,
we thank you for the group of
priests,

Champagnat and Colin among them,
who consecrated themselves to you
in Fourvière 200 years ago,
committing themselves to renew the Church,
inspired by you and under your protection.

Thank you for the Marist Family,
at present extending to all parts of the world,
heir of that dream of the first Marists.
It desires, today like yesterday,
to place itself at the service of our brothers and sisters,
especially those who live
in situations of greater vulnerability.

Thank you in a special way,
for the Charism received
through Marcellin Champagnat,
who, on so many occasions, travelled to Fourvière
to entrust his projects to you
and abandon himself into your hands.

Aware that
you always do everything among us,
we thank you for so many generations
of Marist Brothers who, on the five continents,
gave their lives
to the evangelization of children and young people.
Thank you for the growth of the Marist Laity,
women and men called by the Holy Spirit
to live their Christian vocation as Marists,
in communion with the Brothers,
and sharing one same mission.

All of us,
Marists of Champagnat,
entrust ourselves to you, ***our good Mother*** of Fourvière,
pilgrim of faith.
With daring and generosity,
may we be signs of your tenderness and mercy
among the Montagne of today,
and may we be faithful to our mission
to make Jesus Christ known and loved.

Amen.

SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST MARTYR



Benedict Daswa was brutally murdered on the 2nd February 1990, the very day on which President F.W. de Klerk announced the imminent release of Nelson Mandela. He was driving home and found the road blocked with stones and logs. As he alighted to remove the blockade, a rain of stones came from the bushes. He ran to the next household with his attackers in pursuit. He got inside a rondavel.

They came and asked the woman who was at the yard. She refused to tell them but when they threatened her, she pointed him out. They got him out and as he prayed "Father, receive my spirit", they clubbed him with a knobkerrie. He fell and died. They poured boiling water on his ears and nostrils to ensure that he was dead.

He was indeed dead. The opponent of their witchcraft beliefs was dead. He had said that, as a Catholic, he could not accept the power of witchcraft nor the attacks of witch-hunt. For that, the Church has recognised him as a Blessed Martyr.

Daswa was born on the 16th June 1946 in Mbahe, 20km from Thohoyandou, a firstborn son of the late Tshililo Petrus Daswa (Bakali) and Thidziambi Ida Daswa (Gundula) who is still alive. He was named "Tshimangadzo" (one with miracles) and Samuel when he went to school. Just as GOD said to Samuel of the Old Testament, "Listen carefully. I'm getting ready to do something in Israel that is going to shake everyone up and get their attention" (1 Samuel 3:11), Daswa shook his community. He stood against the most feared witchcraft. This cost him his life. The Church has now pronounced him as part of the "great cloud of witnesses surrounding us" (Hebrews 12:1) .

His martyrdom did not come out of the blue. He led a holy life. He was a diligent worker, a good family man, an industrious educator, an active layman, an avid sportsman, an involved community leader, a man of charity and, above all, a person of deep prayer and spirituality. In short, he lived well and died holy; killed for life.

He will be **beatified on 13 September 2015** at Thohoyandou, Venda, in Limpopo Province, 510 km north of Johannesburg.

<http://benedictdaswa.org.za/>

View also a 5-minute presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2V2tT50ThQ>



FEAST OF PHOTOS



**14 - A RECORD CROWD
FOR OUR HOUSE AT OBSERVATORY**
**14 Brothers were accommodated overnight 2nd- 3rd July:
5 community members, 3 Provincial Council members
3 Finance Commission members, and 3 novices!**



Champagnat Day - Kutama



Dete – Champagnat Day



The AFRICAN LAY & BROTHERS COMMISSION met in Johannesburg from 16 to 18 July 2015

***Left to Right:* Br John Kusi Mensah (West Africa),
Br Elias Odinaka Iwu (Nigeria),
Br Ernest Randriantsoalaivoavy (Madagascar),
Br Eric Silali (Kenya),
and Mr Mike Greeff (South Africa)**



Something to Think About A HEART-TOUCHING STORY

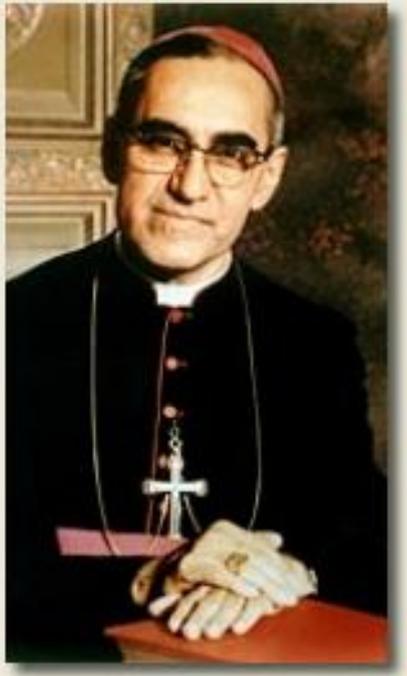


A 24-year-old-man looking out from the train’s window shouted...
“Dad, look the trees are going behind!”
Dad smiled and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24-year-old’s childish behaviour with pity.

Suddenly he again exclaimed...
“Dad, look the clouds are running with us!”
The couple couldn’t resist and said to the old man...
“Why don’t you take your son to a good doctor?”
The old man smiled and said...
“I did and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth, he just got his eyes today.”

***[Every single person on the planet has a story.
Don’t judge people before you truly know them.]***

BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO
Was he once taught by the Marist Brothers?



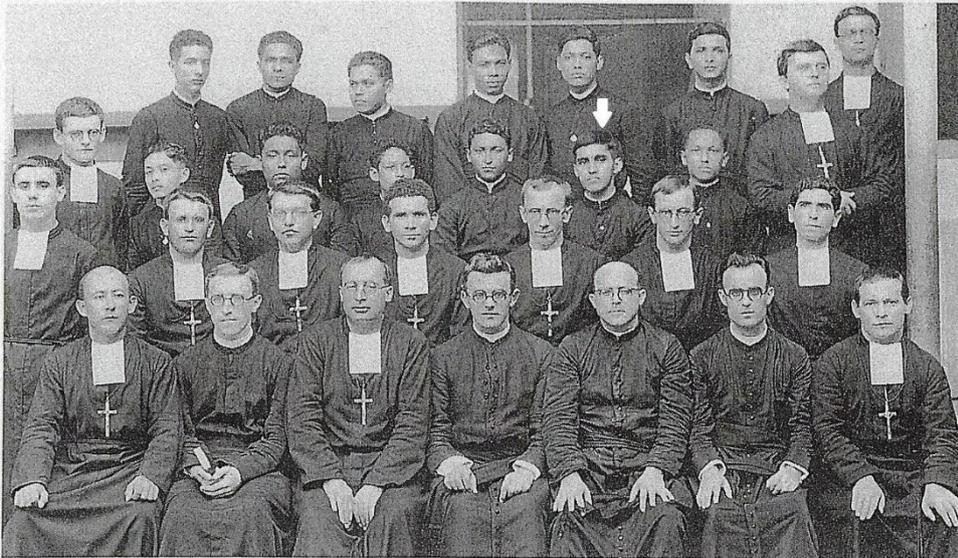
Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez (15 August 1917 – 24 March 1980), commonly known as Monseñor Romero, was a priest of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador. He later became the eighth Bishop and fourth Archbishop of San Salvador.

As archbishop, he witnessed numerous violations of human rights and began a ministry speaking out on behalf of the poor and victims of the country's civil war. Chosen to be archbishop for his conservatism, once in office his conscience led him to embrace a non-violent form of liberation theology, putting him in the line of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Like them, he was martyred for his non-violent advocacy. In 1980, he was assassinated by gunshot during Holy Mass shortly after his homily. His death provoked international outcry for human rights reform in El Salvador.

Oscar Romero was declared “Blessed” by the Catholic Church at a ceremony held in San Salvador on 23 March 2015. Outside of Catholicism, Romero is honoured by other religious denominations of Christendom, including the Church of England through its Common Worship. He is one of the ten 20th-century martyrs from across the world who are depicted in statues above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey, London.

SOURCE:

Wright, Scott *Oscar Romero and the Communion of Saints* Orbis Books, 2009. p.10



SERENDIPITY
 A friend spotted these Marist habits in a biography of Óscar Romero by Scott Wright. The future martyr was born in 1917, so the picture dates from 1930, or shortly afterwards.

Romero in the third row with his classmates. The minor seminary in San Miguel was directed by Claretian priests. (Zoila Aurora Asturias and Eva del Carmen Asturias)

What role did our Brothers play in this Minor Seminary?

BROTHER JOE'S CALENDAR

AUGUST 2015

| | |
|---------|---|
| 1 - 5 | Johannesburg, RSA |
| 6 | Travel to Lusaka, Zambia |
| 7 | Visit Brothers preparing for Final Vows at Christian Brothers' Centre, Lusaka |
| 8 | Travel to Johannesburg |
| 9 - 13 | Johannesburg, RSA |
| 14 | Travel to Lilongwe, Malawi |
| 15 | Final profession Br Richard Chidothi & Silver Jubilee of Br Arthur Ganiza |
| 16 - 21 | Malawi |
| 22 | Travel to Johannesburg |
| 23 - 31 | Johannesburg RSA |

SEPTEMBER 2015

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 - 2 | Johannesburg, RSA |
| 3 | Travel to Maputo, Mozambique |
| 4 - 15 | Visit the Novitiate Matola |
| 16 - 20 | Visit Manhica and Bilene |
| 21 | Travel to Johannesburg |
| 22 - 24 | Johannesburg |
| 25 - 26 | Provincial Council Meeting, Jo'burg |
| 27 - 30 | Johannesburg |

OCTOBER 2015

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 - 2 | Johannesburg |
| 3 | Travel to L'Hermitage, France |
| 4 - 15 | Colloquium on Formation, L'Hermitage |
| 16 | Travel to Johannesburg |
| 20 - 31 | Johannesburg |

NOVEMBER 2015

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 - 7 | Johannesburg |
| 8 | Travel to Nivava, Mozambique |
| 9 - 11 | Nivava |
| 12 | Travel to Johannesburg |
| 13 - 18 | Johannesburg |
| 19 - 20 | Provincial Council Meeting, Jo'burg |

APOLOGY



In the **July issue of the Newsletter** (p. 8), the young men living in the Champagnat House community were referred to as "aspirants". The word should have been "**postulants**". - *The Editor*



THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER

After a year and a half of study and discernment the General Council has decided that the next General Chapter will be celebrated outside Rome. The first two General Chapters were celebrated in ND de l'Hermitage; 8 in Saint-Genis-Laval; 5 in Grugliasco and 6 in Rome. The XXII General Chapter will be celebrated in **Rionegro (Colombia)**, approximately 40 km from **Medellín**. Then, it will be the first time in our history that a General Chapter will be celebrated outside of the See of the General Government.

