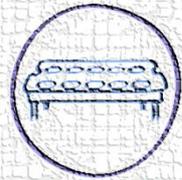




Marist Brothers – Irmãos
Province of Southern Africa – Província da
NEWSLETTER

2017 January – February Vol.2 #4



2016|2017
La Valla

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Final and First Professions in Matola

Message from Brother Norbert, Provincial Superior

Photos of General Interest

The Community Life Plan

International Mission Committee

St Francis Xavier spent six months in Mozambique

Remembering our Brothers on their Birthdays!

A New Champagnat! A New Beginning in Viet Nam

Marist-Mercy Summer Camp in Addo Valley, South Africa

Church Chuckle

Mystery Messages

Salve Regina – a New Setting for the Bicentenary

Vocation Promoters meeting in Rome

Celebrating Christmas at Matola Novitiate

Bicentenary Celebration in Bilene, Mozambique

Johannesburg – 2nd January 2017

Where were the General Councillors on 2nd January?

A Musical Journey with Marists throughout the world

Round the World on 2nd January

Marist Brothers in Africa 1867 – 2017

Bicentenary Prayer



FIRST AND FINAL PROFESSIONS IN MATOLA

3 DECEMBER 2016

“We are Marist Brothers for the most disadvantaged”

Brother Sábado Mário Valia
pronounces his Final Vows



A big feast of Marist vocation was celebrated in Matola, Mozambique, on Dec. 3, namely the perpetual profession of native Brother Mario Sábado Valia and the first Marist profession of eight youths: António Armando Maveze, Rufino Macimcuele Paulo and Raimundo Gerónimo (from Mozambique), Golden Tati (Zambia), Joseph Lazarus Petro and Aubrey Chimangeni Chapata (Malawi), Blessed Vambe Kudakwashe and Mugove Chibengwa (Zimbabwe).

The day centred on the Eucharistic celebration, which was animated by the choir of first year novices, a group of dancers, several Marist symbols and many expressions of faith.

A beautiful poster presided over the church, with a significant phrase, chosen by the novices who were going to make their profession, which said, “We are Marist Brothers for the most disadvantaged.”

Almost all of the Marist Brothers present in Mozambique, many religious, family members, neighbours and friends witnessed and participated in the celebration, which took place in the parish of Saint Gabriel the Archangel and which was presided by the Archbishop of Maputo, Archbishop Francisco Chimoio O.F.M. Cap. The parish priest and several other priests, who are friends of the Brothers, concelebrated. The provincial superior of Southern Africa, Brother Norbert Mwila, received the vows on behalf of the superior general.

A fraternal lunch followed with nearly 300 guests at the Novitiate of Matola and was used as an occasion to continue to share experiences and to express their love towards Br Mario and the eight neo-professed Brothers with songs, presents and speeches.

is currently destined to the Community and College of Bilene, a secondary school with 700



MESSAGE FROM BROTHER NORBERT MWILA

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends,

In the spirit of joy and gratitude, I reach out to you with the acknowledgement of the Lord's abundant blessing of the New Year.

Celebrating the bicentenary at the Marist International Centre on January 2nd was a great blessing and a privileged moment. The atmosphere that surrounded the celebration in the afternoon before and the bicentenary's Eve was remarkably conducted in a mood of recollection.



And then came the actual day of the anniversary of the bicentenary, the Mass was well attended, wonderfully animated and celebrated by the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Nairobi, Bishop David Kamau.

His homily was mostly focused on the rightful place of Mary in the Church, her availability to God's will even risking her life, her spirit of service, her humility and as the merciful Mother and help of believers. He further urged us Brothers to model our lives on Mary for the name we bear and our spirituality. In addition, that the young Brothers are the hope for continued and needed Marist life and mission.

Then the three key ideas in Bro. Emili's message of the bicentenary are worth staying with and allowing to bear fruit in our lives:

- **Gratitude**
- **Asking for forgiveness**
- **Commitment**

I believe that each one of us can attach meaning to the key ideas at the individual and Institutional levels.

In celebrating the bicentenary and with the help of the theme that leads towards a new beginning in us for Marist life and mission:

- **What would I wish to be grateful for?**
- **What do I need to ask forgiveness for?**

- **What commitment do I need to make to lead me into the future?**

The call to a new beginning we are invited to embrace only takes effect when something is taken up at the individual level. We need the Individual change to lead us into the Institutional change.

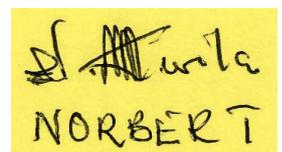


I find a great deal of truth and wisdom in Ghandi's perception that, "Be the change that you would like to see." We are into a timely moment to respond and live out the call to be prophets and mystics in communion and Lay Marists. Another idea that touched me at the Extended General Council was the need for a dream for now and the future to shift from activism and find more time for God. An expression that we are primarily Seekers of God.

And also not to lose sight of the need that, "Communion is proposed today in the Church as a particularly pressing challenge in the new millennium so that it may be transformed into the home and school of communion."

Brothers are active inhabitants in this home and are both students and teachers in this school; that is why they make their own the urgency that the Church proposes for itself, to live and promote a spirituality of communion." (Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church)

May the Holy family of Nazareth help us to yield the desired outcome of our respective individual and communal dreams for a new beginning into the Marist life and mission.



NORBERT

PHOTOS OF GENERAL INTEREST



1986. Brothers gathered at the newly founded Marist International Centre in Karen, Nairobi. The editor recognises two of the founding community, Luis Sobrado and José María Ferre, as well as several of the German founders of our former community in Roo, South Nyanza – Brothers Godfrey, Andreas, and Hans. Brother Charles Prieur CG is on the right in the front row. Various superiors of AUs associated with Africa are also to be seen. It seems that the building in the background is part of the original colonial house, later converted to the *Maisonnette* Fraternity.

Brother **Cristian Gisamonyo** from the DRC is well known to those associated with MIC. “Mwalimu”, as he was popularly referred to, served as Dean of Studies, or Academic Dean for a considerable number of years.

His recent link with the Province of Southern Africa is as **preacher of the retreat to our 2nd-year novices** in the week before they made their final profession last December.



Two Brothers from our Province spend a day in Assisi

Brother **Joe Walton** was invited to spend a month for a holiday break at the General House in Rome in October-November last year.

Brother **Tererai Gijima** was appointed by our Provincial Council to attend the meeting of Marist Vocation Promoters from 10 November to 14 December



Brother **Spiridion Ndanga** of the PACE Province is well known to the many Brothers in our Province.

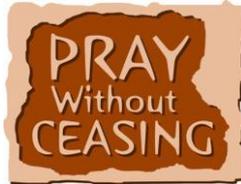
In particular, he was a key member of the personnel at Marist International Centre where he was Superior of the community for six years from 2005 to 2011.

Spiridion was also one of the participants at the recent international meeting of Marist Vocation Directors.



THE COMMUNITY LIFE PLAN

1. An important way of building up Marist Community is the Plan for Community Life, which gives us the opportunity to exercise co responsibility in the search for God's will.
2. The Plan for Community Life deals with some points of the Constitutions in relation to the concrete situation of the Community. (Con 50.1)
3. Have the goal of the Community and the means to achieve the goal in the proposed areas:



- Prayer Life.
 - Prayer in Community, Mass, moments of Recollection.



- Community Life.
 - Community Timetable, Community Meetings and celebrations, Outings, plan for each one's family visit, responsibilities.
- Apostolate.
 - School, Parish or out-reach programmes and activities.
- Solidarity.
 - Option for the poor and needy.



4. For incidental expenses, each Community will work out its own system, details of which will be included in the Community Life Plan. Whatever method is decided upon must involve accountability to the Community Superior and will take our simple life-style into account.
(Provincial Norms, 1.2.1)
5. Include moments to evaluate the Community Life Plan.
6. Once the Community Life Plan is done, have it submitted for approval to the Provincial and the Council.
(Next Provincial Council Meeting is scheduled for the 10 – 11 February 2017 in Lilongwe)

You have my fraternal regards and wishes for a wonderful 2017,

Bro. Norbert.

NORBERT

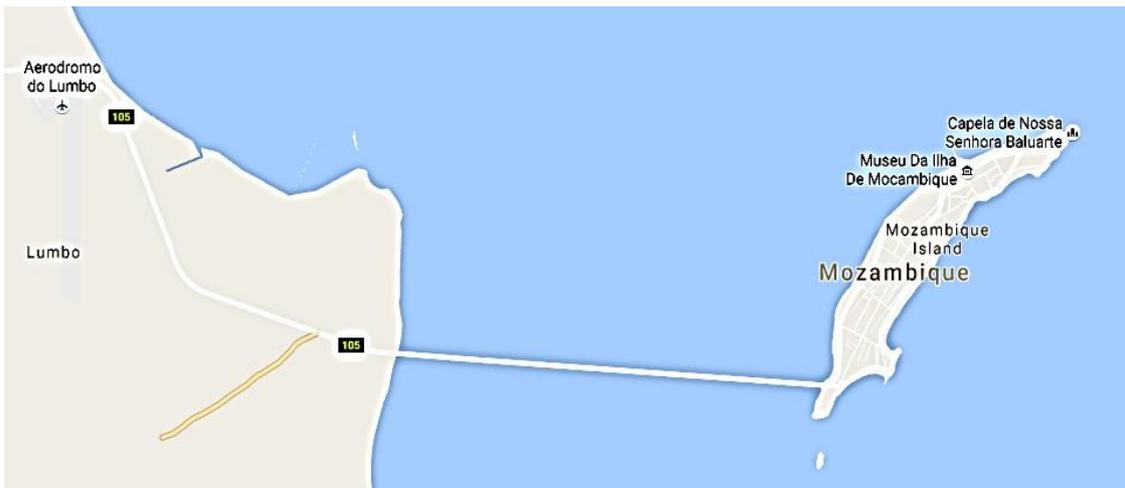
GENERAL MISSION COMMITTEE

As announced by Br. Emili Turú in July 2016, “the General Administration is also studying the best way to respond to the new challenges for Marist mission today. Consequently, we have taken the decision to create a Mission Committee, as from January 2017. The Committee, comprising 10 members (4 from the General Administration and 6 from the Regions) will have, among its functions, the task of advising the General Council in all that concerns Marist mission. In particular, and in conjunction with the General Council, the Committee will study both the delegation of certain functions and authority, which could be taken on by a future Mission Council, as well as the services that mission may require at general level”.

Br Antonio Ramalho on behalf of the Council requested the Provincial Superior to allow **Mike Greeff** be the representative from Africa on this Committee. Approved at the Provincial Council meeting 25 November 2016.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER SPENT SIX MONTHS IN MOZAMBIQUE



St Francis Xavier on the Ilha

The October 2016 issue the Newsletter carried a feature entitled “How the country of Mozambique got its name”. The map on the left shows the location of the “Ilha de Moçambique” on the long coastline of the country, and the detailed one above shows the Island and the causeway (land bridge) linking it to the mainland.

Francis Xavier, one of the first Jesuits, left Lisbon on a voyage to Goa in India via the Cape on 7 April 1541. On the way, he contracted malaria and was forced to rest on the “Ilha” for over six months, from August 1541 to March 1542.

The fort and Lady Chapel on the island date from the 16th century and are the oldest European structures in the southern hemisphere.

BIRTHDAYS IN THE FIRST QUARTER

JANUARY	
01-01-1925	Paul Nkhoma
01-01-1986	Sábado Valia
04-01-1994	Alexious Marinoh (Nov. Ad.2017)
05-01-1980	Octaviano Kandumbu
07-01-1986	Raymond Mbao
07-01-1993	Christopher Chagunda
08-01-1977	Ebel Mutuveri
17-01-1994	Costenes Matias (Nov. Ad.2017)
19-01-1995	Foustino Kauya (Nov. Ad.2017)
20-01-1963	Evaristus Kasambwe
21-01-1995	Benson Taonele (Nov. Ad.2017)
23-01-1977	Reuben Banda
24-01-1955	Br Emil Turú S.G.
28-01-1962	Alexander Damalekani

MARCH	
03-03-1986	Tererai Gijima
03-03-1991	Raphael Time Kenneth
07-03-1973	Leonard Brito
11-03-1973	Emmanuel Mwanalirenji
12-03-1964	José Antonio Pascual
13-03-1984	José Gemusse
20-03-1974	Francis Jumbe
20-03-1992	Joseph Lazarus
25-03-1932	James Langlois
28-03-1961	Nicholas Banda
28-03-1990	Golden Tati

FEBRUARY	
09-02-1979	Euclides Nangolo
14-02-1991	Mugove Chibwenga
15-02-1970	Frank Mwambucha
16-02-1974	Felizardo Maceia
18-02-1987	Ignatius Matemba
19-02-1982	Richard Chidothi
21-02-1935	Angel Mansoa
22-02-1932	Claude Audy
27-02-1990	Chifundo Nkhoma
27-02-1992	Mark Kambuku (Nod. Ad.2016)v
28-02-1987	Moffat Phiri



This newly born child has been named "Champagnat Nguyen Cong Ly"

A NEW CHAMPAGNAT! A SIGN OF A "NEW BEGINNING" IN VIETNAM



The couple Tin (ex-postulant FMS) and Huong named their newly born boy with the holy name Champagnat! It's tradition for Catholics in Vietnam to add a holy name in their children's name. The couple appreciates our Founder Saint Marcellin Champagnat and the Congregation. May God bless the "new Champagnat" as well his parents.



MARIST-MERCY SUMMER CAMP IN ADDO VALLEY, RSA



The Team included 15 young Marists

For the past 7 years, the Marist Brothers in Uitenhage and the Mercy Sisters in Addo have collaborated in running a one-week summer camp for the children of poor communities in the area. The children become involved in a variety of activities, outdoor games and indoor activities of various kinds. The Sisters and Brothers have regularly been assisted by a few local volunteers, but increasingly by two Marist students from each of the five schools in the country. The two students in each case are the incoming Head Boy and the Head Girl (or equivalent) appointed for the following academic year (mid-January to late November).

For some years, now, the overall management and planning of the camp has been in the hands of Jason Grieve, a former student of the St Henry’s Marist College in Durban and who has recently completed his studies in law. An innovation this time, was welcoming five of the Marist School Leaders from last year. They proved to be an invaluable addition to the team, especially in monitoring the new leaders. An extract from Jason’s report follows:

“We welcomed three hundred and twenty five children at the Summer Camp. A new record. The Marists had to work in temperatures in the high 30’s.

The Marists were shown and listened to talks about the Place of Mercy and Hope Crèche, Addo Township Designs, Home Based Carers (who help the Valencia Township Community) and St Ignatius School. They distributed soup at the soup kitchen in Uitenhage (Marist Care), packed, and distributed six hundred Christmas presents.

On one of the days, the returning Marists went on a walk with the Home Based Carers in Valencia Community and saw the greater picture of what Marist Mercy Care is. They visited very sick people and saw what conditions are really like. Br Joe Walton and Mike Greeff (Director of the Marist Schools Council) were with them and did a reflection afterwards.

The Marist Mercy Care Sharing Our Call week was special and all of those who participated have learnt a great deal about Marist and Mercy.”



Br. Joe Walton loves working with children



CHURCH CHUCKLE

AN atheist was in the mood to tease his devoutly Catholic colleague.
 “Hey, John, why are you a Catholic?” he asked.
 John replied: “You see, my great-grandfather was Catholic, both my grandparents were Catholics, my parents are Catholic, my wife is Catholic...so we’re all Catholics.”
 “Ha,” the atheist said triumphantly. “And what if all these relatives were morons—what would that make you?”
 “Well,” John replied, “I suppose it would make me an atheist.”

Mystery Messages

From time to time, the EDITOR receives emails or text messages that are **UNSIGNED!** Moreover, the e-mail address bears no resemblance to the name of the sender who remains anonymous!!

Kindly **ADD YOUR SIGNATURE or name to any messages** sent this way!!

SALVE REGINA – A NEW SETTING FOR THE BICENTENARY

An mp3 file as well as a VIMEO of the Marist SALVE REGINA composed by Br Michael Herry (Australia) and sung by a world-wide group of Marist Brothers (including at least one from our Province!) can be downloaded at <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=173a&id=158> or at <https://vimeo.com/196680417>
The Vimeo includes some pictures from Southern Africa.



VOCATION PROMOTERS AT THE RECENT WORKSHOP IN ROME



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT MATOLA NOVITIATE

A master asked his followers how they could tell when the Advent season had ended and the Christmas day had come. One said “When you see people celebrating, dancing, rejoicing whilst singing the Christmas carols” ‘No!’ said the master. “When we start singing the Gloria, in the Catholic Church.” ‘Wrong again!’ said the master. “Well then, what is it?” asked the followers. “It is when you recognize Christ in your heart and in your fellow Brothers and Sisters, and when you allow Him to be the king of your life. If you cannot do this, no matter what time of the liturgical year it may be, you are still in advent season, for Christ has not yet been born in your hearts.”





At Matola Novitiate, we all welcomed Christ Jesus in our hearts, for we had started preparing for his coming some time back. On Christmas Eve, we joined the parish at mass, and after that, we had a simple gathering only ourselves in our community. As we gathered in the late hours of the night, we sung Christmas carols in English, Portuguese and Spanish, there was a presentation of gifts to each member of the community by the Santa Claus, Dominic Zgambo. We danced and rejoiced in a Marial way. Br. Oscar projected also some short video clips that spiced our gathering. The following morning on Sunday, 25th December, we joined the Mozambicans Brothers in Manhiça community to continue with the celebration. The word became flesh and dwelt among us.



BICENTENARY CELEBRATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

“On January 2nd 1817, Marcellin Champagnat founded the religious Institute of Brothers, under the name of Little Brothers of Mary” (Constitutions Art.1). We all know how Fr. Champagnat started the congregation and what was his source of inspiration. Even if Fr. Champagnat had not encountered the Montagne experience, I believe he still would have founded the congregation because he developed his idea whilst in the seminary with his friends.

We joined in spirit with the Marists of Champagnat throughout the world on bicentenary day. The Matola novitiate community joined the Mozambicans Brothers in celebrating the occasion in Bilene. The auxiliary Bishop Alberto of Xai-Xai diocese celebrated the Mass. During his homily, the Bishop thanked the Brothers for their commitment in education and bringing Jesus Christ closer to the young people. He further said that the institute is in line with the church because



the church every day is on a new beginning. Led and guided by Br. Oscar we all put a fresh branch of a tree in the flowerpots as the symbol of new beginning. In addition, thereafter we had a special meal together with the Bishop, Priests, and Religious Sisters and lay people. As we gathered as one family, we thanked God for the blessings that

he showers on each one of us as we follow in the footsteps of Fr. Champagnat.

We had time also to swim and enjoy the waters, which spiced our celebration. Thanks to Br. Domingos for making the day

colourful. It is the new beginning; therefore let us produce more fruit.

May the same Holy Spirit that inspired Fr. Champagnat, inspire us also as we keep on making Jesus Christ known and loved. Mary, our Good Mother, walk with us **AS WE BEGIN OUR THIRD CENTURY!**



JOHANNESBURG – 2ND JANUARY 2016



On Bicentenary Day, Brothers and Lay Marists gathered at the Marist Brothers Residence on the campus of Sacred Heart College to mark this special occasion. Making use of a **Bicentenary prayer prepared by our Brothers in Australia**, the group recalled the beginnings of our Institute and prayed that the dream of Champagnat to make Jesus known and loved continue to be spread throughout the world.

The prayer session included listening to the **new setting of the Salve Regina** composed by Br Michael Herry.

Files of the **Prayer** and of the **Salve** can be obtained from the editor at mario.colussi@marist.org.za.



WHERE WERE THE GENERAL COUNCILLORS ON THIS DAY?



The Main Door of our General House decorated for Bicentenary Day

2nd January: Celebration of the Bicentenary of the Institute by the General Council occurred in **six** countries on **four** continents:

- ✓ Superior General Brother **Emili Turú** in **Bangladesh** for the opening of the new school;
- ✓ Vicar General Brother **Joe McKee** at **La Valla**, France;
- ✓ Brothers **Antonio Ramalho** and **Ernesto Sánchez**, General

Councillors, at the Marist International Centre in **Nairobi**;

- ✓ General Councillor Brother **Víctor Preciado** in Lujan, **Argentina**;
- ✓ General Councillor Brother Michael de Waas in **Sri Lanka**;
- ✓ Brothers **Eugène Kabanguka** and **Josep Maria Soterias**, General Councillors, at the General House, in **Rome**.



OTHER CELEBRATIONS ROUND THE WORLD!



Click this image on <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=4201> to see pictures from round the world. At the same time you will be listening to the Fourvière hymn composed for 2016.

ROUND THE WORLD ON 2ND JANUARY 2017



Bottom left: Br Emili opening the first high school for the children of tea-pickers in Bangladesh where he made the prophetic statement:

"The Periphery is today the centre of the Marist world"



- ❖ Brother **JOHN HENG** who is suffering from cancer of the lower jaw where he has lost all his teeth. Currently in his home country of Malaysia, Brother John is well-known to the Brothers in Zambia where he worked for many years. He also did a spell at MIC in Nairobi where he was charge of the catering. jheng39@gmail.com
- ❖ The intentions of Brother **ANGEL MANSOA** who recently lost his eldest sister Conchita (87).
- ❖ That **EACH OF US** do our part to realise the words of Brother Emili in his **BICENTENARY MESSAGE**:

"We begin this year 2017 giving thanks, asking for forgiveness and renewing our commitment. Let us hope that the celebration of our Marist bicentenary will be another step on the journey towards personal and institutional conversion!

Mary our Good Mother, first disciple of the Lord, woman of faith and commitment, accompanies us on our way towards this third Marist centenary, full of hope. May she, who has always done everything among us, continue to bless us and to give us increase."

BICENTENARY DAY IN NAIROBI



How many of these people do you recognise?



MARIST BROTHERS IN AFRICA 1867 – 2017

In 1863, the *Little Brothers of Mary* founded by Marcellin Champagnat, were recognised by the Vatican as an Institute of Pontifical Right, and gave them the name *Marist Brothers of the Schools*. Within four years, Brother Louis-Marie, S.G. accepted the invitation of Bishop Thomas Grimley of the Cape to send a group of Brothers to Cape Town, “to teach the children of the small Catholic community”.

Five Brothers were appointed to establish what be the first school of the Marist Brothers outside Europe. It was an international community, with Brothers from France, Belgium, Scotland and Ireland.

Setting sail from Marseilles in January 1867, these pioneers arrived nearly three months later on 18 April 1867 at Simonstown, 40 km to the south of Cape Town.

From there it took them two days to reach the city by ox-wagon.

The logo below has been approved by a team drawn up from the five Marist schools in RSA to commemorate **150 years of the presence of the Marist Brothers in Africa.**



BICENTENARY PRAYER

Mary,
dawn of the new times,
We thank you because you have always
done everything among us
and you continue doing it down to today.
We place ourselves confidently in your
hands and abandon ourselves to your
tenderness.
We also entrust to you each of the persons
who, like us, feel privileged
to bear your name.
We renew this day our consecration to you
as well as our firm intention
to contribute to building a Church
which reflects your face.
You, source of our renewal,
accompany our fidelity,
as you accompanied those who preceded us.

On this the bicentenary for all Marists
in the way of St Marcellin,
we feel your presence next to us
and for that we give you thanks.
Amen.



*(Bicentenary La Valla Painting
by Michael Galovic, 2017)*

*“Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way
of doing things, of acting, of living!” [Pope Francis, 2015]*

