

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK ...

1 April 2013

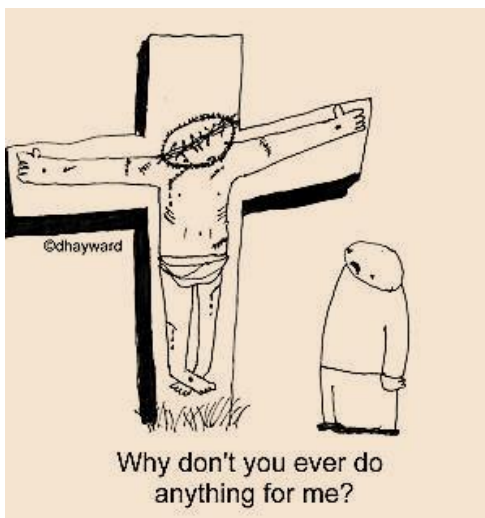
Dear Brothers and Friends,



In February I wrote about brotherhood and the use of the title "brother". I received a number of e-mails concerning what I wrote. Thanks for the feedback. One reaction that struck me read: "I am grateful for my vocation as a brother." The word *grateful* struck me as significant. A number of spiritual books I have read recently suggest that **GRATITUDE** is key to having a sound spiritual life. At the start of his circular

"He gave us the name of Mary", Br Emili wrote "I believe that we have to be very grateful to the Lord for all that has been done and is still being done through the Institute, in spite of this fragility (even perhaps, thanks to it!). We also need to express gratitude for all the brothers who, thanks to their consistency and fidelity, have been and continue to be authentic pillars of the Institute, as Fr. Champagnat said."

Let us consider *gratitude* as I believe it is an important attitude to develop for our community, apostolic and spiritual lives as Marist Brothers. Gratitude is a basic Christian attitude. Gratitude has been said to mould and shape Christian life. Martin Luther referred to gratitude as "The basic Christian attitude". I see it as the heart of the Gospel. Gratitude in Christianity is an acknowledgment of God's generosity that should inspire our lives as brothers and shape our thoughts and actions. An attitude of thankfulness helps us to mature our attitude towards God and is a sure way of finding God's presence in our personal lives. This is why many spiritual writers today seem



to believe that gratitude and a sound spiritual life go hand in hand. In my conversations with many brothers over the past years as a formator, provincial councillor and now as a provincial, the brothers who are grateful for their vocation and have a grateful attitude for what they receive seem to be happier brothers than those who have an attitude of entitlement. I will look at entitlement further on in this letter.



GRATITUDE is not the same as indebtedness; it is not the attitude of subservience. It involves self-knowledge and appreciation of who we are and thankfulness to God for the gift of ourselves.

Some interesting ideas emerge from studies conducted by Emmons, McCulloch and Lyubomirsky on gratitude. I would like to share some of them with you for increasingly I believe that Marist Brothers should be grateful people helping others to understand and become grateful as a way of making Jesus known and loved.

Their studies show that grateful people are happier, less depressed, less stressed, and more satisfied with their lives and relationships. Grateful people also have higher levels of control of their environment, personal growth, purpose in life, and self-acceptance. Grateful people have more positive ways of coping with difficulties they experience in life, being more likely to seek support from other people, reinterpreting and growing from their experiences, and spend more time planning how to deal with problems. I could go on about

this important point but enough has been said to make the point clear.

Over the years I have seen a number of young brothers returning from MIC. Without putting them all in boxes I see in varying degrees two groups: those who are *grateful* and those who feel *entitled*. Thank goodness that most fit into the grateful category. Gratitude seems to me to be a humble attitude and affects our relationship with God. The grateful brother develops an attitude of thankfulness for what God has given him through his family, friends, the brothers and the world around him.

ENTITLEMENT, however, fosters other attitudes in a brother. The entitlement mentality leads to thinking that the world owes them something. The entitled brother looks for others to do something for him rather than focusing on what he can do for others and for himself. It is common for entitled persons to that those in authority owe them something. Entitlement makes gratitude impossible.

Gratitude involves humility. Gratitude helps us become spiritually aware, and enables us to become even more grateful to God, to others and even to oneself. This attitude requires practice and a desire to be humble and grateful.

One of the best ways to develop an attitude of gratitude is to practice the daily review, a form of prayer that was developed by St Ignatius of Loyola about 500 years ago. Some years back Brother Charles Howard encouraged us to practice this form of prayer.



MIC landscaping below the chapel

The **Review Prayer**, usually takes about fifteen minutes, it involves five steps:

- Ask God for light – in order to see your day with God’s eyes.
- Give thanks – for the gift of the day you have just lived.
- Reviewing the day - guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Facing your short comings – and humbly acknowledging them.
- Look forward to the next day – asking God for help in the future.

Finally I leave you with a question and an answer to think about.

Q. Do you fully appreciate what is put before you in life or are you feel entitled to more?

A. Entitlement – “I deserve something and want more” – often keeps people from appreciating the depth of the gift before them. People who live in gratitude form a circle of grace with this attitude and find that there is always so much to appreciate in their lives.

May God bless you.

Joe



MARIST INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

During February I spent three weeks at MIC. It is always a joy to be with our brothers there. Our Southern African Province has 5 formators and 26 student brothers at the Centre. I need to see each one individually and to spend time socialising with them as much as I can between meetings and other activities of the Centre.

It is interesting to see the brothers around the centre busy going to lectures, sport, prayers, manual work and other activities from apostolic to social. Life at MIC moves on in the normal

fast pace of a formation house and house of studies.

There are some interesting and attractive landscape changes on the property. As you pass the entrance gate the former waste land on the left hand side has been turned into a beautiful park area hired out for weddings. Behind the fraternities there is another park area named after Brother Charles Howard. It is a peaceful place for visitors or just for some quiet time.

MIC – ORIGINAL LOGO

THREE VIOLETS depict the little virtues of humility, simplicity and modesty

The **BLACK & WHITE TRIANGLES** are typical of much traditional art in Africa

A **YOUTHFUL FACE** reminds us of the young churches from which we come and in which we work

The **CROSS** is the key symbol of our Christian faith - an emblem of both the incarnation and redemption

The **FEMINE FEATURES** remind us of our Good Mother and our mission to promote a Marial image of church

This logo was designed by Br José María Ferre, a member of the pioneering formation team, in 1986.

The Conference of Superiors of the African Continent was given the report back from the General Council's canonical visit to MIC. Brothers Joe McKee, Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sanchez and Cesar Rojas spent nearly two weeks at MIC during October last year.



I am happy to inform you that the report back was generally positive. The team praised what was going well in formation and helping the brothers to grow. Positive feedback was given to life in the fraternities, prayer life, internationality, personal accompaniment and

the formation programme. It was encouraging for us to hear that these upbeat remarks as some brothers ask whether personal formation is happening at MIC. We can be happy that the report confirms that good work is being done at the Centre. Some areas to improve were mentioned: fostering an atmosphere of dialogue and trust; the courses of a religious nature are too compacted in the third trimester (May-June-July); the third trimester makes it difficult for Brothers to have a real holiday & time to rest from studies; computer facilities need upgrading; exploring other ways of praying. In the space available, it is not possible to do justice to the report in the Newsletter.

The changes and progress made in the running of the academic component of the formation at MIC merit separate treatment. Continual evaluation and improvements are being implemented to prepare our brothers for mission.



MARIST INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The MIC that many of us knew has changed enormously. When the qualification from the Pontifical Urban University did not meet the needs of Administrative Units in Africa as well as the requirements of the Kenyan Commission for Higher Education, changes had to be made. In 1997, the Conference decided to link our Centre to the Catholic University of Eastern Africa as a Constituent College. This process was finally completed in 2002. Shortly afterwards the academic portion of the Centre was renamed Marist International College, which, in 2012, became Marist International University College (MIUC). To be more relevant the College has gradually introduced a number of new programmes including diploma courses in primary and secondary education, business management, development studies, social work, and university access studies. The last-named area opened the College to scores of lay



students who needed to upgrade their school certificate results in order to be eligible for tertiary studies. The number of religious from other congregations (both female and male) has also increased considerably.

These new programmes required the College to expand its facilities: classrooms, library, science labs, computer labs, and lecture halls. Those of you who remember the "farm" and workshops would be surprised at their transformation in beautiful classrooms and offices. Imagine studying in former pigsties. Additionally, there

is a large canteen to cater for the lay students: it is situated at the very end of the straight road from the entrance. These changes have made the property even more striking and the new buildings blend in with the old very well.



MIUC has also started an academic outreach Centre in Ongata Rongai Township, to bring quality education closer to the people. It is located along Magadi Road. Furthermore Universities in Kenya are required to own land for future development. MIUC has been able to

purchase a large tract of land 50 km from our Centre on the road to Magadi and about 50 km from Magadi. We are now seriously considering whether MIUC should become a university in its own right.

On Saturday 16 February there was a wonderful all-day cultural festival at MIUC. There was the parade of the national flags of the many nations represented at the Centre. The entertainment included traditional dancing, short skits explaining aspects of the nation's culture, music and songs from different cultures. It was all well done in a spirit of fun and acceptance with respect for each other's ways.

Why am I telling you all this? In order that all of us realize that MIC belongs to Marist Africa and that it is our responsibility to ensure that the facilities help our brothers in formation grow into good religious and capable apostles for Africa and Madagascar.



NOVITIATE NEWS



No longer will the cloister be dominated by a dangerous coconut tree! Here you see novices Boston Ngulube, Chifundo Nkhoma and Moffat Phiri with the very last fruits of a very tall tree whose truncated trunk stands behind them.

Unsuspecting visitors will no longer be liable to unexpected blows on the cranium! The novice master had expressed his concern about the hazard for a number of years. After consulting his team as well as other Brothers in Mozambique, he requested that the historic coconut tree be cut down, a task well executed by Elias, a friend of Brother Pisco. Let bygones be bygones!

The Novices have recently had two soccer games against a Muslim group in the area. The relationships have been good, and up to now the victories have been shared equally.

(Br Simeon Banda)



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS ...

02/04/1982 WITMAN PHIRI
04/04/1972 EVANS MUSAKANYA
05/04/1968 PATRICK BUSHILYA
09/04/1935 ANTONIO PISCO
12/04/1969 PATRICK BWALIA
13/04/1985 PADINGTON CHAKABVA
21/04/1966 AUXENSIO DICKSON
24/04/1969 NORBERT MWILA



WHAT HAS POPE FRANCIS BEEN SAYING?



Election night 13 March:

"Brothers and sisters, good evening!"

First of all I would like to say a prayer pray for our Bishop Emeritus Benedict XVI. Let us all pray together for him, that the Lord will bless him and that our Lady will protect him.

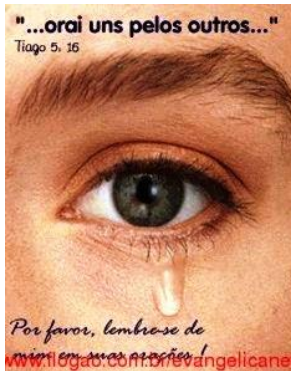
And now I would like to give the blessing. But first I want to ask you a favour. **Before the Bishop blesses the people I ask that you would pray to the Lord to bless me – the prayer of the people for their Bishop.**

Good night and sleep well!

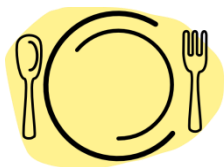
Homily to the Cardinals 14 March

The same Peter who had confessed Jesus Christ said to him: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I will follow you, but let's not talk about the cross. This is not a part of it. I will follow you in other directions, but not to the cross. **When we journey without the cross, when we build without the cross and when we confess a Christ without the cross, we are not disciples of the Lord: we are worldly; we are bishops, priests, cardinals, popes, but not disciples of the Lord.**

St Ann's Church & Angelus 7 March



"The Lord never tires of forgiving, never! It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.



Parting words:

"Enjoy your lunch"



Inauguration Mass 19 March

"I offer a warm greeting to **my brother cardinals and bishops**, the priests, deacons, men and women religious, and all the lay faithful.

"Being protectors, then, also means keeping



watch over our emotions, over our hearts, because they are the seat of good and evil intentions: intentions that build up and tear down! **We must not be afraid of goodness or even tenderness!** ...

"Here I would add one more thing: caring, protecting, demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness. In the Gospels, Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. **We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!**"

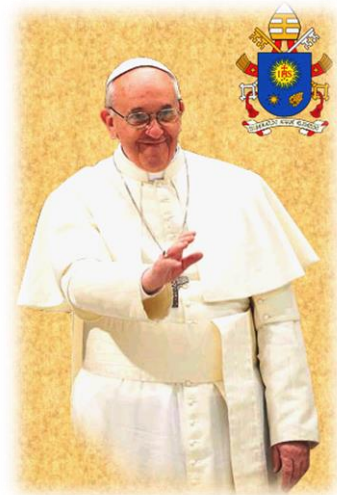


BROTHER EMILI TURÚ COMMENTS ON THE NEW POPE

16 March 2013 - The name of Francis, a more evangelical church

The simple name of Francis is a clear message about the model of Church and of religious life the new Pope has in mind, and of the kind of freedom he wants for himself. Francis, a non-ordained religious who was called to rebuild the Church by living the gospel “without gloss”. **Poverty, simplicity, and the prophecy of universal brotherhood.** Mission without borders and interreligious dialogue. Passion for the Lord Jesus Christ and passion for humankind.

So welcome, then, brother Francis. Thanks for embracing **the dream of a more evangelical Church**, enthusing so many of us who bear the same dream in our hearts. Count on your brothers and sisters in religious life, with our specific vocation amidst the People of God, when you try to meet the formidable challenges of the XXI century. Your commitment encourages us to become ever more consistent with the call to be mystics and prophets for our time.



20 March 2013 - The Church of the Apron, the Church of Tenderness



How come the Pope speaks about tenderness at the beginning of his pontificate? Are there not any more important and urgent issues to mention? The truth is that he reminded me of another Pope, John XXIII, who – in the evening of the very day when the Second Vatican Council opened, as if there were no other things to talk about – addressed the thousands of people

gathered in St. Peter’s Square from his window with these words: *“It could be said that even the moon hurries to be close to us tonight, that from above it might watch this spectacle not even St. Peter’s Basilica, over its four centuries of history, has ever been able to witness (...). My own person counts for nothing – it is a brother who speaks to you (...). When you head home, find your children. Hug and kiss your children and tell them: ‘This is the hug and kiss of the Pope’. And when you find them with tears to dry ..., tell them ‘The Pope is with us especially in our times of sadness and bitterness’.”*

Both Pope John and Pope Francis remind us there is nothing more urgent and essential for men and women today than tenderness, this sensitivity allowing us to *“safeguard the beauty of creation”* and *“protect people, taking care of everyone, of each one, with love,*



especially the children, the elderly, those who are more fragile and often remain on the side lines of our concern and affection”.

Moreover, while listening to the Pope’s homily [at his inauguration], I often remembered bishop Tonino Bello (1935-1993), who dreamed of a Church that could be called “**the Church of the apron**” because, he said, that is the only liturgical vestment we can attribute to Jesus: “*Jesus got up from table, removed his outer garments and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist: this is the Church of the apron*”. I imagined Tonino Bello smiling happily because his dream was proclaimed in St. Peter’s Square by none other than the Pope:

“Real power is service... humble service, concrete, rich in faith”.



MARIST CAMP – 2012-2013



Mukoma Claude enjoying a light moment with campers

The period from 23 December 2012 to 1 January 2013 saw the Marist Brothers and a large number of lay collaborators welcoming over 100 children at Kutama College for **Marist Camp**. Marist Camp is an annual experience that seeks to give a special Christmas holiday to children from very poor families. This time we hosted 127 campers, 64 girls and 63 boys between the ages of 8-11 years. The team of leaders comprised 30 lay persons, seven brothers, and two 2 candidates for the Institute. The camp was quite exciting. During the course of the camp

we welcomed Bro. Claude Audy who came all the way from Uitenhage, South Africa. We were also privileged to have with us two persons from Angola: Bro. José Francisco (a.k.a. “Ricardo” or “Richa”) and Diamantino, a lay young man.

The children enjoyed the various activities that were lined up during the Camp. Children learnt swimming, cooking, puzzles, art, singing, dancing, dramatization and public speaking. On Christmas Eve we had the Santa Clause family coming to shower children with gifts. Father Christmas and Mother Christmas thrilled the children as they threw sweets everywhere.

Though our campers are selected independently from different places they



Brother Richa admires the welcome dance performed by the children

quickly integrated at the Camp. Our campers were drawn from Chinhoyi, Banket, Kutama, Murambinda, Guruve, Kachuta and Harare.

On the 29th December we had the opportunity to take the Campers to Darwendale Dam for a picnic. The National Parks and Wildlife waived the fees and gave us free entry into the park. Besides giving the free entry they donated fish



**Let all the little children
come to me ...**

to feed the entire group. For a long time the work of Marist camp had escaped the media as we always endeavoured to do our work quietly following in the footsteps of our Good Mother Mary but this year with the request of the Parks and Wildlife our activities were given wide media coverage by Zimbabwe Television (ZTV), Sunday News and H-Metro. The news reporters and journalists were impressed with the charitable works of the Marist Camp.

The general public became more aware of the help being offered by the Marist Brothers to the underprivileged children of our society.

During the picnic the children were taken for a guided tour by the leaders along the dam wall and picnic site. The campers had treasure hunt and they left no stone unturned at the picnic site looking for papers labelled with the "treasure". Some won books, pens, toys, clothing, food hampers etc. Without doubt it was a great day for our campers. We concluded the picnic at 4.00 pm.

Annually Marist Camp has sought to improve the entertainment of the kids There were seven bases at which training and entertainment took place. Each base had one or two adult leaders who were received the campers and assisted them.

Below is the list of bases and what they offered:

COOKING	Methods of preparing food
ART	Drawing, card-making, dyeing
PUZZLES	Problem solving
RELIGION	Singing & instruction in faith
SINGING	Camp songs
SWIMMING	Swimming skills
PUBLIC SPEAKING	Communication skills

A spirit of service and dedication was evident among both campers and leaders. Congratulations to the latter for their selflessness and commitment.



EDUCATION

**is the most powerful weapon
that you can use to
change the world**



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Our holy father **POPE FRANCIS**
- The needs of the **UNIVERSAL CHURCH**
- In thanks for the finding of the nephew of Brother Kasongo Mwape.
- Our deceased and their bereaved.
- Our Brothers who are ill, particularly Brother Vincent Chunga currently receiving chemotherapy.

EDITOR

- **Your PHOTOS are welcome.** Please provide them with a text that can be used in a caption.
- **RELIGIOUS CALENDAR** The current format of the “Mortuary List” arose out of a desire to provide some details about each Brother, especially his links to the Province. Any suggestions for improving the manner of remembering our dead are welcome.
- **IMPORTANT:** Please act on the important notices to be found on the last page of the Newsletter

A MARIST BROTHER IN SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH SUDAN

This is an update on Solidarity with South Sudan. Just yesterday, 5th of March, I joined the Malakal Teacher Training College after six weeks in Wau to give a course in Biology to Incoming Training Nurses there.

There are now eighty-nine resident students training to be registered nurses or mid-wives in our Health Training Institute in Wau. We have just finished the delivery of another year of the eight-week in-service teacher training programme to 431 teachers, in six different locations. 59 of these teachers have just completed the fourth and final year of the in-

service curriculum. Official openings of the two teacher training colleges that *Solidarity* has constructed in Yambio and Malakal took place in mid-February and a significant graduation ceremony for the Malakal graduates from 2012 was held. In Agok, we had five tutors living in tents and delivering the first year of in-service to 88 teachers displaced from the disputed region of Abyei. These are teachers who speak Arabic but who are determined to graduate to teach in English in the new country of South Sudan.



Solidarity is also offering extensive, pastoral programmes as well as developing agricultural initiatives in Riimenze and Wau. One less-publicised aspect of the work of *Solidarity* is the hospitality extended here in the central administration house in Juba. This is an eleven

bedroom house, with two beds in some rooms, and the rooms are frequently full. People turn to *Solidarity* for comfort, support, guidance and assistance. *Solidarity* has become, both formally and informally, an integral service arm of the Church in South Sudan.

Solidarity now has 34 members living in South Sudan: Sisters, Brothers and Priests from a variety of congregations plus lay volunteers.

(Br Christian Mbam of the Nigerian Province joined the Church's Solidarity project in South Sudan about a year ago)

www.champagnat.org 18 March 2013)



SOUTH SUDAN showing places mentioned in the article

KOSMOS/ΚΟΣΜΟΣ



Br Taricisio Postingher spent several days at the Provincial House updating our information for **KOSMOS**, the International Marist Data Base. The data on each of our houses is correct, and the Brothers are now registered correctly in their communities.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Councillors Fortune, Tomás, Nicholas and Felizardo enjoy breakfast during the recent meeting of the Provincial Council at the Provincial House



Nicholas Banda & Fortune Chakasara spent a day sharing insights from Manziana (2012) with community animators in Malawi. *Back:* John Katumbi, Frank Mwambucha, Joseph Murakho, Evaristus Kasambwe & Nicholas. *Front:* Fortune & Boniface Chirambo

SPECIAL PATRONS OF THE BROTHERHOOD

St. Serapion of Algiers

1179-1240, (Feast: November 12). Irish by birth, Serapion enlisted as a soldier and went to Spain to help the Christian army of Alfonso VIII who was fighting Moslems. In Spain, he met St. Peter Nolasco and his brothers called Mercedarians (*Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy*) who dedicated themselves to the defence of the faith, even by offering up themselves to replace Christian slaves belonging to non-believers. Their mission was to free Christian captives from the power of their owners through Mercedarian habit. During his life, he was an extraordinary holy and virtuous religious, a model in practicing abstinence, fervent in prayer and with a burning charity for the freedom of captives. As a Mercedarian friar, he carried out several redemptions, i.e. freeing Christian captives held by Muslim states, offering himself as a hostage until the ransom money should arrive. On the last occasion, when the ransom money did not arrive in time (or because he refused to stop preaching Christianity), Serapion was killed. According to Christian tradition, he was nailed on an X-shaped cross and was dismembered. The Holy See confirmed the veneration attributed to him as a martyr in 1728.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The Kings great gift

There once was a wise and beloved King who cared greatly for his people and wanted what was best for them. The people knew the king took a personal interest in their affairs and tried to understand how his decision affected their lives. Periodically, he would disguise himself and wander through the streets, trying to see life from their perspective.

One day he disguised himself as a poor villager and went to visit the public baths. Many people were there enjoying the fellowship and relaxation. The water for the baths was heated by a furnace in the cellar, where one man was responsible for maintaining the comfort level of the water. The king made his way to the basement to visit the man who tended the fire.

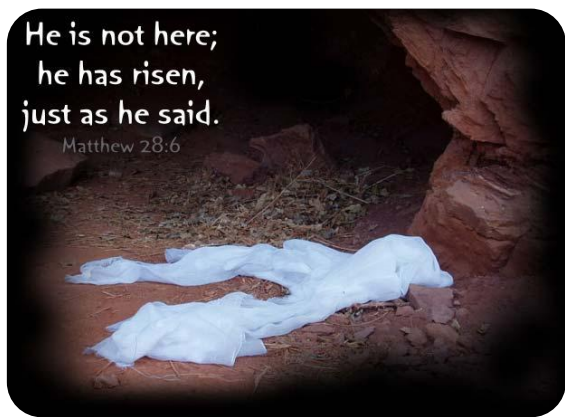
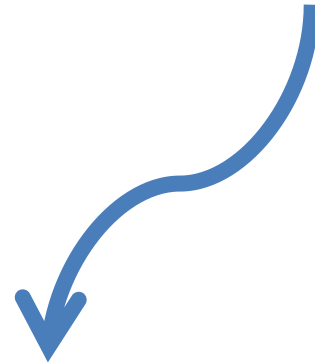
The two men shared a meal together, and the king befriended this lonely man. Day after day, week in and week out, the king went to visit the fire tender. The man in the cellar soon became close to his stranger visitor because he came down to the basement where he was. No one else ever had showed that much care or concern.

One day the king revealed his true identity to his friend. It was a risky move, for he feared that the man might ask him for a special favour or a gift. Instead the king's new friend looked into his eyes and said, "You left your comfortable palace to sit with me in this hot and dingy cellar. You ate my meagre food and genuinely showed you cared about what happened to me. On other people you might bestow rich gifts, but to me you have given the greatest gift of all. You gave me the gift of yourself."



PROVINCIAL'S CALENDAR

24 – 31 MAR	Lilongwe, Malawi
1 – 5 APRIL	Visit Postulancy, Malawi
8 – 10	Lilongwe, Malawi
11	Fly to Johannesburg
12 – 15	Cape Town, MSC Meeting
17 – 21	Uitenhage, RSA
22	Fly to Lusaka
22 – 30	Child Rights workshop. Lusaka
1 – 2 MAY	Johannesburg to get visas
3 - 5	Nivava, Mozambique
6	Johannesburg
7 – 17	Visit communities, Zimbabwe
18 – 19	Provincial Council, Zimbabwe
20 - 21	Visit Zimbabwe
22 – 26	Visit St Paul's, Kabwe
27 - 31	Visit St Marcellin's Kalulushi
1 – 3 JUNE	Lilongwe, Malawi
4 - 7	Chassa, Zambia
8 - 11	Lilongwe, Malawi
12 - 13	Johannesburg
14 – 30	Visit Melanesia to prepare for the General Conference
1 – 5 JULY	Visit Melanesia (continued)



For as by a man came death, by a man has come the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive.
(1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

NOTICES FOR ALL BROTHERS

1 PROFESSION OF VOWS

PROFESSION of VOWS (Mid-Year 2013)

BROTHERS IN TEMPORARY VOWS

Please send your **Written Application for Admission** to annual vows or to perpetual profession to Brother Provincial josephwalton@ymail.com, and copied to the Provincial Secretary at provsec@globemw.net.

DEADLINE 30 April 2013

PERPETUALLY PROFESSED BROTHERS

Please send a **Report on Each Young Brother** in your community to Brother Provincial at josephwalton@ymail.com.

DEADLINE 30 April 2013

2 KOSMOS / ΚΟΣΜΟΣ (the Marist International Data Base) needs YOUR help!!

PLEASE E-MAIL

DIGITAL PORTRAIT



DIGITAL PASSPORT PAGE



...to the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

provsec@globemw.net