



## The First batch of students of Our Good Mother School (OGMS), Ashalaja registered excellent grades...(pg 7)

- Bulletin Team**
- Br Valentine Meyanui
  - Br Peter Awoh
  - Br Conrad N. Tameh
  - Br Alex Kouakou
  - Br Norbert Ndilon
  - Br Ndi Derick
  - Br Cylas Yenwong



Welcome Br John Arietta



Provincial Superior Visits MIC

# MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras, which translates to "Fat Tuesday" in French, is a festival celebrated annually on the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. The festival has its roots in Catholic traditions and is celebrated in many countries around the world but perhaps most famously in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mardi Gras is a time of revelry, with parades, parties, and other festive events taking place throughout the day and into the night. In many places, the festival is marked by colorful costumes, masks, and elaborate floats, as well as traditional foods and drinks.

In Bouaké, Ivory Coast on the 21st February the kindergarten pupils

dressed like their Idols went to immerse themselves in the realities of the Bouaké Court of Appeal.

It was an unforgettable experience to them and indeed Mardi Gras celebrates the spirit of community and joy.



# Lenten Echoes from St. Pius X

By *Br Norbert Ndilon A.*



The students of St. Pius X Catholic College Tatum in the diocese of Kumbo, Cameroon on Ash Wednesday received ashes on their foreheads to mark the beginning of the holy season. The Mass which took place in the School Hall was celebrated by the chaplain of the

College, Fr Edwin Boye.

In his homily he exhorted the students to take the period of Lent serious by praying, and fasting. He suggested to the students to fast in a special way from laziness and other activities that make them not to take their studies serious. He also reminded them of the necessity of praying for themselves, their parents, and friends. The Chaplain also encouraged the students to share what they have, especially knowledge with each other.

Br. Stephen Kpusah, the Principal of the college also used the opportunity and spoke to the staff and students about the Marist Lenten Solidarity Project. In response, the students promised to take active part in contributing a token to support the needy in the society. At the end of the Mass the Chaplain reiterated the call on the students to be good ambassadors and stewards of St. Pius X Catholic College.



# Thanksgiving Celebration

By Br Jean Alex

## Ivory Coast

Sunday the 26th of February was a day of celebration, joy, dance and merry making as the Brothers working in Côte d'Ivoire joined Brother François Kimingar Mantobaye during a Thanksgiving Mass in Bouaké community. The modest but well planned and organised celebration brought together Friends, staff members and Indeed the Marist communities of Bouaké and Korhogo to share in the joy of our Brother. The Priest congratulated Brother Etienne and Germain present at the occasion and blessed them. Brother François was very grateful and expressed his joy in perfect appreciation.



# MARIST PEDAGOGY

## PSYCHOLOGICAL LENS [8]

**Br Eric Kramo**

Let us open this discussion with an obvious question: Who is Mary, the mother of Jesus? It is arduous to sufficiently know her though many people have attempted it. I, in turn, dare to understand who this mystic is, but from a scientific perspective formulating a psychological profile for Our Good Mother. I intend to arrive at this goal by piecing up evidence about her life from the Christian and Islamic scriptures, the teachings and documents of the Catholic Church, the Marist documents, the writings of the saints and a myriad of Marian songs. Besides, the discussion will be grounded on McCrae and Costa's Five-Factor Trait Theory.

McCrae and Costa's Five-Factor Model of Personality suggests only five factors as the basis for measuring people's personalities. They include extraversion (E), Neuroticism (N), Conscientiousness (C), Agreeableness (A), and Openness (O). OCEAN or CANOE is the acronymic name for this theory. According to the theorists, the factors are bipolar. Personality traits of people are measured on a continuum from high to low on each characteristic. While many people are in the middle, a few are at the extremes of the traits. In the subsequent paragraphs, we shall consider the extraversion factor and humbly evaluate how

Mary's personality traits, demonstrated in available documents, relate.

According to McCrae and Costa, people who score high on extraversion are affectionate, gregarious, energetic, assertive, outgoing, jovial, talkative, fun-loving, active and passionate. On the other hand, people who score low on extraversion tend to be reserved, quiet, sober, passive, unfeeling and lonely. The people on the latter side of extraversion are generally referred to as introverted. On this continuum (from high to low score) of extraversion, where can we fittingly place Mary, the mother of Jesus? On the whole, she measures moderately on this scale. Let's critically examine her life. Though 'not invited' at the Cana wedding, she chooses to show affection toward the needy couple and actively involves herself in their story. Mary accurately senses their near-embarrassment circumstance and acts



swiftly to save the situation. So, she approaches her son Jesus and demands, “They have no wine”, a call that brings hope, fulfilment and joy. Jesus rises to the occasion and performs his first miracle.

Again, we see assertiveness in her instruction to the wedding attendants, “Do whatever he tells you”. Despite the somewhat discouraging response from her son, “Woman, what do we have in common? My hour has not come yet.”, she presses forward with her demand. She demonstrates confidence and faith in her son. She does not recoil into her shells; no! Mary anticipates what her son can do, therefore, she goes closer to the attendants to inform them: the man you see is able; obey his word. I am his mother, and I know what he is made of. All this seems to be contained in her special instruction.

The Magnificat depicts her as an expressive and gregarious person. The Blessed Virgin joyfully pours her heart out. She does not suppress her positive emotions but manifests them in the sweet melody of a song. She traces the wonders of God in her experiences

and Israel’s history and duly renders thanks to the author of her life. Mary does not mask her feelings and thoughts; she expresses them extraordinarily.

Moreover, the Blessed Virgin was often seen in Jesus’ entourage. This is evident that she was never on the fence; Mary was a very active person- “A lady with dust on her feet”. From the available evidence, we observe that the Blessed Virgin Mary possesses many extraversion traits. They are, though, discreetly expressed in the Bible. However, tracing some extraversion traits like talkativeness, joviality and fun-loving is hard. Hence, we evaluate her moderately on the scale of extraversion.

# GRADUATION CEREMONY

## Our Good Mother School, Ashalaja



Our Good Mother School presented 27 candidates as the first set of students to sit for the Basic Education Certificate Examination. The results were as follows: Aggregate (*Figures in Red*) and Number of Students: 6(1); 7(2); 8(8); 9(3); 10(5); 11(2); 12(5); 13(1)

On 18th February 2023, the Staff, Parents, Students and well wishers of the school assembled to celebrate the Success of the first batch of students who all registered good results. Special guest of honor was Br Paul Adu, fms who in his capacity as pioneer headmaster handed certificates to the students.

Speeches, choreography, cultural displays made the day a colourful one.



# THE ROLE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE SERVICE OF EVANGELIZATION [2]

**Br Augustine Teye Naatey**

In the previous article, we looked at evangelization as a concept which ultimately seeks liberation from everything and anything that oppresses man. We also highlighted the fact that as a religious organization within the Church, the Marist Vocation and its mission find their proper place in the church's evangelization agenda. This article seeks to explore the Mission and Vision of Catholic Education. The Mission and Vision of Catholic Education

Since the great commission by the Lord, Evangelization became the nature and character of the Church. It is therefore obvious that Evangelization is the Church's mission, and it lives for this single purpose. In other words, it is a contraction in terms to have an organization that is described as, a Church that does not promote the salvation of the human person.

The Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum Educationis, 1965) states unambiguously three main functions of Catholic Education which I consider as the Church's education mission and vision. First, Catholic

Education is to create for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity. From this understanding, it is quite clear that Catholic schools are to be driven by the gospel of Christ. Hence, the management, system, organisation, as well as approach to teaching and learning must reflect and promote freedom, justice and love. Our saintly founder Marcellin Champagnat must have been well informed about this concept when he admonished his brothers to love the children in their care if they wished to teach them well.

It is important to remind catholic educators about their role in accompanying students in their journey of faith. Another function of Catholic Education is to help youth grow according to the new creatures they were made through baptism as they develop their personalities. The school is therefore conceived to be an enabling environment where young people grow their faith. The document, In

# THE ROLE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION ... cont'd

the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat, does not mince words when describing our schools. According to the book, as a Catholic school, a Marist School is a community setting in which faith, hope and love are lived and communicated (pg 27). The document further stressed that it is in this community setting that students are progressively initiated into their lifelong challenge of harmonizing faith, culture and life. While the parish lives to nourish the faith and spiritual life of Christians, Catholic Schools must feel an integral part of the pastoral agenda of the church and fulfil this mission with passion.

The Church as a leaven lives to direct humanity towards the experience of joy and happiness which is human's salvation. This brings us to the third function of Catholic Education: It is to order the whole of human culture to the news of salvation so that the knowledge the students gradually acquire of the world, life and

man is illumined by faith. The Church feels responsible for guiding humanity towards its proper end – one with God. Rightly so, the Catholic Church has put in place structures that make it possible for young people to grow and develop within the Christian philosophy.

Many of our educational centres seem to have lost the meaning of the third mission of the Church in the area of education. While commending many religious institutes for excellent work in education, we should not be oblivious to the unnecessary competition of some of our catholic schools with the world. We must begin to ask ourselves the extent to which our Marist schools are fulfilling these core mandates of the Church. In most countries, there are sharp declines in the catholic population as against those other faiths. As one of the giant organisations responsible for education, we cannot be unconcerned about this development. It is imperative to take the education in the faith (Catechesis) in our schools more seriously than ever.

# Fraternal support



## Cameroon



On Thursday, 2nd of February 2023 the Marist Brothers in Cameroon gathered in Fundong in the North West region to bid farewell to Bobe Awoh Maindu Blasius, Father of Br Peter Awoh. Our parents are an important part of our lives. Though they may no longer be with us physically, their memories live on forever.

## Côte d'Ivoire

**Br Derick Ndi**

Similar to this, the Brothers in Côte d'Ivoire participated in Mama Yao Ahoua Juliette's funeral service was held on Saturday, the 18th of February 2023. She was the elder sister of Br Sylvain Yao. The ceremony took place in her home village, Kongondekro, very Close to Bouaké town. May her soul and the souls of all departed rest in perfect peace.



# St. Marcellin Champagnat School (MCS) - Buokrom, Ghana

Br John Arietta Lopez (First from the right) from Venezuela, arrived Accra on Tuesday 28th February 2023 and traveled to Kumasi two days later. Currently, he is in his community of Buokrom with the rest of the Community members.



The way of the Cross done by the students of St Marcellin Champagnat School, Buokrom

## Ivory Coast - Bouaké

On Ash Wednesday Centre Scolaire St Marcellin Champagnat, Bouaké celebrated Mass at midday with the school staff and some students.



# PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR VISITS MIC

*By Br Terence Banseka*

The visit of the provincial has always been a moment of great expectation and enthusiasm. This year was not an exception for the student brothers and formators at MIC.

On the 6th of January 2023, the provincial arrived at MIC for a canonical visit and for the Assembly for African Provincials and their Councillors. During this period, he spent most of his stay with the brothers visiting and listening to them. On Sunday the 29th, the provincial had a family meeting with all our brothers in MIC and those living outside of MIC. He started his talk to the brothers by encouraging them to live what he called the “CCC”.

The first C stands for Communion: He reminded the brothers to live in Communion with one another to strengthen the bond of family spirit. This could be expressed through celebrations, monthly prayers, and other social activities. He called on the brothers to think first of the province and not their countries.

The second C for Collaboration: Here the Provincial encouraged everyone to work together as a group - it is in doing so that we can meet our expected aim as Brothers in MIC and the province at large. 'We are all called to work together for the benefit of the province which at the end of the day, we can

produce something tangible' he stressed."

Thirdly, Communication. He emphasized the importance of communication in our life as brothers. Being able to respond to information sent to us and giving the proper information at the right time. He further updated the brothers on the happenings back in the province and then made special reference to the ongoing projects and the well-being of the brothers working in different countries.

Finally, the brothers took the opportunity to celebrate the provincial's birthday in a symbolic gesture of the 3C's. The provincial demonstrated this by feeding each brother with a piece of cake.

