



Marist Brothers – Irmãos Maristas

Province of Southern Africa – Província da África Austral

NEWSLETTER

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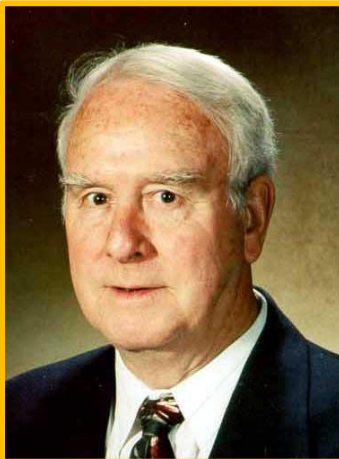
BETH CODE – like many volunteers – was recalled to her home country on account of the pandemic. She came to say goodbye to the Johannesburg community before she left for Australia.



Spanish Steps, Rome, in Normal Times



Spanish Steps, Rome, during LOCKDOWN



Br Powell Prieur
b.1929 – d.2020

This Canadian Brother worked in Zimbabwe and Zambia from 1953 to 1976, before being appointed Secretary General of the Institute. He later served as a General Councillor to both Br Charles Howard and Br Benito Arbues. He played a major role in setting up MIC (Nairobi), and served as its Vice-Rector for two years.



GOOD NEWS during the Epidemic! Yanira Soriano (36), a new mum meets her baby for the first time 12 days after a caesarean while in a medically-induced coma. (She was Covid-19 positive) (BBC)



The Piazza of St Peter's Basilica
March 2020

Lord Jesus,

Hear our pleas, our good shepherd and divine physician. We implore your mercy in the wake of an outbreak of serious illness and disease.

And may all you have called from this life come to worship you eternally with all the saints as you grant consolation and peace to their mourners. Amen.

MARY IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19

MESSAGE FROM BROTHER NORBERT

At the beginning of May, we implore Mary's maternal care and solidarity with the global family affected by Covid-19 over the past months.

Our Good Mother is a remarkable figure with her life experiences of joy, sorrow and hope. She fittingly shares experiences similar to those we feel in the face of pandemic. Mary cares for us and empathises with our suffering global family.



CARE Two months ago, at the Meeting in Rome of the Provincials and District leaders, "CARE" was among the core topics discussed at length and that it needed to be regarded as a take away package to our respective Administrative Units.

We shared in groups on the following questions, questions that are meaningful to our Brothers and Lay persons who are a part of the family of Champagnat Marists:

- ✚ How do we care for ourselves?
- ✚ How do we care for others?
- ✚ How do we care for the material goods and resources for our mission?
- ✚ How do we care for our common home, the planet?

Let us allow Mary to outline a pathway for us in the light of her own experience.

At the Annunciation, Mary did not fully understand what the message meant and the paths she would have to take in bringing Jesus into the world. However, after the angel's explanation, she put her utter trust and confidence in God. Her courageous trust and faith helped her to believe that *nothing is impossible for God*.

During the worldwide experience of Covid-19, do we still believe that God is able to put the world right? Do we have the hope and trust in God, a trust without any limits?

At the Visitation, Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth included a gesture of self-sacrifice, dedicated service and human solidarity to a needy and elderly woman.

In our time, we have medical personnel, doctors, nurses and other carers who have selflessly worked overtime to help the world in need. This has involved taking risks as they treat victims of the virus and bury the deceased.

At Cana, "When the wine ran short, the Mother of Jesus said to him, *They have no wine.*" The world is in a state of fear and uncertainty in the face of an unseen virus. May Mary in her concern and solidarity with the global family intercede for us with her Son to bring some lasting good to the world out of the pandemic. International organisations, governments and Church leaders are working together to institute measures to help control the spread of the virus. As members of society, we have a religious obligation and a civic duty to follow these preventive measures against the spread of the virus.

At the foot of the cross "Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved."

Mary suffered both a physical and an emotional pain as she witnessed her dying son. Since the Covid-19 outbreak, close on 200 thousand lives have been lost. The number of confirmed cases and of deaths continues to rise. Mary in her compassion would feel the pain a mother for the suffering of family of humanity. She is to us a caring mother and companion who stays with us in our situation of isolation or quarantine in a country lockdown. At the same time, she is there to console families that have lost a loved one.

A time of waiting in hope and prayer, "When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying ... all these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women and Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers."

It is enormously challenging for our countries and the many people we serve to see the devastating effects of Covid-19. However, as believers in the Lord, we remain together, united in thought and prayer.

Let us continue to hope for a better world when the epidemic is a thing of the past. In the words of one writer, "***we will probably have a deeper understanding of how little we actually need, how much we truly have, and the extraordinary value of human love and connection.***"

MARY OUR ORDINARY RESOURCE

.... PROTECT AND GUIDE US.

Norbert
NORBERT

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

MAY	
01-05-1987	Godfrey Kadzuwa
03-05-1992	Andrew Mandala
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
15-05-1975	Kasongo Mwape
17-05-1982	Chrisantius Mwansa
20-05-1993	Samuel Longenda
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

PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS

FOR MAY That deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church. Amen.

FOR JUNE That all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the heart of Jesus. Amen.

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Let us pray for those who have contracted the illness, and for the health workers who risk their lives in caring for them.

FOR PEACE in AFRICA and the MIDDLE EAST

FOR OUR ELDERLY & AILING BROTHERS e.g. Br Paul Nkhoma (95); João Torcato (87); James Langlois (87); Fernand Dostie (86); Emmanuel Lapointe (85); Angel Mansoa (84); Jude Pieterse (80)

FOR OUR LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT when they need to make critical decisions about restrictions during the current pandemic.



The RED-CRESTED TURACO is the National Bird of ANGOLA.

It is said that if you use one of its feathers to stir a glass of water, it will turn the water pink!

MESSAGE TO MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT



A MESSAGE FROM THE MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

These are times that none of us expected or indeed could have imagined. COVID-19 has stolen into our lives and the lives of millions of people across the globe. It is an unseen, uninvited and fearsome foe. Generations before us have had to contend with their own disasters and battles and this one is ours, so how do we contend with it?

We stand together, we pray together, we support each other and we keep in contact. We take our steadfast lead from our Founder, St Marcellin Champagnat, and we turn to our Good Mother and ask her to intercede for us with Jesus Christ our Lord. We cannot panic, we cannot fight with each other, we cannot withdraw. Times like these call for us to turn to each other, not from each other, to share and not to hoard, to sing out and not to be silent.

Br Fortune Chakasara

Marist Brother

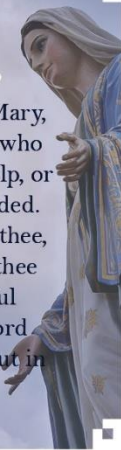
Marist Prayer

Transform us Jesus, and send us
as a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope
in this turbulent world,
to be the face and hands of your tender mercy.
Inspire our creativity to be bridge-builders,
to journey with children and young people on
the margins of life,
and to respond boldly to emerging needs.

Marist General Chapter 2017

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who
fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or
sought thy intercession was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee
do I come; before thee I stand, sinful
and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word
Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in
thy mercy hear
and answer me. Amen.



**ST JOSEPH'S
MARIST COLLEGE**
Rondebosch, Cape Town
Est. 1918



**SACRED HEART COLLEGE
MARIST OBSERVATORY**
Observatory, Johannesburg
Est. 1924



**ST HENRY'S
MARIST COLLEGE**
Berea, Durban
Est. 1929



**ST DAVID'S
MARIST INANDA**
Inanda, Johannesburg
Est. 1941



**MARIST BROTHERS
LINMEYER**
Linmeyer, Johannesburg
Est. 1966



OUR MARIST WAY OF EDUCATING DURING COVID-19

Dr Frank Malloy – MSA Director



We reproduce here below a letter that Dr Frank Malloy – National Director of the [Marist Schools of Australia](#) – sent on April 7 to all the directors of Marist Schools in Australia. It is an important message for all Champagnat Marists working in education around the world.

COVID-19 – Quality Learning and Teaching

Your continued support of the students, staff and parents in your school community and the calm approach you are taking in leading others during the COVID-19 crisis is greatly appreciated. Your faith-filled, intelligent, generous, and courageous leadership continues to define our collective Marist response. In this critical time, as *leaders of learning*, we are called to consistently promote and inspire high aspirations for learning and teaching with our students, staff and parents. It is not an easy task. Vital is the need to bring a growth mind-set to the delivery of high quality learning and teaching in the midst of the greatest health and economic crisis in our shared life experience. As *leaders of learning*, we are compelled to grow the engagement, progress and achievement of every student in our care.

A new learning paradigm

Schools across the world are grappling with the challenge of delivering learning to students in their homes. In most of the developed countries, online learning has become “mainstream”. As with many other industries, businesses, and services, responses to the impacts of the virus are likely to influence education in some ways for many years to come. Learning and teaching from home is a paradigm shift for our students and educators. Without a physical classroom, leaders and teachers are seeking new ways to gather feedback on how students are engaged and progressing. Maintaining a culture of collaboration and mutual support between teachers and, teachers with middle and senior leaders is paramount. Ensuring as much as possible equity of access to offsite learning, particularly for our boarding school students from remote areas presents further challenges. For some of our students for whom home is frequently a volatile and unsettled environment, learning from home is proving difficult. The Australian media is currently reporting the increased pressures on parents to work from home while, at the same time, ensuring their children are learning.

Our Marist way of educating during COVID-19

As always, and particularly at this time of crisis, the capacity of our Marist schools to continue to deliver high quality learning and teaching for each of the students in our care is a fundamental priority. The goal of every school in this matter is clear: to maintain and grow the engagement, progress and achievement of every student. This is sacred work. It is the work we are called to do in the spirit of Saint Marcellin and our Marist mission:

We exist to support the Catholic Church’s evangelising mission to make Jesus known and loved and to ensure quality education in the Marist tradition (Marist Schools Australia Mission Statement).



Following an intense period of close consultation by the MSA Regional Directors with all MSA Principals, necessitated by the COVID-19 crisis, the following *learning principles* are presented in an effort to capture our shared commitment at this time and provide support and guidance as we continue to further develop, deliver and refine the practices and processes of offsite learning arrangements

(The full statement by Dr Frank Malloy is available on the International Marist Website at <https://champagnat.org/en/our-marist-way-of-educating-during-covid-19/>)

SOUTH SUDAN

(Part 2)

31 Religious and Laypeople from 19 congregations and 18 different nationalities

Brothers Christian Mbam and Longinus Uche on special mission in Africa



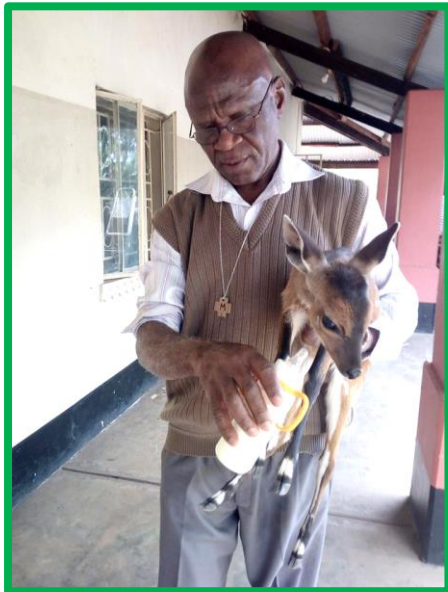
“The Solidarity Project of South Sudan is not a Relief Agency as such, but with the phenomenon of internal displacement of so many people, it was created to provide them with services”, said Br. Christian Ndubisi Mbam, when talking about one of the challenges of the Solidarity project in South Sudan.

“I love every bit of my stay here though at times it becomes a challenge. The most trying difficulty here is the lack of human resources”, added Br. Longinus Uche Dimgba, who is also a member of this initiative.

The [Solidarity Project of South Sudan](#) (SSS), currently operates with 5 inter-congregational communities.

(The previous issue of this Newsletter reported Part 1 dealing with Brother Christian Mbam)

PART 2 – CONTRIBUTED BY BR. LONGINUS UCHE



“**started work** in Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio in 2015. The school opens each day with an assembly and prayer. The prayer accommodates every student’s taste. Each semester also opens and closes with Eucharistic celebrations. It is a place nice to live and study and it is free of charge.

We used to graduate two sets of students each year but the security of the road deteriorated and we started graduating three sets in a year: April, August and December. Each year is a bit hectic.

The classes are arranged in levels and we have four Levels. Every semester qualifies a student to the next level on a good grade pass of the subjects. We have one semester of bridging class for those who speak Arabic. It is a nice school. I wish they put into practice, at home, the spirit of unity inculcated in them.

The teachers we train are very useful to the primary schools all over the country. Here in Riimenze six of them have resurrected our parish nursery and primary schools and we are very grateful to them.

Now I am in Riimenze, a 30 minutes’ driving from Yambio on a good road but it takes about an hour and a half to be there because of bad road. Life in Riimenze is good.

Presently we are three in the community, two brothers and one sister. On the 9th of this month will be just my first month in the community. I work in the farm, feed the animals and visit the internal displaced people who are next to our entrance gate.

Generally, the people of South Sudan are good to live with. There are cheerful and accommodating. I thank God and the Marist Brothers for giving me this opportunity. I love every bit of my stay here though at times it becomes a challenge.

The highest biting problem here is the lack of human resources. There are too many things to be done each day”.

“SOME ADVICE FROM CHAMPAGNAT” – DURING LOCKDOWN

(by Elena San Martin) (Read downwards first, then across)

HELLO AGAIN!

I'M MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



I BRING YOU SOME TIPS FOR STAYING HOME DURING THESE DAYS

AVOID TOO MUCH INFORMATION

NO MORE INTERNET FOR TODAY



IT'S GOOD TO BE INFORMED, BUT WHEN WE SATURATE OUR MIND WITH NEWS (SOME FALSE) IT MAY CAUSE ANXIETY. THAT'S WHY, TRY TO READ OR SEE NEWS ONLY ONCE A DAY AND AVOID SENSATIONAL HEADLINES.

REMEMBER THAT THE NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA ARE NOT ALWAYS TRUE, BUT IF FOR ANY REASON, THE INFORMATION MAKES YOU AFRAID OR NERVOUS, TALK WITH YOUR PARENTS OR SOME ADULT WHOM YOU TRUST.

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH YOUR GRANDPARENTS, COUSINS, UNCLAS, AUNTS, FRIENDS, ETC.

HI GRANDMA, HOW ARE YOU?



CREATE A SOCIAL NETWORKS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO HELP BREAK THE DISTANCE OF TIME AND SPACE.

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LET ALL YOUR LOVED ONES KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE TO YOU.

CONNECT WITH GOD

THANK YOU LORD FOR THIS MOMENT OF PAUSE.



FAITH ALLOWS US TO NOURISH HOPE AND LOVE. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYER. GIVE YOURSELF THE TIME TO SPEAK AND LISTEN TO GOD.

GET ACTIVE

IT IS NORMAL THAT WHEN OUR ROUTINE IS CHANGED, WE WANT TO SLEEP MORE OR SPEND MORE TIME SITTING. HOWEVER, THIS PASSIVITY WILL HARM OUR SPIRIT.

SO...

AND ONE, AND A TWO AND A THREE...

GET UP EARLY. DO EXERCISES. CLEAN YOUR LIVING SPACES. START YOUR PROJECT. PREPARE YOUR GARDEN. DANCE BUT... NEVER STOP MOVING.



WE HAVE COME TO REALISE THAT WE ARE IN THE SAME BOAT,

EVERYONE IS FRAGILE AND DISORIENTED;

BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY, WE ARE ALL CALLED TO ROW TOGETHER. ALL ARE NEEDED TO COMFORT EACH OTHER.



WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT

AND REMEMBER...

STAY AT HOME & ENJOY YOUR FAMILY !

TOGETHER AND WITH THE HELP OF JESUS AND MARY, WE WILL MOVE BEYOND THIS.



BEING AT HOME AND HAVING PAUSED YOUR REGULAR LIVES WILL ALLOW YOU TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME ALONE.

GIFT YOURSELF 10 MINUTES TO MEDITATE EVERY DAY AND BE ABLE TO CONNECT WITH YOURSELF.

THE BEST WAY TO KEEP CALM IN THE STORM, IS TO ACHIEVE INNER PEACE.

DOING THIS CALMS ME



GIFT A FEW MINUTES FOR YOURSELF



WHEN SOMETHING CHANGES OUR RHYTHM AND LIFESTYLE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO PLAN OUR DAYS, TRY TO DEDICATE TIME TO:

EAT WELL
SLEEP WELL
STUDY
RECREATE
MEDITATE
COOPERATE
CLEAN

WHAT WILL I DO TODAY?



IT IS TEMPTING TO BE IN OUR PYJAMAS AND GO WITHOUT SHOWERING FOR SEVERAL DAYS, BUT DISCIPLINE AND ORDER WILL BE OUR ALLIES TO TAKE CARE OF OUR WELL-BEING. DO NOT FORGET THAT 'THE SEED OF ALL EVIL IS LAZINESS.'

PLAN YOUR DAY



Many parents are just about to discover the teacher was not the problem.



GRANDCHILDREN CAN BE CUTE

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday.

He asked me how old I was, and I told him, "72".

My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETS ALL OUR PROVINCIALS

(The event took place in the first week of March,
before the “Lockdowns” began)



LEFT

Br Ernesto Sánchez
(Superior General)

RIGHT

Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez
(Vicar General)

BELOW

Group Work
by the participants





THE GENERAL COUNCILS OF THE MARIST BROTHERS AND THE DE LA SALLE BROTHERS APPROVE THE OPENING OF THE FRATELLI PROJECT IN MAICAO, COLOMBIA

After a profound period of discernment, the General Councils of the Marist Brothers and De La Salle approved the opening of the Fratelli Project in Maicao, Colombia. The Superior General of the Marist Brothers, Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba, and the Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers, Robert Schieler,

sent a shared letter to the Provincials and Visitors on March 4th, in which they officially announced their decision. This new action confirms the cooperation between the two Congregations, giving continuity to the initiative of 2015 that consisted in the creation of the Fratelli Project in Lebanon.

The following is the letter from the Superiors General.

4 March 2020

Dear Brothers Provincial and Visitors of the De La Salle and Marist Brothers,

We send you fraternal greeting at the beginning of our journey towards Easter.

As you will recall, since 2015 our two Institutes have been in dialog on how best to respond together to the calls of our General Chapters to go “...to new lands” (FMS) and “...beyond borders” (FSC): the result was the **Fratelli Project**.

This project was born as a joint resolution with a view to providing a prompt international response to crises related to displaced persons, especially children and youth, in cross-border situations in different parts of the world. The urgency was then, and unfortunately still is today, the drama of the Syrian refugees in the countries of the Middle East. With this initial concern, we opened the first Fratelli community in Rmeilleh, Saidah (the biblical Sidon) in Lebanon. There we conduct several centres for displaced Syrian, Iraqi and Lebanese refugee children and young people. The experience has been successful from many points of view. In addition to effectively attending to the needs of these refugees, the initiative has attracted the cooperation and enthusiasm of both the FSC and FMS religious and educational communities in Lebanon. One local Brother calls the initiative “a blessing” for the country.

Yet since its very beginning, the vision of our two General Councils has been oriented to the global reality and not just to the Middle East refugee crisis. We could not stop there with the satisfaction of a job well done, closing our eyes to other realities. In fact, since the beginning of 2019 both General Councils have been studying the possibility of starting a second Fratelli Project in 2020. We studied 3 possible locations: the Venezuela-Colombia border, the USA-Mexico border and Nabawan on the island of Borneo, East Malaysia. We soon realized that in Nabawan there is already an effective response in a well-structured Marist-Lasallian collaboration that can continue without our intervention.



After several reports and visits to gather data and to know better the border situation between Venezuela and Colombia and between Mexico and the United States, carried out by Brothers and Partners of our two Institutes, as well as the exchanges with the Marists and the Lasallians in situ and inspired by the work that

they are already doing at various points on both borders, we are writing to you to inform you of a new joint educational project. The project has been approved by the two General Councils under the following framework:

Open a new **Fratelli Project in Maicao, Colombia**. Once this process is initiated and attentive to ongoing discernment, we remain open to future Fratelli Projects, giving preference to the option of Ciudad Juárez on the border USA – Mexico.

We will soon give you more details about the project and the way in which Brothers and Partners can formally express their interest in being part of the next Fratelli community in Maicao, Colombia.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation and encouragement for other collaborative initiatives between our two Institutes as well as for projects that continue to emerge in various Provinces, Districts and Regions.

Let us place all these experiences, and especially this second Fratelli Project, into the hands of our Blessed Mother and our holy Founders.

Fraternally,

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC

Brother Superior

Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba, FMS

Brother Superior



OUR FORMATION HOUSES UNDER LOCKDOWN

1. NAIROBI, KENYA – MARIST INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



Kenya as a country has not been spared from the Corona pandemic. The first case was diagnosed about a month and two days ago.

President Uhuru Kenyatta was quick to direct that learning in all institutions in the country be suspended. In view of this, and since the academic side of MIC is the MIUC, a constituent college of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA). In an extraordinary meeting of the 16 March, the Senate suspended all physical learning in the college. The principal therefore

communicated to the students. The day students were asked to stay at home and lectures would be sent to the students in the form of reading materials and assignments so as they could continue studying and prepare for the evaluations of the second semester.

In the past fourteen days, things went rather sadder since one member of the community was discovered to be corona -19 virus positive. He was therefore taken into isolation and the community was put under 14 days' quarantine. During these days of the quarantine nobody was allowed to get in or go out of MIC.

As of now these are some of the practices we have adopted: entering and leaving the campus is strictly controlled; anybody coming in has a temperature check, hand washing at the gate, wearing face mask. As a community common prayers and even Masses have been suspended. The community is doing Exposition of the Eucharist from 8am to 12 noon. And from 2pm to 6pm. Brothers have signed up times when they go for adoration. Accompaniment was suspended during the 14 days' quarantine and now its back. As a community we have also assigned each fraternity a day to do the cooking and washing of the plates in the main kitchen.

Despite the various adjustments in community and student life, the spirit remains serene: at times it resembles retreat time.

PS: The community member diagnosed as Covid-positive has recovered, but has not yet returned to the Centre.

(Br Nicholas Banda, 15 April 2020)

2. MATOLA, MAPUTO – MARIST NOVITIATE

From the Novitiate Desk

The coronavirus pandemic has created a crisis of anticipation. The main preoccupation is, “What will happen tomorrow? Events that could have happened; like the official acceptance of our first-year novices and many other plans have been indefinitely suspended. The weekly routines like the much-anticipated Sunday walks, attending mass at the parish have also been put on hold. During this period of disorientation, our hope is anchored in the Lord who is constantly reminding us not to worry about tomorrow for it will take care of itself. It is an invitation to us, to trust in the Almighty God. We are managing under these difficult circumstances and adhering to the health guidelines from the authorities and at the same

or leaves our premises is cleansed. We are not taking chances.



**NOT a group of masked bandits
but the novitiate community!**



**Br António Pisco is keen to demonstrate
the importance of hand-washing**

time praying for an end to this menace.

Instructions from the Ministry of Health during the Corona Virus Epidemic

The Novitiate community has yielded to the most effective ways to protect ourselves and others against COVID-19. Masks have been availed and Brother Lawrence went to great lengths explaining their correct use, for they can be a source of infection as well. The custom of washing of hands, has been enforced to make sure whoever comes

Spiritual needs

We have been under quarantine for some weeks now with minimal contact with people beyond our walls. Parish Masses have been put on halt until further notice. Credit is given to our Chaplains; we have not been deprived of the spiritual food. We have mass six times a week save for Saturdays.

Visa status of the 2020 Novices.

The Ministry of Justice on which the immigration is an appendage suspended all the new applications, therefore the first years to be have not arrived except for Leonardo who does not require visa.

Faced with this invisible threat, just like our Father Champagnat in moments like these, we go to Mary as a child to its mother. Let the Salve Regina re-echo!

United in Champagnat

The Novitiate Desk



3. CHAMPAGNAT HOUSE, POSTULANCY, MTENDERE

Brother Gilbert Zenda, Master of Postulants, reports that all the Brothers at our three houses in Mtendere are well. Lockdown, of course, has been decreed for all schools and tertiary institutions in Malawi.

In the country as a whole, the number of cases of infection by Covid-19 is relatively small, but is increasing. Data on the Web (24 April 2020) show 33 confirmed cases, 3 recoveries, and 3 deaths. Malawi is a poor country: it has just one intensive care bed for every million people, but other places in Africa are even less well equipped to cope with the pandemic: Sierra Leone has no ICU beds at all, and South Sudan has only two ventilators for 12 million people (*The Tablet* 25 April 2020). [See Photo of Champagnat House p. 16]



BIRTHDAYS IN THE ZAMBIAN “BUNDU” ST. PAUL’S MULUNGUSHI



*During March and April, three birthdays were celebrated: Patrick Bushilya, Reuben Banda, and Norbert Mwila. Confectionery by Stephen Phiri!!
And Welcome Back to Africa... Br. Emmanuel Lapointe!*

MOZAMBIQUE – SHARING OUR CALL

Once again, Mrs. Pam Paton-Mills and Mr Mike Greeff ran a *Sharing our Call* Workshop outside their own country. The event took place over two days, 22 – 23 January 2020, in a hall belonging to the parish of São Miguel in Manhica.

The participants included leaders, teaching staff, and support staff from the three Marist schools in Mozambique (Manhica, Bilene, Nivava) as well as representatives of the *Fraternidade de Irmãos Unidos de Champagnat* (based in Chongoene, Gaza Province) – altogether over 80 persons.

The two leaders facilitated reflection on three core pillars of being MARIST: **spirituality, mission and community.**



Pam Paton-Mills; Br Geraldo Medida; Mike Greeff



A Visit to the Elderly



MY LIFE IN BRAZIL – BR FELIZARDO MACEIA

It is with great joy that I write this article for the Newsletter. I am in Porto Alegre, the community of Santo Tomás Aquino of PUC (Pontifical Catholic University). The community is at the service of the University. The University currently has 41,350 students and is considered the best private university in Brazil and the second best in Latin America. All our classes are currently online via "Zoom".



The community currently has eight Brothers, but the number should be eleven. The more senior Brothers were transferred to the Provincial infirmary because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our community is the second largest in the Province. Our Superior is the youngest Brother in the community, only 41 years old; the oldest is 97 years old.



I left Mozambique for Brazil on 7 March 2018 to follow the Masters program in Management in Education at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil. I arrived at the week of initiation for postgraduate program students. I returned to Mozambique in October of the same year to do fieldwork (research) on the theme under study. I worked with the teachers at the *Marist School in Manhica*. The response was excellent and this made it easier for me to analyze the data and obtain clear results. Once that was done, I finished the Master's degree which I defended on 31 July 2019.

Towards the end of the course, I asked the Provincial, Br Norbert Mwila and his Council, for permission to continue my studies. My proposal was accepted and I registered for the doctorate in September 2019.

Currently, I am doing my PhD in education (Training, Policies and Practices in Education: Teacher Training). I should finish the curricular courses later this year (2020) and if all goes well, I'll defend the project. I will return to Mozambique early next year to work, as my contract with Manhica District Government ends in December of this year. I will then have to return to Brazil to defend the thesis.

As a requirement, for qualifications, I have participated in both national and international conferences and presented articles related to Mozambican education. The articles have already been published in Brazilian newspapers.

Before the appearance of the Coronavirus Pandemic "alias Covid-19", in my spare time I used to watch football matches on TV. The State of Rio Grande do Sul, "Porto Alegre" has two football teams (GRENAL: Grêmio and Internacional) that are very popular with the gaúcho public, including the Brothers. The community is divided into three teams "Grêmio, Internacional and São José". I watch a lot of games at home and sometimes I've even been to the stadium. It's great!

Finally, I would like to thank our Provincial, Brother Norbert Mwila, who gave me this opportunity to deepen my knowledge in the area of Education. Secondly, my thanks also to the Province of Brazil Sul-Amazônia, in the person of the Provincial, Brother Inácio Nestor Etges, for accepting me in his Province. Finally, I want to thank everyone who directly or indirectly are contributing to my formation. May God bless you today and always.

(Br Felizardo Maceia, April 2020)



Part of the University Campus: The tall building on the left is the library – it has fifteen floors!

AN OVERVIEW OF INITIAL FORMATION IN THE INSTITUTE

During the meeting of Provincials and District Superiors, the Secretariat of Brothers Today presented an overview regarding initial formation throughout the Institute. A global view and a regional picture can be seen below. Please note that the figures are the numbers as of **March 4, 2020**; they could be higher, and they could change in the next few days. Also, the numbers refer to where those in formation are at the moment, not necessarily from which country or region they come.

General view – Initial formation in the Marist Institute

	AFRICA	AMÉRICA SUR	ARCO NORTE	ASIA	EUROPE	OCEANIA	TOTAL
ASPIRANTS	29	17		25		14	85
POSTULANTS	23	25	20	27		3	98
NOVICES	67	10	22	15		5	119
SCHOLASTICS	74	12	28	26	3		143
ACTIVE	34	24	7	21	2	7	95

Aspirants	No.
Tanzania	4
Angola	22
Mozambique	3
Total	29

Novices	No.
Rwanda	22
Mozambique	17
Ghana	28
Total	67

Postulants	No.
Tanzania	3
Madagascar	7
Ghana	4
Nigeria	9
Total	23

In Active Ministry	No.
Rwanda	3
Congo	2
Southern Africa	12
Madagascar	4
West Africa	4
Nigeria	9
Total	34

Scholastics	No.
Kenya	74
Total	74

AFRICA

**Postulancy
CHAMPAGNAT HOUSE,
MTENDERE**

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever"

John Keats (1795 – 1821)

ATHEIST DOCTOR IN LOMBARDY, ITALY FINDS GOD IN THE MIDST OF A DESPERATE SITUATION IN HOSPITAL

CORONAVIRUS-DOCTOR IN LOMBARDY *"I WAS AN ATHEIST. NOW I BELIEVE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD"*



Julian Urban (38) --Doctor in Lombardy

"Never in the darkest nightmares have I imagined that I could see and experience what has been going on here in our hospital for three weeks.

The nightmare flows, the river gets bigger and bigger. At first just a few arrived, then dozens, and then hundreds. Now we are no longer doctors but we have become sorters on the tape and we decide who should live and who should be sent home to die, even if all these people have paid Italian taxes for life.

Until two weeks ago, my colleagues and I were atheists; it was normal because we are doctors and we learned that science excludes the presence of God.

I always laughed at my parents going to church.

Nine days ago a 75 year old pastor came to us; He was a kind man, had serious breathing problems but had a Bible with him and he impressed us that he read it aloud to the dying and held them by the hand.

We were all tired, discouraged, psychically and physically finished doctors when we had time to listen to him.

Now we have to admit: we as humans have reached our limits, we can't do more and more people die every day.

And we are exhausted, we have two colleagues who have died and others have been infected.

We realized that where what man can do we need God and we started asking for help from Him when we have a few free minutes; We talk to each other and we cannot believe that as ferocious atheists we are now every day in search of our peace, asking the Lord to help us resist so that we can take care of the sick.

Yesterday the 75-year-old pastor died; that to date, despite having had over 120 deaths in 3 weeks here and we were all exhausted, destroyed, he had managed, despite his condition and our difficulties, to bring us a PEACE that we no longer hoped to find.



The shepherd went to the Lord and soon we will follow him too if it continues like this.

I haven't been home for six days, I don't know when I last ate, and I realize my worthlessness on this earth and I want to take my last breath to help others.

I am happy to have returned to God while surrounded by the suffering and death of my fellow men.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thEweF2z-jo>



AN ICON AT SACRED HEART COLLEGE PASSES AWAY



"SAMMY" had been selling ice-creams at the College since the early 1960's. A very kind man, he was loved by the youngsters and occasionally he would offer them "credit". He never forgot the ones who owed him cash!

Born about 1941, he passed away on 26 April 2020. R.I.P.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FMSI ON THE COVID-19



“The impact of the COVID-19 Virus has been felt throughout the world. This pandemic crisis is a shock to our system and can have lasting effects on societies’ values. Much of what we read in the media concentrates on the ravages of the disease in Europe and the USA, and it is true the virus has had and will continue to have a devastating impact in these places.

However, this is a global pandemic. It is in those countries with less resources that the impact will be on the poorest and most marginalised people. The measures to slow the spread of the virus are difficult for all of us and are even more difficult for those who live in overcrowded settlements, refugee camps or on the streets. Social distancing and hand washing are not real options for those on the margins.

People living in or near poverty often lack disposable resources and cannot easily stockpile food or other basic necessities which compound vulnerability to the virus and contribute to a vicious cycle of disease, destitution and death. Poverty can fuel contagion, but contagion can also create or deepen impoverishment.

In many instances, those agencies which work to support the most marginalised have also had to curtail their efforts. Despite all the current difficulties, **FMSI** will continue to support education and community development projects for marginalised children in a number of poorer countries. True to our mission statement, **FMSI** strives to make the world a better place for children and young people, a place free from fear and want.

In looking back after the pandemic has passed – and it will pass – history will remember when we as a people fought for the weak and protected the most vulnerable. As we look to the future, our hope lies in our common humanity which binds us together as a global family”.



Br Ken McDonald C.G.



BLUE MARISTS (Syria) help the needy during the COVID-19 EPIDEMIC



Because of the measures implemented in Syria to limit the spread of the Coronavirus, many elderly, sick or poor people have been left alone and cannot afford their basic needs. Faced with this situation, the **Blue Marists** are providing assistance to a group of people living in difficult economic and social conditions. “During this time of pandemic and confinement, we Blue Marists are sensitive to the situation of the elderly, most of whom are isolated, destitute, disabled or ill,” say the Marists on [their Facebook page](#).



In this period of health crisis, the programme funded by [Misean Cara](#), through the mediation of the [Institute’s NGO, FMSI](#), is also helping vulnerable elderly people, by distributing food and other basic needs. Five vulnerable older women have been selected to work in the kitchen and prepare meals. One man is in charge of the necessary supplies, while Marist volunteers are in charge of distributing the food. The staff work under the supervision of Ms. Leyla Ataki Moussalli, one of the leaders of the [Blue Marists](#).

“Misean Cara”



This is an Irish organization which, in collaboration with the Government Agency “Irish Aid”, finances solidarity and development projects of missionary congregations. The Marist

Brothers, through [FMSI](#), also work in collaboration with [Misean Cara](#).

BR. JUDE'S BOOK RECOUNTS THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID ERA SEGREGATION IN EDUCATION

“The Open Schools Era (1976 – 1986)” is the title of a book published in recent days by the Marist Brothers from the province of Southern Africa. The work deals with the fight against separate education during the South African apartheid era and the role that the Marists – along with other Catholic congregations – played in favour of race-neutral education.

The book was written by Brother Jude Pieterse in collaboration with Mrs. Robyn Picas.

Brother Jude was a teacher and later Head at the former Marist Brothers College in Port Elizabeth in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At the end of 1974, he was appointed Provincial Superior of the then South African Province. In a decade-long collaborative process with leaders of other religious teaching congregations, he promoted the “opening” of segregated church schools to all “races”. It was a turbulent period in the history of South Africa. The struggle involved countless meetings with political and church leaders until legislation was eventually altered to allow for “open” schooling. At the end of his term as Provincial Superior, the Catholic

Bishops of Southern Africa initiated the Catholic Institute of Education, appointing Br Jude as its founding Director. Three years later, the same group of Bishops appointed Br Jude as their Secretary General, a key position during the final years of apartheid and the early years of a democratic South Africa.

In 2017, St Augustine College (a Catholic Tertiary Institution) recognised his achievements for the “common good” in South African society by conferring on him their “Bonum Comune” award, equivalent to an honorary doctorate.

Mrs. Robyn Picas, who collaborated for a full year in producing the book, worked for many years at Sacred Heart Marist College in Johannesburg, first as a teacher and later as head of the Primary School

In a video presentation of the book, Br Mario Colussi recalls how, in the late 1970s, Br Jude and his Council opened up senior administrative positions in our Marist institutions to lay persons, thereby fostering the promotion of Champagnat’s spirituality and eventually of “Lay Marists”. The presentation of the book can be found [at the following video](#):



HOW TO WELCOME A VISITOR DURING LOCKDOWN As Practised by the Rondebosch Community

We have two communities in the Western Province of South Africa: **Rondebosch**, serving St Joseph’s Marist College, and the International Community at **Darling**, nearly 100 km away, serving the people of Atlantis.

LOCKDOWNS have “trapped” four members of the Darling community in Brazil/Nigeria/Spain, leaving only two at base: Pietro Bettin (69) and Tony Clark (62).

The apostolate had to be adapted. Fit and healthy Tony now helps to feed hungry children at the school on three mornings a week, and additionally works with the St Vincent de Paul Society to prepare food parcels for the needy.

With Covid-19 about, Pietro must avoid Atlantis, where “social distancing” is often impossible. In the interim he is visiting the Rondebosch community. The accompanying photos show how careful the Brothers are with any visitors!



POEM IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

And the people stayed home.

**And they read books, and listened,
and rested, and exercised,
and made art, and played games,
and learned new ways of being, ,
and were still..**

And they listened more deeply..

**Some meditated, some prayed,
some danced..**

Some met their shadows. .

**And the people began
to think differently..**

And the people healed.

**And, in the absence of people living
in ignorant, dangerous,
mindless and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.**

**And when the danger passed,
and the people joined together again,
they grieved their losses,
and made new choices,
and dreamed new images, ,
and created new ways to live,
and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed..**

*(Cathy Mary O'Meara, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
www.the-daily-round.com 20 March 2020)*