



Marist Brothers – Irmãos Maristas

Province of Southern Africa – Província

NEWSLETTER

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MATOLA: FIRST AND FINAL PROFESSIONS

On 5 December, the Southern African Marists of Champagnat were joined by five new Brothers. As stipulated by our Constitutions, novices who have completed the required period (20-22 months), may be admitted to Annual Vows. During a Eucharistic celebration presided by our Parish Priest Fr João. Since the parish church was unavailable, the ceremony was held at the neighbouring school run by the Irmãs Franciscanas Mae do Divino Pastor.



(From left to right in the photo):

*James Masikiya,
Cornelio Mulambiki,
Eulalio Celestino,
Thokozani Aubrick, and
Evanca Masangano.*

Let us pray for these new Marist Brothers that they may witness brotherly love to the world after the manner of Jesus Christ.

At the same ceremony
Brother Dias Gemusse

was admitted to Perpetual Profession. We thank him for pledging to commit the rest of his life to make Jesus known and loved in the manner of Mary. An uncle of Br Dias represented his family on this special occasion

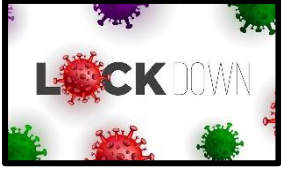


NEW YEAR MESSAGE

BROTHER NORBERT MWILA

Dear Brothers and Marists of
Champagnat,

It's an honour and a privilege to be able to send you this message at the dawn of the New Year.



The Lord has granted us his blessing to bring us safe to this day and in good health. With joyful and grateful hearts we have the

opportunity to thank the Lord for his graciousness and goodness to us.

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic and its devastating effects socially and economically, the Lord has never forgotten or abandoned us. He has been with us through the experience of these hard times of insecurity and uncertainty. Nonetheless, we have not been without hope that things will improve, even though the pandemic is still prevalent and daunting in some parts of the world.

At the time of this universal health crisis, the Lord has seen and known how much the pandemic has unsettled our lives and society. He also knows our greatest need is to recover by following the prescribed health guidelines to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.



Alongside faith and spiritual intercession, we cannot omit mentioning how people of goodwill have offered personal attention, material assistance, and financial aid. They have done much to alleviate the suffering caused by the pandemic.

On the other hand, circumstances have forced us to slow down and to look at alternatives and other ways of living in the midst of the crisis. A case in point is how the online communication has become so useful that there hasn't been much need for travel in the time of the pandemic. Similarly, our way of relating to God, to oneself, to other people and to the environment around us has also changed. Our minds and hearts have

shifted to have more passion for God and become more compassionate to our fellow human beings. The difficulties of the past year can now be seen as having emphasised and strengthened the virtue of hope, fostered our relationship with God, and made us more open to others in need.

"I believe that we are entering a new type of society, a service society, as economists say, but with a difference, a society where people serve one another. This crisis will raise the status of carers." (Alan Touraine, an eminent French sociologist b. 1925)



With the varied experiences in our communities, school ministries and countries come I would like to offer some reflections that we ought to make after the experience of lockdown:

- What do we **keep** as non-negotiable in Marist life and mission?
- What do we **start** in order to help us live Marist life and mission with passion?
- What do we **stop** to improve the witness of our lives and become more effective disciples of Mary and St. Marcellin?

In conclusion, I would like to suggest a reflection and a prayer at the same time for ourselves and for the children and young people we journey with.

PRAYER FOR THE WISE USE OF ICT

"Lord help us to use our phones wisely, and to help young people to do the same. Let us not give greater importance to our cell phones than to persons around us. Help us to avoid addiction to material that is trivial or potentially harmful. Amen."

Blessings for 2021 ...

Norbert
NORBERT



BIRTHDAYS

PRAYER INTENTIONS

JANUARY	
01-01-1925	Paul Nkhoma
01-01-1986	Sábado Valia
07-01-1986	Raymond Mbao
07-01-1993	Christopher Chagunda
07-01-1998	Tobias Mzembe (nov.ad.2020)
08-01-1977	Ebel Muteveri
20-01-1963	Evaristus Kasambwe
21-01-1995	Benson Taonele
27-01-1994	Sydney Moyenda
28-01-1962	Alexander Damalekani

INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS 2021

JANUARY

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all. Amen.

FEBRUARY

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded. Amen.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PROTECTION DURING THE CORONA VIRUS EPIDEMIC

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

FEBRUARY	
09-02-1979	Euclides Nangolo
14-02-1991	Mugove Chibwenga
15-02-1970	Frank Mwambucha
16-02-1974	Felizardo Maceia
19-02-1982	Richard Chidothi
21-02-1935	Angel Mansoa
21-02-1961	Ernesto Sánchez S.G.
22-02-1932	Claude Audy
28-02-1987	Moffat Phiri



SCENIC SPOTS IN MOZAMBIQUE



**CANADIAN MISSIONARIES TO MALAWI
CURRENTLY RETIRED IN “LA PATRIE” ...**



Brother Adrian



Brother Andrew



Br Raphael



Br Dennis



Br Georges



Br Simon



Brother Cajetan



Br John Charles

... & THEIR SUCCESSORS IN MALAWIAN COMMUNITIES



MALAWIAN BROTHERS – KEY

NOTE: The photos on Page 6 exclude Brothers staffing formation houses, and student Brothers at MIC

- 1 Christopher Chagunda
- 2 David Kachoka
- 3 Misheck Mkanthama
- 4 Boniface Chirambo
- 5 Arthur Ganiza
- 6 Francis Jumbe
- 7 John Bwanali
- 8 Paul Nkhoma
- 9 Auxensio Dickson
- 10 Joseph Murakho

- 11 John Katumbi
- 12 Frank Mwambucha
- 13 Elijah Madimba
- 14 Andrew Sikelo
- 15 Steven Chinsolo
- 16 Joseph Nsambo
- 17 Alexander Damalekani
- 18 Raphael Time
- 19 Yobu Mathias
- 20 Mark Chikandwe



POPE REFLECTS ON IMPACT OF ART AT A CRITICAL TIME

Pope Francis Speaks to Musicians of Vatican

Christmas Concert



Pope Francis pointed to three characteristics of art that can play an important role during this challenging Christmas season in which “the somewhat dimmed Christmas lights invite us to keep in mind and to pray for all those suffering from the pandemic.”

His comments came when he received the musicians who participated in this year’s Vatican Christmas Concert, gather in a meeting room adjacent to the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall. Artists everyone would no doubt appreciate his presentation of three artistic impacts:

“**A first movement** has to do with the senses, which are struck with wonder and amazement. This initial, outer movement then leads to others, more profound.

“**A second movement** touches the depths of our heart and soul. A composition of colours, words, or sounds has the power to evoke within us memories, images, and emotions...

“There is **a third movement**, in which the perception and contemplation of beauty generates a sense of hope that can light up our world.”

In light of the pandemic, the Holy Father praised the hope that art brings and thanked the musicians for their participation in the concert.



PHOTOS FROM THE MARIST WORLD

Marist World



India
Operation Rainbow



Uruguay
Maristas San Luis – Pando



Brazil
MaChFM



Lebanon
Collège Mariste Champville



Madagascar
Young Marists of Antsiranana



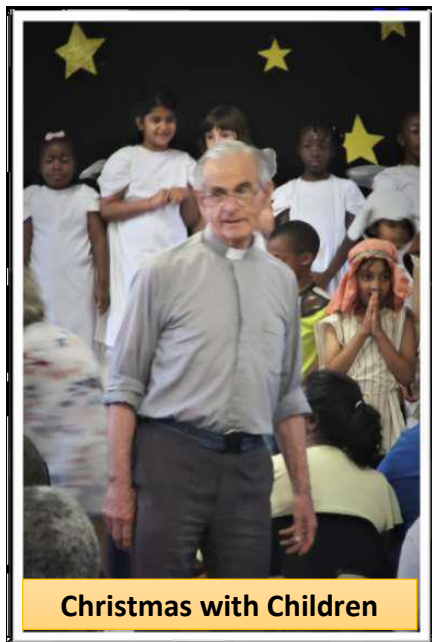
Samoa
Melchor Nowelle started his second year as a novice



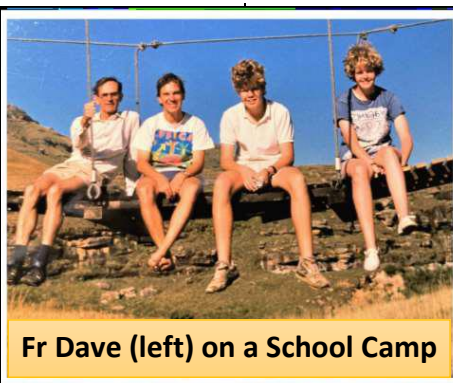
FR DAVE DRYDEN RETIRES FROM SACRED HEART COLLEGE

Dave Dryden SJ retired from Sacred Heart College at the end of October. On the occasion an outdoor Holy Mass was held in the high school quadrangle. Leading the liturgy was the Auxiliary Bishop of Johannesburg, Rt.

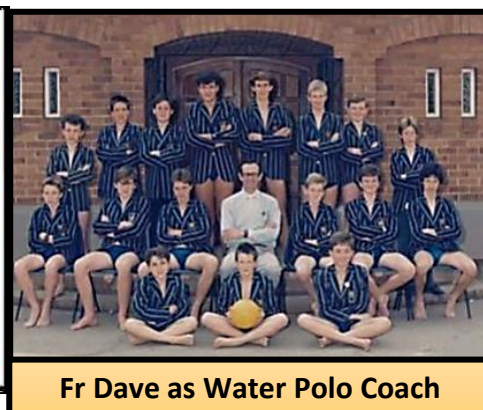
Rev. Duncan Tsoke. Among the tributes paid to Father Dave at the conclusion of the liturgy was the one from Bro Norbert Mwila read out on his behalf by Br Fortune Chakasara (Councillor for South Africa). The ceremony concluded with a Blessing read out by Br. Vincent George, Superior of the local community.



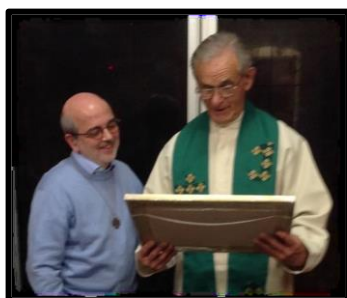
Christmas with Children



Fr Dave (left) on a School Camp



Fr Dave as Water Polo Coach



9 September 2016
Br Emili Turú S.G.
presents Fr David with the
Certificate of Affiliation
to the Marist Brothers

Tribute to Fr. Dave by the Marist Brothers

Dave Dryden has been associated with Marist Schools in South Africa since 1981 when he was appointed to the staff of St Joseph’s Marist College, Rondebosch, Cape Town. There he had a variety of roles: chaplain, teacher of science and mathematics, and sports coach. After moving to the Highveld, Father Dave also spent several years living with the community of the Brothers here in Observatory. In addition to the work that Father Dave does at Sacred Heart, he also provides chaplaincy services to Marist Brothers Linmeyer every Friday.

For the Brothers, Father Dave has been a friend, companion, and loyal supporter. We have grown to appreciate and love him for his gentleness, his honesty, his readiness to help out, and for his great flexibility in adapting the liturgy to the age of the young people in the congregation. He is seen as a very saintly and humble man. He shows interest in what one is doing, very complimentary and encouraging. Over and above these aspects, his presence with us has forged and fostered links with his own religious family, the Jesuits.

Persons like Father David become very special to the Institute of the Marist Brothers. To acknowledge our appreciation, we “affiliate” them to the Institute: they become “honorary Brothers”. A few years ago, our Superior General and his Council agreed to affiliate Father David to the Institute. In 2016, our then Superior General, visited South Africa. This occasion provided us with the opportunity to have Brother Emili himself present the Certificate of Affiliation. Ever since then, David Dryden is rightfully regarded by us as “Brother David”.

Brother Dave, for all that you have meant to us, THANK YOU. Br Norbert

Br Norbert
NORBERT

CAMEROON - SIGNS OF HOPE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND TATUM



Since November 2016, heaven has been stormed with prayers and supplications from all and sundry, at home and abroad, for an end to the socio-political crisis in Cameroon. Trusting that God's time is always the best, the Brothers in Tatum Community, the lone surviving Community in the English-Speaking region of Cameroon, recently challenged themselves to match prayers with action.

Hundreds of young people with no means of relocating to safer areas to continue education stranded in the village have been a cause for concern for everyone looking into the future, often said to be in the hands of the youth. Hence, without prompt intervention, their future and particularly that of teenage mothers and their children remains bleak.

It is from the above background that the three Brothers in this Community took the challenge as preparations for a new academic year was underway to do something for these hopeless cases.

In collaboration with the parents, an informal school setup has been put in place with some classrooms around the Community and the rest within the Mission premises. A team of committed teachers has equally been invited to collaborate with the Brothers and deliver quality wholistic education to these children from Form One to Form Five.

With assistance from FMSI office in Rome, within the context of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance, the young people in this program have so far received

some basic writing materials. This is a welcome relief since these have become very scarce in Tatum with the roadblocks and the fact that most prominent businessmen have relocated. As the learning process continues, more assistance in food items and sanitary equipment will equally follow.

As we call on Mary's continuous intercession, we continue seeking out the countless helpless young people and their families, victims of this senseless crisis that has brought everything to a standstill. This is our pride as Marists of Champagnat, not giving in to despair but instilling hope in them to believe that all is not lost.



Our Lady of Good Hope

TAIZÉ PRAYER ON ZOOM

Some two or three years ago, Pam Paton-Mills, a well-known lay Marist in several countries of our Province, began organising monthly one-hour prayer sessions in the style of the well-known ecumenical community in Taizé, France. On the first Sunday of each month, then, the sessions were held in the side-chapel of the large school chapel at Sacred Heart College. Attendees included a number of Marist volunteers (both local and from abroad), Pam's family members, some Brothers and others.

With the advent of lockdown early in the year, these sessions could no longer continue. Pam's son-in-law proved to be the able technician to organise these meetings on Zoom. The most recent of these meetings took place early in December: attendees joined us from several countries ... Germany, Australia, Spain, Kenya and, of course, RSA ... making a total of about 10 participants. Several student Brothers from MIC began attending these meetings in November. Their impressions are given below:

IMPRESSIONS OF STUDENT BROTHERS AT MIC

"If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose, Spring would lose its loveliness" St. Thérèse of Lisieux. This is the phrase that touched my heart from the calm and well animated Taize prayer. As my experience serves me, I have never attended any Taizé Prayer before, If I have done so, then we were not told. It was a nice experience seeing the commitment of the participants from different geographical locations in this busy society because it is not easy to set time apart. This taught me that when it comes to prayer, distance is not a barrier. Job well done to the organizers and thanks to Br. Mario for the invite. **(Br. Henry Ngeli).**

For me, prayer is a relationship with God. It was a wonderful experience to attend the online Taize prayer, I felt closer to God. The quote from St. Thérèse of Lisieux "Nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love" drew my attention during the prayer. This is a call to connect myself closer to the Saints and get inspired by them. The experience deepened my relationship with God. Looking forward to the next encounter. Many thanks go to the organizers. **(Br. Muchima Tal Antonio).**

Coming together on Zoom as one family, Lay Marists and Brothers from different places around the world to attend **Taizé** prayer helped me to renew my spiritual life through different personal spiritualities from those of us that attended. The prayer really inspired me spiritually, it was well organized and animated. Thanks to the organizers for this great initiative. Be blessed. **(Br. Jose Ngongue Dundu).**

For me, the **Taizé** Zoom prayer was well organized and inspiring. I was so touched by the sayings of the saints that were displayed. They reminded that Saints were people like us who experienced God in their lives and took up bold decisions and remained faithful throughout their life here on earth. This is a call for me to follow in their footsteps. Thanks for organizing the prayer. **(Br. Pascoa Chakulanda).**

In its content, the **Taizé** prayer on Zoom was very inspiring and touching that left me with some important impacts on how to shape my personality and embracing the life of sanctity. The quiet music during the prayer fostered my sense of spiritual life. Coming together as one family, inspired me to embrace oneness and appreciate each other's presence. This initiative should continue. Thanks to the organizers. **(Br. Sydney Davies Moenda).**

The Next Taizé Prayer Meeting

This will take place from **20h00 to 21h00** South African time on **Sunday 7 February 2021**

Those wishing to take part, should contact either mario.colussi@marist.org.za OR pampm@sacredheart.co.za

several days in advance.

Availability of Taizé Musical Chants

The editor has digital copies of a number of albums with chants recorded during liturgies at Taizé on occasions when hundreds of young people converge on their Centre.

On request, they will be made available to any reader. The transfer will be done with the aid of WETRANSFER.

Mario ... mario.colussi@marist.org.za



BR. PIETRO BETTIN: “LIFE BEGINS WHERE FEAR ENDS” –



LAVALLA200> ATLANTIS

Brother Pietro Bettin, from Italy and of the Mediterránea Province, was a member of the [Lavalla200> Atlantis community](#) in South Africa for 3 years, until July 2020. In this interview, he shares some aspects of his experience

What motivated you to leave everything to participate in an international and intercultural community?

My motivation came from the fresh challenge that Br Emili, Superior General, laid down on the occasion of the Marist bicentenary: to establish international communities in every region who would be a significant presence among children and young people in vulnerable situations on the periphery of the world. It was also a response to Pope Francis' invitation to be *an outgoing Church that allows itself to go beyond geographical and existential borders*.

Considering my age (almost 70 when I went), I thought that this might be the last opportunity for me to have a different experience of community and mission from the one I had known in my 50 years of religious life.

Of course there were many question marks. Faced with my fears in making such a decision, I returned to the question asked by Brother Emili in one of his letters:

What would you do if you were not afraid? What would we do as Marists if we were not afraid?

Life begins where fear ends.

Briefly describe some significant moments in your community life

What stands out for me in our community lifestyle, was the family spirit that was evident in the deep sharing of

our community meetings, in the care of the house, the garden, the kitchen, etc.. The other important element was our commitment to ministry. Particularly significant was the end of the day when, in the peace of the evening, we had our moment of contemplation and prayer to share what God had worked through us during the day.

... and in the ministry of the community?

Our settling into the area of Atlantis was gradual. After three years, we could say that we were well established and well known both in the parish and around the school.

We went to Atlantis with no particular plan in mind other than that of being *“a significant evangelising presence among children and young people in vulnerable situations”*. In the first year we contacted all the associations that were involved with the youth of Atlantis and offered our collaboration, where possible, especially in extracurricular activities. This allowed us to get to know and understand the social and cultural context of the population.

The second year we officially joined the staff of a primary school for afternoon activities. We organised a whole week of recreation and educational activities over the summer, in which we involved pupils from the Marist high school in Rondebosch and students from Atlantis. In order to get to know more about the social

context, we arranged a series of interviews with local people with years of experience in education.

In the third year, we started up a leadership training program to be held in 12 meetings, open to 20 students chosen from the high schools of Atlantis. We managed to hold 3 meetings, but then everything stopped because of coronavirus 19.

All this gradual process of integration into a new culture, starting from scratch, was a really interesting experience of working alongside those responsible locally for the education of young people.

What key words best capture your experience?

A remark of Br. Emili Turù at the 88th assembly of the Union of Superiors General (2016), guided me in this choice. To quote him: **“We are all called to put a little madness and audacity in our lives and go beyond the known. Leaving our comfort zone to go to this space where miracles are done.”**

Maria Bobillo from Spain, a fellow community member in Atlantis, has produced a video which captures the Atlantis experience in 100 words.

Describe the most significant scenario or event in your time with Lavalla200

The most significant event of my time at Lavalla200, I think, was the celebration of my Golden Jubilee on June 6, 2018, St Marcellin’s Day, at St Joseph’s Marist College. The two communities of Atlantis and Rondebosch organised the event unbeknown to me. We started at 9 a.m. with Mass with the senior pupils. Before the offertory, the brothers of the 2 communities (+ Maria) gathered in front of the altar and Tony read a beautiful prayer and Father John read the blessing. We had lunch in the school with the teachers and dinner in the community with the Brothers and some lay friends.

Overall, I was very happy to celebrate my 50 years of religious life on the feast of St. Marcellin and in an international community on the outskirts of the Marist world. It was a special, unexpected day, a great surprise, a witness to the affection of the brothers and lay people around me, an occasion to give thanks to God for his faithfulness to me.

What has been your most important learning?

Contact with different cultures has taught me not to judge diversity as a defect, but as an asset. Moreover, the presence of laypeople demanded a new approach to community life and spirituality: I had to learn to be flexible and patient.

How did the experience help you to grow in your Marist vocation?

This type of experience is a unique opportunity for growth in our Marist vocation, for a host of reasons: a significant evangelising presence on the peripheries of the world, international collaboration outside the confines of our own province, a communion of cultures and appreciation of diversity, organising our community life in a shared way with laypeople (men and women). All these elements have strengthened my attachment to the Marist vocation.

What were the biggest challenges you experienced during this time?

One challenge that stayed with me all the time was the difficulty of communicating: I couldn’t get used to the way they spoke English. I couldn’t understand the children because their mother tongue is Afrikaans. I had to react to the temptation to shut myself off and find other ways to communicate.

The other big challenge was due to my age (70). I often felt useless because I could not get into all the activities that others were doing. Until I discovered the importance of my presence, simply presence, for many people.

What would you like to say to the brothers and lay Marists who are thinking of participating in the Lavalla200 Communities or other international/intercultural projects of the Institute?

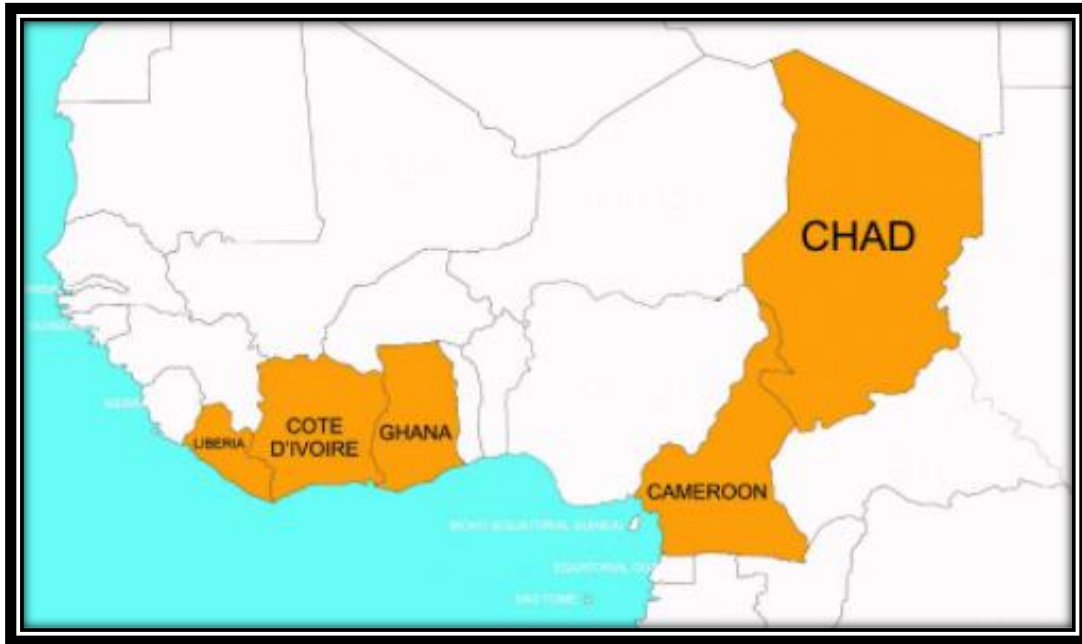
Preparation is important. Learn the language well so that you can make contact with local people as soon as possible. Ask for the light of the Spirit and the gift of discernment. It takes courage, it takes patience; and trust in God.

“God is eternal newness. He impels us constantly to set out anew, to pass beyond what is familiar, to the fringes and beyond. He takes us to where humanity is most wounded, where men and women, beneath the appearance of a shallow conformity, continue to seek an answer to the question of life’s meaning. God is not afraid! He is fearless! He is always greater than our plans and schemes. Unafraid of the fringes, he himself became a fringe (cf. Phil 2:6-8; Jn 1:14). So if we dare to go to the fringes, we will find him there; indeed, he is already there.” (Gaudete et exultate, 135).

VIDEO (worth watching, great pics, only 5 minutes!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynaKugi2OGQ>

THE MARIST DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA WILL BECOME A NEW PROVINCE IN 2021



On the 21st November 2020, Brothers Cyprian Bankakuu Gandeebo, Superior of the District of West Africa, and Juan Carlos Fuertes Marí, Provincial of Mediterránea, announced that on the 9th November, Brother Superior General and his Council approved that the District of West Africa become a new Province from August 2021, when the first Provincial Chapter will be held.

At the last Chapter of the District, in August 2018 in Ghana, the Provincial of Mediterránea, Br. Juan Carlos, and his Vice-Provincial, Br. Aureliano García Manzanal, informed the members of the Chapter of the decision of the Provincial Council to start a process for the District to become a Province. These were the reasons for such a decision, among others:

- ✚ the number of Brothers, the number of communities and the number of works has been increasing in recent years;
- ✚ the average age of the Brothers demonstrates a young and vibrant administrative unit (about 39 years);
- ✚ sustainable growth and progressive autonomy with regard to the economy;
- ✚ a high level of autonomy in the animation and governance of the District.

The two Administrative Units then set up a coordination team made up of some members of the two councils. This team designed a discernment process that involved all the communities in the District. An agreement to continue the collaboration between the two future Provinces is also being prepared.

The material gathered during the consultation process will serve to prepare the Assembly to be held in 2021, which will be the step prior to the Provincial Chapter in August.

District of West Africa

This Administrative Unit was created in 2000 and is made up of Brothers from Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Liberia. The first District Superior was Brother José Antonio Ruiz Abeijón, followed in turn by Brothers Sylvain Yao, Francis Lukong, and the current superior Brother Cyprian

The District has 83 Brothers: 61 in perpetual profession and 22 in temporary vows. It also has 8 novices and 8 postulants.

At present there are 10 schools (nursery, primary and secondary) and 11 communities.

Its mission is focused on the education of children and young people.



2006 - MARIST HISTORY IS MADE

TRANSFER OF THE NOVITIATE FROM KUTAMA TO MATOLA

Two of the Zimbabwean novices tell us their impressions of the 1600 km journey

Exodus of the novitiate from Kutama to Matola

By Alexander Chimera (2nd year Novice, Malawi)

It was Saturday, 15th January 2006, when the Novitiate was finally shifted from Kutama, Rothwell Farm in Zimbabwe, to Matola, Maputo, in Mozambique. Dogs barked and cocks crowed. It could be read from the faces of local people that they disapproved of the Novitiate's change of location.

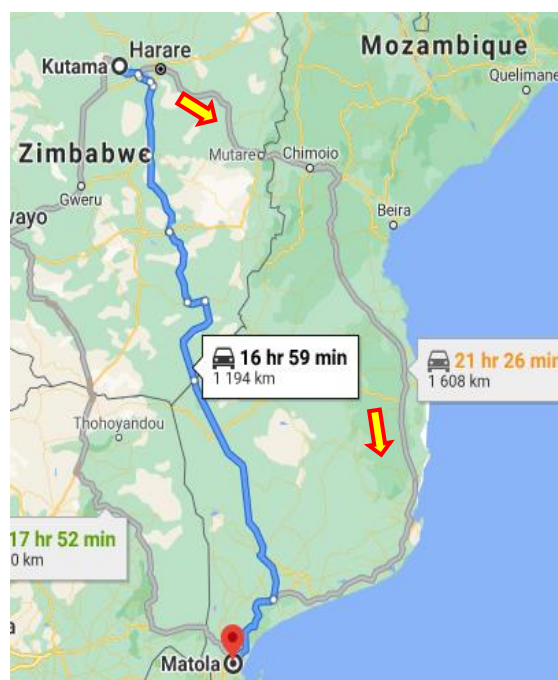
Parishioners were taken aback when they saw us leaving without hope of coming back. The presence of the Brothers at Rothwell Farm meant a lot to the people especially the services rendered. It is quite true to say that a word of farewell is difficult but we faced it.

Exactly six o'clock in the morning, "Challenge *mes chers freres*", Bro. Raymond Denis cheered up the Bro. drivers. Traveling at the speed of pigeons, we left Kutama heading towards Maputo. Brothers Fernand Dostie and Aaron Mazhambe challenged the distance by their constant speed. The sun became tired of illuminating the earth and went to bed. After covering a distance of 450 km, we put up in Chimoio, one of the towns in Mozambique.

The following morning, early enough, the seatbelts were fixed ready for Maputo. Feet were planted on the accelerators traveling at the speed of whirlwind towards Maputo. This speed did not take us very far as the road was having many potholes. The coconut plantations kept us awake. I was very surprised to see such kind of coconut forest along the road that joins Maputo and Beira. We appreciated the beauty of the country seen in the evergreen plantations.

To mention the number of 1,100 km, it seems to be exaggerated, a bit easier to say that it took us a good 22 hours to reach the promised land Matola from Chimoio. "We have finally arrived my dear Brothers", Arcanjo Domingos, one of the Mozambican Novices declared. Despite the fatigue of the two days' journey, we were very happy to see the beautiful place and the warm welcome gave us strength. The former Matola Postulate was officially opened as Matola Novitiate of the Province of the Southern Africa two weeks later.

At this point in time, we are settling down slowly with Portuguese language as the main challenge.



The journey to Matola desert

By Passmore Tenga (1st Year Novice, Zimbabwe)

If we were in a plane, we could have heard the air hostess saying "Tighten your belts", but since we were not, the hooter draw out attention. Looking at the watch, it was 5am and we left Kutama Novitiate on January 27, 2006. We were

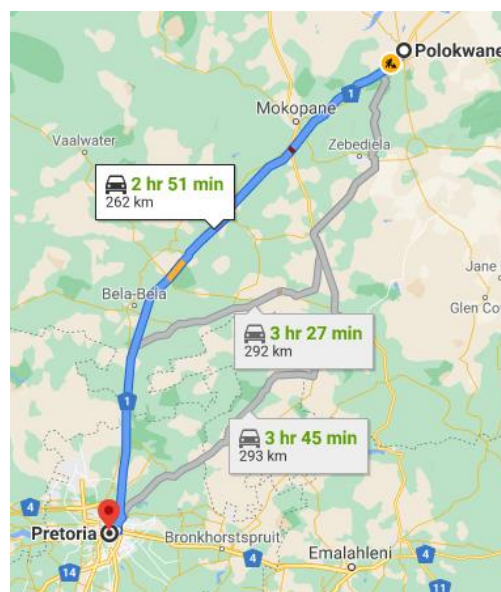
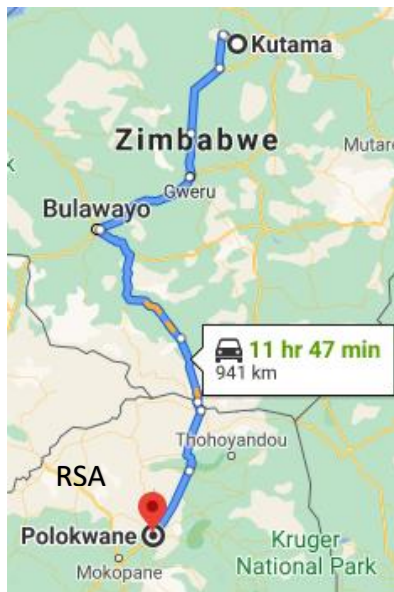
thirteen young men from Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi. The two Brothers; (Succeed Nyuke who was with the commuter omnibus and Axensio Dickson with the Mazda pick-up) drove down south of the country Zimbabwe. Everyone was imbued with confidence that we were going to Matola, after waiting tirelessly for the visas to come out. The sun came up in a sky brilliant with red orange flames of fire when we were in Chivhu.

From Chivhu to Masvingo, where we bought food, it took us one and a half hours. We drove out of the town and had our breakfast. The region is hot and the majority were dozing, only the Brothers had no option. We were hoping for a change in terms of temperature but the lower we went the hotter it became. As we were not able to sustain this, we took a refreshment at Elephant Hotel in Matebeleland Province. Along the way people were fast asleep and some were day-dreaming lying along the beach speaking Portuguese. We arrived at Beitbridge border post at around 3 p.m.

At around three we were hearing another language and the vegetation could tell us that we were in another country. As the Brothers were speeding along Johannesburg road, everyone was awake, admiring the green carpet which was lying on the land and the panoramic view after Messina. To cut the story short, I can describe this country as Canaan, but had we known that it was a land of danger disguised as a blessing, we could not have gone through this country.

The sunlight danced among the green shadows of the grass and the trees when we were at San`bonani lodge where we put up. After off loading our bags from the cars, some took a shower, others were preparing to cook and those who are prayerful were meditating upon the wonders of God that they had seen along the road. As the Brothers took time to come back everyone was showing gloomy faces as the stomachs were complaining, not knowing the hell they were encountering. When those who were enjoying the cool breeze outside started to move towards the house we believed that our prayer had been heard. The Brothers came into the room where we were gathered and Br Nyuke explained how they had been robbed in daylight. Upon finishing narrating the story, we briskly dashed to our rooms and remained dumb until Saturday morning.

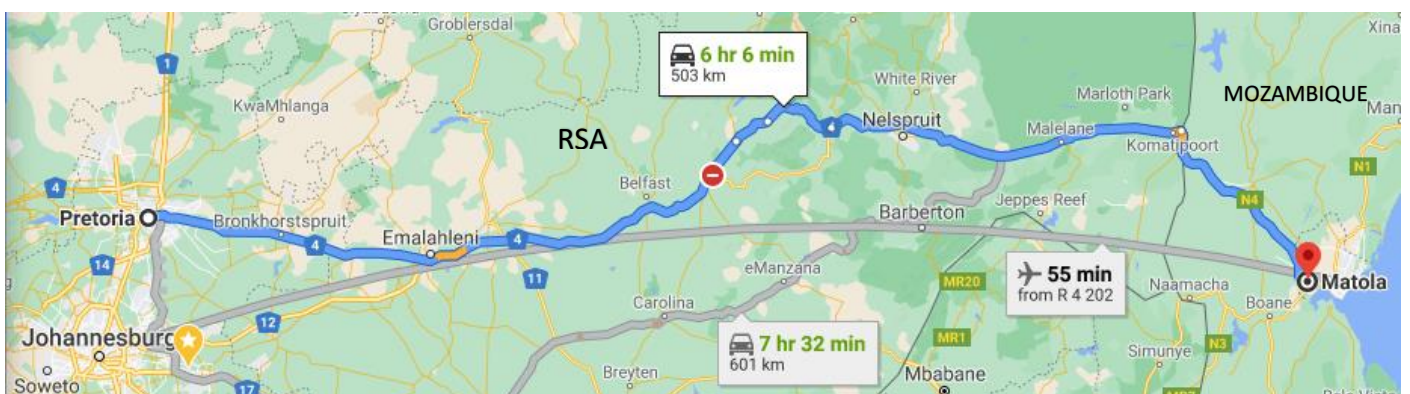
We left that place at half past six and arrived at Pietersburg at around nine. We took a heavy breakfast to revenge the lent season we had experienced the previous night. As we were approaching Pretoria we experienced a heavy downpour which entertained our eyes as we were admiring the vivacious countryside of South Africa. We enjoyed the cool breeze which kept us awake until we reached Ressa Garcia border post at 6 pm. From there to the Novitiate, it took us only an hour. Thank you, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, for protecting us. Glory be to God.



NOTES:

The second group went via RSA to get to Matola. This route to Mozambique is about 100 km more than the direct route.

In 2006, the town that is now called **POLOKWANE** was known as **PIETERSBURG**.

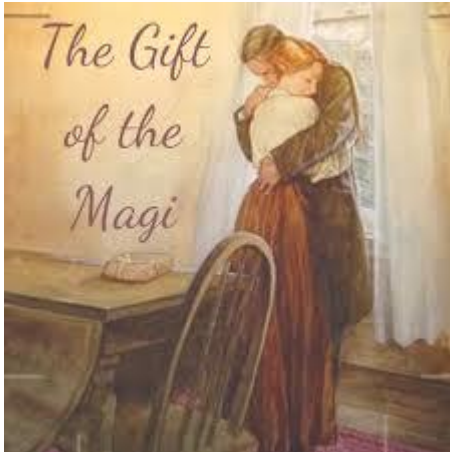


THE GIFT OF THE MAGI by O. HENRY (1862-1910)

A Simple Story for Christmas

ONE DOLLAR AND eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. What gift could she possibly get for her dear husband

There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl.



Their home was a very modest flat: the letter box was damaged and the doorbell would not ring. Mr James Dillingham Young had suffered a severe loss of income (from \$30 per week to a mere \$20)

But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called “Jim” and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim.

There was a mirror between the windows of the room. Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the mirror. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its colour within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his

father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair.



So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her, rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: “Mme. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds.” One flight up Della ran, and collected herself, panting. “Will you buy my hair?” asked Della.

“I buy hair,” said Madame. “Take yer hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it.” Down rippled the brown cascade. “Twenty dollars,” said Madame, lifting the mass with a practised hand.

“Give it to me quick,” said Della.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by ornamentation—as all good things should do. It was even worthy of **The Watch**.

Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes

looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons re-did her hair. Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically.

"If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island chorus girl. But what could I do—oh! what could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and the frying-pan was on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops.

Jim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit for saying little silent prayers about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: "Please God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two—and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves.

Jim stopped inside the door. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for.

Della wriggled off the table and went for him.

"Jim, darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold it because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again—you won't mind, will you? I just had to do it. Say 'Merry Christmas!' Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice—what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you."

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim, laboriously.

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well, anyhow? I'm me without my hair, ain't I?"

Jim looked about the room curiously.

"You say your hair is gone?" he said, with an air almost of idiocy.



"You needn't look for my hair," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you—sold and gone, too. It's Christmas Eve, boy. Be good to me, for it went for you."

Out of his trance Jim seemed quickly to wake. He enfolded his Della.

Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table.

"Don't make any mistake, Dell," he said, "about me. I don't think there's anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first."

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails.

For there lay The Combs—the set of combs, side and back, that Della had worshipped long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jewelled rims—just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but her golden tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone.

But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: "My hair grows so fast, Jim!"

And then Della leaped up like a little singed cat and cried, "Oh, oh!"

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit.

"Isn't it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You'll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled.

“Dell,” said he, “let’s put our Christmas presents away and keep ‘em a while. They’re too nice to use just at present.



I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs!

And now suppose you put the chops on.”

The magi, as you know, were wise men—wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents.

And here I have related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house.

But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.

FOR A 15-MINUTE VIDEO OF THIS TALE GO TO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vS6O8YIMq0>



MORE PHOTOS FROM THE MARIST WORLD

marist world

SOUTH KOREA: BROTHERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE EDUCATION CENTER AND SOME BROTHERS OF THE SECTOR HOUSE



MEXICO: CENTRO INFANTIL Y JUVENIL MARISTA (CIJMA) – ZAPOPAN, JALISCO



BRAZIL: MARISTS IN ILHA GRANDE DOS MARINHEIROS: HELP TO THE FAMILIES IN NEED



AUSTRALIA: BURWOOD



COLOMBIA: MEDELLÍN NOVITIATE



INDIA: OPERATION RAINBOW – CONSTRUCTION OF A SHELTER FOR A FAMILY LIVING WITH HIV



HISTORY, GOODBYE, and A CHUCKLE



MARIST BROTHERS WALMER

This Marist campus in Walmer, Port Elizabeth was opened in January 1954 and finally closed in December 1982.

The aerial photo on the left was taken in about 1984 when the property was on the market. It was commissioned by a property developer who was considering his options.

On the right, a satellite picture of the Walmer Park shopping centre that now occupies the portion of the school property abutting Main Road, Walmer. The rest of the property was converted to residential use.

DEPARTURES FROM THE ATLANTIS COMMUNITY

Juliana Fontura and **Diogo Galline** from Brazil recently completed their two-year contract with the **Atlantis** community of **Lavalla200**>

To mark the occasion, the community arranged for a special celebration just before Christmas.

A HEARTFELT THANKYOU on behalf of the people in **Atlantis** with whom you worked and shared your talents. The photo includes Brothers Nnodu Onwutalu and Tony Clark.



THE LAST LAUGH

It was a misty, cold Christmas morning in the depths of winter in an Irish village, After heavy snowfall the night before, only one farmer managed to turn up for the Christmas Mass.

“Well,” said the priest surveying the empty pews, “I guess there’s no point in having a Mass today.”

“Oh, but you must,” said the farmer. “When it’s feeding-time on my farm and only one sheep turns up, I still feed it.”

... Humbled by the farmer’s faith, the priest gave it all he had. Four hymns with all verses, psalm and Gospel sung, a 30-minute sermon the Eucharistic prayer with all the litanies – the works.

Pleased with himself, the priest asked the farmer: “So, how did I do?”

The farmer replied: “Well, Father when I feed my sheep and only one turns up, I feed her – but I don’t give her the whole bag full!”

DIPLOMA OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AWARDS

During the course of the first semester of the academic year 2020-2021, MIUC interrupted its usual programme to formally award the Diploma of Religious Studies to those who had fulfilled the required conditions.

The courses are administered during the months of May, June and July over three years. The programme covers includes Biblical Studies, Theology, Spirituality, and the Marist Charism.

Among the fifteen graduands were six from the Province of Southern Africa: Jeronimo Raimundo, Antonio Mavez Armando, Golden Tati, Chibengwa Vito Mugove, Blessed Kudakwashe Vambe and Moffat Phiri (in absentia).



AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

In the beginning was
the Word, and the Word
was God. He was with
God in the beginning.

All things were created
through Him, and apart
from Him not one thing
was created that has been
created.

Life was in Him, and that
life was the light of men.
That light shines in the
darkness, yet the darkness
did not overcome it.

The Holy Bible Holman Christian standard version. (2009). (Jn 1:1-5). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

Free-Online-Bible-Study.com

