



ISSUE NO: 60 - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

# NEWS BULLETIN

CAMEROON \* GHANA \* CÔTE D'IVOIRE \* LIBERIA \* TCHAD

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## MARIST PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA PROVINCE MARISTE DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OEUST

On Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Superior General Br Ernesto Sanchez and his Council approved that the Marist District of West Africa become a new Province as from August 2021.

## Lenten Message of the District Superior—2021

**D**ear Marvellous Companions,  
Receive warm fraternal greetings from the District House, Accra!  
This year, mother Church has again gifted us with another opportunity to reflect on our Christian life. Lent, this year, begins on Ash Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February and runs through until three days before Easter Sunday.

During this Lenten season I want us to reflect on our relationship with Jesus and our preparedness to journey with him during this global pandemic. We are once again privileged with this opportunity to be converted and to draw closer to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, so that we can fully understand our commitment to the mission of Christ as Christians and as Consecrated men.

Conversion, as a daily process, challenges us to get rid of three great cravings of society. In this season of lent, we are encouraged to be converted from the lures of Power, Wealth and Prestige. These three obsessions often show off their nastiness even in communities of consecrated people. This season of lent gives us an opportunity to re-examine ourselves on our exercise of these three longings and do something about them. Power is good when it is used to help others. When used to gain access to people and, thereafter, force them to do things for us, then it is wrong. When it is used to leverage our position and benefit, it is dreadful. Power is excellent when used to better the lives of others - for reaching out or helping other to grow to their full potential.

Today, society is dominated by consumerism, the more we have, the more we want to acquire. We are often lured to want to have more and more of everything. We crave for new and fancy mobile phones and are attracted to have the latest pair of

shoes, wrist watches and eyeglasses. By the way, I do not mean to say it is bad or sinful to have or own these resources. Let this Lent give us an opportunity to decipher the difference between what we 'want' and what we 'need'.

Many people desire prestige or fame. We are attention-seeking people, and we will do crazy things so that others can notice us. Let us be reminded that "greatness is never found in possessions, power, position or prestige. Rather, it thrives in goodness, humility, service and character (William Arthur Ward).

This season of grace gives us an opportunity to bridge and make amends and to come closer Jesus who invites us to take the less travelled route or the narrow gate (Mt 7: 13-14). During this season, Jesus invites us to embrace humility (Lk 14:7-11), reconciliation, fasting, almsgiving and prayer.

During this lent, let us make efforts to avoid the wrong use of power, wealth, and prestige. Rather, let us try to renew our relationship with God and draw closer Jesus Christ. Make this moment of grace, a time of personal and collective conversion and of growth so that our celebration of Easter this year, would be a meaningful one. Lastly, we are all aware that we are on the verge of becoming a full-fledged Province. Let us, thus, earnestly pray that Mary, our Good Mother, may intercede for us for a successful transition. I wish you fruitful Lenten season!



**Br Cyprian Gandebo.**

## The Marist Pedagogy in Psychological Lens



### SECOND INPUT

**A**s hinted in the premier edition of this column, we shall this time focus on the golden rule of Marist Pedagogy—*To educate children first, you must love them, and love them equally.*

First of all, kindly permit me to share a little story here. I hope this would open us up for a more productive discussion. Sometime ago (not yet a Brother), I had a conversation on pedagogy with Br. John Kusi Mensah. At the end of the inspiring encounter, he lent me a book titled *‘In the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat’*. His objective, which I suppose was largely achieved, was to introduce me to Marist Educational Pedagogy.

I adore the book. It is comprehensive, easy to read, and offers you over and above what you need to know about the distinctive Marist style of educating. I recommend it to you; you would find it more enriching. It was my first time to encounter the golden rule of Marist Pedagogy. Without a second thought, I completely agreed with the statement. On the other hand, my personal experiences made me think that it was a hard-to-achieve goal. Like many of us, I loved obedient, respectful, humble, intelligent and hardworking students but not so much of the wayward and difficult ones. The discrepancy between my belief and my reality set me pondering.

I have sought opportunities to read and reflect more on the topic to deepen my understanding and, at best, appreciate it. With time, I have consulted several documents of the Institute, including; the biography of Father Champagnat, his Opinions and conferences, and even a relook at *‘In the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat’*, on the same topic. The subsequent paragraphs contain some synopses on the golden rule.

**Ψ**

Br. John the Baptist, the biographer of the founder writes, ‘To love the children is to devote oneself completely to teaching them and to take all the means that an industrious zeal can think of in order to form them to virtue and piety’ (Life, XXI). The authors of *In the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat* also draw our attention to the fact that the golden rule is a pivotal statement around which all other Marist pedagogical approaches revolve. Marcellin and the first brothers held so dearly to this lofty ideology, and I may rightly and confidently say they owed their successes to their fervent faith in God and conviction in His precept of love.

The writer of opinions, conferences interprets *Love them all equally* as having no outcasts, no favourites; or rather, not letting any of the children think he has a better claim of our affection. Hence, he invites us to master the human frailty of self-regard and prejudice. He explains that ‘When one loves them, one does more for them, one does better, with less difficulty and greater success’. Then, Father Champagnat moves on to operationalize love. Not excluding all other positive views of love, he thought of the love of children as dedicating the entire strength of one’s being one’s mind, one’s heart, one’s activity, one’s whole life, to the accomplishment of one’s duty towards them (Opinions, Conferences XLI, pp. 311-312). In sum, as disciples of Marcellin, we are characteristically called to this.

In the next edition, we shall discuss love from the psychological perspective, espouse the need for it in educating children, compare and contrast them with Marist view and finally reconcile the differing or opposing ideas, if any.

**Br Eric Kramo**



## CHRISTMAS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY: THE DISTRICT HOUSE, ACCRA

The Community of the District House, Accra celebrated the birth of the Lord in rather unusual way but not without its blessings. Following one of the brothers testing positive for Covid-19 in the country and our close contact with him, the community decided to self-quarantine. This prudent decision was to avoid possible spread of the virus to other people should any of us have contracted it. Hence, the community decided to remain indoors during the period of the festivities. We also made sure the house was closed to friends and relatives who might want to pay visits during the season. Certainly, this was not an easy choice to make, since we knew that acquaintances could pop in at any time especially during the Christmas time.



Brothers of Accra c'ty & their workers

The situation notwithstanding the community fully participated in all the mysteries of the holy season. We followed the various celebrations from the Christmas eve, the nativity, to the new year eve Mass via online platforms. By the 1<sup>st</sup> of January when the community completed the 14 day self-quarantine, we celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, mother of God with Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. It was a moment of thanksgiving to the Lord for His protection over the community particularly against the deadly Covid-19 disease. But in all these, the community was conscious of the contributions of our workers.

Mindful of the grace of God received through the hands of our two workers we decided to celebrate Christmas day with them around the same table. It was a joyful moment to share meals with the duo at the end of the year. The community took the opportunity of the time to express her gratitude to these persons for their invaluable contributions to our work and to advance the kingdom of God. A token was presented to each of them as encouragement to giving the best of themselves.

Though the District House lost the opportunity to celebrate the mystery of the nativity with our



immediate friends and acquaintances ours was Mary's experience, she who did not go out on the day of her delivery but made her son her only concentration of regard.

### Br Augustine Naatey

Our community is the most immediate place where this universal love to which we aspire becomes real and grows. The love we have for our brothers is simple, friendly, and attentive to affirming their strengths and recognizing their difficulties. We humbly share their joys and generously give ourselves to all. This same love is expressed in the welcome we offer to those who visit us.

'Constitutions No 20'

## NEW JOURNEY OF A NOVICE PRINCIPAL : LIBERIA

Principals of schools have a unique set of responsibilities that range from the transactional to the transformational. Principals are expected to set a clear vision for the school community, support teachers in their work, help students to grow, while at the same time being responsible for all the details that allow a school to function smoothly. Thus, the first year of a novice principal like me is a complex challenge. My first few months in Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School as Principal carries with them an added set of challenges that a novice principal must come to understand and navigate.



Br Anthony Doe—principal of SSK Monrovia

As a novice principal, I work not only to gain understanding of my role in the school community, but also to develop my personal leadership style that supports our teaching and support staff, student population, parents and the larger community. It is through these experiences and reflections that I began to develop my unique voice as a leader. These experiences lay the foundation for my coming years in the principal's office. I am grateful to my staff, students and parents who have accepted me to lead them for the coming years unknown. I have dreamed on many occasions how, where and when the time will arrive that I will see our future Liberians grow to

become leaders of our nations. By dedicating ourselves to this responsibility, I have designed a front page that will lead all of us to the next few years and it is to : « *establish an effective school community rooted in discipline, academics and management* ».

By this vision, all our staff, teachers, students and parents are called on board to work together to move the school forward to the best among all Catholic Schools in the Republic of Liberia. As things stand now, everyone is willing to collaborate, support and challenge each other in order to achieve our big dream. Just a few months ago, our PTA has taken upon a huge project that is considered the first of its kind since the foundation of Shirley Kolmer Catholic School in 1995. The PTA project for 2020/2021 academic year is the Extension of a 6 classrooms unit block to a storey building that will later contain 12 classrooms and 6 administrative offices.



Extension works ongoing in the school.

I wish to thank each of you for your continual prayers and moral support. May Jesus, Mary and St. Marcellin remain our strength and our pillars of faith and desires. **Long live Sister Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School of the Catholic Archdiocese of Monrovia.**

**Br Anthony Doe**



## SCHOOL RESUMPTION IN OUR GOOD MOTHER SCHOOL ASHALAJA

Our Good Mother School, like all other schools in Ghana officially resumed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. Prior to the resumption, the Headmaster of the school Br Paul Adu, called for a Staff and PTA meeting. The main agenda for the meetings was simply to prepare for school resumption especially as concerns the Covid -19 protocols in the school campus as well as the transportation of students. The school environment that was already bushy was cleaned on the week prior to reopening. This was followed by fumigation of the classrooms that was done by the Fumigation Team from the Government.



Students entrust the new year to the Lord.

On the first day of the school, the headmaster instructed that assemblies should be done in different groups to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Hence, assemblies in Our Good Mother School are done separately as follows: Pre- School, Lower Primary, Upper Primary and Junior High School.

Even though the Government of Ghana decided to promote all the Pupils and Students to the next class, the school administration and PTA decided that students going to form 2 must write a Mock exam to confirm their promotion.

Both Staff and students are trying their best to maintain social distancing by the wearing of face masks in the school campus as well as regular washing of hands. Let us pray through the intercession of our Good Mother Mary that this academic year will be a success for Ghana and all students around the world.

**Br. Yenwong Cylas**

## REOPENING @ MCS BUOKROM



Students of MCS Buokrom on the reopening day

St. Marcellin Champagnat opened its doors for new admission for pupils/students and indeed witnessed an appreciable and encouraging enrolment. The management of the school also conducted interviews to recruit new teachers/staff in their noble quest to improve the functioning of all spheres of the life of the school and to replace those who had left the school for various reasons. The school also received with joy three more Marist Brothers; (Konate Eric, Wiysenyuy Habib and Eric Kramo), bringing the number to seven. As we continue the battle against the Corona Virus pandemic and finding means to diminish the spread of the disease, the school is strictly conforming to practicing all COVID-19 safety protocols as per the directives of the Ghana Education Service together with the Ghana Health Service. Both the members of staff as well as pupils/students are motivated and persistently encouraged to wear their face masks, frequently washing their hands with soap under running water (and) or sanitizing their hands all the times. The management of the school has put the safety and preventive measures of COVID-19 protocols to use since it's reopening to ensure pupils/students are in safe hands.

So far, so good, God is omnipresent with us in all facets, as the activities of the School are in progress and we have not recorded any COVID-19 case.

**Br. Conrad Tameh**

## SCHOOLS RESUME IN CAMBODIA

Despite the very cold season in Cambodia and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, schools resumed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January after a period lock down. The resumption has been very timid though.

I teach in Dak Dam, 23km from our Marist Community, from 12:30 to 1:00pm, in Pou Lung from from 2:30 to 3:30 pm (Mondays to Thursdays) and finally I go to Sean Monourom 6km away for the students who stay in the Catholic Church hostel from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. This time there are twenty-two students in the hostel, 8 girls and 14 boys.

Students learning English in Cambodia



The biggest challenge is that each time the learning period is disturbed either by the Covid-19 pandemic or another issue and students break, we start all over again when they come back thereby making the work difficult. They do not study English when they are on their own. So I have to do the Kindergarten method every day. It is my hope that some of them will eventually begin to speak in English. Another challenge apart from the one mentioned above is that in Pou Lung where our community is situated, children are not enthusiastic in learning English and their parents show little or no interest. A good number of them either help their parents to take the cattle to the field, go to the farm or take care of their siblings. It is our hope that our children will understand the importance of learning English and that the Covid-19 pandemic may finally come to an end.

**Br John Nyuydine**

## A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IN MPS



Students of MPS at the start of the new term

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2021, MPS opened her doors again to the glorious mission of educating the young. It was a moment of excitement on the part of all stakeholders but with a lot of mixed feelings as to what the future holds for schools with Covid19 still a serious threat. A lot of preparations were done by the administration in collaboration with the PTA and the Government. Buckets for hand washing were spotted all over the compound at strategic places, with sanitizers and liquid detergents as well as the fumigation of the school campus. Constant reminders on social distancing and other protocols related to Covid-19 are constantly being enforced.

The major challenge is that we are dealing with kids who have a world of their own. Play cannot be taken away from them as they are by nature used to clustering. This makes some of the protocols difficult to enforce. However, much effort is being done to sensitize them on this.

This year we are blessed with a challenge of numbers. Having almost 1600 kids is really a blessed challenge. It came at a time when the new Academic block was ready for use. One unfortunate challenge is the issue of transportation due to social distancing. Brothers have decided to be transporting those who are close to the school while waiting for a possible purchase of a new school bus. Some parents however are expecting too much from the school as though we are dealing with an individual child, however we keep assuring them of the best. A month and a half has passed by and God is still blessing. We have recorded no incident and we are praying for His continuous providence.

**Br Brendane Tombir**



**THE FLICKER OF HOPE IN TATUM IN THE SPIRIT OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT**

In his 2021 Lenten Message to the Christian faithful, the Holy Father, Pope Francis says that *“In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope”*. This sentence in the entire message seems to speak directly to the Brothers in Tatum Community who, for three years and running have been caught in the sociopolitical crisis rocking the two English Speaking Regions of the country. With the school shut down, the main road to the town blocked and movement highly restricted and regulated by armed militia, little or nothing seems to make sense in comparison with the vibrant mission that the Brothers have exercised in this area for more than four decades. Yet, with the tenacious and daring spirit of Marcellin Champagnat, the three Brothers in this community have not given up despite the tedium orchestrated by a life of uncertainty, insecurity and despair.



**Br Stephen gives instructions to the students**

Already in the sixth month of an informal educational program mainly within the community, the Brothers have given hope and meaning to the lives of over a hundred teenagers who, otherwise would have fallen prey to all kinds of societal ills. As such, they have been feeling challenged to incarnate for these youngsters the real presence of our Founder. Despite the crisis of staffing or availability of qualified personnel to fully man this project, the students can anticipate the possibility of promotion from one educational level to another. Motivated by financial and material support from FMSI, the students and their families

remain highly motivated to stay on course and continue looking forward to better days in the horizon. Moreover, the local ordinary of the Diocese of Kumbo remains highly grateful not only for the current apostolic efforts of the past six months but generally for the Brothers’ decision to stay and accompany the people of God in the area at this difficult moment when some Religious communities have closed their doors and relocated to safer areas.



**Br Valentine teaching the children**

With Marcellin Champagnat, we bring the young people of Tatum closer to ourselves in studies, sports, manual work and prayers. This resonates adequately with the call of our Constitutions, *“we are close to young people in their actual life-situations taking the risk of going into what may be unexplored areas where those in material and spiritual poverty await the revelation of Christ”*. (Const. Art. 83). It is always easy to sing *“We are Champagnat today we follow his steps”* especially when the skies are blue but it can be more challenging singing it in stormy and uncertain weather as the Tatum Community has been through for the past four years.

As we look forward to our District attaining the status of a Province, may we all be emboldened to remain focused and determined in being *Champagnats* for young people in need of Brothers to listen to them, to encourage them and to love them; *Champagnats* for the poor, the dispossessed, the marginalized and those most in need.

**Br Stephen Kpunsa**



### BR JOACHIM DOUA LAID TO REST



Br Doua Joachim was laid to rest on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2021 at the Marist Community of Bouaké. In a ceremony that was attended by over twenty priests and many religious men and women, the occasion was a moment to finally bid farewell to our brother who passed on in his hometown on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. His death was obviously a shock for the members of his community as we had celebrated the Christmas season in a very good and jovial mood. Little did we expect such a sudden and sad news. Brother Doua was indeed a good community member, an advocate of children rights and a counselor to children. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in perfect peace... Amen.



A final farewell to our Dear Brother Doua Joachim.

Br Cho Nchang

### LENTEN SEASON IN BOUAKE : 'A SEASON OF SOIDARITY'



Stations of the Cross on Fridays at Champagnat Bouaké

The season of Lent is a unique season like no other in the Marist Mission of Bouaké. It is another opportunity for us to sensitize our students, staff and parents on the need to express our solidarity with those on the margins of the society. Consequently, every morning we organize collections in every class and we invite everyone to donate from 25frs and above. Every Brother is involved in this campaign and it is really bearing fruits as our students have been responding positively. In addition, we have also asked our parents for non-monetary contributions and they are responding very well to our request.

On the Fridays of Lent, we organize the stations of the Cross with our staff and students. Some parents even find time to join us. The students are always willing to participate in this devotion as it is evident from their wish to either read the various stations or sing the Lenten hymns. We are grateful to God for such a wonderful season and thank Him for the active participation of most of our student who are mostly Muslims. We pray that we may use this season to draw closer to God as we sympathize with those who are on the margins of the society.

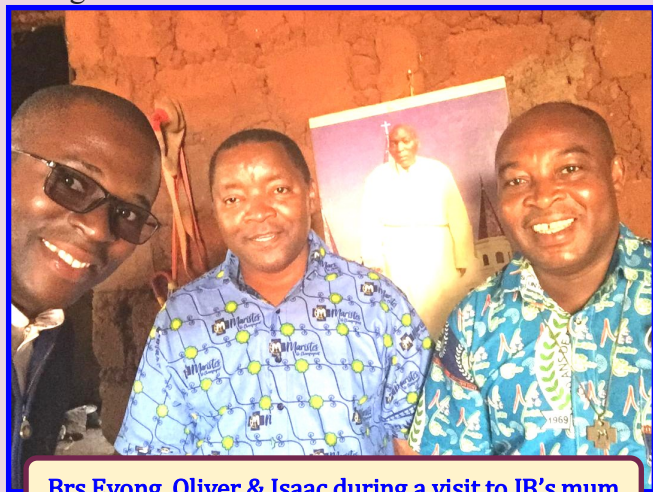
Br Cho Nchang

### YASSA COMMUNITY VISITS JB'S MUM



Brothers interact with Br Jeab Baptist's mum

When the news of Br JB's demise got to his mom, she made two passionate appeals: That we should wear our habits and visit her before she dies. Secondly, on her death, we should come in our numbers to bid her farewell. It's on this note that the Brothers of Yassa and Bafut community visited Yaa two years ago. This year Yassa Community fulfilled Yaa's will by visiting her once again. She looks very healthy irrespective to her age. She received us with a lot of smiles. She could not hide her feelings of joy as a result of our visit. Though she stays alone, the family members take good care of her. She still reiterated her request, that we come to her funeral whenever she joins her ancestors. She gave us Bananas and avocados from her farm, a sign that Yaa is blessed with good health.



Brs Eyong, Oliver & Isaac during a visit to JB's mum

**Br Isaac Nkwame**

### LENT : A PERIOD OF GRACE FOR THE MARIST MISSION IN KORHOGO

The community of Korhogo has entered into one of the most important seasons of the church's liturgical calendar "the Lenten season". Coming at a time when the community was recently hard hit by the demise of its closest collaborator and long-time teacher 'Mr. Kwame George', and the unpredicted separation of Brother Doua Joachim, the members of the Korhogo community are profiting from this very rich and season to reflect deeply on our calling, our mission and the unavoidable place of suffering and pain in the accomplishment of God's divine will.



In the community, many people are asking for prayers from the Brothers. Though faced with these multiple challenges, the Brothers are aware of their role as prophets, and so everyone continuously instilling hope and assuring those who look up to us that all shall be well. The season has become for us a blessing because it permits us to refuel our spiritual energies, our hopes and a positive attitude towards suffering, drawing from the example of Christ himself who is the Author and Master of our Mission; who himself suffered death in order to gain for us salvation. We have also used the opportunity during this season of Lent to sensitize our students and staff about the need to be charitable. We have created special boxes and we use them for collections in every class. All items collected will serve those most in need after the season of Lent. Let us continue to pray that this season of Lent may truly draw us closer to the Lord.

**Br Deric Ngong**



## NEWS FROM TCHAD *by Br Alfred*

### VISIT TO THE NEWBORN BABIES

After their monthly recollection in December, the Lay Marist of Tchad decided to pay a visit to the newly born babies at the health center of Kemkada (village situated 16km away from KOUMRA). Newly babies received through their parent's gifts of clothes from the Lay Marist. Parents were very happy and grateful for this act of charity towards them. The visit ended with a word of gratitude from the manager of the center and the Lay Marists were asked to name one of the newly born baby and the name Marie Noelle was given.



### REOPENING OF THE LIBRARY

After been closed for more than 10 years due to lack interest in the reading of books by students, the Library of the Cultural Center has been reopened by the new Director Frère Succès. This ceremony witnessed the presence of many people such as education commissioner of the area, headmasters, Brothers and many students from different schools of the locality of Koumra.



After reopening, students were given access free of charge for a month. Subsequently each student will be expected to contribute a token for the maintenance of the library. All those who were present at the ceremony expressed their satisfaction for this initiative which will boost the academic level of students and many other persons.

### SCHOOLS RESUME AFTER STRIKE

After a week of strike in support of public schools, Lycée Collège Marie Ke Tal resumed with normal classes on the 28th of January. The government teachers were demanding better working conditions from the state and since their demands were not met, they decided to go on strike for a month. The tradition is that any time public schools go on strike, private schools must support them or face some reprisals from students of public schools. Thank God as of now part of the problems of the teachers has been attended to and both public and private schools have resumed since the 11<sup>th</sup> of February while they await the response of the government for their other demands.

### FORMATION OF TEACHERS

Five newly recruited teachers benefited from the formation on Marist Pedagogy on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November at the Cultural Center. This formation was facilitated by Br Brendan and the teachers were happy to benefit from Marist Pedagogy that will enable them to better prepare for their mission of education the young ones.





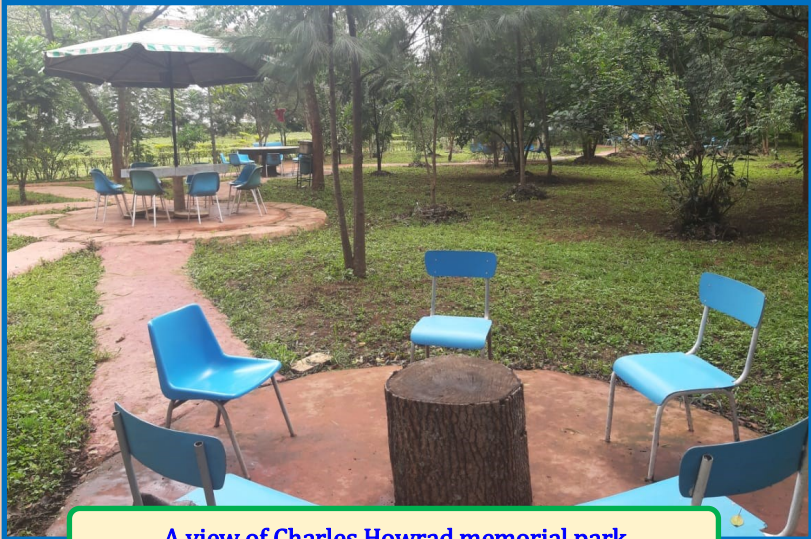
**RANDOM PHOTOS OF INTEREST**



'How good is it when Brothers live together'.



Congratulations to Br Vincent De Paul who was recently appointed as the acting principal of MIUC



A view of Charles Howrad memorial park



The band of Ashalaja in action.



Members of the reflection team working on how to re-launch the Marist International Solidarity Network.

## LAUNCHING OF THE DISTRICT WEBSITE

The District Communications Commission on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 organized a ceremony to launch the official Website of the District. The program, which was streamed on Facebook, was under the theme: Harnessing Communication Technology in the service of Evangelization in the Marist District of West Africa.



The guest speaker, Mr. Luis Da Rosa, the Director of the Institute's website, Champagnat.org at the event, encouraged the Brothers, to sell the District through communication, particularly through publications. He also said that the District has taken the right step, which is in line with the call of the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter, to be a beacon of hope in the turbulent world. In his view, communication is a tool that builds relationships among people. He stressed that the decision to build a website is a sign of commitment to bridge the gap between the District and the world. It is an option to form a global family. According to him publications need not be long; a short write-up is sufficient and will inform the rest of the Marist world of the good work happening in the District, our strengths, challenges and areas where we might need help.



Br Augustine addresses participants at the launching

According to Brother Cyprian Gandeebo, the District Superior, our website christened, *Marist District of West Africa* is a brainchild of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Chapter, which called for improvement in communications in our District. He was grateful to the Communications Commission for the good job that it is doing. The Superior urged all the Brothers to put in, their possible best for the Website to take on its full shape. He made special reference to information on some of our schools and our communities that are lacking. He also urged all the Brothers to use this newly created avenue as a positive means to bridge the communication gap that has existed in the District.

Mr. Felix Fosu, the CEO of Usoft Solutions, the Organization that designed the website, made a brief overview of the District Website. He said that the website can be accessed via the URL, <https://www.maristwestafrica.org>. According to him the Website is made of two sections: Private and Public, that are accessible to Brothers only and anybody respectively. Mr. Fosu also said that through the Website the District can generate relevant information necessary for authentic decisions.

In his closing remarks Br. Pascal Birkem charged the brothers to help make the website lively. In his view the way of doing so include regular visits to the Website, and contributing articles of interest, sharing articles friends on other platforms.

The ceremony was followed by many people across the District and beyond. According to the Facebook page of the District program, reached nearly a1,000 persons and was linked or shared by about 200 individuals. The recorded version of the ceremony is still available on the link, <https://web.facebook.com/Marist-District-of-West-Africa-106169851334232/videos/775997273021504>

*District Communications Commission*



**BISHOP OF OBUASI VISITS POSTULANCY**



The bishop of Obuasi on a pastoral visit to the Postulancy

Simplicity, Humility, Modesty and maintaining a low profile are outstanding characteristics of our chief shepherd, His Lordship John Afuakwa, the Bishop of Obuasi Diocese. Despite his tight schedule and the danger caused by the current pandemic in the world, the Bishop of Obuasi diocese still created time to come to our community for Pastoral visit on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021. He is a true shepherd who has laid down his life for his sheep. Like Jesus Christ who came down from heaven and took human form, the Bishop humbled himself and visited the Postulancy community so that we could have Holy Mass, super and recreation before he departed late at night to Obuasi. His presence has been a source of encouragement for us especially the postulants who couldn't imagine how a bishop could be so simple and humble like that. The Bishop entertained us with a religious and educative movie with the title "MARCELINO". His presence deepened our friendship and most importantly the cooperation and collaboration in the mission of the church in the Diocese. He has remained a source of inspiration to us, especially to our Postulants.

**Br Divine Sebey**

Our community is the most immediate place where this universal love to which we aspire becomes real and grows. The love we have for our brothers is simple, friendly, and attentive to affirming their strengths and recognizing their difficulties. We humbly share their joys and generously give ourselves to all. This same love is expressed in the welcome we offer to those who visit us.

'Constitutions No 20'

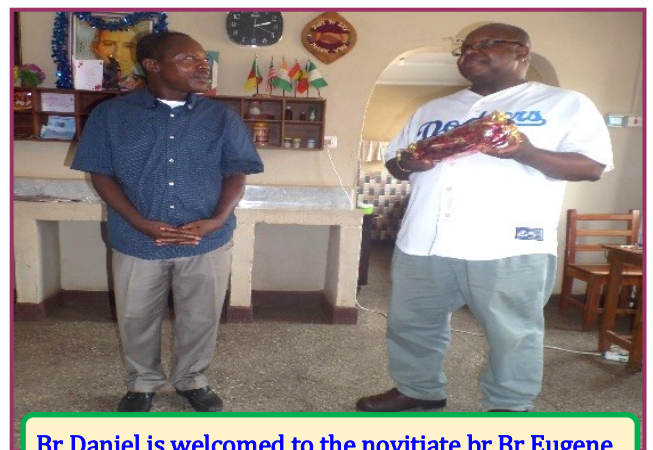
**NEWS FROM THE NOVITIATE**



Novices on community experience in Buokrom c'ty

The Novitiate community has felt in-depth the condition of the whole world since the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic which has brought lives to abnormality. That notwithstanding the novices were able to go for their community experience as part of their formation program. It was done in batches and the duration was reduced from three months to one month. Novices from the two administrative units did the experience here in Ghana. The novitiate community is grateful to all the communities for accepting the novices for one month.

Similarly, the Novitiate Community welcomed Br Daniel Taylor to the community. Br Daniel was supposed to have his sabbatical in the Philippines but has been unable to do so due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He was therefore assigned to the Novitiate by the District Superior and his



Br Daniel is welcomed to the novitiate by Br Eugene



## FRATERNITY SPORTS TOURNAMENT

The MIC community organized an inter-fraternity sports tournament during the Christmas holidays. The tournament began with basketball games before Christmas. That was the first phase of the tournament. The second phase of the tournament was football and volleyball.



Br Martin encouraging fair play at MIC tournament

Indeed, it was a successful tournament, well organized with no major injuries. Lavalla fraternity emerged the winners for volleyball and basketball while François fraternity was victorious in football. To conclude the tournament, a party was organized to crown the winning teams and encourage the best players and teams of the season. This marked the end of the holiday program and the beginning of a new semester

## Br Kra Benjamin

## YASSA COMMUNITY IN THE HEARTS OF THE DESTITUTE

A good number of internally displaced persons from the South West, North West and far North regions of Cameroon benefited from the Global Fund for Humanitarian Assistance granted to the Yassa community. Laughter, tears of joy, endless ‘thank you’ and invocations of blessings on us were the common gestures and words that went back with us as we brought the humanitarian aid to the disadvantaged around us. The aid was segmented into four portions to meet the needs of these needy persons; food stuff, education, health

and medical equipment. Many students who stopped school because of incomplete school fees regained their benches in school and had stationery and other school needs completed. Struggling families received bags of rice, cooking oil and detergents, while those patients who couldn’t afford to be attended to in hospital due to financial constraints were also assisted by this Fund.



Foodstuff presented by Yassa c'ty to some IDP's

The whole experience for us in the community of Yassa was an eye opener to the reality of the people living in our environs. Poverty around us is indeed a reality and many people are chained in it, to the extent that their very basic rights to medical attention, food and education is stolen from them. Nonetheless, the most beautiful side of it all still comes from these struggling families whose hands and hearts are so open and welcoming to the extent that some of the families could host more than 35 IDPs with the meager earnings and limited accommodations. Despite their hardships, they never closed their generous spirit which to most of them is the source of blessings and prosperity, and indeed it is. This project has been a thought provoking experience, and has challenged the community to look for the best ways of sustainably assisting the poor people around our neighborhood. It might seem insignificant, but we are so assured that, that an insignificant touch to a person in need will go a long way to change their livelihood in the future and have the effect of the mustard seed planted in faith and hope.

## Br Mbiatem Eyong

**LIFE IN MARIST COLLEGE, POUGHKEEPSIE**

I am in the Marist Community of Poughkeepsie with two retired brothers John Nash and Joe Matthews. The community is not apostolic in nature. The community render services to the archive office of the Province through Br John. The Community exercises its responsibilities towards wellbeing of humanity through Communal daily prayers.

New York state government allowed opening of schools in February but each school is responsible for the safety of their students. Marist college has subjected its staff and students to every 14-day COVID-19 test which gives you access to the campus. Classes are divided into two groups during lessons, one group attending through zoom and the other in-person with the lecturer. Majority of the activities and learning on campus are done virtually. Technology use is at a high rate in Marist college and in the USA at large. This makes life challenging especially when you are not used to technology or manipulating computers.

Socialization as part of college life is out of topic. Vaccination against COVID-19 is being administered to persons of 60years and above which started in January 2021. Majority of the Marist brothers have received their shots. Hopefully, by the end of April majority of school going children will have been vaccinated. This will help to normalize life and initiate another phase of Marist apostolate in the college.



**Br Michael is currently pursuing his studies in the USA**

**ONLINE LESSONS IN LEBANON**

The school academic year 2010/2021 has been a challenging one for the two Marist schools in Lebanon. During the first semester, students in Jbail and Amchit were partitioned into two groups and attended lessons in shifts as one of the measures to combat against Covid-19. As one group was attending school lessons, another group followed suit virtually. However, the first semester got aborted, as Covid-19 cases were growing at the speed of light.



**Brothers from Champville Community in Lebanon**

Even though Lebanon has been on lock down for the past two months, classes are still going on virtually in the Marist Schools, from nursery school to the upper-grade level, with the aid of parents at home. The greatest challenge is on the poor families who struggle to get the needed technology to attend online classes.

Like many European countries, the vaccine has eased movement as things are gradually coming back to normalcy. The government has given the schedule of the vaccine beginning with the elderly persons. Some elderly Brothers in our communities in Lebanon have already received it. We hope the coming of the vaccine will help to bring things back to normalcy.

**Tomla Elvis Tardzenyuy**

**Marist International University College, forward ever backward never;**

**(35 years on the move- (1986-2021)**

**Marist International University College  
The morning star, rising sun, light to the nations,  
Marists of Champagnat, roll your sleeves and get to work,  
Charles Howard and his Team set the pace,  
35 years of innovation and transformation.**

**Beyond the horizon, over the sands of Africa,  
And over the still waters of Karen,  
Lies Marist International University College,  
Where the still waters reveal the land's calmness,  
35 years of innovation and transformation.**



**The grim struggle of determined fellows,  
Their wining smiles, comforting eyes,  
Frequently plots my heart melodiously,  
Scuffling for education, whooping with joy,  
35 years of innovation and transformation.**

**Marist International University College,  
Has lived the Zeal and endure to conquer,  
Licking the hearts and lives of all into shape,  
Giving hope and future, the redeemer,  
35 years of innovation and transformation.**

**Marist my hope, my pride and treasure,  
A golden jewel, bounds to our lives,  
The magic works that rejuvenate my future,  
Marist the mirror of success to all,  
35 years of innovation and transformation.**



**Br Franvis Veye**



**RANDOM PHOTOS OF INTEREST**



*'Young brothers in MIC after a seminar'*



*Career Guidance & Counseling. Exploring the future of young people in Liberia.*



*'Br John on mission in Cambodia'*



*'Br Eyong during a visit to some IDP's'*



*'Assembly at Our Good Mother School'*



*"Pupils of MPS during a lesson"*



*One of the staff quarters of St Albert's College consumed by the bush fires during the dry season*

## BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH

March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mbiatem Eyong
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Simon Kanjam Lawrence Doe
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Tansam Yuonji
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Wiysenyuy Habib

### APRIL

April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Francis Lukong
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Gilbert Asong Samuel Stephens
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pascal Koffi
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Dorbin Emmanuel
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Etienne Balma

## Superior's Calendar of Activities

March 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> 2021	86 <sup>th</sup> DCM Virtual
March 8 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Visit to Monrovia Community
March 12 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Inter-coordination meeting
March 11 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> 2021	District House
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2021	87 <sup>th</sup> DCM Virtual
April 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> 2021	88 <sup>th</sup> DCM Virtual
May 6 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Visit to Koumra Community
May 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Visit to Yassa Community
May 21 <sup>st</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Visit to Tatum Community
May 26 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Visit to Bafut Community
May 28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> 2021	89 <sup>th</sup> DCM Virtual
June 8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Board of Superiors—Kumasi
June 12 <sup>th</sup> 2021	First Religious Profession—K'si
June 15 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> 2021	90 <sup>th</sup> DCM Virtual
July 30 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> 2021	91 <sup>st</sup> DCM Virtual
August 2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> 2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Assembly.
August 9 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> Provincial Chapter—Accra

**Next Edition will be Published on  
May 10<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

### 'Those responsible for resources'

Those responsible for resources at the service of the Institute take good care of them, inspired by the mission they take on within the Church. In their management, they show great concern for the common good, for justice, poverty, charity, and the mission of the Institute. Their management practices respect Canon Law and our Proper Law, as well as the local civil law.

(Constitutions Article 101)

MARIST DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA  
Communication Commission  
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chochobr@gmail.com