

2021 June-September



**Marist Brothers-Irmãos Maristas**  
Province of Southern Africa-Mtendere  
Novitiate



## NEWSLETTER

Vol #1





From the Novitiate Desk.

Welcome to the first edition of Marist Mtendere Novitiate's first ever newsletter, by the novices, for the Marist world. This project has been months in the making, and we are excited to finally unveil it to you. Mtendere newsletter's significance lies in its power to be an effective platform to connect the novitiate to the Marist world. More importantly however, it aims to establish an outlet for the Novices to showcase their talents and express themselves.

This inaugural issue features a collection of the most thoughtful and appealing Novices produced writings, as well as some photos of life within and outside our walls.

We are grateful as a community and would like to thank everyone who played a role in making this vision come to life. Credit goes to those who have shown good will towards this publication. The following Novices, Blessings Kachepa, Panashe Yusufu and Brave Kazembe for the excellent editorial work.

Enjoy and relax as you go through this good read.

United in Champagnat

Br Emmanuel Mwanalirenji.

**UP COMING BITHDAYS**

| SEPTEMBER  |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 25-09-1997 | LEORNARDO ROSARIO<br>(nov.ad.2020) |

| OCTOBER    |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 06-10-1999 | Samson Steven (nov.ad.2021)     |
| 27-10-2000 | BLESSINGS KACHEPA (nov.ad.2020) |

| NOVEMBER   |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 10-11-1999 | MIGUEL TCHIMBAMBA<br>(nov.ad.2021) |

**POPE FRANCIS INTENTIONS**

**OCTOBER**

That every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization and available for mission, by being witness of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel. Amen

**NOVEMBER**

That people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life. Amen

**Prayer to St Joseph (The year of St Joseph. 2021)**

O St Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O St Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord; so that having engaged here below your Heavenly power I may offer my thanksgiving and Homage to the most loving of Fathers. O St Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen



*NINE POSTULANTS JOIN MARIST INSTITUTE AT MTENDERE  
NOVIATE, MALAWI.*



The Province of the Southern Africa on the 19th of June 2021 welcomed nine new novices. The Province of Southern Africa is composed of six countries (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Angola and Mozambique). The nine newly accepted Novices; one is from Zimbabwe, two from Angola and six from Malawi. We were privileged with the presence of our Brother Provincial, Brother Norbert Mwila who welcomed the postulants into the novitiate, as well as the Sector Councillor for Malawi Brother Francis Jumbe, together with the Brothers from Mtendere and Marist communities, here in Mtendere.



Firstly, we had the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Kapalasa from St. Kizito Minor Seminary, and after Mass we had a gathering which was graced by the Spiritan Community and the Brothers from Mtendere. The Mass ceremony and the gathering after Mass are worthy to be remembered because they were well organized. Thanks to the Master of novices, Bro. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji

Now the Novitiate House has eighteen Novices, nine the first group and nine from the other group. Currently the Province has two groups of Novices in canonical year due to Covid-19 disturbances. Due to the covid pandemic issue the novitiate of Matola had to relocate to Dedza, Mtendere.



and his team, Bro Simeon Banda and Bro Denis, who assisted too in making this day successful.

*Saulos Kalongonda sharing the cake on the official acceptance celebration.  
Behind him is Bro. Lawrence Ndawala the Master of postulants and Fr Chungu the Parish Priest of Mtendere.*



*Is no longer Brother Denis, but the Golden Jubilarian.*



It was an awesome day beamed with golden shining faces, day like no other, when Brother Denis clocked 50 years as a Marist Brother. It was a day blessed with the other major feasts in the Church that is the feast Of the Corpus Christi and feast day of St. Marcellin Champagnat. Who is Brother Denis? Brother Denis was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1949; and he became a Brother on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1971. As a man with a lot of experiences in religious life, he encouraged us to be stable and chastises us not to devote ourselves to perpetual aspirants but to come and stay.



*Brother Denis cutting the cake ; to his right is Brother Emmanuel Mwanaalirenji and to his left is Leonardo Rosario .*



Brother Denis leading the step.

**50  
YEARS A MARIST!**

*Brother kept us smiling.*



*Brother sharing his experience as a Marist.*

**"...now and at the hour of death".**

When I am praying the Rosary with my Brothers, many times I remain with the phrase, "now and at the hour of our death." this part of prayer to Our Good Mother always touches my heart.

Why is it that Jesus spoke much of His death? "Behold we are going to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will suffer..." (Mk 10:33). "One of you will betray me", Jn 13:21. "The Son of Man must suffer and be rejected..."(Lk 9:21). The passion of Jesus was terrible and he could not keep it in his heart because of the Redemption which was going to be gained. What about me? Why am I not aware of my own death? An inspiration contrary to this we have an example in the Church, the Uganda mar-

tyrs who freely and voluntarily offered themselves for the sake of Christ. Other saints are Agatha, Agnes and many others who had a great desire to die as martyrs. Why was death so attractive to them?

Our Lady of Fatima told us to pray for the souls of the dead. Some they need our prayers to reach the Heavenly Kingdom. It is indeed a need to pray for this hour of our death. "How precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his beloved", Psalms 116:15. My the Lord bless us as we meditate upon this phrase, " ...now and at the hour of our death".

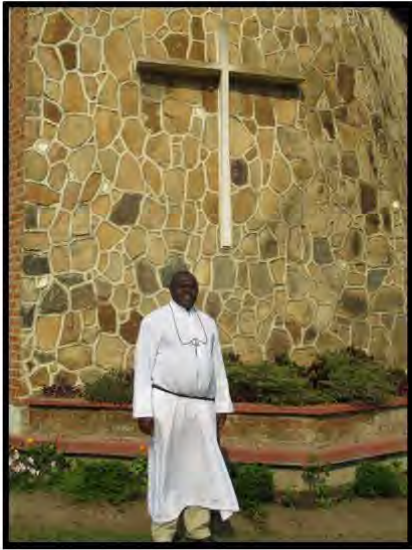
**Reflection by Samson Steven Nov ad 2021.**

### LOVE OF WORK JUST LIKE OUR FOUNDER



## Silver Jubilee of first profession of Bro. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji.

On the 20th of July 2021 we marked the silver jubilee of first profession of Bro. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji at Champagnat House Novitiate, Mtendere.



of his relationship with God and the two of them have a long history to the extent that He called him to make Him known and loved, and also St. Marcellin Champagnat whom he experienced and felt his presence. For all the novices and the formation team; Bro. Simeon Banda and Bro. Denis, we remained with a phrase which touched our hearts. He asserts, "It is God who has been faithful to me and my vocation. The same thing must be to you my Brothers that we continue to do His will and He will always be faithful to us". More so he gave his gratitude to his parents and family, Brothers, and the communities in Zimbabwe, his formatters; the late Bro. Kizito Bute, Bro. Raymond, Bro. Simeon, and team during postulancy, Bro. James Langlois during novitiate, Bro. Eugene Kabanguka and team during MIUC, students and those who were with him during his formation period .

A night that was accompanied with love, joy, family spirit, music and dancing. It is always a blessing to have one of our brothers reaching that milestone in the institute. We always give glory and praise to God who called each one of us by name. In his speech he articulated that to reach that milestone of 25years as a Marist Brother it is because

Finally, from Bro. Simeon his postulant formatter he affirms that as a Brother we like the Apostles who were told to go to Galilee. So, for us we should think of our vocation and mission. To mark the end, as a tradition in our community, we invoked Our Good Mother Mary with a "*SALVE REGINA*".

Brother Denis expressing his joy through a toast!!



### THE IMPORTANCE OF ADORATION

I was very touched with two words which the oxford dictionary has used in defining the word Adoration. "Love and respect". I gazed at myself trying to recognize the people I love and respect. It was very easy to come up with a shortlist of parents, relatives, friends and my brothers in the community; but the point dwelt on how I recognized that I love and respect the people listed above. In recognizing, there was one thing which was common; which is that, in the presence of the people I love and respect mostly, I allow them to lead me. Unknowingly I become passive in the presence of the people I love and respect. Asking myself, "why do I remain passive?" Yaah! Indeed it's because of the joy I feel in their presence" I answered myself. Then why do I fail sometimes to be passive in the presence of Christ during adoration? Yet I claim to love and respect Jesus Christ who is

my Best Friend. Among all the people I love, Christ is the paramount; spending a moment with Him brings an absolute joy, it gives a reason to smile and strength to progress. Being passive in the presence of Christ is a strong prayer. I found it good to overcome the fear of being alone by staying with the one inside me. As a best friend, He needs more time to talk to me; but always I find myself dominating whenever I have time to pray. It is only in silence with Christ that I can understand and accept myself better. It is only by His grace in silence that I can reach the extent of listening to blood flowing in me. If you want to appreciate that the Pope's encyclical *"Our common home"* reveals a mystery of connectedness of human, divine and nature, take a moment and be passive to CHRIST. (Blessings Kachepa. Nov. Ad 2020)

JUST GOOD TO SEE!!





**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS; JUNE TO AUGUST.**

*BELOW ARE THE PHOTOS OF BIRTHDAYS CELEBRANTS ACCOMPAINED BY THEIR VOTE OF THANKS.*



**Saulos Kalongonda  
(8th July 1999)**

“What unites us is not the food we eat but a gift of our brotherhood we cherish”, personally I have witnessed that. Celebrating birthdays in the community is always joyous and I have cherished those moments. With that experience I owe Mary our Ordinary Resource, for making everything possible and in a special way to the community for the enormous work so nobly done. My brothers may God continue blessing us as we are making him known and loved.



**Denis Alberto  
(11th July 1990)**

Let me thank the whole community for the colorful celebration marking my Birthday. Indeed I saw the home of light through each and every one of you. May, the Almighty God bless us all as we are journeying together in the Family of Mary .



**Damiano Kabichi  
(28th August 1994)**

I thank the community for the good preparation of my Birthday, as well as God who made it possible to be enjoyable. Glory to him.



**Christopher Waya (24th August 1996)**

Firstly, let me express my words of gratitude to our good Mother Mary for making everything possible to have the colorful celebration like the way it was, and you my dear brothers for much exertion you put to make my day unforgettable. May, God continue pouring his blessings on us as we are journeying together in this family of Mary. Stay blessed.



**Buka Kiaku  
(24th August 2001)**

I am very grateful for everything you my brothers did on my Birthday you have really made me feel that we are definitely journeying together in Mary's Family. The words of encouragement you wrote to me and those came out in diverse activities you prepared, I regard them as the best gift I have ever received in my life, they will remain in the depth of my heart. Stay blessed.



**Emmanuel Geoffrey  
(17th August 1998)**

I would like to express my word of gratitude firstly to the formation team, and my fellow Novices for the spiritual brotherly support and encouragement that I received on my birthday. May God bless us, keep us faithful and strong in our vocation.

## MORE FOR BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!!

ELIJAH MOLICIO . Nov ad 2021. (10TH JULY 1995)

July 25th 2021, was a wonderful and an unforgettable day. The whole community joined me to mark my birthday. One thing that remained in me was their smiling faces and it showed me the happiness and indeed the goodness of family spirit. As far as my vocation is concerned, I pray that God should help me, so that I acknowledge his presence in my life and that I may be able to answer his call freely. Another thing is that I would like to thank the Lord for the gift of life shared through parents; and indeed, God should bless them as well as my family members, relatives and friends including all the people who have helped me to be the way I am today. Munch thanks to the Formators and my fellow Novices and God should continue showering them with graces and blessings they need.



Babies with gifts in their hands.

Birthday celebration on 29th August



## JULY BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!!



**Brother Simeon Banda**

**MY BIRTHDAY**



My dear Brothers (novices and staff), I feel greatly humbled that you thought of celebrating my birthday today, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021. You have honoured me with a unique table decorated with a bouquet of flowers expressing your love for me and telling me that I matter. I owe a lot of gratitude to God who made it possible that I be born on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1958. Reaching 63 years, I feel I owe God, my grandmother, my aunt, my cousin brothers, Sister Telesa Dizeal of the Immaculate Concep-

tion Sisters who took a lion's share in my schooling. I have lived with brother companions who have given support and encouragement along the way. Far from it that I have lived a life of regrets but of support and challenges. Thanks to the Marist Brothers for making me visit places I never dreamed of in my life. Being with students, aspirants, postulants and novices have played a role in sustaining my vocation. I like Prophet Elisha, who after hearing the call through Elijah to be a prophet broke the oxcart and killed the oxen showing, he would never again return to the old profession. This prophet has inspired me and has made my stay as a brother for at least 32 years feeling at home than ever before.

Looking at you with desire of following the same path that I am following, why not pat you at the back and wish you successful and fruitful journey. Being at the prime of life and the warmth of your vocation is a joy to the entire global Marist world who see you as the hope of the institute. Never kill this passion and joy that characterize your life now. Turn it from superficial into a genuine joy for being part of the company of Mary. Find moments each day to thank her and to ask for her mother support in your vocation. I am sure with her; you never regret now and will be assured a place in the life to come. Thanks to all of you for making my day memorable and full of joy. What you have written for me will be a source of my meditation, until God's willing; the same God grants another opportunity to celebrate the next one. Stay blessed.



*It was celebrated!!*

## THE MADONNA IN OUR MIDST

When I was still in high school, I used to ask myself, "How many titles are attributed to Mary and where do those titles come from?" As I advanced, in age and as I joined the Marist Brothers, I discovered that Mary is the Mother of each and every person, tribe, race and nation.

If we are to count the titles given to Mary, we cannot finish them. Why? Because each person has or can give Mary the title according to the inspiration, they draw from her or the impact she has had in one's life. Some say Mary Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Peace and some say Mary Queen of Happiness, Comforter of the sorrowful etc. This is an indication that Mary (*The Madonna*) is always in the midst of each, and every situation be it joyful or sorrowful. Christ's Redemption is not exclusive but rather inclusive, hence God chose Mary to be the Mother of everyone in the universe and John representing all the humanity (*cf Jn 19:26-27*). As the disciple took Mary into his house, we too ought to do the same. To take her in our hearts and in our lives. She is the gift for us from Christ and we

should embrace that gift, imitate it and invoke it in every scenario in our lives. Why? Because she is always in our midst.

Our founder St. Marcellin Champagnat once said that without Mary we are nothing and with Mary we have everything. This shows that if we are to grow in our lives physically and spiritually, we should be conscious that the Madonna is with us. She is in our midst and we should make her the guardian of our vocation and look to her with tender love, so as to live with her, taking her life as an example to the life we are called to live. Once we recognize the Madonna's love and her presence in our midst, we will not remain in our cells but we will make haste to go to the young ones in the peripheries to make her known and loved as she has loved us.

REFLECTION BY PANASHE YUSUFU . NOV AD 2021.

## CHAMPAGNAT HOUSE.

You help me to pray  
 You help me to deepen my  
 relationship with God  
 The site you are, encircled with all  
 kinds of nature  
 Reminds me of my  
 responsibility of taking care  
 For our common Home the  
 Earth.



You  
 are, throughout evergreen  
 Day and night you are clean  
 Reflects the hearts of people living  
 inside  
 You call me to build a Home of Light  
 inside.

*That's Champagnat  
 house.*

## *AN OUTING TO LIWONDE NATIONAL PARK*



*In the bus*



*A group photo after moving around the park.*



*We sat for lunch in the Park.*

The journey to Liwonde National Park commenced at 4:5am and everyone had a lot of expectations as Damiano Archangel expressed when we stopped at Liwonde Trading Centre, that being his first time to visit a nation park, he couldn't wait to see an Elephant and Hippos and he was very happy. As well Brother Simeon Banda at the same place expressed that he was very excited of the outing. He encouraged us to feel connected with the nature, and that dovetails with the Pope's encyclical that we should take care of our common home for we are part of that ecosystem Brother further expressed that he had been to several nation parks before in and outside Malawi, but this was another experience. After an electric day we were back home at 8:10pm and we thank God for journeying us to and fro.





Brother Emmanuel Mwanaalirenji.  
**EM.**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH BROTHER EMMANUEL MWANALIRENJI THE MASTER OF NOVICES AT LIWONDE NATIONAL PARK.  
BY: NOV. BLESSINGS KACHEPA**



Nov. Blessings Kachepa.  
**BK**

**BK:** Yes! Brother. How is the Afternoon?

**EM:** Afternoon is good, what about you?

**BK:** Am okay.

**BK:** Brother, is this your first time to be in a national Park?

**EM:** No, I have been to several national parks, and above all the community that I was once appointed to, Marist Dete in Zimbabwe, is situated in Hwange national park where there are more than fifteen thousand Elephants.

**BK:** That’s interesting Brother; so what is your general feeling?

**EM:** In fact everything is just good and it’s a nice experience as well as good time to rest by spending a day outside the community. I am very impressed with the tour guide that he is knowledgeable seeing the way he was answering questions. The driver as well Mr. Zamayere, deserve lots of appreciation as he has driven us well when we were seeing the animals and we hope the same as we will returning home. Not forgetting Brother Simeon and his team, who are working hard to provide the best for us.

**BK:** What has really touched you here at Liwonde National Park and what can be improved?

**EM:** I am impressed that Malawi as a Nation is doing well in conserving the nature. The tour guide explained well about the symbiotic relationship among the animals which is another striking idea. The things that can be improved, firstly, is to change the mindset of people; locally our people believe much in some taboos toward the animals like snakes which result into careless killing of these animals. Secondly the tour guide explained well about the poachers who are killing animals in this park, this is as well to encourage people around

the park to help in conserving nature directly or indirect and to allow nature to take charge.

**BK:** What is your message to the Marist world on the issue of conserving nature?

**EM:** My message to the Marist world is that we should take a responsibility in conserving the nature. God created all things and gave us responsibility to help Him in recreating the nature. Nature should be part and parcel of evangelization; and we should make people realize how connected we are to the nature and that we are beneficiaries of the nature as the Pope’s encyclical “*LAUDATO SI*” defines. As Brothers as well in our schools we can introduce nature clubs which can help our students to grow with love for nature and they can become citizens who will protect the nature.

**BK:** Lastly how can you describe the outing in general?

**EM:** “The outing is very empowering; and is not just a picnic but an educational visit as well”

**BK:** Thank you Brother for your time.

**EM:** Welcome; I am impressed.



## MORE LIWONDE Pictures



### DID YOU KNOW?

*That Liwonde national park has got 800 elephants.*

*That Liwonde national park covers three districts; Machinga, Balaka and Mangochi.*

*That the park has got 8 lions and 20 cheaters.*

*That a baobab tree is good food for elephants*

*That the park has more than 3000 species of birds.*



**AT KAMUZU BRIDGE; ON OUR WAY TO THE NATIONAL PARK.**



**Right to left. Mr. Chimwaza (tour guide) Mr. Zamayere (driver) Bro. Simeon Banda and nov. Saulos Kalongonda**



*Bravo! The Long-awaited "Constitutions and Statutes" together with the "Wherever You Go- The Marist Brothers' Rule of Life" have finally arrived at Mtendere Novitiate Malawi.*



From word go, the novitiate introduces the novices to the constitutions and Statutes. But that was not the case with Mtendere Novitiate. When the first group were officially received on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, the staff had to improvise Blue Constitutions and Statutes of 2017. Then when the new group arrived, the staff took a decision, to have the original draft Constitutions and Statutes of 2021 printed. This facilitated the learning process and we felt we were on the same page with other novitiate houses throughout the Institute. It ignited us with joy, and we felt it was right and proper to pose for a photo while holding the Constitutions and Statutes behind our chapel immediately after Mass.

We owe our gratitude to Brother Misheck who accepted to be a photographer. All who facilitated the process to make sure they landed into our hands deserve a pat at the back. As we say in Chichewa, "Talandilandimanjaawiri", literally it means we have received with two hands. In the Malawian culture parents always teach children to receive any gift using two hands. It is a sign of gratitude. After all anthropology teaches us to accept and respect cultural differences because God speaks to us through our cultural identities. We shall put to good use the Constitutions and Statutes together with the Wherever You Go- The Marist Brothers' Rule of Life. Bro. Simeon Banda fms.



***"It is a document of great value and a clear reference for following Jesus in your vocation as a Marist Brother".*** A statement from the Foreword of the new constitutions by the Superior General. We are very glad to carry the official text of the revised constitutions in our hands as Marist novices in the province of the Southern Africa and our formators. Carrying the Constitutions, it feels like carrying the heart and the whole dream of the founder as article 12 defines. Generally, Christianity is a call to live as brothers and sisters in Christ. The Holy Gospel is the main identity of every Christian, but the Constitutions, gives us a clear and pure identity as Marists in the world; since the constitutions are the Gospel interpreted for us. We long and strive to reach the extent of being challenged by the constitutions as they are the main source of fraternal life in the community. Promising to follow the Constitutions is a wish of everyone which needs God's graces to help in striving for it in our daily life. As novices on the journey, these constitutions will help us to understand the kind of life and the spirituality we are envisaging the Constitutions as well will put us closer to God as we seek His will in our daily life through them.  
(Blessings Kachepa Nov ad 2020)



## THE DIOCESE OF DEDZA RECEIVES A NEW SHEPHERD



VIVA DEDZA VIVA!!! The Episcopal ordination of Rev. Fr. Peter Adrian Chifukwa marked the end of the long-awaited day by the faithful of the Diocese of Dedza as well as the entire church in Malawi. The entrance hymn by the choir, “Lafikadi tsiku lija tinkadikilali”, literally translated into English, “indeed the day we have been waiting for has come”, spiced it all. The ceremony was officiated by His Grace, Most Rev, Thomas Luke Msusa the Archbishop of Blantyre together with the other Bishops. The presence of the Nuncio, the representative of the Pope to Zambia and Malawi was also felt. The religious and priests from within and beyond thronged Bembeke Mission to witness the consecration. The warm relationship between the state and the Church was felt by the presence of President, H. E. Dr. Lazarus Chakwera together with the vice President of the Republic Rt. Hon. Dr. Saulos-Chilima, who are both schooled in the diocese. The new Bishop, Right Rev. Peter Adrian Chifukwa, who succeeded the late Bishop Emmanuel Kanyama shepherds the diocese which comprise of the districts of Dedza, Ntcheu and Salima.



**At the Novitiate Ground**

It was my experience at the novitiate on my own realization concerning prayer from postulancy that we start day with prayer and finish it with prayer. It was good experience for my spiritual life and it is still the same right now.

The period of postulancy helped me to understand what is required of me at novitiate, since it is a rehearsal ground for the life to be encountered in the institute.

*“Don't you know that you have to go to the Immaculate and Sacred Heart of Jesus respectively?”* These words from the letter of Brother Cassien inspire me a lot and they invite to always invoke these Holy Hearts of Mary and Jesus.

All in all, the education of the youths indeed mars our apostolate and one heart marks our union.

**John Chinkono Nov. Ad 2021**



**GOOD TO SEE**



In sports



Gathering around the table



Our cooks at Chappagnat house.



Cooking is a Sunday habit.



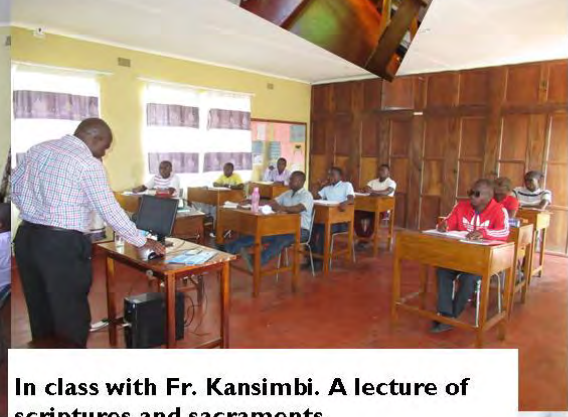
**PRAYER LIFE.**



**Fr. Mathews Chimtendere celebrating mass in the novitiate.**



**Constitution class with the Master of Novices.**



**In class with Fr. Kansimbi. A lecture of scriptures and sacraments.**



Fomators at table.



Recreating.



OUR LADY OF CHAMPAGNAT HOUSE.

MTENDERE NOVITATE



Marists of Champagne