



Marist Brothers – Irmãos Maristas
Province of Southern Africa - Província da África Austral
NEWSLETTER

2021 November - December

Vol.2 #33



MARIST BROTHERS NYANGA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SOON AFTER A COMMUNION SERVICE CONDUCTED BY BRO. LEONARD BRITO ON 17 OCTOBER 2021

From left: Clayton Matabuka, Honoured Kandima, Br. Leonard, Peace Zenda and Captain Dirwai-Church Prefect.

Message from Br. Norbert Mwila

Recently, I received a letter from the Secretariat of Brothers Today announcing the 'Year of Marist Vocations'. This "time of God's favour" to "care for and generate Marist life" will commence on the 20th of May 2022 and conclude on the 6th of June 2023.

In the light of this announcement, and the opportunity it opens for us as a Province, I would like to put before you four questions that I hope will motivate reflection and discussion on how everyone involved in the life of our Province can be meaningfully engaged in this 'Year of Marist Vocations'.

1. What does it mean for us Brothers today to have a year dedicated to Marist vocations?

In Brother Ernesto's 2020 circular entitled, 'Homes of Light: Caring For Life, Generating New Life', he asks very pertinent question, "*What do we imagine God's dream to be for the Marist charism in our days and into the future?*" (p.118). This question also led me to question what is my own dream for our Institute, our region of the continent of Africa, and our own Province of Southern Africa? What does this dream demand of me, and my fellow Marists, to live out with enthusiasm and conviction now, if the dream is to become a reality in the future?

Brother Ernesto certainly strongly believes God has a dream for our Institute! His 2020 circular is a call for all Marists of Champagnat, brothers and lay, to explore how we can care for Marist life and generate new Marist life. He acknowledges that our approach to promoting and generating Marist life cannot be done as it was in the past because we now live in a different time, with a renewed sense of our identity, spirituality, and how we carry out our mission as Marists. If we are to face this reality and challenge with courage and creativity, Brother Ernesto says it requires us to develop a new perspective, a new culture of vocation, and a new paradigm. Brother Ernesto believes that "to journey together, in communion, as passionate and fully committed Marists of Champagnat, is an important and essential key for unlocking the future of the Marist charism." (p. 126) He goes on to say, "Building a New Lavalla" will only be possible if we can count on Marists, brothers or lay, who are passionate followers of Jesus" (p. 129).

The calls of the last General Chapter, our newly revised Constitutions and the Rule of Life, and Brother Ernesto's Circular provide us with a clear idea of what "new perspective" we need to bring to this 'Year of Marist Vocations'. To me, it would be important for us to take some time personally, and as a community, firstly reflecting on and sharing:

- ⇒ **How do we brothers today live our vocation of brotherhood with passion and integrity, as we walk alongside young people who are searching to discover their personal vocation?**
- ⇒ **Where and when do I see the Marist charism most alive in me and my fellow Marists of Champagnat, be they lay people or my brothers?**
- ⇒ **How does being part of a global Marist family make a difference to how we live being Marist of Champagnat today?**
- ⇒ **What gives me hope for our shared future as Marists of Champagnat?**

As a practical suggestion, each of our communities could take up Brother Ernesto's invitation to sponsor a forum where we brothers and lay people can sit down together to "imagine and dream about Marist life in the future, what it means to be a brother, and what it means to be a lay Marist." (p.128). The fruits of this dialogue would help inform our perspective and approach to the promotion of each Marist vocation.

2. Is the animation of vocations in the initial formation an important aspect for the Institute? What's the way to go about it?

Vocations Ministry is one of the priorities of our Province. While it is important and essential that we promote the value of our vocation as Brothers, being open to the new perspective that the Spirit is inspiring in us at this moment of our history is also calling us to acknowledge, affirm and support those lay men and women who are committed to the Marist charism and mission as a way of out their personal God-given vocation. How are we acknowledging, accompanying, and supporting those lay men and women we know in their Marist vocational journey? How might we, as Marists of Champagnat, brothers and lay, develop an approach that is co-responsible and collaborative in the promotion of each of the Marist vocations?

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Marist Vocations



Marist Vocations continued...



Marist Vocations continued...



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Another aspect it would be important for us to explore as part of the 'Year of Marist Vocations' is to find practical ways we can give life in our schools to an authentic 'culture of vocation'. Cultivating a 'culture of vocations' means creating an environment and nurturing intentional approaches where individuals can experience a personal invitation to discern accurately and embrace freely the form of permanent commitment in the Church to which he or she is being called. How do we accompany those young people who feel they have received and welcomed the gift of the Marist charism in their lives?

An initiative we are putting in place in the Province is a Vocations Team. This team will consist of Brothers and lay people who will receive some initiation formation relating to Marist spirituality and to their vocation. This initiative is an indication that the culture of vocations and initial formation is a priority and has a special place of value in the mission of our Province.

In the annual Community Life Plan, each Brothers' Community is required to outline and evaluate how they are helping to build a positive "culture of vocations" and promote Marist vocations. While we give priority to how we promote, invite and accompany our vocation as Marist Brothers, we need to also outline how we intend to help promote and support lay Marist vocations.

3. What are the challenges for the brothers today after 204 year of the foundation of the Institute?

St. Marcellin's deep cry still resonates with us in the 21st century. "We need brothers!" The life and mission of the Marists of Champagnat is still relevant, valuable and needed in contributing to God's overall mission in our world. The Marist mission we need to accomplish, however, cannot be done single-handedly by only the Brothers. The Spirit has made abundantly clear to us in recent years that our Marist charism is a gift for the whole church and is shared by brothers and lay. "This movement of the Spirit unites all Marists of Champagnat into a global charismatic family" (Cons #6).



We need Brothers who are firmly grounded and rooted in their Christian faith; Brothers who love their vocation to be brother and are passionate about being a brother for others. ***"love your vocation, be faithful and steadfast to the end, with courage. May the Good Mother preserve you, give you increase and bring you to holiness."*** (St. Marcellin)

5. What particular experiences of the Brothers of Southern Africa could be an encouragement for Marist life and mission?

The distinctive way in which the Marist charism expresses itself through the unique cultures of our brothers in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Group of Lay Marists in Mozambique

That the children and young people especially those on the margins of life have a special place of consideration in our mission in the places of ministry where we encounter them. In our schools, parishes and social centres like in Atlantis, Cape Town where the Lavalla200 project and Marist International Community is present.

Moments of sharing and celebrating together special events such as annual retreats, Marist feasts like Champagnat Day and Jubilee celebrations. Being part of a global community, we see ourselves responding to the emerging needs from a Marist perspective in the care for our common home and in solidarity and support for one another, particularly during this time of a global pandemic.



"THE STATUE MUST BE CHISELLED
WITH VERY SHARP TOOLS
BEFORE IT IS FIT TO BE PLACED
IN THE GRAND GALLERY."

— ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS



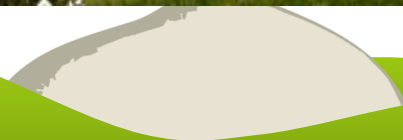
Celebrating God's love: From Left; Bro. Nicholas Banda, Br. Dickson Auxensio, Br. Denis, Br. Frank Mwambucha, Br. Boniface Chirambo, Br. Lawrence Ndawala and Br. Simeon Banda



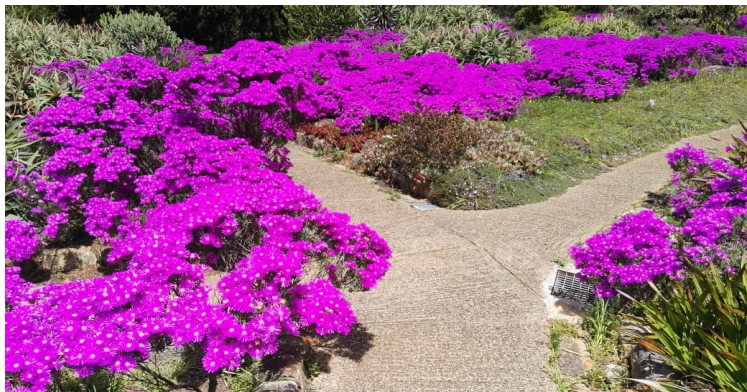
Final Profession of Bro. Victor Chomba-06 November 2021



Congratulations Br. Victor!!!



Final Profession of Bro. Victor in photos...





"I am my Sister's Keeper."

The IMBISA Secretariat hosted a very successful Workshop on Safeguarding for Women Religious at the St. Padre Pio Centre in Pretoria, South Africa on the **6-9 September**.

Br Fortune Chakasara FMS, the facilitator explored the theme **"I am my Sister's Keeper"**. Under this theme, the workshop deliberated on the meaning of abuse in children and vulnerable persons, the importance of team-work, knowing your "WHY" in God's service, as well as the theory of the "Fearless" girl and the safeguarding challenges faced by religious women. The most interesting moment of the workshop was when religious women shared their safeguarding challenges, leading to the conclusion that religious women may have been part of the vulnerable group that needed to be safeguarded at one point.

Religious women have made significant contributions to the Church through their works. They are commonly recognized by their veils, an indication that they have given their lives to God. God's love and service to others has become the focal point of these fiery women's lives. Nonetheless, these women face safeguarding challenges, making them part of our society's vulnerable group.

Representatives from Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, and Zimbabwe lamented on the lack of resources, lack of education, fear, low self-esteem, not being heard, lack of platforms for open discussions, lack of exposure to real-life experiences, lack of grooming, lack of commitment, financial challenges, and, last but not least, abuse/ oppression.

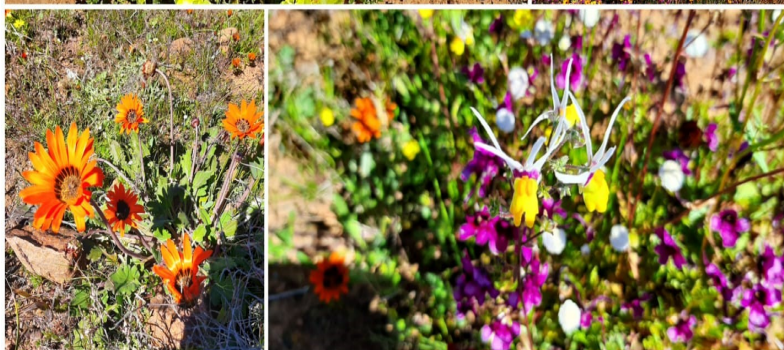
Participants expressed their gratitude for the initiative at the end of the meeting, stating that the workshop:

- provided a networking platform;
- allowed them to rethink their relationships with others;
- provided an opportunity to share their life experiences;
- made them to realize the importance of mainstreaming safeguarding in their formation;
- was informative and a revival;
- was a sobering reminder of the harm that a sister can do to another sister and also appreciated the openness of the workshop in addressing sensitive issues.

Extract from the IMBISA website: <http://imbisa.africa/en/articles>.

Birthdays

NOVEMBER	
10-11-1994	Gerónimo Raimundo
10-11-1999	Miguel Tchimbamba
13-11-1932	João Torcato
17-11-1968	Boniface Chirambo
21-11-1977	Fortune Chakasara
24-11-1968	António Viana
24-11-1994	João Gabriel
26-11-1995	Evanse Masangano
27-11-1948	Vincent George
28-11-1986	Mark Chikandwe



DECEMBER	
10-12-1999	Miguel Tchimbamba (nov.ad.2021)
15-12-1990	José Ngongue
19-12-1992	Emmanuel Chirwa (nov.ad.2021)
23-12-1941	João Reis
23-12-1949	Denis Ntacyica
30-13-1934	Emmanuel Lapointe



INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INTERVIEWS WITH BR. NICHOLAS BANDA AT MIC

For some of us young Brothers, since the time we joined the Marist Brothers Province of Southern Africa, we have known Brother Nicholas Banda as not just a religious person but also someone who deals with finances and an expert in accounts. As it is well known, Brother. Nicholas once served as Provincial bursar in Southern Africa, bursar of the Malawi sector, bursar of different communities and schools. Twice as MIC administrator the position, he currently holds. You might also be aware that he once taught in different schools in Malawi, Provincial councilor and subsequently as deputy provincial of Southern Africa. Looking at his experience, I decided to interview him.

Interviewer: **Br. Henry Ngeli (HN)**

Interviewee: **Br. Nicholas Banda (NB)**

HN: Hello Br. Nicholas, it is a pleasure to have you on this segment, despite your busy schedule you managed to set time aside. Thanks a lot for your availability.

NB: You are welcome.

HN: For a number of years, you have been in charge of finances at different levels; would you briefly share with us how has been your experience?

NB: I must say I very much owe it to those that accompanied me as I started in 1991: Brothers; Leopold Robert, Yvon Bedard, Andrew Fournier and those that trusted me with such a responsibility, Brothers in Malawi and on the level of the province Southern Africa. I have very much liked the experience and enjoyed the trust of my superiors and the people I have worked with.

HN: Br. Nicholas, whenever one sees you within MIC compound be it a Brother or any of the workers, what comes into their mind is money, how do you feel people seeing you that way?

NB: The good thing is that I am Malawian (*from the warm heart of Africa*) people have shared with me about the individual warm touch that go along with my work. The effort that I have made in learning French, Kiswahili makes it easier to deal with Brothers, workers and people in general. I feel many do not just see money on my face. If they are some who see me that way, It's rather unfortunate. I know the money does not belong to me but the community.

HN: How do you harmonize your being a full time accountant with your religious life as a Brother?

NB: I have learnt that being bursar is an apostolate. Just it was my teaching in schools and even my playing with the students.

HN: As a young Brother in your earlier days, did you ever think of that days to come you would spend much of your time in finance offices than in classrooms?

NB: I have been bursar from my early life as a Brother. It is only when I have been in MIC that I did not go to teach. I also liked teaching and coaching basketball.

HN: Is there anything you would like to share with us?

NB: I have always liked to share my skills with others. I am normally a good team worker. Like in Malawi in 1992 to 1993, when I was community bursar and school bursar but when late Brother Vincent Chunga came to the community I handed over bursarship of the community and later of the school. I did the same for the district of Malawi and even that of bursar of the province to John Bwanali. MIC I did the same after being bursar from 2002 to 2008, I handed over to late Vincent Chunga.

I have seen that when as bursar I worked as if I am superior, things did not work out well. Things were tough. Bursars assist the superior.

The only thing I feel we can do better is to train younger Brothers to be bursars. Telling that this too is an apostolate.

End of Interview.

Brothers here and there....



Bro. Mario Colussi and Br. Fortune Chakasara in Rondebosch Community



From left: Br. Leonard, Br. Ebel, Br. Geraldo and Br. Fortune soon after arriving at Kamuzu International airport ahead of the Council Meeting before being taken to Mtendere Campus on 27th October 2021

KUMASI NOVITIATES RECEIVES 8 NOVICES

The novitiate in Kumasi, in Ghana received eight novices on 11th September 2021 in a habit-taking ceremony held during Vespers in the community chapel. Four of these novices come from the Province of Nigeria, while the other four are from the Marist Province of West Africa. They are:

- Allahodjim Sidoine – West Africa
- Chin Emile Burinyuy – West Africa
- Chukwujindu Paulinus – Nigeria
- Ibe Ifeanyichukwu Anthony – Nigeria
- Kama Kingsley Chukwuebuka – Nigeria
- Mbiyiwoh Celestine Taniyokwi – West Africa
- Obi-Okoye Anthony Arinze – Nigeria
- Togyanouba Honore – West Africa

Otherwise known as the canonical year, the first year of novitiate formation officially starts during the habit-taking ceremony. This also marks the beginning of the formation year.

Aside from those named above, there are also four second year novices.

Br. Yao Kouassi Kan Sylvain is the current novice master.



Appointment of Br. Patrick Bushilya as CSAC Executive Secretary-Extract from CSAC Newsletter-Maiden Issue, 2021

CSAC Newsletter – Maiden Issue, 2021

From the CSAC President...



Warm and tender greetings from the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent, (CSAC) during this month of our Good Mother Mary – Month of the Holy Rosary.

This is the first Newsletter in a series of those anticipated to be produced at quarterly intervals in a year. The Conference and its Secretariat is of the view that a number of good works by both Marist Brothers and Lay associates take place in Marist Africa. However, very little is known about them except for the region or province in which they occur.

This Newsletter comes as a means for Marists of Champagnat in African to share good practices and learn from each other in the manner of Making Jesus known and loved. It is hoped that more and more Marists would come to a realization that they are not alone in their following Jesus in the way of Mary

but interconnected with other Marists of Champagnat in Africa whose mission is to evangelize and educate the youth of Africa.

To this effect, a plea is made to all Marists of Champagnat in Africa to contact the CSAC Secretariat if they so wish to share their good practices with the larger Marist Family of Africa and beyond.

The Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC) appointed Bro. Patrick Kasaba BUSHILYA as CSAC Executive Secretary. This appointment took effect on 1st September, 2021. Brother continues to offer his services to the Church and the Congregation as Headteacher of Chassa Secondary School in Zambia.



Bro. Patrick Kasaba BUSHILYA

The CSAC is very grateful to Brother for accepting to take up this

responsibility and wishes him well in his new apostolate.



All Saints Feast-1st November 2021



www.stmartin.ie

PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

DEAR HOLY SAINTS OF GOD, WE
JOIN OUR PRAYERS OF PRAISE TO
YOURS THIS DAY.

WITH YOU, WE SING OF GOD'S
GOODNESS, REJOICE IN GOD'S MERCY
AND CELEBRATE GOD'S INCREDIBLE
LOVE.

TEACH US TO LIVE AS YOU LIVED –
ALWAYS THINKING OF OTHERS,
ALWAYS RECOGNIZING OUR
WEAKNESSES, ALWAYS REJOICING IN
GOD'S GIFTS, ALWAYS CLOSELY
FOLLOWING JESUS. BLESSED ARE YOU,
HAPPY ARE YOU, ALL YOU HOLY
SAINTS OF GOD.

PRAY FOR US THAT WE TOO MAY
SOMEDAY BE AMONG GOD'S HOLY
ONES.

AMEN



All Faithful Departed-2nd November 2021. + May the souls of all our departed Brothers, relatives, friends and benefactors rest in eternal peace.

Remembering all souls.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



ADVENT

November 28: First Sunday of Advent

Shake Off the Drowsiness

Readings: Jer 33: [14-16](#); 1 Thess 3:12-4:2; Luke 21: [25-28](#), [34-36](#)

Scripture:

“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy. . . .”

Reflection: As we wind up the Ordinary Time of our liturgical year we are about to start Advent, a period of waiting the coming of the Messiah. We are waiting for Christ to be born in our hearts, for Christ to incarnate himself in our families, communities, society and indeed in our world especially during the period of the deadly pandemic of Covid-19. Therefore, we need to be ready and prepared so that when Christ comes we will be ready to welcome him. Christmas is the climax of advent when we celebrate Jesus Christ, Emmanuel-God is with us on the 25th December. For many people we have forgotten and lost the meaning of Christmas and only remained with the experience of Christmas. Christmas is a time when we celebrate the manifestation of God’s love to human kind. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16* Christmas is not time to quarrel or fight with your neighbour, to the contrary it is an opportunity to celebrate the love of Christ to all of us. Again, Christmas is not a time to have end of world celebrations but end of year celebrations. Consequently, as we journey together with our brothers and sisters during the advent period let us journey in joyful hope. Hope of knowing that Christ will come soon and should find us ready to welcome him when he comes. *“Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back whether in the evening or at midnight...”* Mark 13: 32-37 [Reflection by Br. L. Brito FMS]

Meditation: As we begin this season of expectation, we are awakened to a different rhythm. We become aware once again that it is not enough merely to go through the motions of daily life. In these weeks, we allow our hearts and minds to be attuned to God-in-the-world—in the past, in the present, and in the future. Advent reminds us that God is already at work. Does this truth quicken our hearts and shape our relationships with the world? [Waiting in Joyful Hope by Catherine Upchurch]

Prayer: Jesus, rouse us from our drowsiness. Help us sit upright, listen for your voice, and watch for your presence. Create in us the desire and the will to enter into each day of this season anticipating how we will be asked to help others know your saving presence.



Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and successful New Year 2022 filled with God’s love and mercy!!!





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