

Marist Brothers - Irmãos Maristas

Province of Southern Africa - Provincia da África Austral

NEWSLETTER

November - December 2022 Vol. 2 # 38



CONGRATULATIONS BROTHERS!!!

BRO. NORBERT MWILA (PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR) POSES FOR A PHOTO WITH OUR THREE BROTHERS SOON AFTER THEIR PERPETUAL PROFESSION AT MTENDERE, MALAWI ON 21st OCTOBER 2022

From left: Br. Raphael Time, Br. Steven Chinsolo, Br. Norbert Mwila and Br. Mkanthama Misheck.

WORD OF GRATITUDE FROM EDITOR'S DESK

As we are coming to the end of the year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you our readers for your contribution towards the Marist Newsletter.

Thank you for sharing with us what is happening within our Province and beyond. Continue sharing with us by sending us articles and photos.

We will on our part continue striving to give you quality bi-monthly newsletter.

Happy reading to all our readers.



INTERVIEW WITH BRO. NORBERT MWILA

After Brother Norbert completed his Post-novitiate formation in 1996 at the Marist International Centre Nairobi, Kenya, his first appointment was to St. Paul's Community in Kabwe, Zambia. In 1998, he was appointed first Head teacher of St. Paul's Primary School. After his final profession in 2000, in 2001 he was appointed Community Leader. He continued in that role for the following four years. In 2005, he participated in the Marist International Formators Program in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2006 Bro. Norbert was appointed to Malawi as Master of Postulants. In the following year, 2007, he was appointed as Master of Novices at the Province Novitiate at Matola, Mozambique. In 2016, Bro. Norbert was appointed as Provincial of Southern Africa, a role he has served in during the past six years. During this time, Bro. Norbert has lived some intense experiences of Marist leadership. As he finishes his time as Provincial, we welcome him sharing with us something of his experiences as Provincial.

Interviewer: Br. Henry Ngeli (HN)

Interviewee: Br. Norbert Mwila (NM)



Br. Henry Ngeli (HN)



Br. Norbert Mwila (NM)



INTERVIEW CONTINUED...

HN: Hello Bro. Norbert, welcome to this interview. Despite your busy schedule, it is my pleasure to be able to interview you on your experiences as Provincial. Thank you for your availability and for giving me the time.

NM: My pleasure Henry. Thank you for this opportunity.

HN: In a few words, who is Bro Norbert?

NM: I am the son of Elasto Mwila and Phoeby Kabwe (now deceased), I was born in Kawambwa in North-Eastern Zambia. I have six siblings, two sisters and four brothers. As you know, I am a Marist Brother. The vocation of a Marist Brother is a vocation I value, love and enjoy very much, especially because it contributes to the Christian education of young people and involves the religious formation of our brothers.

HN: What was your feeling and reaction when you were first appointed as Provincial Superior?

NM: At that time, I was the Novice Master at Matola in Mozambique. I received an email from Bro. Emili, the then Superior General, asking for an appointment to speak to me at a time convenient for me. I wrote back, suggesting a time, not exactly sure what Bro. Emili wanted to discuss with me. When Bro. Emili spoke to me he indicated he wanted to appoint me as the Provincial of the Province of Southern Africa, I immediately felt like what Mary experienced at the Annunciation. Shocked, surprised, and somewhat fearful!

HN: Back in the days, especially when you were a young Brother, did you ever think of becoming a Provincial?

NM: Well, I was certainly aware of the role of Provincial. I had met Bro. Jesus Sanchez as Provincial of Castilla, Spain to which the Sector of Zambia was responsible. However, it never entered my mind that I would ever hold this office or responsibility in the Institute. Nonetheless, having been called to this role, I can say with genuine humility that I very much value the privilege and the opportunity that being Provincial has offered to me in being able to serve the Brothers as Provincial, as well as the many people associated with our Marist life and mission, including Church and Civil authorities.

HN: What has been your focus or areas of concern as Provincial?

NM: My primary responsibility as a Provincial leader was always the pastoral care and well-being of the Brothers, together with the other members of the Marist family. This included the careful management of the human resources of the Province. Secondly, my other major concern has been the responsible stewardship of Marist life and mission.

HN: During your two terms as Provincial, what has been the most interesting moments?

NM: I have always thoroughly enjoyed my visits to all the Marist communities and schools around the Province. These were usually occasions when I found myself feeling fully at home because of our renowned family spirit. The other highlight has been my experience of how much Marist life and mission is keenly appreciated and cherished by most Brothers and lay people. This sense of appreciation also includes the parents, children and young people associated with our schools.

HN: And what has been some of your most challenging or difficult moments?

NM: One of the biggest challenges we all experience is the lack of Marist vocations in some parts of the Province. I have always found it personally difficult when a brother makes a sudden departure from a community, or when a Brother chooses not to continue living as a Brother and seeks separation from our Institute.

HN: I understand you and your Council gave very careful consideration when appointing Brothers to communities. How do you look at the situation when one brother holds several responsibilities in a community?

INTERVIEW CONTINUED...

NM: In terms of numbers, our communities are generally small, consisting only of three or four Brothers in each. This means that often certain Brothers are asked to take on more than one responsibility in his community. Not everyone can take on certain responsibilities. Some responsibilities require Brothers who have made at least their perpetual profession. Other responsibilities require certain capabilities, competencies, skills or level of experience to be exercised as required. Given these criteria, is it any wonder multitasking is necessary in a good number of our communities.

HN: As you have interacted individually with the Brothers and lay Marists during your annual canonical visits, what did you expect to see or encounter when you visited any community?

NM: I expected to encounter Brothers and lay Marists who are passionate about what they are called to do and be, and who live out the Marist charism with joy and zeal.

HN: Where would you like to live and work when your term of office as Provincial finishes?

NM: Bro. Emmanuel, the new Provincial, and his new Council will engage me in a fraternal dialogue which will result in me being appointed to a ministry and community where I can be of service to our Marist life and mission. After finishing as Provincial, I am pleased to be given the opportunity for a short sabbatical experience prior to my next appointment, wherever that will be.

HN: Given the developments, challenges and difficulties in the Province, how do you see the future of Marist life in the Province?

NM: I am confident and hopeful about our future. We have a young and vibrant Province that is rich in the human resources, both in the Brothers and lay people who serve in our mission. It is vital that we give priority to investing in a solid and good formation of our Brothers and lay partners. Attention also needs to be given to helping those countries in the Province who are struggling financially to become financially independent so they can better manage their basic needs for Marist life and mission.

HN: What words of encouragement would you give to your successor Bro Emmanuel Mwanalirenji before he begins his mandate as Provincial at next month's Provincial Chapter?

NM: I wish to thank Bro. Emmanuel for accepting this task of service in the Institute. There is a sense of fulfillment and joy in being of service to others. I believe Bro. Emmanuel has all the abilities, talents, skills and attitudes necessary to exercise his new role. The words of Pope Francis regarding servant leadership gives it a concise summary, "Service is the only way to good leadership."

HN: Now that your term as Provincial is about to end, what are your final words to the Brothers and all the Champagnat Marists in the Province of Southern Africa?

NM: Firstly, I want to affirm "There's great value in being a brother today!" I want to echo these same sentiments in talking about the value and importance of the Lay Marist vocation who equally share in the charism of St. Marcellin. Together, we are called to be agents of change and transformation in the lives of the children and young people.

Let's work together to educate children and young people to be stewards in the care of our common home, our planet earth. Let us also collaborate constructively in the promotion of vocations, especially Marist vocations during this year dedicated to promotion of vocations to Marist life and mission.



INTERVIEW CONTINUED...

Finally, may I also take this opportunity to express some words of thanks to various groups of people. Firstly, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members of my Provincial Councils with whom I have worked as a team during my two terms as Provincial. During my tenure I am deeply grateful for the support, guidance and counsel you have provided to me as we have tried to lead the Province during some exciting and challenging times. My sincere thanks and appreciation also go to the Marist Custodians in South Africa who were always available to guide and advise the Provincial Council on issues specifically related to Marist life and mission in South Africa.

I wish to also thank my fellow Provincials from the Continent of Africa, and other parts of the Marist world, for their fraternal accompaniment and support. In a special way I want to sincerely thank the Superior General, Brother Ernesto, and his Council for their tremendous support, care and encouragement over these past six years.

Finally, I thank also all those people, although not mentioned by name, who have provided me and the outgoing Council with support and encouragement as they shared their services, expertise and time.

Know that my heartfelt prayers and good wishes will be with you all for a Spirit-filled 9th Provincial Chapter.

Thank you, Bro. Henry, for being such a competent and wise interviewer.

HN: Thank you very much Bro. Norbert for your service as Provincial. We wish you God's blessing in your future life and ministry, wherever that will take you.

-End of Interview-

ST. JOSEPH'S MARIST COLLEGE, SOUTH AFRICA

FIRST COMMUNION: EIGHT LEARNERS SOON AFTER RECEIVING THEIR FIRST COMMUNION ON SUNDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2022- By Bro. Peter Zulu



PROJECT NEW HORIZONS FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATIONAL MODEL ENTERS ITS FINAL YEAR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

2022-10-07

GENERAL HOUSE, ROME



Despite great progress in the last few years, millions of African children are still denied their right to education. To respond to these challenges, the Marist African Mission Commission launched an initiative called New Horizons, which is now sponsored also by the Institute through the Secretariat of Solidarity, Secretariat of Education and Evangelization and FMSI with the support of Misean Cara.

The project New Horizons, implemented in 21 local schools and communities in Malawi, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique with 18.334 students, 790 teachers and 469 school staff, aims at increasing equal access to quality education for all children in order to promote equity, social justice and inclusion, pursuing improvement of school in terms of its capacity to become a place for the safeguarding and empowerment of children.

The first phase of the Project was characterized by the 3 formative workshops in 2015-16 (New Horizons - Authentic and Transformative Leadership for a New Africa") and a pilot project in Malawi (2018-19). The New Horizons II was then launched in July 2019 in all countries that form the Marist Province of Southern Africa. It is now beginning the last year of that second phase. A New Horizons III may be implemented in the next future in other countries.

Meeting of Project's Co-ordinators

The 3rd Project Meeting took place in Rusape, Zimbabwe, on 25th and 26th September 2022 in presence of all Country Coordinators (Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and South Africa), the project Manager Br. Mark Omede, the Regional Coordinator Br. Francis Jumbe, the financial officer Br. John Bwanali and the Child Safeguarding Officer Br. Fortune Chakasara. Andrea Rossi and Marcello Romagnoli, from FMSI and Finbar O'Brien, from Misean Cara, were also present.

Continued on next page...



The last year of the Project will now focus on reinforcing the education system through advocacy, stakeholder engagement and dissemination, with lesson sharing between the different schools and countries, including at least other 10 non-Marist schools in the 6 countries involved.

New Horizons' Challenges

In the 6 countries where the project is operating, 3 main challenges have been identified:

- Access to education marked by sharp disparities due to unequal distribution of resources, including public funding to socially excluded communities,
- ⇒ Low-income students and vulnerable children (orphans, refugees, children with disabilities) driving them into lower income generating activities.
- ⇒ Quality of education need to be improved,
- ⇒ Lack of flexible curricula designed to enable learners with widely varying needs to be included in the learning process,
- ⇒ High dropout rates and/or poor student performances,
- ⇒ Interpersonal-violence, including gender-based violence.
- ⇒ Education systems in need to be strengthened to scale up inclusive literacy programs and address the challenges of equity, quality, and social justice.

Extract from: http://www.champagnat.org





PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR THE 9TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2022



Prayer in preparation for the

9th Provincial Chapter 2022

God our Father, as we prepare for our forthcoming 9th Provincial Chapter, help us to look beyond the present needs of our Province.

Be the source of strength for our leaders and all Marists of Champagnat; as we work diligently in fulfilling the Mission you have entrusted to us.

Inspired by Marcellin's zeal for the good of children, may we continue to make Jesus known and loved.

May Mary our good Mother accompany us to prepare for the Provincial Chapter.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen







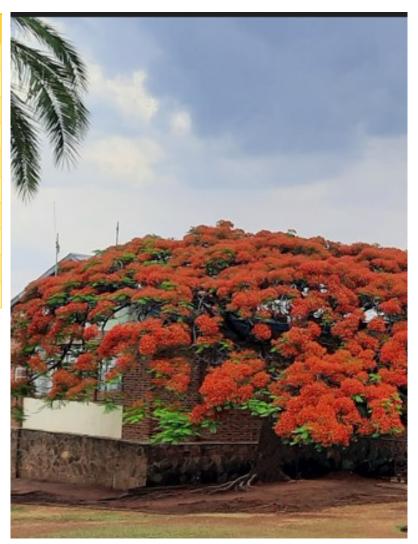




Birthdays

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	Evance Masangano
27-11-1948	Vincent George
28-11-1986	Mark Chikandwe

DECEMBER		
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

<u>For children who suffer:</u> We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection. Amen.

DECEMBER

<u>For volunteer not-for-profit organisations:</u> We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation. Amen.

OPENING DAY OF THE 3RD STAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION



2022-11-04

On, November 4th, was the opening day of the <u>3rd stage of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation</u>, in which 94 Marists of Champagnat are participating representing the 6 regions, consisting of 27 administrative units. The meeting began with a contemplative dance led by Brother Toni Torrelles and a reflective prayer.

Afterwards, **Brother Ernesto Sánchez**, **Superior General** thanked the participants and teams for their presence. In his opening address, he invited everyone to listen deeply to the yearning of their hearts and to the intuitions that the Spirit was offering the group during these days, so that, together, we can concretize the themes and pathways that will allow us to continue to deepen and advance in the lay Marist vocation. Bro. Ernesto states, "I invite you, during these days, to have an attitude of attentive and open listening, to welcome and embrace diversity, as a gift (and not as an obstacle)".

As previously mentioned during the General Conference, <u>Br. Ernesto, emphasizes that our gaze be sensible</u>, prophetic, global, inclusive, and hopeful. "Let us live these days, like Mary at the Annunciation, with a heart that is free and open to newness. Let us be attentive to the inspirations that the Spirit will give us during these days. And let us live this meeting with an attitude of service to our Institute, as one global Marist family."

Manu Gómez, co-director of the Secretariat of Laity introduced the participants representing each of the regions. He also reminded the group that we are called together by the Spirit of God, in the name of Jesus. Manu continued by recapping the journey and process undertaken that has brought us to this gathering today. He highlighted the motto that inspires us, which is: *to welcome, care, live and share our vocation*. Lastly, he focused on the four (4) objectives of the International Forum, thus inaugurating the assembly.

Br. Graham Neist, together with Mr. Vanderlei Soela are helping to facilitate this process. They explained the Theory U method that will be used during the gathering. To begin, Vanderlei proposed as a model the scriptural passage of the Disciples on road to Emmaus...Jesus presents himself as a stranger, he presents himself as someone different and proposes an expounter with the other. Jesus presented himself

ent and proposes an encounter with the other. Jesus presented himself, not as a stranger (foreigner) but as an Alter (other).

By using this story, from this perspective, the facilitators invited the par-

ticipants to "Listen, ask questions in order to understand and contemplate what arises among us". This concludes the first day of the journey, a journey that celebrates our desire to be together as a Marist Family.







BONDING, COMMITMENT, AND PROMISE ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

"The future of the charism will be based on a communion of fully committed Marists..." (XXII General Chapter).

On Monday, November 7, the 4th day of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, began with a recapitulation of the activities of the previous days and continued with the topic of the forms of attachment to the Marist charism.

During the first days, the review of objectives 1 and 2 was deepened. presenting the following synthesis by the fraternity groups:

Objective 1: To deepen the understanding of the Marist vocation with special emphasis on the lay Marist vocation: "We develop a common understanding of our lay vocation that includes and embraces the whole human person. Our understanding is invitational, free and voluntary and seen as a gift from God. Our experience is respectful of all cultures and all faiths and is inspired by one's own experiences and realities."

In addition, the participants reflected and discussed...What the following terms meant for us as Marists: *inclusion, vocation, and formation.*

Objective 2: To review and offer processes and itineraries of formation and accompaniment of the lay Marist vocation. As the participants began to share, some common threads began to emerge..."An itinerary of discernment for the lay Marist vocation needs to be adaptable to varias cultures and contexts found in the institute; it involves personal accompaniment while respecting different realities; it requires both economic and human resources and shared through a global network."

In the afternoon, the third objective of the Forum was presented; to reflect and propose possible ways of bonding with the Marist charism.

Each panelist shared the requirements needed to live a process of bonding or belonging to the charism, they shared significant moments of their lives and how these moments connected and/or invited them to consider the Marist charism as a way to live their lives. This opportunity served as a wonderful recognition and contribution to the growth of the province and the revitalization of the charism. Although there has been some good progress made, there are some challenges. Each province must continue to develop and evaluate formation processes and ensure the promotion of the Marist vocation for both the laity and the brothers.

Lastly, there were moments of reflection and prayer throughout the day, in which each of the participants maintained and shared their commitment to live the Gospel in the way of Jesus through the inspiration of Marcellin Champagnat.

Extract from: http://www.champagnat.org



INTERVIEW WITH MARIST BROTHERS NYANGA HIGH STUDENT

In this issue Br. Mugove Chibengwa interviewed one of the Marist students Clayton Map<mark>furire in Form 1 in order to get to know his experience at Marist Nyanga, Zimbabwe.</mark>

Interviewer: Br. Mugove Chibengwa (MC)

Interviewee: Clayton Mapfurire (CM)

MC: Good afternoon Clayton Mapfurire.

CM: Afternoon Brother.

MC: How are you Clayton?

CM: I am OK.

MC: Can you please give us your brief background, like who is Clayton, your age and probably where you come from?

CM: I am Clayton Mapfurire and I am a boy aged 14 and I come from Mutare and my rural home is Chitora.

MC: Thank you Clayton. You have just said you come from Mutare and I understand there are so many schools in Mutare but I see you here at Marist, can you tell us why did you choose Marist all the way from Mutare?

CM: It's not basically about good results, but it's also about finding myself. Actually Marist is a mission school and there are a lot of ethics that you learn at a mission school. I know there maybe different mission schools in Mutare but I chose this one because it was the very best.



MC: Thank you Clayton. Can you tell us who is St. Marcellin Champagnat as a Marist student now almost a year since you joined this Institution?

CM: Marcellin Champagnat is like my mentor and dad. St. Marcellin Champagnat was a man with a good heart he was someone who aspired to pass the word of God, someone who loved God and was also a man of peace, had no worries in his life and was a good man as well. Marcellin Champagnat is my greatest teacher, second from Jesus of course and is the one who teaches me most of the values of life and he also makes me try to find myself.

MC: OK, do you think Marist Brothers Nyanga High School is the best place to be and if so why?

CM: Yes I think it's no place other than home. Actually when I look at this school I see the best of everything, well there are good teachers and a good prayerful life. I think for a normal human being for starters that is OK and it's very good and also the values the discipline, the level of strictness I highly recommend that.

MC: What are some of the activities that are done at Marist Brothers Nyanga High which have helped you to grow spiritually or deepen your spiritual life.

CM: Firstly, I see that there are prayers, and there is Mass every Sunday this is a very good thing. And the Rosary we do on Friday and the angelus we do daily have helped me to deepen my spiritual life.

MC: What are some of the things you think we can improve or do in a better way here at our school?

CM: Basically according to spirituality, I think there should be a Bible study session every day where students can be taught. We can also improve on physical fitness so that we can grow both spiritually and physically.

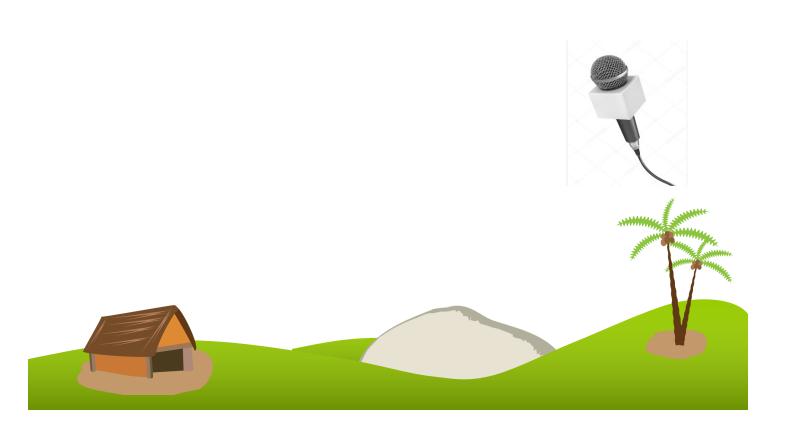
MC: Your final words especially to other Marist students worldwide?

CM: To all those who learn at a Marist School, they made a right choice, the right decision and they will be helped and will be taught many things that it what I can say.

MC: Thank you Mr. Clayton Mapfurire for your time I really appreciate.

By Bro. Mugove Chibengwa

—End of Interview—



Beautiful Moments Reveal What Life Can be...Marist Nyanga Boys share a light moment.



Top left: Tinashe Masaira, Tatenda Chitura, sitting on the foreground Dylan Nyazema, Tavonga Kushaina, Akudzwe Mauya, Keith Zvenyika, Ryan Mubvekwa, Ashley Kembo and top right Samuel Hazangwi.

Photo credits: Br. L. Brito

PROVISION OF SCHOOL FURNITURE FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT ST. PAUL'S MULUNGUSHI PRIMARY SCHOOL- ZAMBIA, OCTOBER 2022













VISIT TO BRO. NEIL'S SISTER IN LAROCHELLE -SOUTH AFRICA



Bro. Christopher Zimmermann, Thembi (Caregiver), Bro. Ebel, Geraldine and Bro. Neil.



We visited the sister of Bro. Neil McGurk, Ms. Geraldine McGurk in LaRochelle.

It was a memorable excursion where they were exposed to the various Christian artefacts that she is making. The artefacts include the sizeable crucifix and a sheep depicted above, rosaries, statues of different saints, of Jesus and of our good Mother Mary.

By Br. Ebel Muteveri.



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY BRO. JOÃO TORCATO



Best wishes to Br João Torcato on the occasion of his 90th birthday anniversary. The event went on well. It began with mass and ended with lunch. The event was organized by Bro. João's former students in Manhiça. The 3 Marist communities of Manhiça, Matola and Bilene participated in the event. Brother João was happy. By Br. G. Medida





MARIST LEADERSHIP PROGRAM -OCTOBER 2022



This program of Marist leaders had the participation of Brothers and lay people from 19 countries of the world, with the presence of 61 members plus (+) 1 online that gave a total number of 62 participants, and among them the lay people with the largest number represented. We had 14 working days of face-to-face sharing from our beloved Africa (Southern Africa Province), brothers Antonio Maveze Armando, Geronimo Raimundo and José Richard, had the grace to be part of the Course of which lasted 6 months with a work load of 170 hours.

This was a Course that had two moments: face-to-face and online. All of them were remarkable moments and lived with lots experiences for the life and development of the Institute. "Do what you love and love what you do," leadership is not a job, but a service of love to others and the responsibility that is entrusted us. The programme ended with attending physical sessions on October 14th at PUCRS, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

By. Bro. Geronimo



ADVENT

November 27: First Sunday of Advent

Shake Off the Drowsiness

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

Scripture:

"Stay awake, then, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

Holy Gospel

Gospel Reading: Mt 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples, "At the coming of the Son of Man it will be just as it was in the time of Noah. In those days before the Flood, people were eating and drinking, and marrying, until the day when Noah went into the ark. Yet they did not know what would happen until the flood came and swept them away. So will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. Of two men in the field, one will be taken and the other left. Of two women grinding wheat together at the mill, one will be taken and the other left.

"Stay awake, then, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Just think about this: if the owner of the house knew that the thief would come by night around a certain hour, he would stay awake to prevent his house to be broken into. So be alert, for the Son of Man will come at the hour you least expect."



Reflect:

We are entering a new liturgical year, with the season of Advent. Sadly, in many cultures today, the season of Advent does not really exist. We are already into Christmas! We have an almost incurable inability to wait; we jump from one celebration to another, binging on them compulsively. Even Carol services, which must ideally begin on the Christmas eve and continue later, are anticipated and completed within the Advent! We simply cannot tolerate vacuum and seek to fill it with noise. However, it is imperative to learn to wait in hope and delight, to feel the presence in the absence, to feel the hunger so as to enjoy the banquet better. Perhaps, in this Advent, we can learn how to wait in hope, by taking time to prepare ourselves in prayer and ordering our lives to receive Child Jesus.

Amen

Prayer: "Lord, teach me the virtue of patient waiting in hope for the Lord."

