



## **Marist Brothers – Irmãos Maristas**

Province of Southern Africa – Província da África Austral

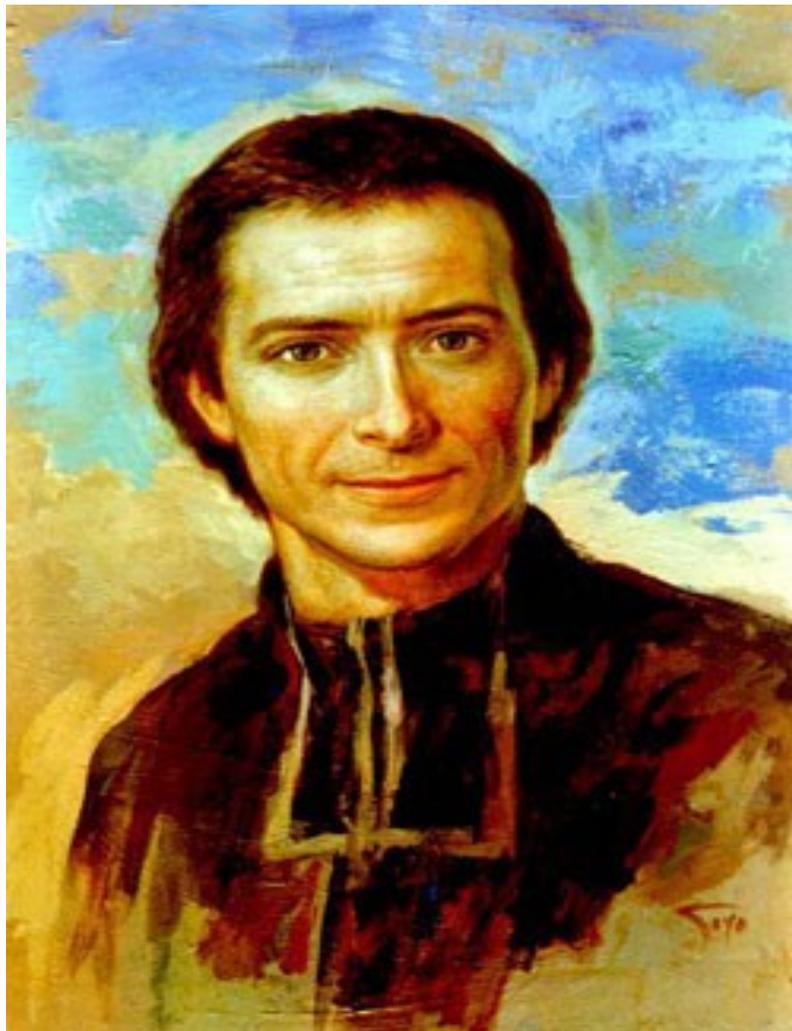
### ***NEWSLETTER***

**2023 July – August Vol. 1 # 4**



## **SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT** **FOUNDER OF THE MARIST BROTHERS**

**1789-1840**



**HAPPY FEAST-6TH JUNE 2023**

# FOREWORD TO THE NEWSLETTER BY THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR BR. EMMANUEL MWANALIRENJI



*Bro. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji*

Greetings Marists of Champagnat!

I welcome you to the state-of-the-art edition of our Newsletter, it is time for another edition after a long time of inactivity. Apologies for starving you of invaluable information. The editorial team is excited to share with you some of our recent achievements and updates.

Our XXII General Chapter reminds us that our Lord continues to call us **to relate to others in a fundamentally new way (Mark 3:20-31, 31-35) and to listen to his word and put it into practice with urgency and without excluding anyone.**

*“Giving, touching others’ lives, expanding the circle of our concern to include others, being authentic, and being always open to receiving as well as giving”.*

The above is a good description of many of the most amazing people I have encountered during my visits. This has been complemented by the province’s attitude towards the appreciation of lay Marist vocation in the Church. We are proud that among us we have Maggie Gundo and Hellen Chagoma who finished their formation and are ready to be appointed and serve anywhere in the Institute. We also have Margret Palula, with the Fratelli project in Lebanon and Nyasha Boora who holds the position of Coordinator of Volunteers Program of the Province. We thank them for their availability and generosity. I would like also to welcome Brother Jeff Rhey from the Philippines who is stationed at St Marcellin Secondary School in Zambia. We have also contributed to the global pool of missionaries; Br Virgilio Bwalya in Bangladesh and Br. Joe Walton in the Philippines (MAPAC).

Whilst we celebrate notable achievements, we recognise the lives of our Brothers who in their lives became bread to be broken and shared with others who are now receiving their reward in heaven. In particular, we honour Brothers Jude, Raymundo, Jesus, Antonio Pisco and Mario. May their souls continue to rest in peace!

And while we may live and work in different countries and in different fields, we all share the same core giving philosophy. This newsletter captures that philosophy and shows that it is more than a fable, a parable or a pipe dream. We want to believe that this is the way the world can work: that living with a focus on others isn’t just a nice goal but that it can be a way of life and can lead to a life that is full, rich and fulfilling.

Let us **journey together** as a global charismatic family and be **a beacon of hope in this turbulent world** and **be homes of light** and **follow our Mother Mary’s footsteps in bringing Jesus to others.** **May we be Champagnats of today!**

Wishing you happy reading.

**In Memory of Br. Jude Pieterse: 1 Sep 1938 -13 Dec 2022**

*“Jude was an educator, a humanitarian, an inspiration to many, an example for all, a true gentleman, and a legend.”*



## CHAMPAGNAT CELEBRATIONS IN MALAWI



HAPPY CHAMPAGNAT FEAST



## BROTHER LOUIS VISITS MALAWI

Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, the Vicar General of the Marist Brothers, paid a visit to Malawi in June this year. He travelled to Malawi to attend the closing ceremony of New Horizon project in Lilongwe. He took this opportunity to visit some Marist schools and communities, including Marist Secondary School in Dedza.



Marist Secondary School environment was transformed into a kaleidoscope of colours on the day the Vicar General arrived. His welcoming ceremony featured a spirited display of numerous activities. Poetry, amapiano and traditional dances characterized the event. The *gulewamkulu* (A masked traditional dance mostly practiced among Chewa people in Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique) drumming rhythm and synchronized movements of the *Makanja* (a type of Gulewamkulu) dancers captured the attention of everyone present.

As the students showcased their talents, [Brother Luis Carlos Gutiérrez](#) watched with admiration, recognizing the effort and passion that went into their preparations. It was evident that the cultural expression through the *gulewamkulu* dance not only entertained but also fostered a sense of belonging, identity and pride among the students.

Brother Luis addressed the students, expressing his gratitude for the warm welcome and commended students for their dedication and commitment to their cultural heritage. He also spoke to them about the **Marist pillars of education: presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work and in the way of Mary**. He further told the students to be proud being part of a global Marist family.

After meeting the students, the Vicar General also met both teaching and support staff of the school. During the get-together, Brother Luis thanked the teaching and support staff for the effort they put in the holistic education of the students. Furthermore, he encouraged them to keep the good spirit.

The Vicar General then bade farewell and expressed his gratitude for the warmth and hospitality shown by the Marist Secondary School community. The visit of the Vicar General to Marist Secondary School in Malawi will be remembered as a moment of celebration, joy and inspiration.

*By Br. Dominic Zgambo (FMS)*

# NEVER GIVE UP!



As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him in private.

"Tell us when all this will be," they asked, Jesus answered,

"Watch out, and do not let anyone fool you. Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will fool many people. You are going to hear the noise of battles close by and the news of battles far away; but do not be troubled. Such things must happen, but they do not mean that the end has come. Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another.

There will be famines and earthquakes everywhere.

"Then you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. Many will give up their faith at that time; they will betray one another and hate one another. Then many false prophets will appear and fool many people. Such will be the spread of evil that many people's love will grow cold.

But whoever holds out to the end will be saved. (Mt 24:3-13)

Do not give up because:

- ≠ Your friend has given up!
- ≠ your groupmate has given up!
- ≠ your superior has given up!
- ≠ your formator has given up!
- ≠ your mentor has given up!
- ✓ "But the one who endures to the end will be saved." Matthew 24:13
- ✓ "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12
- ✓ "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. Hebrews 10:36
- ✓ "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9
- ✓ "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." Romans 12:12
- ✓ "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" Psalm 27:14
  - For this St Marcellin Champagnat said, "Love your Vocation"  
✚ "The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful" (Mulan)



### MISSIONARY LIFE CYCLE



# A GIFT SHARED IS A GIFT LONG REMEMBERED...

## **MALAWI MARIST BROTHERS TIMELY AID FREDDY CYCLONE VICTIMS**



Malawi was strongly hit by tropical freddy cyclone

in March this year 2023 and many people in southern region were heavily affected by the angry cyclone. Many people of good will in and outside Malawi came out with assorted items to support our brothers and sisters who were affected by the cyclone including the catholic church in Malawi.

Marist Brothers in Malawi did not just fold their hands watching suffering but rather went in haste like Mary to one of the affected areas in Zomba district at Mayaka Community Day Secondary School (MCDSS) donating relief items worth 15 million Malawi kwacha to 500 boys and girls who were affected by tropical freddy Cyclone. The development was part of the recovery plan by the Malawi Marist administration which was joined by Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS).

The items donated on the material day included blankets, sugar, cooking oil, meal flour, soya pieces, plastic buckets, sanitary pads and clothes. The staff members, parents and students' council applauded the Marist Brothers through Brother Daniel Banda who engineered the whole process of delivering items that the timely aid would help students to attend classes which was not uneasy

thing before the donation. The donation was supported by Misesan Cara Mission from Ireland.

*By Madimba*



## THE MATOLA EXPERIENCE: A true-life story.

### Somos Testemunias da essas coisas Act: 5-32



We can't share our Matola experience without talking about the "pope" for most of the Brothers, Brother Mansoa was their novice master or community member in some communities within the Southern African Province. But for Matola novitiate, Brother Mansoa was the "pope". Brother Mansoa could not conclude a serious conversation without mentioning the Pope. We were well informed about the Pope and the Church. When I remember Brother Mansoa in our formation courses, which we never failed no matter how hard those tests were to come, even if one did not study, we all passed, who could fail the test from the "pope?" I could still see him standing in front of us holding a yellow Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (YOUCAT).

Those who never shared our novitiate would think we were too comfortable to be in the novitiate because we had our best of time there. The door for Brother Mansoa was open 24 hours, closed for some few hours for those whose gods had gone for a vacation. The duty of a novice was to meditate on God and how we could do a well-animated Marial prayer that would eliminate the misfortune on you as you approach the "pope". Better still, if ever the "pope" followed you and patted your shoulder in applauding you, one did not need to re-meditate or even re-pray when going to meet the "pope" for "**ka something**," you got the whole heavenly favours on you. For Brother Mansoa a novice was a "young holy man" whose weaknesses was solely to become a good Brother.

If at all one struggled at the door of Brother Mansoa, that was the indication that your Marial prayer and the animation of the weakly prayer wasn't too creative and the "pope" was not so much impressed. Anyway, we never prayed to impress the "pope" but the novitiate is a place where we learnt the skill of praying and a good way of conducting prayers. Brother Mansoa was the formator whose duty was to help us come out of the novitiate fully baked, in as far as prayer life was concerned. One thing I cannot forget to mention is that Brother Mansoa also said, "**NEVER SAY A BAD THING ABOUT ANY-ONE**".

The untold story about Brother Mansoa was that, we never lacked "**ka something**" for our Sunday walks. No one went walking without "**ka something**" for a bottle of water. We spoke our broken Portuguese to anyone with confidence. Sometimes we landed in water, either on our way going or on our way back. Occasionally, we came back running because punctuality was our moto. Others could not endure the smoke that came with the incense after a Sunday walk during adoration. There was really an inordinate **JOY IN SERVING THE LORD**.

Buying bread of the week, was another exciting Matola experience one would wish to have if they were to redo their novitiate. There was quite countless exposure that came with the **Aniane padaria** experience. Long live Motola, long live our novitiate, long live Marist Brothers, long live the spirit of Champagnat.

Bro. Moffat Phiri (FMS)

# FMSI INITIATIVE

## REVAMPING PROCESS AT MARIST BROTHERS COTTAGE IN SALIMA



“Why leaving the huge place like this so idle Brother?” This was the commonly

question to the Brothers asked by the religious and other people who use to visit our Marist Cottage in Salima. It was uneasy question to answer and quite challenging to convince them that the idea was being baked at least to improve the so mentioned premise for the better and protect it from the locals who would just trespass the premise anytime they feel like without authorization.

Now the old face of the cottage is gradually changing for the better with visionally infrastructures. Currently, there is a powerful project taking place at the cottage electing new two story buildings which will be used for different purposes like conferences, retreats, youth animation and recreation sights just to mention a few.

The initiative has been supported by the FMSI with the aim of helping the children from the most neglected places through education for the heart and mind. It is with good faith that after the completion of this project the sector will be able to generate some funds which will be put in place to save the lost souls

among the youth and at the same time to minimize some expenses incurred by the administrative.

All the Brothers in the province are invited to visit the cottage whenever time allows and have a glimpse of the scenery as well as appreciating the ongoing project.

*By Madimba*



## OBITUARIES

### Br, Jesús Sánchez Martín

Brother Jesús Sánchez Martín, was born 08-05-1936 in Tamames de la Sierra (Salamanca). He made his first profession on 16-07-1952 and the perpetual profession on 15-08-1957 Tui-Spain respectively.

Brother Jesus was staying in the community of Luanda. The last days, he had not been feeling well for that reason he had to be admitted in the hospital where he spent three days and later he was discharged. He came back to the community and since he was not fully recovered, the superiors thought it wise to transfer him to Spain where he could get the best treatment. Unfortunately, Brother Jesus could not resist, he had some complications upon his arrival in Madrid. The Doctors tried their best to reanimate him without success. He passed on Madrid-Spain on 15th June, at the age of 87.



Brother Jesús had worked in Angola for 40 years. He arrived in 1983. He worked in Lobito, Ndalatando and Luanda community, where he spent his last years. In Angola, he had been entrusted to serve as: Community superior, headmaster, teacher, and country bursar. He had been one of the pillars of the Angolan sector, not only for the fact of being the oldest brother but also for his contributions and services to the sector. His commitment to the work, his accountability, his work ethics, his passion to serve the children and youth and his generosity towards the neglected ones made the brothers in Angola to comprehend, that indeed brother Jesus was a role model and a true leader who will always be remembered.

As he was sick, he never wanted to show off about his health state. He always preferred enduring pain alone and this fact was vivid on his last days in the community. There were some days where he could not sleep, and over midnights he used to walk around the community corridors.

As he walked the brothers would listen to his pace and they would wake up to ask him whether he was not feeling fine, however brother Jesus would just say “do not worry I am okay.” And afterwards the following morning he would not mention about his sleepless night, he would just move on with his normal activities. He was also reluctant to go to hospital, one had to be very courageous to persuade him to go to hospital and see a doctor who could examine him.



Brother Jesus passed on and he was cremated in Spain. However, the brothers in Angola also did all what they could to honor him. He passed away on Thursday 15th June, on Friday morning 16th June in the community of Luanda-Angola, the students, teachers and friends, in support, joined the brothers to pray for his soul. The same week Saturday 17th June, the brothers had a mass to commend his soul to God. Then the other week Saturday 24 June 2023, there was seventh week mass to honor his memory. The main celebrant was Auxiliary Bishop of the archdiocese of Luanda, Most Reverend Bishop António Bengue, the co-celebrants were among them reverend Father Adelino Calonda (parish priest of our parish) and distinguished priests who work in our schools and outside. The school and the parish choir animated the liturgy. There were distinguished guests who attended the mass as well, such as religious men and women, teachers, students, former students and teachers, lay Marists, friends, business partners and so on and so forth.

After the eucharistic celebration, there was a cocktail, where people could be served something to eat and drink. It was also a moment to share about some stories that people had experienced with Brother Jesus at some point of their lives and to read out some touching speeches.



Brother Jesus will be remembered in so many ways. The Brothers thanked God for the opportunity he gave them to live with him and they promised to embrace his virtues and qualities especially his sense of belonging, his concern for humanity, his openness to address issues, his spirit of enduring pain, his love for prayer and work, his simplicity and discipline just to mention but a few. The earth has lost a brother but heaven has gained an angel. May Brother Jesus, up there, intercede for all the Marist brothers in Marist mission so that they keep on living the dream of the founder father Champagnat; to make Jesus known and loved specially to the most neglected ones.

May the soul of Brother Jesus through the mercy of God rest in peace!

By Brother João Gabriel



# TODAY'S BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS ARE TOMORROW'S BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES



Many thanks to late Bro. Mario Colussi: Bro. Mario training Bro. Leonard Brito soon after being appointed to take over from him (Mario) as the Province Secretary of Southern Africa.



## OBITUARY BROTHER MARIO



Br. Mario had not been well, and he was taken to Pioneer House, a home for the frail. He stayed there from October 2022 till his death.

The requiem mass will take place in the School Chapel at Sacred Heart College, Observatory, Johannesburg on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Br. Mario Colussi was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1940 in Cape Town. He attended St. Joseph's Marist College in Rondebosch where he met his long-time confrère Br. Jude Pieterse.

He was accepted for the formation programme, which was in Mittagong, NSW, Australia.

In his apostolate as a Christian educator, he worked in the following places:

1963-1976 St. David's Marist College Inanda

1977 St. Joseph's College in Cape Town

1978- 1982 Marist Brother's College, Walmer, PE

1983 Trinity High School, PE

1984- 1988 Zingisa Seminary, Umtata, Transkei

He was a science teacher but in later years, he authored a book on the gospel of Mark.

In the other major services to Marist Institute, he worked as a formator at MIC in Nairobi, Kenya for 6 years up to 1998. He also worked as a Province Secretary from 2010 to 2021.

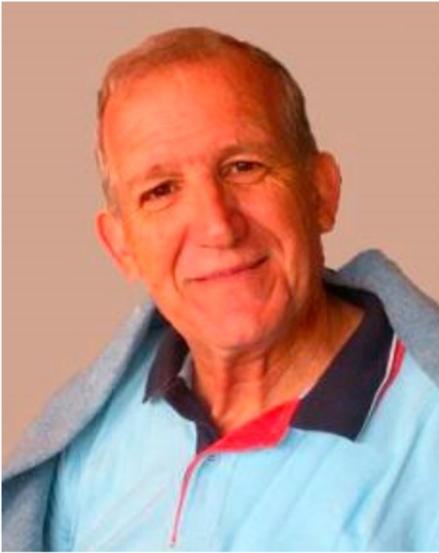
Mario was a man of the people. He made friends, kept in contact, and enjoy his hikes. Young Brothers will miss him as he was correcting people as they speak.

May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

***+May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.***

## OBITUARY ADIOS REV. BRO. RAIMUNDO PUENTE CALLEJA 1949 – 2023.



A dark cloud has covered the Marists of Champagnat early this year. With a deep sense of sorrow, the passing on of our beloved one, Rev. Bro. Raimundo Puente Calleja, has been announced by the Provincial of the Marist Province of Compostella in Spain.

Bro. Raimundo or Mundo as he was often called, died on 20th February, 2023 in the community of Valladolid in Spain. He died at the age of 73 and spent 53 years as a Marist brother.

Bro. Mundo was born on 15th November, 1949 in Santa Maria del Campo, (Burgos) Spain. He entered the Juniorate in 1963 and in 1968 the Noviciate after which he made his first vows in 1969. Few years later, he made his final vows at a tender age in 1974, still in Valladolid, Spain.

His first apostolate was in Valladolid at Centro Cultural Vallisoletano. Being young and daring, he later on opted to go on Mission to Africa and so he was sent to St. Paul's Mulungushi Mission in the Central Province of Zambia in 1983, which was ten years after the Spanish Brothers of Castille had taken over the responsibility of the secondary school from the Canadian

Brothers. He came as a teacher of Geography and Religious Education but taught other needy subjects along the years before ascending to the position of Headteacher in 1995. He held this position of responsibility up to 2003 when he handed over to a lay person Mr. Victor Mkumba. Before and during his term as Headteacher, he also held positions of Regional Superior and later on Provincial Councillor of the Marist Province of Southern Africa.



In 2003, the not so young Mundo was given a daunting responsibility of starting a new Marist Mission in Chibuluma compound of Kalulushi in Copperbelt Province. He, Bro. Felipe, Bro. Mansoa and Bro. Evans, worked hard to construct Marist Education Centre from an ordinary bush area. This consists of a Secondary School and a Skills Training Centre for which Mundo became its first Director in 2011 when it was opened.

Bro. Mundo left Kalulushi and Zambia in 2016 due to ill health after surviving a minor stroke that year. He had since recovered and was up and about in Spain till the last two years when his health started failing him.

Bro. Mundo, will be remembered for his honesty, integrity, hard work, resourcefulness, concern for the youth and love for Marist life. He ran a good race and has left behind a strong foundation at the Marist Education Centre. Go well RAIMUNDO and rest in peace. We shall miss you but sweet memories of the good times shared with you will console us knowing it is well with your soul. The funeral ceremony will take place on 22nd February, 2023 from 10.00hrs to 12.00hrs at the Champagnat residence in Valladolid, Spain. Mass is scheduled to start at 12.00hrs and thereafter cremation will follow. We pray for the soul of Bro. Raimundo and thank the resurrected Christ for his life devoted to others. ADIOS MUNDO! REST IN PEACE.

Bro. Stephen Phiri

Marists of Champagnat - ZAMBIA

+

*Rest in eternal peace*

**APRIL 2023 VOCATIONS WORKSHOP AT KUTAMA COMMUNITY**



**Bro. Nicholas Zvenyika second from right with the aspirants.**



## FIRST PROFESSION OF NOVICES IN MATOLA

It was my great pleasure to be asked by the Provincial to replace him in the first profession of our novices in Matola-Mozambique. From the look of things, the programmes were tied to all of us, and yet the desire and the enthusiasm of share the unforgettable reality of receiving the vows and deputise the highest figure of the Province made me not to look back and yet accept.

I landed in Maputo at 14h30 minutes, and brother Lawrence Ndawala accompanied by Father Silvester a Father of the congregation of Holy Ghost, the one who conducted the final retreat for the novices picked me from the airport. The noviciate was agitated with many things happening at the same time. The novices first and second year were involved in so many preparatory things that made all of them to be very much occupied.

Even the congregations around, and many parishioners were as well busy with preparing the great day for these young novices. In Saint Gabriel parish the preparation were happening as well, novices and other people in formation houses were practicing singing and dancing, some mothers were busy decorating the church.

On the 1st July the five young men made their first profession in St. Gabriel parish in the hand of Brother José Francisco (Richa) as the delegate of the Superior General.

The mass was celebrated by Father Vaneesh the chaplain of our noviciate belonging to the congregation of St Francis of Sale, accompanied by other 4 priests, among them Father César (the parish priest) and his vicars, and father Silvester. The celebration was well animated and well organised. there were many religious who witnessed this event, among them the presence of the Marist Brothers of Mozambique from the 3 communities (Nivava, Bilene and Manhiça).



It was a great moment for all of us, especially for these 5 newly professed brothers: John Chinkono, Samson Steven, Alberto Denis, Kiaku Buka and Tchimbamba Miguel. They gave themselves to God in the Marist way of life, and our prayer is that they may be faithful and persevere in this life to holiness.

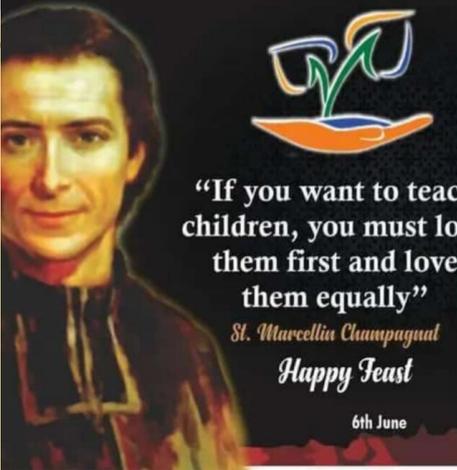
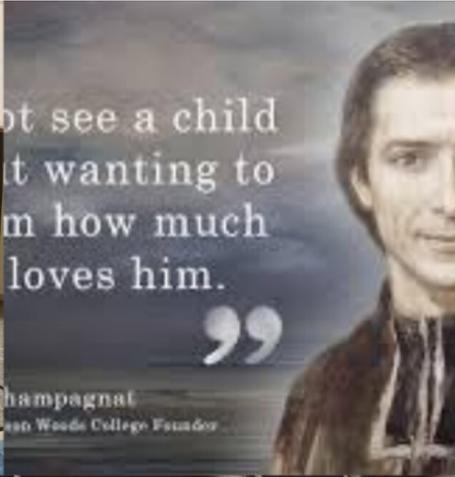
We thank all the people who made the event to happen in a successful way, all the people involved direct and indirect. The formation team Brother Mwanarilenji who begun with them in Malawi and Br. Lawrence Ndawala who finished with them in Matola. We are also grateful to their families and relatives who ever encouraged and gave the

first basic instruction of their faith.

May our Good mother Mary, St Marcelin Champagnat and all the Marist saints in heaven protect and pray always with us and for us.

Bro. José Francisco (Richa)

# PHOTOS HERE AND THERE



**A MOMENT SHARED IS..**

“

Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.

DR. SEUSS

GRACIOUSHOTEL.COM

**..A MOMENT LONG REMEMBERED**

# CHAMPAGNAT STATUE AT THE VATICAN



[https://www.flickr.com/photos/fms\\_champagnat/52114929649/in/album](https://www.flickr.com/photos/fms_champagnat/52114929649/in/album)

## APPOINTMENT OF BR. LEONARD BRITO AS CSAC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Brother Leonard BRITO  
Marist Brothers

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Southern Africa

Tel.:  
Email:

Dear Br. Leonard BRITO

### **Re: Appointment as Executive Secretary of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC)**

I write to inform you that the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC), during its meeting on July 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, appointed you as Executive Secretary of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC).

I congratulate you on this appointment and wish you well as you embark on this | challenging service on behalf of CSAC.

Yours Sincerely,

Brother Venceslas BAINDEKELI,

President of the Conference of Superiors of the African Continent (CSAC)



Rev. Bro. Venceslas BAINDEKELI, FMS  
CSAC PRESIDENT

## SNOW AND SLEET

On Monday, 10 July, South Africa's biggest city, Johannesburg, experienced snow and sleet for the first time in over a decade.

Snow was reported in a number of provinces including the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and the Gauteng region which includes Johannesburg and Soweto.



Bro. John Bwanali and Bro. Emmanuel Mwanalirenji poses for a photo in the snow in Jo'burg. Unlike Father Champagnat and Brother Stanislaus they did not have to sing the Memorare because the snow found them at home.

**FORMATION PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES  
2023 IN ROME - ITALY AND LYON – FRANCE (31<sup>ST</sup> MAY TO 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY)**



**Hellen Moffat Chagoma**



**Maggie Virginia Gundo**



*We embarked on this journey on 31st May and were humbly seen off at the airport by Brother Nicholas Banda and the Provincial, Brother Emmanuel Mwanalirenji.*



Standing: Fabiele Storch, Maggie Gundo, Laura Borja, Marcio Sampaio, Hellen Chagoma, Zeina Yazbeck.  
Squatting: Neimir Mentges, Brother Julio Huerta, Brother Paul Razanandro, Brother Valdicer Fachi

Classes began on 2nd June and topics covered were Mission today, Nonviolent communication, Co responsibility, Conflict resolution, Living in intercultural community, and other topics learnt were Integrative Spirituality, Child Protection and Children's Rights concluding with a retreat to discern on deep calling that we will be Missionaries living in intercultural communities of Brothers and sisters with co- responsibility at the service of God's Mission Children's Rights





## BR. MARK OKOLO OMEDE APPOINTED AS PROVINCIAL

In a letter dated July 15, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, informed the Brothers in Nigeria that General Council has decided to appoint **Br. Mark Okolo Omede** as Provincial of Nigeria for a first mandate of three years. Br. Mark will begin his mandate at the Provincial Chapter that will be celebrated from 9 to 13 January 2024.

In the same letter, Br. Ernesto expressed his gratitude and that of the General Council to **Br. Vincent Uchenna ABADOM** for the service he has offered to the Institute as Provincial during the last 6 years: “thank you, Vincent, for all your efforts in accompanying the Province, caring for life and mission with devotedness and good organization. Thank you also for your commitment at the Regional level in Africa, serving as the coordinator of CSAC during the last two years.”

### **Brother Mark Okolo Omede**

Br. Mark was born in 1973, in Agala Ateh, Kogi State in Nigeria. He made his first profession as a Marist Brother in 1998. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Education degree in Religious Studies and Geography from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Bachelor of education in Missiology from the Pontifical Urbanianun University in Rome, a Master of Education degree in Educational Administration and Planning, and a Ph.D in Educational Administration and Planning. Over the years, he has served as a secondary school teacher, Director of Religious Education and Catechesis, Dean of student affairs, Principal of schools and the first Registrar of the Marist Polytechnic in Enugu, Nigeria. He has served his Province as chairman of Marist Schools Management Board, a Provincial councillor, and a member of Marist Tertiary Institution Commission. He has also served as a President of the Religious men and Women association in Idah Diocese in Kogi State, Nigeria. In 2017, He was appointed as the assistant Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization of the Institute, in Rome.

Back to his Province in the beginning of 2023, he is now assisting the coordination of the Schools in the Province of Nigeria.

*Extract from: <http://champagnat.org/en/br-mark-okolo-omede-appointed-as-provincial/>*

## BAPTISM CEREMONY AT MARIST NYANGA ON 23RD JULY



Eight students received the Sacrament of Baptism on the 23rd July. It was presided by Fr. Tawanda H. Kapfumo. Many thanks to Brother Mugove Chibengwa who prepared the students for this important sacrament. Congratulations to the newly baptized learners.





I vividly remember being told by one of the University of York administrators that I had received the York Global Widening Participation Scholarship to go to the UK for a prestigious summer school program and I spent the whole week pinching myself as I simply thought I was dreaming.

I finally attended this program at the famous University of York which is a top Russell group university in the UK. I chose the Physics, Engineering and Technology option through which we got to engage with the University faculty on Plasma fusion, Robotics, Biomedical engineering, Astrophysics, Optics and Experimental physics giving us a sneak peak of what it feels like to be a student at this top research University.

Whether if it was assembling a mobile robot to move on the ground or piloting drones to capture space junk or assembling a trebuchet to practice projectile motion they came up with a challenging yet thrilling way of learning. We visited various places like the York Minster, Jorvick Centre, National Football Museum, Yorkshire Dales National Park and Jodrell Bank where the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest telescope in the world is found on academic field trips. We also had fun during day trips where we visited Manchester, Scarborough the beautiful sea side, Beamish living museum and many places for sight seeing. We finally had group presentations through which I was given an award for having the best public speaking skills. What I really loved the most about the program was the diversity there being students from 19 countries and everyone was generally kind.

## **Report of Cosmas Mandikonza**

**Nyanga High Marist Brothers School Captain-2023**





**Cosmas Mandikonza shares a light moment with his friend during the UK Summer School Program.**

# MARIST BROTHERS OF THE SCHOOLS (FMS)

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Date: 3rd July, 2023

## TRIBUTE TO BR. MARIO GIOVANNI COLUSSI, FMS

“Man, fully alive is the glory of God”. These words of saint Irenaeus of Lyons resounds with much intense vibrations as I reflect with gratitude to God, on the life of Br. Mario Giovanni Colussi, Fms. Our memories of Br. Mario are replete with ample lessons of landmark and achievements, which in assemblage, mirror the power of divine grace active in man fully alive.

Thus, a tribute to Br. Mario does not only underscores the importance of sustaining memories of our heroes past, but also serves to inspire and motivate the vast majority of young brothers of this continent, and above all glorify God who in His love chose him as a visible manifestation of His presence among Brothers of this continent and young people as well. Hence, in the words of saint Paul “we are not competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant” (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). Therefore, we are grateful to God for the glorification of His name through the life of Br. Mario.

Br. Mario may be many things to many people; he was a simple Marist Brother, an erudite academic, a resourceful person, an experienced and uncommon teacher, a formator, a seasoned secretary, a crusader of excellence and integrity, a hike enthusiast, a lover of nature and quintessential patriarch. He was encountered in different capacities. In all these, two factors remained constant: he was fair and friendly.

His witness, availability, humility, collaborative spirit, understanding and matchless sense of humour endeared him to many. He had time for reading, mental prayer, meditation, contemplation, and celebration of liturgy.

As we commit our dear Brother to mother earth, we can say without fear of equivocation that the gift of the Marist Religious life, whose fraternal solidarity and spirit Br. Mario Giovanni Colussi enjoyed for over fifty years. bore innumerable fruits to be measured. Hence, we pray and hope that God raises him up to live forever in the company of all our Marist Saints.



Br. Vincent Uchenna Abadom, fms  
Provincial Superior  
Marist Province of Nigeria

# RENEWAL PROGRAM

*Bro. John Katumbi and Bro. Leonard Brito during the renewal program in Rome in March 2023*



# BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST	
14-08-1981	David Kachoka
15-08-1996	Eulálio Celestino
17-08-1998	Emmanuel Mhomwa
20-08-1983	Patrick Banda
23-08-1968	John Katumbi
24-08-1947	Joseph Walton
24-08-1996	Inocência Felismino
27-08-1976	Joseph Nsambo
29-08-1964	Raphael Mariso

## *INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS*

### JULY

**For a Eucharistic life:** We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters. **Amen.**

### AUGUST

**For World Youth Day:** We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives. **Amen.**

**Brother Leonard Brito FMS**  
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