

NEWSBULLETIN

CAMEROON - GHANA - CÔTE D'IVOIRE - LIBERIA - TCHAD

Marist Province of West Africa

September 2023



CHAMPAGNE
GLOBAL
WEEK 2023

Team Members

- Br Meyanui Valentine
- Br Conrad Tameh
- Br Ndi Derick
- Br Jean Bertrand Alex
- Br Cylas Yenwong
- Br Nobert Ndilon



CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

WEEK 2023

Champagnat Global Week

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL is the meeting point for the whole Marist school community to have the opportunity to interact globally and promote activities of interest.

In order to make the Marist Global School Network experience a reality, various types of activities are developed

Date 16th - 20th
October 2023

Target Audience

Principals and Teachers of the 600
Marist schools around the world.

Benefits

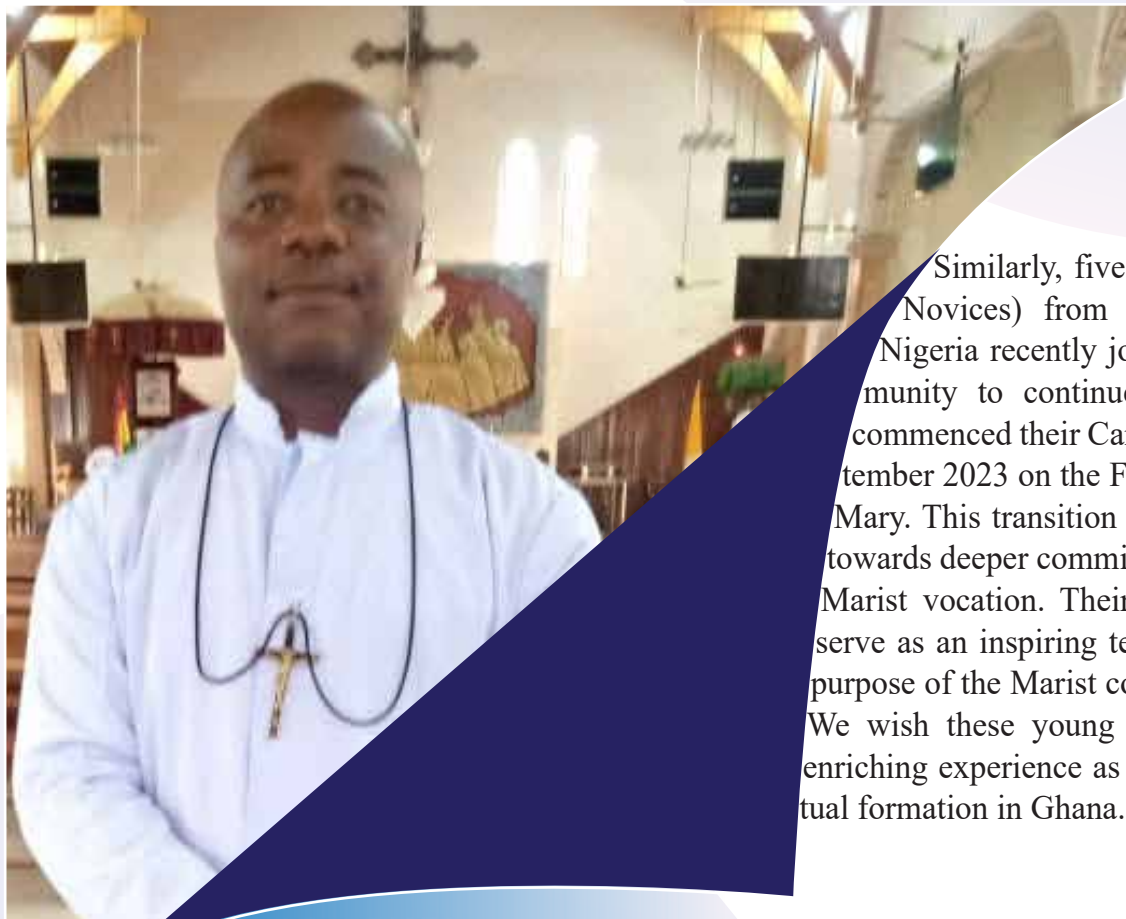
- You will discover how education can be re-imagined.
- You will learn how to carry out exchanges between Marist schools.
- You will learn how to be creative in developing your students' experience of interiority.
- You will have the opportunity to participate and get involved in an international Marist sporting activity.

Kindly Visit:

<https://champagnat.global/en/champagnat-global-week/>

Novitiate - Ghana

Brother Stephen Kpansa, former Principal of St. Pius X Catholic Colleges in Tatum, Cameroon arrived in Ghana on 18th August 2023 on a new mission. This follows his appointment to the Novitiate Community. His presence promises to enrich the Spiritual journey for aspiring Marist novices in Ghana.



Similarly, five young men (Prospective Novices) from the Marist Province of Nigeria recently joined the Novitiate Community to continue their formation. They commenced their Canonical Year on 12th September 2023 on the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. This transition marks a momentous step towards deeper commitment and growth in their Marist vocation. Their dedication and journey serve as an inspiring testament to the unity and purpose of the Marist community across borders. We wish these young novices a fulfilling and enriching experience as they continue their spiritual formation in Ghana.



Marist International Centre (MIC)

Br Cyprian Gandebo, fms

Dear Marvelous Companions,
two of our Brothers, Leonard Buhven and Benjamin Kra have returned to the Province after completing their formation and studies at MIC – MIUC in August this year. We are requested to fittingly welcome and assist them to feel at home so that they can make their contribution in building up our synodal Province. Brothers Leonard and Benjamin, I warmly welcome you to your home Province, the Marist Province of West Africa. Thank you for your perseverance and commitment to Marist Life. Be assured of the prayers and support of your Brothers in the Province and particularly the Provincial Council. We are proud of you and together we promise to accompany you with Mary, Our Good Mother, in your Marist journey and accomplishments. Congratulations, Brothers, and Welcome home!



Br Leonard Buhven
(Bafut Community, Cameroon)

Br Benjamin Kra
(Champagnat Community – Monrovia)

MARIST PEDAGOGY: From a Psychological Lens (10)

Br Eric Kramo

Today, we take our investigation of Mary's personality profile a notch further to her openness to experiences, one of the personality factors proposed by McCrae and Costa. The theorists express that "people high on openness are generally creative, imaginative, curious, and liberal and have a preference for variety. By contrast, those who score low on openness to experience are typically conventional, down-to-earth, conservative, and lacking in curiosity" (Theories of Personality, p392). Where do we conveniently place the Blessed Virgin Mary on the openness trait scale?

We learn a great deal from the Lukan Gospel, the disposition of Mary to the Angel Gabriel's message. The first chapter of Luke presents us with the complete discourse between the Divine messenger and the human recipient. Interestingly, we note the utmost openness of the maiden, Mary. She is understandably baffled by Angel's message yet listens with rapt attention. She questions the possibility of the seemingly incomprehensible message for clarification and not in the spirit of doubt. Though she does not sufficiently understand, she welcomes it with faith. How do we know?

Ultimately, she gives her fiat, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38). We should bear in mind that Mary is fully conscious of the fact that conception is impossible without a man. Thus, she asks, "How can this be since I do not know a man?" So, the Blessed Virgin Mary's eventual approval sets her up for a great experience. Many questions could run through our minds. Is her fiat not challenging the established biological convention or makeup? Is she also not putting to test the stringent Jewish marriage customs? Is she not so courageous to welcome this invitation? In sum, Mary daringly demonstrates extraordinary openness to new life reality.

What's more? Mary is very open to the Angel (or the Holy Spirit) that she believes the additional information – "Even Elizabeth, your relative, is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month" (Lk. 1:36) - the Angel supplies. Mary could disregard this information: Elizabeth's pregnancy should be headline news considering its nature. For six months, how couldn't she hear about it? Because of her open spirit, she still receives the message with warmth. Notwithstanding, the Virgin's intuitive and imaginative character leads her to discover that, in her old age, she might need some helping hand. So, as recorded by the holy book, she goes to assist her kinswoman in the remaining period of her pregnancy.

We also turn to one Marian feast - the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - to understand her tremendous openness

to God's message. This is based on an ancient tradition that says Mary was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem when she was 3 years old and dedicated to God. In response, Mary placed her whole self at the service of God. From this ancient tradition, we evaluate that the Blessed Virgin Mary is oriented from her childhood to be a handmaid at the Temple. To render a befitting service to her Lord, she is to be open and attuned to her environment. This childhood orientation might have developed in Mary the fine disposition of openness to different experiences.

Again, we soberly contemplate Mary's desperate experience in Bethlehem to see her openness to experience. She could have birthed her baby on the verandah of the landlord or elsewhere. However, she chooses not to. She accepts her new reality and thinks outside the square. She creatively prepares a space for her newborn child in the manger, an event that has become a mystery to unravel and a historic milestone. This is a vast departure from the convention. Not many people would make such a decision. In this simple act, we observe a profound exhibition of her liberality and creativity.

On the other hand, on the openness' low score, the Blessed Virgin Mary could be described as conventional. We may observe this disposition from the presentation of the child Jesus at the temple. The scripture testifies that she faithfully attends to the Jewish laws and precepts regarding days of confinement, offerings, etc. She does not rock the boat. Yet one more example, at age 12, Mary takes Jesus to a religious celebration in Jerusalem, where the boy eventually goes missing. We read that she observes this festival frequently. Though conservative, as identified here and in many instances of her life, she was not limited by it. Perhaps, Mary was conventional with faith matters which possibly endeared her to God.

In conclusion, based on our evaluation, we say with some certainty that the Blessed Virgin Mary measures high on the openness trait proposed by McCrae and Costa.

Award - Ivory Coast

Br Cyprian Gandebo



We congratulate our Brother for the achievement. He deserves the award. He has been resilient, hard working and committed to the mission of Evangelization and giving guidance to children and young people in accordance with the Marist pedagogical principles of Genuine Love for children, Presence, Simplicity, Family Spirit, Love of work, leading in the way of Mary. Thank you Br Germain Beda for your dedication and love for the moral, spiritual and academic wellbeing of your children and young people. May God continue to use you for the purpose for which He called you into this ministry. We are proud of your achievement as we share in your joy this day! AYEKOO!!!!

**Best Principal Award
for First Cycle in
Bouake District - Br
Germain Bery Beda,
fms.**



Our Brothers,
Cho Nchang, Valentine Meyanui, Stanislaus Nsotaka and
Nadji Frederick have successfully completed their further formation programs
and have since reported to their assigned communities. I entreat the Brothers to give them a
befitting welcome and assist them to feel at home so that they can make their contributions in build-
ing up our synodal Province. Dear Brothers, on behalf of the Province and the Provincial Council, I
warmly welcome each of you back to the Marist Province of West Africa. I also thank you for your perseverance
and commitment to the Marist Life and mission even while you were for studies. Be assured of the prayers and
support of your Brothers in the Province as you embark on your apostolic mission in your new communities. In collabora-
tion with the other Brothers we can build the Province that we all desire. May Mary, Our Good Mother, and St Marcel-
lin Champagnat accompany us in all our endeavours.
Congratulations, Brothers, and Welcome home!

Letter to our Marist Schools

Br Valentine Meyanui

Given the speed at which things are currently moving, it is somewhat certain that in the future, technology will be the driving force behind every business, regardless of its nature or industry. Whatever profession or endeavor we engage in today, it is essential to recognize that the future lies in luxury. The value of human interaction in the upcoming era will be unparalleled, and obtaining such contact will come at a premium. Hence, the future of human connection seems paradoxical, as it suggests that we may need to invest significantly to enjoy the privilege of contact, ultimately leading us towards a world where genuine personal interactions become increasingly scarce and highly sought after.

How do we, Marist Brothers on this part of the continent prepare to move with the signs of the times?

We should in our various schools make use of the marketing tools at our disposal now. Top on the list, an online presence is non-negotiable. We should Invest in a professional website and maintain active social media profiles. This will engage with your audience through blog posts, newsletters, and regular updates.

What else happens on these websites? Marist schools have a rich history and unique values that deserve to be celebrated and shared. "Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts..."(Ps 145:4). There is an inspiration in the timeless tradition of storytelling. Use storytelling to convey these narratives to parents, students, and the community. Share success stories, alumni achievements, and the impact of our educational approach.

In addition, Create videos that showcase your school's facilities, teachers, and student life. Use video testimonials to convey the positive experiences of current students and parents.

To be unique, develop a clear and compelling brand identity that reflects the values and mission of Marist education. Ensure that your logo, colors, and messaging are consistent across all platforms.

Finally, Showcase the academic achievements and programs that set your school apart. Provide data on standardized test scores, college admissions, and extracurricular opportunities.

Remember that effective marketing is an ongoing process. Let us continue to provide valuable education rooted in the Marist tradition.



St Pius X Catholic Colleges, Tatum

Br Ndi Derick

Following the appointment and transfer of Br Tayu Celestine Suinyuy to Tatum community as the Head of St Pius X Catholic Colleges, Bishop George Nkuo, Proprietor of the Institution, paid a visit to encourage the Brothers and the School community at the beginning of the Academic year 2023/2024



A New school year officially began in St Pius x Colleges Tatum with a Holy Mass, blessings of classes dormitories and award of prizes to some meritorious students.



The Director, Br Etienne Balma leads an orientation ceremony for new comers to College Marcellin Champagnat



2023 / 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR



4th September 2023 marked the beginning of the 2023-2024 Academic year at Sister Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School - Monrovia

Marist Bilingual Nursery & Primary, Douala

Br Oliver Tata



On May 31, 2023, Marist Bilingual Nursery and Primary School - Babenga held a Graduation Ceremony. This event served a triple purpose: first, to celebrate the graduation of nursery two pupils and their impending transition to primary school; second, to recognize and honor the collaborative effort of teachers and families in nurturing the children's growth; and third, to showcase the children's acquired skills and achievements over the past year.

The event was a platform for families and the school community to rejoice in the success of their children as they prepared to advance to primary school. It emphasized the significance of this milestone.

It further highlighted the vital partnership between teachers and families in nurturing the pupils' development. The event stressed the importance of ongoing family support for the children's educational journey through higher classes.

The children themselves took central stage, demonstrating the skills they had acquired over the year through various activities like traditional dances, rhymes recitation, and sketches. The graduating pupils were awarded certificates, and outstanding students received prizes for their accomplishments.



On the 4th Of June 2023, St. Albert's Comprehensive College Bafut had a Triple celebration:

1. Anticipation of the Feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat
2. Reception of the sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion by some students.
3. Prize award ceremony to deserving students in various Domains of school life.

The celebration started with Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m and was attended by students, Staff and some parents. In his Homily, the School Chaplain, Fr Kewai Edwin stressed the importance of the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist to Christians and the

importance of following in the footsteps of Champagnat as students and teachers in a Marist school.

The second part of the celebration was at the hall, where presentations on the life of Marcellin Champagnat were made.

This was followed by a Prize award ceremony where prizes were given to the best students in various domains: Academics, Sports, Cultural Music, Liturgical Music and Manual work.

The celebration ended with lunch at 4:00 p.m

CLIMAX AND THANKSGIVING OF THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS IN GHANA

Br Michael Telewa

FLASH BACK!



The Marist Family in Ghana celebrated the end of the Year of Marist Vocations in a grand style. The program which took place on Sunday, the 11th of June 2023, was attended by the Brothers, some selected staff and students from Marist Schools in Ghana. The celebration was held at St Andrew's Catholic Church, Juaso in the Ashanti region of the country.

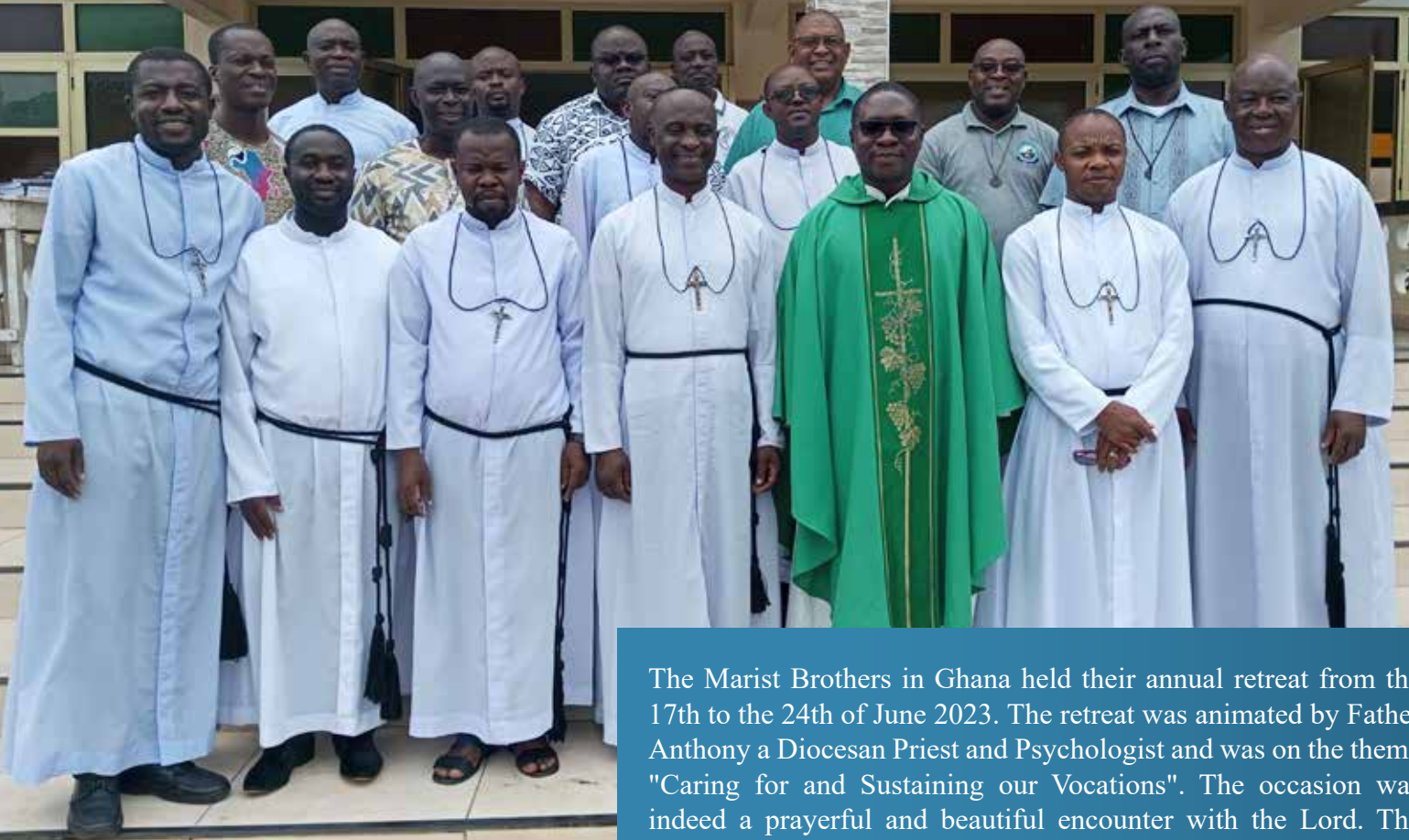
The Parish Priest, Fr Emmanuel Gyamfi and the parishioners welcomed the Brothers, staff, and students with open arms. The celebration of the Eucharist was officiated by Fr John Mubanga, M. Afr, who expatiated on the Mission and Apostolate of the Marist Brothers in the Church. He pointed out the essence of Religious Vocation especially Brotherhood in the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel. Towards the end of the mass, the Brothers presented a

portrait of Father Champagnat to the Church. This is in view of reminding the parishioners of their encounter with the Marist Brothers. The presentation was followed by a song to Our Good Mother, sung by the Brothers. Meanwhile, there was a float through the principal streets of Juaso in jubilation and dancing to a Brass band music. All the parishioners, the Priests and Brothers joined the procession that woke the entire village to singing and dancing. It is important to note that the programme was graced by two Marist Provincials, Br Vincent Abadom (Nigeria) and Br Cyprian Gandebo (West Africa).

Annual Retreat in Ghana

Br Cho Nchang

FLASH BACK!



The Marist Brothers in Ghana held their annual retreat from the 17th to the 24th of June 2023. The retreat was animated by Father Anthony a Diocesan Priest and Psychologist and was on the theme "Caring for and Sustaining our Vocations". The occasion was indeed a prayerful and beautiful encounter with the Lord. The retreat animator prepared his inputs very well and this enable the brothers to pray well. At the end of the retreat, Br Samuel Nkuah renewed his vows while the finally professed Brothers renewed their commitment to the Lord. We pray that the graces of this retreat may accompany us as we move into 2023/24 Canonical year



We welcome your valuable input. Your feedback and ideas are essential in helping us improve. For Comments, Suggestions and sending of articles, contact:

Whatsapp: **+237677085480; +1(845)3188314**

Email: **mnewsbullet@gmail.com**

Next Publication - **31st October 2023**