

# NEWSBULLETIN



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

Marist Province of West Africa

N° 76 | 2024



- \* First Religious Profession
- \* Pastoral Visitation
  - \* Solidarity
  - \* Prize Awards
  - \* Graduations
  - \* Marist Pedagogy



## FIRST RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

On Saturday, June 8, 2024, the Marist Brothers' novitiate house in Kumasi, Ghana, witnessed a joyous occasion—the first religious profession of eight novices. (**Ghana** - Cosmos Kwaku; **Cameroon** - Clovis Ngong, Fonyuy Serdric and Wirba Hadrian; **Ivory Coast** - Arnaud Ulrich; **Nigeria**: John Bosco Obinna, Obasi Benjamin, Tyokusu Samuel) each committing themselves to the Marist way of life.

His Lordship, Most Rev John Yaw Afoakwa, Bishop of the Obuasi Diocese, presided over the pontifical High Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in Trede. In his sermon, the bishop offered heartfelt encouragement to the brothers, emphasizing that their vocation marks the start of a profound journey. He expressed concern over the troubling trend among some religious men and women who seem to be competing with worldly pursuits for fame and riches.

Concluding his sermon, the bishop urged parents not to hinder their children who feel called to serve God in the Religious Life, encouraging them to support their children's spiritual aspirations.

The event brought together religious men and women from across the diocese, who came to pray with and encourage the young men.

We were honored to have two Provincial Superiors, Br. Mark Omede from Nigeria and Br. Cyprian Gandeebo from West Africa. Br. Cyprian accepted the vows of the new Brothers. It was a day full of excitement.



# FEAST OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

## JUNE 6, 2024



**MARIST  
PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL**

**GHANA**

On 6th June 2024, twenty nine (29) students/pupils from Marist Preparatory School - Ghana received Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation during the Holy Eucharist Celebration of the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat. This event took place in the school's dining hall.





# Champagnat Day



On June 6th, 2024, the Brothers, Lay Marists, staff, and Form Five students of St. Albert's Comprehensive College in Bafut celebrated the Champagnat Feast with grandeur.

The celebration commenced with a solemn Holy Mass, during which the life and legacy of St. Marcellin Champagnat were elucidated to all present. Following the Mass, a reception was held at the Brothers' house, featuring various presentations and a time for refreshments. The festivities concluded at approximately 5:30 PM, marking a day of joy and communal spirit for all participants.

BY BR CYLAS YENWONG, FMS



**2024**

Date: **June, 6**

## Celebrating the Feast of our Founder

ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



*Tertianship 2024 - Nigeria*



*Ongoing Formation*



*Ongoing Formation*



*MIC - Nairobi*



*Yassa, Cameroon*



*Bouaké, Ivory Coast*





# MARIST YOUTH



# MINISTRY

On June 1st, the MYM of Sr. Shirley Kolmer-Liberia visited Antonio community in Kpan's Town and the Marist Brothers Catholic School. As part of the activities, Br. Pascal Birkem made a presentation on Marist principles.



*by Br Benjamin Kra, fms*



# Marist Pedagogy: From a psychological Lens [14]

by Br Eric Kramo, fms

In this issue, we reflect more on how we can act, in the way of Mary, in our mission, our relationship and our life, taking her attribute of openness as our point of departure. We are mindful that our last discourse focused mainly on her trait of "conscientiousness". To make the most out of the previous and this reflection, we are encouraged to follow them with the same spirit of openness that Mary possessed.

According to Erik N. and Richard R. (2007), the personality trait of "openness" is strongly correlated with higher scores in the verbal section of the SAT. This is not surprising, as individuals who score high on openness tend to possess qualities such as warmth, creativity, receptiveness to new ideas, willingness to try new things, and a focus on tackling new challenges. Additionally, they tend to enjoy thinking about abstract concepts. All these distinguished and fine abilities are facilitated by linguistic aptitude. They require strong, clear and accurate verbal skills to articulate them.

This is good news for those of us who strive to emulate the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is highly regarded for her trait of openness, which was evident in her excellent level of transparency during the Annunciation. Though youthful, she welcomed the message of the Angel with charming warmth, unalloyed charity and unwavering faith. This disposition allowed her to experience incredible and new things, such as conceiving without the knowledge of a man and the pregnancy of her cousin Elizabeth. Surprisingly, Mary's openness enabled her to acquire special linguistic abilities that allowed her to clearly understand the message from Angel Gabriel. In turn, she communicated her responses fearlessly and unambiguously.

Aware of the great benefits of openness, it's incumbent upon us to harness it in our life. First, we need to develop our critical abilities -sharpen our curiosity, interrogate issues and not to

accept things on their face value and think outside the box for alternative workable solutions. We need to be open to people (our learners, teachers and other collaborators) and their contributions, bearing in mind the ancient advice of Max Ehrmann, "...listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their own story".

We should break free from the shackles of "traditionalism" and the mindset of "we always do it like this." Some of us are stuck in a rut, but we should not be afraid to try new ideas. Mary is a great example of this. Even though she received the most disturbing message in history, she dared to embrace it. Change can be upsetting, stressful, or challenging, but it is only by breaking away from the norm that we discover what is truly noble and make progress in our endeavours. The Blessed Virgin Mary believed in what could be described as a ridiculous promise in every age, but the fruits of her attitude towards change are evident for all generations to see.

Second, we are duty-bound to train the children entrusted to our care to have the disposition of openness. We should encourage them to think critically, cultivate a spirit of creativity, become receptive to new ideas, and to be imaginative in all spheres of life. How do we achieve this? By sharing with our learners some meaningful stories about the traits of openness of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Accordingly, we can urge them to emulate her disposition. Additionally, let's set the pace so that they may look up to us as worthy models. By pursuing this effort, we can indirectly enhance their verbal skills, as noted by Erik N. and Richard R. in 2007.

# EPISCOPAL ORDINATION, MONROVIA - LIBERIA



ON THE 8TH OF MAY 2024, EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP MONROVIA, HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GABRIEL BLAMO JUBWE.



# CONGRATULATIONS



**Br Conrad Tameh, fms**



**Br Therence Banseka, fms**

We thank God for the successful academic journey of our Brothers, Conrad Tameh and Therence Banseka. They graduated from Marist College in Poughkeepsie (USA) and the Psycho-Spiritual Institute, Marist International University College, Kenya respectively. We thank God for their achievement and wish them well in their mission.

*by the Newsbulletin*



# ST ALBERT'S COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGE, BAFUT



A cross-section of the form 5 students feeling excited after returning from the Computer Science GCE practical assessment

## END OF SCHOOL YEAR ACTIVITIES

by Br Cylas Yenwong, fms

Tuesday May 21, 2024, was the closing Mass for the academic year, 20223/2024 and Prize award ceremony in SACC Bafut.

The day began with Holy Mass at 9:15am. In his Homily, Fr. Eugene Ngalim, the School chaplain urged the catechumens who were to receive the sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion to remain steadfast in their obedience to God as good Christians.

After the Mass the staff and students all went to the school hall for a prize award ceremony. During this ceremony, prizes were given to some students in the domains of Academics and school life for meritorious performance. It was a joyful and colorful day as the whole school also wished the Form 5 Students Success in their forth coming GCE exams. The celebration ended with refreshment.





# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE:

An award ceremony for the best pupils from nursery to primary school and best agents of the IEP Bouaké Gonfreville. Reverend Brother Germain Bery Beda the director of St Marcellin Champagnat, was named best director of private education in the IEP Bouaké Gonfreville District.

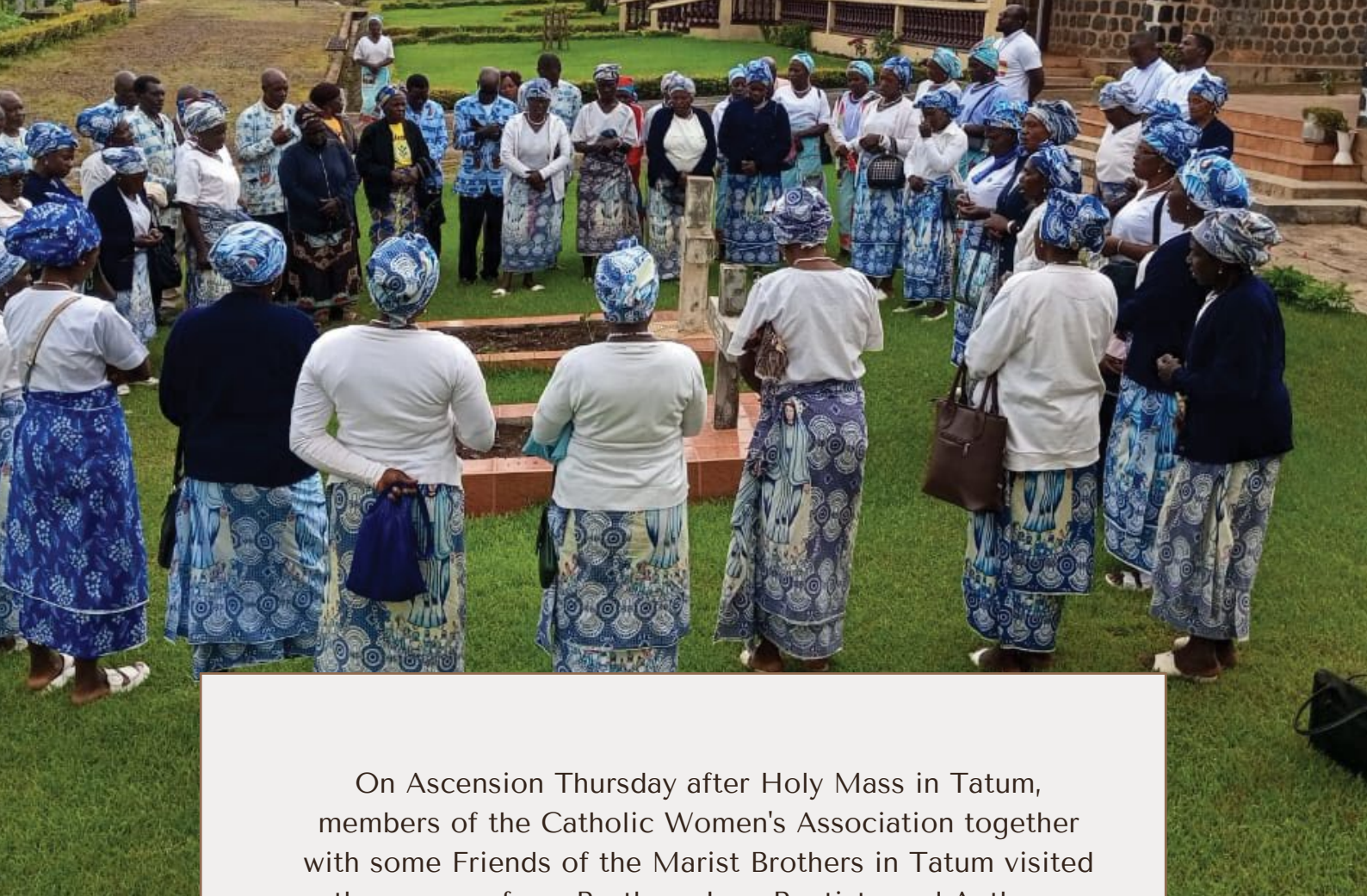
by Br Jean Alex, fms



Reverend Brother Germain Bery Beda Named Best Director of Private Education



# Remembering our Departed Brothers



On Ascension Thursday after Holy Mass in Tatum, members of the Catholic Women's Association together with some Friends of the Marist Brothers in Tatum visited the graves of our Brothers Jean Baptiste and Anthony Tanyi in the community. They prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet and thanked God for the lives our Brothers led while serving in Tatum. This has become a yearly practice

by Br Deric Ndi, fms





## The Provincial Superior's Visit to Cameroon

*by Bros Deric Ndi & Cylas Yenwong*



The Provincial Superior, Br Cyprian Gandebo demonstrated exceptional courage by visiting one of the crises stricken regions (North West) of Cameroon.

Amidst significant challenges with movement, after visiting the two Communities in Douala, he proceeded to Tatum and then to Bafut. His presence was both encouraging and reassuring. It provided the much-needed words of hope to the Brothers, students, teachers, and the Church especially of Tatum.





*On the 15th of May 2024, St Marcellin Champagnat School, Buokrom held its opening Eucharistic Celebration at the school dining hall to mark the last lap of the academic year . The mass was celebrated by Rev Fr. Edward Gyabi, the Youth chaplain for Asewase Deanery.*

**by Br Michael Telewah, fms**







## Solidarity Project Sr. Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School Monrovia, Liberia.

During Lent, Sister Shirley Kolmer organized a Lenten Solidarity Project that engaged all students and teachers. This initiative aimed to raise funds and awareness about the significance of the season's three pillars: Prayer, Almsgiving, and Fasting. The goal was for each student to contribute \$1.00 over the six weeks of Lent. At the end of the period, \$360.00 was raised along with material donations such as clothes, shoes, and toiletries. The community also contributed an additional sum of \$150.00 for the same purpose. All items and funds collected were donated to the Orphanage Home in the Virginia Community.

The Vice Principal, Mrs. Weeks, Miss Harris (a Religious Education teacher), and the Brothers accompanied the students to hand over the donations. Brother Pascal announced that the Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School plans to support the orphans annually, and the donations on April 8 marked the beginning of this commitment. The Missionary Sisters of the Resurrection and CENACOLO, who care for the orphans, expressed their gratitude to the administration and students for their generosity. They highlighted that the contributions from Shirley Kolmer Catholic School have significantly impacted the lives of the orphans. The Bakhita Orphanage Home, established in 2011 to honor kidnapped teenage girls, currently cares for 45 children, supported by 5 sisters and 10 volunteers from various countries.





# 29th Gala Anniversary



The 29th Gala Anniversary of Sr. Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School commenced on Monday, April 15th, with a Holy Mass at Holy Martyrs Parish for the senior high students. During his homily, the Parish Priest emphasized the school's history and encouraged students to learn more about it. Following the Mass, attendees gathered in the hall for various activities, including quizzes, spelling bees, and a debate competition between the host school and Cathedral Catholic School (CCS). The debate topic was "The privatization of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) is the best solution to mitigate the power shortage in Liberia," with SSKMCS winning by a narrow margin of 84% to 83.8%. On Tuesday, April 16th, the celebrations continued with a Holy Mass for the Elementary and Junior levels. This was followed by the Sr. Shirley Kolmer King and Queen contest. Roland Jeke from 9thB and Robert Weager of KGI were crowned Queen and King of Shirley Kolmer, respectively, with Alexis Kai of 11thB and Benjamin Horace of 7thA as the first runners-up.

On Wednesday, April 17th, featured a Career and Cultural Exhibition Day. There was a talk on Marist Patrimony by Br. Ignatius Kiy'yeh, FMS. The Career Guidance guest speaker, Mr. Augustine K. Kou, delivered an inspiring speech encouraging students to choose thoughtful and relevant careers. The event also included a splendid cultural dance performance by the school dance crew and the symbolic planting of a maple tree. The day concluded with the coronation of the King and Queen of Sr. Shirley Kolmer. Thursday, April 18th, saw the school welcoming alumni from the past 19 years since 2005. The alumni organized various programs aimed at raising funds for a new modern cafeteria project for the school. The climax of the 29th Gala Anniversary was on Friday, April 19th, 2024, featuring sporting events such as basketball, kickball, and a football game with teachers. SSKMCS triumphed over CCS in both the kickball and teachers' soccer games, while CCS won the basketball game. The celebration concluded with refreshments on the campus, marking the end of a memorable anniversary week.



# Bishop's Visit - Koumra



The Bishop of Koumra, Mgr Samuel Mbairabe paid a courtesy visit to Lycée College Marie Ke tal on the 17th of April 2024. During his visit, he interacted with the students, staff and administration of the school and encouraged them in their mission. This was his first visit to the school since his installation as the chief

shepherd of the new diocese and he assured the students and staff of his support in their work. The staff, students and administration also offered him words of encouragement in his new mission in the Diocese of Koumra.

Br Cho Nchang



## Lenten Solidarity collection for ST Pius X Tatum 2024

Br Derick Ndi, fms



The Lenten Project at St. Pius X Catholic College in Tatum this year was a great success. This was not so much about the amount collected but because the aim for which this exercise was carried out was achieved. The students of the College were made to understand the saying that ‘blessed is the hand that gives than the one that takes during a sensitization exercise carried out by the Pastoral coordinator of the school(name). Most of the students have benefited from help ranging from school fees, study materials to foodstuff. This act is very relevant considering that the school is located at the heart of the ongoing Anglophone conflict in Cameroon. Here, most of the students therefore are not able to enjoy the privileges of other young children/Students around the world.

The included collections organised for four weeks that started on Ash Wednesday during the Masses. At the end of the season the students had contributed a whopping sum of 40,925 francs. In all, this amount benefited eight students who could not afford to complete the school fees, a gesture applauded by the students and staff who were so happy to learn their friends will not be sent away for fees. To the brothers, these were signs that the students had understood the message of solidarity and are willing to share. The spirit of contributing to help the less privileged was well perceived and so the seed has been planted in their hearts.



# Solidarity with the inmates of Koumra Civil Prison

Br Geuradi Destin, fms

Students and staff of Lycée College Marie Ke tal paid a solidarity visit to the inmates of the civil Prison of Koumra on the 10th of April 2024. This was to share with them the proceeds of their Lenten Project, an intervention which is worth 85,000 francs. The donation which was mainly food items was presented to the facility. The delegation was warmly welcomed by the authorities and the inmates who sang songs and animated us throughout our visit. They appreciated the school for thinking about them and there were loud acclamations during the presentation of the gifts. They also advised the delegation to behave well to avoid in a situation as theirs. Two students were given the opportunity to offer some words of encouragement to the prisoners too. The students very much appreciated this gesture and promised to do more next year.



We infinitely thank God for this opportunity and graces showed upon us to be able to pay a visit to the prison at least once in a while to share and encourage our brothers and sisters.



# COLLEGE PRIVE SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT DE BOUAKE

By Br Jean Alex, fms



Proclamation of the results of the regional examination (BEPC Blanc)

**Registered: 93**

**Passed: 77**

**82.8%**  
**PASSED**

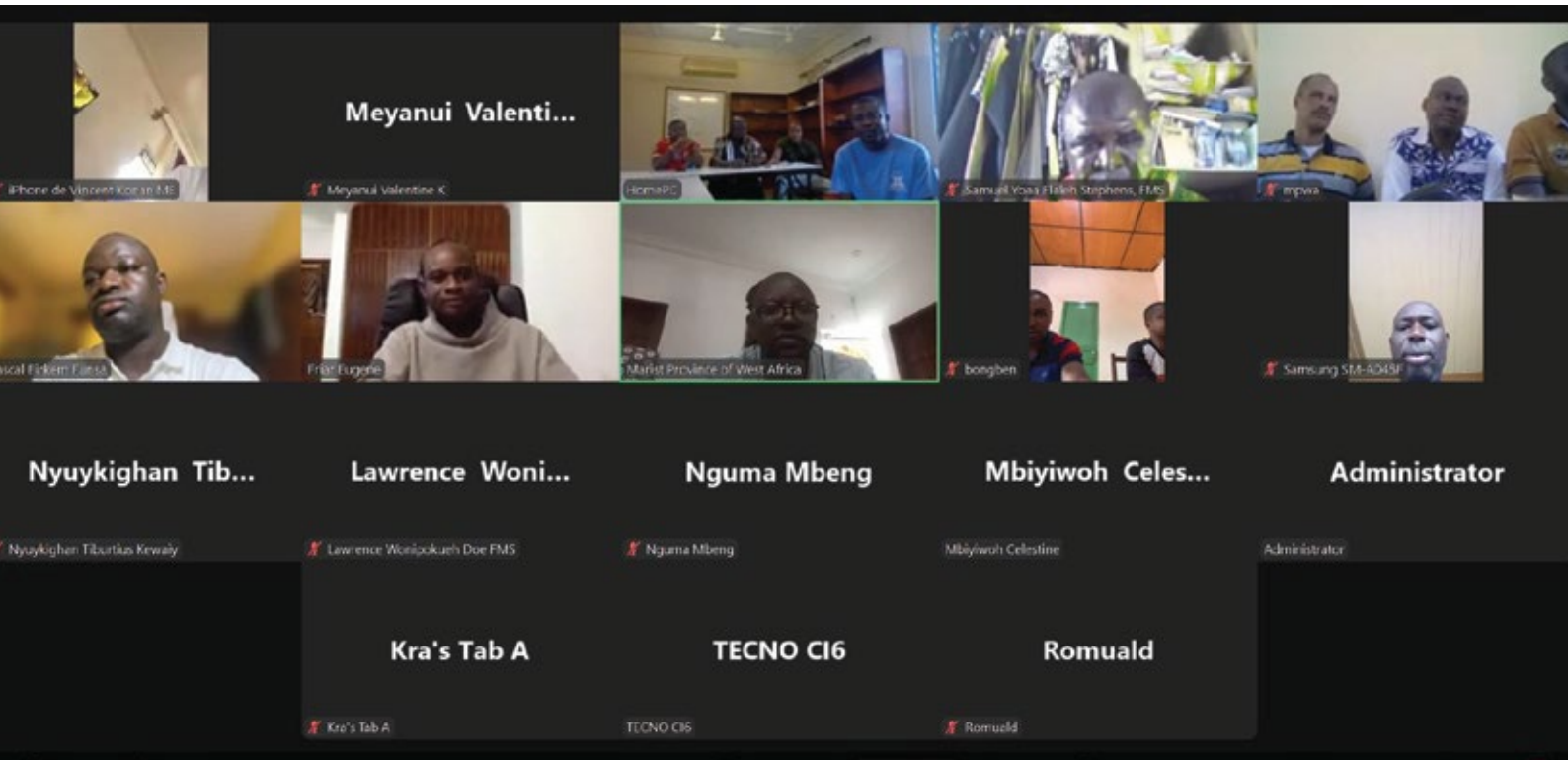
**Date of Proclamation**

**April 08, 2024**





On May 25th, the Vocations Team organised a workshop on Living Authentic Religious Life in this Contemporary world



It was facilitated by Fr Eugene Antwi Bosiako, OFM Conv

**...LIVING OUR LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY  
IS A COLLECTIVE PROJECT...**

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](mailto:mnewsbullet@gmail.com)

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