



# MARIST PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

## RELIGIOUS CALENDAR JULY 2025

### Pope's Intention

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel

**1<sup>st</sup> July**

**Tuesday of the 13<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time**

**Psalms Week I**

Saint Junipero Serra, Priest

<b>Anniversaris</b>	In 1899 departure of the first Brothers to Mexico In 1994, the massacre of Brothers Chris Mannion and Joseph Rushikajiki in Save-Rwanda.
<b>Liturgy</b>	Gn 19:15-29: Because of your crimes, I will crush you into the ground Mtt. 8:18-22: Jesus rebuked the winds and the seas and all was calm In 2002, Liberia became part of the Marist District of West Africa
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> To be a Brother in Africa is first to accept being a gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and the world and then dispose oneself to be transformed by the grace of God to become a living witness of his merciful Love. Pg 4
<b>Reminder</b>	Republic Day in Ghana
<b>Intentions</b>	We pray for the brothers and workers in Liberia and Mexico. We give thanks for the witness of our brothers who were killed in Rwanda
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> July      Wednesday of the 13<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	Gn 21:5, 8-20a Hagar and Ishmael, expelled for Sarah's sake, saved by the Lord. Matthew Mt 8:28-34. Jesus rebuked the winds and the seas, and all was calm.
<b>Reminder</b>	Beginning of Provincial Chapter-Mediterranea Province, Spain
<b>Birthday</b>	Brother Peter Awoh Acho (1974), from Cameroon
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> Religious Life, as a special vocation in the Church, starts when individual Christians embrace a style of life characterized by total separation from the world (Kanu, 2015). The primary intention of the Religious is to be devoted to prayer with the aim at achieving an unalloyed union with God.) pg 14
<b>Intentions</b>	For Br Peter Awoh, his family, his intentions, and his mission as a formator at MIC For the Marist community of Yassa- Cameroon. For the Brothers of the Mediterranea Province.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> July      Thursday of the 13<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week I</b>	
<b>Saint Thomas, Apostle - Feast</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ephesians 2:19-22: In Christ, you are no longer aliens, but citizens like us John 20:24-29: 'My Lord and my God!'
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b>



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	The values of Religious Life are based on the God centered ideals, which attract the faithful and condition them to convert to God. This conversion requires love. Love presupposes selflessness, which is the only condition for theocentric self-transcendence. Page 20
<b>Intentions</b>	For those going through all forms of slavery in the countries where we work For all missionaries spreading the Good News of Christ.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> July Friday of the 13<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time Psalms Week I</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67: Chose a wife for my son Isaac Mt 9:9-13; It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick
<b>Reminder</b>	End of Provincial Chapter-Mediterranea Province, Spain
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> The Religious Brotherhood is a full-fledged and approved vocation in the Church. Prior to the evangelization of Africa, there existed Religious Congregations solely of Brothers. For instance, the De La Salle Brothers Congregation was founded around 1700 in France. The Marist Brothers of the Schools was founded in 1817, also in France. These Brothers lived in communities and worked for their upkeep as Christ and his twelve apostles did. Page 14
<b>Intentions</b>	For the spirit of sacrifice in our communities. For all non-believers, that they may be touched by the love and truth of Christ and come to know His peace.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> July Saturday of the 13<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time Psalms Week I</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	St Anthony Zaccharia, Priest; St Elizabeth of Portugal Blessed Virgin Mary.
<b>Liturgy</b>	Gn 27:1-5, 15-29: Jacob obtains Isaac's blessing by Fraud Mt 9:14-17: When the bridegroom is taken from them, then they will feast
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> The silence about the promotion of Religious Brothers' vocation in Africa has reached the stage to see it as an unconscious rejection of what is not worthwhile. Religious Brothers' lifestyle is incompatible with the African <i>status-conscious</i> mentality. Page 27
<b>Intentions</b>	For people who have been victims of sexual abuse For a better appreciation of the vocation of the religious Brother in the Church. Marist Saturday: In thanksgiving to Mary for the gift of our vocation
<b>6<sup>th</sup> July 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Psalms Week II</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	St Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr (1890- 902)
<b>Liturgy</b>	Is 66:10-14: Towards Jerusalem I send flowing peace, like a river Gal 6:14-18: The Marks on my body are those of Jesus
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b>



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	<p><b>Religious Brotherhood is not a Surrogate Vocation</b></p> <p>Africa's belief and value systems encourage Priesthood vocation more than Religious Brotherhood vocation. Many young African men who aspire to Christian vocation other than marriage usually have Priesthood as their first choice. If by chance or evaluation they fail to secure admission into the seminary, they tend to resort to Religious Brotherhood vocation. Experience has shown that most of such aspirants take the Religious Brothers community as a centre of relief to absorb the shock of their disappointment. Page 58</p>
<b>Birthday</b>	Br Cylas Yenwong Mbivnjo (1993) from Cameroon
<b>Intentions</b>	<p>For the grace to value and take care of our vocation as Marist Brothers.</p> <p>For brother Cylas, family, personal intentions, and his community of Bafut.</p>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> July 14<sup>th</sup> Monday in Ordinary Time Psalms Week II</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	<p>Gen 28:10-22a Jacob's dream of the ladder at Bethel</p> <p>Mt 9:18-26: Your faith has restored you to health</p>
<b>Reflection</b>	<p><b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b></p> <p>As young African Religious vocation aspirants start to understand that Religious Brotherhood vocation is a complete vocation in itself, they will stop the trial-and-error attitude towards entrance into the Religious Brothers' Congregation, because it is not a transient vocation. Experience has also shown that candidates who are incapable of adapting in Religious vocation apply, voluntarily or at the direction of another person, with the mind that only common sense or personal interest is enough to be a Religious Brother. Page 58</p>
<b>Intentions</b>	<p>For the Ivorian people, our Brothers, and the works in that country,</p> <p>For the those sick in our families..</p> <p><b>First Monday:</b> For our dead relatives, brothers, and benefactors.</p>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> July Tuesday of the 14<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	<p>Gn 32:23-33: Jacob wrestles with God</p> <p>Mt 9:32-38 9:18-26: The harvest is rich but the laborers are few</p>
<b>Reflection</b>	<p><b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b></p> <p>The word Brother conveys a welcoming aura. John Paul II alluded to this aspect of the Religious Brothers' spirituality as the core of their vocation in the Church. In every age and situation, the Religious Brothers' way of life permeates the fabrics of the cultural milieu the Brothers find themselves.</p>
<b>Intentions</b>	<p>For our brothers and relatives who have gone before us</p> <p>For the sick and those taking care of them</p>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<p><b>Wednesday of the 14<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time Psalms Week II</b></p> <p>Saint Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs</p>



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<b>Liturgy</b>	Gen 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a: Joseph's Brothers in his power Mt 10:1-7: Go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> Even though the Africans like the Religious Brothers as they like Jesus Christ, they do not want the Religious Brotherhood lifestyle and obligations permanently for their children. The same is their attitude towards Jesus Christ. They like him but do not want to identify strictly with him. They find joy in the crucified Christ but do not want to hang with him on the Cross. They would readily beg him to "leave their neighbourhood" (Mk. 5:17) as the people of Gerasene begged Jesus whom they accused of wasting their herd of pigs.
<b>Intentions</b>	For those who have lost their faith in Christ and for non-believers. For our brothers preparing for their perpetual vows. For the grace to be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit
<b>10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Thursday of the 14<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week II</b>
<b>Liturgy</b>	Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5 Joseph reveals himself to his Brothers Mt 10:7-15: You received without charge: give without charge
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <i>Brotherhood Vocationis for Mature Minds</i> Maslow (1954) gives a succinct description of a mature person; the summary of his ideas is as follows. A mature mind consists of stable self-identity, and the ability for self-transcendence. There is mature mind in mature people. Mature people are ever ready for generous and unconditional self-giving, and they have healthy confidence in receiving from others. They have a high or adequate self-esteem and they are content with what they have.
<b>Intentions</b>	For all the schools in our province. For our brothers and their mission in Tatum.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Friday of the 14<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week II</b>
<b>Memorial</b>	Saint Benedict, Abbot
<b>Liturgy</b>	Gn 46:1-7, 28-30: "I can die, now that I have seen you alive" Mt 10:16-23: The spirit of your father will be speaking in you
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> A mature person says <i>fiat</i> in all circumstances just like the Virgin Mary. Mature people who find themselves in a Gethsemane situation can say with Jesus, "My Father ... if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it" (Matt. 26:39). Africa does not seem to have reached the level of cognitive and faith development to let God be God. If Africa were a



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	person, the possible conclusion would be she still lacks the qualities of a mature person.
<b>Intentions</b>	For the Buokrom community in Ghana. For Brother Provincial and his personal intentions
<b>12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Saturday of the 14<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Psalms Week II</b>
<b>Liturgy</b>	Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a: “ God has turned the evil you planned into good” Mt 10:24-33: The Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you
<b>Reminder</b>	Brother Lycarion will be beatified in Barcelona. He was murdered on the 27th of July 1909 in Barcelona during what was known as the « tragic week » of Barcelona
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <i>Brotherhood Vocation, Loved but not Wanted</i> The word Brother conveys a welcoming aura. John Paul II alluded to this aspect of the Religious Brothers’ spirituality as the core of their vocation in the Church. In every age and situation, the Religious Brothers’ way of life permeates the fabrics of the cultural milieu the Brothers find themselves. People express how much they love Brothers and confidently find it easy to approach them for personal and family problems.
<b>Intentions</b>	For the community of Bouake, Ivory Coast. For the gift of Br Lycarion to our Institute.
<b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Sunday of the 15<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Psalms Week III</b>
<b>Liturgy</b>	Dt 30:10-14: The Law is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach Col 1:15-20: All things were created through Christ and for Christ Lk 10:25-37: The good Samaritan
<b>Birthday</b>	Brother Eric Kramo (1979) from Ghana
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> The Religious Brothers who understand their vocation exhibit obvious self-confidence. People who meet the Religious Brothers appreciate their family spirit, which is the principle of Christian living as was reflected in the early Christian community.
<b>Intentions</b>	For the brothers and works in Liberia. For Brother Eric Kramo, his family, his intentions and his Kwadaso Community.



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	For all those called to the consecrated life
<b>14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Monday of the 15<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week III</b>
<b>Memorial</b>	St Camillus (1550-1614) and St Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 1:8-14, 22: The Egyptians force the sons of Israel into slavery Mt 10:34—11:1: It is not peace I have come to bring, but a sword.
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power, the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.
<b>Intentions</b>	For all our brothers working in difficult situations. For the provincial and his council.
<b>15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Tuesday of the 15<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week III</b>
<b>Memorial</b>	of St Bonaventure, bishop and Doctor of the Church (1218-1274)
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 2:1-15a: Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses among the bulrushes Mt 11:20-24: It will not go as hard with Sodom on judgment Day as with you
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> Even though the Africans like the Religious Brothers as they like Jesus Christ, they do not want the Religious Brotherhood lifestyle and obligations permanently for their children. The same is their attitude towards Jesus Christ. They like him but do not want to identify strictly with him. They find joy in the crucified Christ but do not want to hang with him on the Cross. They would readily beg him to "leave their neighbourhood" (Mk. 5:17) as the people of Gerasene begged Jesus whom they accused of wasting their herd of pigs.
<b>Intentions</b>	For the brothers and works in Chad. For all bursars in our province.
<b>16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Wednesday of the 15<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week III</b>
<b>Memorial</b>	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12: The burning bush Mt 11:25-27: You have hidden things from the wise and revealed them to little children





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<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> Religious Brothers are a financial loss to a people who capitalize on material wealth and abundant children as reason for existence. Africans do not befriend the gods and spirits but need them. Africans befriend the Religious Brothers but do not need them; they do not like their lifestyle, which they see as abnormal. The Religious Brothers lifestyle is what it takes to imitate Jesus Christ.
<b>Intentions</b>	For all religious institutions caring for sick people For the brothers and works in Bafut, Cameroon
<b>17th July Thursday of the 15<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week III</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 3:13-20: God reveals his name to Moses Mt 11:28-30: My yoke is easy and my burden light
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> In Africa today, there is emphasis on material prosperity and the fruit of the womb motivated by self-centeredness that does not allow God to be God. Africans are truly religious, but they seem to listen to the word of God and hear only what satisfies their expectations, which in majority border around financial breakthrough, marriage and bearing children, in accordance with the cultural mind-set.
<b>Intentions</b>	For the students, lay teachers and other workers in our schools For the brothers and works in Korhogo, Ivory Coast.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> July      Friday of the 15<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week III</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 11:10—12:14: The institution of the passover Mt 12:1-8: The Son of Man is the master of the Sabbath
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> The Religious Brothers do not possess anything on their own; therefore, they do not have the right to help their kin and kith as substantially as the culture demands. This is a challenge not only to the African Religious Brothers but also to the entire African populace. The cultural mind-set seems to influence the Africans unconsciously to the extent that they systematically fail to recognise with enthusiasm the Religious Brotherhood vocation.
<b>Intentions</b>	For the Community of Odenheo Kwadaso, Ghana. For political leaders in our countries.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> July Saturday of the 15<sup>th</sup> Week in the Ordinary Time      Psalms Week III</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 12:37-42: The sons of Israel left Egypt hurriedly by night Mt 12:14-21 : He cured them all but warned them not to make him known



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<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <p>To be a Brother in Africa is challenging but possible when the individual is personally and spiritually matured enough to resist the attraction of the modern world and the demands of the African culture. Neither academic qualification nor good will to serve the Lord, nor job excellence nor social recognition can sustain a person in the Religious Life; spirit of detachment and self-transcendent theocentric love only, can</p>
<b>Intentions</b>	<p>For the Community of Yassa, Cameroon.          For the vocations directors in our province  <b>Marist Saturday:</b> We offer special prayers to Mary for our vocation.</p>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> July Sunday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week IV</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	<p>Gn 18:1-10a: “ Next year your wife Sarah will have a son”          Col 1:24-28: A mystery hidden for generations has been revealed to God’s saints.          Lk 10:38-42: Martha works; Mary listens</p>
<b>Reminder</b>	Beginning of CSAC Budget Meeting in Nairobi
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <p>Br. Vitus' testimony in this book is primarily to create awareness of the necessity of the Religious Brother’s vocation in the Church, and to clarify that the Religious Brother’s lifestyle is not foreign to the African culture, therefore, can sustain the spiritual quest of the young African men who want to consecrate their lives to God unconditionally. He invites all and sundry to appreciate and promote vocation to the Religious Brotherhood.</p>
<b>Intentions</b>	<p>For the Community of Ashalaja, Ghana.          For our aspirants and their parents</p>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> July Monday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week IV</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	St Lawrence of Brindisi Priest; Doctor(1559-1619)
<b>Liturgy</b>	<p>Ex 14:5-18: Pharaoh sets out in pursuit of the sons of Israel          Mt 12:38-42: There is something greater than Solomon here</p>
<b>Anniversaries</b>	In 1951, departure of the first Brothers for Japan where we have a community
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <p>Do Africans really believe that God can ask of a man his son for a sacrifice? From all indications, judging from the Africans’ mentality, Religious Brothers are like sacrificial victims that God demands. It overwhelms Africans. That God sacrificed his only begotten Son to save humankind had been a nice story to the African faithful. Today the reality of the harsh truth dawns on them as they watch the Religious Brothers</p>





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<b>Intentions</b>	For our family members, friends and relatives, and their intentions For the Marist Mission in Japan
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July, Tuesday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Psalms Week IV</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	St Mary Magdalen
<b>Liturgy</b>	Sg 3:1-4b "I found him whom my soul loves" Jn 20:1-2, 11-18 " Mary, go and find the brothers and tell them"
<b>Anniversaries</b>	In 1816 Fr Champagnat was ordained priest In 2003, the opening of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Chapter in Accra
<b>Birthday</b>	Brother Christian Mbam, (1945), former Master of Novices
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <b>Brotherhood Vocation is Offering</b> What is the relationship between human sacrifice and Religious Brotherhood vocation in Africa? The key words so far are Religious Life, sacrifice, faith and fear of God or deity, devotion, obedience, love, and God's Providence. Traditionally Africans offer sacrifice to the deity. The Old Testament Jews offered God sacrifice. God continues to get sacrifice in the New Testament. All the sacrifices in all the cultures, both ancient and modern, involved offering human beings in one way or the other. For the Catholics, every Holy Mass is an offering of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.)
<b>Intentions</b>	For Br Christian, his family, personal intentions, and for his province That we may serve with love, humility, and a willing heart
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July Wednesday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Psalms Week IV</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	St Bridget of Sweden, Religious
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15: The Lord sends quails and manna from heaven Mt 13:1-9: A sower went out to sow
<b>Birthday</b>	Brother José María Romero, who worked in Côte d'Ivoire
<b>Anniversaries</b>	In 1816, the young Marist aspirants Marcellin Champagnat, Jean-Claude Colin, and others pledged to form a Marist Society at the Marian shrine of Fourvière. In 1938, the departure of the first Brothers for the Solomon Islands
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <b>Brotherhood Vocation is Offering</b> In the Christian context, Religious Life is equal to offering a human person. It is an act of faith: faith on the part of the Church that admits the Religious Brother, faith on the part of the Religious that responds to God's invitation. If the Church in Africa has the faith to appreciate that God is worthy of an expensive sacrifice done out of sheer love of Him, Africans would, in faith, nurture and support vocations to Religious Brotherhood.



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<b>Intentions</b>	For Br Romero, his family, personal intentions and for his health. For the brothers in the Provincial House.
<b>24<sup>th</sup> July Thursday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in the Ordinary Time Psalms Week IV</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	Saint Charbel Makhlouf, Priest
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b: Moses speaks with God on Sinai Mt 13:10-17: Prophets and holy men longed to hear what you hear
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <b>Brotherhood Vocation is Offering</b> The measurement of any genuine offering is the quality of the perseverance of the one who offers. Perseverance means “steady and continued action or belief, usually over a long period and especially despite difficulties or setbacks” ( <i>Encarta Dictionary, Standard Edition, 2005</i> ). Abraham persevered in his faith relationship with God. Christ persevered in his self-offering for human redemption. Africans, due to their belief system and concept of god, do not persevere in offering.
<b>Intentions</b>	For all the brothers in their ongoing formation and further studies. For all the formators at MIC.
<b>25<sup>th</sup> July Friday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Psalms Week IV</b> <b>Feast of Saint James, Apostle</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	2 Cor 4:7-15: “Such an overwhelming power comes from God, not from us.” Mt 20:20-28: “Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?”
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <b>AFRICAN RELIGIOSITY (<i>African Faith</i>)</b> Prior to the advent of Christianity, Africans believed in the spirit world populated by gods, the dead ancestors and the supreme God. For them, the spiritual beings made things happen but were not friends. The relationship between the traditional Africans and the gods was that of mutual respect ( <i>“Let human beings not work against the spirit and let the spirit not work against human beings</i> ). They have this unwritten norm in mind when making expensive sacrifices to their deity. Therefore, it seems they sacrificed not in faith but in fear, not in love but in justice.
<b>Reminder</b>	National feast of Spain, under the patronage of the Apostle St James End of CSAC Budget Meeting in Nairobi
<b>Intentions</b>	For the Spanish Brothers and their mission in that country. For the Marist Provinces of Europe.
<b>26<sup>th</sup> July Saturday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Psalms Week IV</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	Ss Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary



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<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 24:3-8: This is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you Mt 13:24-30: Let them both grow till the harvest
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> Africans by nature do not cultivate where they would not reap. They ‘do not dig a hole that has no game inside it.’ When they give, they expect return. They live the golden rule to the letter. They do not lose in their act of charity and it must be reciprocal – equal share to each party. The principle falls short of Christian love. Africans give to the deity but expect abundant children and material prosperity to care for the children..... With this attitude, they do not trust God fully. This may explain why the African Christians of today need miracle to confirm that God is actually doing his part.
<b>Reminder</b>	Independence Day of Liberia
<b>Intentions</b>	For political, and economic emancipation of the people of Liberia as they mark their independence day. <b>Marist Saturday:</b> We offer special prayers to Mary for our vocation.
<b>27<sup>th</sup> July    17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time    Psalms Week I</b>	
<b>Liturgy</b>	Gn 18:20-32: Abraham negotiates with the Lord Col 2:12-14: Christ has brought you to life with him and forgiven us all our sins Lk 11:1-13: How to pray
<b>Birthday</b>	Kone Bruno (1985), from Ivory Coast. Brother Julián Inchusta (1931), worked in Equatorial Guinea.
<b>Anniversaries</b>	In 1939 Brother Lycarion was killed by the revolutionaries in Barcelona, Spain
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <i>African Faith is Self-centred</i> Traditionally Africans did not offer human beings just because the deity demanded it. They offered human beings because they valued human life and thought the deity would value and accept the life of one person and spare the life of the rest of the people. One important fact about the human offering that traditional Africans made was that the Africans did not offer a person from their own ethnic group or even tribe, in most cases; they usually abducted people from other families, tribes or villages or clans, for sacrifice.
<b>Intentions</b>	In thanksgiving for the gift of Brothers Bruno and Julian to our Institute; we pray for their intentions and their communities For all those who work with the Marist Brothers.
<b>28<sup>th</sup> July Monday of the 17<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time    Psalms Week I</b>	



# MARIST PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34: The golden calf Mt 13:31-35: The smallest of all seeds grows into the biggest shrub of all
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <i>African Faith is Self-centred</i>  The African Commission on Human and People's Rights observes this trend: "Several cases of kidnapping and disappearance of persons are traced to the vicious schemes and activities of ritualists. In most cases, those targeted for ritual sacrifice are vulnerable members of the population — the poor, women, children, the aged and people with disabilities" (November 2010).
<b>Intentions</b>	For the abolition of human sacrifice and kidnapping in certain parts of Africa. That justice and peace may prevail, and that those affected find healing and protection
<b>29<sup>th</sup> July Tuesday of the 17<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week I</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus</b>
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 33:7-11: "They are a headstrong people; but forgive us our faults" John 11:19-27: I am the resurrection and the life
<b>Anniversaries</b>	In 1836, approval of the Society of Mary by Pope Gregory XVI. In 1937, first Marist foundation in the Netherlands, in the Province of North West Europe In 1991, Brother Moisés Cisneros was murdered in Guatemala.
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <i>Fear Inspires African Religiosity</i> "Neurotic" fear and not by filial fear seems to drive the offering of traditional Africans. Neurotic fear arises from the sense of insecurity and distrust. Filial fear bases on love. The lyrics of most of the charismatic Christian songs of the African singers confirm the lack of sense of filial love in the Africans' religiosity. Africans approach their deity out of overpowering sense of insecurity and not out of affection to enjoy the deity's abiding presence. Consequently, the traditional Africans' and in their turn, the modern Africans' offering is conditional.
<b>Intentions</b>	For the grace to grow in unity and collaboration in our Province. For all our Aspirants and their parents.
<b>30<sup>th</sup> July Wednesday of the 17<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week I</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church]
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 34:29-35: He sells everything he owns and buys the field Mt 13:44-46: He sells all he has and buys that field.



# MARIST PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> <i>Africans Believe in Life</i> It seems that the Africans' believe in life is stronger than their faith in God because from the look of things, life is a proof that there is God. The faith of Africans seems not to have reached the point where compromising the value of procreation and preservation of life is possible. Africans' sense of self hinges on procreation and preservation of life. Obi (2015) makes a point related to this fact where he writes, "Africans have a sacred reverence for life, for it is believed to be the greatest of God's
<b>Reminder</b>	Beginning of Online <b>Provincial Council Meeting</b> : Third Quarterly Financial Report
<b>Intentions</b>	For all our Novices and their formators. For the grace of perseverance in our vocation
<b>31<sup>st</sup> July Thursday of the 17<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time      Psalms Week I</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	St. Ignatius of Loyola
<b>Anniversaries</b>	In 1963, the first Marist foundation in Puerto Rico, one of the countries of the Province of Central America
<b>Liturgy</b>	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38: The tabernacle is set up Mt 13:47-53: The fishermen collect the good fish and throw away those that are no us
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>BROTHERHOOD VOCATION IN AFRICA BY BR. VITUS OSUJI (2020)</b> The destiny of an African man is more of begetting children, especially sons that will replace him than eternal life in heaven. Each man must procreate for it is a debt to the community. Procreation must do with marriage and begetting children; preservation of life must do with providing material things needed to nurture the children. Not marrying is equal to planning the extinction of the community. Advising or encouraging able-bodied young men to remain unmarried, is 'madness' that is not easy to manage..
<b>Reminder</b>	End of Online Provincial Meeting: Third Quarterly Financial Report
<b>Intentions</b>	Thanksgiving for God's blessings during this month. For the success in the mission of all religious in the places where we work.