

## ***Herald sails, XAVIER-CELLINE!***

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Bro. Gregory

*To the SFX Boys and Friends*

*I would like to share with you, the OLD BOYS and Friends what Bro. Manfred, my Marist Superior in Germany, has written in the GEBETSKREIS, our official Marist publication in Germany. I have translated it for you and I would be grateful if it could be promulgated by our webmasters of SFXAA and Schools.*

*Thank you in advance.*

*Bro. Hans (Gregory)*

The 20<sup>th</sup> January 2002 will long be remembered by the St. Martin YTC community. In the late afternoon of that day our fibreglass boat TINA-CELLINE sank to the bottom of Lake Victoria. Every time we think of this tragic accident, our hearts also utter a silent prayer of gratitude to God for His protection, as the eight passengers on board at the time were rescued. As the news of the loss of the boat spread to the Marist World, a wave of solidarity welled up spontaneously. Bro. Hans informed some of his former students of St. Francis Xavier's College, Hong Kong, who per internet started the action "Salvage the Boat". In a flash the news reached the Old Boys in Canada, USA, and Australia (Marcellin College in Bulleen) and, naturally, the Marist Brothers in Germany, the homeland of Bro. Hans. There, the Maristenkolleg in Mindelheim was gripped with special fervour and raised a very handsome sum. The Grand Total Cost of the new boat with a 75HP Yamaha outboard engine and accessories amounts to 29734.64/-EURO. With the remainder of the donated amount, approximately 10000/-EURO, the technical school is purchasing essential equipment for the workshops and even a trailer for our tractor which is the only motorised vehicle on Mfangano Island. Once again, to one and all, THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

The solemn BLESSING and the "BAPTISM" of the new boat took place on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003. It is named XAVIER-CELLINE (after St. Francis Xavier and St. Marcellin Champagnat). It was not possible to follow our original plan to have the blessing and official launching of the boat on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the Patron of all Xaverians of Hong Kong. The entire staff with their families, our students and many friends of our Polytechnic gathered on and around XAVIER-CELLINE as we celebrated the Eucharist with the parish priest of our island on the boat.

On New Year's Day 2004 we had the Brothers from Orore and Roo (our two other mission stations) as our special guests; we again celebrated the Eucharist with

our island priest, shared in a communal meal and went for a test ride on Africa's largest lake.

