

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MARIANHILL



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Circular Letter No.3/2009

Dear Confreres,

Receive this circular letter which highlights some developments in our province. It is my hope and prayer that this finds you in good form. During this month of October let us remember to pray as follows: ***“Oh my Jesus, save us from the fire of hell, lead all souls into heaven, especially those who are most in need of your mercy”***

1] Seasonal Greetings

I would like to greet each one of you and let you know that the centenary year and its celebrations is soon coming to an end. My wish is that we all continue to embrace and celebrate the spirit of our founders, to whom we owe our identity and missionary mandate as Missionaries of Mariannahill.

On behalf of the provincial council, I would like to invite each CMM member to make a special prayer for our Province and Congregation, that the work that was started by our spiritual fathers and now entrusted to us, must continue to be blessed and guided by God.

Each one of us, by our vocation and call, is an instrument or a tool, a part in the life of this Congregation. Let us therefore remain proudly Mariannahillers.

2] Arrivals and Departures

Fr. Bheki Shabalala, left for Rome 11th August 2009.

Fr. Gaspard Parent, left on 19th August 2009 for Zambia after undergoing an operation at Westville Hospital.

Br. Berthold Lanzinner, arrived in the monastery end of August for medical check up at St. Augustines Hospital. He underwent some tests on his health. The doctor has released him on observation for the next four to five months. He has in the meantime returned to Mariazell Mission.

Fr. Patrick Chongo, Provincial of Zambia visited Mariannahill on business between 03rd to 10th September 2009

Fr. Vincent Mdabe, left on 27th September 2009 for a one year Sabbatical Program at St. Anselm, England.

Fr. Abidon Kabwe, arrived on 30th September 2009 to start his missionary work in Mariannahill Province and will join the confreres at Namaacha in Mozambique by end November 2009.

Fr. Americo Vilanculo, arrived 30th September 2009 to attend the funeral of his mother of Kevelaer.

Fr. Musa Mchunu, will leave the province for Spain as his Work Visa for that country has been granted. On behalf of the province, the provincial council would like thank him for his work in the province and for the many good gifts he shared with us

through various ministries he was involved on behalf of the province. He will leave South Africa for Spain on the 3rd November 2009.

Fr. John Turner will leave South Africa for Rome between 15th November 2009-02nd December 2009 to attend an "International Catholic Foundation for the Service of Deaf Persons" conference at the Vatican, in the Synod Hall, in Rome.

Fr. Callistus Ngcobo, left the monastery for some weeks to help at Margate/Gamalakhe parish at the request of the Very Rev. Fr. Leonard Ndabenhle Mncwabe, Vicar General. Fr. Mncwabe needed help in pastoral work so that he could attend to other Diocesan issues while Bishop Stanley Dziuba was away on a visit to the United States of America.

The Noviciate, was transferred to Mariazell between 03rd October 2009 - 26th October 2009

Fr. George Lautenschlager, will be away 24th-26th October 2009 to Dunbrody, in Port Elizabeth Diocese, to attend celebrations of Abbot Francis organised by the Sisters of Mercy.

3] Congratulations

Fr. Lawrence Mota who successfully completed a three year course on human development program on formation in Johannesburg.

Br. Simon Pelster on the occasion of being admitted to Final Profession.

The Superior General with the consent of his Council admitted Br. Simon Pelster to the Perpetual Vows at their meeting of 21st August 2009.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Br. Simon.

4] Transfers

Br. Denis Poirier has been transferred to the USA/Canada Province. He will leave South Africa for the US/Canada via Kenya on the 26th November 2009.

On behalf of the province, the Provincial Council would like to thank him for the work and gifts he rendered to the province through the monastery. We wish him well in his future ministries.

Fr. Abidon Kabwe has been transferred to Mariannahill Province from Zambian Province. On behalf of the province, the provincial council would like to take this opportunity to welcome him to Mariannahill Province.

Br Erich Schurpf has been officially transferred to Mariannahill Province from Mthatha Province. On behalf of the province, the provincial council would like to take this opportunity to welcome him to Mariannahill Province.

5] Monastery Farm

The Ethekwini Municipality submitted a proposed lease agreement. The lease is currently being discussed by Mariannahill and its Lawyers, and other canonical and civil consultants, after which it will be presented back to the Municipality.

This has been a back and forth exercise due to formalities and legal requirements and we ask for your prayers.

6] Condolences

Br. Florian Langmann who lost his sister early July.

Fr. Thulani Mokoena who lost his mother early August.

Fr. Mthembeni Dlamini who lost two of his Aunts within weeks of September.

Fr. Americo Vilanculo who lost his mother in September.

7] Vocation Team

Held a meeting on 03rd August 2009 at St. Conrad. The team has been busy visiting aspirants in their homes. This exercise is carried out to understand better the background of the candidates. So far it has been a success and is seen by the team as very important.

The team is planning a vocation workshop in December.

May I take this opportunity to thank this team for the work done, and in this vein, I would like to ask all confreres to pray and support this drive. May I also ask for cooperation when the team knocks at our doors for parish visits and in presenting aspirants for the vocational workshop.

8] CMM Associates

Fr. Emmanuel Ndlovu has been appointed by the provincial council as a chaplain to the CMM Associates of Mariannahill.

We have received a request from the lay faithful of Umzimkulu to join the CMM Associates of Mariannahill. The matter was presented to Bishop Stanley Dziuba of Umzimkulu Diocese. The matter was presented to his priests who welcomed the idea. Discussions will now start on how to accommodate them.

The Associates are planning for their AGM in November 2009.

9] Mariannahill as a Centre

The provincial council has appointed **Fr. Wenceslaus Kwindingwi** as Coordinator for the Committee of Mariannahill As a Centre.

Once other technical issues are sorted out, he will meet the provincial council and monastery council to discuss additional members and the job description.

10] Provincial Council Meeting

The next provincial council meeting will take place on Monday, 26th October 2009 at Mariannahill.

11] Ixopo District Meeting

The next Ixopo district meeting will take place will take place on Wednesday, 11th November 2009 at Emmaus Mission.

12] E-mail Addresses and Phone Numbers

I have included in this circular letter your e-mail addresses, to those that have, and your cell phone numbers. These two are efficient medium of communication in today's world. If you change your addresses or cell phone numbers please let the provincial's office know about it so that we can also update our directory. As confreres we need to know each other's contacts and don't forget to send each others best wishes on feast days and birthdays. Not each one of us can reach 25, 50 or 75 year jubilees and therefore let's not forget each other on annual anniversaries.

Communication through post will continue as a formal way to reach all with news and information.

13] Renovations

a) Mission Centre: currently this facility is undergoing intensive renovations. Those familiar with it can tell that it was in a dilapidating state. Thanks to the Monastery Superior and his Council for the effort made to renew this historic building.

b) Mater Dolorosa also known as the **Old Age Home:** The matter was brought to the provincial and his council that this home need renovations. On close examination the renovations to this home is longer overdue and Br. Erich Peyr, Superior of the Home, was tasked to find a builder who could give us a quote to the required needs.

Both renovations, though necessary, are costly. The Superior and his council, and the Provincial and his Council, would like to appeal to all confreres that they help financially in restoring these structures. In District meetings, this matter can be discussed and the Superiors are ready to give details of quotations and finances involved in restoring these structures. Other suggestions to support these two ventures can also come directly to the provincial's office.

14] Christmas Card Message

This newsletter also comes with a 2009 Christmas Card Message from the Deaf Apostolate. I thank Fr. John Turner and the team for remembering us all and let us in turn pray for their ministry.

15] Theft and Robbery

Recently the carpentry shop was broken into twice within six days and a few mechanical items were stolen. Same method of entry through the same window was used. Nobody was hurt in both incidences as it happened in the night. These are regrettable incidences as the monastery premises are patrolled by our security for 24hours.

16] Mariannahill on Fire

On the eve of 9/11 also known as September 11, Fires broke out on two Mariannahill Properties on September 10, 2009

First, at exactly 10:00am fire broke out in the house of the security guard in front of the monastery next to Abbot Francis Pfanner's House and directly opposite the repository. Thanks to the expertise of Deacon Jedegwa who responded quickly and dowsed the fire with fire extinguishers. The cause was not know but rumours had it that a bar heater or electric kettle left on, could have been the cause. The guard was out on patrol when the fire started.

Second, at exactly 2:00pm(14:00hrs) fire broke out in the kitchen at Abbot Francis House, Merrivale, the hose of our students who study at Cedara. The ceiling was very damaged and the large dining room affected with heavy smoke. Other electrical and food items were also damaged. No one was hurt as it was siesta time. The cause is suspected to be a chips fryer which may have been left on with hot oil. Thanks to the expertise of some students who dowsed the fire with fire extinguishers. The rector mentioned to me that in the month of May2009 the students had a workshop by officers from fire department on how to manage fire situations.

God bless you all

Sylvester Namale CMM, Provincial Superior

Members of Mariannahill Province - 2009