

# CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MARIANHILL



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Circular Letter No. 01/2009

Dear Confreres,

## 1] Lenten Greetings

I send lenten greetings to you all and wish you God's blessings in the coming redemptive season of Easter 2009.

I would invite each one of us to pray and reflect on our individual and community lives as we celebrate the centenary year, commemorating the Death of Abbot Francis Pfanner the founder of Mariannhill.

Let us all remember those who have gone before us especially those who have made Mariannhill to what it is today. May we pray earnestly and seek their spirit so that we must continue their dreams of making Mariannhill a better home and fields for all the sons and daughters of God.

At the beginning of this year Fr. Vincent Mdabe and myself accompanied Fr. Matthew In Jun Kim to his home South Korea where he celebrated his first Holy Mass at his parish. The summary of the trip is that it was a wonderful and new experience.

The actual trip was and is very long, almost twenty hours one way, upon our arrival it was middle of winter and the temperatures had dropped down just below -20 degrees Celsius and snowing,

The elderly mother of Fr. Kim and his sisters and brother were eagerly waiting for us and welcomed us warmly.

During the visit we were touched by the liturgical reverence in church, the hardworking attitude of many citizens with regard to work, the smart dress code everywhere in and throughout the week, the food and variance styles of eating from Korean, Chinese and Japanese menus, a lot of which is dearly strange to our stomach.

Most important to me was the discipline the children at Kreches grow up with, an image which is reflected from the grown ups.

We met young people at some evenings and discussed about vocations and showed some profiles of Mariannhill Monastery life and ordination of Fr. Kim through overhead projector screen. At the end of our visit we were met by so many young people and some families who are interested in our life but the main challenge remained that they need to learn English.

We had visited historical places like a shrine for the **Korean Martyrs** called **Bea Thi shrine**,

**Byup Ju Temple** which is one of the biggest Buddhist Temples in Korea,

**Changdeokgung Palace**, that is, old Kings Palace adjacent to the current State Official Presidential Residence.

The **CPS Convent** and Training Centres run by the CPS sisters ,

**Myeong-dong Cathedral**, that is, the Cathedral Church for the Archdiocese of Seoul and this is the place where **Cardinal Stephen Kim** who was the first Cardinal in Korea and who passed away recently stayed,

**Seodaemun Prison** where the Japanese tortured Korean prisoners during colonial occupation and a sight seeing of the most rural areas and the CBD of Seoul ,the capital city of South Korea.

We also attended the ordination of **Chung Ju Diocese** where **Fr. Kim** came from and we witnessed 10 deacons ordained to priesthood and 8 ordained to Deacons.

It was a worthwhile visit and all parties, Kim's family, friends and ourselves were very happy. We were grateful to all the people who made our trip possible including Kim's parish which paid for my entire trip.

## **2] Novitiate**

The following postulancy entered the Novitiate Program 2009 at the Mariannahill Monastery

**David Dalitso Gowelo**

**Basilio Lapissonne Fernando**

**Valdimiro Renda Jorge**

**Thomas Camissone Guetsane**

## **3] First professions**

The following Brother made his first profession

**Br. Cremeldo Raphael Ngovene**

## **4] Renewal of Vows**

The following young Brothers renewed their Vows on 01<sup>st</sup> February 2009

**Br. Raphael Chichava**

**Br. Roberto Cossa**

**Br. Andrew Perengue**

**Br. Mthokozisi Innocent Khumalo**

**Br. Simon Pelster**

**Br. Kondwani Pinji**

**Br. Thamsanqa Njiyela**

## **5] Our Jubilarians**

**Fr. Franz Xaver Wettstein**, celebrated **60 years of ordination** on the **02<sup>nd</sup> April 2009**

I would like to thank the Monastery and Mater Dolorosa community who gathered at the old age home on the evening of the second for solemn vespers with Fr. Wettstein. Sincere thanks also to those of good will who brought along a few goodies for Fr. Wettstein.

## **6] Notifications**

### **a)Transfers**

**Fr. Edgar Weinmann**, from Mariannahill to the Germany Province

**Fr. Raphael Fray Phiri**, from Dumisa Mission to Emmaus Mission

**Fr. Cyril Skhumbuzo Ngubane**, from Emmaus Mission to Jericho and Port Edward Missions

**Fr. Pacificus Bongani Duma**, from Jericho and Port Edward Missions to Mariathal Mission

#### **b) Home Leave**

The following confreres will leave for home leave during the course of this year

**Br. Adriaan Abraham Wisseburg**

**Fr. Thomas Manfred Heisele**

**Fr. George Maximilian Lautenschlager**

**Fr. Christoph Eisentraut**

Let us pray for them and wish them safe trip to and from.

#### **c) Meetings and Conferences**

**Fr. Christopher Eisentraut** has attended a conference on Deaconate in Vienna, Austria from 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 to 01<sup>st</sup> April 2009

**Br. Florian Markus Langmann**, will attend a finance committee meeting in Rome in May 2009.

**Fr. Sylvester Namale**, will leave for Rome on the 15<sup>th</sup> April and return on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009,

Fr. Henry Kanjo will be in charge of the province during my absence and his phone numbers are

**073 4051050**(mobile) and **039 6820524**(office & residence)

#### **d) Visitors**

**Fr. Ivo Edwin Burkhardt**, our archivist, will arrive in Mariannahill on 08 April 2009 to certify the documents on the beatification of Abbot Francis Pfanner.

**Bishop Hubert Bucher**, former bishop of Bethlehem has joined the community of Mater Dolorosa and we welcome him wholeheartedly and wish him a peaceful rest after working in the field of God for a long time.

#### **7] Centenary Celebrations**

Preparations are underway and the Emmaus Heritage Team is busy planning for the centennial celebrations, 23-24<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The invitation cards for the event are out and you will receive them in due course.

Meanwhile there have been a number of talks and presentations on Monday evenings at the Benard Huss Hall, Retreat Centre in Mariannahill.

Topical issues have been given by:

a) 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, **Sr. Annette Buschgerd CPS** on Visitation-Suspension-Resignation

b) 09<sup>th</sup> March 2009, **Prof. J.B Brain** on his Lordship and the Abbot

c) 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009, **Fr. Henry Ratering CMM** on Mariannahill 1909- Quo Vadis

d) 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009, **Sr. Dorothe Funken, Sr. Corda Waldhoer, Sr. Ulrike Diekmann** on Founded on Africa on African Soil.

e) 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009, **Mr. Protas Madlala** on the Gospel of the Soil.

## **8] Monastery Farm**

The Monastery Farm Committee advertised the farm in some Natal Newspapers. The advert was to invite people on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009, to come and express interest on the farm. Interested parties came up in large numbers and since the date of the adverts there has been numerous calls to the Francis Pfanner Centre, our office which deals with land issues.

## **9) Theft and Robberies**

**a) Jabulani Centre**, Recently there have been two daylight attempts of armed robberies at the **Jabulani Centre** where **Sr. Marco** works with the under privileged. A group of eight to ten armed men failed their operation after a security alarm was raised and leaving the group leaving with a few items.

**b) The Francis Pfanner Centre**, was also broken into by a group of robbers in the middle of the night. Our security managed to call our confreres, Fr. Superior, Br. Albert, among others to the scene. A number of the stolen Computer Hard Drives, Laptops and other Hardware were recovered in the morning, in and around the grounds of Mariannahill.

**c) Monastery Farm**, The electric pump house which supplies the water to the farm was recently vandalised by robbers who cut through the door locks and cut and stole the electric cable wire leaving the pump disfunctional. The damage was extensive and **Br. Konrad Diethel** is in the meantime organising repairs. It was another heartbreaking moment to realise that criminal elements have really touched ground in Mariannahill.

Please find enclosed three papers citing progress on information from the farm committee, namely

- a) **Call for Expression of Interest**, an advert that appeared in several KZN newspapers about the future of the farm.
- b) **Mariannahill Farm Utilization**, the actual description of the proposed future activities on the farm
- c) **Farm Site Visit on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009**, a scheduled guided tour of the farm that was led by the Monastery Superior, Br. Konrad Diethel and the Mariannahill Development Centre Office at Francis Pfanner Centre- Judy Fidgeerland, and the farm committee.

## **10] Frs. Innocent Mthokozisi Khumalo and Roberto Cossa**

Congratulations to the above confreres as they graduate in Philosophy from St, Joseph's Theology Institute, Cedara on the 07<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

The celebration will take place at Hilton College at 09:00hrs.

## **11] Fr. Vincent Mdabe**

He is currently on a well deserved leave and he lost his brother after a long battle with illness. May we remember him in our prayers as he and his family try to grapple with the loss of two brothers within a short period of time.

I would like to thank him for the challenging job he did in the last six years.

He can be reached on his cellphone **083 7726840**

### **12] Br. Erich Schurpf**

He was recently admitted and later discharged from St. Mary's Hospital after what is suspected to be a spider bite or sting. Let us pray for his quick recovery so that he can assume his valuable duties at the Tailoring Department.

### **13] District Meetings**

The next Ixopo District Meeting will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009, at St. Michaels Mission, at 09:30am.

### **14] Provincial Council Meeting**

The next Provincial Council meeting will take place at Mariannhill Monastery on 06<sup>th</sup> May 2009, at 09:30am

### **15] Formators and Provincial Superiors Meeting**

The Formators and Provincial Superiors meeting will take place at Queenspark, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, **3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

### **16] Postulancy**

So far postulancy has not yet started due to lack of proper preparation as we did not have a Vocation Team. Thanks to the new Vocations Team led by **Fr. Mthembeni Dlamini**, which is making a follow up on applicants.

Please note that our **Students** at **Merrivale** have also embarked on a vocational drive by visiting parishes, please be open to their request to visit you so that they can also see how we live in missions.

### **17] Word of Thanks**

I hereby wish to extend my sincere thanks for being patient with the information in this newsletter, I am aware I should have given it out early but I needed concrete information as I am new in the Office.

I wish you all a blessed **EASTER**.

They say we must **ALL** not forget to **R E P E N T!**

**Fr. Sylvester Namale CMM**  
**Provincial Superior**