

MARIANHILL MISSION - BULAWAYO/BOTSWANA PROVINCE

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Reflection

We often hear people say, “Oh. I’m just an ordinary this or that...” But the act of the Incarnation, God becoming man and one of us defeats the axiom that some people are special and others are ordinary. We are all quite special since we are each that marvellous creation, a person created in the image of God. For that reason, we are each a God-carrier, God’s viceroy, God’s representative. That makes each one of us truly special. In a world that is engulfed in power and money mongering, we remain vigilant that our true identity and happiness is only in Christ, who became man so that the whole creation can remain forever special. This is the true meaning of Christmas. May Christ be truly incarnated in each one of us that through Him and with Him we may radiate hope and light into the darkness of the modern world. May the Birth of Christ fill us with His Life-giving Spirit, which unites us as one family and enables us to accompany our so many dispirited people as signs of hope for a better Zimbabwe.

Brief Report on the Council of the Congregation

The Council of the Congregation opened with a day Recollection guided by Fr. Thulani Mbuyisa CMM. Fr. Mbuyisa indeed prepared the Capitulars for the discussions, debates and resolutions that followed. He talked about the structures of authority in relationship to Major Superiors and Community Members as stipulated by Ecclesiastical laws. Then after the report of the Superior General and Provincials, a Reflection and sharing on the way forward was proposed. The Capitulars dealt then with the topic on “Our Religious Life and Missionary Calling”. This call includes the building up of evangelizing communities, constituting intercultural and international communities and finding ways to improve our financial situation. We are all called to cut down on costs, expenditures and to strive towards living a simple life style. The General Administration is working on setting a threefold fund, the first that is already in progress is the formation fund, then medical and health care will follow and finally the fund for properties. This is a good move which we all need to support. For a detailed report please refer to the letter to all the confreres issued at Rome and signed by all Provincial Superiors. The Revised Draft of our Constitutions as presented by the Constitutions Commission was also discussed. It will soon be given to all the districts for discussions. The General Administration will then expect our feedback in due time. The recommendations to the Council of the Congregation will be presented fully by the Provincial Superior in our forthcoming Provincial Chapter.

Admission to the Noviciate 2009

Nkomo Bongani from St. John the Baptist Parish, Nkulumane
Mukamba Proud from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, North Trenance
Takwada Clyde from Uganda Martyrs Parish, Luveve
Sadya Thomas from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Entumbane
Mudzimu Herbert from Serima Mission, Masvingo

Admission to Renewal of Vows

Frt. Ncube Mandlenkosi from St. Bernadette's Parish, Waterford
Frt. NdlovuGugulethu Joseph from Holy Cross Parish, Tshabalala
Frt. Vukai Stuart from Holy Cross Parish, Tshabalala
Frt. Mpofo Ndumiso from Ekusileni Mission, Filabuzi
Frt. Ngwarai Christopher from Emakhandeni
Frt. Frt. Gogodo Thembinkosi Alistar from Beitbridge
Frt. Ncube Similo from St. Joseph's Mission, Semokwe
Frt. Tshuma Bhekimpilo from St. Joseph's Mission, Semokwe

Admission to Perpetual Profession

Frt. Dube Moses Lwazi St. Bernard's Parish, Pumula
Frt. Ndlovu Maqhawe Adrian from St. Bernard's Parish, Pumula
Frt. Ndlovu Nkululeko Sisusa from St. Joseph's Mission, Semokwe

Please note that these young confreres have been only recommended by the Provincial Council to the Superior General. In accordance with the norms of our Congregation, it is the Superior General only who admits to perpetual vows. We have submitted all the required documents to the General Administration in Rome and we will wait for their response. If they are admitted, they will make their perpetual vows on the 2nd February 2009 at St. Bernard's Parish, Pumula.

Final Return Home

Our Deacons, Fraters Jeremy Butawo Dube and Patrick Eugene Mpofo have successfully completed their studies at St. Joseph's Theologate, Cedara, and have passed well the faculty examinations-Congratulations! Deacon Jeremy Dube has been assigned to St. Joseph's Mission-Semokwe under the guidance of Fr. Melekias Zulu and Deacon Patrick Mpofo has been assigned to Corpus Christi Mission in the Vicariate of Francistown, Botswana.

A Hearty Welcome to Br. Fedelis Burgstaller and Mr. Fink-they will be at our Mission House in Queenspark as from the 8th-16th December 2008. During this time, they will work together with Ms Lean, Fr. Fikile Dlamini and Br Alois Humpf in trying to streamline our bookkeeping systems to be in line with the stipulations and framework set by the General Administration.

Departure from the Congregation

The following confreres will not be renewing their vows in February 2009: Frt. Zibusiso Nyathi and Frt. Nkosikhona Gabriel Ncube. We thank the Fraters for sharing part of their life with us, and we wish them God's blessing and protection as they open a new chapter in their lives.

Jubilees: Fr Alfons Brunner and Archbishop Henry Karlen

This year Archbishop Henry Karlen celebrated 40 years of Episcopal Consecration. We congratulate his grace for his sound leadership and his very presence as a sign of hope in our midst. This year Archbishop Karlen will also take part in our Provincial Retreat and also participate in the Chapter. Fr. Alfons Brunner celebrated 50 years of Religious Profession. We will combine these celebrations on the 27th December 2008 during our CMM dinner. Both confreres will tell a brief story of their own vocation. When can never be grateful to God enough!

Coming events In the Province

Our Brother-Students are on home-leave till 6th February 2009

Workshop for Students: 6-10 December at Queenspark

Retreat for students-Perpetual Profession, 20-25 Jan, St. Teresa, Plumtree/SVD

CMM Vocation Workshop 11th-13th Dec at HOF

Provincial Retreat 1st-4th Dec 2008 at Queenspark by Fr. Alfons Trujillo SMI

Provincial Chapter 5th December 2008 at Queenspark, the whole day

Feast of the Congregation: Sunday – 2nd February 2009

Next year the celebration of the Principal Feast of the Presentation which is also the feast of the Congregation will take place at St. Bernard's Parish, Pumula. Holy Mass will begin at 10:00 am presided over by Archbishop Henry Karlen CMM assisted by Fr. Martin Schupp CMM, the new Provincial Superior and Fr. Albert Msimanga-the Parish Priest of St. Bernard's. Our two Deacons, Jeremy Dube and Patrick will also closely assist. I would here again like to invite and ask all the CMMs to be present at this celebration. Please make arrangements with catechists in your parishes that they lead a communion service without a priest. Congregation matters are of paramount importance to us for we are religious first. Our three fraters will be making their perpetual profession, thus Lwazi Moses Dube, Adrian Maqhawe Ndlovu and Nkululeko Michael Sisusa Ndlovu. The following fraters will also be renewing their vows: Joseph Gugulethu Ndlovu, Stuart Vukai, Mandlenkosi Ncube, Ndumiso Mpofu, Christopher Ngwarai, Alistar Thembinkosi Gogodo, Similo Ncube and Bhekimpilo Tshuma. Let us accompany our young confreres with our prayers.

On this occasion, Fr. Fikile Dlamini will be the Preacher of the Day and Fr. Lungisani Moyo as Director of Ceremonies.

Transfers within the Province

Fr. George Vurayayi has been appointed parish priest of St. Bernadette Parish. Deacon Jeremy Butawo Dube has been appointed for St. Joseph's Mission under the guidance of Fr. Melekias Zulu and Deacon Patrick Mpofu has been appointed for

Corposi Christi Parish, Masunga-Botswana. We wish all these confreres joy and satisfaction in their pastoral ministry.