

# CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MARIANHILL



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Circular letter No. 03/2008

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Dear Confreres,

## 1. New Superior for the Monastery

After a long time of waiting, a new Monastery Superior has been appointed. **Fr. Gideon Sibanda** presently studying at KZN University, Pietermaritzburg Campus has been appointed Superior on the **22 August 2008**. He will finish his studies on development at the end of this year and then move permanently to the Monastery. In the meantime Fr. Christoph Eisentraut who has been elected vice Superior will be in charge. Fortunately Fr. Gideon will try now and again to come to the Monastery on weekends to familiarise himself with the environment. During this time he may not be burdened with any issues.

Elected house councillors are the following: **Fr. Christoph Eisentraut, Fr. Emmanuel Ndlovu, Bro. Konrad Diethei and Bro. Hermaun Krausert.**

We are very happy about this latest development and we thank the General Government who saw the need of sending **Fr. Eheki Shabalala** to tie loose ends on the process. We wish Fr. Gideon and his Councillors God's abundant blessings and we offer them our support.

## 2. Bishops Pilgrimage to Emaus

On the **23 of August 2008**, the Southern African Bishops Conference pauses their session at Mariannhill and went on a pilgrimage to Emaus. It was a very moving experience as almost all of them joined the Stations of the Cross in a spirit of meditation. The bishops also gathered in the room of Abbot Francis and had prayers. They all offered their support for the cause of Beatification of Francis Pfanner. We thank **Fr. Christoph Eisentraut, CPS** sisters and Emaus parish who had made preparations for this memorable day.

## 3. Jubilarians

The 26 of July was a great day of celebration with the mass led by **Fr. Simon Rodenburg** who had just returned from home leave. **Fr. Henry Ratering** preached during the Mass. Special thanks to all who assisted in the preparations.

## 4. Priestly ordination.

On the 23rd of August 2008 we were blessed with three confreres. **Fr. Vukani Masango, Fr. Matthew Kim, Fr. Thulani Mokoena** being ordained priests by Bishop Mlungisi Dlungwane. It was a joyful occasion well attended. Matthew had full support most visible of the Koreans who came all the way to witness this occasion. Among the guests were his brother who is a priest and his sister who is a CPS.

There was also a good delegation of the faithful and priests from Witbank diocese accompanying Thulani Mokoena. The choir from St. Wendolins led us in music. Special thanks to **Fr. Emmanuel Nxele**, **Fr. Mthembeni Dlamini** and **Bro. Simon Pelster** who worked tirelessly for this day. I encourage you brothers to keep that spirit. Mariathal Mission had a special celebration during which Matthew Kim presided at Mass. I hope our dear confreres will always remember this day with gratitude and give all the glory to God.

## 5. Coordinator of Liturgy

**Fr. Emmanuel Nxele** has done special studies on Liturgy and has been sent to us to make special contribution on liturgy. The Monastery is a very important place not only for us but for the public as well, therefore I hope Fr. Emmanuel will find this a joyful task and use all available human resources all for the glory of God. Together we can make it.

## 6. Creche Pre-school / Chefs School

One of the houses on Vilakazi road above the bus rank has been converted to a **creche** for children. It is run by **Dailene Dickens**. The house was built by **CPS** sisters and has been given back to the Monastery.

The building formally used by Umafrika opposite the tailory shop after being vacant for fifteen years, has been leased to a couple who offer internationally recognized diplomas in their training with City & Guilds and South African Chefs association. It is known as **Zen Africa**. You can contact **Rev J Ngomane** on 031 7763099 for more details. Their presence will add value to the development.

## 7. Monastery Farm and Sisters' Farm

We have had several meetings on the future of the farm and various suggestions. Some of the proposals are from individuals and others are from groups. I want to emphasize that we are trying to reach a conclusion after carefully assessing these proposals. We have set the end of this year as deadline and hope to come with a concrete plan as well as a researched proposal.

For the past two years the **CPS** sisters have been trying to sell their farm. The main hindrance has been road access. We have been involved in discussions together with the bishop and are still looking at possibilities.

## 8. Council of the Congregation.

During the month of October the Provincial Superior will be attending the Council of the Congregation in Rome, you are kindly requested to pray for all the Provincials and the General Government during that assembly.

**9. Return from Home leave: Brother Florian Langmann** is back after a well deserved holiday.

## 10. Brothers who left

It is sad to say that **Brother Oscar Cuna and Alex Fernando** have left the community under very unfortunate circumstances.

## 11. Operation:

**Fr. John Drissen** had to undergo an operation of stones removal at Westville Hospital. We wish him a

speedy recovery.

## **12. Transfer of Novitiate**

During the month of October the Novitiate will be transferred to the Provincial House Melville for pastoral activities in the surrounding parishes and communities.

**13. Condolences to Bro. Mauricio Langa** who lost his brother after a long illness.

Yours sincerely

**Fr. Vincent B. Mdabe, CMM**  
*Provincial Superior*