



ORA ET LABORA

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MARIANNHILL

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CIRCULAR LETTER 01/2009

Dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace and love !

Today, March 2nd, 2009, marks 64 years since our venerable Confrere, Fr. Engelmar Unzeitig CMM, died in the concentration camp of Dachau. The community here at Engelmar House concluded the Novena to Fr. Engelmar Unzeitig with a special Holy Mass celebrating the life of this great servant of God and praying for his beatification to come to pass, for the glory of God's name.

It struck me more than before that Fr. Engelmar actually lived a short life, dying a day after his 34th birthday, after exercising his ministerial Priesthood for only 6 years, a little more than 4 of which he spent in the Concentration camp. In terms of active ministry, as a priest, before his arrest by the Nazi, Fr. Engelmar only served the church for about 1 year and 9 months. For a person who lives such a short life, with such a short time of service, to leave such profound and inspiring memories as has happened in the case of Fr. Engelmar is indeed remarkable and touching. The message from Fr. Engelmar's life is simple and clear : *It's not how long you live that matters but the depth of your faithfulness to God for each day God grants you to live.*

Fr. Engelmar stands as a shining example to us, urging us on and reminding us that we can do wonders, if we remain faithful to God.

1. 2009 – Double centenary

This year, as we all know, we celebrate a centenary year that is two-fold: 100 years of Abbot Francis' death and 100 years of our existence as a Congregation. Here in Zambia, we will celebrate together with the CPS Sisters in the following manner :

TALK : *Abbot Francis Pfanner's life and Mariannahill - the challenge for CMM and CPS today*

(To be given by Fr. Henry Ratering CMM from Mariannahill, RSA)

Place : CPS Convent, Lusaka

Invited : All CMM and CPS members in Zambia

Associates and Religious around us

Date : Saturday, May 23rd, 2009

Time : 10:00hrs, followed by lunch

THE MAIN CELEBRATION will take place at Chunga Parish, the following day, (Sunday) May 24th, 2009. The Archbishop of Lusaka will be our main celebrant, and we hope the Archbishop of Kasama and the newly retired Bishop of Mansa will join us for this special celebration.

We hope to use this occasion to make Mariannahill and Abbot Francis better known in Zambia. A committee comprising 3 CMMs, 2 CPS Sisters and 2 Associates has already met and will meet again in planning for these events and promotional material on Abbot Francis, Mariannahill and CPS.

*Please remember that Holy Mass will start at 09:00am, followed by a play on Abbot Francis and other entertainment packages.
A combined CMM – CPS Choir will take part in the liturgy.*

2. Mariannahill pulls out of Kaoma Parish

On January 11th, 2009, we officially pulled out of Kaoma Parish in a beautiful Eucharistic celebration presided over by Bishop Paul Duffy O.M.I, Bishop of Mongu, with 15 Priests in attendance, 4 of which were CMM. Some Christians from other churches formed part of the congregation in the parked new-look Kaoma Parish church. It was gratifying to hear so many words of gratitude and tributes being paid out to Mariannahill for its work during the 10 years we have been present in Kaoma Parish.

3. Fr. John Bouma

Fr. John Bouma, who has just relinquished his title as Parish Priest of Kaoma is presently in the Netherlands on a recess, during which he is seeing doctors. He writes regularly and he is, thank God, fine. On his return, on April 2, he will move to St. Steven's Parish in Chunga as Assistant Parish Priest, joining Fr. Patrick Nkole (the new Parish Priest) and Fr. Steven Chikwanda.

4. Personnel changes at Kasembo

Fr. Emmanuel Mubanga, has been asked to take over from Fr. Lewis Watuka, as Manager at Kasembo Farms. At the moment, Fr. Emmanuel is staying at the Provincialate while pursuing an intensive Diploma course in Business Administration at Golden Gates College in town. He will move to Kasembo on completion of this programme sometime after June. Fr. Lewis Watuka is assisting at Chambishi Parish.

5. Admissions

- a) **To the Novitiate** – were admitted Fr. Vincent De Paul Nzabandora, Willard Chishimba, Gershom Mwansa and Shadreck Phiri. They are now in the Novitiate in Mariannahill.
- b) **To First Profession** – were admitted Frts. Horace Xhosa Kawimbe and Fiacre Nduwayo. They made their profession on 2nd February in Mariannahill and are presently on holiday, Fiacre in Rwanda and Horace here in Lusaka.
- c) **To the Renewal of Vows** – were admitted Frts. Christopher Mumba Mashilipa, Derek Mutale Mwansa, Luke Gift Mulenga, Daniel Phiri, George Desai, Richard Mwamba, Louis Mwange Chileshe, Timothy Simfukwe, S'busiso Velemseni

Mkhize, Brian Nonde, Siyabonga Nicholas Mbeje, Darlington Tembo, Lloyd Tawanda Derengi, Raphael Mandla Mchunu, Crispin Musonda Mukupa, Victor Mukuka Mwansa and Raul Augustinho. These Confreres renewed their vows during vespers on February 1st at Engelmar House, Makeni.

- d) **Ministry of Acolyte** – were admitted Frt. Victor Mukuka Mwansa.
- e) **Ministry of Reader** – were admitted Frts. Crispin Musonda Mukupa and Raul Augustinho. By the mercy of God, I conferred these ministries on these Confreres at Bernard Huss House on February 20, 2009.

Congratulations to you all our new Novices, new Confreres, Confreres who renewed your vows and you who received the minor orders. May the Lord who has called you to his service in our community richly bless your vocations !

6. Confreres who left the community

Frts. Michael Kani and Daniel Kangwa asked not to renew their vows and subsequently left the community. We wish them God's blessings in their new life.

7. Provincial retreat and Conference

I would like to thank you dear Confreres for turning up in such big numbers for the annual provincial retreat which we had in Monze from January 25th to 30th. As many of you remarked it was a very well appreciated retreat, which also made a good break from our usual day to day work.

Another word of thanks goes to all the Confreres who made it to the Provincial Conference at Makeni on January 31st. Again here, the attendance was almost 100%. Thank you for your active participation in all the issues we dealt with which concern our family, to which we have a common responsibility. Minutes of this Conference will soon be coming to your communities as soon as the secretaries finish fine-tuning them.

8. Extension of indult of exclaustation – Fr. Cosmas Chitoshi

Fr. Cosmas Chitoshi's indult of exclaustation has been extended for another year (final year) by the General Government.

9. Course for Treasurers in Rome

Our Provincial Bursar, Fr. Jean-Bosco Ntawugashira, will be going to Rome for a course for Treasurers. He leaves on April 1st and arrives back in Zambia on June 4th.

10. Congratulations to Archbishop Paul Khumalo CMM

We send our congratulations to Archbishop Paul Mandla Khumalo CMM on his appointment and installation as Archbishop of Pretoria. We wish you God's blessings in your work as Metropolitan of the Metropolitan sea of Pretoria.

11. Special thanks

Thank you to Fr. Matthew Mwamba who represented us at the installation of our Confrere, Bishop Khumalo as Archbishop of Pretoria on January 25th in Pretoria and went on to receive the vows of our two Novices in Mariannahill on February 2nd.

12. Future events – Planning

- a) **Final Vows** – It is envisaged that we have final vows at St. Steven's Parish, Chunga, during the Centenary celebrations on Sunday, May 24th, 2009.
- b) **Ordinations to the Priesthood** – we envisage having ordinations to the Priesthood on Saturday, July 25th, 2009 in Mungwi. More later.
- c) **Study of draft revised Constitutions** – as agreed at the Provincial Conference, I urge you all to please ensure that you finish studying the draft copy of the revised constitutions by the end of this month individually, then please meet in your districts in the first week of April. The districts will then submit their findings / opinions to the special committee (comprising Fr. Dick Nthenga, Br. Hansel Jaison and Deacon Abidon Kabwe) which will pass their compilation to the Provincial Council and then the Provincial will submit those opinions / comments to the Constitutions' Commission in Rome.

13. Next Provincial Council Meeting

The next Provincial Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 14th, 2009 at Engelmar House, Makeni.

14. Condolences

Condolences to Fr. Alex Chandalala who recently lost his step mother. May she rest in God's eternal peace.

May God bless our congregation in this special year of double-centenary celebrations, and may all the activities planned for this year renew our dedication to following in the footsteps of the great servant of God, Abbot Francis Pfanner.

God bless you all.

Fr. Patrick Chongo CMM
Provincial Superior