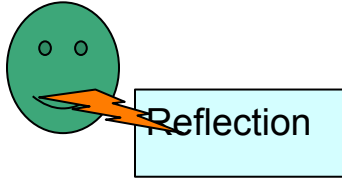


MARIANHILL MISSION BULAWAYO/BOTSWANA PROVINCE



Celebrating the Incarnation: When you set yourself to look more closely,

You will begin to see some sense

In the darkness that surrounds you.

Your eyes will begin to pick out

The shape of things and persons around you.

You will begin to see in them

The presence of the One

Who gives them meaning and purpose,

And that it is He who is the explanation of them all.

Cardinal Basil Hume

After the so many struggles that surfaced in Zimbabwe after the signing of the Global Political Agreement and the failure to implement it fully, some people then said there is nothing to celebrate in Zimbabwe, around us, we still witness and see much misery, starvation, apathy, death, people leaving the country...is there any future? We raise our eyes of faith and look at the One who has come into the world for our sake; who became poor and homeless for us; who came to be for us Light and Hope, so that we, filled by His presence, be Light and give

Hope in Zimbabwe. If Christ is born again, in each one of us, His presence will overshadow everything. It is this very divine presence of the Incarnate Word that would transform us to be outgoing and become authentic witnesses of His presence in our troubled World. May the Mystery of the Incarnation give new purpose, new missionary thrust and meaning in our work here in Zimbabwe as missionaries. Happy Christmas to you all and Blessed Year 2010.

OUR APOSTOLIC SERVICE TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BULAWAYO

First and foremost, we are missionaries at the service of the Diocese of Bulawayo, this is our primary task. On the 12th September 2009 we were blessed with a new Archbishop. We therefore, pledge to support and work in close collaboration with him. We are very grateful to Fr. Martin Schupp who carried the vital task of Shepherding the Diocese after the resignation of Archbishop Pius Ncube. I thank you all for your commitment and dedication in pastoral work within the Diocese. On the 8th-9th December 2009, there will be an AGM for all the priests at St. Augustine's Major Seminary. In regard to issues that you will like them to be discussed as part of the Agenda, please give these items in writing to Fr. George Dube CMM or Fr. Kevin Gonzalez OFMcap who will be the chairpersons of the AGM.

Postulancy

There are two postulants at the HOF under the guidance and direction of Br. Philiasi Phiri. They are still not yet admitted to the Noviciate. It is our obligation, duty and task to visit the Pre-Noviciate to encourage Br. Philiasi and the young men. They do a lot of manual work there, like gardening, rearing of chickens, goats, sheep and pigs. This is in line with our vision of being self-supportive at levels. Br. Philiasi donated to the Mission House in Queenspark, a goat, two pigs and a lot of vegetables. Houses of Formation must give a leading example in this.

Looking at our own financial resources, particularly the escalating costs of educating young people in Merrivale/Cedara, the Provincial Council decided to call a halt on recruiting for a time being as from next year. Next year and onwards, we will not be taking any candidates. The HOF will be used for retreats and other workshops. Bulawayo has the majority of students in Merrivale and St. Joseph's Theologate has raised its fees so much, we simply cannot afford. We have to look at the possibility of pulling out of Cedara completely and train our young people locally in Harare both in philosophy and theology. In this connection, I will be joining other African Provincials in Lusaka as from the 18th-20th December 2009. In this

meeting we will look at the issue of pulling out of Cedara and looking at other areas that are much cheaper regarding the training and education of our young people. The intensification of our formation is needed. It is time that we concentrate on quality rather than numbers.

Noviciate

We have five novices from our province this year in the Monastery of Mariannahill. Four are for the priesthood and one for Brotherhood. So far, they are doing well according to reports of the Novice Masters, we continue accompanying them with our prayers. Noviciate is a special period marking one's foundation in Religious Life.

Merrivale/Cedara

Our young confreres in Merrivale are also keeping well. They will be arriving at the Mission House as from the 27th November 2009. They will stay at the Mission House till the 11th December 2009. During this stay in the Mission House, they will do manual work, clean the Mission House and its premises. Again during this time, the Provincial Council, the Formation team and the Students will have a formal meeting. The date is still to be announced. We received a notice in regard to the early opening of Cedara next year. Due to the 2010 World Soccer Games, all Institutions of education in South Africa have been asked by the ministry of education to adjust their schedules. Therefore our young confreres will come back from Christmas Holidays to the mission House a bit early in January, have their five day retreat and leave for South Africa. Those in temporary vows will renew their vows in South Africa. Fraters Lwazi Dube, Nkululeko Ndlovu, Bhekimpilo Tshuma and Nyamadzawo Sibanda will interchangeably look after the House in Merrivale as has been organized in consultation with the Rector of Merrivale. There is a lot of stealing around that area, therefore, there will be no need to risk and leave the House without anyone. The retreat for our young confreres, thus those who are to renew their vows will be sometime in January before they leave for South Africa. The date is still to be announced.

Transfers

Fr. George Vurayayi was transferred from St. Bernadette-Waterford to St. Joseph's Mission-Semokwe. He is assisted by Fr. Jeremy Butawo Dube. At the moment Fr. Jeremy Dube is in

Gwanda looking after the parish there in the absence of Fr. Andrew Heier. Fr. Jeremy will return to St. Joseph's in the third week of December 2009.

Fr. Steven Chikwanda was transferred to the Bulawayo Province. He will work in Masunga Parish, Botswana. We are still trying to speed up the process of getting him a workpermit for that country. We heartily welcome Fr. Chikwanda as one of the members of our Province.

Deacon Patrick Mpofu has been re-assigned to Christ the King Parish, he will work under the guidance of Fr. Fikile Dlamini now and after his priestly ordination.

Fr. Joseph Hungwe will soon be completing his Master's Degree in the University of Zimbabwe. In our bid to live in evangelizing communities, Fr. Hungwe has asked to join the community in Christ The King as assistant priest to Fr. Fikile and at the same time, particularly during the week, he might be a full time lecturer at the Hillside Teacher's Training College.

Fr. Phillimon Mlilo is also transferred to Masunga Botswana to work together with Fr. Steven Chikwanda. We will also begin the process of getting him a workpermit for that country.

Fr. Roy Chimbindi has been transferred to St. Andrew's Parish in Queenspark.

Fr. Bhekisisa Nkala since he is completing his studies in Cedara at the end of this year, he has been assigned to Esigodini Mission under the direction of Fr. Lungisani Moyo.

Welcome Back Home

Fr. Alfons Brunner and Br. Alois Humpf recently returned from Deutschland to Bulawayo. They look refreshed after a well deserved holiday.

Br. Roland Altmannsperger will also be arriving from Deutschland on the 14th November 2009.

Fr. Martin Schupp will also arrive tentatively on the 9th December 2009. Fr. Martin entered the Mission Instituto Hospital in Wurzburg for treatment, so far he was discharged and he has been travelling around Germany and Switzerland visiting friends and relatives.

Fr. Andrew Heier will arrive from the United States on the 9th December 2009. Fr. Andy had to undergo medical treatment and therapy in the United States. His ankle was giving a lot of problem after he fell in Gwanda. We look forward to the arrival of all these confreres at the Mission House.

This and That

We had various visitors at the Mission House, we had Dr. Karl Hainz Roethenburger from the Missionsarztliches Institut in Wurzburg. On yearly basis, he comes to look at our mission

hospitals and how they can be helped through Wurzburg. He also had come for the Episcopal ordination of our new bishop.

From the Missionsarztliches Institut Wurzburg, we had Ms Waltraud Wernhart for few days.

We also had Mrs Eva Maria and some visitors from Munich, the representatives of Misereor in Ahern. Misereor Ahern has been very generous both to the Archdiocese and the Province of Bulawayo.

At the moment we are staying with us Dr. Pellio from the Missionsarztliches Institut in Wurzburg. Dr. Theresia Pellio has taken over St. Anne's Hospital as new Superintendent. She took over from Dr. Marc Bron who recently left for the Netherlands. Dr. Pellio will be with us here at Mission House for three months on attachment at both UBH and Mpilo Hospitals as a requirement by the Government of Zimbabwe on foreign doctors.

Max Weeger, the nephew of Fr. Odilo Weeger also came out for about a month, Max does a lot charity work around St. Luke's and Fatima Mission.

Fr. Michael Sheehy CMM and Mr. Gerald Krosnowski from the United States were also at the Mission House for nearly a week. They have supported the Archdiocese with food aid particularly for hungry children. The Diocese has benefitted so much from this help coming from the United States.

Frs. Fikile Dlamini, Jeremy Dube and Deacon Patrick Mpofu passed their exams as marriage officers. This time they had to go to Harare for exams due to new Government regulations. Fathers, congratulations! Serve the people of God.

Fr. Kevin O'Doherty left for the United States. We thank him for the many years of his pastorship in Christ the King.

The Provincial Retreat is scheduled as from the 4th-7th December 2009 here at the Mission House. All confreres are encouraged to attend. It will be a good idea to make arrangements as from now with pastoral workers/catechists who will look after the missions/parishes during your absence. The director of the retreat will be Fr. Enerst Kabungo CMM. Fr. Enerst is currently the Assistant Rector and Formator in Merrivale. He is a man full of pastoral experience and missionary zeal. He worked in Papua New Guinea before. The Theme of this retreat is: *"CALLED TO BE A COMMUNITY OF PROPHETIC, EVANGELIZING DISCIPLES"*.

The Provincial Conference will be in June 2010 since we had one recently when the Superior General was on visitation. In this conference next year, we will elect the Vice-Provincial after the resignation of Fr. Melekias Zulu. At the same time, we will elect two delegates to the 2010 General Chapter Rome.

The Provincial Financial Administrator Fr. Fikile Dlamini and his Assistant Ms Lee Ann Martins' Office days are: Tuesdays afternoon and also Thursdays the whole day. He will soon add another day when they will be available. Financial issues must wait for these days.

On the 27th December 2009, we will have our traditional CMM dinner at the Mission House. We will start with vespers at 6:00 pm followed by a braai vleis. All confreres are invited. It is on such occasions that we come together as a family to share our life experiences, setbacks, joys and hopes.

The Principal Feast of the Congregation will be celebrated at a low key next year here at our Mission House because all our young confreres who are to renew their vows will be in South Africa for the reasons that have been mentioned earlier on. We will begin with Holy Mass at 6:00 pm presided over by the Provincial Superior closely assisted by Fr. Martin Schupp and Archbishop Henry Karlen. After Mass we will have supper together.

A WORD OF THANKS

In a special way, I would like to thank the Benefactors who have supported the Province Financially. I would like also to thank our CMM Associates here in the Province who have supported the HOF and Esigodini Mission. Just recently, the Associates also decided to employ and pay a young man who will over the weekends clean our grounds at the Mission House.

Once more, Merry Christmas to you all. May the Incarnate Word fill your hearts with love, joy and zeal.

Happy Christmas - Blessed New Year 2010

Fr. George D. Majahana CMM

Provincial Superior