



13. September 2009

Here follow items of information so that all confreres may be up to date with happenings in the Province. (information sheet # 7)

- 1.0 From the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month, the Postulancy will be in recess, so that the youngsters who are participating to this initial formation may have a break to reflect more upon what they have acquired from the beginning of the exercise. Fr. Abulala is grateful to all those who contributed up till now to share their different insights with those youngsters. Recently, François had to go back to the DRC to get a new passport and permit to re-enter SA.
- 2.0 The building project in Bedford is progressing well. The contract was given to Enzlinn Co. Ltd. from Southernwood.. It is expected that the whole building will be completed by the middle of December. On Sunday, Wnfried, Cas and Guy will have a special meeting with the tenants so that a new legal lease agreement will be signed between the tenants and Mariannhill-Mthatha. We foresee that the rentals will be collected by a legal firm to avoid problems. But this is not finalized yet.
- 3.0 Due to the unforeseen departure of Br. Stefan for his home due to sickness, the work at the Bedford cemetery on the gravesites of Fr. Bernard and Fr. Roman is being done by a gentleman from Zimbane called Frankie. He is a man-of-all-trades and will also do some minor work in Bedford.
- 4.0 The news received from Switzerland regarding the health of Br. Stefan are positive. It appears that doctors there are less alarmist than here. We will hear more when things are clearer regarding Stefan's health.
- 5.0 Fr. Jank will be coming back to SA on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Fr. Ojok will leave for Uganda at the end of September while Fr. Chikadi and Abulala will go on home leave a bit later this year. Raphael Arop will also go on home leave during the Xmas holiday. Both Dijo and Nicholas Leaka will have their normal holiday once they have completed their studies at Cedara.
- 6.0 At a recent discussion, we were proposing that the winter holidays be used for pastoral experiences by our confrere in formation while the Xmas holidays should be a time to get acquainted with Xhosa or Sotho. We would hope that the learning of language could be done during the academic year at Merrivale. But this has to be discussed further with those in charge there.
- 7.0 The General Government has approved the transfer of Br. Eric to Mariannhill where he will retire at Mater Dolorosa. Br. Eric still does some practical work on a part time basis. We have send him a letter of thanks for his commitment while inn the Mthatha Province and wished him the best in Mariannhill.
- 8.0 The General Government has also approved a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of exclaustation for Fr. Victor Tambala.
- 9.0 The Office has contacted Fr. Martin Badenhorst OP from Pietermaritzburg to be moderator at the 2010 Provincial Chapter. We propose that the Chapter will take place on 01 and 02 February, concluding with the renewal of vows. Fr. Abulala and Fr. Moris have been asked to work with Fr. Guy to put a program for the chapter together. This will be communicated as soon as possible to

all members of the Province. A first objective is to review and re-adapt our vision-mission statement so that we, as a cohesive group, will speak the same language in our commitments. Please take note of the remarks send to you following my return from Rome. Some elements of reflection are expressed there to guide our deliberation

- 10.0The Vocation Team had some workshops to promote Mariannahill and to develop interest into religious life among youngsters. These took place at Mt. Frere and at Maclear. The Vocation Team is in contact with a few young adults showing interest in Mariannahill.
- 11.0A group from Austria is visiting our region at the present time. They will be in Mthatha early next week. They are people interested in the work we are doing and are supporting this work through their generous donations.
- 12.0If you have any points you would like to bring to the attention of the Provincial Council, please inform the Office. Our next Provincial Council will take place on September 28.

Thanks for reading this information. Comments are always welcome.

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Fr. Guy Cloutier c.m.m.