



CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MARIANHILL•

MTHATHA REGION•

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EASTERN- CAPE PROVINCE• SOUTH AFRICA•

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01 July 2024

Dear Confreres

Greetings to you all Confreres! It is my hope and prayer that you are all keeping well and doing your best in your respective places of work and engagement. Today we mark the first day into the second half of year 2024, and we look back at what we have accomplished in the first half of the year with gratitude to God and endeavour to do better as we continue serving God's people in our various ministries. Today the President of the Republic of South Africa also announced a new Cabinet of the Government of National Unity (GNU), we pray that the various political parties that constitute the GNU will prioritise the common good and work together in the interest of all. Kindly find below, updates and dates of important community events and plan accordingly for your participation.

1. Strategic Plan for implementing the Capitular Acts of the 17th General Chapter

The General Government has released the Strategic Plan to help the Units implement the Capitular Acts of the 17th General Chapter of 2022. The Strategic Plan is a tool to guide all of us in our efforts to act on the decisions and recommendations of the Chapter at the grass-root level. The Regional Secretary has forwarded the Strategic Plan to all the Confreres in our Unit and I believe you have all received it. Please, take time to read and reflect on this document as individuals and also as Zones. As you will notice, certain issues have been implemented already while others are work in progress. The leadership of our Unit will appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how best to implement the Strategic Plan. It is imperative that we all strive to keep the spirit of the General Chapter alive by continually reflecting and acting on the Capitular Acts so that, the goals of the 17th General Chapter of 2022 are achieved.

2. Workshop on Identity, Charism and Spirituality

We had planned to have a workshop on the above topic on the 24th of July 2024. Unfortunately, the identified facilitator (Fr Stuart Vukayi CMM) had to excuse himself due to a tight schedule around the same time. Consequently, we have deferred the workshop to a date to be communicated in the future.

3. Community Retreat

This serves as a reminder that, our community retreat will take place on the 19th-25th September 2024 at the Mariannahill Coolock House. Please, plan and communicate to your Dean or Bishop and avail yourself for this important community spiritual exercise. Fr Joseph Phiri, OMI will be the facilitator of the retreat.

4. PPPP

The Preparation for perpetual profession programme is currently underway in Zimbabwe. Four of our Brothers are participating in the programme (i.e Fraters Hlophe Michael Sbusiso; Ncube Thabo; Munsebi Mumene Rubin and Bro Dismas Ayogo). Let us keep them in our prayers.

5. Diaconate Ordinations

During this month of July 2024, five of our Confreres will be ordained deacons as follows:

On the 11th of July 2024, **Fr Pius Mwangi CMM** will be ordained a deacon at his home Parish in East Africa. Let us keep him in our prayers.

On the 26th of July 2024, the following Frts will be ordained deacons at Glen Aventura Chapel: **Frts Chika Kingsley Obiekwe CMM, Nhlanhla Bright Ziqubu CMM, Fredrick Njoroge CMM and Raphael Chambula CMM.**

We thank God for the gift of these vocations to religious and missionary life. Let us keep our confreres in our prayers and support them as they prepare for this important day. Congratulations to all of you Confreres.

6. Praying for our deceased confreres

In the past two months (May and June 2024) we lost four of our senior Confreres. Three of them, that is: Frs Joseph Steger CMM, Macarius Hausler CMM and Urs Fischer CMM were residents at Mater Dolorosa Home at Mariannahill Monastery while Fr Clemens Truttman CMM met his demise at the old age home in Reimlingen-Germany. We thank God for their contributions in building up the local Church in Africa and for their good example of missionary and religious life in our Congregation. Let us remember them in our prayers.

7. Praying for the sick

In your prayers remember also Fr Cas Paulsen CMM who is at the Nazareth Home in Durban. Thank you to those who have made an effort to visit him, I am sure he appreciates your solidarity with him very much. Kindly remember also the parents and relatives of Confreres who are sick, that is: Mr Thabang Mokhahle (Father of Frt Ernest Mokhahle), Mrs Regina Alwoch (Mother of our candidate Felix), Father of Frt Fortunat, and the sister of Fr Mafu Ponya CMM who is terminally ill.

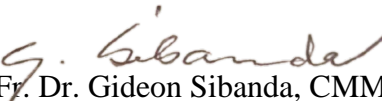
8. A word of condolences

On the 7th of May 2024, Mr Paulos Mphatshoe Letlotlo, the uncle of Fr Taele Letlotlo passed on. We send our condolences to Fr Taele and family. May the Lord heal the wound of loss and comfort you, and may the soul of your uncle rest in peace!

9. Home-leave

Fr Joel Bokoyo CMM had to leave South Africa for the DRC in haste due to visa challenges. He will work on applying for the General Work Visa while enjoying his well-deserved home-leave with family and friends in the DRC. We hope the visa application will not take forever to be approved. Enjoy your holidays Ntate.

In conclusion, I wish to thank each one of you for your collaboration and faithful service to the Church and the Congregation. Due to the nature of our work, we are prone to suffer from one or the other of mental health issues such as stress, depression etc. Please confreres, do not suffer silently or alone. We are there for each other and we will be ready to assist any confrere who needs help in this regard. Together We Can!


Fr. Dr. Gideon Sibanda, CMM

Regional Superior

Mthatha