



Mariannahill Zimbabwe

**Congregation of the Missionaries of Mariannahill (CMM)
Region of Zimbabwe**

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Dear Confreres, CMM Associates, and friends of Mariannahill in Zimbabwe. **Salibonani!**

We are now on the road to Emmaus on this third Sunday of Easter, a journey that started with the celebration of the highest solemnity of our faith on 9 April, Easter Sunday.

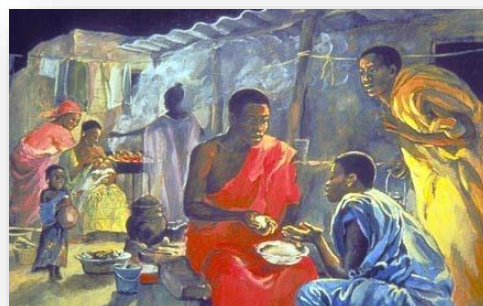
Prompted by one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit - joy - some ancient Christians started referring to Easter Sunday as “the Day of days” and “the Feast of feasts”. It is quite reasonable to believe that the reference to Easter with such expressive and poetic words was not only prompted by the witness of the apostles to the resurrection and the Holy Spirit’s joyful effect on these Christians over Easter, but also by such memorable statements like the one from St. Paul to the Corinthians (1, 15: 14): “If Christ has not been raised then our preaching is useless and your believing useless.”

Indeed, our faith would be useless if Christ did not rise from the dead. The “Day of days” and “the Feast of feasts” that we welcomed with the Exsultet, the joyful Easter Vigil hymn, offers all of us, no matter our circumstances, HOPE. Part of this hope is expressed in these words of the Exsultet:

*“The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness,
washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.”*

May the sanctifying power of Easter, the Day of days, the Feast of feasts, restore the fallen, drive out hatred or wickedness wherever it may exist, and give us true Paschal Joy and Hope like the disciples at Emmaus.

As we anticipate the national harmonised elections in Zimbabwe, the petition of the Exsultet for the risen Christ to dispel wickedness and drive out hatred is particularly relevant for us. Election time has previously brought the worst out of some of our people, especially some political leaders who have no basic decency or concern for human life. We pray that peace, fairness, and the will of the people will prevail come August 2023. Let us remain vigilant, prayerful, and hopeful, so that Christ’s Easter greeting to his disciples, “Peace, be with you!”, may be felt where it is needed the most in our lives and among the people we serve.



Emmaus. © Jesus Mafa

Appointments

1. Council members

The members of the Regional Council have been assigned the following portfolios as contact persons:

Initial formation - Fr Lungisani Moyo

Finance, Projects and Development - Fr Bekimpilo Tshuma

Ongoing Formation and Community Animation - Fr Lovemore Makore

Secretariat - Br Gugulethu Ndlovu

2. Local Superior – Mission House, Queenspark.

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed **Fr Kevin Prize Madzivanyika** as the Local Superior for the Mission House, Queenspark.

The new Local Superior will begin his ministry with an installation on 11 May 2023 after the Regional recollection. He is tasked with the responsibilities outlined to him by the Regional council in view of our local situation and those contained in our CMM Constitutions and Regional Directory relating to the Local Community and its purpose.

Constitution 432 outlines the purpose of a Local Community which Fr. Kevin will lead: “The Local Community...is a place of fraternal love and a home, where everyone can live and realise his vocation, develop his special gifts, find support in times of weakness and sadness, but also be challenged to commit himself to a life of accountability, service and holiness. For a community to function, prayer, openness, communication and genuine fraternal concern are essential.”

With this in mind, I request all the members of the Region and especially the confreres at Queenspark to give Fr. Kevin their full cooperation and support. As a full-time Local Superior, Fr. Kevin will lessen the burden of work and responsibilities on the Bursar’s office and the projects team.

I would like to thank Fr. Louis Chileshe, who has been the Local Superior at our Mission House whilst serving as priest in charge of St. Andrew’s parish at the same time. Thank you for your availability and service to the community. Tatotela Mkwayi.

3. Bishop Adolf Schmitt House of Formation.

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed **Fr Fikile Andrew Dlamini** as the Formator and Local Superior of Bishop Adolf Schmitt House of Formation.

4. Harare House of Formation.

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed **Fr Thomas Alphas Sadya** as the Formator and Local Superior of the House of Formation in Harare.

5. Vocation Promoter.

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed **Fr Lovemore Tichaona Makore** as the Vocation Promoter of the Region.

6. Formation Commission

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed the following confreres to the Formation Team: **Fr Fikile Dlamini, Fr Thomas Sadya, Fr Lovemore Makore, and Fr Lungisani Moyo.** Fr. Lungisani Moyo will serve as the coordinator of the formation commission.

7. Treasurer's Office

Fr Clyde Takwada and **Fr Similo Ncube** will continue in the Treasurer's office.

8. Finance and Projects Commission

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the council, appointed the following confreres to the Finance and Projects Commission: **Fr Similo Ncube, Fr Fikile Dlamini, and Fr Bekimpilo Tshuma; Fr Kevin Prize Madzivanyika, Fr. Thomas Sadya.**

9. CMM Associates

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the council, appointed **Fr Similo Ncube** as the Spiritual Director of the CMM Associates.

10. Communication and archives

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed the following confreres to the Communication and Archives team: **Fr Kevin Prize Madzivanyika, Fr Christopher Ngwarai, and Br Gugulethu Ndlovu.** Fr. Kevin will head the communications team, and Br. Gugulethu will head the archives.

11. Revision of congregation prayer book for the Region

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed the following confreres to the special commission to revise the congregation prayer book for the Region: **Rev Patrick Mpofo, Fr. Louis Chileshe, and Fr. Lovemore Makore.** Fr. Stuart Vukayi will also assist and advise in this commission. Once completed, the expanded prayer book will be made available to our Associates.

12. Contact person and safeguarding

In response to the General Chapter mandates, the Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed **Fr Bekimpilo Tshuma** as the Contact Person on Safeguarding.

Mission and Parish Appointments

13. St. John Vianney, Esigodini

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed **Fr Clyde Takwada** as the priest in charge of St John Vianney Mission, Esigodini. His appointment begins on 14 May, 2023.

Fr. Cylde Takwada will be in the **Treasurer's office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**. Fr. Similo Ncube, the assistant treasurer, will be available on standby for other emergencies.

Fr. Philemon Mlilo will assist at St. John Vianney, Esigodini, whilst continuing his ministry as chaplain of the Sacred Heart Schools, Bushtick.

14. Our Lady of Fatima, Pumula South

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed **Fr. Kevin Madzivanyika** as the assistant priest at Our Lady of Fatima, Pumula South. Fr. Kevin will be available on some weekends, special events, and at the request of the priest in charge of Our Lady of Fatima.

15. Assumption of our Lady, Gwanda

The Regional Superior, with the consent of the Council, appointed **Fr. Nkululeko Ndlovu** as the assistant priest at Assumption of our Lady parish, Gwanda.

Priestly Ordination of Rev. Patrick Mpofo

In a letter dated 15 March 2023, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, admitted Rev Patrick Mpofo to ordination as a priest. We welcome Rev Patrick's readiness to serve the Church and the Congregation in this new state. Unless something changes and if the dates of the Archdiocese do not shift because of the forthcoming national elections, Rev Patrick will be ordained priest on **29 July 2023 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Pumula South**, Bulawayo, by Archbishop Alex Thomas Kaliyanil SVD. On 30 July, 2023, he will celebrate his first Mass at St. Mary's Minor Basilica. I request all confreres in the region to support our brother during this special period of his life.

Jubilees

This year, three of our brothers celebrate their jubilees: Fr. Anton Janssen, 60 years of profession; Fr. George Vurayayi and Fr. Lungisani Moyo, both 25 years of profession. Congratulations and blessings to you brothers.

Newly Professed Brothers and Transfers

On 2 February 2023, our brothers Roland Tichaona Mazarura, Clyde Ncube, and Perfect Definate Sidinga made their first profession in Mariannahill and were all transferred to the Region of Mthatha, Province of Mariannahill, and Region of East Africa, respectively.

Br. Perfect Sidinga has been with us in the Region since February 2023 and will depart on the 4th of May 2023 for Nairobi. He has been very helpful and available in all aspects of our community life at Queenspark. We wish him well and a good start in his theological studies in the Region of East Africa.

As a missionary congregation, we have witnessed the positive development of temporary professed members being exposed to various geographical, educational, and pastoral environments. As a Region, we have, however, also felt the negative effects of not having temporary professed members coming back to our Region, and we have indicated this at the meeting of formators and superiors in Lusaka (2022) and at the recent General Chapter in Rome. This situation has affected our vocation promotion and the ability to adequately plan for

the future because we do not receive anyone despite sending out young confreres yearly. We are hoping for an urgent improvement to this situation, and we are hoping that confreres will show brotherly solidarity by coming here so that we have a more vibrant international and multicultural community.

Aspirancy at Adolf Schmitt House of Formation

The Aspirancy programme began in March of this year with one Aspirant: Samson Solomon Chena. He is 25 years old and comes from St. Boniface Mission, Magunje, in the Diocese of Chinhoyi.

Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord, 2 February.

From 2024 going forward, the celebration of our Principal Feast, the Presentation of the Lord, will be done on a rotation basis at our Missions and Parishes.

Zones

The following Zones, previously referred to as “districts”, have been created, and they are already functioning:

- **Triashill** – House of Formation - Harare, St. Therese - Fort Rixon, Assumption of our Lady Parish - Gwanda, Sacred Heart – Bushtick, and St. John Vianney Mission – Esigodini.
- **Mariannahill** - Mission House - Queenspark, St Andrew’s parish - Queenspark, St. Henry’s parish – Inyathi.
- **Emaus** – Christ the King Parish - Hillside, Our Lady of Fatima parish and pilgrimage center - Pumula South, Bishop Adolf Schmitt House of Formation – Buena Vista.

Parlor and Archives

Our new parlor and archives were blessed and officially opened by our Superior General, Fr. Michael Maß, in December 2022. Some confreres are already using the reception area for receiving guests and for meetings. The shelves for the archives are being installed, and soon we will begin moving some of the archive documents to this new room. Besides holding the chronicles, precious artefacts and publications, these new archives will enable confreres and other guests to do research on many fields which include the history of the Trappists/CMM/CPS in Southern Africa, the history of the Church in Southern Africa, history of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, politics, ethnography etc. We are grateful to the General Government and confreres who assisted in making this project a success. I encourage all confreres to use the new parlor facilities, which will also complement our safeguarding measures in the Region.

200 years birthday of Abbot Francis Pfanner in 2025

This year (2023) marks 127 years since the Trappists arrived in present-day Zimbabwe. The Trappist/Mariannahill presence in Zimbabwe started during the lifetime of Abbot Francis Pfanner, who personally purchased land from Cecil John Rhodes.

In anticipating the celebration of Abbot Francis’ 200th birthday in 2025, I request confreres at Zone and Regional levels to start brainstorming and sharing ideas on how we can celebrate the birthday of Abbot Francis through written literature, the media, spiritual exercises like

Retreats/reflections/talks/pilgrimages to Triashill/elsewhere. It is my hope that this celebration, which may currently seem far, will not only renew us as a Region but also help us to draw from the “spirit of the founder” through his writings and legacy. There is enough material from different sources in our archives for those who want to do research on Abbot Francis and Mariannahill. The Region will support such initiatives.

Conference of Major Religious Superiors - Zimbabwe (CMRS)

On the 4th of February, Fr. Kevin Mapfumo and I attended the yearly “Day of Consecrated Life” organised by CMRS in Gweru. This gathering is a good opportunity to meet, pray, network, and socialise with other religious in Zimbabwe. My initial observation was that there was a large presence of female religious compared to males. Although this might be a partial reflection of the female-to-male population ratio in the country and among religious, there was a general complaint raised at the CMRS AGM in February that male communities do not actively participate in these and other events. As a response to this, the Regional Office will provide for the 2024 Day of Consecrated Life a Kombi to transport us to this important yearly gathering. I encourage you, brothers, to take this opportunity and attend this event in solidarity with other religious.

Confreres serving as Missionaries in other Units

We congratulate Fr. Regis Mushunje, of the German Province, who celebrates 25 years of religious profession; Deacon Tatenda of the Region of East Africa, who was ordained deacon in February; Br. Bongani Ndlovu, who made his perpetual profession on 19 March in Salamanca, Spain; Br. Martin Tapera, who will be ordained deacon on 5 May 2023. We wish all of you God’s blessings through the intercession of our Mother Mary in your ministries.

St. Joseph’s Campaign Novena

This year we prayed the Novena to St. Joseph together with our confreres in Switzerland as part of the launch of this year’s campaign, which our Region will benefit from in order to respond to issues of justice and peace, healing, youth and substance abuse in Zimbabwe. Thank you, confreres, for praying together and thank you to our brothers in Switzerland for allowing us to participate spiritually in this campaign through the novena.

Year Plan 2023-2024

At the end of this newsletter is our Year Plan. Please take note of some of the important Congregational Feasts and events.

New Regional logo/letterhead

You might have noticed that there is a new logo/letterhead – Mariannahill Zimbabwe. The Regional Office, with the creative help of one of our CMM Associates, has come up with an updated design that seeks to refresh and re-interpret our official CMM logo in Zimbabwe: the Zimbabwe “teapot” map and inside of it is the official CMM logo with St. Anne, St. Mary, and Jesus, in red and black colors.

Book Tips:

- *A Mission Divided: the Jesuit Presence in Zimbabwe, 1879-2021.* Weaver Press, Lusaka, 2022.

Fr. David Harold-Barry SJ has written a recommendable book: *A Mission Divided: the Jesuit Presence in Zimbabwe, 1879-2021*, with several references to the Trappists/Missionaries of Mariannahill. Among other chapters, of particular interest is the section on “Mariannahill leaves Mashonaland”, which offers a Jesuit perspective on this controversial episode of our history in Zimbabwe. Those interested can borrow the book from the regional office.

In preparation for the 200 years birthday of Abbot Francis in 2025, but also in retracing our missionary ventures in Zimbabwe since 1896 (130 years in 2026), we also need to have a critical postmortem of our life and work in this country that can come out in the form of a book or a collection of articles. I invite members of the region and those in the congregation who are interested in such an important venture to make themselves available, and the Region will assist in making this happen.

- *St. Joseph Mission, Semokwe: 100 years of evangelization among the people of Semokwe, 1923-2023.*

Fr. Innocent Ndlovu of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo has written a book to mark the centenary of St. Joseph’s Mission. Pioneered by the Jesuits, St. Joseph’s flourished when the CMM came in 1930, and many of our confreres, alive and deceased, left a big impact among the people of Semokwe, which one can clearly see today in the pastoral, educational, health, and developmental areas.

Confreres, Associates, and friends of Mariannahill in Zimbabwe, thank you for your ministries, your support, prayers, and your faithfulness to “our mission field...[which] is part of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ...[without] boundaries.” Through the intercession of Blessed Mary, our Mother, St. Anne, our co-patron, Blessed Engelmar, our brother, and the Servant of God, Abbot Francis Pfanner, may almighty God bless and protect you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Fr. Stuart Vukayi CMM,
Regional Superior.



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YEAR PLAN 2023-2024

February 2023

- 2 February, Congregation Feast: St. Andrews Parish
- 28 February, Fr. Kevin O'Doherty CMM Memorial Mass, Christ the King Parish

March 2023

- 2 March, Feast of Blessed Engelmar Unzeitig CMM
- 7 March, Recollection, Queenspark
- 19 March, 100 Years St. Joseph's Mission, Semokwe

April 2023

- Recollection day (Zone)

May 2023

- 11 May, Recollection day (Queenspark)
- 13 May Feast day of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Pumula South
- 24 May, death Anniversary of Abbot Francis Pfanner (with CPS)
- 25 May, Africa Day, Mount Inungu Pilgrimage

June 2023

- Recollection day (Zone)

July 2023

- Recollection day (Queenspark)
- 01 July, Feast of The Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 11 July, Feast of St Benedict
- 13 July, Feast day of St Henry's Parish, Inyathi
- 26 July, Feast of St Anne, Secondary Patroness of the Congregation
- 29 July, Priestly Ordinations (Archdiocese of Bulawayo) – Rev Patrick Mpofu
- 30 July, First Mass of Rev Patrick at St. Mary's Minor Basilica

August 2023

- Recollection day (Zone)
- 4 August, Feast day of St John Vianney, Esigodini
- 15 August, Feast day of Our Lady of Assumption, Gwanda
- 20 August, Pilgrimage to our Lady of Fatima, Pumula South

September 2023

- Recollection day (Queenspark)
- 08 September, Feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patronal Feast of the Congregation
- 09 September, Golden Jubilee of Minda Mission

October 2023 (Mission Month)

- Mission Mass at one of our missions/parishes (Mission awareness of our apostolates in Zimbabwe; vocation promotion; associates promotion etc.)
- 01 October, Feast day of St Therese of the Child Jesus, Patroness of the Missions & Fort Rixon
- Recollection day on Mission (Queenspark)
- Vocation Sunday
- 06 October, Pilgrimage to Empandeni Mission

November 2023

- 03-05 November, AGM of the Laity, Archdiocese of Bulawayo
- Regional Mass for our deceased confreres, benefactors, associates, family members
- Recollection day (Zone)
- 23 November, Feast day of Christ the King Parish, Hillside
- 30 November, Feast day of St Andrew's Parish, Queenspark

December 2023

- Regional Retreat and Conference
- 03 December, Feast of St Francis Xavier, Patron of the Missions
- AGM (Priests-Archdiocese of Bulawayo)
- Christmas Dinner

January 2024

- Recollection day (Zone)

February 2024

- Congregation Feast