



CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF
MARIANHILL•

MTHATHA PROVINCE•

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Dear Confreres

Greetings and peace to you! I trust that you are all keeping well and doing your utmost best to serve in the vineyard of the Lord. Although the situation of Covid-19 has improved, the negative impact on the economy is quite evident. The fuel price increase that was announced on the 6th of July 2022 by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy will inevitably exacerbate the situation for all of us as the cost of living will also skyrocket. Under these circumstances we need to make rational economic decisions in terms of how we utilise the few resources at our disposal. Confreres kindly take note of the updates below:

1. Episcopal Consecration of Bishop Thulani V. Mbuyisa CMM

I wish to express a word of gratitude to all of you Confreres who attended the Episcopal Ordination of our Confrere and former Superior General, His Lordship Bishop Thulani V. Mbuyisa CMM. This was a beautiful occasion full of joy and hope for the Diocese of Kokstad and for us as a Congregation of the Missionaries of Mariannahill. Let us continue praying for Bishop Mbuyisa that the Lord may grant him wisdom and the graces he needs to be a truly Good Shepard to the people of God in Kokstard Diocese.

2. Community Retreat

At our Regional Assembly on the 1st February 2022 we all agreed to have a community retreat for all of us. This retreat has been organised to take place on 18st-23rd September 2022 at Mariannahill Coolock House. Kindly note these dates in your diaries and make any necessary arrangements at your respective place of work in good time and create space for this retreat. The retreat will begin with super on Sunday the 18st and end with Holy Mass in the Morning of the 23rd September 2022.

3. Justice, Peace and Development Office

Fr Stephen Chikwanda CMM has been tasked to run our newly established Justice, Peace and Development Office. For now, he will be assisted by Bro Bernard Isanda CMM and two ladies from St Paul's Parish-Ngangelizwe. A number of workshops covering various issues such as Gender-Based

Violence, Substance Abuse, Climate Change, Family Life, just to make a few, have been lined-up for implementation. The first workshop on Gender and Development is planned to take place on 9th July 2022 at Abbot Francis Home. We are also working on youth empowerment programmes which will be offered in the near future at the Bro Stephen Frommelt Youth Development Centre. The Justice, Peace and Development Office and Youth Empowerment programmes will help us as a Region to diversify our ministries and try to respond appropriately to the needs of young people in our context. I appeal to each one of you to embrace these initiatives and support them.

4. Winter Break-St Joseph's Theological Institute

We have ten (10) professed fraters studying Theology at St Joseph's Theological Institute-Cedara. They are currently on winter-break and will resume lectures on 18th July 2022. The Formation Committee assigned five Frts and our two Deacons to do pastoral work in different Parishes as follows:

Fr Ruben Munsebi CMM: is doing pastoral work at South Ridge under the guidance of Fr Mandla Mchunu CMM.

Fr Thabo Ncube CMM: is doing pastoral work at St Peter Claver-Duncan Village under the guidance of Fr Thomas Wao CMM.

Fr Sbusiso Hlophe CMM: is doing pastoral work at Shepard's Hope under the guidance of Fr Mafu Ponya CMM.

Rev, Deacon Joel Bokoyo CMM: is doing pastoral work at Mariazell Mission under the guidance of Fr Joakim Pinji Kondwane CMM.

Fr Dumisani Moyo from Mriannahill Province: is doing pastoral work at Mariazell Mission under the guidance of Fr Joakim Pinji Kondwane CMM.

Rev. Deacon Jackson Mandela CMM: is doing pastoral work at Christ the King Parish-Qumbu under the guidance of Fr Taele Letlotlo CMM.

5. Preparation for Perpetual Profession Programme (PPPP)

Three of the Frts from our Region namely, Chika Kingsley CMM, Pius Mwangi CMM and Nhlanhla Ziqubu CMM participated in this programme which ended this past week. We hope that it was fruitful and successful.

6. Candidacy and Postulant Programmes

We have two postulants this year: Postulant Genesis Akundo from Cameroon and Postulant Ernest Kutlwano from Bloemfontein. We also have two candidates from DRC who will join the programme as soon as they get their study visas.

7. Feast of St Anne-26th July 2022

The Feast of St Anne is one of the important feasts for our Congregations. The celebration of Jubilees is traditionally done on this feast day. I kindly invite and encourage all of us to come together to celebrate the feast of St Anne on the 26th July 2022, beginning with Holy Mass at 10am at Glen Avent

Convent and thereafter, lunch and social at Abbot Francis Home. We hope to launch the CMM Associates in Mthatha on the same day. I also appeal for donations from each of you Confreres to make this day a success. This helps to cut down on expenses and also encourages us to work towards self-reliant on a small but significant way. So please, kindly donate cash, food or drinks towards the feast. We have done this before and together, we can do it again.

Dear Confreres, I thank you all and wish you well in your various ministries.

Stay Blessed

Fr Gideon Sibanda CMM

Regional Superior

Mthatha Region