



## Mariannahill in the Netherlands

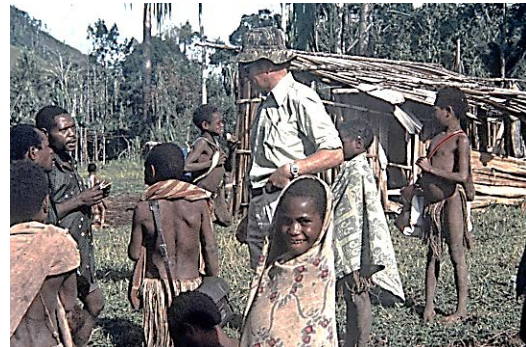
Info 36E June 2022

### FAMILY DAY 2022

After two years of stagnation due to the corona crisis, the traditional visiting day of relatives of Dutch missionaries abroad could finally take place in St. Paul on Sunday 29 May. The number of 40 attendees was larger than expected. It turned out that over the years a close bond has grown between the family members that has remained even after a two-year break.



so, he said, are we gathered here with our relatives to thank God for the assurance that wherever, far or near, the Good News of Jesus may be a lasting source of inspiration for building of peaceful and justice-loving societies.



*Pastoral visit to a village far away in the mountains*

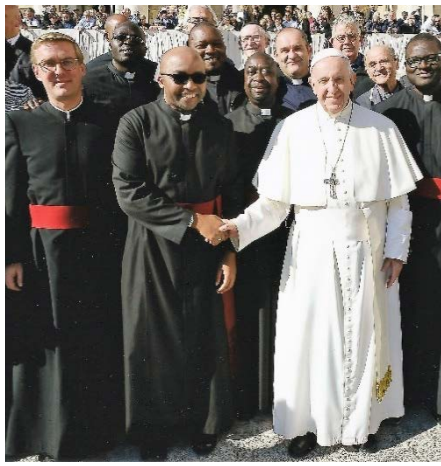
This reunion day passed in a familiar atmosphere animated by the traditional soup and sandwiches prepared by our domestic personal.

### ORDINATION OF FR. THULANI MBUYISA AS BISHOP OF KOKSTAD

The Superior General of our Congregation, Fr Thulani Mbuyisa, was appointed Bishop of Kokstad in South Africa by Pope Franciscus on 6 April 2022. He had been a member of the general administration in Rome since 2010, first as vicar general and since 2016 as superior general. The consecration took place in the St. Patrick's Cathedral of Kokstad on 11 June 2022. His vicar general of the congregation Father Michael Mass (Germany) has taken over the general administration of the congregation for the time being until the general chapter in Rome on 3 October. Then a new superior general and central administration of the congregation will be elected.

After the arrival and greeting the guests went to the chapel for the eucharistic celebration. The main celebrant was Father Anthony Mulderink, who was transferred to Papua New Guinea in 1960 and from where he returned to St. Paul a few years ago after 57 years of missionary life. He is the last survivor of the original team of four who were sent to Papua New Guinea.

In his sermon he mentioned the first missionary journey of the apostle Paul from Antioch to numerous places in Syria, Greece and Macedonia where he founded Christian communities everywhere. In parallel, Fr. Anthony referred to the missionary journeys of our missionaries who travelled from St. Paul to Africa, South America and Papua New Guinea, where they proclaimed the Gospel and founded Christian communities. And



*P. Thulani (center) with Pope Francis after his election as Superior General accompanied by Vicar General P. Michael Maas (left) and members of the General Chapter in 2016.*



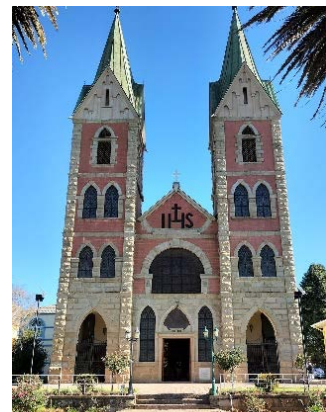
*Fr. Patrick Chongo (general councilor), Bishop Thulani Mbuyisa, Fr. Michael Mass (acting general superior), Fr. Mbeki Shabalala (provincial superior Mariannhill)*



*Many bishops attended the ordination*

At the age of 49, the new bishop is the youngest bishop in Southern Africa. Bishop Mbuyisa was born on February 13, 1973 in Ixobho, KwaZulu-Natal. He entered the novitiate of the Congregation of Mariannhill Missionaries (CMM) in 1993, and

made his perpetual profession on February 2, 1997. He was ordained to the priesthood at Mariannhill monastery by Bishop Paul Themba Mngoma of Mariannhill on March 4, 2000. From 2002-04 he studied at St Paul University in Ottawa/Canada for his licentiate and master's degrees in canon law. Bishop Mbuyisa is the sixth bishop of the diocese of Kokstad, which was established in 1951, having been a vicariate since 1935. The diocese serves 81.000 Catholics. He is at present the third Bishop from the Congregation of Mariannhill Missionaries, alongside the Archbishop of Durban, Siegfried Mandla Jwara and Paul Khumalo, Archbishop-emeritus of Johannesburg.



*St. Patrick's Catholic Cathedral of Kokstad S. Africa*

### **CURRENT STATE OF THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PAUL**

Since the death of Br. Sjef Verhees in 2017, our community has remained intact. In the meantime, Br. Maurice van Haasteren (89) has been transferred to the nursing home 'De Alde Klosterhoaf' in Arcen where he receives adequate care.

The number of members of the St. Paul community had been temporarily increased by one person. Fr. Felipe Voorn came from Kenya in June 2021 for surgery. After a long wait because of the corona pandemic, he could finally be provided with a new hip. After a year he left us again and returned to Nairobi on 17 June.



*Farewell Theo*

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