

Nachrichten aus Sambia - Juni 2020

**3rd June 2020**

**Circular Letter 2/2020**

**Introduction:**

Greetings of peace to you all Confreres.

During the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic so many things have happened in our lives, our homes and our communities – some noticed and others unnoticed; some good news and others bad news and some challenging and others encouraging. However, I can admit that it has been a rough and tough time of trying to adhere to the measures put across by government and by many institutions. It has been a time that has called more for understanding, flexibility tolerance, adjustment, fervent prayer, love and care in the way we deal with one another. There has been less physical contact but more online communication, leading to uncertainty, fear and insecurity. In any case, we would like to thank God for His love and care especially during this moment of

fear and panic.

At this moment, allow me dear Confreres to communicate to you a few points:

**1. St. Bonaventure: Graduation –**

After completing their philosophical studies at St. Bonaventure University, our three candidates – **Adam Mbwana, Moses Moyo and Cletus Mwela** graduated on the 22nd of May 2020. However, their graduation was in absentia as only a few resident students of St. Bonaventure Campus were allowed to participate in a simple ceremony. Congratulations to our candidates for their achievement. Wishing them well in their next step of religious formation.

**2. Postulancy 2020**

The three philosophy graduates – **Adam Mbwana, Moses Moyo and Cletus Mwela** will start their Postulancy program hopefully in July 2020 once the situation normalizes. Fr. John Chishimba will journey with them at our Kasembo House of Formation.

**3. Community placements**

Allow me to update you on the following placements of our fraters and Candidates in our Unit.

**a. Frt. Alois Gende**

Since the 24th of February 2020, Fr. Alois moved from St. Margaret - Mungwi Parish to St. Kizito Kapata Sub-Parish where he is on pastoral attachment. We wish him a fruitful and grace-filled moment.

**b. Frt. Sylvester L. Mwatibu**

On the 3rd of March 2020, Frt. Sylvester moved from St. Francis - Nseluka Parish to Ukwimi Parish. We wish him God's abundant blessings in his work and stay at St. Charles Lwanga – Ukwimi Parish.

**c. Frt. Didier N. Sampungi**

On the 3rd of March 2020, Frt. Didier moved from St. Kizito - Kapata Sub-Parish to St. Nicholas - Chambishi Parish. God's blessing to him in his pastoral work.

**d. Frt. Abraham C. Mwangi**

After the closure of St. Dominic's Major Seminary, like all institutions of learning in the country due to COVID-19, since the 20th of March 2020 Frt. Abraham has been assigned to Blessed Engelmar House of Formation – Makeni. He remains at the Formation House doing online assignments as he awaits the eventual opening of the seminary.

**e. Br. Chewe E. Mwape**

Following his First Profession on the 2nd of February 2020 in Mariannahill, and one-month holiday here in Zambia, Br. Mwape was asked to stay at Blessed Engelmar House as he waits for his departure for East Africa where he has been transferred by the General Government.

**f. Frt. Horace X. Kawimbe**

After being transferred back to the Unit of Zambia by the General Government, Br. Horace

Kawimbe has been assigned to St. Francis – Nseluka Parish. Welcome back Confrere and wish you God's abundant blessing.

**g. Candidates in 2nd Year of Philosophy at St. Bonaventure**

In view of the closure of all institutions of learning by the Government of the Republic of Zambia, our four second year students at St. Bonaventure University were advised to go home for some time until we see how the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds. After staying home for two months they were assigned by the Regional Council as follows:

- i) **Remy Matipa** – goes to St. Charles Lwanga - Ukwimi Parish
- ii) **Victor Mpundu** – goes to St. Kizito – Kapata Sub-Parish
- iii) **Geoffrey Sikwesa** – goes to St. Stephen – Chunga Parish
- iv) **Peter Phiri** – goes to St. Margaret – Mungwi Parish

The four candidates will be asked to report back to Blessed Engelmar House of Formation immediately St. Bonaventure University re-opens.

## **h. Deaconate Ordination**

Our four Confreres – **Fr. Alois Gende, Fr. Abraham Mwangi, Fr. Didier Sampungi** and **Fr. Sylvester L. Mwatibu** – will be ordained deacons on the 29th of August 2020 at St. Dominic’s Major seminary. Preceding this date of ordination will be a preparatory retreat of which dates and place will be communicated as soon as possible.

## **i. St. Dominic’s Major Seminary partial re-opening**

A note was received from the Rector’s office concerning the partial and gradual re-opening of the Seminary. The following is the outline of this gradual opening of the seminary:

- 2nd and 4th Year students – to open on the 12th June 2020 and closing on the 10th July 2020
- 1st and 3rd Year students – to open on the 29th July 2020 and proceed to the next academic year 2020/2021
- Pastoral year students – to open on the 12th August 2020

## **j. COVID 19 Intervention from the General Government**

Following the COVID 19 outbreak and the strict health measures and guidelines enforced by the local church and the Government of the Republic of Zambia, we witnessed the closure of many institutions in order to control the spreading of the disease. These measures led to the suspension of Church gatherings and left a negative impact on our part where sustainability of our communities is concerned. To this effect, we approached the General Government – appealing for emergency financial help during COVID 19 pandemic. After the intervention by the general Government, our communities have received some relief. Hopefully by the end of the year 2020, things will be much better in terms of the COVID 19 control and our liturgical gatherings back to normality, leading to the usual community sustenance from the lay faithful. All in all, we are grateful to the General Government for its timely intervention.

## **k. Face Mask – Contribution and Distribution**

Looking at how the COVID 19 cases have been increasing every day in the country, the government of the Republic of Zambia has made it mandatory to wear face masks in public places. Acknowledging that not many of our brothers and sisters in society would manage to buy a face mask, the CMM Associates, in collaboration with the Regional Office, asked for contributions from its members to make face masks that would go to the needy brothers and sisters in the communities where we work. Therefore, from the 8th of May 2020 to date 2,240 (two thousand, two hundred and forty) face masks were organized and distributed as follows:

- The Archbishop’s office – Kasama Archdiocese – 140 Face Masks
- Margaret Mungwi Parish – 325 Face Masks
- Francis Nseluka Parish – 325 Face Masks
- Kizito Kapata Parish – 325 Face Masks
- Holy Family Kasembo Christian Community – 325 Face Masks
- Charles Lwanga Ukwimi Parish – 350 Face Masks
- Stephen Chunga Parish – 250 Face Masks
- Nicholas Chambishi Parish – 200 Face Masks

I would like, therefore, to thank all the Associates and you Confreres for this spirit of collaboration expressed so far. Once we get more face masks, we shall send them to the communities so that they are distributed to the needy members of the Parishes and surrounding outstations.

#### **I. PPPP 2020**

Due to the prevailing COVID 19 pandemic, kindly be informed that the General Government has decided to cancel this year's edition of the Perpetual Profession Preparation Program (PPPP) that was due to take place in June – July 2020 in Mariannahill. Therefore, the next PPPP will now be in June – July 2021, hoping the situation at the time allows.

#### **m. Council of the Congregation (CoC 2020)**

In its program of activities, the General Government had proposed that the CoC would take place from 4th – 28th October 2020 in Mariannahill but due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the General Government has postponed the CoC to a time and place yet to be determined in 2021. In the same vein, the workshop for the Unit Superiors and Treasurers has been cancelled.

#### **n. Day Care Centre – Makeni**

During our Regional Conference held in August 2017 at Kasisi Retreat Centre, the Unit of Zambia, discussed and resolved to apply for funds (under the St. Josef Campaign – Switzerland) to establish a Day Care Centre in Makeni. After the completion of all the necessary works, the Project was funded this year. The Contractor is now slowly organizing the site to commence the works. We are grateful to the Unit of Switzerland and the General Government for supporting the establishment of the Day Care Centre in our Unit. As a Regional Council we appeal for your support dear Confreres of this noble project.

#### **o. Condolences**

We would like to express our heartfelt condolences to all Confreres who recently lost their loved ones. In a special way, we mourn with the Units that have lost their members (Germany, Austria and Zimbabwe) due to COVID-19. May the Almighty God console you all and may he grant eternal rest to all our deceased Confreres, brothers, sisters, friends and relatives.

Yours in Christ,

The Regional Superior – Zambia

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Fr. Kabwe Abidon Katai CMM