

Rundbrief aus Mthatha - September 2020

Dear Confreres,

Greetings and peace to you all!

I am writing with the hope that you are all well and still safe under the conditions in which we now live. While things seem to have relaxed a bit under lockdown level 2, the statistics of new cases that are reported on a day-to-day basis indicate that the fight is far from being won. It is therefore, imperative that we continue being vigilant and take the necessary precautions to protect ourselves and those around us. This is a personal responsibility that we need to commit ourselves to, because any relaxation or carelessness might cost us dearly. At the same time, let us be grateful to God for the protection so far and let us continue to play our part. Dear Confreres, kindly take note of the following urgent information and updates. Please do diarise the important dates.

- **Fr Bernard Gathu, CMM**

Fr Bernard Gathu has been appointed the Parish Priest of St Francis Xavier Parish at Maclear. He will also be in charge of managing the Pope Francis Pastoral Centre. Fr Bernard has been the Manager of Mariazell Institute for the past ten years and has done marvellous work there. He will continue as part of the team that is managing the institution until a new team is assembled. We thank Fr Bernard for his commitment and hard work at Mariazell and wish him well for the new assignment. Enkosi Bawo.

- **Fr Benjamin Malapane, CMM**

Fr Benjamin Malapane has been transferred to our Region of Mthatha. We thank the Unit of Mariannahill for availing him to us and for his readiness to join us here in Mthatha. Fr Benjamin is ear-marked for Maria Linden and it is hoped that he can begin his pastoral assignment at the beginning of November 2020. We welcome Fr Malapane to the Region of Mthatha and wish him God's blessings and guidance.

- **Ordinations**

- **Deacon Taele Ulrich Letlotlo, CMM:** I am pleased to announce that the ordination of our Rev Deacon Taele will take place on 17th October 2020 at St Francis Xavier Parish in Maclear. At the moment, the lockdown regulations still limit the number of public gatherings for whatever purpose to 50 people. Unless new changes are announced prior to the ordination, we will comply with the law in this regard.
- **Frt Ipoba Laurent, CMM:** I am also pleased to announce that Frt Ipoba Laurent will be ordained deacon in Mariannahill on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020. We are grateful to the Unit of Mariannahill for agreeing to ordain Frt Laurent together with his classmates from Mariannahill.
- **Aspirant Mthokozisi Mkhwanazi:** Mr Mthokozisi Mkhwanazi who had joined our community as an aspirant has decided to go back home. We wish him God's guidance as he continues to discern his vocation. We also appreciate his gifts which he shared with us during the last six months of his stay in the community.

Dear Confreres, I kindly ask that we support our two confreres who will be ordained Priest and Deacon with our prayers. Let us stand together and make this important step in their religious and missionary life one to remember and cherish. Together we can!

**Sincerely yours in Christ**

**Fr Gideon Sibanda, CMM**

**Regional Superior-Mthatha**