

Neues aus Mariannahill, Südafrika - Oktober 2017

Circular letter 06/2017 26 October 2017

Dear confreres,

1. Introduction

It was with great sadness to learn of the sad news of the passing away of Fr. Peter Nkomazana CMM, the Provincial Superior of Bulawayo/Zimbabwe. We pray for the comfort and strength for our confreres in Zimbabwe, his family and friends. May his soul rest in eternal peace! I thank all the confreres from our Province who travelled to Zimbabwe to show our support during the funeral.

This untimely death of our confrere reminds us that we are pilgrims in this earth. I wish to remind confreres to do medical checkups at least once a year especially those that are above forty years old. As Mariannahillers we pride ourselves in hard labour and dedication in the spirit of our forefathers. But we also need rest, vacation and spiritual exercises to rejuvenate our bodies and spirits. Do not deprive yourselves of good rest and relaxation especially after engaging in heavy ministry. May our Mother Mary pray for us during this month of the rosary and mission.

2. Formation commission

We heartily welcome Fr. Patrick Chongo CMM, the general councilor and chairperson of the Formation Commission. We welcome the members of the Commission Frs. Anselmo Alfandega CMM, Francis Ngadi CMM, Siegfried Millz CMM and Fr. Henry Kanjo CMM. On Thursday they had a formation meeting with all our formators from Mthatha and Mariannahill. The main point on the agenda is the consolidation of formation houses. We are a small Congregation and we have 17 houses of formation and that drains our human and financial resources. On Friday (27.10.17) the Commission will begin their meeting by themselves. We wish them God's richest blessings.

3. Land Development Commission

During the month of September Mariannahill experienced a series of land invasions particularly on land close to the Monastery, the land below the Old Age Home and behind St Mary's hospital. The Ethekwini Municipality Land invasion squad had to come to our rescue and chase away the invaders. As a result, we have had numerous meetings with various stakeholders in order to find a way forward as far as land invasion is concerned. The advice that we have received is to seek a court interdict against all the people who invade our land. We are now in the process of securing the court interdict.

In the meantime, the Provincial Superior with the unanimous consent of his council has established the Land Development Commission to study the pieces of land that we still have in the vicinity of greater Mariannahill and propose ways of using the land for projects that will serve and benefit the Congregation. Fr. Gideon Sibanda CMM was appointed as the chairperson of the Commission assisted by Fr. Raphael Phiri CMM and Fr. Lindelwa Dlamini CMM. We are in the process of finding the advisor with expertise to work with the Commission. The Commission will work hand in hand with the Land and Property Board and the Provincial Council. Please remember our confreres in your prayers.

4. Fr. Bernard Thiel CMM

For the past year Fr. Thiel has served as a chaplain for the CPS sisters at the Sacred Heart Home in Ixopo. Due to many challenges that he faced as a chaplain, he asked to be relieved from this ministry. Unfortunately, at this stage we are unable to provide his replacement and the Bishop of Mariannhill has been made aware of that. From the beginning of November 2017 Fr. Bernard Thiel will work in Umzimkulu diocese as a parish priest of Port Edward parish. We wish him God's richest blessings in the new task. Port Edward is a small place with one community to serve.

5. Book Launch

Fr. Ted Rogers SJ has written a book titled Missionary Martyrs of Rhodesia and Zimbabwe 1976-1988. It focusses on the heroic witness of our missionary CMM confreres and CPS sisters who were massacred during those years. The book will be launched on the 02 December 2017 at St. Anne's hall at 3pm. You are invited and encouraged to attend the function. The CPS Marimba Group and the Zimbabwean choir from St. Emmanuel's Cathedral will entertain us with music. We thank Fr. Ted for recognizing our martyrs in this fashion.

6. Canonical visitation of the Province

According to the Province directory no. 4.2.1.10 "During his term of office, the Provincial should arrange a visitation for every confrere and have a personal contact with him". During the month of November and December 2017 I will be conducting the Canonical Visitation of each confrere. The dates and times for visitation are being confirmed with the individual confreres. I look forward to meeting all of you in your places of work, study and community.

7. Mission helpers from Spain

We welcome Mr. Cordedo Sanchez Eduardo and Beltran Pinto Ever David, our two mission helpers from Spain. During their first two months they will be working at Jabulani Help Centre and staying at the Monastery. During the other three months they will assist at Mariathal Mission. I thank Fr. Lawrence Mota CMM and Fr. Mthokizisi Khumalo CMM who have welcomed these two young men who want to learn more about our community life and our missionary engagement.

8. Confreres who are not well

Please remember in your prayers the following confreres:

- Fr. Bernard Ngidi CMM is out of hospital and recovering at his parish in St. Joseph's Middleburg.
- Fr. Joseph Steger CMM who will be having the cataract operation in Germany on the 02 December 2017
- Bro. Crispin Graham CMM who will have a cataract operation on one eye on the 01st November 2017 and another one on another eye two weeks later.
- Fr. Marcarius Hausler CMM who underwent an operation to remove an abscess on his arm. He had a problem of fluctuating blood pressure levels but Dr. Kheswa has since stabilized it.

- Fr. Ndabenhle Mancwabe CMM did a CT scan at Hilton hospital as he had experienced a discomfort in his liver. He decided to go the route of precaution.

We also pray for our deceased confreres, family members, benefactors and friends who have been called to eternal rest recently. In a particular way, we remember Fr. Martin Schupp CMM who worked tirelessly here in Africa as a committed missionary before he went back to his native country in Germany.

9. Reminder about special dates

- On the **28th October 2017** Abbot Francis House, Merrivale, will celebrate Silver Jubilee of its foundation. During the same celebration, four of our confreres will be ordained deacons by Bishop Siegfried Jwara CMM. Holy Eucharist will start at 10am and you are all invited.
- From the **04th-12th November** St. Anne's Hall in Mariannahill will host the Trappists Trail Exhibition. The official opening will take place on the 05th November at 10am. The exhibition will be open to the public during the whole week from 12 noon to 3pm. All confreres, friends and relatives are welcome to come and view the work of art.
- Mini World Youth Celebration in the archdiocese of Durban, Exhibition Centre, from the **06th – 10th December 2017**. This will be preceded by days in the parish from the 03rd-05th December 2017.

10. Youth Ministry

Fr. Owen Jimu CMM was appointed as an additional member to the Youth Ministry Leadership Team. We thank Fr. Owen for his accepting this task.

11. Further studies

Fr Roberto Cossa CMM will pursue a two-year course in Philosophy in Italy. The course will begin in March next year. We wish him all the best in his studies.

12. Conclusion

During this last part of the year our Province has been blessed by the visit of many of our friends and benefactors from abroad. Among them we had three teachers from Maria Veen, Germany, Fr. Mike Fitzsimons and Miss Christine Kneale from Liverpool and Miss Christine Widmer, member of the Stiftung, from our house in Altdorf, Switzerland. This year Switzerland dedicated their St. Joseph campaign to the tailor project of our Unit. We thank all our benefactors for supporting our missions. I thank all the confreres who welcomed these guests and showed them great hospitality. I thank the confreres, parishes, the General Government and friends of Mariannahill for supporting our silver Jubilee at Abbot Francis House in various ways. God bless you all.

Fr. Bheki M. Shabalala CMM

Provincial Superior