

Pater Peter Nkomazana CMM schreibt über die Missionare von Mariannahill in Simbabwe

Dear Confreres

Greetings from a Zimbabwe, which is experiencing severe drought this year. We have had very poor rains for two consecutive years. This year is the worst and it has been declared as a state of natural disaster. An estimate of about three million or more people are facing starvation and in need of food aid. While the country experiences the drought, we are also challenged by the economic depression too. Many of the work force in the country, have gone for months without pay, others have lost their jobs while some of the young professionals who qualified from the universities and colleges are unemployed. The rate of unemployment is very high since many companies have and are closing down due to the economic challenges the country is facing. Of late we have shortage of cash. An interesting phenomenon is also taking place in our country, whereby we have many churches mushrooming in the cities, preaching a gospel of prosperity. Contrary to what is actually happening in the country, people flock to these churches with the hope of finding answers to their economic challenges. For us however, the work of evangelization goes on in this environment. We now have an invitation that we be a prophetic presence and a source of hope as missionaries especially in this jubilee year of mercy.

Other than what is happening around us, we have also had some celebrations which were remarkable. On 30th January 2016, we joined the rest of the religious in Zimbabwe as we celebrated the closure of the year of consecrated life in Regina Mundi Gweru. The day started with Holy Mass, Bishop Angel Flora of Gokwe as our main celebrant. After that we listened to some speaker who helped us to reflect on the Theme, "Radical following of Christ: Challenges of professionalism vs evangelization". Many religious from all corners of the country came for this celebration. As Mariannahill Missionaries, we participated in our great numbers as well. It was a truly fitting ending off of the special year of consecrated life, where we felt renewed and ready to continue our various ministries of service.

On 1st February 2016, we had renewal of vows for our two young confreres, Br. John Mzanywa and Br. Lovemore Makore. On the same occasion we had an induction of new members to our CMM Associates. This group of lay people who are supportive to our ministry and evangelisation have celebrated ten years since they were established. The group is growing and spreading wings in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo. Most members come from the parishes where we are working as Mariannahill Missionaries. We continue to support the CMM associates and appreciate their work.

This year, 2016, we are celebrating 120 years since Mariannahill Missionaries started the work of evangelization in Zimbabwe. Hence, some programs for our celebration will be made known soon. We have set up a committee for the 120 celebration. This committee comprises of Br. Alois Humpf, Fr. Christopher Ngwarai, Fr. Bekimpilo Tshuma, Mr. Pesanai and myself. We thank God for these years of hard work and of witness in Manicaland and Bulawayo. This looking back at how God has journeyed with us over such a long period is an occasion to help us remain focused and committed to a mission which those who have gone before us have laid the foundation on which we continue to build on. We look forward to compiling a book chronicling all the key features of what has been and accomplished in these 120 years. This being celebrated in the jubilee year of mercy we ask for forgiveness for the times blunders have been made and pray for forgiveness and mercy from each other and those we minister to. Your support for this important event would be highly appreciated. We will use 18th June as an opening day to the 120 years celebrations.

Abbot Francis Day - 24th May 2016: We honour and remember Abbot Francis' death anniversary on 24th May. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 16:00 pm, in our Community chapel, as we are hosting this celebration this year. The CPS Sisters, CMM and CPS Associates will also join us for this celebration.

Final Vows Program 2016: The programme will take place in our unit this year. Fr. Patrick Chongo and Br. Hansel Jaison will facilitate this program. There will be 9 participants coming from other units. From our unit we will have Frt. Lovemore Tichaona Makore, participating in this program. It will start on 14th June till 13th July 2016. We welcome our dear confreres to our unit.

Deaconate Admissions and Ordination: 18th June 2016: Our dear confreres, Frt. Herbert Mudzimu, Frt. Proud Jonathan Mukamba and Frt. Thomas Sadya have been admitted to the Deaconate by the General Government. They will be ordained on 18th June 2016, by Archbishop Alex Thomas SVD. The ordination will be at St. Andrew's Parish, starting at 10:00 am. The Provincial Council has resolved to use the 18th June as the opening and lobbying of 120 years of Mariannahill Missionaries in Zimbabwe celebrations. Please take note of this date of the ordination. Let us keep our confreres in prayer and the work of our missionary mandate in Zimbabwe.

Closure of St. Augustine's Philosophate in Bulawayo: Due to economic depreciation the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference has decided to move the Philosophate from St. Augustine's Seminary in Bulawayo, to Chishawasha Major Seminary in Harare. This is directly affecting our Philosophy Program. We have been comfortably having our Philosophy program here in Bulawayo. As a way forward, the Provincial council has recommended that the 5 students who were already enrolled at St. Augustine Seminary move to Harare and continue with their Philosophy Program and complete their studies at Chishawasha. The candidates will reside in our Mount Pleasant House, in Harare. They will join our Theology students. Fr. George Vurayayi will be their Formator. He will move to Harare as soon as he is through with his examinations.

Fr. Kevin Mapfumo will continue with the formation program at the House of formation with the newly recruited candidates, while he assists at Christ the King. We appreciate the availability of the confreres to serve the congregation in this capacity as formators. You will be updated on the progress of these programs.

Graduation: Frt. Lovemore Tichaona Makore graduated on 8th of April in St. Joseph's Theological Institute with a Bachelor of Philosophy Degree. Congratulations to him. In August he will join Kevin Madzivanyika and John Mzanywa in Trinity College, Harare for Theological studies. Good luck to all our Theology students as they undergo their academic formation.

Visitors to our Province: We have had the privilege to host Fr. Americo Vilanculo from Mozambique. He spent some time in our different communities. We appreciate his visit as he proved to be handy and hard working as he took initiatives wherever he was. Fr. Nicholas Leaka was with us for two weeks. Fr. Andreas Rohring, the Chief Editor of our Mariannahill Mission Magazine was also with us for 16 days. He visited the places where we work and that of CPS sisters. We appreciate his visit to our unit. Fr. Andreas worked in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo 21 years ago.

Holidays: Fr. Stuart Vukayi has been home for holidays. We appreciate having him around in his home unit. We wish him a safe journey as he returns to Germany on 26th May 2016. Fr. Timothy Simpukwe will be on holiday as from 26th May till 20th June. While on Holiday, Fr. Philimon Mlilo will be helping Fr. Fikile Dlamini in Gwanda. We wish Fr. Timothy a well-deserved holiday and a pleasant stay in Gwanda for Fr. Philimon Mlilo.

Ingwavuma Vicariate – Bishop Pater Francis Jank CMM berichtet aus Südafrika
Elect Mandla Siegfried Jwara CMM: With joy, we congratulate our confrere Fr. Siegfried M Jwara who has been appointed by the Holy Father, Pope Francis as Apostolic Vicar, with Episcopal dignity for the Vicariate of Ingwavuma, South Africa. The Episcopal ordination will be on 25th June in Mthubathuba. We wish him God's blessings in this new ministry as a shepherd of the people of God. We keep him in our prayers.

Pastoral Work: Our candidates who have just completed their second year of Philosophy studies, will do Hospital Experience. Fr. Adrian Maqhawe Ndlovu, the provincial Councilor member who is responsible for formation has made some arrangements for them, in liaison with Fr. Kevin Mapfumo. Others will do pastoral work in the identified parishes.

The Final year Theology students will do CPE at Greys Hospital, in Pietermaritzburg, S.A. Deacon Gershom Mwansa from Zambia will be with us for his pastoral and mission experience. I hope and trust that he will have a fruitful experience. God's blessing in your pastoral experience, we trust that they will be our good ambassadors where they will be placed.

We thank God for all the many blessings he has given us in our province this far. We continue praying for guidance, wisdom and protection for all of us as we zealously continue serving God and his people. We are grateful for all the support we have received from near and far without which our mission work could not be successful. Thank you very much. God bless you all.

Fr. Peter Nkomazana CMM
Provincial Superior - Bulawayo