

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MARIANNHILL

CMM ZAMBIA

NEWSLETTER



01/04/2024



Happy Easter



DEAR CONFRERES

ASSOCIATES,

PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL

I present to you the updates and status of the Region of Zambia since my last communication. We thank God that the Region of Zambia is peaceful. We are concerned though by the drought the country has experienced which has led to massive crop failure and reduced water levels in our water bodies. This has necessitated the Government of Zambia to declare it a National disaster. The whole country is panicking not knowing what lies ahead of us. No doubt hard times are coming for our people. May we be a source of consolation to our people in these times of despair.

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF DESPAIR

John Paul II said, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are Easter People and Alleluia is our song". We are people touched by the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This means we are people of hope. We are the Easter people standing on the anchor of Christ, our Living Hope. And when it feels like Good Friday, we have hope in Easter Sunday. Not because the pain and suffering will go away. But because Christ has already come and He has already conquered. Because God loves us, he allowed himself to be made flesh so that he could walk on this dirty, messy, painful world and *suffer for us and with us*. And He is victorious. And this changes everything. Because He has not left us alone but has given us Himself and each other.

1. VISITATION

Last year we had two canonical visitations: firstly, by the Vicar General Fr. Matthew Kim from 11th August 2023 to 7th September 2023; and secondly by the Superior General Fr. Michael Maß from 13th November to 15th December. Thank you, Confreres, for your visitation. It was nice sharing with you our challenges and our joys.



FR. MATTHEW KIM



FR. MICHAEL MAß

2. REGIONAL CHAPTER

After the appointment of Fr. Ivor Chaebwa as Regional Superior of Zambia in January 2024 for a second term effective 2nd February 2024 by the General Government, the Region of Zambia held the Regional Chapter at Kasembo Farm from 30th January to 1st of February 2024. The Chapter discussed many issues that pertain to our solidarity in the Unit. In the same Chapter the following Regional Councillors were elected:

- Fr. Lewis Watuka (Regional Vicar)
- Fr. Simfukwe Timothy
- Fr. Charles Malamba



3. LEAVING FOR ROME

Fr. Stephen Chikwanda, as a member of the Post-Capitular Commission will be leaving for Rome for a post-Capitular Commission meeting which will be held at the Generalate House from the 15th April to 19th April 2024.

4. CMM ASSOCIATES

Fr. Lewis Watuka and Fr. Willard Chishimba have been tasked with the work of spearheading the formation of “CMM Associates” or “Friends of Mariannhill”. If you have in your corner lay people with interest in the work and life of the Missionaries of Mariannhill of Zambia, please get in touch with Fr. Lewis Watuka and Fr. Willard Chishimba.



5. ASPIRANCY PROGRAM

The Aspirancy program for this year has officially commenced with 10 students, consisting of 3 Nigerians, 2 Malawians and 5 Zambians. The following are their names:

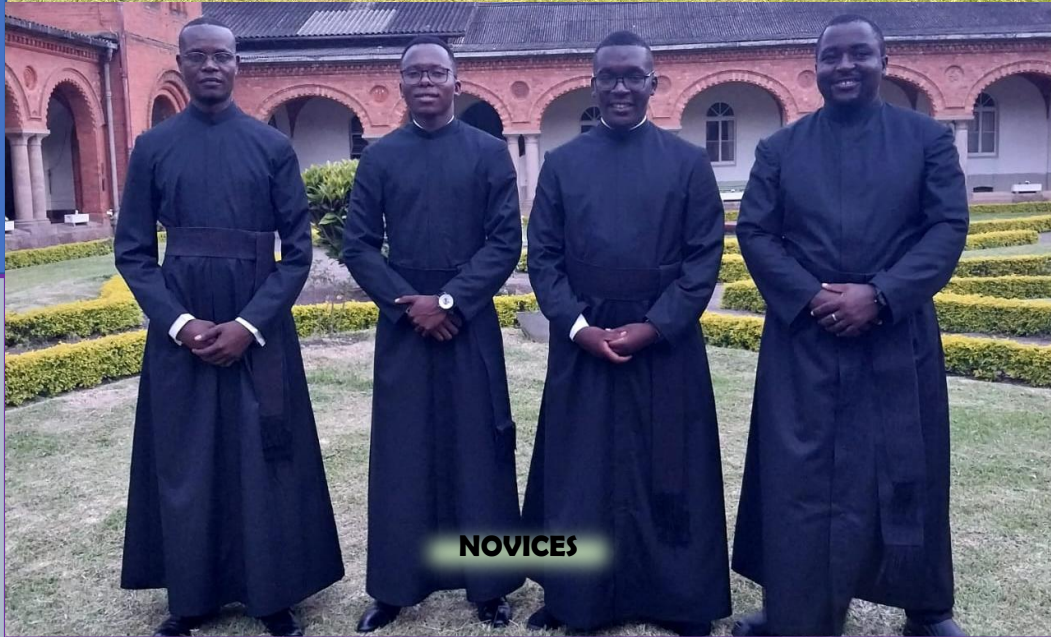
1. Francis Kafula (Zambian)
2. Frank Phiri (Zambian)
3. Happy Musonda (Zambian)
4. Moses Kombe (Zambian)
5. Festus Mwansa (Zambian)
6. Elueke Justin Chikwado (Nigerian)
7. John Oguegbulu Chinonso (Nigerian)
8. Samuel Chikwuebuka Nwefo (Nigerian)
9. Hopeson Paul Zulu (Malawian)
10. Peter Samuel Tembo (Malawian)



6. CANDIDACY PROGRAM

Blessed Engelmar House of Formation has 16 Candidates who are studying Philosophy at St. Bonaventure University. These are:

1. Chrispin Chama (1st Year)
2. Derrick Mateyo Mabulosi (1st Year)
3. Frank Banda (1st Year)
4. Holla Howard Leston (1st Year)
5. Emmanuel Mwakalinga (1st Year)
6. Peter Chomba (1st Year)
7. Charles Besa (2nd Year)
8. Bupe Mukuka (2nd Year)
9. John Katongo (2nd Year)
10. William Lukwesa (2nd Year)
11. Markford Lesa (2nd Year)
12. Lazarus Vincent Banda (3rd Year)



7. NOVICIATE

Upon the recommendations made by Fr. Gift Luke Mulenga, the director of the Postulancy program at that time, the Regional Superior and his Council admitted Abibu Jean, Malindi Malindi, Isaac Sampa and Nelson Chanda to the Novitiate 2024.



8. FIRST PROFESSION

On 2nd of February 2024 our confrere Frt. Geoffrey Sikweza made his first profession in Mariannhill. We thank the Provincial of Mariannhill, Fr. Siyabonga Mbeje for receiving his vows. The General Government transferred Frt. Geoffrey, Sikwesa to the Region of Umthata and he is currently studying theology in Cedara. Congratulations Frt Geoffrey.

9. RENEWAL OF VOWS

Our Frts. Victor Mpundu and Peter Phiri renewed their vows at Nseluka parish. Since they could not be given visas for Germany by the German Embassy in Lusaka, they have since moved to Cedara for studies and therefore transferred to the Unit of Mariannhill. We wish them well in their new Unit.

10. PERPETUAL PROFESSION

Frts. Raphael Mubukwanu Chambula (Zambian) belonging to Umthata Unit received his final vows at the Monastery in Mariannhill (02/02/2024), whilst Frts. Steven Banda and Patrick Mangoma belonging to the Unit of East Africa received their final vows on February 2, 2024 in East Africa, Kenya. Congratulations confreres.

11. DEACONATE ORDINATION

Fr. Fewdays Bwalya Chansa was ordained deacon at the Monastery in Mariannhill in December 15, 2023. Fr. Fewdays belongs to Mariannhill Province.



12. SILVER JUBILEE

Frs. Patrick Nkole, Ivor Chaebwa and John Chishimba celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their first profession on 2nd of February 2024 in Nseluka Parish/ Kasama.

13. KASEMBO FARM COMMUNITY

Kasembo Community now consists of Fr. Derek Mwansa as Superior, Fr. Stephen Chikwanda, Fr. Abraham Mwango and Br. Horace Xhosa Kawimbe.

HOLY FAMILY OUTSTATION

After a while now, the Archbishop of Kasama, Ignatius Chama has appointed Fr. Mwango Abraham to be the assistant Priest for St. Anne Parish with particular attention to Holy Family outstation which is at Kasembo Farm.

14. PROJECTS

We as the Missionaries of Mariannhill in Zambia are engaged in social outreach projects in order to embrace the challenge of being instrumental to the transformation of humanity in our society particularly in our parishes and surrounding areas.

14.1 KASEMBO FARMS

Soon at Kasembo farm we are starting the social project of goat keeping with the intention to distribute their off spring to the women and youth groups in our parishes. Our gratitude to *Bad Abbach* for supporting this project!

We have started stumping on the Kasembo farms so that the other farm could be used for growing crops like maize, soya beans and sunflowers. Twelve hectares have so far been cleared. Gratitude to the farm manager, Fr. Mwango Abraham and his team.



14.2 MARIANHILL MISSION SCHOOL

The Mariannhill Mission School is doing fairly well. Currently it has about 400 pupils. With the increase in the demand for school space, we have built another 5 x 1 classroom block so as to accommodate double streams from Baby Class to Grade 7. We thank Bad Abbach and the Korean funders for their financial assistance in building one block (4 x 1) and another block (5x1) respectively. 2024 poses a challenge to the School Administration and staff because we have a Grade 7 classes that will be writing their final examinations. The School is working extremely hard to achieve an excellent pass rate during the 2024 Grade 7 final examinations.



SCHOOL PROJECT

Our urgent project for the school is the school hall. The school Hall will be used for all school gatherings which include assemblies, school meetings etc. The Hall will also suffice as a place where pupils will be having their lunch and also offer space for indoor games. Currently the pupils have lunch in their classrooms.

14.3 BLESSED ENGELMAR YOUTH MINISTRY

Zambian Unit started the Blessed Fr. Engelmar youth ministry which was launched last year. The youths in our six parishes are numerous and they face insurmountable challenges that have proved to be hindrances to their human, social and economic development. We encounter a lot of youth-related problems on a daily basis and therefore decided to pay closer attention to our youths in order to help in any possible way. The main aim of Blessed Engelmar Youth Ministry is to assist in the spiritual and social challenges that our youths face. It also aims at moulding the youths into good Catholic Christians and responsible citizens. Several programs have been carried out by the youths; the most recent event was their visit to an orphanage centre in Lusaka/ Makeni during the Lenten season and on the death Anniversary of Blessed Fr. Engelmar Unzeitig, who is their patron saint.



Blessed Engelmar Youths having an audience with the Superior General, Fr. Michael Maß

15. RETREAT

Gratitude to the Confreres for the good attendance during our annual retreat which was held at the Retreat Centre of the Salesian Sisters within Makeni from the 18th to the 22nd of April. On the 24th, a day after the retreat, we had a wonderful celebration of the Death Anniversary of Abbot Francis Pfanner, celebrated at Blessed Engelmar House of Formation together with our Candidates.



16. THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

This year 2024 February 2nd, our principle feast of The Presentation of the Lord was celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Nseluka where there was the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of our Confreres. The Archbishop of Kasama, Most Rev. Ignatius Chama, graced our celebration and installed the new leadership team of the Unit. We thank our priests and people of Nseluka parish for organising the feast.

17. TRANSFERS

- Fr. Abraham Mwango is now in charge of Kasembo Farm, Guest house and the shop. He has been withdrawn from Mungwi Parish where he has been working as the curate.
- Fr. Stephen Chikwanda has been transferred back to Zambia from the Unit of Umthata. He intends to establish a healing centre for substance abuse at Kasembo Farm and he has since moved to Kasembo Community.
- Br. Horace Xhosa Kawimbe has joined the community at Kasembo Farm.
- Fr. Ignatius Bwalya has been transferred from Kasembo community to Blessed Engelmar House community.
- Frt. Moyo has been transferred from Germany to the Unit of East Africa, he is currently in Zambia for a short holiday awaiting the time when universities will resume sessions in Kenya.

18. REMEMBER

To pray in gratitude for our Confreres who were pioneers of this Unit: Fr. Ivo Burkhardt in Rome who is still active, Fr. Macarius Häusler in the old age home in Mariannhill, Fr. John Bouma at St. Paul in Netherlands and Fr. Gaspard Parent in Canada. Confreres, we are grateful for what you have done for the Unit of Zambia. May the Lord reward you.

1. The 10th ordination anniversary to priesthood of Frs. Timothy Simfukwe, Gift Mulenga, Daniel Phiri and Derek Mwansa and Brian Nonde.
2. Fr. Stephen Chikwanda celebrates the Silver Jubilee of his priestly ordination on 14th August 2024. Congratulations Fr. Chikwanda. May the Lord grant you more years in His vineyard.
3. The Silver jubilee of the blessing of Blessed Engelmar House of Formation on 15th July 2024. It was blessed on 15th July 1999 by Bishop Paul Khumalo, then the Vicar of our Congregation, gratitude to the chronicles by Fr. Ivo Burkhardt.

19. BEREAVEMENTS

We send our condolences to our Confreres who have lost their relatives in the past months. Particularly for the death of Mr. Michael Mulenga, the father to Fr. Gift Mulenga who died in Kabula village in Mungwi on 22 September 2023. Our condolences also to the Units who have lost Confreres. May the souls of our departed brothers and sisters rest in eternal peace.



20. GRATITUDE

I would like to thank all the Associates and Confreres for the continued spirit of collaboration. We are grateful for you, Confreres, working in different apostolates, for your selfless commitment towards your responsibilities, and your continued hard work in the midst of all the challenges. Surely you are witnesses to our call of being Religious and Missionaries.

We are grateful for the support towards our different apostolates that comes from the General Government and Provinces and Regions of our Congregation, for the great support from our benefactors and Associates and some well-wishers. Thank you all for being part to the life of the Region of Zambia.



Fr. Ivor Chaebwa
Regional Superior