

Provinzial Pater Bheki M. Shabalala CMM aus Mariannahill, Südafrika Februar - 2018

Circular letter 01/2018 01 February 2018

Dear confreres,

Today the Church of Southern Africa celebrates the feast of Blessed Tshimangadzo Samuel Benedict Daswa, a dedicated Catholic husband, father and schoolteacher in the remote rural town of Tschitanini. He was deeply committed to Christ and he stood for faith and died for the truth. The "Missio Magazine" dared to call him the "apostle of life". When we stand for the truth and be prepared to die for it, our witness gives life. Through the intercession of Blessed Benedict Daswa, we pray for our postulants who will be received into the canonical of novitiate tonight. We pray for our novices who will proclaim their first profession tomorrow, for our brother who will dedicate himself to the Lord through perpetual profession and for our three brothers who will celebrate their golden jubilee tomorrow. The CMM Associates will also renew their commitment to the Lord and to our charism. May God richly bless us as we celebrate our principal feast and solemnity tomorrow.

1. New appointments

Fr. Sbusiso Mkhize CMM was appointed the KZN Metropolitan chaplain of the Nurses Guild. Bro. Mauricio Langa CMM was appointed Deputy Principal of St. Francis College, Mariannahill.

2. New transfers

Fr. Filipe Lenço CMM was transferred from Spain to our Unit. Welcome back my brother.

Following the new formation policy whereby the General Government assigns the newly professed confreres, Novice Ntandoyenkosi Ngwenya has been transferred to our Unit. His transfer takes effect soon after his profession tomorrow. Welcome home my brother

3. Departure of Bro. Rudibert Wiesser CMM

With great sadness we announce the departure of Bro. Rudibert Wiesser CMM who, due to ill health, will return to his sending Unit of Germany. Our sincere gratitude goes to the German Province for welcoming Bro. Rudibert with open hearts. Reimlingen has better facilities to care for Bro. Rudibert's medical needs. I sincerely thank Bro. Rudibert for his hard work, dedication and faithfulness in serving the Church of South Africa and Mariannahill Monastery for so many years. May God richly reward him! He joked with me that if and when he gets better, he will return to his beloved Mariannahill! We entrust him to the Lord our greatest healer. We thank Mater Dolorosa management and staff for taking good care of Bro. Rudibert. He will leave during the second week of February. We shall celebrate and thank Bro. Rudibert during the feast tomorrow evening.

4. World Youth Day Celebration (WYDC) in Panama

As part of our youth ministry initiative, I have appointed three confreres Frs. Mthembeni Dlamini CMM, Mthokozisi Khumalo CMM and Deacon Lindelwa Dlamini CMM to facilitate a project of fundraising for 30 youths that we can assist to attend the WYDC in Panama in 2019. I ask the confreres in the parishes to please collaborate with these confreres when they wish to engage with the youth of your parishes. They will send you the programme of their action. We appeal to you to make the business people of the places where you work aware of this initiative. Their support will be more than necessary.

5. Candidate Samkelo Ndlovu

After completing his philosophical studies at St. Joseph's Theological Institute, candidate Samkelo has not been admitted into novitiate. He left our community on the 26th January 2018. We wish him well in his future.

6. Unit Superiors and formators meeting in Bulawayo

From the 26th February 2018 to the 02nd March there will be a Unit Superiors and formators meeting in Queenpark Bulawayo. The General Government will be represented by Fr. Pastrick Chongo CMM. From our Unit Frs. Vukani Masango CMM, Mthokozisi Khumalo CMM, Sbusiso Mkhize CMM, Christopher Mashilipa CMM and the Provincial Superior Fr. Bheki Shabalala CMM. During that time Fr. Henry Kanjo CMM, the Vicar, will be in charge of the Province.

7. Prayers for the sick members of our community

I recommend to your prayers all the sick members of our families especially the brother of Fr. Donatus Ndwane CMM, the sister of Fr. Lawrence Mota CMM, the mother of Alfred Igwebuike CMM who are very ill at this present moment. May the healing hand of God touch them and restore them to life.

8. Conclusion

I wish to thank Bro. Crispin Graham CMM and Frs. Lawrence Mota CMM and Gideon Sibanda CMM for conducting the retreat for our postulants, novices and brothers. God bless you for availing yourselves for this important ministry. I thank Bro. Konrad Diethei CMM and Fr. Callistus Ngcobo CMM who always prepare music for the liturgy of our community celebrations so well. On the 02nd February 2018 the church choir of Ixopo parish and our brothers and candidates will sing for us during the solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord.

I wish all of you a blessed feast day confreres. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may we also recognise the Lord in that tiny child who will be presented to the temple on the 2nd February.

Fr. Bheki M. Shabalala CMM

Provincial Superior