

Provincial Pater Bheki M. Shabalala CMM aus Mariannahill - März 2018

Provincial Update 01/2018 19 March 2018

Dear confreres,

Today the Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph. In our history we know that St. Joseph was a trusted friend of Abbot Francis. Through his intercession, Mariannahill came to be what it is today. Even the Cathedral of Mariannahill is dedicated to him as a sign of gratitude for his trusted intercession. May St. Joseph continue to intercede for our Congregation especially its missionary task. May he also intercede for all the men of this world to be good, understanding and responsible fathers for their families. We need his intercession even more as the Church of Southern Africa celebrates the bicentenary of Her foundation in this part of the world. Our forefathers have contributed a great deal to the foundation of the Church in Southern Africa. We need to emulate them.

I write this update to fill you in on what has happened in the life of our Province recently and also to announce future important dates that need to be diarized:

#### 1. The AGM 2018 for LCCL

Leadership Conference for Consecrated Life (LCCL) for Southern Africa held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) from the 12th -16th March at eMseni Conference Centre in Johannesburg, Benoni. The theme for the AGM was "Unless we touch his wounds". This topic gave us an opportunity as leaders to explore our experience of woundedness in our role of leadership and animation. It posed questions to us as leaders how do we carry the wounds on behalf of our Congregations. We shared our experiences with one another with the aim of assisting one another to overcome the isolation involved in leadership. We were helped to identify things that we can do as leaders to express our healing role. As a conclusion we were reminded that the interior contemplative life of each member and of the community is our key source for healing and wholeness. There is an urgent need to deepen our spirituality. The LCCL is putting together all the material for the AGM and I will send it to all of you as soon as I receive it. You can use it for discussion and sharing in your communities and for personal reflection on your own woundedness.

#### 2. Sustainability of our Province

On the 9th March 2018 the Province conducted a workshop on sustainability of our Province. Mr. Patrick Vorster facilitated the workshop. It was attended by the Land and Property Board, Land Development Board, the superior of the Monastery, the Provincial bursar, the rector of Abbot Francis House and two representative students from Abbot Francis House to brainstorm on how we can fast track our efforts of realizing a self-sustainable Province. The workshop was very productive. Fr. Gideon Sibanda CMM and Bro. Tendai Gandanzara CMM were appointed as confreres responsible to evaluate our present business ventures (Mariannahill Coolock, Retreat House, Mission Press etc) and to spearhead other possible business ventures for the Province. They will also go around the Province attending Zone meetings to share their findings and to get the views of all the confreres in this matter and report to the Provincial and his council for their decisions. It is the responsibility of each confrere to participate in this crucial effort of identifying and implementing the projects that

will sustain our Province and all generations that will come after us. I am hoping that during the Provincial gathering on the 8th May 2018, we may be able to share with the confreres one concrete business idea that will assist us on sustainability.

### 3. Priestly Ordination of Deacon Humberto Fernandes CMM

For the past two months Deacon Humberto has been working in his home parish in the diocese of Nacala, North of Mozambique. He will be ordained priest in his home diocese on the 07th April 2018. His present bishop would like to ordain him before he retires at the end of April this year hence the short notice. We congratulate our confrere for this anticipated big step in his religious life. Let us remember him in our fervent prayers. The North of Mozambique is 3000 kilometres from Maputo which is 3 days drive. Representation of the Province at the ordination is being currently organized as it will cost a lot of money since the representatives may need to fly over. Deacon Humberto will be invited later this year after his priestly ordination to come and celebrate the thanksgivings mass with the community.

### 4. New appointments

a) Fr. Leonard Ndabenhle Mncwabe CMM has been appointed the parish priest of Manguzi parish. He has moved over to the Ngwavuma Vicariate as his health has greatly improved. We thank God for that.

b) Fr. Mbuso Duma CMM has been appointed the parish priest of St. Joseph's parish near Manguzi.

Both confreres reside at the Servites of Mary Community House at the Star of the Sea Mission, P.O. Box 151, Ngwanase 3973. The two new parishes have no parish houses yet but the Vicariate has a concrete plan to build the parish houses soon.

c) On the 7th April 2018 Fr. Basilio Chilequene CMM will be officially introduced as parish priest of Raisethorpe, Pietermaritzburg while Fr. Alfred Igwebuike CMM will be officially introduced as parish priest of Queensburg/Bellair on the 14th April 2018. Please remember all these confreres in your prayers as they officially begin their new pastoral ministry.

### 5. Abbot Francis Pfanner Death anniversary at Emaus

The death anniversary for the Servant of God will be held at Emaus parish on the 26th May 2018 at 8:30am. The number of pilgrims has been increasing over the years. The church is no longer able to contain all the people of God on this special day. This year the Emaus Heritage Team (EHT) has decided that a tent be hired to accommodate all the pilgrims. The pews in the church are immovable hence we shall need to hire chairs and tables as well. EHT has written to the CMM and CPS appealing for donations in order to prepare for the day. Their letter is attached to this update letter.

### 6. Please pray for:

a) Fr. Urs Fischer CMM who was recently admitted at Crompton hospital for a day after he had dizzy spells and collapsed on the night of 13th March 2018. He is recuperating at the Retreat House.

- b) Fr. Vincent Mdabe CMM who buried his grandfather Mr. Mkhuluwe Protas Cele and the brother in - law Mr. Mthokozisi Dladla last weekend. We pray for the repose of their souls.
- c) We also pray for a speedy recovery of all our sick members, family members, friends and relatives and all the confreres who are going through difficult time.

#### 7. Transfers

- a) Bro. Rudibert Wiesser CMM has been officially transferred to the Unit of Germany. We wish him well at Reimlingen.
- b) Fr. Anslemo Alfandega CMM has been transferred to our Unit. The transfer will take effect in September this year when he comes for home leave. We thank the Unit of Spain for releasing him.

#### 8. Congratulations

- a) On the 23rd March 2018 St. Joseph's Theological Institute will celebrate their 13th Graduation Ceremony. We congratulate Frt. Petardo Cachepa CMM who will receive his Bachelor degree on philosophy during the graduation ceremony.
- b) On the 11th March 2018 Frt. Owen Jimu CMM was appointed temporal formator for our students at Mariannhiil House, Matola in Mozambique.
- c) Fr. Roberto Cossa CMM has left for his studies in Rome and
- d) Deacon Humberto Fernandes is preparing for his priestly ordination in his home diocese of Nacala.

#### 9. Conclusion

I wish to remind you about the canonical visitation of our Province by our Superior General Rev. Fr. Thulani Mbuyisa CMM from the 04th April to the 15th May. Kindly revisit the proposed visitation list which was sent to you with the official letter announcing the visitation. Please demonstrate your hospitality and warmth with our general leadership who wish to acquaint themselves with our ministry and to support us in our religious vocation. Fr. General and Wenceslasu Kwindingwi CMM will arrive on the 30th March 2018 and celebrate Easter in our Unit.

On behalf of the Provincial Council I take this opportunity to wish all of you a joyful Palm Sunday and a blessed Holy Week and Easter. Through your reflection on the Passion and Death of Jesus, May your encounter the Risen Christ in your life on Easter Sunday. May you experience the new life that Christ wishes to share with each and every one of us and with the whole world.

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Fr. Bheki M. Shabalala CMM  
Provincial Superior