

CIRCULAR LETTER 01/17 15th June, 2017

Dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace, love and joy! It's been long since an official word was communicated to each one of you from this office in this manner. I hope the Lord has been guiding us in his love and that He is always blessing all of you in your various ministries. Work can be a lot at times, but I always remember you in my humble and fervent prayers and especially in the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. I too count on your spiritual and moral support that you always render to me as individuals or communities. Indeed I am grateful for that. With the grace of God upon us, we can surely do more and go an extra mile from where our human strength seems to be failing us. I trust that as we celebrate the year of the family, we shall endeavor to make this our reality as we strive to make our communities better places to leave in. In the Prayer of the Family, we are reminded about "**our commitment to love and care for one another as family**" and to let "**our love be real and deeply felt.**" May we make this our daily bread in our communities as we accompany the Christian fraternity in saying: "**...may we never give up on each other, may we never give up on our families, and may we never give up on our extraordinary gift of family**" – our Mariannahill family in Zambia.

I now share with you a few items from the Region of Zambia:

a) Welcome back home

Ø Fr. Kafula Christopher

After finishing his studies in Nairobi, Kenya, Fr Kafula has been officially transferred from East Africa back to the Unit of Zambia. He will be given a community shortly. We cordially welcome you back bakalamba.

Ø Frt. Kawimbe Horace

In May 2016, Frt. Horace started his One Year of Exclaustration. Towards the completion of this year of exclaustration, he asked to return to the community and he has since returned (24th May) and he is residing in Makeni. Welcome home Confrere.

b) Home leave

Ø Fr Gaspard Parent

From the 9th of June, Fr Gaspard Parent is on home leave in Canada. He will only return on the 20th of August, 2017.

Frts. Wilfred Salhun and Alois Gende

After finishing their third year of theology at St Dominic's Major Seminary at the end of May 2017, our two Confreres will be leaving for home holidays on the 13th of July 2017 immediately after attending the PPPP in Nairobi Kenya.

All the best Confreres and pass our warm greetings to your families and Confreres in Canada and PNG.

c) PPPP in Kenya

Our two confreres, Frs Wilfred Salhun and Alois Gende are participating in the Perpetual Profession Preparation Program taking place in Nairobi – Kenya from the 14th June to the 13th July 2017.

d) Visit by two General Councilors

From the 11th of July until the 9th August 2017, we shall receive our two General Councilors – Fr Michael Mass (the Vicar General) and Fr Wenceslaus Kwindingwi (Councilor) – on a Visit to our Unit They will take their time to visit each community as indicated in the earlier messages and time table sent through emails to each Confrere and individual communities. They will also participate in the Unit Annual Retreat at Kasisi as well as in the Regional Chapter from the 5th to the 6th of August 2017. We kindly request each community to observe and respect the timetable that has been sent to us more than a month ago now to facilitate a smooth running of the Visit by our two Confreres from Rome.

e) Regional Annual Retreat

We are kindly asking all Confreres to spare their precious time for the spiritual nourishment (retreat) for the whole Unit, which will take place at Kasisi from the 30th of July till the 4th of August 2017. Please confirm your participation as soon as possible.

f) Regional Chapter

From the 5th to 6th of August 2017, that is, following our Annual Retreat, we shall have our Regional Chapter at Kasisi Retreat Centre. The proposed agenda has been communicated to all of us through our emails and we urge each Confrere to familiarize himself with the proposed agenda.

g) Formation team meeting with the General Councilor responsible for Formation

The formation team will have a meeting on Tuesday 18th of July 2017 in Makeni with Fr. Patrick Chongo, the General Councilor responsible for Formation, as recommended by the meeting of Unit Superiors which was held in Kenya in March 2017. The meeting will start at 9:30am.

Youth Ministry Seminar

The Regional Council in consultation with some well-wishers has been organizing a Youth Ministry Seminar for some time now. The idea is to implement this ministry in places where we are found or where we work. We need to receive some basic input as facilitators if we are to run this successfully. We encourage all Confreres to take part in this seminar. Initially, this was supposed to take place from 23rd to 29th of July 2017, but due to the program of the Visit by two members of the General Council, it has been postponed to the 14th – 19th of August 2017. It will end with Thanksgiving Mass in Makeni together with our Confreres celebration their 10th Priestly Anniversary.

h) Tenth Priestly Anniversary

In April 2017, four of our confreres – Frs Ivo Chaebwa, John Chishimba, Patrick Nkole and Emmanuel Mubanga celebrated their tenth priestly anniversary in their respective communities. As a Region, we are also organizing a Thanksgiving Mass and lunch to take place at Blessed Engelmar House of Formation in Makeni –Lusaka on Saturday the 19th of August 2017. We say hearty congratulations to our four confreres and wish them all God's blessings in their respective ministries.

i) Frt Edward Matoke from East Africa

After finishing his theological studies this year in East Africa, his home Unit, Frt Edward Matoke will be in the Unit of Zambia starting from the 17th of June 2017 for the one year mission experience. He has been assigned to do his pastoral work in Mungwi Parish where he will move soon after working on his papers in Lusaka. Welcome to Zambia dear Confrere.

f) Fr Alex Chandalala

After obtaining his Visa for South Africa, Fr Alex Chandalala would be moving to Umtata Province possibly during the first week of July 2017. After finishing his home holiday this month of June, Fr Alex is expected to join the Woodlands community as we also wait for green light from Umtata Province.

g) Makeni Flats

From the beginning of this year - January 2017, with the help of the Bernard Huss Initiative (tax free loan) which we received from the General Government in December 2016, the Unit engaged a contractor to erect two semidetached flats which are intended to be put on rent so as to generate funds in line with long term self-sustainability projects for the Unit. We expect to complete everything of this project by the end of June 2017.

l) Pastoral placements

After finishing their academic year of philosophy and theology at St Bonaventure and St Dominic's respectively, our students have been assigned to do their apostolate in different communities. They will be in these communities from 12th of June till the early days of August 2017 as indicated in the assignment letters given to them and to those who are receiving them. We would like to thank Confreres of these communities for welcoming them with open hands in their respective communities. God bless you all in your ministry and all the best as you share your experience with our students.

- **Frt Abraham Mwangi** has been assigned to work in Chunga Parish - Lusaka
- **Fewdays Bwalya** and **Patrick Mangoma** have been assigned to work in Chambishi Parish – Ndola
- **Stephen Banda** and **Chewe E. Mwape** have been assigned to work in Mungwi Parish – Kasama
- **Damian Musonda** has been assigned to work in Nseluka Parish – Kasama
- **Frt Sylvester Luciano Mwatibu** and **Nathan Nkhuwa** have been Kapata Sub-Parish – Kasama

- **Frt Didier Sampungi, Lewis Chishimba, Raphael Mubukwano, Ernest Bwalya, Simon Chita** have been assigned to work at Kasembo Farms – Kasama.

m) Blessed Engelmar HOF

From the “Come and See” program that took place in March 2017, five young men were selected by the Regional Council in collaboration with the Vocation Director after submitting all the requirements as stipulated by our formation regulations. Thus, from the 1st of July 2017, Blessed Engelmar House of Formation will receive these five aspirants in readiness for their Candidacy and commencement of their first year of philosophy at St Bonaventure which will begin in mid-August 2017. The following are the ones that were selected to enter the CMM Formation House in Makeni:

- **Egypso Kabwe Kantanga** – St Francis de Sales Parish – Lusaka Archdiocese
- **Moses Linye Zulu** – Nyimba Parish – Nyimba – Chipata Diocese
- **Cletus Mwelwa** – St Nicholas Parish – Chambishi – Ndola Diocese
- **Moses Moyo** – St Paul’s Parish - Chipata Compound – Lusaka Archdiocese
- **Adam Mbwana** – St Charles Borromeo Parish – Luanshya – Ndola Diocese

n) Students:

Ø St Bonaventure University College

After the return of all the ten (10) students from their respective pastoral assigned, we shall have fifteen (15) candidates doing philosophy at St Bonaventure. Five (5) will be doing their first year in philosophy, five (5) will be doing second year and five (5) will be doing their third and last year of philosophy. We wish them all God’s blessing and the support of all the members.

Ø St Dominic’s Major Seminary

The Bernard Huss – Woodlands Community – will be having four students for theology. Two will be doing their fourth and final year, one will be doing his third year and the other one will be doing his second year.

O) Priestly Ordinations and Appointments

Ø Fr louis M Chileshe

After his priestly ordination on 4th of February 2017, in Kabwata Parish, Fr Louis has been residing and helping out at Chunga Parish as he awaits his Visa for Switzerland. After a long time of waiting, information reached our ears last week that the visa is now ready in Pretoria – South Africa. Thus Fr Louis will be travelling to Johannesburg where he will stay with Fr Ernest Kabungo as he goes to collect his visa in Pretoria. Soon after collecting his Visa, he will be travelling to his new Unit of Switzerland hopefully before the 24th of July as he will need to participate in the language course as soon as he arrives. All the best dear Confrere and we wish you God’s blessings.

Ø Frs Willard Chishimba and Gershom Mwansa

We thank the Lord for giving us yet two more young men who have offered themselves to the service of the Church as Priests in our Congregation. After their Priestly Ordination in Mungwi Parish on the 3rd of June 2017, they are on home leave and immediately afterwards they will report to their new mission stations.

Fr Willard Chishimba CMM has been assigned to work in Mungwi Parish and Fr Gershom Mwansa has been assigned to work in Kapata Sub- Parish. They will report to their respective communities on 3rd of July 2017. We congratulate you Confreres and wish you all the graces of God you need in this ministry.

Yours Sincerely,

Fr Abidon Katai Kabwe CMM