

Neues aus Mariannhill, Südafrika - Juli 2017

Circular letter 04/2017 20 July 2017

Dear confreres,

### **1. Introduction**

From the 09th – 14th July 2017 I attended the annual general meeting for Leadership Conference of Consecrated Life in Southern Africa (LCCLSA) at St. John Vianney Seminary, Pretoria. The meeting was three-fold: the first two days (10 & 11) the Religious Major Superiors met by themselves; the third and fourth (12th & 13th) day we (the religious major superiors) had a Joint Witness National Meeting with the Bishops of Southern Africa (SACBC); and the last day (14th) was reserved for the religious Congregations which still own or run schools. We also have a public primary school built on private property at Nazareth township hence I attended the meeting.

The theme for the AGM for the LCCLSA was Leadership in the Joy of the Gospel. Dr. Nontando Hadebe and Fr. Chris Townsend were the guest speakers. Dr. Hadebe spoke about the challenges of the joy of the Gospel in our context, especially in the midst of children and women abuse and the breakdown in traditional family structures. Fr. Townsend spoke about the challenges and opportunities presented by social media today coupled with ever-increasing mobile data prices which affect poor youth who cannot easily access internet and miss out on employment opportunities.

The Joint Witness meeting dealt with four topics: migration, human trafficking, racism and professional conduct. Once have received the AGM documentation I will forward the material for you. I invite you my confreres, to be vigilant against social ills that are destroying communities, thus leading to moral degeneration in our society. For instance, many children and women are physically abused and even killed on regular basis. Moreover, we are also called to work together to eradicate xenophobia and racism in our society.

### **2. Buying of a new house in Mozambique**

Following the mandate given to us by the previous Provincial Chapters, we have decided to buy a new community house in Matola, Mozambique. Sr. Argentina CPS, the Regional Superior of the CPS in Mozambique, together with their attorney are assisting us in following the necessary legal process to buy the house there in order to avoid the mistakes of the past. I thank the General Government and the Swiss Region for allowing us to use the money from the Old Fund for the People's Houses to buy a house for our confreres in Mozambique who up to now do not have a community house. They were renting with the CPS sisters for a long time until recently when we renovated the parish house in Namaacha parish where they live and work.

### **3. New appointments**

- Fr. Nkosinathi Emmanuel Dlamini CMM has been appointed acting chaplain for the CPS sisters at the Sacred Heart Home in Ixopo.

- Fr. Mathew Kim has been appointed the new director of Mariannahill Coolock House. In the meantime Fr. Sbusiso Mkhize CMM has moved to the Monastery. Fr. Sbusiso has begun his postgraduate studies in Business Management at Mancosa, Durban. In January he will begin a Spiritual direction course with the Jesuit Institute.

- Fr. Vukani Masango CMM has been appointed the chairperson of UmAfrika Board while Fr. Bheki Shabalala CMM and Bro. Mauricio Langa CMM have been appointed as members of UmAfrika Board. The two other members come from Coshela, the publishing company for the newspaper.

- Fr. Patrick Mbuso Duma CMM has been appointed as a pioneer to start our mission in Ingwavuma vicariate. We congratulate these confreres and we accompany them with our prayers in their new tasks and assignments.

#### **4. General Chapter material**

Since the return from the General Chapter 2016, the Provincial Superior together with Frs. Vukani Masango CMM and Alfred Igwebuike CMM (our two delegates) have visited Mariannahill, Mpumalanga and Ixopo Zones to share the message of the General Chapter. Merrivale Zone is still outstanding and I hope that we shall get a chance to visit them during their next meeting. In the meantime, you have also received the Chapter Mandate Booklet which gives an overview of the spirit of the General Chapter and its spirit. I ask you to reflect on this booklet and to continue to discern on it as communities and Zones. The book of the whole Documentation of the General Chapter 2016 is kept in my office, Provincial Archive, Abbot Francis House and Mozambique. If you ask the relevant authorities you will be able to study it. I have also sent you the formation directory which was approved by the General Chapter 2016.

#### **5. Spanish mission helpers**

In August 2017 we shall receive two young men from Madrid who will be visiting our Province as mission helpers and volunteers. They will spend their first months assisting at Mariannahill Monastery and Jabulani Centre after which they will move to Mariathal Mission to work and live there for the rest of their mission. I thank Fr. Mthokozisi Khumalo CMM, the parish priest, for accepting them generously in the parish.

#### **6. Silver Jubilee celebration for Abbot Francis House**

On the 28th October 2017 the house will celebrate the silver jubilee of its establishment in 1988. We also hope to have the ordination of our deacons during the same celebration. During the same period, we shall be having Fr. Patrick Chongo CMM, the General councilor in charge of formation, the formation commission and the Unit Superiors of Africa attending their respective meetings in the house. All of you are invited and welcome to the celebration.

## **7. 2017 KZN Travel and adventure show**

Through the initiative and invitation by Julia Cullinan from Durban West, the Monastery participated in 2017 KZN Travel and Adventure Show that was hosted in Durban Exhibition Centre from the 30th June to 09th July 2017. Our Repository had a stand to showcase and sell the religious articles and advertise the Monastery spiritual tours. I sincerely thank Fr. Lawrence Mota CMM, the Monastery Superior, Bro. Konrad Diethei CMM, Mrs. Maureen Du Toit, repository staff and some of our candidates for their hard work in advertising our Monastery. I hope this experience will enhance our dream of making the Monastery a tourism spiritual hub.

## **8. Welcome to Fr. Andreas Rohring CMM**

Fr. Andreas Rohring will be visiting our Province and Ingwavuma Vicariate from the 05th – 21st September 2017. During his visit he would like to visit Emaus, Mariathal, Mariannahill Coolock, Merrivale, and the Monastery workshops etc. Please open your doors to welcome our confrere.

## **9. Death of Dr. Gloria Gearing**

Dr. Gloria Gearing was called to eternal rest on the 17th July 2017. We sincerely thank her for her contribution and service especially in forming our confreres in the area of psychotherapy. Let us try to follow her legacy of hard work and dedication. The requiem mass will take place at the Monastery Church on the 27th July 2017 at 10am

## **10. Confreres on home leave and courses**

- Bro. Terence Njodzi CMM is on home leave in Zimbabwe until the end of August.
- Bro. Konrad Diethei CMM will be going on home leave from the 10th October until the 01st December.
- On the 12th July Frt. Owen Jimu CMM returned from the Preparation for Perpetual Profession Course in Kenya.

## **11 Jubilee celebration for Fr. Joseph Steger CMM**

On the 23rd July 2017 St. Michael's parish will be celebrating the golden jubilee of priestly anniversary for Fr. Joseph Steger CMM. The Holy Mass will start at 9:00am. You are all invited.

## **12. CMM Associates release the new album**

With the initiative of Fr. Lawrence Mota CMM, the CMM Associates have released a new gospel album. The title of the CD is NGINGOWAKHO JESU. The purpose of the CD is to put OUR CMM ASSOCIATES on the map thus allowing the people of God to know who are the CMM Associates, what is their responsibility in the Congregation/Church and what is their spirituality. Confreres from different parishes can assist in buying and selling the CD. It only costs R70, 00. Currently the CMM Associates from our Province are visiting the CMM Associates in Zimbabwe until the 24th July 2017. We wish them God's blessings and we thank them for their generous contributions in praying for us and for their material support.

### 13. Conclusion

As I conclude this letter allow me to draw your attention to the forthcoming Mini-World Youth Day (MWYD). This is a youth Pilgrimage for the Youth and Young Adults of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland) which was launched in 2015. The aim is to give young people a feel of what happens in the World Youth Day and to prepare them to attend the next World Youth Day, thus helping them build a stronger relationship with God. The idea came from our Bishops and they tasked the Department of Laity, Family and Life to oversee the planning and the running of the Pilgrimage.

National Youth office which is headed by our confrere Fr. Mthembeni Dlamini CMM was mandated to plan the Pilgrimage. I therefore, ask our young confreres to avail themselves to be part of this project by making their presence felt by their active participation in the event. It is a good time to showcase our charism to the young people especially since we have an active youth ministry project in the Province. We shall host the youth at the Mission centre and I ask confreres in the parishes to open their doors to welcome the youth in their parishes.

The next MWYD will be held in the Archdiocese of Durban, under the Durban Cluster (Durban Metro) from the **6th – 10th December 2017** at Durban Exhibition Centre. Prior to the actual MWYD, there will be Days in Parishes which are Mission Days. These days are planned to be hosted by three dioceses: Durban, Mariannhill and Eshowe from the **3rd – 6th December 2017**. This pilgrimage is planned for 5000 youth, young adults, clergy and religious of South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland. The office of the youth

national secretary is selling promotional pack: Caps, t-shirts and drawstring bags - all three for the prize of R150. I encourage you to buy these items and help the office promote the event. The office has got car stickers available for free. Please contact your diocesan office and Mariannhill Monastery Reception if you want to buy some of these items. For more information on the MWYD please visit their website [www.miniworldyouthday.co.za](http://www.miniworldyouthday.co.za) / the Facebook page “Mini World Youth Day 2017” to get more information on this pilgrimage.

I wish to remind you of our family feast on the 26th July 2017 as we shall be giving glory to God for our jubilarians: Frs. Joseph Steger CMM (50 years priesthood), Frs. Americo Vilanculo CMM and Bongani Duma CMM (25 years of religious profession). Fr. Duma is still on the indult of exclaustation but he remains a full member. He has asked to join the community to celebrate his silver jubilee and we have agreed to it. I look forward to see all of you next Wednesday.

Yours faithfully

Fr. Bheki M. Shabalala CMM  
Provincial Superior