

Pater Thulani Mbuyisa CMM schreibt über die Missionare von Mariannahill in Sambia
(ENGLISH)

CIRCULAR LETTER 2016-04 06 August 2016

Dear Confreres,

With gratitude to God for the fraternal love and support Fr. Patrick Chongo and I have received from you during our time as Vicar Regional and Regional Superior, respectively, I write this circular letter, my last one as Regional Superior of Zambia, to communicate a few items to you. The spirit and cooperation we have experienced in the Region fills us with hope for the future. There is life and good will among confreres in this Unit. Let us be confident therefore that God will bring to fruition the seeds of renewal that his Spirit has planted in all of us.

New Regional Superior: Fr Abidon Kabwe Katai and his new Council: **Fr Lewis Watuka – Vicar**

Fr Gaspard Parent - Councillor

Fr Gift Mulenga – Councillor

We pray that our loving Lord may bless Fr Abidon and his Council in their ministry of leadership. May our Mother Mary be their intercessor and guide and Fr Engelmar Unzeitig their inspiration.

Fr Patrick Chongo and I are presently working with Fr Abidon Kabwe closely to make sure that there is a smooth handover.

Regional House: The renovations of the Regional House which started in May this year have since been completed. Therefore from now on, the Treasurer/Bursar will reside in this house and have an office there as well. I would like to thank all confreres who have worked hard to see this project to completion especially Fr Patrick Chongo and Fr John Chishimba.

The outside cottages where the Bursar presently stays when he is in Lusaka will from now on be used as a Regional Storeroom for all confreres in/outside the Region.

Hellos and Goodbyes:

On 14 July 2016 we bade farewell to **Fathers John Bouma and Jean Bosco Ntawugashira**. A big thank you to all confreres, especially Fathers Charles Malamba and John Chishimba, Candidates, co-workers and our Associates for making this day a truly memorable one.

At the same Mass and farewell function, we officially welcomed **Fr Denis Aura** from Kenya (Karibu sana) and **Fr Didier Sampungi** from the Democratic Republic of Congo (Bienvenue). We also welcomed our new Candidates who come from four Dioceses in Zambia. They will commence their philosophical studies next week at St Bonaventure University College. We wish them well in their formation.

Fr Shadreck Phiri left Zambia last month to join other confreres at Abbot Francis House-Merrivale for studies at Cedara – St Joseph’s Theological Institute. We wish him well. He remains a member of the Region of Zambia.

Regional retreat: we would like to thank all confreres who attended the annual retreat at Kasisi in Lusaka, from 25 to 31 July 2016. Likewise special thanks to Fr Charles Mukuka OFM Conventual who was our lively retreat director. Our thanks also go to the Sisters of the Little Servants of Mary Immaculate, commonly known as the “Blue Sisters,” for hosting us in their beautiful and tranquil retreat house.

Regional Conference: the recently concluded Regional Conference (held on 30 July) deliberated on the following, to mention but two (2) items:

Kasembo Farms Business review: after studying the report presented by a business consultancy firm, the Conference opted for “option 3,” that is, restructuring Kasembo farms. The Regional Government will now engage a team of consultants who will draw up a plan which will include the financial implications of such an undertaking.

Regional House in Zingalume: following the recommendations of the property evaluators, the Conference decided to place on the market this property situated in Zingalume Compound in Lusaka for sale in its present condition.

Beatification of Fr Engelmar Unzeitig: As we all know, Fr Engelmar will be beatified in the Diocese of Würzburg on 24 September 2016. As the only Unit, so far, that has a house named after our confrere we want to mark this special and important day in our Region in order to make our confrere widely known in Zambia. Therefore, we have decided to hold a special celebration before the end of the year. Details will be communicated by the Regional Government soon. Suffice to say that we would like to invite the Archbishop of Lusaka and religious communities within the Archdiocese and beyond to join us in thanking God for the Angel of Dachau.

Meanwhile we are all invited and encouraged to take every opportunity we have to make Fr Engelmar known. Be it through homilies, talks, articles in newspapers and magazines and of course through social media. Thanks to all confreres that are already doing this. Much appreciated.

Next **Regional Council Meeting:** A joint meeting of the current Regional Council and the newly elected one will take place at Engelmar House in Makeni on **09 August 2016 at 09h00.**

Installation of the new Regional Superior: Fr Abidon Kabwe will be installed as the Regional Superior during Evening Prayers (Vespers) at **18h00** in Engelmar House, Makeni on 09 August 2016.

General/Presidential Elections in Zambia: Zambia goes to the polls on 11 August 2016 to vote for the President, MPs, and Local Government Councillors (including Mayors) as well as on the Referendum on the Bill of Rights. We pray for peace in the country and for free and fair elections.

Mini bus for Engelmar House: we would like to thank the German Province for providing the financial help to the Region to acquire a second-hand mini bus for students at Engelmar House in Makeni. Vielen Dank! Twatasha mukwai!

Departure from Zambia: Father Patrick Chongo and I will leave Zambia (Lusaka) for Italy (Rome) on 15 August 2016. Arrivederci! Siyobuye sibonane! Tizaonana! Nakalebalika!

Father Patrick Chongo and I would like to wish you confreres God's richest blessings and express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your prayers, support and words of encouragement during our term of office. In a very special way, we would like to thank the confreres who served in our Council: **Fathers Gaspard Parent, Lewis Watuka and Daniel Phiri**. We are indebted also to **Fr Isaac Mwansa**, the Regional Bursar, for his cooperation and support during this time. God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Thulani Mbuyisa CMM

Regional Superior