



**Mariannahill Zimbabwe**

**Congregation of the Missionaries of Mariannahill (CMM)  
Region of Zimbabwe**

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## *End of Year Newsletter, 2025*

Christmas Greetings confreres and friends of Mariannahill in Zimbabwe,

As we come to the end of the year 2025 we are grateful to God for the blessings we have experienced in our Unit and in our various ministries. The Jubilee year of the Universal Church helped us to experience in a more amplified way some of the aspects of our identity and spirituality as Mariannahillers. Mention can be made of the jubilee of Marian spirituality celebrated with all religious institutes and Marian guilds at our parish of our Lady of Fatima in the archdiocese of Bulawayo. The jubilee of justice and peace was also celebrated at the same venue at an archdiocesan level with our confreres involved in this ministry animating the various participants. The Jubilee of Missions also reminded us of our charism as Mariannahillers.

Other notable events in 2025 include the priestly silver jubilee of Fr. Philemon Mlilo that we celebrated with a big crowd at St. Andrews parish. We blessed a new teacher's cottage at St. Theresa Mission, Fort Rixon, together with a children's play center. This has helped our 7 teachers to have more space for their families and the play center assists the almost 100 learners to have a safe space to play and relax. For the first time St. Theresa primary school had a pass rate of 50% in 2025 and we thank our teachers and confreres who worked hard towards this. To assist the school further we have introduced computers for the learners and thanks to Mr. Elon Mask the Starlink internet service will assist our school with new learning methods and further exposure for the learners. This year also marked 10 years since we became resident at St. Theresa mission as Mariannahillers and we are grateful to Fr. Lungisani Moyo and many others who have worked at this mission.

During the course of the year we had our annual retreat at St. Mary's Shrine near Hwange. This was a homecoming for us to a place founded by our confreres which is now the life and spiritual center in the diocese of Hwange. Our visit to the grave of our confrere buried at this shrine, Br. Theophil Josko, who died in 1937, made our experience at this shrine and during the retreat even more profound.

During the course of the year several parishes and missions founded by our community and confreres celebrated their jubilees: St. John the Baptist, Nkulumane (40 years); Corpus Christi, Masunga, Botswana (25 years); St. Luke's Mission, Lupane (75 years); St. Andrew's Parish, Queenspark (75 years). We are grateful to God for the growth of faith in these places and for our congregation's contribution in the Mission of God.

During the course of the year we had several transfers within our Unit: Fr. George Vurayayi as the new priest in charge at Christ the King Parish, Hillside; Fr. Lovemore Makore as formator in Harare; Fr. Thomas Sadya as Unit Treasurer and priest in charge at St. Andrews, Queenspark; Fr. Similo Ncube as priest in charge at St. Theresa Mission, Fort Rixon; Fr. Christopher Ngwarai as priest in charge at Our Lady of Fatima, Pumula South; Fr. Louis Chileshe as assistant formator at the Bishop Adolf Schmidt House of Formation and assisting at Christ the King parish; Fr. Philemon now serving at St. Henry's, Inyathi, and Fr. Moris Daniel Msuya assisting at St. Andrews.

We are grateful to God for the vocations we continue to receive in our Unit: Providence Ndlovu who has concluded his candidacy and moves to the postulancy program together with Bhekimpilo Masuku who has just concluded his philosophy training at Arrupe Jesuit University.

One of the highlights of the past year is the bicentenary birthday celebration of the servant of God, Abbot Francis Pfanner on 20 September. Bishop Raphael Ncube from Hwange was our guest at St. Andrews parish and his knowledge and love of Abbot Francis Pfanner was inspiring for this occasion as Bongani Ndlovu and Dumisani Dube were ordained deacons and as we also received 3 new CMM associates. To top it all up Br. Roland Altmannsperger celebrated his golden jubilee as a Mariannahiller. We are grateful for such great gifts to our community and it was fitting to celebrate all of this on Abbot Francis' bicentenary because it was through the Abbot's initiative by meeting Cecil John Rhodes which led to the foundation of Triashill in Manicaland, Zimbabwe, in 1896.

We are grateful for the support and prayers we have received during this past year. As we look towards 2026 we pray that God may continue blessing our work and ministries in the Unit of Zimbabwe. 5 December 2026 will mark 50 years since the murder of Bishop Adolf Schmitt CMM, Fr. Possenti Weggarten CMM, and Sr. Maria Francis van den Berg CMM near Lupane. A delegation led by the bishop of Würzburg will grace this event in Bulawayo. We also pray that the 130 years of Mariannahill presence in Zimbabwe in 2026 will bring us many blessings and new vigor in the spirit of Abbot Francis Pfanner. May Mary whom we celebrate as the mother of God on 1 January intercede for us as we begin a new year.

The following words are attributed to Pope St. John Paul II:

“Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence.”

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*Regional Chapter*

Our Regional Chapter begins with a recollection at 9am from 28 to 30 January 2026 at Queenspark.

*Regional Superior*

As communicated in a previous letter Fr. Christopher Ngwarai has been appointed as Regional Superior in our Unit from 1 February 2026. We wish him God’s blessings in this ministry.

*Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*

We will celebrate our congregation Feast on 2 February 2026. Fr. Fikile Dlamini will be celebrating his profession silver jubilee.

*New members in our Unit.*

We are now 24 in the Unit of Zimbabwe thanks to the following: Deacon Bongani Ndlovu who arrived in the Unit in June and is based at Our Lady of the Assumption parish, Gwanda; Fr. Roy Chimbindi who arrived in November and is based at Driefontein Mission, Gweru, as one of the formators with the Bethlehem Mission Society.

*St. Augustine’s College*

Br. Thabiso Ngwenya will join the teaching staff at St. Augustine’s College at the beginning of the year. We thank Br. Gugulethu Ndlovu who is also teaching there and confreres involved in chaplaincy with the youth and teachers at this school.

*Please pray for:*

Fr. Fikile Dlamini as he begins his silver jubilee year in 2026; our two elderly confreres at Queenspark; sick confreres and family members; a successful Regional Chapter.

Wishing you a blessed 2026.

Fr. Stuart Vukayi CMM

*Regional Superior*