



CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MARIANHILL,

MTHATHA REGION

P. O. BOX 85 MTHATHA, 5100,

EASTERN- CAPE PROVINCE- SOUTH AFRICA•

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27th November 2021

Dear Confreres

1. Introduction

The fourth beast that Daniel describes in his vision is quite scary; “Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, different from the others, extraordinarily terrifying, with iron teeth and bronze claws, that ate, tore into pieces and crushed underfoot whatever remained” (Dan. 7:19). A similar beast in the form of Covid-19 is staring at us, causing panic and anxiety. We are fully aware of the devastating pain and suffering it has caused in the past year and now, it is re-emerging threatening to cause more harm and pain. We have been warned of the fourth wave that is fast gaining momentum and it is already causing panic and great worry as we approach the festive season. But as we begin the first week of Advent, we entrust ourselves into the hands of “the One of Great Age” to protect us from this beast called Covid-19. To this end, I would like to urge each one of us to take precautions and adhere to the stipulated Covid-19 protocols to protect yourself and those around you. It is an ethical duty to do so. I also urge those who have not vaccinated to consider doing so, we need to take this as a personal responsibility. Dear Confreres, please take note of the following information and updates;

2. Workshop on the protection of minors

Our planned workshop on the protection of minors finally took place on 4th October 2021. The workshop was facilitated by Sr Hermenegild Makoro CPS, a well informed and experienced woman. I am sure that all of us who attended learnt a lot about the issues around this sensitive subject. I would like to thank all those who managed to attend the workshop and encourage those who did not attend to make an effort in the future.

3. Priestly Ordination of Rev. Lauret Ipoba, CMM

We congratulate Fr Lauret Ipoba CMM for his ordination to the Priesthood on 18th October 2021 at Mariazell Mission. Both the ordination and thanksgiving Mass were beautiful and joyful celebrations. I thank all those who supported Fr Laurent with their

prayers and encouragement during his formation, especially his Formators at Abbot Francis House-Merrivale. Both the Universal Synod and the Diocesan Synod were launched at the Ordination. The theme of the Diocesan synod reads: "Service to God and Humanity, And Caring for Creation", with a quote from Jn 15:5, "Abide in me and bear much fruit".

4. Home leave

- Br Bernard Isanda CMM will be leaving for home leave in East Africa (Kenya) on the 1st December 2021. He hopes to come back during the first week of February 2022. We wish Bro Bernard a joyful and restful stay at home.
- Fr Laurent Ipoba CMM left for home leave in DRC on 17th November 2021. We expect him back early January 2022. We wish him a joyful stay at home. Enjoy your celebrations with family and friends Bawo.
- Frt Joel Bokoyo CMM left for home leave in DRC on 19th November 2021. We expect him back in the first week of January 2022. Have a restful stay at home Bawo.
- Fr Thomas Wao CMM leaves for home leave in East Africa (Kenya) on 1st December 2021 and will be back in January 2022. We wish him a restful stay at home. Enjoy your holidays Mzee.

5. Departure from the Region

Fr Francis Ngadi CMM has been transferred to the Region of East Africa. The GG has assigned him to do formation ministry. He will be leaving for East Africa on 17th December 2021. We thank Fr Ngadi for his many years of service in the Dioceses of Mthatha, Archdiocese of Cape-town and for the past two years in the Diocese of PE. He has also been the Vice-Regional Superior here in our Unit. We wish Fr Francis all the best for his new ministry and pray that the Lord may guide and strengthen him. Thank you Fr Francis for all your contributions to the Region of Mthatha.

6. Arrival

Fr Stephen Mubanga Chikwanda CMM from the Region of Zambia has been transferred to our Region of Mthatha. We thank the Region of Zambia for availing Fr Stephen to us and we welcome you to the Region of Mthatha Bawo Chikwanda and we look forward to working with you. Fr Stephen has submitted his application for the work visa and awaits the outcome. We pray that all goes well. He has already been appointed Priest in Charge of St Paul's Parish-Ngangelizwe, here in Mthatha.

7. Fr Raphael Arop CMM

Fr Raphael has been appointed Priest in Charge of St Anthony's Parish-Bedford with effect from the 1st December 2021. Fr Raphael we wish you God's guidance and blessings in your new ministry. All the best bawo!

8. Budget for 2022

The Bursar and the Finance Committee will begin working on the budget for 2022 during the month of December 2021. In this regard, I kindly ask all those who are due for home leave in 2022 to submit their names to the Bursar or Chairperson of the Finance Committee for inclusion in the budget.

9. Students

Our students have successfully completed the academic year and are back at Abbot Francis Home for holidays. We are happy to have them around and we wish them a good rest during school holidays.

10. Condolences

We express our heartfelt condolences to our candidate Serge Kuka and his family on the passing on of their mother. We ask the Lord to console and heal the wound of loss that he has created in their family. May their mother, Mrs Kuka Iboko Seraphine rest in eternal peace!

11. Conclusion

Allow me to conclude with these two points: Let us kindly remember in our daily prayers all our confreres, especially the elderly ones and our relatives who are sickly. We ask the Lord to touch their lives and strengthen them. Finally, I wish to thank each one of you Confreres for your service in the Church and in the Congregation (Region), for your cooperation and commitment. As we conclude the year, please do take some time to rest. I wish you a blessed Advent season. Together We Can!

Sincerely Yours in Christ

Fr Gideon Sibanda, CMM

Regional Superior