

# CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MARIANHILL



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08 April 2023

## Circular Letter 01/2023

### 1. Introduction

***“Let your light so shine” Matthew 5:16***

***Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness: reflecting on the last word 'light' Abbot Francis uttered before he died.***

In light of the immense challenges our country and Mariannhill Province are currently experiencing, we may be tempted to invest our energies in cursing the darkness. Abbot Francis was a man of light, hope and faith. As sons of Abbot Francis, we are called to be optimistic and hopeful religious missionaries. May the determination, resilience and zeal of Abbot Francis help us to overcome the darkness and inspire us to improve the lot of the Unit and to better the lives of the people to whom we minister.

I do believe that our challenges are not insurmountable. Faith in the Risen Lord, who is the Light of the World and the last word *'light'* uttered by Abbot Francis, constitute the basis for my hope and belief that we shall overcome the challenges. The “battery” a CMM uses to generate light and the CMM's oil to light the lamp is simply **prayer**, just to paraphrase the words of Pope Francis. Wasn't Abbot Francis a man of light and prayer? We are all encouraged to become torchbearers. Let the Light of Christ dispel the darkness of being preoccupied with discussing personalities. We need to focus on real issues affecting Mariannhill Province and propose workable solutions. *Is this little light of mine going to shine?*

### 2. New assignments in the Province

- **Fr. Henry Kanjo CMM** has been appointed Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Mission, Richmond, in the Diocese of Mariannhill. He has since commenced his ministry as Parish Priest. **Fr. Wilbard Moshi CMM** will join Fr Kanjo immediately after his ordination to the diaconate.

- **Fr. Lindelwa Dlamini CMM** has been appointed Parish Priest of Bellair-Queenburgh Parish in the Archdiocese of Durban. He will commence his new ministry on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2023. **Rev. Deacon Otieno Peter Otieno CMM** will be appointed Assistant Parish Priest of the Parish of Bellair-Queenburgh after his priestly ordination.
- **Fr. Jeremy Dube CMM** has been appointed Parish Priest of St. Kizito Parish, Kamhlushwa, in the Diocese of Witbank. He will commence his new ministry as Parish Priest on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2023.
- **Fr. John Omalla Maseno CMM** has been appointed Parish Priest of Immaculate Conception, Manguzi, in the Apostolic Vicariate of Ingwavuma. Fr. John has since started his new ministry at Manguzi. **Fr. Martin Tapera CMM** will join Fr. John immediately after his diaconate ordination.
- **Fr. Sbusiso Velemseni Mkhize CMM** has been appointed Parish Priest of the Paraclete Parish, Mbizana, in the Diocese of Kokstad. **Fr. Manuel Leopoldo CMM** has been appointed Assistant Parish Priest of the Paraclete Parish. **Rt. Rev. Bishop Thulani Mbuyisa CMM** invited the Congregation to the Diocese of Kokstad. As a Province, we are grateful to Bishop Mbuyisa for opening his doors to our Confreres to work in his diocese. Our Congregation has a historical involvement in the very foundations of the Diocese of Kokstad. As such, this invitation signals a 'return of Mariannahill to Kokstad' to continue the missionary tasks started by our forefathers. We sincerely thank our two Confreres for their availability to be sent. It really confirms that "our mission territory is the kingdom of God, and that has no boundaries."
- **Fr. Skhumbuzo Cyril Ngubane CMM** has been assigned to work in the Diocese of Queenstown. He is expected to begin his pastoral duties on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. While we wish Fr. Skhumbuzo a success in his pastoral endeavours, our gratitude goes to Bishop Vanqa for welcoming our Confrere to his Diocese.

### 3. New appointments in the Province

- **Fr. Gino Bembele CMM** has been appointed Director of Mariannahill Coolock. He is already exercising his ministry at Mariannahill Coolock. Thank you, Fr. Gino, for your spirit of openness and readiness to serve the Congregation.
- **Fr. Ernest Kabungo CMM** has been appointed an Additional Formator at Abbot Francis House, Merrivale. Special thanks goes to Fr. Ernest for his availability to serve our Congregation in this important ministry. He is currently on home leave in Zambia and is expected to join the formation team in June when returns.
- **Fr. Anselmo Alfandega CMM** has been appointed Administrator of Mater Dolorosa. He is currently residing in Namaacha, Mozambique. He will assume his new office as soon as his work permit application process is finalised. Fr. Anselmo's availability to minister to our elderly Confreres is highly



appreciated. Please do remember and pray for our elderly Confreres at Mater Dolorosa.

- **Fr. Fernandes Humberto CMM** has been appointed Local Superior of the Community in Mozambique. He resides in Namaacha. We thank, Fr. Fernandes, for his availability and willingness to serve the community in Mozambique as a Local Superior.
- **Fr. Petardo Cachepa Alfai CMM** has been appointed Formator in Matola, Mozambique. He is already serving as Formator in Matola. Special word of gratitude goes to Fr Petardo for his availability to minister to our Confreres and Candidates as a Formator.
- **Fr Lindelwa Dlamini CMM** has been appointed to minister to the CMM Associates as the Spiritual Advisor. Thank you, Fr. Lindelwa, for accepting this important ministry to guide and advise the CMM Associates.
- **Fr. Christopher Mashilipa CMM** has been appointed Acting Coordinator of Emaus Heritage Centre. The Province is still searching for the new Coordinator of Emaus Heritage Centre. Should any Confrere be approached, kindly avail yourself for this important ministry in the Congregation.

#### 4. Transfers

- **Fr. Benedict Kimutai CMM**, Assistant Director of Novices, has been transferred from the Region of East Africa to Mariannahill Province. He arrived on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 at Mariannahill Monastery. Once again, warm welcome to Fr. Benedict.
- **Frts. Wilber Tumwesigye CMM, Serge Kuka Ngwahele CMM, Douglas Maina Nyongesa CMM and Clyde Ncube CMM** have been transferred to Mariannahill Province. A very warm welcome to our Confreres!
- **Frts. Mbongeni James Nene CMM, Lusanda Mthuli CMM and Pascoal Joaquim Wavila CMM** have been transferred from Mariannahill Province to the Region of East Africa. **Fr. Farai Pedro Joao CMM** has been transferred from Mariannahill Province to the Region of Spain. **Fr. Abreu Guilherme Pires CMM** has been transferred to the Region of Mthatha.

#### 5. Request for personnel

Due to shortage of personnel in East Africa, **Fr. Vincent Nzabandora CMM**, the **Regional Superior of East Africa**, has requested Mariannahill Province to kindly avail a Confrere or Confreres for the parish ministry in East Africa. The request has been extended to Mariannahill Province in the spirit of solidarity and collaboration. Accordingly, I appeal to you Confreres to avail yourselves for this ministry in East Africa. A Swahili language course will be offered in preparation for this ministry. I invite any volunteer in the spirit of 'if no one goes, I will go' to please come forward and contact the office of the provincial.

## 6. Ordinations

**Frts. Martin Tapera CMM and Wilbard Moshi CMM** will be ordained Deacons on Friday, 5 May 2023 at 16h00 at Mariannahill Monastery. **Rt. Rev. Bishop Thulani Mbuyisa CMM** will be the ordaining Bishop. You are cordially invited to the diaconate ordination of our two Confreres.

**Rev. Deacon Otieno Peter Otieno CMM** was supposed to be ordained to the order of Priesthood on 14 April 2023 in the Archdiocese of Kisumu in Kenya. His priestly ordination has since been rescheduled. You will be notified of the new date in due course.

## 7. Application for Studies

**Br. Bhekithemba Ngcobo CMM** applied to the Province to do a welding course. The Provincial Council granted his request to pursue his studies in this trade. As such, he has enrolled for a three-year welding course at Berea Technical College in Durban. Upon finishing his studies, Br Bhekithemba is expected to use his acquired skills and knowledge for the benefit of the Congregation.

## 8. 2023 Candidates

**Syanda Mchunu** from St. Joseph's Mission, Richmond, and **Kwanele Maxwell Ngcobo** from Oetting Mission, Hlokozi, have been admitted to candidacy.

## 9. Jubilee celebrations

We give thanks to God for the graces he has bestowed upon our Confreres who celebrate their jubilees this year. Confreres who celebrate their jubilees this year are:

1. **Fr. Skhumbuzo Cyril Ngubane - 25 years of profession**
2. **Br. Mauricio Paul Langa CMM - 25 years of profession**
3. **Fr. Melchion Bheki Shabalala CMM - 25 years of ordination**
4. **Archbishop Emeritus Paul Khumalo CMM - 50 years of ordination**
5. **Fr. Dominic Muheim CMM - 60 years of ordination**

Congratulations Confreres for your perseverance and sacrifice for all these gracious years of service.

## 10. Emaus pilgrimage

The commemoration of the death anniversary of Abbot Francis will take place on **20 May 2023** at Emaus Mission. I urge you Confreres to grace the occasion with your presence and participation in this very important pilgrimage in the life of the Congregation.

## 11. Vocations director's email address



**PLEASE NOTE:** All vocations related correspondences are to be communicated via the following email address: [mmivocations@gmail.com](mailto:mmivocations@gmail.com)

## 12. Congratulations

**Congratulations are in order to the following Confreres:**

- **Fr Mthembeni Dlamini CMM** on his reappointment to lead the training for Chaplains and Animators for Pan Africa English Speaking Countries for another year. Whenever our Confreres are elevated or recognised, the flag of our Congregation is raised high. Thank you, Fr Mthembeni, for representing our Congregation at this level.
- **Rev. Br. Tendai Gandanzara CMM**, whose election as Vicar to the Provincial Superior of Mariannahill Province, has been confirmed by the Dicastery for Consecrated Life. Thank you, Br Tendai, for your availability to carry out different tasks in Mariannahill Province and the Congregation at large. May the Spirit of God continue to guide and inspire you in this important ministry for the good of the Congregation.
- Confreres who pronounced their first and perpetual vows on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023: Thank you for your positive response to God's calling -

1. **Fr. Mbongeni James Nene CMM**
2. **Fr. Lusanda Mthuli CMM**
3. **Fr. Pascoal Joaquim Wavila CMM**
4. **Fr. Farai Pedro Joao CMM**
5. **Fr. Abreu Guilherme Pires CMM**

- Confreres who made their perpetual profession: Thank you for perpetually committing yourselves to the Congregation -

1. **Fr. Fewdays Chansa CMM**
2. **Fr. Gabriel Mutisya Maundu CMM**

- Congratulations to all our graduands on their academic achievements. The graduation took place on 10 March 2023 at Oasis Conference Centre, Howick. May God who began the good work in you bring it to completion.

### a) Post Graduate Diploma in Theology

1. **Fr. Martin Tapera CMM**
2. **Fr. Moshi Wilbard CMM**
3. **Fr. Peter Otieno CMM**

### b) Bachelor of Arts in Theology

1. **Mbulelo Khumalo CMM**
2. **Gabriel Maundu CMM**
3. **Fewdays Chansa CMM**

## c) Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

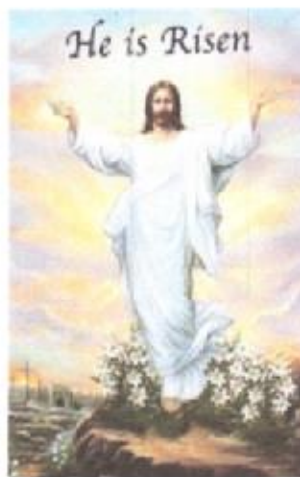
### 1. Novice Ayanda Mtolo

#### 13. Conclusion

Dear Confreres, I have been encouraged by your positive attitude and spirit of openness, cooperation and willingness to serve the Congregation. You have shown support and cooperation from the moment the new leadership team started its leadership ministry in the Province. Our consultations and engagements with Confreres in view of the new assignments and appointments have been imbued with the spirit of openness, cooperation and fraternity.

I am particularly indebted to those Confreres who accepted new assignments and appointments. Your cooperative and receptive spirit cannot go unnoticed. I sincerely thank you for availing yourselves to serve the Congregation and the people of God in different ministries. May the spirit of cooperation, sacrifice and willingness to serve the Congregation continue to permeate Mariannahill Province.

Happy and Blessed Easter!



*May the Risen Lord bring forth light, peace, hope and grace in our personal lives and the life of the Congregation and the people of God who have been entrusted to our care. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mariannahill, Blessed Father Engelmar Unzeitig and Abbot Francis Pfanner, intercede for us!*

Rev. Fr. Siyabonga Mbeje CMM  
Provincial Superior

