

CONGRATULATIONS on
religious professions

❖ **MELOTTO Giuliano**
perpetually professed on
01.11.1964

ORDINATIONS

GIACOMELLI Daniele:
24.10. 1981

RAKEKETSU Keketsi Bernard
26.10.1991



St. Gaspar Bertoni
1777 - 1853

DUMELA

Dumela

October 2007

Voice from the Vice Province
Most Holy Redeemer

Can Consecrated Life be Prophetic?

In this month of the missions we recall our primary responsibility and commitment as consecrated that we are the first and foremost prophetic missionaries. Our role is to proclaim the event of salvation through our consecrated life. We are sent to announce this event and to convey its meaning through the experience of love and passion for the Gospel.

Sometimes I am perturbed that in the eyes of most people, inside or outside of the Church, we as consecrated are simply the Church's full-time workers. Perhaps this attitude has been prompted by the historical fact that some of the socio-cultural activities such as education and health had become the monopoly of the Church. Until the recent times, anyone who wanted to work full time for the Church in the sectors of education or health would become a sister, brother or priest. But today, these sectors are filled with lay people. Can one say that consecrated life has lost its prophetic fibre?

Not by a single shot. Consecrated life is prophetic in the sense that it dares to stand up against the worldly values that most people just take for granted. It transcends the world culture of materialism and makes another world possible. Religious missionaries portray a passionate love for Christ; they transmit the Gospel in an effective and convincing manner through life of poverty, chastity and obedience. In fact they are inspired by the love of the Gospel. In the heart of every religious missionary exists a burning fire which moves one to proclaim the Lord's love. It is the same love which the prophet Jeremiah speaks about who said: "If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' there is in my heart as if were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary holding it in, and I cannot." The challenge of every missionary is to articulate this message in a way that can be understood by the world. There is no way it can be articulated except to live it in one's own life.

Each one of us is thus reminded by this month to take to heart their commitment to mission. Christ must be proclaimed, in season and out of

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER

21st Motlhokoa Sylvester
23rd Vinco Lino
31st Melotto Giuliano

NOVEMBER

03 Harry Kalonga
12 Moses Mafui
19th David Kalyosi

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season. We commend all those efforts done in small ways by our brothers and sisters to make the world a better place.

Fr. Patrick Rakeketsi
Vice Provincial Superior

COMMUNITY NEWS

BRITS – HOUSE OF FORMATION

Life as Postulants

After being asked to share on our experience as postulants or this period of probation, we had to come up with something common because each individual has his own unique experience. We try to highlight some of the important events to date, as it has been 2 months and 18 days since we were officially admitted in the community of Brits.

Initially, there were some challenges that we encountered on our arrival, more especially to adapt. We had a period of transition from a larger community to a smaller community. However, we gradually had to settle down. We had to cope with the climate, especially at the time of winter; it seemed to be longer than expected, where we were in Tanzania we had only two seasons rainy and sunny. The overall welcoming of the community by the Fathers and the faithful has been great to us and it was one that helped us to settle in. Thanks to all of them for their hospitality.

So far in our stay in Brits – Oukasie, brothers are actively and willingly involved in the various activities. We went for a week long retreat in the beginning at Haartebeesport (Good Shepherd Retreat Centre). We were directed by Fr. Josef Anthofer OMI – who is a hermit. It was inspirational and nourishment of our spiritual experiences, and to some extent it prepared us for this experience.

'Ora et Labora' is our way of life. Our spiritual exercises are combined with charitable exercise. We painted the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Jericho, both interior and exterior. This we did after realising that it needed maintenance. Apart from that we are involved in catechesis and youth ministry. The community is looking after a wide pastoral area from Brits to Kwarriekraal. There are 10 Christian communities under the care of Frs. Nel and Moses (with Fr. Benedict giving a hand for masses). To say the truth, it is not easy to do those ministries, especially with the rural parishes, though with the organisation of the formation community, we are doing that very well. There are valuable lessons that we are gaining from all this, and to be part of this is preparing us for the future missions.

We are also involved in the social activities in the community at large. Tuesdays we have the ministry with social workers to visit families where we meet cases of abuses – children abuse and women abuse – we do some child grants, children headed families, orphans and the poor. The ministry is exposing us to be aware of our surroundings and we come close to know the society we live in. Once a month we have a setting with social workers and report our cases and most interestingly we are also asked to give our personal solutions to these cases. This has taught us that we are not just doing this for ourselves but also to be at the service of the people as well as to promote the Gospel values. Like Jesus who said “I am not here to be served but to serve”. Thus we are making an effort to maintain peace and justice in the society. A drop of water into the ocean, to some it does not change anything in the ocean but it does make a difference.

We entrust that these experiences will help us to be true sons of Gaspar Bertoni.

Editor: Michael Motlhamme

Dumelang from: Agripa Jumbe, Jacobus Chakaka, Jeremiah Mkhwanazi, Koketso Magodiello, Philip Letsoara and Michael Motlhamme.

And the formation team: Frs Benedict, Nel and Moses.

INFORMATION

- ❖ **MAJOR SUPERIORS.** Meeting in Phuket – Thailand – from 22nd till 28th October 2007. We wish them all the best.
- ❖ **REMEMBRANCE OF DECEASED RELIGIOUS.** Mass will be celebrated at the Pretoria Cathedral on Monday, 5th November. The Archbishop is inviting all the clergy and religious for Mass.
- ❖ **VICE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL** will meet on the morning of 9th November 2007.
- ❖ **DIACONATE ORDINATION:** 9th November 2007 of Brothers Justin Zoukous and Marc Kassy Kemael. It will be held at Pretoria North at 17:30.
- ❖ **RECOLLECTION.** On the 13th November 2007 at Wildwoods for 9am.
- ❖ **DEANERY CLERGY MEETING.** On the 21st November at Wildwoods for 9am.
- ❖ **25th ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PREPARATION TEAM.** On the 24th November at Bethesda at 10am. All are invited.
- ❖ **GENERAL ASSEMBLY.** Assembly will be held on the 27th November 2007 at Wildwoods from 9am till 13:00.
- ❖ **MSOLWA:** Msolwa Secondary School held a Graduation Day for the Form 4 students before their final examinations. The event was graced by the presence of the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Honourable Dr. Milton Makogoro.