

INFORMATION

- ❖ **VICE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY:** 27th November 2007. This will be the last for the year. Communities are asked to contribute to the agenda circulated.
- ❖ **VICE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL:** on the 4th December 2007.
- ❖ **PRETORIA CLERGY CHRISTMAS PARTY:** will be held on the 27th December 2007 at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 12noon.
- ❖ **PLACEMENTS FOR INTERNS 2008:**
 1. Br. Leonidas Mukono: Mtoni – Dar es Salaam, supervised by Fr. Richard.
 2. Br. Samuel Kasawala: Notwane – Botswana (St. Bernadette), supervised by Fr. Frank.
 3. Br. Cephas Mubanga: Brits – St. Joseph, supervised by Fr. Nel.
 4. Br. Geoffrey Mkumbata: Pretoria North – St. Anthony, supervised by Fr. Patrick Phiri.

CONGRATULATIONS on religious professions

- ❖ **MOTLHOKOA Selepe Sylvester** perpetually professed on 12. 12. 1993

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER

- 12th Giacomelli Daniele
30th Alessandro di Tullio

ORDINATIONS

- ✓ VINCO Lino: 04.12.1966
- ✓ MABUSELA Sammy: 15.12.2001
- ✓ PHAKISI Vitalis Moji: 14.12.2002
- ✓ MATLALA Nel Sello: 21.12.2002
- ✓ PHIRI Mark: 21.12.2002
- ✓ PICCOLBONI Giancarlo: 26.12.1973



St. Gaspar Bertoni
1777 - 1853

DUMELA

Gratis Omnino

It is once again that time of the year when we recall and plead for the mercy of God on those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith or even those whose faith is known to God alone.

It is significant and necessary for us to ponder deeply all that we have been given by the generous God. If we reflect quietly and honestly, we can be almost overwhelmed by all that is ours. God has been very generous. None of the gifts has been earned. God gives all gifts freely. Even Jesus is an abundant free gift to us. So this divine generosity makes me ask myself various questions: “How generous have I been with others?”

Having been to Thailand recently, I have been hugely impressed by our Thai confreres in their response to the *tsunami* disaster. Phuket Island (especially the famous Patong Beach, which forms part of the Stigmatine pastoral area in Phuket) was one of the heavily affected areas. *Tsunami* proved to be an occasion which provoked feelings of sympathy from many people of goodwill, and our confreres were no exception and were in the forefront with various social projects of charity. Of course as good Stigmatines, they were exercising the motto of our Founder, St. Gaspar Bertoni, *gratis omnino*: giving freely without expecting anything in return. Giving freely means that we give with no strings attached, that we give without counting the cost.

We have been given freely and so we give freely. But due to human weakness we do not sometimes fulfil this transaction of giving freely after receiving freely. I, for one, still continue to struggle with my selfishness. My heart still clutches and hangs on at times.

This month reminds me to offer with a generous heart. When we remember all our confreres who have died, we offer our prayers with a joyful hope that the generous God will adhere to our petitions.

“Do not refuse a kindness to anyone who begs it, if it is in your power to perform it” (Prov. 3:27).

Compliments to Dom Joao Carlos Seneme for his nomination as Titular Bishop of Albulé and Auxiliary Bishop of Curitiba, Brazil. On the same note, compliments to Bishop Giancarlo Maria Bregantini who has been

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Dumela

November 2007

Voice from the Vice Province
Most Holy Redeemer

transferred from the Diocese of Locri-Gerace and nominated an Archbishop of Campobasso, Italy.

Condolences to the confreres in Santa Cruz Province, Brazil for the death of a permanent deacon, Bro. Romao Ruiz, who died at the age of 78.

Fr. Patrick Rakeketsi, Vice Provincial Superior

COMMUNITY NEWS

What if I would say thanks?

The Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata, with the vision of allowing its members to get closer for a better and mutual understanding on view of a good collaboration, committed itself to internationality. Many professed Brothers from Côte d'Ivoire came to the country of the great Mandela to be in touch with the South African's culture, to learn how to live in a community where other Stigmatine Brothers from different countries are living their community life, to study the English language and also master that language; and also to acquire in the seminary the necessary knowledge so to be able to evangelise the people of Africa.

It started in 1999, with Jean Kambou and Anselme Assamoi. The first fruits of that experience materialised in 2005 with the priestly ordination of those first two. Meanwhile, Brother Vitalis was attending his six month internship there in Côte d'Ivoire. Pierre Koua, Ambroise Koffi, Francois Eddo and Joseph followed the first group. Today, they are all Priests of Christ in the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata. Achille Kouassi, Christian Allouko, Marc Kassy and Justin Zoukoua who are now Deacons, will be ordained priests very soon. But, along the journey, some of the professed, Stephane Amouye and Nestor Manouan, decided for another way of life.

However, this marvellous adventure that the Lord gave us to experience according to the rules of our Venerable Founder Saint Gaspar Bertoni as from 1999 will be suspended in this year 2007. This suspension will be a time of evaluation at the level of the Provincial Curia, the Vice-Province and the Ivorian Delegation as well; an evaluation which will help to build a better direction to this experience. The internationality cannot be only a matter of the profess Brothers of Côte d'Ivoire and the Vice Province.

I give praise to God, the One who inspired and allowed this wonderful experience. My gratitude to all the Sons of Saint Gaspar Bertoni in Italy, in South Africa as well as in Côte d'Ivoire for their personal involvement for the realisation of such project. I do not want to leave out the Professed

Brothers who accepted to commit themselves for such dynamic and wonderful adventure. Therefore, I say a heartily thanks to all.

Fr. GOGO Simon Jean,
*Superior of the Stigmatine
Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire*



Diaconate of Kassy and Justin. Fr Simon-Jean on the left.

Wildwoods daily life

The community of Wildwood is happy to present some daily activities to their fellow confreres of this Vice Province and the Congregation at large. Wildwood is situated at the centre of Nina Park, a suburb of Pretoria North. We are 13 confreres all together. Three of them are Priests, others are students, studying theology. The priests are: Father Patrick, the Vice Provincial, who is also part of the community; Father Daniel, who is playing the role of the formator of the professed students; and Father Sylvester, who is the superior of the community and is in charge of Winterveldt pastoral area. The members of Wildwood community believe in the importance of prayer. In the morning we start by thanking God for the gift of the day and asking for wisdom, in the evening, we give God praises for guiding us. Normally we have our daily Mass in the morning. As students we go to school from Monday to Friday and give a lot of time to study at home. On Monday evening we normally have a community meeting, when we discuss our improvements, we share our views, and give time for planning. On Wednesday afternoon brothers have some sport while in the evening there is Holy Hour. On Friday we have Bible sharing and Saturday is a day for looking after our own beautiful community. Some are in charge of the swimming pool, some are specialising in cleaning cars, others in slaughtering rabbits, others in gardening and so on and we are really talented.

This year a lot of activities have happened in our community. And as we move towards the end of the year it is important that we recall some of the activities. We had the visit of the Provincial Superior in May. In June we happily took part in the priestly ordination of four young Stigmatines. And from our community two of our brothers committed themselves perpetually in religious life in September. Few months later they were ordained Deacons. Finally, it was with great pleasure that we recently hosted the superior of the delegation of Ivory Coast, Fr. Simon-Jean Gogo.