

INFORMATION

RECOLLECTION. The Stigmatines will be joined by the Consolata Missionaries in the recollection to be held on the 12th February 2008 at Wildwoods and will be preached by the Fr. Mario Barbero IMC of the Consolata Missionaries.

VICE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL Will be held on the 19th February 2008 at the VP Curia.

- ❖ **NORTH WEST DEANERY CLERGY MEETING.** First gathering of Pretoria clergy will be held on the 26th February at St. Charles Lwanga, where we will welcome the newly appointed dean Fr. Mathibela Sebothoma.
- ❖ **LCCL (SA).** An association of Major Superiors of Religious Congregations of Southern Africa has been granted a status of a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) by South African government. This will facilitate the association in terms of taxation and finance requirements. In the pipeline is the process of making LCCL (SA) a legal representative for the purpose of reducing burdens of immigrations and visas in the Department of Home Affairs for all the religious in South Africa.
- ❖ **CICL.** The Council of Institutes of Consecrated Life in the Archdiocese of Pretoria has organized the general assembly for the religious on the 19th April 2008 at Jolivet House at 09:00am. The theme is on the Lineamenta II in preparation for the upcoming African Synod of Bishops in Rome.
- ❖ **THE PRECIOUS PEARL.** The letter from the Father General on the reflection on the vows in the consecrated life has been dispatched to communities and each confrere is supposed to have a copy. The Vice Provincial Council will like to remind all confreres to read for their reflection and also to have it as a moment of sharing during community meetings or fraternal conversation. The theme will be deeply studied during the July conference on Stigmatine Religious Life to be held in Sezano, Italy this year.
- ❖ **CHRONICLES.** Communities are reminded to forward their 2007 chronicles to Fr. Nel or Fr. Daniel.
- ❖ **CONTRIBUTIONS TO DUMELA.** As we did in the previous year by including the community news in our newsletter we also ask confreres to share with the rest of us what is happening in their communities or ministries. Please forward your news to Fr. Nel before the 5th day of every month.

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DUMELA

"Attende Domine, et Miserere, quia peccavimus tibi"

It is once again that time in the Church Liturgical year when we observe the traditional Lenten practices – fasting, prayer and almsgiving. The Gospel insists that these practices can benefit us only if motivated by love of God rather than the desire for reward or any kind of human acclaim. Pope Benedict XVI, in his message of Lent 2008, dwells on the reflection on almsgiving, in which he reiterates that “almsgiving represents a specific way to assist those in need and, at the same time, an exercise in self-denial to free us from attachment to worldly goods. The force of attraction to material riches and just how categorical our decision must be not to make of them an idol, Jesus confirms in a resolute way.”

Lenten period reminds all of us about human sinfulness, alienation from divine goodness and the necessity to undergo a *metanoia*, a radical conversion. Thus, Ash Wednesday traditional phrase is proper: “Remember man that you are dust, and unto dust thou shall return.” We are offered an opportunity during this period to examine ourselves and evaluate our relationship with God. In the case where we have dwelt and lived in sin, we ask for forgiveness from the Almighty. The Lord is merciful to all, no matter what we have done. God hates nothing he has created, and surely he does not want those he has created – frail, vulnerable human beings that we are, to hate ourselves. The one thing God does hate (if we may use this word) is sin, not for what it does to him, but for what it does to us whom he loves. It diminishes us as persons, retards our growth in friendship with him, and frustrates our hunger for true joy and happiness. So God “overlooks” or properly put “forgives” our sins in order to bring us to repentance, to a new wholeness.

We therefore pray in this period for this wholeness, to be restored fully where we belong, to a goodness which was originally intended for humanity.

Dumela

February 2008

Voice from the Vice Province
Most Holy Redeemer

“Lord, you are merciful to all, and hate nothing you have created. You overlook the sins of men to bring them to repentance. You are the Lord our God.”

Compliments to the new novices in the Vice Province in Gaborone, Botswana: Phillip Molikoe, Jeremiah Mkhwanazi, Michael Motlhamme and Agrippa Junbe; and to the newly professed in Pretoria, South Africa: Benedict Makhata, Evans Chendæka and Pius Phala who made their first Professions on the 23rd January 2008, the Feast of the Holy Spouses.

Compliments also to the Brazilian confreres for having celebrated Postulancy (7), Novitiate (7), Temporary Professions (21) and Perpetual Professions (5) in the presence of the Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Andrea Meschi at Fazenda Santana, Brazil, on the 23rd January 2008, the Feast of the Holy Spouses.

On the sad note, condolences to the Brazilian confreres for having lost Fr. Mario Zuchetto who died at 90 years in his bed in Chacara do Vovo, on the 10th January 2008. May he rest in peace.

Fr. Patrick Rakeketi
Vice Provincial Superior

COMMUNITY NEWS

FEAST OF THE HOLY SPOUSES.



It is always an encouraging moment when we meet during the feast of our Holy Patrons under their great moment of giving one to each other. So do we join in their promises to each other by celebrating this feast by experiencing each one of us committing to God and to the rest of us. We all vow to be faithful to our vows not by ourselves but trusting in the “aid of my confreres”.

As noted by the Vice Provincial we had four (4) brothers entering the Novitiate; three (3) professing for the first time; three (3) renewing their first vows; three (3) renewing for the second time; one (1) renewing for

the third time and One (1) renewing for the fourth time. All these were flanked by confreres who also were renewing their commitment to the congregation. Indeed compliments to all.

We are looking forward to enjoy the same celebration when the students we have in our different levels of pre-novice come forward one day. 10 aspirants have joined the orientation programme, five (5) in Msolwa, Tanzania and five (5) in Brits, South Africa. Orientation programs began on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on the 2nd and 3rd of February, respectively. We wish Fr. Michael, in Msolwa, and Fr. Benedict in Brits a good period of sowing.

Communities have not changed, except that Fr. Moses has joined the community of Mmakau and Bro. Lino Bokaba also has joined the community of Mmakau, after having been transferred from Tanzania where he faithfully served for over 10 years.

Bro. Paul Tatu has joined the community of Brits. Wishing all communities good health and a vigorous witnessing.

We are in good support to all who are involved in different special ministries: Fr. Clement at Lumko Institute; Fr. Nd with the Altar Servers; Frs. Patrick and Daniel with marriage courses for engaged couples and courses for laity leadership; Fr. Angelo in Catechesis; Fr. Daniel in music and choirs; Fr. Mark with University Institutions of Medicine and Technology as chaplain; Fr. Gianni with constructions and maintenances; Fr. Moses with laity formation; and Fr. Sammy in the communication field with the Radio Ukweli in Morogoro. Building the Kingdom of God brick by brick.

To our Formation Team: Daniel, Severino, Benedict, Harrison and Michael we are in this together; be assured of our support.

We are still in contact with Fabiano, Vitalis and Mashaka (thank God for the peace resolution in Kenya after post-election violence) who are on specialization period. Good luck gentlemen.

To all confreres let us intensify the commitment we started on the 23rd January. May the Holy Spouses always inspire us to offer to God and to each other the best we are!

From the editor.