

INFORMATION

1. INS & OUTS:

- Fr. Benedict Leseteli accompanied one orientation student to Tanzania where the student will join others and will conclude his orientation there. Fr. Benedict will be back on the 29th June. He will proceed immediately to attend his on-going formators courses at Pietermaritzburg.
- Frs Anthony Mashaka and Vitalis Phakisi are on holidays after completing their first year in their specializations. However, both are on research projects: Vitalis researching from Brits (S.A) on Catechetical Initiation and Cultural Initiation; while Mashaka is researching from Dodoma, his home place on the background of anthropology (burial rites and cultural observations).
- **Morogoro.** Students who completed first year in philosophy have been send for holidays.
- 2. **RECOLLECTION.** No recollection in June, instead we will celebrate St. Gaspar Bertoni feast graced with Diaconate Ordination.
- 3. **FEAST OF ST. GASPARD BERTONI.** On the occasion of the celebration of the feast of our Founder, the Vice Province will honor the celebration with the Diaconate Ordination of the Perpetually Professed Paul Mthobeni Tatu. The celebration has been postponed to the following day, on the 13th June at 17h00. The parish community of St. Joseph, Brits will welcome the confreres and the Archbishop of Pretoria, His Grace Archbishop George Daniel.
- 4. **STIGMATINE ASSOCIATES.** In the same ceremony of the Diaconate the Stigmatine Associates will be inaugurated. A formula of commitment will be used to which they will renew that commitment annually.
- **STIGMATINE ASSOCIATES PRAYER DAY.** The prayer day will be held on the 28th June 2008 at Wildwoods.
- 5. **VICE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.** Meeting to be held on the 17th June 2008 at the VP Curia, Wildwoods.

Phones and e-mails of the Council

Curia of Vice Province: holyredeemer.curia@yahoo.com.
Tel: 012 5421263. Fax: 0866032016

Vice Provincial: +27 73 3805629 prakeketsi@yahoo.com

Vicar: +27 82 7420622 linovinco@yahoo.com

Secretary: +27 82 7825908 matlalsnel@yahoo.com

Treasurer: +27 76 6317514 daniel.giacomelli@yahoo.com

Stigmatine Website: www.stimmatini.org



St. Gaspar Bertoni
1777 - 1853

DUMELA

The Heart of the Seed, Recognizing the good of the other

Between an old wooden chest and a rusty washing machine drum, a little sunflower grew. She was surrounded by rubbish and dereliction. She was the only flower for miles around. Why the sunflower should be growing there, of all places, no one knew. The flower was often sad, and at night, she would dream of lush meadows, of fields of bright flowers, where the butterflies flew around her.

One a bedraggled little sparrow came and perched in front of her, and gazed at her, his beak hanging open. 'How beautiful you are', he chirped. 'Really beautiful.' 'I'm not,' retorted the sunflower sadly. 'You should see my sisters. They're ten times my size. I'm small and ugly.' 'For me, you're the most beautiful of them all,' piped the sparrow and flew away. The bird visited the sunflower every day from then on. And every day, the sunflower grew a little taller, and every day, her flower became a little brighter. They became friends.

But one day the sparrow didn't come. And the next day, he didn't come. The sunflower was very worried. Then the morning when she awoke, she saw the sparrow lying in front of her, his wings outstretched. What a shock he gave her. 'Are you dead, my little friend? What happened?' Slowly the bird opened his eyes. 'For the last few days, I've not found anything to eat on the waste tip. Now I haven't got any strength left. I've come to you so that I can die close to you'

'No, No!' cried the sunflower. "Wait just a moment!" she lowered her heavy flower-head towards him, and a few sunflower seeds fell to the ground. 'Pick them up, my little friend. They will give you new strength.' The sparrow cracked opens a few of the seeds with his last ounce of energy, and lay still, exhausted.

Dumela

June 2008

Voice from the Vice Province
Most Holy Redeemer

But the next day, he was already feeling stronger. He wanted to go to the sunflower and thank her, but he was devastated when he saw her. Her yellow flower petals had all gone limp, and her leaves hung down lifelessly. 'What's the matter with you, sunflower?' he chirped in distress. 'Don't be concerned for me,' said the sunflower weakly. 'My time is over. Do you know what? I always thought that my existence was meaningless, here on the waste tip. But now I know that there is a purpose in everything, even though we can't always understand it. Without you, I would have lost my will to live, and without me, you would have lost your life. And look, there are still plenty of sunflower seeds on the ground. Leave a few of them behind, and maybe one day there will be lots of sunflowers here, and lots of bedraggled sparrows will fly around them, like butterflies.'

Perhaps we need to be a sunflower and sparrow to each other in our communities.

Fr. Patrick Rakeketsi: Vice Provincial Superior

COMMUNITY NEWS: NOVITIATE COMMUNITY.



It is nearly five months since we entered the novitiate experience in Notwane, Botswana, and it is my privilege to share with you our experience so far as we say DUMELANG! The experience will focus mainly on the activities that we are engaged into; that is, both in the community and outside community. The activities that are done in the house are minimal, so to have ample time for reflection and prayer. We also help at the parish (St. Bernadette, Gaborone West) with catechesis and the choir.

In the community, we dedicate time to prayer and reflection from which we draw strength and discernment. We also receive lessons from the fathers on various subjects. For our physical well-being, we try to keep the house and the surroundings clean. Being part of the catechetical team in the parish and working with the choir gives us an opportunity to share our knowledge with others, and as well learn from them.

We are involved in a social project run by the Sisters of Charity. The project aims at giving a holistic care to the sick, elderly people and those living with HIV/AIDS. We worked in Mogoditshane (a village just outside Gaborone) for the first three months and now we are based at Mmopane. This ministry helps us to identify with the joys and sufferings of the society in which we live. It helps us to celebrate life in its various dimensions. We also give those in different challenges HOPE.

Generally speaking, we are striving tirelessly to make our novitiate the best moment of our formation. Yes, it comes with all of its ups and downs, but we keep on going, filled with love and hope. One thing we learned so far is that our coming together was the beginning, our staying together a progress, and our working together will be a success.

We would like you to pray for us, that the Lord may grant us a deep joy of religious life.

God bless you!

From:

Jeremiah T. Mkhwanazi; Agrippa H. Jumbe; Katlego P. Molikoe and Michael M. Motlhamme (Novices 2008).

STIGMATINE INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON RELIGIOUS LIFE:

The Vice Province will be represented by five confreres which will be held in Sezano, Verona, Italy from the 23rd June – 06th July 2008. The VP Superior, Fr. Patrick Rakeketsi, will be one of the presenters in the meeting. Frs. Sylvester Motlhokoa, Sammy Mabusela, David Kalyosi and Frank Phiri will participate in the meeting. Bon voyage!!

Fr. Sammy Mabusela has been granted an extended three-month stay in the Province of the Sacred Heart, Verona, Italy, where he will liaise with various missionary groups who are involved in many Stigmatine projects in Tanzania.