



St. Gaspar Bertoni
1777 - 1853

DUMELA

Voice from the Vice Province

Most Holy Redeemer

SEPTEMBER 2008

SPRING, Time to Blossom in our Faith

It is always spring in the heart that truly loves God (St John Mary Vianney)

Change of season is so natural that we may easily overlook its importance in our lives. Winter has moved on with its cold fronts, there arrives spring with its vitality and breeze of new life. Even in our lives we experience the swinging of various seasons, the winter of disinterest, demotivation and lack of energy. For us to blossom into life again, we need to come to a standstill, take stock, and rediscover the beauty of life. Any true disciple of Christ will acknowledge that to spring back to full life, the secret lies in the personal relationship with the Saviour Himself. Christ invites us to follow him, to be close to him for "by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth . . . all things were created by him and for him (Col 1:16).

Even though discipleship is not always easy, to follow Christ is to serve the Lord in and out of season; to live with mystery and to walk in faith, knowing that we are deeply loved. One outstanding and exemplary disciple who recognized this and lived it out in his life was Paul. His life was truly a great love affair, a combination of loving and being loved by the Lord, of being willing to follow in the Lord's footsteps no matter what the cost. "I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord . . ." (Phil 3:8).

To follow Jesus in discipleship then means that we, too, will be a people of great love and faith. Christ invites all his disciples to lay down their lives for others, as a great price of fulfilling the mandate of following him. We may be going over some hurdles but we are assured of some strength and protection by the Master himself.

We experience the love of Christ everyday in our lives; we encounter his power and walk in his presence on daily basis. It is time that we wake up and recognize, as Paul did, that Christ will never fail us despite our sinfulness, and proclaim: "Lord Jesus, in simple faith I return to you and ask that the awareness of your love and strength will once again fill my life."

Fr. Patrick Rakeketsi

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **IT'S SPRING TIME:
Reflection by Vice
Provincial.**
- **10th PRIESTLY
ANNIVERSARY.**
- **VISITATION OF FR.
BRUNO FACCIOTTI.**
- **CONDOLENCES.**
- **INFORMATIONS.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

10th Priestly Anniversary

On the 5th September we gathered at Wildwoods to celebrate the priestly anniversary of Frs Benedict, Fabiano and Patrick (well with the absence of Fr Fabiano who is on studies in Rome). I share with you the photos and you'll realize how entertaining it was.



Here is Fr Patrick with the Mohapi family



group of socialites!

THE VISITATION OF Fr BRUNO FACCIOTTI.

19TH SEPTEMBER – 8TH OCTOBER

As was planned since the beginning of the year that the Vicar General, Fr Bruno Facciotti will be requested to preach for the annual retreat, he has therefore accepted and is due to arrive on the 19th September. The following is the schedule foreseen during his stay with us:

- 19th September: Arrival (lunch at Pretoria North and welcoming by confreres)
Supper at Wildwoods.
- 22nd September: Study day on the Constitutions for the Temporary Professed, Novices and Postulants – 09h00 to 16h00 – at Wildwoods.
- 24th September: 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Sisters of St Brigid at Modimong, Rustenburg Diocese, South Africa.
- 25th September: Visit to Mmakau community and supper.
- 26th September: Visit to Brits community and supper.
- 27th September: Meeting with Stigmatine Associates in Wildwoods at 16h00 followed by supper.
- 28th September: Beginning of Annual Retreat at Meerhof till 3rd October 2008.
- 4th October: Final Profession of Bro. Terry Mambwe in Hebron at 10h00.
- 5th October: Eucharistic Celebration at St Therese (Mothotlung) with Fr Mark Phiri at 07h00.
- 7th October: Meeting with Vice Provincial Council at 09h00 at the VP Curia (Wildwoods).
- 8th October: Departure for Italy at 19h40.

During his stay, Fr. Bruno will also paint the chapel in Wildwoods and design the Holy Spouses. The chapel will later be dedicated to our Holy Patrons.

Re a go amogela Fr. Bruno and have a happy stay!

CONDOLENCES

Fr. TAMBALO ALBERTO

1912-2008



Fr. Alberto Tambalo was born at Palù, a small town near Verona on June 7, 1912. In the year 1924, at the age of 12, he entered our seminary at the Holy Trinity's community in Verona. He completed his novitiate in Trent in 1929 and had his first profession in 1930 and then the perpetual profession on January 23, 1934. After finished the theology, he was ordained priest in Verona on 11 July 1937.

Full of his apostolic zeal and serenity, he worked in various communities in the Northern Italian province. As a young priest, he was a curate and took care of the flourishing youth oratory in Gemona. Then he was called to Carpi (Modena) to be a secretary of Archbishop Carlo de Ferrari, a Stigmatine newly ordained bishop

He served in various communities (in chronological order); namely, as an assistant pastor in Trent, then Santa Croce parish in Rome, then an assistant in Bellizzi, as delegate pastor of a parish in Belvedere, back to Gemona and then to Pavia to be in charge of youth movement, and as member of our first community in the Holy Trinity (SS.Trinità) in Rome, founded in the early sixties

His long and important work was the rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Verona (1963-1982), where its first sanctuary was built in the city area called "Cittadella", then it was destroyed by bombing during the Second World War. After twenty years was called by superior to be in charge of our beautiful Shrine rebuilt on the Austrian fortress of San Leonardo.

It was here that it was manifested his apostolic zeal, a great administrative skill and a fervent love of our Lady. He organized pilgrims and trips to Lourdes for the sick, with the UNITALSI groups, and also the celebrations, processions, beautiful paintings, statues and stained glass that embellished this Shrine. The city of Verona finds a spiritual oasis in that place of prayer and devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary. Finally he left this task to others, because of his advance age and illness, but he always remembered as faithful "watchman" of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Lucidly until the last days of his life, he calmly accepted the suffering that the Lord has sent. On September 13, 2008 he breathed his last at the Hospital of Verona, while assisted by a confrere.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom he loved and revered so much, welcome him in her arms and accompany him to Almighty God.

The funeral will take place on next Tuesday, September 16, at 14.15, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Verona.

Rest in peace.

*Fr. Andrea Meschi
Superior General*

TUMELO EMMANUEL MOTLHOKOA

1971 – 2008

Tumelo was brother to Fr. Sylvester Motlhokoa. He passed away on the 9th September, at Mohale's Hoek, Lesotho. He was 37 years of age. Condolences to the Motlhokoa family. May his soul rest in peace.



Fr. Giuseppe Bonomi, an Italian missionary in Brazil, died on the 09th September 2008 in Ilheus. He was born in Mizzole, Verona on the 28th April 1940. Upon entering the Stigmatine Congregation, he made his First Profession in 1957, and made his Perpetual Profession in 1961. He was ordained to Priesthood in 1966. His missionary activity saw him starting in Ivory Coast, going on to Namibia and dedicating most of his life in South America. He lived and worked in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. He was well known as an explorer, with great heart and generosity to his people. May his soul rest in peace.

INFORMATIONS

ANNUAL RETREAT from 29th September to 3rd October 2008 at Good Shepherd Retreat Centre – Meerhof. Arrival is 6pm for supper. No supper for late comers.

VP Council Meeting will be held on the 7th October 2008 at the Curia from 9am, with Fr Bruno.

NEXT RECOLLECTION will be in November 2008.

PERPETUAL PROFESSION.

Brother Terry is inviting all confreres to embrace him as he takes his Perpetual Vows on the 4th October 2008 at Hebron, Sts Ann and Joachim at 10am.



HERITAGE DAY. South Africa will be celebrating heritage day on the 24th September. By the way its also called 'Braai Day' (Barbecue day). Many events are organized to celebrate this day.

ALTAR SERVERS. Fr. Nel Matlala will go with Altar servers to Freedom Park on the 27th September 2008 and Archbishop George Daniel will celebrate Eucharist at the Heroes Acre at 09h30. Almost a 1000 servers are expected to attend this event.

Fr. SAMMY MABUSELA. We welcome Fr Sammy after a short stay in Verona, Italy.

CHRONICLES. Community secretaries are reminded to send community chronicles to the Vice Provincial Secretary before sending to the Provincial and General Curias. We ask for the chronicles for the first part of 2008, i.e. January to June.

MOST HOLY REDEEMER

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