

Dear Confreres, Benefactors, relatives and friends.

Having concluded the Holy Season of Easter, our community has reason to look back on the past few but busy months with heart-felt gratitude to God the source of our being. Let us turn now to events that took place in and around our community:

Minor and Major Events: On 17 April nearly all the members of our community, young and old boarded our High-School bus and headed off to Nkandla to attend the ceremony of Sr. Sola Schaumann. In this celebration Sr. Sola Schaumann, affectionately called “Magogo” was awarded the Papal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award. This is the highest Papal award that can be conferred upon the laity, and is higher in status than the Bene Merenti award. The celebration was vibrant and well attended by local diocesan clergy, religious brothers and sisters from other dioceses, members of the Nkandla Parish, the Community with its leaders and dignitaries. Solemn Holy Mass was presided over by Rt. Rev Bishop Thaddeus Kumalo of the Diocese of Eshowe while the sermon was given by Fr Aquiline Mpanza. In his sermon Fr Mpanza (one of the senior priests of the Diocese) gave insight into the work done by Sr. Sola Schaumann for the community of Nkandla, her role in the founding of the Sizanani Centre as well as the assistance she gave the Missionary Benedictines working in that region and the Eshowe Diocese as a whole. In her address to the congregation, Sr. Ellen Lindner, (Regional Superior) highlighted that Sr. Sola, in addition to the Papal award she was receiving that day, had also received recognition from the German government in the form of the Order Of Merit Award. From 18 April to 02 May our Prior Rev John Paul Mwaniki Gutu visited our confreres in Walfrieden, Namibia. He also had the chance to meet with Archbishop Liborius Nashenda OMI of the Archdiocese of Windhoek to discuss matters concerning the station and our future work and projects there. On 18 April Fr, Gerard Lagleder OSB left for overseas on a fund-raising program in aid of the running of the Blessed Gerard Care Centre (Mandeni). He will travel to Germany, Luxemburg, Austria and France and will be away from the Blessed Gerard Centre 67 days. On 20 April we laid to rest Sr. Briggitta Hornung of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Alban. She was the oldest member of the community and had served her community through various ways, these being sacristan, tending to the garden, and even candle-making. Simple yet sharp-witted and with her memory still intact even in her old age, she will forever be remembered by her community, friends and family. The Requiem Mass presided over by Rt. Rev Bishop Joe Sandri of the Diocese of Witbank and the commendation was conducted by our Fr Cellarer Boniface Kamushishi OSB. It would be remembered that Sr. Briggita is an aunt to one of our confreres that work in Venezuela, Fr Bede Hornung who also worked for a short while in our diocese from 1965-1971 before assisting in Güigüie Venezuela.

On 24 April we had the pleasure of receiving as guests Monsignor Hugh Patrick Slattery MSC Bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Tzaneen and Fr André Bohas MSC who had come to visit the gravesite of Sr Reinolda May. These clergymen who form part of the commission working on the cause of the canonisation of Sr. Reinolda May OSB also had the chance to interview our senior confreres Fr. Leo Eireiner OSB and Bro. Ansfried Macatsch OSB concerning their experience of her life and work in Zululand.

Monks on the Move: On 15 May due to their Chaplain Fr Thomas Tshabalala OFM being in Israel, our Fr Pius Paul Gunther OSB asked to assist the Nardini sisters at Maria Ratschitz, (Dundee). Fr. Pius returned to the Abbey

on 08 June. On 23 as well as on 30 May Fr. Ambrose Mshengu OSB was asked to celebrate Holy Mass in Cassino (Nqutu). On 14 May our Rev. Fr. Prior John Paul OSB travelled to Mariathal to participate in the thanksgiving mass of Very Rev T. Mbuyisa, CMM, who is the new superior General of Marianhill Congregation (CMM). Prior Fr. John Paul and Rev. Mbuyisa both served in the Student Council at St Joseph's Theological Institute in Cedara with our Prior being Deputy President and Rev. Mbuyisa as President. The former succeeded the latter after the end of his term. From 15 May to 19 May the Eshowe Diocesan Clergy held an on-going formation workshop in our abbey with the main focus being the rite of exorcism. From 19 May to 28 May Fr Dominic Onnasseryil OSB conducted an 8 days retreat for sisters from various congregations at St. Lucia Retreat Centre. After 36 years our Br Ansfried Macatsch moved from his old place (farm Cottage) to a more convenient one in the cloister. This decision was prompted largely by his already advanced age and state of health. On 02 May Brother Bernard Pachner and our Fr Cellarer Boniface Kamushishi attended the Memorial service of Mr Peter Fell, the brother of Nardini Sister Isabel Fell held at Maria Ratschitz (Dundee). On 29 May we celebrated the 50th Birthday of the head of our community, Rev Fr Prior John Paul Mwaniki Gutu. During our lunch and after the community had sung for him, our prior was treated to a speech by one of our senior confreres Br Bernard Pachner and a gift in the form of a candle was given to him. The candle signified that he as superior should always be a light and sure sign of the presence of Christ in the community. Indeed it was also in keeping with the motto of our congregation, Lumen Caecis. On 20 May our student Br Francis Kuutondokwa received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy from The Apostles of Jesus Major Seminary. Our Br Emmanuel is still furthering his second year theological studies in Tangaza University. Both these confreres came back to Inkamana for their two months holiday. They will be going back to Kenya in August together with another of our temporary professed confrere, Br Adrian Bisika who will further his studies in Kenya as well. On 3 June Fr. Prior, Brothers Adrian, Edward, Francis, Lungelo and Clement attended the ordination to the priesthood and Diaconate at Holy Cross Cathoic Church at Emoyeni. Reverends Xolani Ndaba, Msizi Mabaso, and Thabani Zitha were ordained to the Diaconate whilst Rev Xolani Zondi was ordained to the priesthood. On June 7, we welcomed Rev. Fr Abbot emeritus Godfrey Sieber who came back from Namibia to Inkamna to renew his visa. We are happy to have him with us and his presence is greatly appreciated. He will leave again for Germany in the near future as he is part of the presenters in this year's ROX workshops. On 09 June we welcomed back Br. Vincent Ngwane our guest master from his three week holiday. We are pleased to have him with us again. On 10 June Fr. Prior John Paul, Bros Emmanuel, Francis, Clement, and Anthony attended the ordination to the priesthood of Prior Ghislain Maluvu in Subiaco Abbey, Polokwane. The returned on Sunday 11 June.

Visitors: At the beginning of Holy Week, we were pleased to receive Mr and Mrs Liebelt as guests in the Abbey, we were also pleased to receive Michael Lapperger a relative of our Abbot Emeritus Godfrey Sieber as a guest. Both he and the Liebelts participated in the celebration of the Solemn Easter Liturgy and were present at community prayers, they also were part of the confreres that travelled to Nkandla for the celebration of Sr. Sola Schaumann's award. From 04 April-08 April we once more had the pleasure of having as guests, members of the Coptic Christian Church who have since established a branch in one of our surrounding areas. On 05 June we also had the pleasure of having Fr. John Dorn MHM who did an 8 day self-directed retreat. Fr John returned on 13 June to Free-State where he currently is stationed.

We, the Inkamana Community wish all our confreres, benefactors and friends Happy Feast of The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). This Feast sums up three important confessions of our Faith. The first being that God became physically present in the person of Christ, True God and True Man. Secondly that God continues to be present in his people as they form the Mystical Body of Christ in his Church. Thirdly, the presence of God in the form of Bread and Wine is made available to us on the Altar at Holy Mass and preserved there for our nourishment and worship. During His ministry on earth, Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh". Through these words, Jesus offered his life for the sins of humanity. He chooses to be the bread knowing fully well that only bread can become part of every human fibre. The Feast of Corpus Christi holds out to us an invitation and a challenge. The question posed by this feast is, what does Holy Communion mean to us? Do we still appreciate it as much as we did when we received it for the very first time?

Warmest wishes: Prior John-Paul Mwaniki OSB and the monks of Inkamana Abbey.