

Dear Confreres, relative's friends and benefactors

Scripture tells us that more blessed is the hand that gives than receives. How pertinent to us is this assertion? As a community that depends largely on the generous donations of people for its upkeep, it calls on us to be prudent in our financial engagements and spending, as well as being humble. On the other hand we ourselves through these sacrifices are enabled to play our part and continue our work which in itself is a gift to those we serve. It is on this vein that we reiterate our heartfelt gratitude towards Fr Maurus Blommer (Missions Procurator of St. Ottilien), who through his generous efforts made it possible for us to start and complete our water harvesting project. The splendid results of his efforts are deeply appreciated.

**Events:** On 05 August, feast of St. Mary Major Basilica, our Br Polycarp Taukondjele made his final commitment to monastic life in our abbey by pronouncing his final vows. The Solemn liturgy was presided over by our Very Rev Fr Prior Administrator John-Paul Mwaniki. Taking part in the celebration were the local diocesan clergy who were concelebrants in the Holy Mass. Also present were the religious and laity from the Diocese of Eshowe and from other Dioceses, in particular: The Benedictine Sisters of Christ the King in Polokwane and our Benedictine Brothers of Subiaco Abbey also in Polokwane as well as the Benedictine Sisters of St. Alban from the Diocese of Witbank. In his Homily, Very Rev. Fr John Paul highlighted what a joy it was to be blessed with a solemn profession after an interval of 1 year, he stressed the fact that the value and importance of such an occasion is ever more accentuated by the rather gloomy, if not dire situation of vocations in the global context as evidenced in Europe and the West, and in our immediate context; South Africa. Whilst highlighting the challenges monastic life faces locally as well as globally he stressed the need to keep alive and afire the flame of hope. The flame of hope which comes from God, the same hope evidenced in the dedication and diligence of Brother Polycarp and the response he gave to God in monastic life. On this occasion, we were graced to have as guests, friends and members of the family of our Brother Polycarp and in particular Mr John Paul Taukondjele and his son. Mr John Paul Taukondjele is a senior lecturer in the University of Namibia, his presence was highly welcome and appreciated. After the Mass, guests and monks alike were treated to refreshments and a performance by the Zulu dance group Inyoni Kayiphumuli under the auspices of Br Clement Sithole OSB.

**Monks on the move:** On 06 August we bade farewell to Br Francis Kuutondokwa and Br Adrian Bisika who left to start a new term in Langata, Kenya. Both these our temporary professed confreres will commence their Theological studies programme. We wish them success in their academic endeavours. Where movements and motion are concerned, these being intrinsic and part and parcel of life, it is evident that while others depart, others likewise arrive. It is on this vein that we welcomed on this same day, the return of Fr Leo Eireiner back from his stay in Germany. He immediately resumed his much valued duties as Lead Cantor, Post Master and assistant Almoner. On 13 August our Fr Cellarer Boniface and our Br Sub-prior Kevin, attended the farewell celebration of the German Lutheran Sisters of the Christus Bruderschaft community in the Swart Mfolozi Area. Having been neighbours to our community for a long time, the friendship and fellowship we shared with this community is worth highlighting and celebrating. We wish them all of God's choicest blessings. On the same day, our Abbot emeritus Fr Godfrey Sieber as well as our Br Leonard Dlamini departed for Germany to attend the ROX (Roots Exposure) Workshop which included in its programme, visits to the various German monasteries belonging to our congregation and the Taizé Community in France. With our Rev. Fr Abbot emeritus as one of the presenters and our Br Leonard as an attendee, the workshop proved to be fruitful for both these our confreres. We were highly appreciative of the fact that Br Leonard was benevolent and diligent enough to brief the community on the developments pertaining to the programme. Rev. Fr Abbot emeritus Godfrey Sieber also wrote to us in this regard and on his

subsequent engagements in Germany. We look forward to his return to South Africa. On 14 August Fr Prior John Paul attended the Diocesan Senate Meeting in Eshowe. On 17 August we bade farewell to our Br Emmanuel Suntheni who left for Kenya to continue his Theological studies in Langata. We wish him success in his academic and scholastic endeavours. On 18 August we received a group of pilgrims from Walvis Bay, Namibia, led by our own Fr Maximilian Kolbe Jacobs who is stationed in our mission in Waldfrieden. These lodged in our abbey for a few days whilst also taking trips ever so often to the Ngome Pilgrimage site which is less than 2hrs drive away from our precincts. They also participated in our liturgical celebrations such as in the Liturgy of Hours as well as Holy Mass. They returned to Namibia on 24 August. On Wednesday 23 August our Rev Fr Prior John Paul and our Br Sub-prior Kevin departed for Tanzania to attend the Abbatial Blessing of Very Rev. Fr Abbot Pambo of Mvimwa, as well as the subsequent African Region Meeting. They both returned on 06 September. On 25 August Br Edward left for Malawi for his holiday, we do wish a restful time and look forward to having him back with us again. On 26 August our Inkamana High School Alumni Association hosted a gala evening, the purpose of which was to secure funds for the running of the school and its future. The event was graced by prominent former students of Inkamana as well as the Kwa Zulu Natal Minister of Education, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana. Various speakers including some former students spoke on various topics such as the *role of the family in society and the role of women in nation building* amongst other topical issues. Also in attendance was our school principal Mrs Isabel Steenkamp and our Fr Dominic Onasseryl who opened the evening with a prayer and Scripture reflection. On 27 August our Fr Victor Chavunga departed for Nairobi Kenya to attend a Monastic Interreligious Dialogue Meeting which took place on 01 September and concluded on 09 September. Also on 09 September, Fr Dominic Onasseryl attended the Indian Cultural festival that took place in Pietermaritzburg. We were pleased to host a Kenyan Youth Group led by Br David of PAX College in Polokwane, accompanied by Fr Maluleke of Polokwane Diocese. Fr Maluleke celebrated the weekly Thursday Mass after which our students were treated to a short skit on the victory of the cross in all sorts of troubles that may plague us. A fitting message indeed as it was the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. After discussing a few points of interests and future endeavours with our principal, they left the same day for Polokwane. On the very same day our Very Rev Fr Prior John Paul left for Durban in view of receiving word of development of his adjudicated application of permanent residency in South Africa. As it turned out, his application was successful and we express our heartfelt congratulations to him. On 15 September the proceeding day, he also had to attend the Catholic Schools Board KZN meeting held in Durban. On 16 September our Fr Cellarer Boniface Kamushishi left for St. Lucia to direct a retreat to the SOP Staff. He returned to the monastery on Tuesday 19 September. We bade farewell to Br Polycarp Taukondjele who left for Namibia on 22 September for a holiday. We hope that he will come back well reposed and ready to resume his much valued roles and duties in our community. On 23 September Inkamana High School held its annual prize-giving ceremony. This ceremony is held in honour of students who excelled academically and otherwise during the course of the year, it is also the last ceremony of this nature that our current matriculates will have attended in their high school career and therefore understandably there were a lot of tears shed as various speeches were made not only by the principal but our head prefects as well. For the rest of the school, it was the last day of the term and therefore an almost palpable air of excitement and expectancy over the short break was evident. We hope that having refreshed themselves during the short break, they will come back ready to tackle the last term of the academic year. *Warmest wishes to all our readers Fr Prior Administrator John Paul and community.*