



OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

NATAL PROVINCE

THE MOTHER PROVINCE OF THE OBLATES IN AFRICA

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OMI NATAL *Update*

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Top News

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Jubilarians 2010

This year we have six Jubilarians. We will celebrate their life and ministry at the feast of our founder on Monday 24th May at Inchanga. Tea is at 10.00 am and the Mass begins at 11.00 am. These are the Jubilarians for 2010

Diamond Jubilee of Ordination



Fr John
PATTERSON

Ordained Priest

29 June 1950

Fr John NGUBANE

Ordained Priest

8 December 1950



40th Anniversary of Ordination

Fr Allan MOSS

Ordained Priest

30 July 1970



Golden Jubilee of Religious profession



Fr Joe MONEY

First Profession

17 February 1960

Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession

First profession 25 January 1985



Fr Sylvester DAVID



Fr Alan HENRIQUES

Good News about Oblates

Installation of first Grand Chancellor SJTI



Fr Stuart BATE OMI was installed as first Grand Chancellor of St Josephs Theological Institute on 19 March 2010. He was installed by

Fr Emmanuel MOSOEU OMI, the Vice President of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate Africa Madagascar Region. The citation of appointment reads: "His main task will be to confer degrees on our graduates. This is yet another step in the task of professionalism which we have begun in recent years. This fixed term appointment of five years commences on 1st January 2010"

Most Universities use the term Chancellor for their highest official. However, in South Africa the use of this term has been restricted to state universities only. The term "Grand Chancellor" is part of the Catholic tradition and is common in a number of Catholic Higher Institutes in Europe and elsewhere. Given that the term derives from the tradition of the Catholic Church, St Josephs Theological Institute has followed St Augustine College in using this "grand" Catholic title for its highest official!

Good News about Oblates

Mthokozisi Mncwabe to be Ordained Priest

Deacon Mthokozisi MNCWABE OMI will be ordained Priest on 12 June 2010 at Kwa Kristo



Msindisi. Kwa Mashu. Bishop Barry WOOD OMI will preside the Mass which begins at 10.00 am. He will celebrate his Mass of thanksgiving on the following day, Sunday 13th of June at the same parish. The Sunday has also been designated World Cup Sunday by the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference in it Church on the ball campaign! See www.churchontheball.com

Good News about Oblates

Fr Foley on General Finance Committee

Our Provincial Treasurer Fr Peter FOLEY has been appointed to the OMI General Finance Committee. He recently attended his first meeting in Rome.

Challenges for Mission

The Woes of Travel to Europe

On his way to the General Finance committee meeting in Rome, Fr Peter FOLEY was a victim of the recent closure of airports as a result of a volcanic ash cloud over the European continent.

He arrived safely in Frankfurt from Johannesburg only to find that his ongoing flight to Rome had been cancelled. He then had to join other passengers in a long queue to get a train ticket. After some hours he finally arrived at the booking office and got a ticket to Rome. But not to the main station since those trains were already full. It was only many hours later that he arrived at an outlying station of Rome. From there he took two metro trips through early morning Rome and some twenty hours after arriving in Frankfurt he finally got to the General House and a well deserved sleep.

Fr Foley's travel woes are more than matched by the troubles faced by Fr Alan Henriques as he struggled to get back to Rome for his doctoral defence. Fr Henriques completed his doctoral studies in Church history last year and merely had to return to Rome for a two week period for the defence.

Fr Henriques had a study visa to be in Rome and a photocopy of the document was supplied to the Consulate in Durban. Unfortunately the original visa was stolen when Fr Alan was the victim of an assault and robbery in Durban. A copy of the police statement on this robbery was also given to the Consulate. However they refused to accept this and told him to get a letter from the *Ministry of the Interior* in Rome stating that he did have an entrance visa which was valid until December 2010. We asked one of the Oblates in Rome to request this letter. When he went to the "Questura" offices he was told that they do not give any kind of letter! They suggested that we get a letter from the police in Durban saying that the document has been stolen which we had already done!

So we were faced with a Kafkaesque situation that after trying all these steps to get a simple visa, one office in the Italian Foreign affairs department was requesting a document that another office in the Italian Ministry of the Interior would not give. And the interior ministry in Rome suggested that we supply a police report of the mugging which had already been refused by the consulate!

The problem was solved when the Provincial went over the desk officials and wrote a letter to the Consul explaining the situation. The visa was given the following day! And they say that travel in Africa is difficult!

Good News about Oblates

Fr Henriques a Doctor of Church History

On 3 May 2010, at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Fr Alan Henriques successfully defended his thesis. The title was "The evolution of Seminary teaching on marriage and its application to the South African scene: from 1948 until the present time" We give thanks for his success and congratulate him!

Good News about Oblate Mission

Fr Swartz to Study Canon Law

Fr Ewen Swartz has been accepted by St Pauls University, Ottawa to study for a Licentiate in Canon Law. It is the first time that the Natal Province sends someone to study at this Oblate University. Despite the very high fees we have decided that it is of paramount importance that we have an Oblate trained in Canon Law. This will improve the capacity of the Oblates to provide ministers for our Education ministry at St Josephs Theological Institute.

Fr Ewen is already a member of the Canon Law Society of South Africa and has attended the last two conferences. His Masters paper in Germany dealt with the question of the priest and his relationship with the Bishop in the new Code of Canon Law. He will leave in late August to begin his studies which will take about three years to complete. He is the eleventh Oblate from the Province to be involved in post-ordination studies since 2005. The following article explains more.

Good News about Oblate Mission

Capacity Building for the Future

Preparation for ministry at St Josephs Theological Institute and our three formation houses requires that we invest in training our men. Currently the

following Oblates are doing further studies: Overseas, Fr Alan HENRIQUES has just completed a Doctorate in Church history at the Pontifical Gregorian University. In Ireland Fr Jean Baptiste MPUNI has begun a Licentiate in Liturgy at Milltown Institute Dublin. He should complete in 2012.

However most are studying locally, Fr Sylvester DAVID is completing his Doctoral thesis in Biblical Theology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He should finish this year. Fr Neil FRANK has started a Doctorate in Philosophy at the University of KwaZulu Natal. He will spend the next two years from June researching and writing the thesis. He hopes he will complete in 2012. Fr Mxolisi NGCOBO is currently completing a Masters in Theology at St Augustine College Johannesburg and hopes to graduate this year. Fr Merlin INCE is hoping to complete a Masters in Social Science later this year.

Since 2005 the following Oblates have completed further studies to provide capacity for our ministries. In 2008, Fr Callistus KHATHALI completed a Licentiate in Moral Theology at the Alphonsianum in Rome. In 2009 Fr Sithabiso SITHOLE received a Certificate in Business Management from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Fr Mbheki NGCOBO completed a certificate in Spirituality at Tangaza College in Kenya in 2009. This year Fr Charles NABWENJE will complete a similar programme at Tangaza and will return to Zimbabwe in June.

Good News about Oblate Mission

OMI Africa Meetings

Oblate Leaders from English speaking Africa recently met at Albin Hall Congella for their biannual meeting. Matters discussed included future planning for our formation programmes, progress in the restructuring of Oblate units, the forthcoming YOMI meeting in Lusaka and financial concerns.

In May, all African Oblate leaders will meet in Lusaka Zambia together with delegates to the Chapter. The principal focus of this three day meeting will be to prepare the African Oblate contribution to the Chapter in September. Natal and Zimbabwe will be represented at that meeting by the Provincial Fr Stuart BATE, the Zimbabwe Mission superior Fr Siphon KUNENE and our delegate to the Chapter Fr Vusi MAZIBUKO. In

addition Fr Peter FOLEY will attend in his capacity as Treasurer of the OMI Africa Madagascar region.

Annual Retreats 2010

Our Annual Retreats this year will comprise a choice of having a directed retreat at the Bluff or a Preached retreat at Redacres. This year the dates are as follows

10-15 October: BLUFF

3 directors: one priest, one brother, one religious sister

17-22 October: REDACRES

Preacher: Fr Christopher Neville OFM

Both retreats begin with Supper at 6.30 on the Sunday evening and end with lunch on Friday.

To book your place:

1. E-mail admin@omi.org.za
- 2 Call Bridgette at the Provincial Office (031-2059321) between 8.30 and 4 Mon- Friday.
4. Fax your details to Fax 031-206-0270

Name:.....

Retreat Chosen
.....
(Write in Bluff or Redacres)

Your contact details:
.....

Provincial's Diary

April 2010

- 6-10th Visit to Zimbabwe
- 19 Board of Members SJTI
- 20-22nd IPC Meeting Sabon House
- 26th Council of Superiors
- 27-28th Provincial Council Meeting

May 2010

- 8-10th Consultation for new Superior St Josephs Scholasticate Cedara
- 16-20 OMI Africa Leaders Meeting Lusaka Zambia
- 23-29 OMI Association of Higher Learning Institutes Meeting Obra Poland (ash cloud permitting!)
- 24 Feast of the Founder Inchanga: Vicar Provincial Presides (if no ash cloud!)

June 2010

- 9-10 Provincial Council Meeting Congella
- 12 Ordination Mthokozisi Mncwabe OMI
- 14-19 St Augustine College Johannesburg

Dates to Give Thanks

APRIL

Date	Name	Occasion
01	D Wheatly	Birthday
06	N Nkosi	Ordination
06	B Gumede	Ordination
10	B Gumede	Birthday
24	M Dlamini	Birthday
27	V Mazibuko	Ordination
27	M Ngcobo	Ordination
27	S Dube	Ordination
27	M Ince	Ordination
27	M Madlala	Ordination
28	E Boule	Birthday
29	M Mchunu	Ordination
29	S Sithole	Birthday

May

01	T Zondi	Ordination
04	M Dlamini	Ordination
06	C Richmond	Ordination
17	V Mazibuko	Birthday
23	E Boule	Ordination
25	A Henriques	Birthday
30	C Khathali	Birthday

June

01	G Michelson	Birthday
13	M Ceruti	Ordination
13	B Wood (Bishop)	Birthday
14	J Madondo	Ordination
18	B Mwenda (Schol)	Birthday
20	C Lockyer	Birthday
20	C Lockyer	Ordination
20	Z Mbanjwa	Ordination
21	N Peters	Ordination
24	A Knott	Ordination
28	R Boyd	Ordination
28	F Duffy	First Vows
29	F Duffy	Ordination
29	P Foley	Ordination
29	J Patterson	Ordination
29	S Bate	First Vows

Errors and omissions contact the Administrative Assistant
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OMI NATAL Update

Newsletter of the Natal Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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