



# OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

NATAL PROVINCE

THE MOTHER PROVINCE OF THE OBLATES IN AFRICA

## OMI NATAL *Update*

VOL 4 No 4 August-September 2007

### Top News

RETREATS: Bluff (Directed) Oct 7-12 (4 places left); Redacres Oct 14-19 Fr Terry BARNARD  
PROVINCE UNITY Workshops on cultural diversity by Fr Noel Peters: For dates See page 4  
INSTALLATION of New President SJTI September 3

### Good News About Oblate Mission

#### Celebrations at St Michael's

Oblate scholastics dance the presentation of the Gospel at the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary



#### Father Corijn Moves To Rome

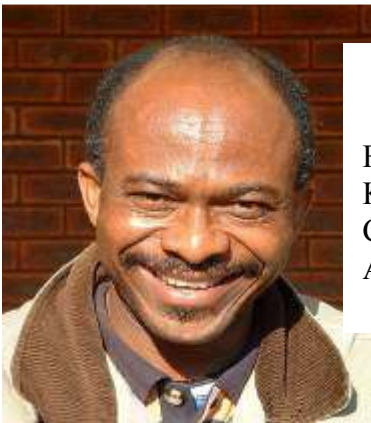


Appointed Rector of Roman College

#### Durban Youth Rally



Some of the crowds who attended the Oblate youth rally on Youth Day 16 June



#### Natal Oblate Meets Mbeki and Kabila

Fr Jean Lambert NZAJI KALALA was flown to Cape Town to meet the two African Presidents.

#### Blessed Joseph Gerard Oratory



#### Two New Priests



Fathers KNOTT and MEYIWA



New Albini Hall

#### Oblate Schools Missions Pilots at St Benedict's Johannesburg



## TOP NEWS

### **Retreats 2007 Book Now**

The annual retreats are in October. Please book as soon as possible. Only four places are left for the directed retreat at the Bluff. Redacres is bigger and so there are still places there. Details

**Bluff: 7-12 October. Directed Retreat**

**Redacres: 14-19 October.**

Preacher Father Terry BARNARD OMI

**See last page for booking form**

## TOP NEWS

### **Building Unity in the Province Follow Up Workshops**

The workshops on cultural diversity organised by Father Noel PETERS generated tremendous enthusiasm amongst members of the province.

The main concern expressed was the lack of time to share in the workshops. As a response to this request Father Peters has agreed to animate a second set of workshops. He has entitled these:

#### ***Continued Conversations on Diversity***

Given the time constraints, we have decided to limit these workshops to Oblates with an assignment to the Province. Scholastics will have an opportunity at a later time.

All workshops are from 8.30-4.00pm. Each Oblate is requested to attend only one. The venues are:

**Redacres** 11 September 8.30-4pm  
(Mainly for PMB district and Inchanga district)

**Cedara** 9 October 8.30-4pm  
(Mainly for Oblates ministering at the Institute and scholasticate)

**Bluff Durban** 13 November 8.30-4pm  
(Mainly for Durban and Inchanga districts)

## TOP NEWS

### **Installation of New President SJTI**

Father Sylvester DAVID will be installed as the third President of St Josephs Theological Institute on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 5.00 pm at Cedara. Everyone is invited to attend this great event

## Good News about Ministry

### **Celebrations at St Michaels**

Large crowds attended a wonderful feast at St Michaels mission at Ndonyane near the small town of Jolivet named after the second Vicar Apostolic of Natal Bishop Charles JOLIVET OMI. It was Saturday 2 June 2007. Bishop Dlungwane of Mariannhill diocese was the main celebrant since St Michael's mission is now in his diocese. Presiding in the Sanctuary was Cardinal Wilfrid Napier OFM Archbishop of Durban. Also present were three Oblate Bishops: Archbishop TLHAGALE of Johannesburg, Archbishop NXUMALO of Bloemfontein and Bishop RISI of Keimoes Upington. The feast was symbolic of the universality of the Church with a representation from Oblates, the founders; the Mariannahillers who were the successors of the Trappists who took up the challenge from 1890 onward; and the diocese of Mariannhill who organized the celebration. Women religious from a large number of congregations also participated in particular the *Sisters of the Precious Blood* who have worked in the mission since 1890. Oblates came from Lesotho, Congo Zimbabwe and Zambia.

In his homily Archbishop TLHAGALE paid tribute to Abbot Franz Pfanner the founder of the Mariannhill congregation whose case for beatification is currently in process. He asked the people to pray for this great grace for all the people of South Africa so that there might be a Catholic holy place in South Africa where people could pray for favours. In a strong call to faith he called upon people to choose between the Spiritual power of God and the spiritual powers of ancestors.

In his talk, the Provincial, Father Stuart BATE, emphasised that the two Oblates who came in 1855 were young priests. Father Barret was 29 and Father Gerard was 24. He called upon young priests to follow their example and never give up despite adversity and apparent lack of success. Perseverance in adversity is at the centre of the Gospel and the mission of the Church. God is working but fruits come in his time and not ours.

## Good News about People

### **Father Corijn's New Mission**

Father Dan CORIJN, OMI, outgoing President of St Josephs Theological Institute has been appointed rector of the Pontifical College of St Paul in Rome.

Father CORIJN will complete eight years of service as President of St Josephs Theological Institute in September 2007. His successor Father Sylvester DAVID OMI will be installed on 3 September.

Father CORIJN takes the place of another Oblate, Father Joseph KUZ, OMI, who has served as rector of the Pontifical College for the past 15 years. On the 15th of June 2007 the College had a fare-well celebration for Father KUZ. After thanking him for his 15 years of service, Cardinal Ivan Diaz, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, made public the appointment of the next rector. Fr CORIJN will be installed on the 25th of January 2008, the feast of the Conversion of St Paul. For the six months in between, one of the two vice-rectors will act as rector.

Whilst we will be sorry to lose Father Dan, we are nevertheless delighted that an Oblate from this province has been chosen to serve the Church in a missionary endeavour which will touch particular churches throughout the world. As we in Natal have received from missionaries coming from elsewhere so it gives us dignity to know that we can also give missionaries to the Church in need elsewhere.

The Pontifical International Missionary College 'St Paul the Apostle' was blessed on 3 December 1965 by Pope Paul VI. At the beginning it served various purposes, but from 1977 onwards it has been used as a residence for student-priests doing post-graduate studies in the ecclesiastical Roman Universities. It is a college for priests mainly from territories that are under the jurisdiction of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (formerly 'Propaganda Fide'). It can host a maximum of 190 priest-students. Presently there are 187 student priests in the college, coming from 50 countries: 95 from Asia, 76 from Africa, 10 from Latin America, 3 from Europe and 3 from Oceania.

## **Good News about Ministry**

### **Durban Youth Rally**

Youth Power is the energy that drives the youth rally events hosted by the youth committee of our province. The first of these took place on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 at Tills Crescent Sports Stadium in Overport. The event saw around 400 youth benefit from the various activities aimed at empowering our youth to take their rightful place in society. These included the opening mass,

presided over by Fr. Wayne WELDSCHIDT and the preacher being Fr. Stuart BATE. Our guest speaker for the day was the honourable MEC for public works, Mrs. Lydia Johnson, who spoke profoundly about her experience as a young person in 1976. That same spirit must be ignited in our youth to conquer the struggles that they face today.

Local artists entertained the crowd with popular repertoires of music and dance. Sports and games, slam poetry, dance burnouts as well as food and crafts booths coloured the day with a motivating and festive spirit. Representatives from SANCA (South African National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency) addressed the youth on HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. This has now initiated a relationship between SANCA and the Oblate Youth Committee, to continue raising awareness about these life-threatening issues. Many other rallies took place around the city, hosted by various other interest groups. However, the purpose of Youth Power '07 was to offer our youth an alternative to the usual obscenities and vulgarities condoned at such events. Youth Power '07 was therefore a great success in supporting the values that are seriously compromised by our society.

We hope to make this an annual event, reaching out to young people who are looking for a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives.

## **Good News about People and Mission**

### **Natal Oblate Meets Mbeki and Kabila**

A visit by South African Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka to Bergville mission led to an invitation being extended to Father Jean Lambert NZAJI KALALA OMI by the South African Government. He was invited to visit Cape Town and meet President Mbeki and President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Mlambo family has roots in the Bergville area. On the 19 May 2007 they were able to complete the ritual of honouring their dead at the Mission with Mass in the Church and an unveiling of the tombstone of their great Grandfather Alphonse Mlambo who died in 1952.

This had not been done before because the Mlambo family was one of the many who were moved away from the Bergville/Rookdale area as a result of Apartheid legislation.

The Deputy President, who is a Catholic herself, was delighted to meet the Catholic community there and was deeply interested in their projects for the upliftment of the people. One of these is the *INKANYEZI* youth leadership programme that helps youth with programmes for decision making, career guidance and leadership skills. Another is the *HLALANATHI* programme which helps women develop sewing skills. A third is the *SINETHEMBA* Advice Office which helps people with their documentation and other social welfare issues.

On the 14 June 2007, the parish Priest, Father NZAJI who is a Congolese national, was surprised to receive an invitation from the South African President Thabo Mbeki and his wife to come to Cape Town. Reflecting on his visit he writes:

*“The purpose of my visit was to meet Joseph Kabila, my President of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The South African Deputy President had [also] organized for me a forum to talk with some government ministers about possible support for our work. These included the Ministers of Water Affairs, Forestry and Social Development.”*

*“It was an honour for me to get to know some of these ministers that I used to see only on TV or hear on the radio. The meetings happened both in the passage of the parliament and also during the banquet at Tuynhuys. I had a great chance to talk with them and convey some messages about Youth, Social issues and area context. In a conversation with the Parliamentary Councillor of the President we discussed about SINETHEMBA Advice Office challenges and the way forward and he promised to pay us a visit at Rookdale very soon. It was at that time that I emphasized strongly the role and the work of the Archdiocese of Durban in implementing Advice Offices throughout the Parishes to help the people to recover their needs and rights. I was also able to share about the Youth and our interest in working closely with the Youth as Oblates of Mary Immaculate within the Natal Province.*

*“I had a time with my President Joseph Kabila during a banquet where we were able to share our views and thoughts about our country. We looked positively together to the future in order to see what should be done as a priority. We actually agreed that our country has a great potentiality that he can make use of. This is the time as he said to build a better and beautiful country where everybody is free after a long time of disorder and ups and down situation.*

*“President Mbeki was delighted to meet a Zulu speaking Congolese Priest and was excited and grateful for what has been happening in the Bergville Mission according to the report that he got from the Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka during her visit to Bergville. He showed his interest in these projects and promised to respond if necessary. He went further when he pointed out the place of the Youth in the process of new South Africa, to empower them with good skills training and to run leadership training. He also underlined the effort that we have made as Church in the work to fight HIV and Aids.*

## **Good News about Ministry**

### **Opening of Gerard Oratory and Albini Hall**

Cardinal Napier OFM was the main celebrant at the Oblate week celebrations held on 21 May 2007, the Feast of the founder. Oblate week is the week between the feast of St Eugene DE MAZENOD and the feast of Blessed Joseph GERARD on 29 May, eight days later. This week is always a week of prayer for vocations. The liturgy was organised by the Vocations committee.

This year the celebrations were particularly special as it was also the day of the opening of the oratory of Blessed Joseph Gerard and Albini Hall, both of which are part of the enlarged Sabon House facility (See pictures on page 1).

Through the intervention of His Eminence we were able to get a special indult from the Holy See to name the oratory under the title of Blessed Joseph Gerard OMI, and to promote the cult of this Oblate who was a member of this province and ordained in Pietermaritzburg in 1852 by Bishop Allard. The oratory will serve the Sabon House community. At the beginning of the celebration the indult was read and the oratory blessed by the Cardinal.

Also opened was the new Albini Hall facility which will be used as a meeting and conference centre and as the Durban site of the Oblate Youth Ministry Leadership Training Programmes which are currently being prepared.

In addition Sabon House has acquired a new dining room, kitchen and lounge. With these and its new chapel, Sabon house is now able to function on its own without depending on the Provincial House for a chapel, kitchen and dining facilities.

Most of the finances for this project were covered by the contributions of our MAMI members. About 60 MAMI promoters and leaders attended the function and the meal afterwards.

Some of the conference furnishings and audio visual equipment for the youth leadership programmes was paid for by a gift from the Irish Missionary Resource Service which has played a big role in supporting some of our youth ministry programmes.

In his homily the Provincial spoke of the life of the Venerable Charles ALBINI OMI after whom the hall is named. He is mainly known for his ministry on the island of Corsica. He was a preacher who spoke in the simple words of the daily life of the people he worked with. He had the gift of presenting sound doctrine with a simplicity of word that got through to people and roused their faith.

He had a gentle touch and was a great peacemaker and negotiator: someone who today we would say was skilled in conflict resolution.

He helped to quell the violence on the island caused by families and clans in dispute with one another. He is remembered with great affection even today by the people of that island.

He will be a noble patron for the many training events in leadership and ministry that will happen in Albin Hall.

## **Good news about Ministry**

### **Oblate Youth Ministry Pilots Schools Missions**

The Oblate youth ministry launched its schools missions programme with a five day schools mission at St Benedict's college in Johannesburg from 11-15 June.

Composed by the youth committee of our province, the programme sets out to lead young people in answering three questions: Who am I? Who is God? What do I do now? In this journey, we follow the call of our founder to help people discover who they are in the eyes of God. The structure of the schools mission is such that we spend a week at a school. We work with each grade (8-12) each day and in the evening, we conduct a session with the parents of learners from each specific grade.

Our team for St. Benedict's comprised Fr. Nkululeko MEYIWA, Fr. Mxolisi NGCOBO, Fr. Merlin INCE and Maria-Katherine Guano, a lay missionary from the Philippines. We encountered young men in circumstances quite different from what we are used to. Here they attend a private school with advanced facilities and opportunities, but yet we discovered that their needs are the same as youth from impoverished situations. They too are searching for a sense of relating to God in a personal and meaningful way, and they are looking for this relationship through the people around them: parents, siblings, teachers, friends, role-models.

The invitation to conduct this mission at St. Benedict's came from the performance of FOREVER HOME at the school in January this year. The school has a rich Oblate heritage and wanted to bring back the tradition of Oblate priests conducting youth missions at the school during the time of Fr. Hugh Dalton and Fr. Bob De Sylva. They would now like this to be an annual event. The youth committee of the province would now like to continue offering the Oblate School Mission Programme to other schools around the country.

## **Good News about People**

### **Two New Oblate Priests**

Earlier in the year Bishop Barry WOOD OMI had agreed to ordain two Oblates to the priesthood in the second quarter of the year. They were to be the new Bishop's first priestly ordinations. But an angiogram done on the Bishop in early May revealed a blockage on one side of the heart and a bypass operation was immediately carried out.

Thus it was that on May 19<sup>th</sup> Bishop William Slattery OFM of Kokstad kindly accepted to come to St Theresa's Parish at Inchanga and Nkululeko MEYIWA was ordained priest. Nkululeko is a musician and spent his regency year on a full scholarship at the University of KwaZulu Natal studying voice. At the ordination past friends and contacts from the world of music came to celebrate in what was a liturgical fusion of Classical, African traditional and gospel music. The skill with which these styles were mixed together in the liturgy showed the best of liturgical performance where the music is not allowed to dominate over the sacrament but to beautify and enhance the rite without intrusion.

Inchanga is an Old Oblate mission which has now given seven priests of which six are Oblates. But a

month later we were called to Eastwood parish in Pietermaritzburg for a very special celebration of the ordination of the first priest from this parish. He is Andrew KNOTT and he was only one year old when Father Mike FOLEY, currently Mission Superior in Zimbabwe, started the parish. Father Mike came for the event and preached at Father Andrew's mass of thanksgiving. The ordination was also a wonderful event. Not everyone was able to fit into the Church and so a TV broadcast was set up in an adjoining tent.

One more Bishop Barry was unable to attend and Bishop Eddie RISI OMI who had been novice master of Andrew kindly agreed to come to be the ordaining Bishop. This celebration was another wonderful event mixing all the cultural diversity of the Eastwood parish which comprises people from many ethnic backgrounds. One of the highlights was to see the joy on Andrew's father's face throughout. His father Ronnie is a permanent deacon ordained in 1993 and for one year Father and son shared a common diaconal ministry in the Church. On this day Knott senior rejoiced to see his son a priest of Jesus Christ in the parish he has laboured so long.

Happily Bishop Barry is now back on his feet. The operation was a success and he still looks forward to his first ordination of a Priest.

### **Good News about Ministry**

#### **Cedara Land Claim Withdrawn**

In our last update we asked you to pray for our ministries at Cedara, threatened as they were by land claims which could have led to their closure. We are now happy to report that the Land Claim on our property at Cedara has been **withdrawn** by the Regional Land Claims Commissioner of KwaZulu-Natal. This means there is no longer any claim for land restitution on our property at Cedara.

Thanks to God for this good news and particularly to St Joseph through whom prayers have been offered on a regular basis since the claim was registered.

Thanks also to Father Chris Richmond who has worked tirelessly with lawyers, the department and other stakeholders to facilitate this good news. Thanks also to Father Siphon Kunene and Father Peter Foley for their work of support and activism to prepare our case and all others who made a contribution through the Cedara Land claim committee of the province in this regard

### **Good News about Ministry:**

#### **Wentworth Seminar on Christian Manhood**

The parish of Christ the King Wentworth celebrated the gift of masculinity on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Parish priest Fr. Wayne WELDSCHIDT OMI facilitated a conference designed to help Christian men live out their masculinity in a more holistic way. 55 men attended – not bad when one considers that a major rugby match was on at the same time. A team of four speakers presented different aspects of the matter. Mrs. Fawn Daniels-Clark a Clinical Psychologist examined the psychological dimension. Mrs. Bronwynne Anderson, examined attitudes to masculinity by Coloured men. She is a Social Sciences lecturer who is doing doctoral research in this area. Mr. Jerome Schoonberg a businessman spoke on his own experiences and Fr. Sylvester DAVID OMI gave some Biblical perspectives on masculinity.

The event was well received by the men who felt empowered by Fr. WELDSCHIDT's initiative to deal with this matter of Christian manhood today and expressed the wish for more adult formation along these lines.

### **Good News about Oblate Communities**

#### **Two New Oblate Houses**

In the past, Canon Law required religious to live in canonically established houses. For missionary congregations like ours many Oblates lived alone and district communities were established as their local religious communities. The Code of 1983 introduced the requirement that "*A religious community must live in a legitimately constituted house [in domo legitime constituta] under the authority of a superior designated according to the norm of law. Each house is to have at least an oratory in which the Eucharist is to be celebrated and reserved so that it is truly the centre of the community*" (CIC 608)

In the 2000 revision of our Constitutions and Rules, constitution 77 distinguishes three ways in which Oblates live community "*in a canonically established house or in a duly constituted house with a local Superior or in a district community entrusted to a local Superior*

A "constituted" house does not have juridical personality with the resulting rights and obligations of an established house (canon 634).

In order to better conform with Canon Law and the requirements of our constitutions and rules,

two of our larger residences have been formally constituted as religious houses. These are **Sabon House** in Durban which has 10 members and **Gerard House** in Hilton which has 7 members

In the case of Sabon House, Father Siphon KUNENE becomes Superior of the House and Father Henry NIEMANN continues as 1<sup>st</sup> assistant.

In the case of Gerard House it was necessary to have a consultation to appoint a superior since the Director Father CORIJN was to leave the community by the end of the year. As a result of the consultation the following appointments have been made effective from 1 September 2007.

Superior: Father Zaba MBANJWA  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant: Father Mokone RATHOKOA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant and Treasurer  
Father Neil FRANK

### **Good News about Ministry Vocations Workshop at Cleland**

On the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July the Vocations committee held a vocation's workshop at Cleland Pre-Novitiate. The workshop was prepared by the vocation's director of the province Fr. Mxolisi NGCOBO and the director of the pre-novitiate Fr. Mhlanganisi DLAMINI. About twenty young men from the various parts of the Kwa Zulu Natal province participated. They were all young men who have shown interest in the life of the Oblate Missionary Congregation, and are in contact with the vocations director.

The program at the workshop included various inputs on Human Development (Human Identity), Oblate Life and History. The latter included an overview on the history of the Oblate Congregation and the apostolate of the Missionary Oblates present in Natal. Another session focused on the Diversity of Priestly Vocation, in which we invite a number of other congregations, as well as diocesan clergy to give their own input and explanation on other charisms. Participants lived a daily liturgical life as in the pre-novitiate.

### **Challenges for Ministry Supporting Missionaries in Need**

*The Missionary Conduct and Support Committee* of the Province continues to meet to look for ways to care for missionaries who are in need. The elderly and the sick are clearly part of this concern but all of us go through periods of trial and

tribulation in our religious life and ministry and it is at these times that we look for help.

In a recent meeting of the committee, Fr. Michael GUMEDE gave the following input to Committee of which he is also a member. Because of the meaningfulness of the thoughts shared, the committee decided to make the talk available as a form of support and encouragement to all of us who have to face any kind of turmoil in our daily lives. And so here is the talk:

*To introduce my talk to this our committee, I would like to give a summary of the Gospel of John, chapter 15. This is the chapter on the true vine. Israel was compared by the prophets to the chosen vine – cared for, watered and surrounded with a protecting wall by God himself. Christ Jesus fulfils this prophecy: he himself is the vine of which we are the branches.*

*Applying this summary to ourselves as priests and religious, it is important to pray the fact that we share very intimately in the life of Christ. He is the vine and we are the branches; that is, what is proper to him, is also proper to us as priests and religious.*

*It is interesting to reflect on the two aspects of Christ which make **one whole**. There is the glorified aspect of Christ, and there is also the human aspect. This human aspect is seen in the ongoing suffering he endures in his body the Church. The opening verses Ecclesiasticus 2 come to mind:*

My child, if you aspire to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for an ordeal. Be sincere of heart, be steadfast, and do not be alarmed when disaster comes.

*Suffering is part and parcel of those who would follow Christ. In our work as support committee, we come into contact with the sufferings of our brothers. In their sufferings maybe we should note that they too 'complete what is still lacking in the Body of Christ (Col 1:24).*

**Colossians 1: 24** It makes me happy to be suffering for you now, and in my own body to make up all the hardships that still have to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church,

*Our sufferings take two forms:*

- *There is the private suffering; that internal bleeding which we carry through personal*

woundedness, misunderstandings and the like.

- Then there is public sufferings brought about through embarrassing situations through which the weakness (real, or perceived) become common knowledge.

*The latter form of suffering is the concern of our committee. How can we best help our brothers to pray their sufferings and so derive meaning from these situations? We can do no better than to reflect on our Constitutions and rules. Rule seven is appropriate in this regard as it calls us to 'reflect the understanding, patience and compassion of the Saviour' in all our ministry.*

### Provincial's Notes

In July I completed a visitation to the Pietermaritzburg District and with that completed formal visitations of all the local communities in this province. Since 2005 I have formally visited the Zimbabwe mission (August 2005); Sabon House (October 2005); Inchanga District (April 2006); St Josephs Scholasticate (May 2006); Joseph Gerard House (February 2007), Durban District (May 2007) and Pietermaritzburg District (July 2007). These seven local communities make up the Natal Province.

What has stood out for me in these visitations is the sheer quantity of evangelisation that is going on. There are an amazing number of good news stories happening all the time. We have tried to use the newsletter to share some of them since they reveal God's presence amongst us.

Most of the mission to proclaim Good News remains known only to those immediately involved and hidden from the rest of us. In a world of a media obsessed with what is bad in the human condition it seems urgent to at least show something of the immensity of God's grace at work in the world and indeed in us poor weak men that are the Oblates of the Province.

Stories of Good News heard during the visitations have inspired me and kept me going in an assignment that has not been easy. In our next edition, I will reflect more on these matters but in this edition of *OMI Natal update* let me just say something about the story reported elsewhere about events at Rookdale mission at Bergville.

The Rookdale mission at Bergville was founded by Oblate missionaries in 1938. During the Apartheid years it was the site of a number of

troubles with forced removals. I remember that in the 1980s a former parish priest of the area, Father Martin MOORE-CORRY OMI played an important role in struggling for the people's rights to stay on their land. He was asked to serve on a local committee coordinating the protest of the people against government planned resettlements. In an article in *OMI Natal* in May 1982 I found the following extracts:

*"Martin is secretary of the Committee (and kept exact minutes that played such a central role in the whole affair). But he finds himself trapped in the middle, between Government and people." (OMI Natal Social Forum May 1982).*

It was a very difficult time for him and in the same article he expressed the pain and struggle of his work at Bergville in these words.

*"Reflecting back on the experience I must say politics is a dirty business and to tread a middle course through it is like walking in a minefield... it brings you down to the very bottom rung where you see the murkiness of life... I must admit that right now I am standing at the crossroads. Should I retreat back down the road I have come and continue what I have been doing for years or plunge into the deep...?"*

...  
*"As a priest it is very easy to float on the surface and drift along saying Masses, preaching, etc. Suddenly you go down, pulled down by political 'jaws', and you begin to question whether what you have been doing for years has any relevance whatsoever. You ask yourself: "Have I wasted my life? Am I filtering down at all?"*

It is true that politics can be a "dirty business" since it is fundamentally about social power. But it can also be an opportunity for leadership which is preoccupied with the welfare of all the people instead of a select few. The experience of Father NZAJI KALALA reflects this latter dimension of politics as Father MOORE CORRY'S reflects the former. They are signs of the move from an undemocratic Apartheid society then to a democratic free society today.

Perhaps the events of 2007 in the life of Bergville mission, where Father Martin is remembered with great reverence, are a response to his questions as he lived the Lords passion in his own life then.

Though Paul plants and Apollo waters it is God who gives the increase (1Cor 3:6).

## Provincial's Diary

### AUGUST

13-18 Visitation Zimbabwe Mission  
23 Zimbabwe Scholastics Cedara

### SEPTEMBER

3 Installation of President SJTI Cedara  
4 SJTI Board Meeting Cedara  
13-14 Provincial Council meeting  
16-23 Visitation of Father Eugene KING, Vicar General  
20-23 IPC Meeting Johannesburg  
24-25 Africa Madagascar Regional meeting Johannesburg  
25-28 Joint Session OMI General Council with OMI Africa Leaders.

### OCTOBER

1-12 OMI Interchapter Meeting Johannesburg  
14-19 Retreat Redacres

21	Neil FRANK	Ordination
23	John NGUBANE	Birthday
24	Stuart BATE	Birthday
31	Brian DUFFEY	Birthday

### September:

2	Jabulani NXUMALO	Episcopal Ordination
08	Daniel CORIJN	First Vows
08	Noel COUGHLAN	First Vows
08	P DECOCK	First Vows
08	C LUKUBA	First Vows
11	Frank DUFFY	Birthday
12	E SWARTZ	Birthday
14	F CLANCY	Birthday
15	F CLANCY	First Vows
15	P McMAHON	First Vows
16	Mbheki NGCOBO	Birthday
18	Vusi PHENYANE	Ordination
19	Peter FOLEY	Birthday
19	Sbonakaliso MKHIZE	Birthday
21	Sean COLEMAN	Ordination
22	J PATTERSON	First Vows
25	Bafana NDLOVU	Birthday
25	Sthabiso SITHOLE	Ordination
26	Sean COLEMAN	Birthday
29	Sean COLEMAN	First Vows

## Dates to Give Thanks

### August:

01	Jean-Baptiste MPUNI LANGONG	Ordination
01	Jean-Lambert NZAJI KALALA	Ordination
07	Duncan MACKENZIE	Birthday
08	Mzingaye MOYO (Schol)	Birthday
11	Ndodana SHUMA	Birthday
13	Mxolisi NGCOBO	Ordination
15	Sylvester DAVID	Birthday
15	Jan-Lambert NZAJI	First Vows
16	Derrick BUTT	Birthday
21	Neil FRANK	Birthday

Errors and omissions contact the Administrative Secretary (admin@omi.org.za)

## Annual Retreat 2007

(Details under Top News on page 1)

To Book SMS to 0827121047: Your name followed by BLUFF or REDACRES  
Or post or fax your details to the address or fax number at the bottom of the page

Name:.....

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

Your contact details: .....

Alternatively merely phone Ms Ritta Ndlovu, Administrative Assistant to the Provincial at 031-2059321

## OMI NATAL Update

Newsletter of the Natal Province of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.  
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