



OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Natal Province

The Mother Province of the Oblates in Africa

www.omi.org.za/natal

OMI NATAL *Update*

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

The beginning of 2014 is characterised with a number of new beginnings and changes in our Province. The launching of the Triennium, Installation of the New Provincial Council, Installation of the New Scholasticate Superior, Installation of the New Zimbabwe mission Superior, a number of ordinations to Diaconate and Priesthood of our younger brothers. As a Province we decided to launch our Triennium on the 17th of February 2014 instead of the 8th December 2013 so as to avoid the clash of celebrations as on the 8th of December we had agreed to celebrate the Immaculate Conception with the Archdiocese. Moreover, all the members of the Provincial Council had travelled to Zimbabwe from the 2nd to 10th of December 2013 and held the Provincial Council Meeting for the first time in Zimbabwe. It goes without saying that the Provincial Council celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception with the members of the Zimbabwe Mission. Thanks to the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Bulawayo which hosted this celebration for the Oblates. It was great to see the Oblates working so close to the people in that parish and the people showing such great appreciation of the Oblates in their midst.

As we begin our ministry of leadership in the Province with the new Provincial Council, I would like to sincerely thank all the members of the former Provincial Council: Frs Zaba MBANJWA, Sylvester DAVID, Siphon KUNENE, Mike FOLEY, Peter FOLEY, Vusumuzi PHENYANE and Wayne WELDSCHIDT who is also in the New Provincial Council, for their dedication in their leadership ministry and unfailing support over the past three years. Your hard work will always be appreciated. We are also grateful to the members of the new Provincial Council who willingly took up the challenge and accepted the calling to leadership in the Province. In the same breath we are grateful to Fr. Joseph PHIRI who has accepted the ministry of leadership in the Scholasticate Community as the Superior. We are also grateful to Fr. Charles NABWENJE who has become the first Zimbabwean born Superior of the Zimbabwe Mission. He is leading a community of 8 Oblates and 10 Scholastics two of whom are among those who have been ordained deacons and will be ordained priests. This is positive sign of the growth of our Mission. We welcome them, together with all those who have recently been ordained as priests in the province, to the ministry of the Church wherever the Congregation sends them. Together as Oblates of Mary Immaculate let us respond positively to the cry of the Church and the people we serve in various challenging situations as the Preface of our rule book calls us: *Faced with such a deplorable situation, the Church earnestly appeals to the ministers whom she herself enrolled in the cause of her divine Spouse, to do all in their power, word and example to rekindle the flame of faith that has all but died in the hearts of so many of her children.*

VOWS AND ORDINATIONS

The beginning of this year has been filled with various events giving renewed hope about Oblate vocational growth in the province. Five novices (four from Zimbabwe and one) made their first vows in January and two, Br. Bruce MWENDA and Br. Themba CHIPEMBERE both from Zimbabwe, made their final oblations in February. Brother Bruce is the second from Zimbabwe to make his final vows in two years as a Brother in the Congregation. This year indeed seems to be the year of plenty in as far as the ordinations are concerned. We are grateful to God who calls these young men to come and work in his vineyard.

VOWS



Brs. Edmund CHIYAKA Privilege TSHABALALA, and Ian CHITAMBO, with Fr. Charles NABWENJE, made their first vows in Germiston, South Africa.



Bro. Sibusiso DLAMINI and Bro. Bongumusa MKHIZE were Ordained Deacons on 8th February 2014 by **Bishop Barry WOOD OMI** at St. Augustine KwaMachibisa.

Bishop Barry Wood OMI, Dc SibusisoDlamini OMI, Dc Bongumusa Mkhize OMI & Fr. Vusumuzi Mazibuko OMI(Provincial)

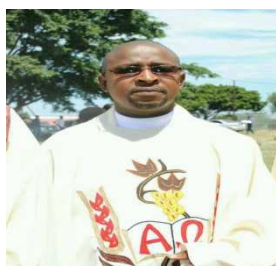
PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS



Fr Sibonelo **MBANJWA OMI** was ordained Priest on 15 February 2014 at St Clement, Clermont by **Bishop Barry WOOD OMI**. He celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving on the

following day, Sunday the 16th of February at the same Parish.

Fr. Thabani **SHOBA OMI** was ordained a Priest on 1 March 2014 at KwaKristo uMsindisi, KwaMashu by **Bishop Barry WOOD OMI**.



ZIMBABWE MISSION

Installation of Fr. Charles NABWENJE OMI as the Superior of Zimbabwe Mission



Father Nabwenje was installed on the 15 January 2014, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish as the

Superior of the Zimbabwe Mission by the Former Superior Father Siphon KUNENE. The Ceremony was attended by all the Oblates working in the Mission, some Scholastics and some parishioners of the parish. The ceremony went very well.

Fr. Nabwenje reported.



Bro. Ernest CHIMHOWA OMI Ordained a Deacon

Bro. Ernest CHIMPOWA was ordained Deacon on the 12th of January 2014 at St Mary's Cathedral in Bulawayo after completing his studies at Cedara. He has been appointed to Mazenod house of

formation for the duration of his deaconate ministry. He will assist Fr. Pamudzai MUDZUDZA in formation work and he will also assist at St. Luke's mission and other parishes whenever he is needed. Deacon Chimhova will be ordained a priest on the 26th July 2014 in Bulawayo.



Final oblation of Bro. Bruce MWENDA OMI

Brother Bruce MWENDA took his perpetual commitment on the 22nd February 2014 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Kumalo, Bulawayo after completing his studies at Cedara. He is now staying at the mission house in High Mont and for his ministry, he

is assisting with teaching at St Patrick's Christian Brothers college in Bulawayo.

*"For God is working in you,
Giving you the desire and the power to do
What pleases Him"
Philippians 2:13*

INSTALLATION OF NATAL PROVINCIAL AND HIS COUNCIL.

On 17 February, Oblates of Natal Province, Scholastics, Pre-Novices and Lay Associates gathered at St Joseph's Scholasticate to celebrate the 188th Anniversary of the papal approval of our Constitution and Rules by Pope Leo XII, in 1826.



During the liturgy, Fr. Vusumuzi F. MAZIBUKO OMI was installed as the Provincial Superior of the Natal Province, South Africa for a second

Fr. Neil Frank, Fr. Wayne Weldschidt, Vicar Provincial Fr. Vusumuzi Mazibuko, Fr. Mbheki Ngcobo, Fr. Derrick Butt, Fr. Zibonele Ngubane. (Fr. Charles Nabwenje was unable to come from Zimbabwe).

term. Also installed was the Provincial Council. In his homily, Fr. Mazibuko emphasized the need for personal conversion in our lives as missionaries.



The Provincial, Fr Mazibuko, installed the new St Joseph's Scholasticate Superior, Fr. Joseph PHIRI OMI. Fr. Phiri will be leading his Formation team consisting of: *Frs, Muzi Madlala, Paul Decock, Clement*

Tampane, Emile Moteaphala and Charles Rensburg who will join the team later in the year. At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Phiri thanked his predecessor, Fr. Stuart BATE OMI for leaving behind a well-established formation program. Fr. Phiri also asked the Priests of the Province to support the Oblate formation program by welcoming and inspiring scholastics when they are sent to their communities.

After both installations, Fr. Mazibuko received final vows of Brother Themba CHIPEMBERE OMI, who comes from Zimbabwe Mission.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Fr. Jean- Baptiste MPUNI LANGONG has been appointed Parish Priest of Christ the King, Wentworth as from 1st May 2014.

Fr. Clement TAMPANE has been appointed the Parish Priest of Cedara Parish as from the 1st of May 2014

Fr. Selomo SOOLI from Central Province has been appointed Superior at Gerard House and **Fr. Raymond MWANGALA**, the Bursar of Gerard House.

Fr. Emile MOTEAPHALA has been appointed Bursar of St Joseph's Scholasticate.

Fr. Charles RENSBURG and **Fr. Paul DECOCK** have been appointed Formators at the Scholasticate.

Fr. Ndodana TSHUMA has been appointed Parish Priest Assistant at St Anne's Parish Durban.

Fr. Elphas KHOZA after serving for 3 years in the Parish at Estcourt and 6 Months at Bergville Parish has been given obedience to Zimbabwe Mission.

ARCHBISHOP DENIS HURLEY OMI 10th ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH.

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of his death on 13 February 2014, a Memorial Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Wilfrid Napier OFM at the Emmanuel Cathedral, Durban. This was also attended by Fr. Vusumuzi MAZIBUKO, the Provincial Superior and was followed by the blessing of the foundation stone of the Denis Hurley Centre.



Cardinal Wilfrid Napier OFM blessing the foundation stone of the Denis Hurley Centre on 13 February 2014, 10th Anniversary of Archbishop Hurley's death

HOLY FAMILY SISTERS CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF PRESENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

According to Dr Joy Brain in her book *The Catholic Church in Natal Over 150 Years*, The Holy Family Sisters were the only religious sisters who came to the Vicariate of Natal at the invitation of Bishop ALLARD. They were the first religious sisters to come to the Natal Vicariate. They worked in Lesotho and arrived in Pietermaritzburg on the 14 May 1864. It was during the time of Bishop JOLIVET that other religious sisters agreed to come and work in Natal. It is

well known that the Holy Family sisters worked closely with the Oblates in the field of ministry. We would like to congratulate them for the great work they have done over the years in the Church of Southern Africa and the development of the Southern Society through education in their Schools. We are all invited to celebrate with them on the 18th October 2014 at St Mary's Pietermaritzburg at 10:30.

FR. JOHN PATTERSON CELEBRATING 90TH BIRTHDAY.



On the 22 February 1924, 90 years ago in Cork, Ireland, a new-born baby came squawking into the world, and the world was never the same since! He was soon washed in the baptismal waters of the Church and given the names 'Richard John. He grew into a tall lanky teenager. He was educated by the Presentation Brothers, and then decided to become a priest in the Oblate Congregation. He entered the Novitiate in Cahermoyle, than went to Belmont to begin his clerical studies. It was soon discovered that this scholastic had intelligence above the average, and so he was sent to Dublin University where he obtained a B.A. degree in Philosophy.

From there he studied theology in Piltown, and was ordained priest in 1950. He received his first obedience for Kimberley, but while he was on a short vacation at home, he received a letter from the Superior General, Leo DESCHÂTELETS, asking him to return the letter of obedience to the General, because he was now destined for Natal. He arrived at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cleland, in August 1950, and began his fairly lengthy tenure of office as a staff member at St Joseph's, where he taught Holy Scripture and eloquence, and at the same time he was a valuable director of souls. Whilst he was there he served two terms as Superior. When Fr Raymond COATES ended his term as Provincial of Natal in 1965, John PATTERSON was chosen as his successor, and he served six years in that post. In 1971, when he ended his term as Provincial, John was asked to take charge of the Cathedral Parish, a task to which he gave himself fully, but only for a year, because he was needed back at St Joseph's Scholasticate. So in 1972 he was again appointed Superior, and that term of office lasted only three years because he developed chest problems and was told by his doctor to get away from the misty climate of Cedara. John then went on a sabbatical for a year to the USA in 1976/7. where he gained knowledge in on-going formation. On his return to South Africa the following year, he and Fr Anthony D'ALTON of the Northern Province began the ROOF programme (Renewal on On-going Formation), helping many religious, men and women, to renew themselves in their vocation.



This programme came to an end after five years, and John was appointed parish priest of St Martin de Porres parish, Woodlands, Pietermaritzburg in 1983. He remained in this post for ten years, endearing himself to hundreds of parishioners with his personal attention and loving care, not to mention his Irish charm! In 2001 he volunteered to assist in the new mission in Zimbabwe which was under the jurisdiction of the Natal Province. He went as a Formator in the pre-novitiate programme, a valuable task he fulfilled for just over five years, during which time he animated and formed many Zimbabwean candidates on their journey to the priesthood. By this time John was already 82/3 years old, way above retirement age. But the word "retire" does not exist in John's dictionary. In 2007 he once again offered his services to the Natal Province as an assistant formator in the Pre-novitiate at Cleland. There he worked for the next six years, again breaking the Scriptures open to those young men preparing for the priesthood, and giving them spiritual guidance on their journey. Finally, in January 2013, now aged 89, he heard the Lord's instruction, "Come away and rest for a while." (Mk 6:31) So it was that in January 2013 John arrived at Sabon House in Durban where his presence was welcomed. John was and still is a man of God, totally dedicated to his vocation. He inspires those who come into contact with him with his earthly and heavenly wisdom, deep spirituality, and wonderful sense of humour. An avid reader, John spontaneously quotes Shakespeare or one of the great poets to exemplify or illustrate an event that has just taken place or a remark made. We, his brother Oblates in the Natal Province, salute him and thank him for the great example he has been to us all. We wish him a few more years of good health and happiness amongst us, that he may continue to inspire us to persevere to the end in our vocation. Well done, John! May our Blessed Mother continue to be your inspiration and guide till the end of your days. And may Christ the High Priest always be with you.

Praised be Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate!

OUR SICK

Fr. Chris LOCKYER is not well. Please continue to pray for him. We also pray for the mother of Father Siyabonga DUBE who is not well at all.

WELCOME TO FR. FRANCIS HAHN OMI

Fr. Francis HAHN is an Oblate originally from the United States of America who has been working in Japan since he was a scholastic. Fr. Francis HAHN OMI entered Oblate Novitiate August 22, 1963. He took his First Vows in September 8th 1964, Professed Final Vows and was sent to Japan September 1967. He started Japanese language studies at Waseda University in Japan October 1967 and was ordained a Priest, April 29th 1972.



THE PASSING ON OF FR. JOHN B NGUBANE OMI



In February we mourned the passing away of Fr. Johannes Bhekabantu NGUBANE OMI. After dutifully serving the Church for over six decades, he peacefully passed away due to natural causes. He was laid to rest amongst fellow Oblate brothers in

Cedara. In attendance at his Mass of the resurrection was a large number of priests from various Dioceses in Southern Africa, and among them were, Cardinal Wilfrid Napier OFM from the Archdiocese of Durban, Bishop Barry WOOD OMI the Auxiliary bishop of Durban, Archbishop Jabulani NXUMALO OMI the Archbishop of Bloemfontein, Bishop Zolile Mpambane SCJ, from Kokstad Diocese and Bishop Ndlungwane of Mariannhill Diocese.

He was a respected mentor and will be missed by all those who were fortunate enough to know him. The legacy he left behind of kindness, commitment as well as service to the community will continue to inspire us all.

“Death smiles at us all; all man can do is to smile back.”

DE MAZENOD FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

The Province gathered for the celebration of Eugene de Mazenod day on 21st May at St Paul’s Parish, Ntuzuma. Some members of the Oblate Associates, the Honorary Oblates Dr Joy Brain and Mr Kenneth Clark and some members of the parish were part of the celebration Mass which was celebrated by Fr. Vusumuzi MAZIBUKO, the Provincial Superior.



Fr Wayne WELDSCHIDT gave a very inspiring homily, calling us to open our hearts anew to the Holy Spirit that inspired our founder to

dedicate his whole life totally to the love of Christ in the service of his Church. At this celebration we also celebrated with Fr. Francis HAHN who celebrates 50 years of religious life this year and Fr. Peter FOLEY who celebrates 25 years of religious life.



We are very grateful to the Parish Priest Fr. Callistus KHATHALI together with the parish who accepted to host and to prepare the feast for the Oblates. Commenting about how happy they were to be asked to host this feast for the Oblates some of the parishioners said that they felt very honoured and they think

this is one little way they could show their appreciation and gratitude to the Oblates for their work in the parish for years.





The Cape Town Community also had a great day of Celebration in their new Mission with some of the parishioners they work with. This is the photo they sent after their Celebration.

From left to right: *Frs Bafana Ndlovu , Sibonelo Mbanjwa, Siyabonga Dube who is the superior of the community and Alvin Tshuma.*

GOLF DAY



The Golf day held on the 16th May 2014, held at Mt Edgecombe Golf Club was a success and all in all was enjoyed by all the participants. The amount raised as profit was R21560. We are very grateful to Fr. Donovan Wheatley and all the sponsors as well as the players who made that day a great success. We will now hold this Golf Day annually



around the same time.

LAY ASSOCIATES

The Spirit of God continues to blow in the Church calling and giving different people various gifts. In our Province, a number of young people especially Zulu speaking, from some parishes have come up expressing their desire to share in our Founder's spirit and charism and to help the Oblates in their Mission.



These Parishes include St Augustine-KwaMachibisa, Umndeni Oyingcwele-Hammarsdale, St Joseph's- Cedara and Assumption-Durban.

These are some of the Associates after their meeting at Assumption Parish with Fr Siphon Kunene in the middle and Fr Michael Gumede on the far right.

Fr. Siphon KUNENE OMI who is the chairperson of the Lay Associates committee is responsible for their training. The MAMI from St Anne's and Christ the King Parishes, which are the two main strongholds of our associates, continue to give tremendous and ever valued support to the Province in various forms.

OBLATES FROM OTHER PROVINCES



Recently Fr. Bonga MAJOLA OMI from the Northern Province spent some time at the pre-novitiate Cebula House to have an experience of working in the formation house. His presence was appreciated and valued by the community at

Cebula House. We would like to thank him and wish him well in his new Ministry.

Now we welcome Fr. Tshidiso MOLEKO OMI from Central Province who will join the Ngome Shrine Community to help and to gain experience of the shrine for 3 months. Welcome among your brothers Father Tshidiso.



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Five of our brothers lost their loved ones recently: Fr. Lamulumndeni MEMELA lost his brother, Fr. Mhlanganisi DLAMINI lost his father Mr. Johannes Mashayina Dlamini; Fr. Vusumuzi PHENYANE lost his cousin, and Fr. Emile MOTEAPHALA lost his sister in Lesotho. Fr. Siphon KUNENE lost his sister Jabulile Christina Ngubane. We continue to pray for the consolation of all their families and we pray for the repose of the souls of their loved ones.

ANNUAL RETREATS 2014

Both Annual Retreats this year will be preached. They will begin with supper at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday and end with lunch on Friday.

12-17 October

Preacher:

19-24 October

Preacher:

Please book your choice of Retreat with the Provincial Office.

St Dominic's, Bluff

Fr. Hugo McBride, SPS

Red Acres

Fr. Martin O'Connor, SPS

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND PORTFOLIOS

The Provincial Council attended a Workshop from 11 to 13 June facilitated by Sister Mary Tuck, O.P. at Glenmore Pastoral Centre, Durban.

The following **Portfolios** were agreed upon:

Vicar Provincial: Fr. Wayne WELDSCHIDT

Council Secretary: Fr Neil FRANK

Personnel: Fr. Vusumuzi MAZIBUKO, Provincial

Youth & YOMI: Fr. Zibonele NGUBANE

First Formation: (Vocations, Pre-Novitiate, Novitiate & Scholasticate) Fr. Mbeki NGCOBO

Education: Fr. Neil FRANK

Zimbabwe: Fr. Charles NABWENJE

Cape Town: Fr. Neil FRANK

JPIC & ODP: Fr. Vusumuzi MAZIBUKO & Fr. Charles NABWENJE

Communication: (Newsletter & website) Fr. Derrick BUTT

Animation for 200th Anniversary of the

Congregation: (Renewal, ongoing formation, healing, retreats, parishes & lay associates) Fr. Charles NABWENJE & Fr. Wayne WELDSCHIDT



Sr Mary Tuck, OP, Fr Derrick Butt, Fr Wayne Weldschidt (Vicar Provincial), Fr Vusumuzi Mazibuko (Provincial), Fr Mbheki Ngcobo, Fr Neil Frank, Fr Charles Nabwenje & Fr Zibonele Ngubane

PLEASE HELP

We need the following Psychological Assessment Tests Instruments /Materials:

1. Weschler Adult Intelligence Scale (WISC-III OR IV)
2. Weschler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-III or IV)
3. TAT
4. Bender-Gestalt
5. Raven's Coloured Progressive Matrices
6. Manual for KFD and DAP
7. MMPI-2
8. MCMI
9. 16 PF; MB-10
10. Roscher
11. Depression scale
13. SSAIS-R
14. JSAIS
15. MSCA
16. Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test
17. AND VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT TEST.

If you can donate these or you know of any retired Psychologist who could donate these for the use of our young Psychologist Fr. Vusumuzi Phenyane please contact the provincial office or contact Fr. Phenyane himself on: 051-507 3713/ 076-760 6080

OUR BICENTENARY PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father,

We, your sons and daughters, give thanks and praise to you for inspiring St Eugene de Mazenod almost two hundred years ago to found a new religious family dedicated to Mary Immaculate in order to spread your kingdom of peace, justice and love in every corner of the world.

As we prepare now for this bicentenary we pray:

May Jesus your Son breathe anew your Spirit into each one of us, that we may be renewed in our vocation to build your kingdom in our midst, in our homes, in our neighbourhood, and in our society!

Forgive us for the many times we have failed you, even denied you by our actions, wounded you by our words, and pierced you by our infidelities. Grant, O Loving Father, that we may become in word and deed, your instruments of grace, and living signs of your presence in our world.

This we ask in the name of your Divine Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Praise be Jesus Christ, and Mary Immaculate.)



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OMI sfx@telkomsa.net and contact him for
errors & omissions.