



## Home Update

☛ Bishop Baaij, SCJ, sends greetings from the Nazareth House in Port Elizabeth. He had a very good year 2003. Fr. Provincial visited Bishop on 17/18 December 2003.

☛ Fr. Provincial and Fr. Koscielny represented the AM Province at the celebration of the perpetual profession of 6 CM confreres in Yaounde, Cameroon, on 28 December 2003. Fr. Provincial promised to prepare a written report for Iindaba from this 2-week visit.

☛ Fr. Charles Brown (US) has arrived to South Africa on 17 January 2004. After a week of stay in the SCJ "Monastery" in Aliwal North he joined the Merrivale / Hilton confreres. For a semester Fr. Brown will be teaching the Scriptures at the Cedara Theological Institute and will be part of the local SCJ community. This significantly enlarged community consists now of: 2 formators (AM and MOZ), 1 post-graduate student (AM), 1 lecturer (Fr. Brown) and 10 "scholastics" (3-AM, 5-CM, 2-CO)

☛ Also on 17 January 2004 arrived to Merrivale / Hilton Fr. Alesandro Capoferri (MOZ). He was brought by car by his provincial. Fr. "Sandro" will serve there as a formator. Hearty welcome!

☛ After long period of awaiting for study permits two SCJ scholastics from CO, Br. Michael Mandey, 27, and Gauthier Buyidi Kamosi Kibwanga, 27, have finally arrived to South Africa, on 29 January 2004.

☛ Fr. Lemahieu, SCJ, conducted retreats preparing our only novice and two of our scholastics for first profession / renewal of vows, in Bethulie on 22 – 28 January 2004.

☛ During the above retreats our novice master, Fr. Surdel, took a few days of rest in Natal. He returned to Bethulie with Br. Ntungwa and Br. Ndlovu who after some vacation at home start now their second year of pri-novitiate

☛ Br. Joshua Mpiti has professed his first vows at the SCJ "Monastery" in Aliwal North, on 02 February 2004. At the same time and place Br. A. T. Tsikanyane and Br. N. Bambatha have renewed their vows. Congratulations! Br. Mpiti, a native of Aliwal North, has already made first year of philosophy (as a SCJ pri-novice in 2002) and will continue his studies.

☛ Before renewal of vows Br. Tsikanyane and Br. Bambatha have spent over one week with their older confreres in the Aliwal North "Monastery". For the first of them it was a time of physical rest since during his holidays he had turned into a busy builder. Br. Ntikanyane re-constructs the hose of his mother and two younger siblings.

☛ Fr. Ofenloch suffered from much pain since October 2003. This has dramatically deteriorated on 01 February 2004. For the next few days he suffered – with great pain - a spasm of his spinal muscles and this had to be treated with strong injections.

☛ He was able to go to the specialist in Bloemfontaine on 06 February accompanied by Frs. Hansel and Przybys. The present condition of Fr. Ofenloch's spinal column prevents him from undertaking any more permanent duties. Improvement of this condition is for now very uncertain. Some time this year he is to take his home leave and medical treatment in Germany.

## PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

P.C. met on 20 January 2004 in Aliwal North and dealt with the following:

✓ Application of Br. Bambatha for renewal of vows and continuation of studies; the request was granted.

✓ Application of the novice Joshua Mpiti for admission to first vows; granted.

✓ Decision about the 2<sup>nd</sup> year pri-novices, e.i. Br. Ndlovu and Br. Ndongwa: they will remain in Bethulie and Fr. Surdel will continue to be their director of formation

✓ Brief report on the visit to Cameroon, by Fr. Provincial: the latter promised to share upon the visit with all the confreres through the next *Indaba*.

Some other matters: **(Council)**

✓ "Last comfort" funeral project in Middelburg: the Council decided to drop the criminal case against one of the employees. One person has left the business and a new person has been employed. New form of bookkeeping has been introduced.

✓ Finances of the Province

✓ Our 2003 pri-novices from Lesotho: both of them were asked to go back to Lesotho to improve in 2004 their metric results. The Province may help them in this regard; Fr. Surdel will be monitoring and animating the whole matter



## VARIA

☛ Provincial is also asking confreres to bring forward ideas of themes for the forthcoming Provincial Assemblies and, perhaps, name of possible retreat masters for October 2004. The dates of the Assemblies will be made known in a week or two.

☛ Fr. Provincial took part in the "Joint Witness" meeting of the Bloemfontaine Archdiocese, on 6 / 7 February 2004 in Assisi. Leaders of five religious institutes participated. The main topics: "Protocol for Church Personnel in regard to Sexual abuse of children", preparing the November 2004 meeting with the bishops, preparing for the April 2004 meeting of the major superiors – LCCL-SA.

☛ Last year attempt of the Merrivale SCJ students to edit our *Indaba* bulletin proved unsatisfactory. Therefore the old team prepared its issue the last. Reckoning that "life is full of surprises" confreres who feel strong enough to fulfill the task of collecting information and editing the text are kindly asked to contact Fr. Provincial. Fr. Maslowski who so far was taking care of the "lay-out" is ready to continue his service.

☛ All the Polish confreres in South Africa are kindly asked to deliver to Fr. Przybys all copies of the "W drodze", "Tygodnik Powszechny", "Znak", etc., that are in their possession, issued until 31 December 2002.

Our South African Bishops worked hard lately during their Bishops Conference. The Bishops dealt with many interesting and important matters. *Indaba* wants to highlight just a few of them:

1. **Seminaries.**

- a) The motivation of our South African seminarians (e.i. diocesan - editor) is often lower than of foreign students...
- b) Let us screen new candidates very carefully because we live in a problematic society. The vocations team should assist parishes in accompanying the possible candidates
- c) Required matric standard is raised to 21 points
- d) The vocations team of a diocese should accompany the new candidates for 2 years in their community via an "adult support group for vocations" ... and in their parish through meetings with their local priest, using the De Fleuriot programmes

2. **Liturgy.** The Bishops devoted the whole day to the new General Instruction on the Roman Missal. They also studied how much the RCIA is actually used in parishes... They noticed a widespread misunderstanding: "the more colourful it is, the more inculturated", or "the noisier, the more African" (comments of the black SA bishops, said Bishop Lobinger – editor) and the temptation to confuse entertainment singing and liturgy.

3. "President T. Mbeki was to come to visit the bishops, then it was cancelled. The official reason was that he was too busy but it could be that he wanted to "address" the bishops, while they said they wanted to "discuss" the matters of Aids and Zimbabwe".

A bishop of Angola and a bishop of Tanzania were the guests at the Conference. They spoke about their Local Churches. They call South Africa "AmaEden"... Bishop of Luena said about his diocese: 200 000 Catholics, 10 priests, 3 cars, 4 days to reach the capital, petrol comes by plane (N.B. the SCJ are to begin their work in the dioceses of Luanda and...Luena).

## SCJs IN THE WORLD

✍ With the letter of 05 February 2004 Fr. General has informed that he accepted resignation of Fr. P. McKenna, SCJ, from the office of the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Councilor. According to the SCJ General Directory 130.4 it is "up to the Superior General with the deliberative vote of his council to name a new councilor".

✍ Bishop J. H. Soudant, SCJ, the retired bishop of Palembang (1961-1997), Indonesia, died in Belgium, on 29-12 2003.

✍ At the beginning of 2004 the new SCJ mission will be initiated in Angola, in dioceses of Luanda and Luena. In December 2003 a meeting of the SCJ Gen. Administration and the representatives of the SCJ Provinces participated in the project was held in Rome. Four confreres will begin the SCJ presence in Angola, e.i. one from IS and three from LU, while another two from CM will join them later.



## Aliwal North

‡ Since the SCJ could not offer any pastorally experienced priest for work in Teresa Mission, Bishop Lobinger appointed one of his priests as the parish priest there. He did it after consulting the people concerned. On 24 January 2004 Fr. Emmanuel “City” Nkunyane was officially introduced to the local Pastoral Council. In Teresa Mission Fr. “City” joins the “so far” pastoral workers: Fr. Bernard Sompane, SCJ, and Miss Cecilia McKenzie.

‡ Bishop Lobinger celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on 19 January 2004. A modest number of the clergy, religious sisters and laity took part in Eucharist and the following reception in the Cathedral’s hall. Some tried to guess whether it was the last birthday of Bishop Lobinger as the Bishop of Aliwal...

‡ Due to the long lasting in-fighting Bishop Lobinger decided to close temporarily the community of St Boniface in Springfontein. This community is an out-station of the Bethulie Parish and is being served by Fr. Mabheka, SCJ.

‡ Fr. Frantz Aertker quietly celebrated his 40 years of priesthood, on 25 January 2004. He came to South Africa from Germany in 1968 and spent – faithfully - the last 35 years in Indwe. Congratulations!

## De Aar

‡ Children from “Sacred Heart” church in Petrusville performed Christmas play in “Uganda Martyrs” Church in De Aar, and in “Holy Cross” Church in Philipstown.

‡ From 12 to 15 February “Education for Life” was given to the youth of the diocese of De Aar. Bishop Joseph Potocnak, SCJ opened such program and when the program was completed, during the Holy Mass he gave the “Certificate of Participation” to those who attended it.

‡(...) “I hope you are well. Things with me are good. I turned 70 this past May and I am feeling good. Good Shepherd Hospice which was started in our diocese 10 years ago by Sister Cathy (...) (the Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart from Aliwal North – editor) has spread to forty towns having centers or caregivers. Our hospice here in De Aar was given an award as “The Community Builder of the Year” by the Welfare Department in our North Cape Province. They have 120 caregivers and 42 counselors helping those dying of Aids in 18 towns. What gives me the most satisfaction is being a pastor. Every Sunday I have the Eucharist in 2 towns, traveling around 300 kilometers in our isolated diocese. I enjoy visiting the sick in the hospital, and during the week having Holy Mass with families in their homes. I like to start the day with a Holy Hour which helps set a spiritual tone for the day when being with people. I do find time to walk and play golf, which keeps me fairly normal and healthy – and a little humble (...). God bless you all! (...)



**Text: Przybys & Layout: Maslowski**

