

## The 34<sup>th</sup> Provincial Assembly

The members of the South African Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus met from 27-28 April, 2022 in the Aliwal North Monastery for their 34<sup>th</sup> Provincial Assembly. However, it was not just an ordinary assembly but the Province was also privileged



and excited to celebrate two priestly jubilees of Fr John Strittmatter SCJ and Fr Adam Maslowski SCJ. Also, it is important to note that during this assembly, there was an official reception of three candidates to postulancy.

It was the first assembly of the year and it focused mainly on the well-being of the Province and the reports of the recently ended IX General Conference, Major Superiors' meeting and the COSENAF meeting in Rome. As the RSA Province will be celebrating its centenary next year, the assembly had also an opportunity to discuss matters in details concerning the preparation of this milestone event that is approaching.

On the evening of the first day of the Assembly, during the Eucharistic Adoration, the Provincial Fr Chris Grzelak officially received three candidates to postulancy namely: Mr Stephen Nsofwa, Mr John Mutelo and Mr Douglas Sinkala Jifweka, all from Zambia. Sharing their experiences and feelings after their reception, John Mutelo had this to say: "I feel great after being received in the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a postulant. It has always been my dream since I knew the congregation to aspire to be a priest by following the footsteps of Rev Fr Leo John Dehon". Douglas Jikweka remarked that "it was a joyful moment for me to be received in the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This very act gave me joy because it marked the genesis of my vocation journey". Furthermore, Stephen Nsofwa encapsulated his feeling as, "an important shift in the recent few days after being received officially in the Congregation as a postulant. This stage I cannot take for granted, rather it is an imperative for me to recognize it as a variable experience that also demands my total commitment, hard work and above all prayer".



New Postulants with Father Provincial



Our jubilarians were celebrating 60 and 25 years of priesthood respectively. Fr John Strittmatter is originally from the United States of America. He was ordained as priest on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, 1961. He served many parishes in the De Aar Diocese, South Africa and was very active in the field of social development and eradication of poverty. After his retirement in 2012, he was transferred to the Aliwal North community where he continues to celebrate the Eucharist for the Holy Cross and the Sacred Heart Sisters.

Fr Adam Maslowski is from Poland. He worked in St Teresa Mission, Aliwal Diocese. In De Aar Diocese he ministered as youth chaplain and served parishes in Petrusville, Hope Town and Strydenburg. Currently, Fr Adam ministers as a Spiritual Director at the Dehon International Formation House in Pietermaritzburg. He also worked as vocation director, provincial secretary, provincial treasurer and councillor. Fr Adam was ordained by Bp. Joseph Potocniak SCJ (then Bishop of De Aar), on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, 1996. The Province wishes the jubilarians God's blessings and good health.



In summation, we ask God to bless all our activities and future plans especially as regards to the preparation for the centenary in 2023. We ask that God may grant us the grace we need to continue being the *prophets of love and instruments of reconciliation* wherever we are.