



# OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

NATAL PROVINCE

THE MOTHER PROVINCE OF THE OBLATES IN AFRICA

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## OMI NATAL *Update*

VOL 6 No 3 May-July 2009

Living a fully committed Oblate life

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Living a fully committed Oblate life

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Living a fully committed Oblate life

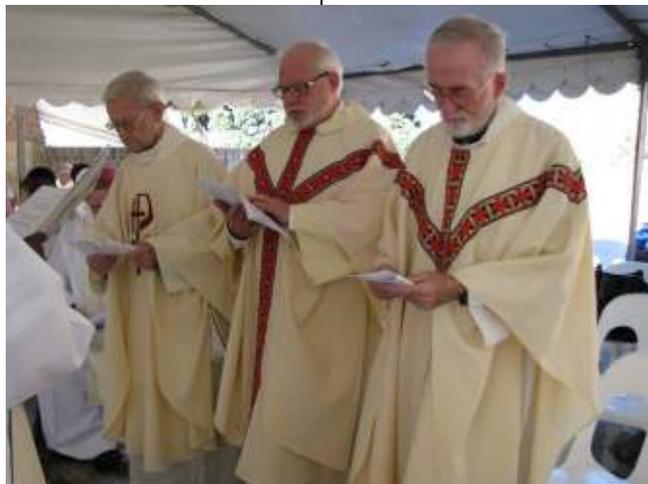
### Good News about Oblate Life

#### *Feast of St Eugene*

On May 25<sup>th</sup> the province gathered for the celebration of the feast of St Eugene De Mazenod. This is the day we celebrate our Jubilees and we had some very special ones. Fr Patrick McMahon OMI celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Religious Life and his 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priesthood. Fr Duncan McKenzie OMI and Fr Garth Michelson OMI celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination and Fr Brian Duffey OMI celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Priestly ordination. In addition Gerard House at Hilton was blessed. This is the first time the Province has gathered at our house for Oblate professors and academics since its establishment in 2001. The house was formally

constituted in 2007 when Fr Zaba Mbanjwa was appointed Superior. For many in the Province it was their first visit to this community.

The theme of our Celebration was *Oblate Education Ministry* and in his homily the Provincial preached on the text "He sent me to bring Sight to the Blind". It motivates a great mission to bring Christian knowledge to the discourse of the world. It implies a move towards the development and empowerment of a new Christian narrative. It means allowing the people of this world to see that the message of



the Gospel is indeed Good News today. It means the construction of Christian narratives that will

speak to the people of this generation and will be understood by them as good news.

It demands study and reflection on the part of leaders who need to bring images of Christian faith that will be seen as good news. Jesus did this in his time, our missionaries celebrating their jubilees did this based on the missionary narrative of their times. It has to be reconstructed today and not from a European narrative but from one rooted here because African Oblates are the fastest growing in the congregation. Why is God wanting that now? We must discern the answer to this question and equip ourselves for this new missionary challenge.

## Good News about Oblates

### **Fr. NGCOBO Obtains Certificate in Spirituality**



Fr Anthony Mbheki Ngcobo OMI, a formator at St Josephs Cedara and Parish priest of Imbubu parish, has received a *Certificate in Spirituality* from Tangaza College after a one year programme in Nairobi. He stayed at the Oblate Cebula Formation House in Nairobi

whilst completing a programme in Religious Formation at the *Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation*. He commented that the programme was very helpful in preparing himself for greater involvement in formation. Tangaza is a constituent College of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

### **Fr. KUNENE gets his permit.**

Fr Sipho Kunene OMI recently received a copy of his Temporary Employment permit for Zimbabwe. In an apparent misunderstanding the permit was taken from him at the Zimbabwe border in 2008 and consequently he was unable to remain in the country. After an enquiry by the Zimbabwe Catholic



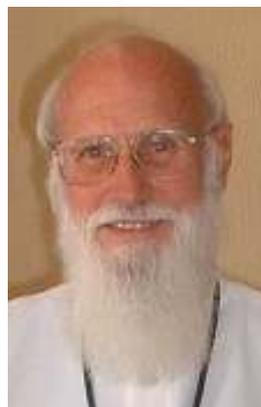
Bishops Conference the permit was returned to him. He thus resumes his ministry as Superior of the Zimbabwe Mission. We wish to thank Fr. Claude Lukuba OMI for the work he has done as acting mission superior during the time that Fr Kunene was out of the country.

## **Fr Michelson in Turkey to participate in Christian-Muslim dialogue**

The Interfaith Foundation of South Africa (IFSA) invited Fr Garth Michelson OMI to be part of a small group of eight people who visited Turkey to participate in Christian Muslim dialogue. The group included Archbishop George Daniel formerly of Pretoria who chairs the Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue and Collaboration of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC). Fr Garth is also a member of this commission.

IFSA “seeks to celebrate unity and equality in this diversity by honouring the common ties that bind us all as brothers and sisters. It also aims to foster understanding, tolerance, and love of one another by sharing cultural and religious traditions through dialogue in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust”. It follows the inspiration of Fethullah Gülen who was born in eastern Turkey in 1939. He is a Muslim scholar and promoted social justice in Islam and zealously encouraged the opening of private schools which would further mutual understanding and tolerance in society.

Fr Garth writes: My visit to Turkey was for me renewing and, challenging! Having crossed the river Euphrates beyond which Abraham lived and



having entered the city of Urfa a sincere man asked me about the small Oblate cross I was wearing. "Is it made of gold or silver?" I said that I thought it was just a metal alloy of some kind. "Who is the person on the cross, and why?" he continued, "Is the person a man or a woman? Why the long hair?" he asked. It was a moment of

awakening for me to meet such a sincere, searching person whom I respected as a person of committed Muslim faith. How we do not know each other! Is this not a little incident pointing to the place and importance of interfaith dialogue and collaboration in the world's emerging society which -noses so many new and serious challenges to religions locally and globally?

The group was in Turkey from the 18 - 27 May. Their days were tightly scheduled for meeting and dialogue with individuals, institutions and families

who were inspired in one way or another by Fethullah Gülen and his Movement. Fr Garth found the many exchanges of ideas and values to be “at times deep and intense”. Hospitality was “warm, welcoming and over generous with food and gifts”. They had visits and guided tours to historic mosques, large and small, as well as churches including the Bulgarian church, the Church of the Holy Spring (popular with its never finishing holy water), the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and a small Armenian church.

One event in Istanbul which was profoundly prayerful for him was “the prayer-dance of the whirling dervishes, celibate men of Sufi inspiration. Sitting alongside those men whirling non-stop in harmonious dance for 30 to 40 minutes at a time accompanied by ethereal melodies stirred divine depths in me!”

After four days in Istanbul they flew south to Oaziantep in Antakya. There they visited a school which he found to be a true witness to dedicated teaching. “It was explained to us that the educators were at work from 8 am to 8 pm teaching, overseeing personal work, meetings with parents at school and in visiting parents and children in their homes”.

One day they travelled to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea which overlooks the nearby mountain range of Syria. They climbed the mountain following a route of ancient Roman water canals and tunnels. Fr Garth continues: “Half way up I decided to take a rest on a high rock while the others went on ahead. After about forty minutes of basking in the soft sun contemplating the sea and Syria's distant mountains, I was distracted by movement near me coming from behind a few rocks and low shrub. A young Turkish university student tourist was creeping up on me to film the unusual guru! In no time about ten were around me filming each other with me seated cross legged in the middle. In our laughing together I assured them that I was not genuine, but only a guru in pseudo posture!”

The following day the group set out towards the east and crossed the great river Euphrates entering the city of Urfa. “From there, after lunch, we made our way to Haran from where in Islamic tradition the Prophet Abraham originated. Moved in prayer” remembers Fr Garth, “I was loath to leave the place and now several weeks afterwards

the dust is still on my boots which I am loath to remove! We spent the rest of the afternoon travelling to places where in Islamic tradition Abraham and Job lived and died. We drank water from the well which commemorates Job's conversion. We also visited the place where Abraham was thrown into fire at the end of his life. The fire turned into a spring of water. The waters are still teeming with fish not one of which has ever been caught and is not allowed to be caught. We witnessed their shoals of countless numbers.”

“Most of our visit to Turkey was in the context of and in encounter with Muslim people, both in modern urban settings and in traditional rural settings”. He concluded: “the visit was for me personally, as Oblate and as Priest, a pilgrimage which was renewing and challenging. It was perhaps a living expression, albeit small, of the Bishops' exhortation to dialogue and collaboration in the Vatican II document *Nostra Aetate* and in the SACBC document *Fruitful Encounter* of 2007. This latter document quoted a closing comment of the Kazakstan meeting of 2003 that interreligious dialogue is “one of the most important instruments for ensuring peace and harmony among peoples and nations”.

## Challenges for Oblates

### 97 year old Oblate offloaded from Virgin Flight into Johannesburg Cold

Father Patrick McMahon OMI was born on 23 April 1912 in Maio Moynalty County Meath, Ireland. He was ordained a priest on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1944 and arrived in South Africa in 1946 as a missionary. This year is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first vows and 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. Despite his age he was given permission to go to Ireland for a celebration since he was to travel with another priest Fr Patrick Noonan OFM. But it was not to be!



At Johannesburg airport he was denied access to the plane by a Virgin Atlantic official who said he needed a transit visa for London. During the apartheid era, Father McMahon was forced to give up his Irish citizenship in order to stay in South

Africa. Our travel agent, Harvey Travel, had informed us that no such visa was required as he was only in transit in London for 5 hours. He was thus left in the cold of Johannesburg, a cold he is not used to. His travelling companion was able to contact the Franciscans Fathers in Johannesburg who eventually came to the airport to bring him to their house in Boksburg. His luggage was lost and was only found five days later in the “lost luggage department” at the airport.

So this 97 year old man was left in the very cold weather of Johannesburg, which he is not used to, without clothing and goods. He was unable to get warm even in the house he stayed at. After a miserable 4 days in Johannesburg, he eventually returned to Durban on June 29<sup>th</sup>, tired and confused, saying that he wants to go home and rest. June 29<sup>th</sup> was the feast of St Peter and Paul and the day of his 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood! What a way to spend it!

Letters of concern to the Irish and British embassies, the airline and the travel agent have been sent. The Irish ambassador replied sending his best wishes and noting that “we have made the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation aware of your complaint”. They also said “if we can be of any practical assistance, we are happy to help”.

The British Embassy expressed regret and the head of visa services has offered to personally advise on the visa for Fr McMahon. Virgin Atlantic Airline has agreed to waive the cancellation cost for the ticket and Harvey Travel has agreed to waive their fee for the rebooking. We are grateful for these interventions.

The Department of Home Affairs of South Africa merely replied as follows: “*We are happy that the Priest in question is doing well and do admit that that the ceremony must have closest to his heart and sorrowful what his has gone through*” (sic). Clearly the new minister has many challenges before her.

Fr McMahon will now start his missionary journey to his homeland at the end of July. We wish him well. Thanks to the Franciscans of St Dominic, Boksburg, for their help and care for Fr McMahon.

## **Good News about Oblate Mission**

### ***Rural development programme grows***

Fr Jean Lambert Nzaji Kalala OMI is parish priest of St Ives Bergville. The mission is situated in a rural area where the majority of the people are very poor and where the infrastructure is not developed. Around 20000 people live in this area. Most are unemployed and find little social assistance. Most of the people want to work but there are very few factories in the area and therefore there are not many jobs available. Poverty prevents people from acquiring a skill or going to tertiary education. Many of the learners who complete their schooling try to get part time jobs in order to support their families.

Fr Jean Lambert writes: If these people are to make progress, to improve their standard of living, overcome ignorance and illiteracy, they need to acquire skills and those needing a social grant need to be helped to apply for it and to get it. The youth need proper care and assistance in order for them to become contributing citizens. Moral regeneration should be the driving force of any process that seeks to alleviate ignorance and illiteracy and that hopes to provide understanding and opportunity for the future.

In this context Pastoral Work must respond to the pastoral needs of the people. Preaching the good news must include responding to their need for clothes and food. The social situation requires a social pastoral response from us.

Since 2002, the parish has responded to this by means of a social development programme called “*Inkanyezi Rural Development Group of Africa*”. It focuses on social issues affecting the people in the area. The projects of the programme include Skills development (sewing), Health Care (HIV/AIDS), Education (Learners) and instruction of people in their rights though helping them with applications for Social Assistance, including the Social Grant.

We have chosen Youth as our target group. We are assisting them through workshops whereby we try to broaden their horizons and accompany them in various fields such as: Social Development as well as Psychological and Spiritual Development. We give them assistance in making applications for loans and grants, in writing CV's and in preparation for interviews. We help those who are

from very poor families to find sponsors and bursaries.

HIV/AIDS is one of the major scourges in this rural area and our Home-based Care Givers are very involved in helping individuals and the Community as a whole. The number of people affected and infected is very critical and our pastoral approach involves working with other stakeholders to alleviate the plight of the people and help combat the disease.

Another area of great concern is the high unemployment rate and need for people to acquire a skill in order to be able to get some income. To respond to this we started a Sewing Training School where ladies come to learn for a year and get a certificate.

Ignorance and lack of information are the main concerns in this rural area. Our "Advice Office" goes from door to door explaining to people what is available to them, developing contacts with local Leaders and Government Offices in order to help people access social grants due to them.

The hope is that by adopting the holistic approach to Pastoral Work that I have outlined above, we will enable people to experience life to the full and thus fulfil the desire expressed by Jesus in John 10: 10: "I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full".



*Inkanyezi Rural Development Group of Africa* recently obtained civil recognition as a Non Profit Organization (NPO). This shows that the civil authorities recognise this is as worthwhile project for the people of the area. Development is one of our keys to success in our Pastoral Ministry. In his encyclical "Populorum Progressio", Pope Paul VI urges that we carry out our Mission holistically if we wish to get to the core of evangelization. He says "the progressive development of peoples is an object of deep interest and concern to the Church" (PP1).

Today, more than ever, Pastoral activities need a new methodology, a new approach to implement

the teaching of the Church. We have to re-think and create a new approach in order to incorporate social and political issues so that our mission isn't seen to be above or below the people.

## **Good News about Oblate Mission**

### ***Catholic Newspaper highlights Oblate Mission***

The Southern Cross is the main English Catholic newspaper in South Africa. Recently it has highlighted a number of Oblate ministries in this province. Here is précis of four of them

#### **1. Parish Ministries at Oblate Mother Parish**

Many Oblates have read the history of the arrival of the Oblates in Natal in 1952 and the opening of the first mission of St Mary's in Pietermaritzburg. The first church, where Blessed Joseph Gerard OMI was ordained priest, is now an Oblate heritage site with a museum of the congregation developed for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Oblates in Southern Africa. Today St Mary's parish is multiracial parish at the heart of the city. The city is an epicentre for moral disintegration characterized by escalating crime, prostitution and other social ills.

"Crime is rife. Just recently we lost Fr Eldred Leslie, and there is always trouble between political parties, especially during the run-up to elections. We are forever compelled to work harder to bring people to church give direction to the many unemployed youth in our society" said parish priest Fr Allan Moss OMI.

He said there was a greater need to help society experience the word of God, and called on priests to live by example "Priests must embrace frugal lifestyles and show a commitment to the Christian way of life. In our parish we try by all means to practice what we preach."

Since 2007 a community of three Oblates have been serving St Mary's. They are Fathers Allan Moss OMI, Brian Duffey OMI and Ben Gumede OMI.

#### **2. Church-based youth leadership formed**

Collaboration between the Oblate Youth ministry and the St Philomena youth Program has led to a new training program.

Based on the theme "The elder within", the leadership development project begins by looking at issues of personal growth in association with

trained specialists such as social workers and counsellors. Youth from marginalized communities, many of whom are troubled, are also taken on camps on the premise that communing with nature enables them to confront the issues of their lives.

Those who have been empowered in this way are becoming increasingly involved in forming and animating youth societies in their respective areas of ministry.

The vision of the Oblate Youth Ministry has always been to reach out to marginalised youth who tend to fall outside the ambit of mainstream programmes. "Sometimes the most talented youth have been damaged by dark trajectories in life, very much like the British pop star Amy Winehouse, and often struggle to straddle the positive energy within themselves. This is what we want to harness, so that they can take it to the next level," said Fr Merlin Ince OMI who is running this programme. This approach, Fr Ince said, is still experimental, drawing on the success of other programmes, and is constantly being evaluated. A related programme he also started is a research one during which the "symbolic world" is examined, as key to turning self-destructive power into a pro-active force.

He said he is now starting to see the fruits of his work, seeing how youth have stepped out of the margins and are now in the world of work or at tertiary institutions, and are striving to teach others in the type of situations they were in, before all that they learnt through the Oblate/St Philomena's youth leadership development programme.

**3. Durban Catholics learn about Personal growth**  
PARTICIPANTS from several Durban parishes attended a "Growth Retreat" at Glenmore Pastoral Centre in Durban, in which they were encouraged to discern the truth about themselves and their attitudes to others.

Father Noel Peters OMI, a clinical and social psychologist and a diversity consultant who developed the model, said the intention is for individuals to attain deeper levels of happiness within themselves, particularly through overcoming obstacles to personal growth and to learn about negative versus positive awareness and how it applies to themselves.

He said the retreat also focuses on Christ in the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, as a means of personal relationship and support in one's quest for spiritual growth. The first one, at Glenwood, was received with overwhelming accolades, Fr Peters said.

He said the trainer must have the proper psychological background, in which case it may well be important to start a "Training the Trainer" programme. At the moment the retreat material was still in Microsoft PowerPoint format, which he was about to turn into a training guide. Fr Peters has also produced a three-disk CD entitled Silence is the Voice of Love: The Experience of Prayer and Evangelisation, with pictures he himself took and accompanying music he composed, aside from the text. These, he said, could be valuable for retreats and workshops.

■ For more information on the "Growth Retreat" or "Dialogues in Diversity", Fr Peters can be contacted on [noelpeters@telkomsa.net](mailto:noelpeters@telkomsa.net), 031 267 2486 or 072 985 4475.

**4. SACBC workshop on culture and healing**  
FORTY-SIX delegates representing all the dioceses of Southern Africa attended a national consultative workshop on culture and healing, most of them priests and religious whom their bishops had selected to lead the healing ministries of their dioceses. The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference's (SACBC) Department for Christian Formation, Liturgy and Culture organised the event at the John Paul II Conference Centre in Bethlehem. Bishops Edward Risi OMI of Keimoes-Upington (chairman), Hugh Slattery MSC of Tzaneen and Pius Dlungwane of Mariannhill were part of the consultation.

Frs. Stuart Bate OMI, Victor Phalana of Pretoria and Donaat Bohe OMI of Klerksdorp diocese were the keynote speakers. The event was a sequel to the Bishops' pastoral letter of August 2006 on the practice of *ubungoma* (traditional healing) by priests and religious as well as their letter of 2008 on healing.

Fr Bate presented a fully researched anthropology of healing indicating the socio-cultural context to which an effective pastoral ministry of healing must respond. He gave examples of healing ministries which are compatible with the Gospel and in conformity with the teaching of the Church.

Fr Bohe shared his many years' experience of healing ministry with a focus on the minister behind the rituals. Proper and careful formation of all involved in the healing ministry is essential, he said, to avoid the ministry becoming one of proclaiming oneself rather than Jesus the Healer.

## **Good News about Oblate Mission**

### ***A wider view of Lay associates***

Throughout the Congregation there is an increasing interest in a wider view of Lay Associates. Lay people are involved in our mission on a variety of levels. Some are fulltime workers, some wish to share our spirituality. Some are collaborating with us in a variety of missions and ministries. The Congregation is urging Oblates to look for new and creative ways to involve lay people in our ministries, our spirituality and in associate groups with a variety of involvements. Here in the Natal Province we are very well aware of the tremendous work of the Missionary Associates of Mary Immaculate over many years. Recently Fr Andrew Knott OMI was asked to assist Fr Albert Danker OMI with this ministry and at a meeting with the Provincial they decided to work on a programme for the organisation. It also became clear that in fact the Province has a number of categories of lay cooperators. First we have our two Honorary Oblates: Joy Brain OMI and Eugene Chateau OMI. Then there is the MAMI Founded by Fr. Patrick Holland OMI in 1954 as a support group for the new scholasticate at Cedara. The Current active participation is 502 members. A new endeavour is The Oblate Youth Associates. In its evaluation of the report on the world youth day in Australia the OMI Youth Ministry Committee expressed its support of the need to organize Youth Associates. Some members of the committee decided to look for ways and means for the establishment of the Associates. Finally there is a group of individuals who have a special involvement with our ministries. Foremost among these is Mrs Veronica Young who runs our Oblate Retreat centre at Redacres and Mrs Daphne Seale who is the caretaker of Allard house. In addition Mr Rob Redlinger has been helping us with media matters especially the printing of our brochures and will take is keen to help us more with media matters. Mr Jack Wheatly and Mr Peter Foley are involved on our Province finance committee. There are many others.

The matter of our associates will be discussed at the Assembly. In an evening session from 6pm on July 22<sup>nd</sup> we intend to invite the MAMI promoters and other lay people involved with our ministries. Rob Redlinger will speak at that session about his plans for an Oblate media strategy and Mr Paddy Kearney will speak on the new book on Archbishop Denis HURLEY. The evening will conclude with a light meal.

## **Good News about Oblate Mission**

### ***Upgrade of website and Oblate media***



We have decided to try to coordinate our various media outlets in the province. These include our two websites, our publications, a proposed SMS service, newsletters and other communications formats. At a recent meeting Mr Rob Redlinger agreed to work with us as an Oblate Media strategist. He writes: "Ever since reading Vatican II documentation and then more recently our Holy Fathers' letter on the 43rd World Communication day I have felt a great need to take the work of the Oblates into the new media world. I will primarily be using your new website (which I am working on now), along with social networks like Facebook to draw attention to your good work. I hope to combine database ideas, new media and passion to achieve great things for you. I have made this combination work for my business and would like to see if we can replicate the same success. I will be building a social network in cyberspace in order for people to get to know the Oblates better and then hopefully support you with their TIME, TALENT and TREASURES. I look forward to working with you and feel honoured to be allowed this opportunity."

## **Good News about Oblate Mission**

### ***SJTI Students receive post graduate degrees***

St Joseph's Theological Institute runs its post graduate programme in Collaboration with the University of KwaZulu Natal. At the graduation ceremony of the University in April, four St Joseph's post-graduate students received their degrees.

Dr Chris Grzelak SCJ of the Institute staff received his PhD for a thesis in the area of inter-religious dialogue: "The 'inclusivist pluralism' of Jacques Dupuis, its contribution to a Christian

theology of religions, and its relevance to the South African interreligious context."

Dr Annemarie Paulin-Campbell of the Jesuit Institute of South Africa worked in the areas of spirituality and psychology. Her thesis is "The impact of the imaginal and dialogical (relational) processes in the Spiritual Exercises, on image of God and image of self in women making the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat."

Susan Bronkhorst (Catholic Theology) and Gilbert Zenda FMS (Biblical Studies) received BTh Honours degrees.

Congratulations to the students of our Institute which continues to grow and develop in collaboration with other education providers in South Africa and beyond. Currently SJTI now has strategic alliances with the following public and private institutions of higher education: The University of KwaZulu-Natal; The Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa: St. Augustine College: of South Africa; St. John Vianney Seminary. Oblate School of Theology USA and the University of Tilburg, Netherlands. These institutions assist the Institute with curriculum and programme development and help in ensuring quality control over the programmes and modules offered by the Institute.

## Good News about Oblate Mission

### ***Vocations workshop:***

On the weekend of the 3, 4, 5 July a vocations workshop was held at Cebula House of Formation, Cleland. The theme for the workshop was taken from the World Youth Day: *We have set our hope on the living God* (1 Tim 4:10). The ten young men who participated are all from the Archdiocese of Durban. It was a time to reflect on our lives by looking at the call in scripture. We looked at Oblate religious life and the formation process as well as other vocations to the Diocese. Other priests and religious were invited to share on their vocation. Most of these young men have attended workshops and come and see programs. They expressed great satisfaction with the content of the weekend. It is through such weekends that we get to know and create friendships for the pre-novitiate program. Their presence at the workshop is a testimony of their awareness and hope in a God who is alive. If Oblates know of young men in their parishes who are interested in Oblate religious life they should get them to

contact the Vocations Director, Fr Andrew Knott OMI at 0792119966.

## Oblate Events 2009.

### ***Provincial Assembly***

Our Provincial Assembly will take place on 22-23 July at Albini Hall, Congella. Proceedings will begin at 8.30 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and finish at 5.30 on 23rd July. The theme is "living a Fully Committed Oblate Life" and the Keynote Speaker is Fr Frank Santucci OMI who will speak on "Eugene's dream" presenting the vision of the founder and its importance for our Oblate life today. Other matters include: The programme will include a review of the programmes set up at the congress and preparations for the upcoming chapter in 2010. There will also be reports from the Provincial Administration on the state of the province with a special focus on the financial and property matters. Progress on Restructuring will also be dealt with. All members of the province are expected to attend including the scholastics and those in the philosophy programme at Cebula House of Formation.

### ***Workshop for Formators***

A workshop for all formators in English speaking African units including ours was held at Mazenod Centre in Germiston from the 6th to the 14th of July 2009.

It was facilitated by Fr. Frank Santucci OMI who came from Aix en Province where he is currently assigned. About 35 participants attended including the formators of the two Scholasticates, Mater Jesu and St Joseph's; the Novitiates and Pre-Novitiates and the Chairpersons of the Formation Committees in the units.

### ***Diaconate Ordination of Pamidzai Mudzudza***

Br. Pamidzai Mudzudza OMI will be ordained deacon on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 at 10 a.m. at the Chapel of St Joseph's Scholasticate. Bishop Barry Wood will preside. All are invited to attend this event.



### ***Priestly Ordination of Ewen Swartz***

Br. Ewen Swartz OMI will be ordained priest on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 at 10 a.m. at Holy Family Parish Newlands East by Bishop Barry Wood. All are invited to attend this event.



### **Annual Retreats 2009**

A reminder that our Annual Retreats this year will follow our biennial policy of having a directed retreat at the Bluff and a Preached retreat at Redacres. This year the dates are as follows:

**4-9 October Bluff: Directed Retreat**

**11-16 October: Redacres: Preached Retreat**

**Preacher: Fr Don Bohe OMI**

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

#### **Provincial's Diary**

##### **May 2009**

- 7 Misesan Cara Meeting Albin Hall
- 14 Funeral Fr Petrus Xulu
- 25 Feast of St Eugene, Gerard house

##### **June 2009**

- 2. SACBC Healing Consultation Bethlehem
- 23-24 Provincial Council meeting

##### **July**

- 22-23 Provincial assembly Albin Hall

##### **August**

- 1 Diaconate Ordination Pamidzai Mudzudza OMI

#### **Dates to Give Thanks**

##### **JUNE**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Name</b>          | <b>Occasion</b>       |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01          | Fr G Michelson       | Birthday              |
| 13          | Fr M Ceruti          | Ordination            |
| 13          | Bishop B Wood        | Birthday              |
| 20          | Fr C Lockyer         | Birthday / Ordination |
| 20          | Fr Z Mbanjwa         | Ordination            |
| 21          | Fr N Peters          | Ordination            |
| 21          | C Maramwidze (Schol) | Birthday              |
| 28          | Fr R Boyd            | Ordination            |
| 28          | Fr F Duffy           | First Vows            |
| 29          | Fr F Duffy           | Ordination            |
| 29          | Fr P Foley           | Ordination            |
| 29          | Fr P McMahon         | Ordination            |
| 29          | Fr J Patterson       | Ordination            |
| 29          | Fr S Bate            | First Vows            |

##### **JULY**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Name</b>   | <b>Occasion</b> |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 02          | Fr J Money    | Ordination      |
| 06          | Fr A Knott    | Birthday        |
| 11          | Fr K Struwe   | Ordination      |
| 14          | Bishop B Wood | Ordination      |
| 20          | Fr C Lukuba   | Ordination      |
| 22          | Fr N Meyiwa   | Birthday        |
| 24          | Fr M Mchunu   | Birthday        |
| 25          | Fr R Boyd     | Birthday        |
| 28          | Fr C Richmond | Birthday        |
| 30          | Fr A Moss     | Ordination      |

#### **AUGUST**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Name</b>    | <b>Occasion</b>       |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 01          | Fr JL Nzaji    | Ordination            |
| 01          | Fr L Mpuni     | Ordination            |
| 07          | Fr D Mackenzie | Birthday              |
| 15          | Fr S David     | Birthday              |
| 15          | Fr JL Nzaji    | First Vows            |
| 16          | Fr D Butt      | Birthday              |
| 21          | Fr N Frank     | Birthday / Ordination |
| 23          | Fr J Ngubane   | Birthday              |
| 24          | Fr S Bate      | Birthday              |
| 31          | Fr B Duffey    | Birthday              |

Errors and omissions contact the Administrative Assistant  
([admin@omi.org.za](mailto:admin@omi.org.za))

### **OMI NATAL Update**

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

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