



Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

NEWS LETTER

No. 10

Special issue:
Blessing and Opening of
Blessed Gérard's Care Centre
(September 1996)



BLESSED GÉRARD'S CARE CENTRE'S ALMANAC OF THE PAST YEAR:

September, 1995	the working drawings are passed by Mandeni Town Board
October, 1995	the building begins - the site is cleared, the foundations are marked on the ground and the excavation begins.
February, 1996	A 40ft container with equipment arrives from Mr. Meehan in Milwaukee and is offloaded into storage
March, 1996	the foundation stone is laid in the centre of the soon-to-be-poured floor of the chapel
June, 1996	Sr. Elaine Taylor from The Irish Order of Malta Ambulance Corps arrives in South Africa, to train our Active Members
July, 1996	the first home nursing courses for our members begin
August, 1996	the final stages of the construction
September, 1996	the OPENING

This is a major understatement of what has actually happened. Anyone who has ever had anything to do with the construction of a building of this size will appreciate this fact.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU ON A PICTORIAL TOUR THROUGH BLESSED GÉRARD'S CARE CENTRE NOW



The oratory



The kitchen

One of the wards



Our ambulance



Mural in the passage "Blessed Gérard in the first Care Centre, the hospital of Jerusalem"

THE OPENING OF BLESSED GÉRARD'S CARE CENTRE

The time had come and the VIPs began to arrive - First the Chancellor of the Bohemian Grand Priory of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Frederic Count Strachwitz at 4am on Friday, then to Co-ordinator of the aid of Malteser-Hilfsdienst for South Africa, Dr. Albrecht Count Rechberg, and the manager of Malteser-Hilfsdienst in Bavaria, Mr. Manfred Schulz, in the evening. Fr. Gérard wore a path to Durban airport and back, because the Grand Commander of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Frà. Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein, arrived the next morning and the chairman of the International Committee of the Federal Association of the Order of Malta, Mr. Meehan, and his friend Msgr. Charleboix the next evening. Of course, our other VIPs - the Representative of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in Germany, Mr. Johannes Lagleder, and Mr. & Mrs. Hans & Albertine Sporer had been here for some time already and had been very busy helping us prepare for the 3rd.



Our honoured guests were treated to a Zulu Holy Mass in Sundumbili on Sunday morning, they spent the afternoon having lunch in the countryside and then an informal braai (=barbecue) in the evening with all the Dedicated Members.

On Monday they were all taken on a tour of our projects -

- a guided tour of the Care Centre building;
- a warm welcome from the Friendship Club;
- an overwhelming greeting from the children at Blessed Gérard's Pre-primary school & Crèche in Whebede;



- and last but not least a visit to meet the teacher and students at Blessed Gérard's Community Development Centre (our sewing school)

- and to see the rooms of Blessed Gérard's Feeding Scheme for Malnourished Infants in Sundumbili;

- Then our guests were taken back to their lodgings to relax before the formal dinner in the evening.



While all the guests were being entertained, the office in the Priest's House and the Care Centre site were hives of activity. The final countdown for the opening had begun.

No time to sit, no time to relax, no time to eat!!! Johannes Lagleder, Albertine & Hans Sporer, Caroline Beaumont and Sr. Elaine Taylor were the backbone of the team - without their help and co-operation we would never have managed.

The day of Blessed Gérard's Feast had arrived, Tuesday, 3rd September, 1996 - the opening & blessing of the centre and the handing over of the relic of Blessed Gérard.

The official activities began at 1pm with cultural entertainment for the VIPs.



The Mandeni Junior School choir,



the team of Zulu dancers from Dr. & Mrs. Ardington's farm,



the children from Blessed Gérard's Pre-primary School & Crèche

and some young dancers from the Khululekani Primary School all performed their special programmes, which they had prepared.



In between the items, the official speeches of welcome, of appreciation and of good wishes were given by Fr. Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein, Count Rechberg, Mr. Schulz and



Mr. Michael O'Donovan.

Fr. Gérard, Mrs. Kalkwarf and



Dr. Thabethe presented our guests of honour with traditional Zulu gifts.

It was a very happy and relaxed atmosphere which ended around 4pm. Everyone then started preparing for the big celebration in the evening. In the meantime Mr. Ferdie Rouillon was despatched to fetch Bishop Mansuet from Durban airport, having just been to a parliamentary session in Cape Town.

Somehow the whole thing came together, as planned, at 5pm!!!
The Care Centre was full, there wasn't a chair to be had anywhere. The Sundumbili Choir was in place and the celebration could really begin.
What a wonderful celebration it was!

The festive High Mass began with the blessing of the oratory and the altar by Bishop Mansuet Biyase of Eshowe.



After the sermon the new Associate Members received their medals and were duly blessed by the Bishop.



Then the new Honorary Dedicated Members were solemnly invested.

Mr. Johannes Lagleder, Mr. Hans & Mrs. Albertine Sporer & Mr. Daniel Meehans' capes were blessed by the Bishop and conferred on them by the Grand Commander of the Order of the Knights of Malta, Frà. Ludwig Hoffmann von



Rumerstein and the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Following this the relic of Blessed Gérard was fetched by His Excellency, the Venerable Bailiff, Frà. Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein and the other attending members of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta and brought in procession to the oratory where the Bishop of Eshowe, Fr. Gérard and the Dedicated

Members of the Brotherhood were waiting. The relic was carried on a red velvet cushion and handed over with great emotion to the Bishop, who placed it on the altar.

The celebration of Holy Mass then continued.

After Holy Communion, the Grand Commander placed the relic of Blessed Gérard in a reliquary which had been donated by the family of Fr. Gérard.



Then he handed over the relic to the President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard,

who placed it into a glass fronted cabinet in the side wall of the oratory and sealed there by the building contractor Mr. Luigi Haglich.

The celebration was brought to a close with the blessing of the whole Care Centre by the Bishop. This is the first time in the 900 year-history of the order, that a relic of Blessed Gérard has been granted to any organisation and this is the first church, oratory or chapel which has been dedicated to Blessed Gérard. This is indeed a great honour for us.

Another honour was given to two very important people, without whose support the Care Centre would not be here today. Frà. Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein conferred two orders of merit, which were granted by the Grand Master of the Sovereign Military



Order of Malta, His Most Eminent Highness, Frà Andrew Bertie:



The first was the Grand Cross Pro Piis Meritis for Bishop Mansuet Biyase



and the other was the Commander's Cross Pro Merito Melitensi for Mr. Daniel E. Meehan.

After all the ceremonies and celebrations, a supper was served to everyone who attended before they left for home.

We consider all that happened a huge blessing and a great honour for our country, province and community.

THANK YOU to everyone who did anything to help to make this occasion so special.

- the ladies and junior members who helped to clean the whole centre,
- the ladies who served the tea in the afternoon,
- Mrs. Patricia Thompson and her team for the flower arrangements,
- the ladies who helped serve supper in the evening,
- Mr. William Yeo for having a watchful eye,
- the altar servers who gave up so much time for practise,
- to Mr. Karl Schmidt who taught the altar servers and assisted as an acolyte,
- to Rev. Br. Bernard Pachner O.S.B. from Inkamana Abbey, who recorded the celebration on a video tape,
- to Mrs. Caroline Beaumont for going the extra mile
- and to all those who have not been mentioned

PS: If you would like a copy of the video of the opening ceremonies, please bring your own 195 VHS tape to the office.

BLESSED GÉRARD'S FRIENDSHIP CLUB CARES

A while ago the Friendship Club made it their task to help the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard reach their dream of making the "self help" primary health care centre a reality. They decided in one of their meetings to knit squares to make blankets for the people who will come to the Care Centre. So far they have given us eleven blankets. During the months the members of the Friendship Club have made different articles to sell to raise funds. At the special meeting on the day when the foreign dignitaries were visiting, Mrs. Yvonne Renaud handed over an amount of R500. This is a very stout effort - especially, as this donation was not the first one - and the people who will be served by us will be most grateful. THANK YOU!

DONATIONS PLEASE

There are still many things which are sorely needed for the Care Centre, despite the many wonderful donations, which we have already received. We do not want our members to feel that we are flogging a willing horse. But

if you have any of the following items lying around at home which you do not need - please remember us:

Sheets	Towels	Blankets	Pillows	Pillowcases
Cooking utensils	Crockery	Cutlery	Glassware	Shelving
Coffee tables	Garden furniture	Electric kettle	Microwave	Irons & board
Washing machine	Tumble drier	Bath mats	Wheel-chairs	Crutches
Com-modes	other nursing equipment	Teaching aids	Overhead projector	TV
Video machine	Wheel-barrow	Fork & spade	Hose pipe	Plants
Fertiliser				

AND anything else that you think we might make use of.

FOR SALE

We have the following items for sale from the reception office in Blessed Gérard's Care Centre :

Uniform shirts		small - XXXL	R40.00 ea.
Brotherhood T-shirts	red	small - XXL	R30.00 ea.
Brotherhood T-shirts	white	small - XXL	R30.00 ea.
Embroidered badges as spares (for active Members with uniform shirts only)			R5.00 ea.
Vinyl stickers		small	R2.00 ea.
Vinyl stickers		large	R3.00 ea.
Blessed Gérard cards		blank for any occasion	R1.00 ea.
The book titled - Blessed Gérard Tonque and his "Everlasting Brotherhood": The Order of St. John. Author- Gérard Tonque Lagleder			R25.00 ea.

MEMBERS' NEWS

BIRTHDAYS

We wish a blessed and very happy birthday to:

Herrn Bernd Stadelmaier on his 30th
Herrn Johann Hauer on his 40th
Herrn Ottmar Fries on his 40th
Frau Theresia Dittner on her 40th
Herrn Erhard Schiffers on his 50th
Mrs. Cathleen Cowie on her 50th
Mrs. Belinda Matilda Zulu on her 50th
Mr. Gerald Leslie Clark on his 60th
Fräulein Anna Spielmann on her 70th
Mr. Job Ngubane on his 70th



WELCOME to all our new members:

Mrs. Margaret Hawthorn (Sen.), Mrs. Madeline Peggy Petzer, Mrs. Peggy Irene Evans, Mrs. Renée Pieters, Mrs. Shona Dain Pieters, Miss Sherine Ann Jamieson, Miss Bianca Williamson, Mrs. Lillian Phylis Joseph, Mrs. Cornelia Terreblanche, Mrs. Megan Denise Woolridge, Dr. Paul Koch, Mr. Broos Stan, Miss Kerryng Watkins, Miss Caroline Wachter, Mr. Simon Siboniso Moloji, Mr. Nontokoza A. Dlungwane, Mr. Martin Wood, Dr. Albrecht Graf Rechberg, Miss Nomvula Kheswa, Mrs. Vinothi Jane Gounden, Mrs. Vasagee Naicker, Mrs. Catharina Van Schalkwyk, Mrs. Elise Bozas, Mr Christoffel Hermanus Tait, Mrs. Ananda van Niekerk, Frà. Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein, Mrs. Anne Carol Paterson, Miss Samantha Naicker, Miss Dheran Naicker, Miss Sarishna Singh, Miss Elaine Prumdeen, Miss Davina Gounden, Miss Sheryl Pillay, Mrs. Simoné Dutton, Mrs. Ntombizonke Rachel Radebe, Mrs. Gugu Rose Ngcobo, Mr. Verster Brent, Rev Carl Lindgren, Mrs Ernestinah G Manqe, Mr Bernard Mills, Mr Karl Sidney Schmidt, Mr P Z Mngadi, Mr Theophilus Mpumelelo Dlamini, Miss Simpiwe Teresa Dlamini, Miss Priscilla S'duduziwe Dlamini, Miss Lunatia Lindokuhle Dlamini, Miss Felicitus Thulile Gumede, Miss Martilda Jabu

Gumede, Mrs Mynah Christian, Mr Guy Felix Dunn, Mrs Ursula Toohey, Mrs Antoinette Theresa Roberts, Mrs Myrtle Dunn, Mrs Clara Mtshali, Mr Eric Daniel Barth, Mr John C Carroll, Miss Juliet Thokozile Hlongwa, Mrs Linda Neethling, Mrs Estelle Denner, Mrs Fikelephi Essie Ncube.

We are especially proud, that the Grand Commander (=Deputy Head of State) of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Frà Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein and the former vice-president of Malteser-Hilfsdienst and now Co-ordinator of the aid of Malteser-Hilfsdienst for South Africa, Dr. Albrecht Graf Rechberg are among our new members.

Membership statistics on 29.10.96	Active Members	Donors	Spiritual Supporters	Total
South Africa	133	57	13	203
Tanzania	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	1	2	3
Belgium	0	0	1	1
Germany	8	142	39	189
Denmark	0	0	11	11
Great Britain	0	0	1	1
Italy	1	0	0	1
Ireland	1	0	0	1
USA	4	4	3	11
El Salvador	0	0	2	2
Chile	0	0	1	1
Australia	0	0	1	1
Total	147	204	75	426

Thank you - once again - to Clare Kalkwarf for writing and to Caroline Beaumont for printing and mailing this newsletter!

The “Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard Newsletter” is the official mouthpiece of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and is edited by the Management Committee of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

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Fax 032-4567962 (national) +27-32-4567962 (international)

e-mail **bbg@iafrica.com (new!)**

URL <http://www.shaka.iafrica.com/~gtl/bbg.htm>

MaltaNet 50BBG

MEMBERSHIP ENROLMENT COMPETITION

Please help us to increase our membership. Talk to your family, friends and acquaintances and ask them to join our brotherhood as a spiritual supporter or financial supporter or active member.

You may copy the application form overleaf yourself or you can obtain copies from our office.

1. The First prize in the “Financial Supporters” category is a sterling silver tea set (which was donated to the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard).
2. The First prize in the “Spiritual Supporters” category is the book “Crossing the threshold of hope” written by pope John Paul II. (donated by St. Anthony’s Parish).
3. The First prize in the “Active Members” category is a Swiss-made wristwatch (donated by Frà Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein).
4. The Second prize in all categories is a brotherhood-T-shirt.
5. The Third prize in all categories is a copy of the book “Blessed Gérard Tonque and his ‘everlasting brotherhood’: The Order of St. John.
6. The fourth to tenth prizes in all categories are A4-size colour pictures of Blessed Gérard.

Rules of the competition:

- Anybody may enter the competition.
- The First Prize will be awarded to the one who submitted the biggest number of application forms in the respective category, the second prize to the one with the second biggest number of application forms, etc.
- Only application forms, which are completely and correctly filled in and reach our office not later than 31.12.96, can be entered in the competition.
- The decision of the jury is final.

**Application for Associate Membership in the
Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**

Indicate which kind of membership you want

I want to participate actively in the projects of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** as an **Active Member**.

I agree with the principles and regulations of the Brotherhood.

I belong to the

- Roman-Catholic
- Anglican
- Methodist
- Dutch-Reformed
- Lutheran
- Baptist
- other _____

Church.

I want to assist the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** financially as a **Donor**

I want to help the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** through my prayers as a **Spiritual Supporter**

I am prepared to support the objectives of the Brotherhood though an

annual quarterly monthly membership fee of R_____

which I agree to pay in advance.

First Names: _____

Surname: _____

Date of birth: _____

I.D.No.:

Residential address: _____

Postal address: P O Box _____

Postal Code _____ Place _____

☎ Code _____ No _____

Fax Code _____ No _____

Signed at _____ on the _____

Signature of applicant _____

In case of applicant being a minor,
signature of parent or legal guardian _____

Name of person who asked you to join the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**

Send this form to the
Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard
61 Anderson Road · P O Box 440 · Mandeni · 4490 RSA
☎ 032-4562743 · Fax 032-4567962