



Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

Newsletter No. 11

Christmas 1996
New Year 1997

Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

Christmas Message 1996

Dear members and friends of our Brotherhood,

This year I feel very much like St. Joseph at Christmas. For a long time he made his way along the difficult road to Bethlehem and even then he had no time to prepare properly for Christmas. The divine child was born, before he could find comfortable accommodation, where all of them would have been able to attend to the holy events. Thanks be to God, the angels took over from St. Joseph to distribute the birth announcement to the whole world. Now I sit at the manger, too. Baby

Jesus is full of beans and his disarming smile makes the wrinkles of my failure on my forehead disappear. Unfortunately the angels have more important tasks than distributing my newsletter, so I have to make arrangements with worldly powers and I will just ask the Three Kings to take my wishes and blessings along to you on their way back.

I wish you God's richest blessings for every day of the New Year 1997 and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done in and for our brotherhood.

Yours [Fr. Gérard T. Lagleder O.S.B.](#)

Projects' Review 1996

Now, at the end of yet another year, is a good time to reflect on the activities and achievements during the past year. The year of 1996 has really been a watershed year for the Brotherhood -

- [Bursary Fund](#)
- [Community Development Centre](#)
- [Malnutrition Clinic](#)
- [AIDS Prevention / Education](#)
- [Friendship Club](#)
- [Pre-primary School & Crèche](#)
- [Care Centre & Hospice](#)

Our volunteers have been marvellous and I am sure that God will bless them abundantly for all the time and effort they have sacrificed for the good of the community. We must not forget the families who the volunteers leave behind when they come to work in the Care Centre. We thank them most sincerely for allowing their family member to come to the aid of the needy.

We look forward to 1997 with anticipation, with expectation and with some trepidation. But, as we have already proved, there is an abundance of good will amongst our community and therefore favour the fact that we can be confident of receiving the help we need.

Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund

This being our oldest project is sometimes not seen as very significant because by comparison with some of our other projects it is quite small. But it serves a good cause and fills a gap. We have sponsored two students this year, one at university and one at school.

Blessed Gérard's Community Development Centre

Having had administrative problems with this facility, the sewing school was closed for a period of time. However, I am happy to report that the school was reopened in July this year and is proving to be a wonderful asset to the community. Miss Thulile Nzuzi, our teacher has taken twelve beginners under her wing and they have progressed from the preliminary course to almost completing the secondary course. The prize giving will take place early in 1997 when the latter course is finished and Sr. Bernadette has assessed the work. The school will reopen on 13th January, 1997. I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Sr. Bernadette from Little Flower Convent, Eshowe, for assisting us in so many ways.

Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic

At any one time Sr. Nokuthula Thabethe has thirty three malnourished babies to treat and monitor.

We are proud to say that during this year she has been able to get six babies to such a good state of health that they need not come back to us for help on a regular basis.

Blessed Gérard's AIDS Education Programme

Dr. Thabethe and his team from Sundumbili have reached many people by travelling round to all the branches of our parishes to give talks.

The response to these lectures has been very inspiring.

Blessed Gérard's Friendship Club

Our senior citizens are indeed an asset to Mandeni. They have worked extremely hard to help the Brotherhood realise our dream of assisting the needy. The 35 members of the club donated R1490.00 during 1996, raised from the sale of items which the members had made themselves, as well as making and donating 15 knitted blankets, cushion covers and many other very useful items. The Christmas party, which they held to end the year off, was great fun. I am sure they did not need to eat again for at least a week! The tables were beautifully decorated with festive flower arrangements, ornaments and the like. The Friendship Club members, Helma Lintvelt, Joyce Buss and Margaret Hawthorn were all here the day before to prepare. The day arrived and all the members came bearing little gifts, a plate of eats and a broad smile. Linda Neethling had arranged some games and prizes. The lady who won "everything" was a visitor from Scotland, Megan Woolridge's mother-in-law. Congratulations! The [Care Centre](#) was a buzz with activity. There were some sad faces when the morning (and the year of togetherness) came to an end. Fortunately this is only temporary and the first meeting of the New Year will be on 22nd January, 1997.

A poem composed by Mrs. Margaret Paxton to the Friendship Club and read to them at the end of year party on 10th December, 1996.

*Your Christmas Angel is here for a while
Before she goes to the Emerald Isle,
She's not Monica or Tess
As I'm sure you've guessed
She's here on a mission
With God's permission
To give thanks to you
for all that you do.
Recycled teenagers we may be
But we have lots of fun as anyone can see
And it's all thanks to Margaret and Joyce
Who organise all, giving lots of choice.
With folks like me it's no easy task
But we appreciate your doing all we ask.
We enjoy lectures, demonstrations and visits to farms,
We recycle cards, and play bingo which makes us use hands and arms.
We enjoy Hetta's pancakes which go down well with the tea
And home baked cakes and cookies in abundance are free.
We do what we can for the Blessed Gérard Brotherhood
Selling crafts and saving cents as we knew we could.
Alternate Wednesdays are a definite must,
They stop us turning into lumps of rust,
So all of us here in the Friendship Club
Wish you a Merry Christmas and our love.*

Blessed Gérard's Pre-primary School & Crèche

It was fitting that such a festive occasion would see nine of our little ones "graduate" to Junior Primary school.

We congratulate all of the children, their parents and Miss Veronica Mthethwa who prepared them thus far.

The prize giving had a very happy atmosphere with lots of singing, dancing and, of course, eating.

We wish all of them a wonderful holiday and to those who will return in 1997, the school will reopen on 21st January.

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre & Hospice

We are happy to report the building is now 99% complete with some minor problems to be sorted out in the new year, when the builders return.

However, despite all the problems, the management committee have accomplished the working of all four leaves of our "clover leaf".

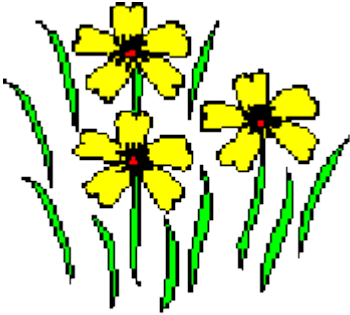
The Mobile Home Nursing teams have been extremely busy on a continuous basis;

the [Training in Home Nursing Care](#) has also been very active with about 50 members having been trained;

the [Day Care Centre](#) is also being used at present and the [Inpatient unit](#), with 24 hour care being given by volunteers has also been in use.

Members' News

Birthdays:



We wish a blessed and very happy birthday
to:

Herrn Hans Lagleder on his 80th

*Frà Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein on
his 60th*

Mrs. Belinda Zulu on her 50th

Mrs. Hetta Henning on her 50th

Herrn Siegfried Karl Lauinger on his 50th

Frau Sigrid Lauinger on her 50th

Frau Irmgard Inwald on her 40th

Frau Dr. Brigitte Riek on her 40th

Mrs. Colleen Werton on her 40th

Mr. Victor Vusi Nzuza on his 40th

Mrs. Megan Denise Woolridge on her 40th

Mrs. Caroline Francis Beaumont on her 40th

Mrs. Anastasia Lungile Dube on her 40th

Mrs. Vasagie Loshini Naicker on her 30th

H.H. Kaplan Werner Sulzer on his 30th

Mr. Theophilus Mpumelelo Dlamini on his 21st

Congratulations

- to Frederic Count Strachwitz on his promotion to Procurator of the Bohemian Grand Priory of the [Sovereign Military Order of Malta](#).
 - to Herrn Heinz Himmels who was promoted to Secretary General of [Malteser-Hilfsdienst](#), Germany.
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Farewell & Good luck

to Miss Anne Paterson who is emigrating to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Donations please!

Before we appeal to everyone again, we would like to THANK all those members who contributed after our last news letter.

However, once again we appeal to our members to see if they have any of the following items lying around at home. Maybe you are not in need of them anymore, but they could be of use in Blessed Gérard's [Care Centre](#):

Sheets, towels, Blankets , Pillows, Pillowcases, Crockery, Cutlery, Glassware , Shelving, Garden Furniture, Electric Kettle, Microwave, Washing machine, Tumble drier, Bath mats, Wheelchairs, Crutches, Commodes, other nursing equipment, Teaching aids, Overhead projector, TV, Video machine, Wheelbarrow, Hose pipe, Plants, AND anything else that you think we might be able to make use of.

Welcome to all our new members:

Thembekile Joyce Sibiya, Mr. Caspar Bongumusa Dlamini, Mrs. Doreen Dunn, Mrs. Thembi Xulu, Mrs. Gizelle Rozanne Metherelle, Mr. Peter Bernard Lazarus, Mrs. Carmella Charmaine Lazarus, Mr. Garry James Forger, Mr. Peter Lane, Pallante Rocco, Giovanna Barbato Nicola Scarano, Rosa Avelero, M. Rosaria Barbato, Mr. Charles Joseph Dunn, Mr. Gavin Nunn, Mrs. Carolyn Nunn, Mr. Steven Harry Dunn, Mrs. Joy Agnes Fynn, Mrs. Melanie Cecilia Nicholas, Mrs. Mercia Susan Dyer, Mr. Cyril Samuel Clark, Mrs. Judith Blanche Clark, Mrs. Gugu Immaculatte Mdluli, Mr. Calvin Fynn, Mrs. May Blossom Goodwin.

Membership statistics on 9.1.97	Active Members	Donors	Spiritual Supporters	Total
South Africa	138	70	13	221
Tanzania	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	1	2	3
Belgium	0	0	1	1
Germany	9	141	39	189
Denmark	0	0	11	11
Great Britain	0	0	1	1
Italy	2	5	0	7
Ireland	1	0	0	1
USA	4	5	3	12
El Salvador	0	0	2	2
Chile	0	0	1	1
Australia	0	1	1	2
Total	154	223	75	452

The “Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard Newsletter” is the official mouthpiece of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

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