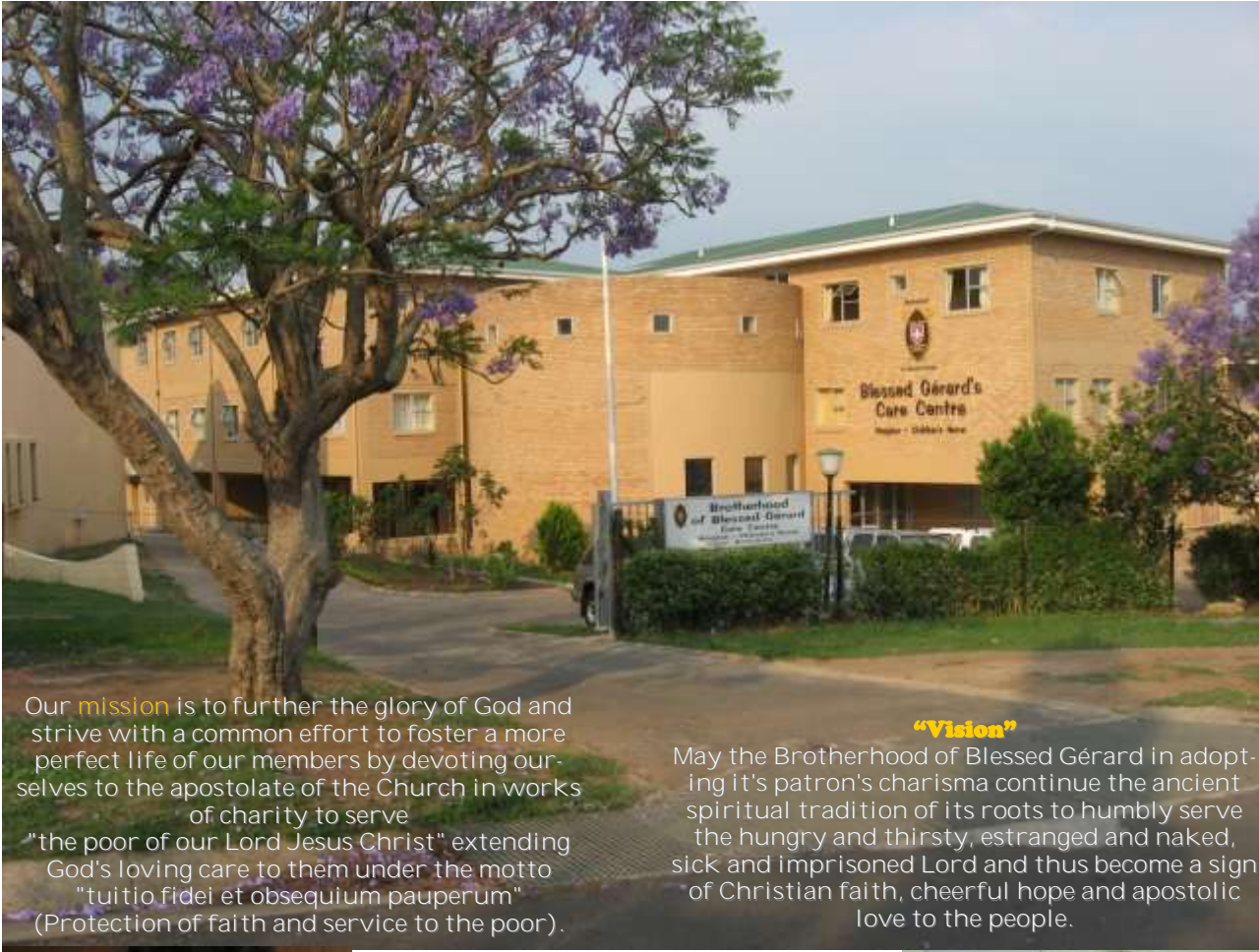


# Blessed Gérard's Care Centre



Our **mission** is to further the glory of God and strive with a common effort to foster a more perfect life of our members by devoting ourselves to the apostolate of the Church in works of charity to serve "the poor of our Lord Jesus Christ" extending God's loving care to them under the motto "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum" (Protection of faith and service to the poor).

### "Vision"

May the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in adopting its patron's charisma continue the ancient spiritual tradition of its roots to humbly serve the hungry and thirsty, estranged and naked, sick and imprisoned Lord and thus become a sign of Christian faith, cheerful hope and apostolic love to the people.

# Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



## Annual Report 2008

## Newsletter No. 28 2008 / 2009

### Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

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The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard is an Association of the Roman Catholic Church, a South African Public Benefit Organisation and the Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta in South Africa



We care no matter what!

## Welcome Mbali!



11 January 2008,  
22<sup>30</sup> hrs:

**Blessed Gérard's Children's Home** is full again.

The last vacancy was taken over by Mbali Susanna - as we called her

Mbali's mother had visited her ex-boyfriend, laid Mbali onto his bed and disappeared. According to the police report the boyfriend has no idea where his ex-girlfriend stays now, whether or not he is the real father and he is in no position to look after the child because he has neither an

income nor knows how to deal with a new born. The police had sent him to the government social workers and they simply told him that she could not help him either.

So it is us again, who - for the child's sake - are prepared to look after her and we fell in love with her at an instant. How else could it be?



## May the glory and peace of the incarnate saviour fill your life in this Christmas season



## and on every day of the New Year 2009!



In 2008 we celebrated **15 years of operation** of

- **Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund:**  
We help people in our area in genuine cases of immediate need, for example food aid, clothing, re-construction, counselling.
- **Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund:**  
We give bursaries to poor pupils and students from our local community.
- **Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic:**  
We run a clinic, where we examine, treat and feed malnourished infants and teach their parent or carer in proper baby care.
- **Blessed Gérard's Friendship Club:**  
We organise meetings to enable the elderly to get out of their isolation and socialise with others.

# Diary of the year 2008

## January 2008



4 January 2008:

Our Spiritual Supporter Member and patient Angela Aralandi died.

Father Gérard celebrated her Requiem Mass on 7 January 2008 at Blessed Gérard's Church.



16 January 2008:

Back to school (The academic year starts in January in South Africa). The children of **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home** are on their way to school.



23 January 2008:

RHI Refractories opened a large factory in iSithebe.



They handed over a cheque for R220,000.00 (22,000.-- Euro) at the occasion of the opening as a first instalment to pay for the new Offices and staff accommodation as part of our Extensions to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

24 January 2008:

Meeting of the Dedicated Members.

26 January - 9 February 2008:

Father Gérard gives a HAART Information Course to prepare AIDS-Patients, their relatives and supporters for antiretroviral treatment.

28 January 2008: Johan Viljoen, the project coordinator of the antiretroviral treatment programme of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference comes for a visit to finalise our budget for 1.3.2008 - 28.2.2009.

## February 2008

1 February 2008:

A delegation from SAPPi visits **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**, to get information about our work in general and especially about our HAART programme. The delegation was very impressed and the Director General found heart-warming words for our service to the community. We soon will make plans how to work together more closely and SAPPi was very interested in our HAART training Programme and our HAART Adherence Monitoring programme.



1 February 2008:

Prominent visitors: Abbot Gottfried Sieber O.S.B. and Father Leo Eireiner O.S.B. pay us a visit. Being Benedictines they are especially enthusiastic about our Sibusiso (that is Zulu for "Benedict").

5 - 19 February 2008:

The Order of Malta, whose South African Relief Organisation we are, performed a visitation (Financial audit and performance supervision).



Visitors were Financial Auditor Alexander Ems of KPMG, Dr. Marie Theres Benner of Malteser International, the Executive President of Malteser Hilfsdienst Johannes Freiherr Heereman and Mr Justin Simpson. We are most grateful for all the constructive criticism and many suggestions to optimise our organisation and its work. Baron Heereman wrote amongst others: *„Mandeni is one of the most important projects of the Order of Malta. You have created something really great and unique for the people concerned. This is the very reason why the Order is so highly interested that this work may continue sustainably and successfully. We could not find anything which would jeopardise the aim to secure the future of the Care Centre.“* The financial audit by KPMG had no doubt in the correctness of our finances and accounting and the usage of the funds for the purposes of our organisation.

7 February 2008:

His Most Eminent Highness, Frà Andrew Bertie



SMOM, the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta passed away.

12 February 2008:

Our member Father Albert Herold celebrated his 80th birthday at Mtunzini / South Africa.

12 February 2008:

Mrs Caroline Beaumont represented our hospice at the quarterly meeting of the Hospice Association of kwaZulu/Natal (HAKZN) in Durban.

16 February 2008:

His Most Eminent Highness, Frà Andrew Bertie SMOM, the deceased Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta was buried in Rome.

16 February 2008:

Our member Father Albert Herold come to visit us at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre with his brothers, our member Mr. Elmar Herold and Subprior, Br. Herold OSB of Scheyern Abbey four days after his 80th birthday.



20 - 23 February 2008: Our members Christian Müller (Son of Deacon Thomas and Mrs Angelika Müller) and his girlfriend Anne Giebler come to visit us.

20 February - 5 December 2008: **36 new employees** start their full or part time employment with us. We highlight these in **green** text colour.

20 February 2008: **Bookkeeper Thamsanqa Gumede** starts his part time employment for our brotherhood.

21 February 2008: (Biennial) **"AGM" of the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** with election of the new Executive Council:

- **Father Gérard** asked for a vote of confidence in his office as the **President**. The Dedicated Members unanimously confirmed their confidence.
- **Father Siphosenkosi Titus Gamede** was elected as the new **Vice President**.
- **Dr. Paul Zakhele Titus Thabethe** was re-elected as the **Medical Superintendent**.
- **Sister Nokuthula Marigold Thabethe** was re-elected as the **Director of Charity Works** and
- **Miss Susanne Stauffer** was re-elected as the **Administrator of Goods**.

We wholeheartedly welcome Father Gamede to his new office as our Vice President! Our special thanks are due to Dr. Thabethe that he had taken over the office of Vice President after the murder of Clare Kalkwarf and was a strong support to Fr. Gérard. We equally thank Dr. Thabethe, Sister Thabethe and Miss Stauffer for their good work in the past period of office and congratulate them to their re-election. The new Executive Council is elected for a period of two years.

23 February - 8 March 2008:

Father Gérard gives a HAART Information Course to prepare AIDS-Patients, their relatives and supporters for antiretroviral treatment.



23 February 2008:

A great day: „Extension No.1“ of our Children's Home is being occupied. Susanne Stauffer moves into the new section with eight of our children.



## March 2008

1 March 2008: **Registered Professional Nurse Fikile Buthelezi**, receptionist **Nkosingsizile Mbatha** and kitchen assistant **Cebile Linda** started their full time employment in our hospice.

4 March 2008:

Wiseman Zulu making HAART Adherence Monitoring visits with our home care vehicle (HCV). A minibus "taxi" speeding on the wrong side of the road crashes into our vehicle. Thank God, nobody was hurt.



10 March 2008: **Dr. Khayelihle Nzimande** starts his full time employment as medical practitioner and vice manager of our hospice.



11 March 2008:

Our member, the Grand Prior of England of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Frà Matthew Festing is elected as the new Grand Master of the

Order of Malta. We wholeheartedly wish him God's richest blessings for his most important office and are enormously proud that one of our members and a great supporter of our work was elected Grand Master. Ad multos annos!



17 March 2008:

**Enrolled Nurse Buhlebuyeza Mthethwa** starts her full time employment in our hospice.

18 March 2008:

**Enrolled Nurse Thokozile Mnguni** starts her full time employment in our hospice.

20 March 2008:

Meeting of the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

22 March 2008: Deacon Thomas Müller baptised Nothando, Sibusiso Clemens and Mbali Susanna of **Blessed Gérard's** Children's Home at the Easter Vigil Celebration. Mrs. Caroline Beaumont takes on the office of their godmother.



23 March 2008:

Easter Sunday: Easter Outing with the school going children of the Children's Home to Ballito and Crocodile Creek.



24 March 2008:

Father Gérard renews his monastic vows as a



Benedictine Monk at Inkamana Abbey,

25 years after he first pronounced them at St. Ottilien Archabbey in Germany.



25 March 2008:

**Mr Victor Himunchul** starts his full time employment as our new educator and Vice Principal of our Children's Home.



25 March - 7 April 2008:

Father Gérard teaches another home care course introducing our new part time employed **tutor Hla-leleni Biyela** into her office in the newly created training programme of our hospice. Sister Biyela will regularly teach one home care and one caregivers' course per month from now on.

26 March - 17 April 2008:

Susanne Stauffer goes on home leave to Eb-nath / Germany. She had already been rather occupied with fundraising and public relations appointments even before she left us.

30 - 31 March 2008:

Our members Sr. Eobarda Ries OSF (Superior of the Nardini Sisters in Nkandla) and Sr. Michaelis Schaumann OSF celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Nardini Sisters at Nkandla together with their convent. Guests of honour are nobody less important than the Bishop of Regensburg Dr. Gerhard Ludwig Müller, the Bishop elect of Esho-



we Monsignore Xolelo Thaddeus Kumalo, the South Africa Missionaries from the Diocese of Regensburg (Bishop Hubert Bucher, Bishop Oswald Hirmer, Bishop Fritz Lobinger, Father Georg Wagner, Father Willibald Tratz, Father Georg Lautenschlager CMM, Father Prior Richard Multerer OSB and Father Gérard Lagleder OSB), Prelate Peter Hubbauer, Superior Cathedral Provost Wilhelm Gegenfurtner and the Cathedral Choir of Regensburg, the "Regensburger Domspatzen".

## April 2008

1 April 2008:

**Registered Professional Nurse Mirriam Makhoba** started her full time employment in the newly created home care programme of our hospice.



**Mr Fred Norris**, a trained carpenter, starts his full time employment as maintenance technician of our Care Centre and **Mr Mthokozisi Xulu**, who had

been a volunteer caregiver at our hospice for almost three years already, starts his full time employment as maintenance assistant.

3 April 2008:

Ms Eleanor Melrose of SAPPI visits us, to discuss a possible cooperation in the training of therapeutic counsellors for HAART and how SAPPI could possibly support us in future.



24 March 2008:

Farewell for our member **Br. Jeremy Dube** CMM of the Mariannah Missionaries, who persolved a three month practical training in pastoral work at our Care Centre in

preparation for his ordination to the diaconate. We are enormously grateful to him for his really great work, his joyfulness, his professional competence and his great empathy. We will miss him a lot.

3 April 2008:  
Meeting of the Councils of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

7 April 2008:  
Enrolled Nurse Dudu Mchunu starts her full time employment in the inpatient unit of our hospice. Enrolled Nurse Buhlebuyeza Mthethwa is transferred from the inpatient unit into the home care programme. Nursing Auxiliary Dorothy Wynne is transferred from the home care programme to the inpatient unit of our hospice.

7 April 2008: Marcelle Joubert from the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa visited us.



7 April 2008:  
The Abbot Primate of the Order of St. Benedict Notker Wolf OSB delivered the keynote speech at the annual reception of the Kinderhilfestiftung e.V. in Frankfurt / Germany, which responded

through their decision to support our work.

8. - 16 April 2008: Father Gérard gives a HAART Information Course to prepare AIDS-Patients, their relatives and supporters for antiretroviral treatment introducing Dr. Nzimande to the training, who will teach these courses in future.



10 April 2008:  
Parishioners from Eb-nath in Germany, the home of Susanne Stauffer, found the "Missionskreis Mandeni" to support our work.

11. - 14 April 2008:  
Father Gérard teaches another caregivers' course introducing Sister Biyela, who will teach these courses in future.

14 April 2008:  
Our faithful long serving volunteer Nkanyiso Mlotshwa starts his full time employment with us as a Caregiver (and ambulance driver) in the home care programme of our hospice.

17 April 2008:  
Meeting of the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



25. - 27 April 2008:  
Conference and AGM of the Catholic Health Care Association of Southern Africa (CATHCA). Father Gérard represents the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and he and our

member Sr. Margarette Sibisi O.S.B. are elected as board members of CATHCA.

28 April 2008:  
A long lasting dream is fulfilled: We got a Social Worker! Miss Hlengiwe Dube starts her full time employment.

30 April - 17. May 2008:  
Father Gérard flies to Europe.

## May 2008

1 May 2008:  
Three new full time employees start their duties: Miss Nozipho Mkhwanazi as a laundry assistant, Miss Lindiwe Vilane as a child caregiver and Miss Fanelesibonge Ndwandwe as a crèche assistant in our Pre-Primary School and Crèche.



2 - 7 May 2008:  
Father Gérard takes part in the pilgrimage of the Austrian Grand Priory of the Order of Malta to Lourdes / France.

7 - 10 May 2008:  
Father Gérard visits our Dedicated Members Max and Gabi Rauecker in Traunstein / Germany

9 May 2008:  
(from left to right) Johann Sporer, Mechthilde Hirmer-Lagleder, Johannes Lagleder, Gabriele Rauecker, Maximilian Rauecker, Father Gérard and Albertine Sprenzinger-Sporer found the "Bruderschaft des Seligen Gerhard e.V." as a (german) society to support the (South African) Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Johannes Lagleder (President) and Maximilian Rauecker (Vice-President) are elected to represent the society. The society was registered by the German government on 27 October 2008.

10 May 2008: Dr. Nzimande married his fiancée Jabulile Mtshali at Newcastle.



10 - 11 May 2008:  
Father Gérard assists the marriage of Magdalena Lenck and Dominique Sigros at Attersee / Austria.

13 - 15 May 2008:  
Dr. Nzimande takes part at the HIV/AIDS management course of the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) in Umhlanga Rocks.

13 - 16 May 2008:  
Father Gérard celebrates his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of monastic profession with his profession class at Schweiklberg Abbey / Germany.



[from left to right: Br. Ewald (Münsterschwarzach), Br. Konrad (St. Ottilien), Fr. Gérard (St. Ottilien/Inkamana), Abbot Dominikus (Königsmünster), Abbot Rhabanus (Schweiklberg), Abbot Michael (Münsterschwarzach)]

lien), Fr. Gérard (St. Ottilien/Inkamana), Abbot Dominikus (Königsmünster), Abbot Rhabanus (Schweiklberg), Abbot Michael (Münsterschwarzach)]

15 May 2008:  
Meeting of the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

## June 2008

4 June 2008:  
Marisa Wilke, the ARV Project-Manager of CRS, pays us a visit introducing her new co-workers Tony Linden, Marelize de Bruin and Hennie Trolip. Tony Linden developed a very useful Computer Programme for the organisation of the AIDS treatment programme, which will be enormously helpful to us.

5 June 2008:  
The occupancy of our Children's Home had reached an all-time-high of 44: The house of this family had burnt down. The parents found shelter with relatives but they had no space for the children. The three children really enjoyed spending three days with their classmates, as they go to school together with some of the children of our Children's Home.



5 - 9 June 2008:  
The director of the Department for Mission and global church affairs of the Diocese of Hildesheim / Germany Mr. Poddig and Dr. Lokhande from the Institute of Mission Science in Aachen / Germany

paid us a visit to meet Deacon Thomas Müller and his wife Angelika at their place of deployment as they had been commissioned for their three year voluntary service in our Care Centre by the Diocese of Hildesheim. There was lots of mutual enthusiasm between them and us: Hildesheim admires our work and we are very impressed by the professionalism and by the true interest of our visitors.

5 June 2008:  
Council Meeting of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

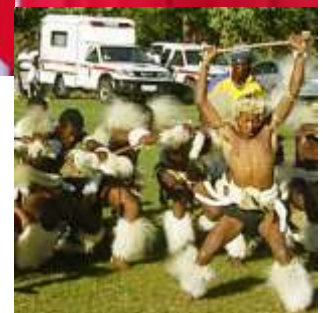
6 June 2008:  
It is accomplished: The construction work of the major Extensions to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre have reached practical completion. The building contractor hands the building over officially.

7 June 2008:  
It is with great joy that we participate in the Episcopal Ordination of the new head of our Diocese of Eshowe,



Bishop Xolelo Thaddeus Kumalo.

We rendered the First Aid Service for the celebrations.



17 June 2008:  
Caroline Beaumont takes part in a fundraising workshop of the Hospice Association in Durban.



22 June 2008:  
The Solemnity of St. John the Baptist 2008: Our new Bishop Xolelo Kumalo blesses the Extensions of our Care Centre and we welcome him wholeheartedly. The new members are solemnly received into our Brotherhood. The President's Award of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard for 2008 is presented to Deacon Thomas and Mrs. Angelika Müller. We commemorate 15 years of service of Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund, Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund, Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic - Feeding Scheme for malnourished infants and Blessed Gérard's Friendship Club - A social club for the aged

26 June 2008:  
Johan Viljoen, the Project-Coordinator of the HAART Programme of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference pays us a visit to audit the proper administration of our HAART Programme.

29 June 2008:  
Our member Abbot Gottfried Sieber OSB celebrates the 40th anniversary of his missionary assignment.

## July 2008

3 July 2008:  
SAPPI (South African Pulp and Paper Industries) presented us with their largest donation ever: R100,000.00 for our AIDS work. We are most grateful and happy for this most welcome sign of appreciation of our work in the community.

8 July 2008:  
Father Gérard takes part in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Hospice Association of kwaZulu/Natal (HAKZN) at Khanya Hospice in Umkomaas.

10 July 2008:  
Amra Chakravarti from the South African Hospice and Palliative Care Association (HPCA) and Karen Hinton, the chairperson of the Hospice Association of kwaZulu/Natal (HAKZN) come to visit us to discuss further steps towards the accreditation of Blessed Gérard's Hospice by COHSASA (Council for Health Services Accreditation of South Africa). COHSASA accreditation means a sort of five-star-rating for health services.

14 July 2008:  
Enrolled Nurse Ntombifuthi Cele starts her full time employment in the Residential Care Programme of Blessed Gérard's Hospice and replaces Enrolled Nurse Nomusa Nxumalo, who is transferred to the HAART Programme. Mrs. Khesane Mthiyane starts her part-time employment as an educator at Blessed Gérard's Children's Home. Being a qualified teacher she will focus on the supervision of our children when they do their homework and give special tuition to children with special needs.

15 July 2008: Mr. Sibusiso Mabika starts his full-time employment as a driver and general assistant to the Management Committee of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

15 July 2008:  
A highly enjoyable day: We finally succeeded to have fifteen more children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home (Ntuthuko, Mbali, Slondeko, Mpilwenhle, Mxolisi, Brian, Gérard, Lethiwe, Phiwa, Sih-



le, Hope, Bongani, Flora, Nhlanhla and Dumisile.) officially placed with us by the Commissioner of Child Welfare after nine years of fighting inefficient bureaucracy persistently but in vain.

16 July 2008:  
Dr. Nzimande and Father Gérard take part in an ongoing training session of the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine in Durban about "Pulmonary complications in the era of HAART".

17 July 2008:  
Dedicated Members' Meeting of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

26 July 2008:  
Father Gérard takes part at the investiture ceremony and rededication service of the Priory for South Africa of the (Most Venerable) Order of St. John in Johannesburg.

28 July 2008:  
Our therapeutic counsellor Mr Wiseman Zulu was hijacked at 18:20 hrs by two ar-

med robbers in front of the main entrance to our Care Centre. Thank God he could escape bodily unharmed, but the robbers drove away with our home care vehicle.

29 July 2008:  
The tracking company found our home care vehicle in a sugar cane field between Mandeni and Doesberg. The robbers must have abandoned it when police and tracking cars and the tracking helicopter came close to them. The robbers had started to remove the signwriting from the vehicle. There was more damage caused inside the car when the robbers tried to find the tracking device and finally removed it.



29 July 2008:  
Father Gérard was named a "Paul Harris Fellow" by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International by request of the Rotary Club of Mandini "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world." Past President Mervin Naidoo presented the award.



## August 2008

1 August 2008:  
Sister Thandi Bhengu starts her full-time employment as Registered Professional Nurse in the Residential Care Programme of our Hospice

6 August 2008:  
Radio Horeb interviewed Father Gérard about AIDS Prevention at the occasion of the International AIDS Conference in Mexico. The interview was broadcast on 7th August 2008.

7 August 2008:  
Meeting of the Councils of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre. The meeting accepts the resignation of Deacon Müller as a councillor (as he is relocating to Germany) and thanks him wholeheartedly for his most valuable service over the past three years. The Councils decide on far reaching changes of the organisational structure.

8 August 2008:  
Wiseman Qinisani Zulu takes over the Project Management of Blessed Gérard's First Aid & Emergency Service and of Blessed Gérard's Disaster Relief Project from Father Gérard.



8 August 2008:  
Bonisile Mkhwanazi starts her full-time employment as a housekeeping assistant at our Care Centre.



8 August 2008:  
Staff and volunteers' farewell for Deacon and Mrs. Müller, who are about to leave us after three years of voluntary service with us.



9 August 2008:  
Blessed Gérard's Children's Home's farewell for Deacon and Mrs. Müller

11 August 2008: Deacon and Mrs. Müller leave.

12 - 16 August 2008: Dr. Nzimande and Father Gérard attend the Annual Conference and AGM of the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA) in Cape Town.

16 - 17 August 2008: Blessed Gérard's First Aid & Emergency Service provides First Aid for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima (near Empangeni / South Africa).

18 August 2008:  
After the Executive Council had decided that not only Project Co-ordinators, but also members of the Management Committee may wear a blue braid on their epaulettes Caroline Beaumont and Corolyn Nunn are presented with the new epaulettes.





19 August 2008:  
Our Medical Practitioner Dr. Khaya Nzimande was appointed as Project Co-ordinator of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.



19 August - 12 September 2008:  
Our members Hubert and Rosa Stauffer, the parents of Susanne Stauffer, come for a visit.



20 - 25 August 2008:  
Miss Cordula Lennkh from Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria (MHDA) comes for a visit and becomes a volunteer.

20 August 2008:  
Dr. Nzimande, Cordula Lennkh and Father Gérard attend a training session of the Southern African HIV Clinicians' Society at Nelson Mandela School of Medicine in Durban by Dr Anisa Mosam about Dermatologic Manifestations of HIV.

21 August 2008:  
Dedicated Members Meeting

27 August 2008:  
Sr. Margarette Sibisi and Father Gérard attend a board meeting of the Catholic Health Care Association of South Africa (CATHCA) in Johannesburg.

28 August 2008:  
20 HIV peer educators from South African Pulp and Paper Industries (SAPPI) come for an update about HIV/AIDS care.

## September 2008

1 September 2008:  
Sr. Thembekile Silinda started her full time employment as a registered professional nurse in the Residential Care Programme of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

1 September 2008:  
Our human resources advisor Mr. Zacharia Mathonsi gives a talk to our staff about personal financial management.

1 - 5 September 2008:  
Thamsanqa Gumede attends a financial compliance training of Catholic Relief Services South Africa in Boksburg.

2 September 2008:  
Carolyn Nunn and Father Gérard attend the quarterly management meeting of the Hospice Association of kwaZulu/Natal (HAKZN) in Durban.

5 September 2008:  
Zishintshile Xulu starts her full time employment as a child caregiver at Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.

5 September 2008:  
HIV peer counsellors of South African Pulp and Paper Industries (SAPPI) from the whole of South Africa come to us to gain practical experience in our HIV/AIDS Care.



11 September 2008:  
The house of one of our patients on antiretroviral therapy had burnt down. Our Vice-President, Father Siphon Gamede, our Therapeutic Counsellors Sihle Dube and Wiseman Zulu and our Social Worker Hlengiwe Dube assess the situation and help immediately with much needed supplies.

12 September 2008:  
Father Gérard gives a presentation about our work to local stakeholders at Blythedale Beach by invitation of our business management advisor Mr. Erich Winkler.



Children of Blessed Gérard's Children's



Home visit the Science Centre at



Gateway in Umhlanga Rocks and learn lots about science in a playful way.

14 - 15 September 2008:  
Daniel Monninger from Germany, who had been a volunteer at our Care Centre in 2002 pays us a visit together with his wife Katrin and a befriended couple.

15 September 2008:  
Our bookkeeper Mr. Thamsanqa Gumede changes from part time employment as a bookkeeper to full time employment as our financial officer. Enrolled Nurse Phyllis Mwandla starts full time employment in the Residential Care Programme of Blessed

Gérard's Hospice.

17 September 2008:  
Dr. Nzimande and Father Gérard attend an HIV/AIDS Refresher Seminar of the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) in Durban.

18 September 2008:  
Dedicated members meeting and extraordinary Council meeting of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

21 September 2008:  
A delegation of 16 Students of the University of Stuttgart / Germany under the leadership of Dr. Iris Gebauer and two other professors come for a information visit about our work.

22 September 2008:  
Our member Br Jeremy Dube came back to us after his ordination to the diaconate and helped again in pastoral counselling at Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

23 September 2008:  
Thuli of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home "in concert": Singing at a concert of Mandini Academy.



24 September 2008:  
Professor Rodney Harber from Durban University came for a visit with a British architect to get ideas from Blessed Gérard's Hospice for designing a new hospice in Ingwavuma.

26 September 2008:  
Children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home having been invited by our business management advisor Erich Winkler and his wife Trudy to enjoy their



swimming pool and hospitality at their house in Blythedale Beach.

## October 2008

1 October 2008:  
Nontobeko Xulu starts her full time employment as a child caregiver at Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.

4 October 2008:  
Children from Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and Father Gérard go to Twasana Convent and speak to the Mother General Theodora Ntuli requesting to send a sister to Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.

7 October 2008:  
Nursing Auxiliaries Gugu Shandu and Phumelele Magubane start full time employment in the Residential Care Programme of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

9 October 2008:  
Nursing Auxiliary Fikile Mdluli starts full time employment in the Residential Care Programme of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

9 October 2008:  
Our Social Worker Miss Dube attends an IDP meeting of Mandeni Municipality.

9 October 2008:  
Meeting of the Councils of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

12 October 2008:  
We celebrate Blessed Gérard's Feast: (See article on page 9)

18 October 2008:  
Dr. Nzimande and Father Gérard attend a Palliative Medicine Seminar and the AGM of the Palliative

ve Care Society of South Africa (PCSSA) at Nelson Mandela School of Medicine in Durban.

23 October 2008:  
Dedicated Members Meeting of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

24 October 2008:  
Father Gérard gives a talk on palliative care to the nursing staff of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

25 October - 2 November 2008:  
Josepha Baronin von und zu Eltz-Rübenach from Germany volunteers at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre. Her husband Sebastian joins her on 2 November 2008 and they continue their tour of Africa.



26 October - 1 November 2008:  
Father Gérard attends a M&E training of Catholic Relief Services South Africa for managers at Rustenburg.

29 October 2008:  
Dr. Nzimande attends a training session of the Southern African HIV Clinicians' Society by Dr Kennedy Nyamande

about "HIV and the eye" at Nelson Mandela School of Medicine in Durban.

## November 2008

2 - 8 November 2008:  
Carolyn Nunn attends a M&E training of Catholic Relief Services South Africa (CRSSA) in Rustenburg.

3 November 2008:  
Sr. Regina Masuku starts her full time employment as a registered professional nurse in the

Residential Care Programme of Blessed Gérard's Hospice and Hloniphile Shange starts her full time employment as a laundry assistant.

3 November 2008:  
Staff meeting at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

4 - 7 November 2008: Staff outing to Shakaland in four groups (one per day).



10 November 2008:  
Axel Pape starts working as the new General Manager of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

11 November 2008:  
Carolyn Nunn attended the quarterly meeting of the Hospice Association of KZN.

11 - 12 November 2008:  
Our German benefactor Petra Kruschina and her life partner come for a visit.

12 November 2008:  
Our member Tessa Schmitt comes to visit with other ladies of the Women's Institute of Mtunzini and deliver donations in kind.



17 November 2008:  
Father Gérard attends the blessing and opening of the new hospice of Duduza Care Centre in Maria Ratschitz (next to Wasbank).

19 - 21 November 2008:  
Sr. Margarette Sibisi and Father Gérard attend a board meeting of the Catholic Health Care Association of South Africa (CATHCA) in Johannesburg.

21 November 2008:  
On his way back from Johannesburg

## December 2008



Father Gérard brings along an ultrasound scanner which was donated to us by Malteser Hilfsdienst Karlsruhe through our active member Dr. Andreas Heinze and transported free of charge by Cargolux. Thank you very much!

21 November 2008:  
Sindi, Mary, Magdalena, Nicky, Adrian and John of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home are finally officially placed into our care by the Commissioner of Child Welfare in Eshowe.



24 November 2008:  
Mother General Theodora Ntuli O.S.B. brings Sr. Edith Zulu O.S.B. to us, who will take over the care of our older



children at Blessed Gérard's Children's Home from 5 December 2008.

24 November 2008:  
Our member Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B. comes to visit.



29 November 2008:  
The children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home attending the Methodist Day Care Centre celebrate their pre-Christmas function and „graduation“.



1 December 2008: World AIDS Day  
Father Siphosenkosi Titus Gamede takes over the office of the Administrator of Goods of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

Sister Thandanani Simelane starts her full time employment in Blessed Gérard's Hospice as registered professional nurse for our HAART Programme.

Susanne Stauffer, Dr. Nzimande, Victor Himunchul and Wiseman Zulu attended functions at Nampak factories in iSithebe. The employees of Nampak had been donating gifts for Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and they topped it up with a visit at Blessed Gérard's Children's Home in the afternoon, where the employees had at least equally as much fun playing with our children at our playground as our children had. The Nampak employees were so impressed how well run Blessed Gérard's Children's Home is that they spontaneously pledged their continued support also in future.



As our "Feast of Life" on World AIDS Day 2007 had been such a great success, we repeat this celebration this year. All our patients who are on antiretroviral treatment were invited to celebrate their life in joy and gratitude with us. A large crowd of close to 80 patients came and if World AIDS Day had not been a weekday, we might have had even more attending of those who are back to work.

„World AIDS DAY 2008

After thorough preparation by Caroline Beaumont and the Kitchen staff and all other staff members including the HAART TEAM and management, we are ready to have our 2008 World AIDS Day celebrations.

The event starts promptly at 12:00 midday and Father opens it by welcoming all those present. By their broad

smiles and frantic waving, when Father walks in, it is clear that these patients adore and are very grateful to Father. Considering that it is a working day it is well attended with just less than half of our 160 patients, on HAART, being present.

Father introduces the entire HAART team including the new members, namely Sister Simelane and ENA Phumelele Magubane and also expresses his gratitude towards the staff. Dr Nzimande and Mr Wiseman Zulu also have a few words to say to those present.

It is just wonderful and heart warming to see all those familiar faces, patients who were once bedridden, now fully ambulant and testifying on the regaining of their health following their usage of Anti-Retrovirals. The sincerity of their gratitude to Father as the founder of the Centre, and to the staff in general brings some of those present to the brink of tears.

Lunch is then served and several issues are discussed. Eventually it is time to close, for everyone to go their separate ways, only now with more vigour and more spring to their step.

It has been an emotionally absorbing day and it is on such days that one realises what a difference the Blessed Gérard's Care Centre is making in so many people's lives.

That is, in a nutshell, World AIDS Day 2008 at 61 Anderson Road. (Dr. Nzimande)

4 December 2008:

Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche celebrates its year-end-function with "graduation" of those children who will attend primary school in 2009.

Meeting of the Councils of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

16 December 2008:

Susanne Stauffer returns to Germany after more than four years of most dedicated voluntary service at Mandeni.

18 December 2008:

Dedicated Members Meeting of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

31 December 2008:

Year-end-service at Blessed Gérard's Church.

# The celebration of the Solemnity of St. John on Sunday, 22nd June 2008, at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

## High Mass

**Main celebrant: His Excellency, Bishop Xolelo Thaddeus Kumalo, the new Bishop of the Diocese of Eshowe**

Bishop Kumalo delivering his sermon: „The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard plays a prophetic role in our country...”



The Bishop blessed the membership medals for the new members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. The new members were solemnly received and presented with the membership

medal (in the picture: Mr Victor Himunchul, the Principal of our Children's Home.)



Then Father Bishop blessed all new members.



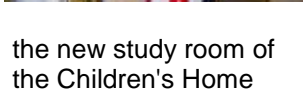
Our administrator Susanne Stauffer during the prayer of the faithful

**Blessing and opening of the major extensions to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre to expand Blessed Gérard's Hospice, to house a new Clinic for the antiretroviral treatment of AIDS patients and to enlarge Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.**

Bishop Kumalo blesses a room in the extension of the Children's Home



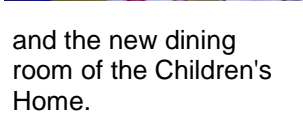
the new board room



the new study room of the Children's Home



the new play room of the Children's Home



and the new dining room of the Children's Home.



## Festive function

Father Gérard welcomed our new bishop Xolelo Thaddeus Kumalo and congratulated him for his appointment as Bishop of Eshowe. He vouched allegiance that we as a catholic association will carry on being an instrument of the Church to make Christ's love felt through our charitable work. Father acknowledged the great honour that just a few days after having been ordained as the new Bishop of Eshowe he already comes to us. Speaking on behalf of the entire Brotherhood he wished him God's blessings.



Father presented Bishop Kumalo with a statue of "Our Lady of Africa" (uMama waAfrika).



A special Welcome was given to Celia Serenata from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who had joined us as an active member after years of supporting us financially out of her private pocket.

Then Father Gérard welcomed the 20 new staff members since Blessed Gérard's Feast on 14. October 2007. Father Gérard congratulated our benefactor Br. Bernard Pachner O.S.B. as he celebrated the 50th anniversary of his missionary assignment on



this very day. Br. Bernard had passed on the gifts for his jubilee to us! Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B. will celebrate his 40th anniversary of missionary assignment later this year! Our congratulations and good wishes! A belated birthday wish to our member Father Albert Herold, who turned 80 in February 2008.

## Reason and purpose of building the extensions:

**Blessed Gérard's Children's Home** looks after and gives a home to children, who are in need of a home, since 2000. Prior to building our extensions it was full to its capacity of 40 places. Up to eight children had to share a bed room (i.e. in the babies' room). We built a first extension to enable us to provide double-bed-rooms for our older (secondary school age) children in a family-type setup, where they can grow up as they would in a real family getting introduced to "real life" by participating in cleaning, shopping, cooking, washing dishes, washing and ironing their laundry etc. This will increase our capacity by 10 places. A second extension provides a larger dining room, a play room and a larger study room for the younger children. We would love to build a third extension providing 28 more places – exactly in this room, where we are sitting now - (for primary school age children), but whether or not we can do this will depend on the success of our fundraising.

We started **Blessed Gérard's Hospice HAART Programme** in 2003. It provides Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy (HAART) for poor AIDS patients free of charge – through the generosity of the people, government and presidency of the United States of America, who initiated PEPFAR, the US President's Emergency

Plan for AIDS Relief in Africa. They channel their support for our programme via the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to the South African Bishops' Conference (SACBC), which maintains the largest non-governmental AIDS-treatment-programme worldwide. We are proud that we were the third of all 24 treatment sites, which got involved in the programme.



It was our member Mr. Johan Viljoen, who had invited us in 2003 on behalf of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference to become part of the programme. He is the project coordinator now and we enjoy

his most friendly and helpful patronage. Our HAART Programme used the facilities of the Inpatient unit of Blessed Gérard's Hospice until now. We constructed a new HAART Clinic to create more privacy for our AIDS patients and better consulting rooms for our doctor and nurse and safe storage for the antiretroviral medication. We provide our services to the people free of charge as they would have no means to pay for them anyway and therefore we are most grateful to all our donors:

**We thank all donors who enabled us to build the extensions:**

**Sternstunden e.V.** (1.6 Million Rand) enabled us to build Extension No. 1 to Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.

**Herzenssache e.V.** (1.3 Million Rand) enabled us to build Extension No. 2 to Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.

**RHI Refractories** (220,000.00 Rand) + promised 222,000.00 =

442,000.00 Rand enabled us to build new offices & staff accommodation. Mr. Albert Render, the managing director of RHI Refractories in iSithebe had proposed our



cause to his headquarters and presented us with the first installment of their donation earlier this year.

**Mundo Compartido** (149,461.61 Rand) + promised 274,012.95 = 423,474.56 enabled us to build our new HAART Clinic.

**The Diocese of Regensburg/Germany** contributed 373,654.02 Rand.

**The Archdiocese of Paderborn/Germany** (247,857.17 Rand).

**Manching Parish/Germany** via Aktion Dreikönigssingen (184,713.50 Rand).

**Malteser München/Germany** (62,275.67)

**Anonymous donors** (40,000.00 + 21,000.00) and many many more.



A special vote of thanks was given to the builders: **Mastercraft** Gregory Meyer & his team: Jayson Pillay, Shashin Seonath & Ernest Luhlongwane

The professional building team: Harry Ramsunkar – architectural draftsman, Rowan Shuttleworth – civil

& structural engineer, Alan McKay & Alison Stewart of Walker Mare – Quantity surveyor and all the subcontractors: SEC Electrical, Ideal Airconditioning, Lenkru (Ironmongery), etc.

We commemorated **15 years of operation of Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund:** We help people in our area in genuine cases of immediate need, for example food aid, clothing, re-construction, counselling.

**Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund:** We give bursaries to poor pupils and students from our local community. We granted bursaries for more than 600,000.00 Rand in these 15 years.

**Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic:** We run a clinic, where we examine, treat and feed malnourished infants and teach their parent or carer in proper baby care. We spent nearly R 500,000.00



and fed countless children in these 15 years. Many of those would otherwise have died from starvation.



Special thanks to Sister Nokuthula Thabethe, who has run the clinic since its inception.

**Blessed Gérard's Friendship Club:** We organise meetings to enable the elderly to get out of their isolation and socialise with others. Mrs Yvonne Renaud had started the Club, Mrs Margaret Hawthorn took over from her and Mrs Joyce Buss is in charge today.

### Presentation the President's Award of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard for 2008

The President had to make an exception to the rule (that the Award is given to the one who has most excelled in loyal service): If he had given the President's Award to the person he first thought of, it would not have been right to do so disregarding the other person he was thinking of as well. These two persons come in a double-pack anyway and would well serve as an example of undivided existence. Therefore The President's Award of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard for the Year 2008 was presented to [...] for their three year full time voluntary service as Active Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, their dedication to look after those entrusted into our care, especially in our hospice and our children's home, their valuable involvement in our pastoral work, leadership, public relations, maintenance and hospitality. Signed at Mandeni on the twenty second day of June 2008. And the two recipients of the one award are: Reverend Deacon Thomas & Mrs. Angelika Müller.



## Blessed Gérard's Feast 2008

12th October 2008

### Festive High Mass

A large crowd of members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard had been assembled. After the sermon Bishop Xolelo T Kumalo blessed the medals for our new members and the Dedicated Members presented the new members (including Bishop Xolelo T Kumalo in the photo) with the medal. Our new members received a special blessing from Bishop Xolelo and Holy Mass continued.



### Function

At the following function several appointments were made: The "heads of department" received their certificates of appointment and the epaulettes with the yellow braid (signifying their authority):  
**Sr. Thandi Bhengu** heads the Residential Care Programme of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.  
**Mr. Victor Himunchul** is the Principal of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.  
**Sr. Mirriam Makhoba** heads the Home Care Programme of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.  
**Sr. Hlaleleni Biyela** heads the Training Programme of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.  
**Mr. Fred Norris** heads the Maintenance Team of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.  
**Miss Patricia Zikhali** heads the educational team at Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche.  
**Mr Thamsanqa Gumede** is the Finance Officer of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.  
**Miss Sindi Ndlovu** heads the Catering Team at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

The new **project coordinators** and **project administrator** received their certificates of appointment.

They had received their epaulettes with the blue braid earlier (signifying their authority):



**Mrs. Carolyn Nunn** is our newly appointed Project Administrator of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

**Mr. Wiseman Zulu** is our newly



appointed Project Coordinator of Blessed Gérard's First Aid and Emergency Service and of Blessed Gérard's Disaster Relief Project.



**Dr. Khaya Nzimande** is our newly appointed Project Coordinator of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

Following this our advisory board, the **President's**

**Council**, was revived with the appointments of



**Mr. Kevin Horton** (an advisor in Financial Management)

**Mr. Erich-Winkler** (an advisor in Business Management)



**Mrs. Lientjie Yeo** (an advisor in legal matters)

**Mr. Zacharia Mathonsi** (an advisor in Human Resources



Management)

**Mr. Stuart Gillbanks**, an advisor in pharmaceutical matters, was prevented from

attending the function, but we are as grateful to him as to all the others, that they have agreed to be part of the President's Council.



Thereafter our **board of auditors** was established with the appointment of our **Bishop Xolelo T. Kumalo**. **Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B.** of Inkamana

Abbey and **Sr. Gregoria Lutter O.S.F.**, the superior of the Holy Childhood Sisters in South Africa were also appointed, but they had not been able to attend the function.

**Miss Susanne Stauffer** was presented with the "Badge of Honour" of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

The sad news which we had to announce is that Miss Susanne Stauffer will leave us on 16th December 2008 to return to Germany. After more than four years of voluntary service which she has rendered with an unmatched idealism, diligence and dedication we will have to say farewell to her. Because of her extraordinary readiness to avail herself for whatever was needed she became a Dedicated Member on 24th June 2007, was elected into our Executive Council as Administrator of Goods, was appointed as Vice-Manager and Project Coordinator of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home, Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund, Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund and Blessed Gérard's Poor Sick Fund. Father Gérard said in his speech that no word, no acknowledgement and no gift could ever adequately express how grateful we are to Miss Stauffer for what she has done for us. She had already received the President's Award in 2006 and the highest honour the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard can bestow, the honorary dedicated membership, she had already superceeded when she became a dedicated member. Therefore the Executive Council has decided to award Susanne Stauffer with the last



"Badge of Honour" as these were limited and this was the last one available.

Susanne Stauffer receiving the "Badge of Honour"

Children from Blessed Gérard's Children's Home presented their Susi with a basket full of her favourite foods.

Father Gérard thanked our housekeeper Caroline Beaumont for having worked tirelessly to prepare the Feast so wonderfully.



Bishop Xolelo blessed the food everybody had been waiting for patiently and the large crowd of members enjoyed a good meal.

We wholeheartedly thank our new member Bishop Xolelo Kumalo for showing his great pastoral zeal by being there for us, his flock.



Blessed Gérard at the hospital in Jerusalem (New mural painting at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre)

### Letters to the Management of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard:

„18 August 2008

*„He who has ceased to pray has lost a great friendship, two may talk together for years, yet never really meet; and two others at first speech are old friends'*

*We would like to thank you so much for being our best friends and relatives when our house got burnt on 02 June 2008. We never knew each other but God knew that*

*one day we will be friends in this manner. Thank you for prayers, food, taking care of our children when nobody could offer and clothing them perfectly. Our children talk about your hospice very well every time they have good memories.*

*We like to thank your staff for being so friendly to us, it was just like they've known us for years. We know that we all live under the same sky, but we don't all have the same horizon. Thank you so much for lifting us up so high when we were faced with the most ugly horizon of our lives.*

*God has already blessed you and we wish to tell the world how God works in your hearts, premises and in your deepest prayers. We'd like to inform you that our house is now under construction and we hope we'll be there at Christmas. We know what you did to us will forever stay in our memories and we bless the day we first knew you. May the Lord God Almighty be with you in all your endeavours and know that we pray for you more than we pray for ourselves.*

*Thank you Thank you Thank you With love from Glenrose and Themba"*

*Thank you Thank you Thank you With love from Glenrose and Themba"*

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*Thank you Thank you Thank you With love from Glenrose and Themba"*

Dear Father Gérard,

I would like to thank God for this opportunity to write you this letter thanking you for everything you did for me during my mother's illness. For all the support and information regarding her treatment at home. For all your moral support during this difficult time, especially once my mother passed away. During my sister's illness you were very supportive by praying for me and helping me to continue regardless. She is much better and doing extremely well. I would like to thank you and your sisters for the good manners they have and the rest of your staff for keeping your facility very clean and fresh. Also thank you for always treating me with the utmost respect. I pray that God will keep you in good health and safe so that you can be there for all of us needing your knowledge and support.

Yours truly

Jane“



(The patients depicted on this page are not identical with the persons mentioned in these letters, but in a similar situations)

Dear Father Gérard,

My sister Martha was living in Johannesburg and feeling very lonely because recently her husband was killed in a motor car accident. So my younger sister Mary went to visit her and found out that Martha was terribly ill. She could not walk. She could not speak or eat and the only thing we could think of was to bring her back to our parents' home. Mary managed to find transport for Martha, but when they arrived in Doringkop, Martha could not move herself.



So she was brought down to our house in a wheelbarrow. We all felt dreadful because we did not know how to help her. So I asked my madam what she would do and she phoned the hospice and explained the position. I and my whole family would like to thank you for coming to fetch her with the ambulance right from our home in Doringkop. We also would like to thank Father Gérard and the nurses, who looked after my sister Martha, when she was so very ill and died in your hospice.

From Jennet and family“



„Dear Father Gérard,

On behalf of the family of Ntombizini, who live at Doringkop and are neighbours of our family, many grateful thanks to you for the help and care given to her when she passed away in the hospice of Blessed Gérard“



„And lastly a big 'Thank you' for taking care of an old man by the name of Biyela who was very ill and being discharged by the Maphumulo Hospital. He had nowhere to go, but was fetched by you in your ambulance and given the opportunity to die peacefully in your loving care.“

**Membership statistics**

(as on 6 December 2008)

	Increase 2008
1029 active members	+ 16 %
537 financial supporters	- 1 %
360 spiritual supporters	+ 1 %
1926 members in total	+ 8 %

**Current statistics for 2008**

(as on 6 December 2008)

Patients	increase 2008
584 HIV patients in care	+ 39 %
233 HIV patients seen in our HAART Clinic per month	+ 15 %
133 AIDS-patients counselled per month	+ 122 %
159 AIDS-patients on antiretroviral treatment (HAART)	+ 24 %
158 new patients in home care	+ 78 %
41 children in our children's home	+ 5 %
58 children in our pre-primary school	+ 38 %
66 persons received bursaries	+ 10 %

**Accumulative statistics (1992-2008)**

(as on 6 December 2008)

Patients	increase 2008
2461 inpatients	+ 13 %
2014 home patients	+ 21 %
1786 patients transported	+ 20 %
1111 patients counselled	+ 5 %
632 patients transferred	+ 4 %
718 day- and outpatients	+ 20 %
588 HAART patients	+ 15 %
453 paediatric patients	+ 11 %
303 First Aid patients	+ 3 %
253 emergency patients	+ 5 %
320 social cases	+ 26 %
Training	increase 2008
605 home carers	+ 22 %

**We thank all our supporters and members wholeheartedly for making all this possible.**

**A special thanks to our top ten donors in 2008:**

1. Various German donors
2. Herzenssache e.V. (Germany)
3. Benedictine Mission House (Schuyler/U.S.A.)
4. U.S. Government (PEPFAR) / CRS RSA /SACBC
5. RHI Refractories (iSithebe/South Africa)
6. Nampak (iSithebe/South Africa)
7. SAPPI (Mandeni/South Africa)
8. Victor Claudius (Durban/South Africa)
9. SMOM Canadian Association
10. Whirlpool (iSithebe/South Africa)



**Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche**



**They left a lasting imprint in our memories and in the hearts of many, whose lives they have touched.  
We will be forever grateful for their great help.**



Deacon Thomas and Mrs. Angelika Müller spent three years of their life (16 August 2005 - 11 August 2008) with us as volunteers.

**Deacon Thomas Müller**

- was co-responsible for the leadership of our entire organisation as a Dedicated Member and as a council member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.
- assisted as a deacon in Holy Mass, presided over services, administered Holy Com-



**Deacon Thomas and Mrs. Angelika Müller**

munion to the sick and baptised a good number of our children.

- helped in public relation through his most interesting Internet site, press publications, picture documentation of our work and he looked after many of our guests.
- rendered pastoral counselling, helped as a caregiver in our hospice and Children's Home and as a driver to transport patients by ambulance, make sick calls at the patients' homes and to do shopping and errands.
- was very handy and skilled and did lots of maintenance and repairs to our buildings, equipment and vehicles.
- was ready and prepared to be a jack of all trades.



Mrs. Angelika Müller

- was also involved in public relations through their Internet site, picture docu-



mentation of our work and hospitality to many of our guests.

- helped as a caregiver in our hospice where she was involved in paediatric care for a long period of time
- helped as a caregiver and educator in our Children's Home, especially in the „family group“ of our older children.
- was a reliable driver to transport patients by ambulance, make sick calls at the patients' homes and to do shopping and errands.
- was equally ready and prepared to help out wherever help was needed.



Miss Susanne Stauffer spent more than four years with us (from 1 September 2004 - 16 December 2008) as a volunteer.

Susi took on many and most important tasks. She really had the „gift of the gap“ and helped us to bridge many gaps through her most capable, reliable and tireless assistance.

- Susi started as a caregiver in our Hospice and Children's Home.
- Soon she became principal caregiver and



**Susanne Stauffer „Susi“**



later the project coordinator of our Children's Home.

- Susi took on the tasks of the Vice-Manager of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre. She performed the tasks of a Personal Assistant in administration and filing and helped the housekeeper in her store room management. She became like a „house mother“ and everybody turned to her for everything because they knew that Susi would always be friendly and helpful.
- Susi was so efficient and reliable that she was elected into the Executive Council of the BBG as our Administrator of goods. She did tremendous work to sort out the financial office and get things back on track after the former Administrator of Goods (Clare Kalkwarf) had died.
- Susi also took on the tasks of the project co-ordinator of Blessed Gérard's Bursary



Fund, Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund and Blessed Gérard's Poor-Sick-Fund and thus she became like a social worker, a task which she fulfilled with great empathy and in that way she became a counsellor not just for our clients but for our staff and volunteers, too.

- Susi became a Dedicated Member of the BBG not by name only, but she was most dedicated to her special vocation.
- It is largely to attribute to Susi's idealism and tireless work that the BBG survived after the murder of Clare Kalkwarf on 6 April 2006, who had been the manager and „BBG mother“ for nearly ten years.



**No word, no acknowledgement and no gift could ever adequately express how grateful we are to Deacon & Mrs. Müller and to Miss Stauffer for what they have done for us.**

# Blessed Gérard's Care Centre



We thank all donors who enabled us to extend **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** in 2007/2008 from 2000 to 3000 m<sup>2</sup> to expand **Blessed Gérard's Hospice**, to house a new Clinic for the antiretroviral treatment of AIDS patients and to enlarge **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**.

**Consequently our patient load has increased tremendously in 2008**  
**We depend entirely on fundraising to finance all our work and ask you to support us generously!**

## How You can help us to help:

### By joining us

- as an **Active Member** if you are able and prepared to help in our projects to serve the poor as a volunteer and agree with our principles. In this case, please call us for an interview.
- as a **Donor member** if you want to support our service financially on a regular basis.
- as a **Spiritual Supporter** if you want to help us through your prayers regularly.

**By a donation** towards our charity work. Financial contributions are most needed. If you want to donate goods, kindly contact us beforehand to make sure that the donation will be really useful.

**By making us a beneficiary** in your Last Will and Testament.

**By your prayers** that God may bless our service and those we serve.

~~~~~  
The **.Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** Newsletter is the official mouthpiece of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**.

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**We thank Mr. Haresh Ouderajh, Stanger Weekly and Africa Web Press wholeheartedly for printing this newsletter free of charge again!**

## Making a donation

### If you live in South Africa:

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, being a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, has also been approved on 2 July 2003 by the South African Revenue Services (SARS) for purposes of section 18A(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act, i.e. donations to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre are tax deductible.

[Reference 18/11/13/2777]  
This means that now we can issue South African donors with tax receipts for their donations, which they can use for tax deduction from the SARS. If you are a taxpayer in South Africa and want to utilise this facility, make sure, that you make your donation to .Blessed Gérard's Care Centre. (not to the .Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard!). For donations of R500.00 and above we will issue such a receipt automatically. You may make a donation directly into our banking account:

Name of Account: Blessed Gérard's Care Centre  
Type of account: Current Account  
Bank: First National Bank  
Account number: 529 4004 0349  
Branch: Mandini  
Branch code: 220 429

Please ensure that you put your personal details on the deposit or send the information directly to us, so that we can acknowledge and assign your donation properly.

The most convenient solution for both parties would be if you organised a stop order on your account, if you want to donate regularly.

### If you live in Canada:

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Make out a check to the „Order of Malta“, mark it .for the „Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard“. and send it to:

**Order of Malta**  
1247 Kilborn Place  
Ottawa ON K1H 6K9

You will receive a Canadian tax receipt for the full

amount.

### If you live in the USA:

Thanks to the generosity of the Benedictine Mission House in Schuyler, Nebraska, we can offer you a convenient way of making donations towards our work, inside the United States, with the possibility of declaring your donation on your tax return.

Cheques should be made out to „Benedictine Mission House“ with a remark .Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. (Please do not forget this!) These should then be sent to:

**Benedictine Mission House**  
**P. O. Box 528 · Schuyler, Nebraska 68661**

People who have made a donation of more than \$200 will receive a tax certificate immediately from the Mission House and donors of smaller amounts would receive one at the end of the tax year, if they want to declare their donations on their tax returns.

### If you live in Great Britain / United Kingdom:

1. You may send a cheque:  
Please make the cheque out to “BASMOM Foreign Aid Service”, attach a note, that the donation is meant to support the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and send it to this address:

#### **The Hospitaller BASMOM**

Mr Tim Orchard · Layer Breton Lodge  
Layer Breton · Colchester CO2 0PP

2. You may deposit your donation directly into the banking account of the BASMOM and mark it for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard:

Name of Account:

BASMOM Foreign Aid Service  
Bank: HSBC Bank plc, Pall Mall, London  
Account number: 61260561  
Sort/branch code: 40 05 20

3. In any case, please make a Gift Aid Declaration. You will find a form on-line at <http://bbg.org.za/giftaid.pdf>