



Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



Annual Report 2010

Newsletter No. 30 2011

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



Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

is a "Non-profit Organisation" (Registration No. 080-935-NPO) and a "Public Benefit Organisation" [SARS Ref. No. PBO 18/11/13/2777, VAT No. 447 0252 182] founded and owned by the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**

It provides a comprehensive system of holistic care in the wider Mandeni area where a quarter of a million people are estimated to live.

A large number of these have to live in poverty.

All its services are rendered free of charge.

Caring without borders!



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 it's 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

We care in any case!



We are ...

- a group of more than 2000 **idealists** with the aim to enable and empower people to help themselves and to provide direct aid in cases of emergency and immediate need.
- the South African **relief organisation** of the Order of Malta. The latter was founded as a nursing brotherhood by Blessed Gérard more than 900 years ago.
- a **faith based organisation** (FBO) putting into action what our motto "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum" means: "Protection of faith and service to the needy".
- a "**Private Association of Christ's Faithful**" in the Roman Catholic Church, open to members from all different faiths and cultural backgrounds.
- a **community based** (CBO) **non governmental organisation** (NGO).
- a "**public benefit organisation**" (PBO) operated **not for profit** (NPO) and dedicated to the welfare of all people.
- a **non-discriminating** and **non-exclusive** organisation, which serves the needy irrespective of their creed, colour of skin, political affiliation, sexual orientation or social status.
- a **charity** which helps within its own capability according to the identified needs of the people.

We run ...

a **Hospice** (the one with the largest inpatient unit in South Africa), an **HIV/AIDS Education Programme**, an **AIDS treatment (HAART) Programme**, a **Malnutrition Clinic**, a **Poor-Sick Fund**, a **Relief Fund**, a **Children's Home**, a **Pre-Primary School & Crèche**, a **Social Club for the Elderly**, a **First Aid Service**, a **Bursary Fund** and a **Disaster Relief Project**.

In 2010 we celebrated:



15 years of service of Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche:

We provide "educare" and an early childhood development service for underprivileged pre-school children.



10 years of service of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home:

We look after, counsel and give a home to **sick, neglected, abused, malnourished, abandoned, homeless and orphaned children**.

Blessed Gérard's Disaster Relief Project:

We provide disaster relief being ready to give medical assistance and care as a relief organisation in case of a **disaster**.

This Annual Report and Newsletter is also published online at
<http://bbg.org.za/pr/newsletters/30/index.htm>

It All Began With a Vision

Mrs Yvonne Renaud, a very early member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and a Dedicated Member, told me this October on the Feast of Blessed Gérard: "I remember as if it had happened yesterday, that the young Father Gérard stood over there", and she pointed from the Hospice up the hill to the parish church, "and said that a hospice and care centre ought to be built here, that could assist people, who otherwise would have to die in poverty in the slums." That was in 1992. This vision has turned into reality meanwhile. A reality whose magnitude today nobody would have expected.

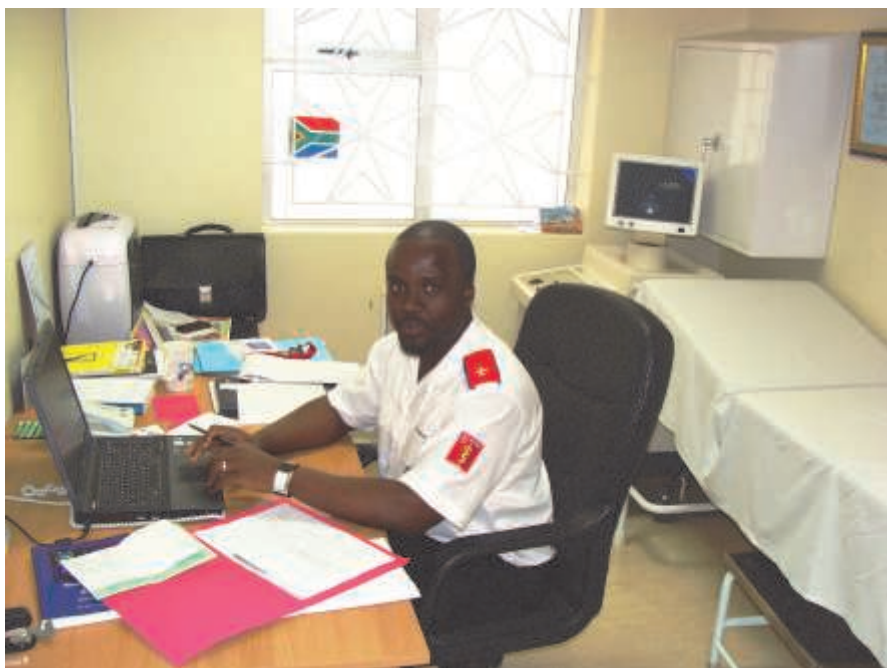
A large Care Centre and Hospice with a Children's Home and since 2003 a Clinic for AIDS Treatment.

It was a long journey getting there, though. At one stage members of the church community (among them Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf and the medical doctor, Paul Thabethe) came to the young religious priest and missionary Father Gérard and asked if it were not possible to put something in place to help the many poor and sick people in the townships and informal settlements. Father Gérard had previously been a volunteer with the German "Malteser Hilfsdienst" and had not forgotten how to organise help when he came to South Africa. He was not only a priest, but also a paramedic, a nurse and instructor and had even previously or-



ganised help out of nothing. Clare and Paul had met the right man and the motto "protection of the Faith and Service to the Needy" had not been an empty phrase for Father Gérard in the past but had already been a guide for his life. Thus the idea developed to jointly found a South Africa based relief organisation, that could truly help the poorest. They started the first projects but

the need for help increased continuously until the vision of a Care Centre was born on one sunny day in South Africa. They subsequently developed the basis to make this vision a reality. It was very similar to how Blessed Gérard was confronted with poverty and sickness in Jerusalem 900 years ago and founded the Hospital of St. John. Therefore Father Gérard and the others de-



invented Internet enables these people to come into contact with one another. The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard depends on the support of these people (that is all of us) even today.

The vision of the young priest and missionary has become a respectable humanitarian organisation. A hospice with the largest inpatient unit in South Africa, a large children's home, a clinic for AIDS-treatment and many more projects.

the help of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** into the 21st century. Now, as before, the needy people who are being looked after still have no South African rand in their pocket to spend. Therefore they depend on further donations. All of us can help here, no matter how small the help may be. Let us follow the vision of Father Gérard and continue the relief work!

The 1000th birthday of the Order of Malta will be celebrated in 2099 and maybe in the same decade the 100th birthday of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in Mandeni.

Let us continue this vision of humanity! It is worth while for each individual person who can be nursed with dignity at the hospice and die there in dignity and for every happy day a child can have.

Andreas Heinze, MD
October 2010

ceded, following church tradition, to call the relief organisation in Mandeni the "Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard". It was probably not by chance that the young missionary Benedictine had taken on the name of the founder of the Order of Malta as his religious name. It probably was not by chance either that the co-founder and later manager of the organisation, Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf, celebrated her birthday on 13 October, the very feast day of the historical Blessed Gérard. Of course, they had no money. And so they had to beg for donations and they have to do so still today. Right from the beginning all projects were financed solely by donations. Many people in South Africa and throughout the world began to support the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in Mandeni. The newly

The missionary Father Gérard, now a few years older, has another vision which must be put into action. Today he looks again from the hill onto the Care Centre and Children's Home and knows what we all know as well: Support is still needed. People are always dying in misery in the huts of the informal settlements and there is a need to develop a positive attitude toward treatment. Still today there are small children, who otherwise might starve to death on the roadside.

And so there is a new vision today. This new vision is to guide



It is Sunday

It is Sunday and the Liturgy is for the Feast of Blessed Gérard. We are in the small church that is part of the Care Centre and Hospice. I am sitting next to the Blessed Sacrament and I follow the Mass as closely as possible, but sometimes my thoughts wander



off. The grave of Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf is not far behind the Blessed Sacrament; it is to the left behind me, just outside the wall. She was a co-founder of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** and had contributed significantly to the development of what is done here today. She was murdered in a senseless act of violence on 6 April 2006 in her own small house and was buried here on the premises of the Brotherhood according to her wish in her last will and testament. Meanwhile, a new generation of helpers is growing up who did not know her. It was a great honour and privilege for us to have known her. We will not forget her and I actually want to believe that she acts as a

guardian angel for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. Clare would be very happy to see how the Care Centre has grown, also spatially. All that we do in our support, we are also doing in some small way in memory of her. My eyes move to the helpers as they follow the service wearing their white uniform shirts, to the children of the children's home, who have become really happy children, but who might not have survived without this help. I look into the eyes of these people and I actually would like to pass on to these people the gratitude which is rendered to me today as a newly invested Honorary Dedicated Member. It is you who help the people here every day in a self-sacrificing way, maintaining the highest professional standards. We who cannot help every day at Mandeni can only modestly try to organise help so that the financial means for the relief work is provided. I do not want to say "from outside" be-



cause I consider myself an integral part of the Brotherhood, an element of the whole. Not as an outsider, but as a member of the community and that is a very nice thought. Everybody tries to do something wherever he or she is living so that the projects will continue and the ship will not sink.

A musician might compare the various relief projects to a symphony, where many various instruments are integrated and play together. In the end a total art work is produced with its object like a symphony. In this case there are the various relief projects which jointly and interdependently are able to break the vicious cycle of poverty, malnutrition and sickness. I would like to try to explain how this works in several of the relief projects developed by the Brotherhood of **Blessed Gérard**. Basically in the end it is all about help for the individual sick, lonely and poor person.

Approximately two-thirds of the population in this very poor area are HIV- positive or already suffer from AIDS. These people often die without being cared for in their huts. As a result, small children are left behind as orphans or there is a lot of abuse and rape. The men in many families work far away in the gold mines of Johannesburg or in the port of Durban and return only once a year to their wives. These women are alone with their children and are often unable to look after them adequately.

AIDS is still an incurable disease but the so-called antiretroviral therapy can reduce the

viral load to a degree that the immune system is reconstituted and the patient can live an active life for years or even decades and without any symptoms of sickness. Then they can raise their children, go back to work and look af-



ter their fields and gardens. Apart from the personal joy of continued life, this is also an important socio-economical aspect for society at large.

The various relief projects of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** address these many needs and they are a real help.

Terminally sick people need not die miserable and alone in their huts, but they can complete their lives with human dignity and in closeness to God. Patients who qualify for antiretroviral AIDS therapy get this treatment free of charge. There is hardly a patient who could afford to pay for the treatment anyway. Children who have been abandoned or abused by their parent/s or whose parents died from AIDS and

other vulnerable children get a wonderful new home in the Children's Home and the children who are HIV-positive are integrated into the AIDS-Treatment programme. Children whose mothers are alone may be looked after by the Pre-Primary School & Crèche. Gifted children and youth who have no other means of getting a bursary for their education may be helped by the Brotherhood of **Blessed Gérard**. **Blessed Gérard's First Aid and Emergency Service** provides rescue and care of persons in distress by offering First Aid and assisting people in emergencies. They provide First Aid Service, for example, at major church events. **Blessed Gérard's Disaster Control & Civil Protection** provides disaster relief by being ready to give medical assistance and care in case of a disaster. This happened in the year 2000, in cooperation with the United Nations, during the flood disaster in neighbouring Mozambique where international relief efforts could only be organised from South African soil.

The Brotherhood of **Blessed Gérard** not only affirms allegiance to the Order of Malta verbally but it stands in the best and truest sense in the tradition of the Order of Malta. This is how it started 900 years ago. **Blessed Gérard** saw the need of the people in Jerusalem and founded a hospital and a hospice. Poor people were helped in every place where the Order of Malta was located and where help was

needed. Thus loving our neighbour - as commanded by Christ - was put into action. In Mandeni the Brotherhood of **Blessed Gérard** also stands in the very best and centuries-old tradition of the Order of Malta through its impressive professionalism (well trained helpers and organisers, qualified nursing personnel, doctors, social workers and pastors). The most modern hospital in Europe in the 16th century was in the city of La Valletta in Malta. This was founded and run by the Order of Malta.

Help continues to be most urgently needed in South Africa and can only be financed through the support and donations of all of us. Therefore, it is so important to do everything to help so that the work at Mandeni can continue.

Andreas Heinze, M.D.



„We are often the only ones who help out there“



It is half past eight and the four-wheel drive vehicle stands ready in front of the **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**. I have the opportunity today to accompany Patrick and Wiseman (therapeutic counsellors) on their home visit tour. I know both of them from previous visits and it is a nice reunion. Home visits are a prerequisite for the successful antiret-

roviral AIDS therapy because most patients can hardly come to the HAART Clinic at the Care Centre as they live far off in slums and remote rural areas, but the success of antiretroviral therapy depends on the regular and uninterrupted actual taking of the medication (adherence). Hundreds of AIDS patients get their antiretroviral therapy through **Blessed Gérard's Hospice - HAART Programme**. The

patients need to get a thorough training before beginning the treatment and regular care thereafter. Antiretroviral therapy is much more than distributing tablets as some people far off in Europe often think. Complex counselling before, extensive medical treatment and professional ongoing care through home visits are elements of this programme. This is especially important because many patients are illiterate. The patients are poor, living under the most adverse conditions and have no South African Rand to pay for the vital therapy. Without the treatment, though, the final stages of AIDS would set in very quickly and they would die. Under the treatment, the final stages of the disease can be delayed for many years, even decades, and in that time these people can raise their children, hold down a job, cultivate their gardens and fields and continue to live.

People who are HIV positive or already ill with AIDS may, under certain medical criteria, be included in the HAART therapy programme. A complex medical decision-making mechanism is in place, for which Dr. Khaya Nzimande, the medical director of the centre of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**, is responsible and which uses internationally recognized criteria.

If the medication is not taken for only a single day, then a mutation of the virus can be effected and with it the end of possible treatment and a renewed outbreak of the illness. Hence continual care is important. Patrick and Wiseman undertake this care in their

house visits. The two are on the road daily in a 4WD vehicle in order to visit the people in the places where they live.

Departure: I sit next to Patrick in the front passenger seat. We chat, having much to report. The **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** is not only called a "brotherhood" following old church tradition—in this joint relief work we as helpers are really brothers (and sisters).

We drive out of the Care Centre, turn on to the well-paved residential street and drive over to the crossing at the SAPPI paper mill. The ride continues in the direction of the ISithebe Township and far beyond. A few decades ago this area here was bush land. Then large factories located here and many people moved here, but later there was high unemployment and poverty because of changes in industrial production methods and economic dislocation. Eventually we leave the tarred roads. From here on off-road capability of a vehicle is a requirement to move ahead. On paths that no longer deserve the name road we go on over hill and dale. The vehicles of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** are known out here. We are greeted with joy by many people, small children wave at us. The **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** is often the only help that people get out here.

Together with Patrick, I visit people who live in part under the most adverse conditions, without electricity and sani-



tation in very simple huts. But people who also demonstrate the positive effect of antiretroviral therapy. These people can be enabled through this therapy to live a symptom-free active life. Without this medical therapy provided through the services of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**, these people would die quickly, like so many others. We drive up a rough path that is only passable with a four-wheel drive vehicle. Suddenly a tree trunk is lying across the road and we cannot drive on. Patrick and I first have to get out and clear the tree off to the side. Soon we reach a simple hut without any modern conveniences. The only luxury is a free-standing toilet house, of course, without sanitary plumbing—there is no sewer connection here. A thirty-year-old man in very shabby partly torn clothes welcomes us. But he is in good spirits and appears healthy. He is very grateful for the assistance provided by the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard (BBG)** and for the fact that he is doing so well. Only with our help he could overcome the symptoms of advanced AIDS and regain his strength. If he continues taking his daily medication, he can certainly

still lead an active life for many years. Previously, many more people died from the effects of AIDS and still far too many (2 million people in Africa per year) die miserably every day from this disease in their huts. But this man is an example that the assistance is moving along. He proudly shows us his newly planted garden, the vegetables he can sell to earn something.

I am not yet aware that this afternoon I will also go with Wiseman to see people where it is much too late for treatment. People who, without our help, would have to die lying skin and bones on the mud floor of their huts without care, sanitation, electricity and without any human attention.

After a morning in the poverty areas and settlements and a few visits to people who can live a poor but symptom-free active life because of the antiretroviral therapy, we return around noon to the Care Centre from the townships and the informal settlement areas in Zululand. The Care Centre is a heaven of attention and care; that is what I really feel when I compare the abject poverty out there with the clean, bright and friendly Care Centre.

In the afternoon, I drive a different route along with Wiseman. Once again we leave the care and hospice centre and make our way in the townships. Again we leave the paved roads. The housing situation of people is getting bleaker. Simple huts, the only luxury again is an outhouse in the open without running water. The four-wheel drive SUV, which was financed solely by donations, labours up the hill on paths that are hardly recognizable as such. Again, we are the only



ones who come to the aid of these people. The people are basically left alone. We come to the hut of a young man who could be about 20 years old. The single room is equipped with very few pieces of old furniture that would stand out negatively in Europe even when disposing of bulky trash. The man, blind in one eye, sits on a chair lost in thought. He gazes into the distance. He complains of pain and numbness in his legs. Wiseman recognizes immediately that this man should seek medical treatment in the Care centre so that the

causes of his complaints could be found out and he could get help. But this man does not have enough strength to come to the Care Centre. He can not organize transport and does not even have money for his food, as he has no job. He lives by the medical assistance of the BBG and also through donations of food. But he needs help and so Wiseman, using his mobile phone, organizes an appointment with our doctor and he will then collect him himself in his emergency vehicle and take him to the therapy centre. We drive on to a family. Wiseman is very concerned and tells me that this whole family

is HIV positive and some are already suffering from AIDS. These people can be enabled to live a symptom-free active life only by taking the antiretroviral therapy. AIDS is not curable in the true sense, but the final stages will be delayed by up to two decades by the therapy. Otherwise, this whole family would have to die soon. And that is not something rare here but actually has been the norm in recent years. There are still too many people who will die and need the care and attention in the hospice. Neither the government hospitals and nursing facilities or state treatment facilities have the capacity to provide sufficient support. Many people rely on the help of a donation-based humanitarian organization like the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**. We drive to another family that lives under very poor conditions. The patient is the 16 year old daughter. A few years ago she was raped and now she has an infant, who also lives with her and her parents. Unfortunately, even that is a very normal story in this part of the world. The mistaken belief that through sexual intercourse with an HIV-negative virgin one can get rid of the virus again is still prevalent among many HIV-positive men here. As a result, HIV/AIDS is spread widely and therefore educational programmes are also important. Such an education programme is one of the projects of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**. Now the girl is HIV positive herself and only with the antiretroviral therapy will she be able to live and provide for her little baby. But here we are alerted. The girl's mother asks us to have a look at her neighbour; he was really bad. We take our car to get there and drive a short distance over a hill. Wiseman told me, "state ambulances do not drive

out there. They have no four-wheel drive vehicles and not enough ambulances and it's too far for them. The somewhat 'richer' people live in simple huts on the tarred roads, the very poor in even more primitive huts far out here and alone". Here we enter a dark, dirty, damp shack. A completely emaciated and helpless man lies on an old rusty bed without mattress, covered only with a blanket and coughing terribly. He has tuberculosis and of course AIDS. He has not taken his tuberculosis tablets for a long time. Getting progressively weaker, he is lying there skin and bones absolutely helpless. This man would not likely survive the coming days without help. We know immediately that this man must be admitted to the hospice. Public hospitals would not admit this man. He has nothing, cannot pay and of course has no health insurance (because a national health insurance system, such as in Western Europe, does not exist) and often there is a lack of staff and of medicines in public hospitals. We can not take him along in our 4x4 vehicle, and Wiseman phones the crew of our ambulance. The ambulance of the BBG arrives soon, manned by two trained nurses and paramedics, and transfers the poor man with his consent from the hell of filth and poverty into the heaven of care and attention at the Care Centre. It is probably the first time in his life that this man ever got help from someone. As I look at him, images of the victims of concentration camps appear in my mind. He is equally as emaciated and just as sick. I've seen probably a lot in

my over 20 years working as a doctor, but here I have all I can do to fight my feelings. I feel that I am about ready to cry but I'm here as a helper and have to show professionalism. I remember well having experienced this situation for the first time a few years ago here in Zululand with my wife Martine. Even then, we remained strong while on duty, but often enough cried at night after such a day—from sadness for these people but also from happiness that the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** can bring the needed help to these poor people. Each one of these people is worth all this effort and all the help—unconditionally. As our trip continued on, we were confronted with other similar situations. The picture is similar and basically hard to describe with words. After this long day, when I see these people in their poverty and disease in the slums and townships, but also the positive developments with the help of the therapy provided by the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**, many images go through my mind. The prosperity in Europe and the need for assistance. My fervent appeal to all readers of this newsletter is to support the on-going work of the

Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard with all means available and donations. It is really important. It is about life and death and about human dignity—and nothing less.

Andreas Heinze , MD





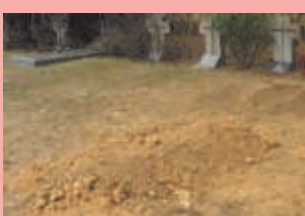
Blessed Gérard's Hospice HAART Programme

AIDS Treatment Saves Lives

Highly-Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART) can change the life of an AIDS patient totally, who otherwise would be doomed to die soon. Thus he or she may live for many years and even decades in real wellness.

Past

Sipho had to die because he could not (yet) get the life saving treatment (in those days):



Present

Hundreds of AIDS-patients are alive today and they feel well, because they get the life saving treatment in our AIDS-Treatment Programme:

„Festival of Life“ on World AIDS Day 2010:

It was then the turn of one of the patients to speak freely about what she felt about the HAART Programme and what it is like to live with HIV on a daily basis. Her testimony evoked a lot of emotion how she is living positively with HIV infection:



"Greetings to you all!

My name is Claudette Louw. I grew up in Mangethe and now I stay in Mandeni. I am 42 years old. I work at Siqumbe (Renckens) where I have worked for 20 years. In April 2004 I became ill for three months, attending various doctors without getting better. I was eventually admitted into Stanger Hospital. I would vomit when trying to eat as I couldn't stand the smell of food, even the perfume fragrances.

The doctors said that I had stomach ulcers and advised me to stop eating tomatoes, spicy food etc. I was discharged from hospital after being there for two days. I called my aunt telling her that I was ill but didn't know what the cause of my illness was. She made me an appointment with her doctor in Durban.

I consulted with the doctor; he did an ultrasound and told me that I had ulcers in my stomach. He referred me to McCord Hospital to have an abdominal X-Ray performed. I went there and the attending doctor asked

me what was wrong and I told him that I have been diagnosed with stomach ulcers. He advised me to have an HIV test done before he could continue looking after me. I had the pre-test counselling where they asked me why I wanted to have the HIV test done. I explained that I had been ill for three months with no improvement.

I took the blood test, waited for five minutes, after which the results on a small piece of paper in a sealed envelope, came back. I hesitated for a while before eventually opening the envelope. It was written "HIV TEST POSITIVE" and the CD4 count was 254. Tears welled up in my eyes and I thought that my life had come to its end. I asked for permission, from the hospital, to call my workplace and they agreed. I called my boss, unable to speak because I was on the brink of crying. I told her (Mrs Taljard) that I want to commit suicide and she asked me what the problem was. I told her that I was HIV positive. Her words to me were "Claudette we love you, think about your child", at the time my child was 12 years old. I subsequently phoned my aunt to fetch me since I had finished. When we arrived at home she asked me how it had gone at the doctor's. I told her, tearfully, that I had the HIV. She cried because she thought that I was going to die soon after and I was also crying thinking that I was going to leave this world.

I went back home to Mangethe and told my whole family. Their words were that I am not the first and not the last and that life goes on. I trust that many people know that the ARVs were not free back then, I had to buy them for R900.00 every month. My family helped me buy the ARVs for the first five months. They (ARVs) would make me sick but I continued taking them, it was not easy. I would shy away from people because I had lost weight having gone from a 36 to a 30 dress size. In October 2004 I heard that HIV people were being welcomed at Blessed Gerard's Hospice. That's when I started taking ARVs for free and currently my CD4 count is 1128.

Today I wish to thank all the people who were helping me at work, at Blessed Gerard's Hospice HAART Programme, my family and friends. Their help has made me live my life to the fullest.

I would like to end by saying that AIDS doesn't kill; it is denial that causes one to die. One more thing is that ARVs clash with traditional medicines and mixtures.

I love you all.

There are a lot of people who have been helped, because of me, in my work place. Thank you."

(Remark: Ms Louw has expressly consented that her real name, her picture and her speech may be published.)

Current URGENT Appeal!

Future?

We urgently need your help !

Our second biggest sponsor, the US-American Government, reduced their support of AIDS relief in Africa drastically. This also impacts on the AIDS-Treatment Programme of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC).



Our AIDS-Treatment Programme,

which until now was part and parcel of the Programme of the SACBC, will no longer be sponsored by the US government through the SACBC after the end of May 2011.

That means that we will have to bridge a financial gap of 3,007,497.00 Rand (418,035.52 USD / 260,166.07 GBP) per annum. The grant of the SACBC was an equivalent of 25.83 Rand (3.59 USD / 2.23 GBP) per patient per day in the last year (2010).

If we take inflation and increased costs into account for 2011, and the fact that the cancelled grant had not covered all the cost of our AIDS-Treatment Programme anyway, we have to round up and ask as many people as possible to

"Adopt" an AIDS-patient

	requiring			
	Rand	USD	GBP	per
	30	4	3	day
	210	28	21	week
	920	122	92	month
	2740	365	274	quarter
	5480	730	548	half year
	10950	1460	1095	year
	in 2011			

We are absolutely aware that such amounts supersede the donation budget of many individuals. Therefore we ask you to get your parish, your society, your social service or sports club, your school or school class, your group, your association etc. involved and ask them to adopt one or several of our AIDS-patients.



He got a second chance to live, is very happy and a good student at school because he, as one out of hundreds, gets the life saving help through our AIDS-treatment programme, and he needs this treatment twice a day on every day for the rest of his life.

Please help us to help!

through a donation towards our work.

Our 2010 top donors' charts

We thank all our donors and mention our 25 most generous benefactors:

1. Bruderschaft des Seligen Gerhard e.V. - Neuburg / Germany (and all our benefactors who made their donations to us through their account).
2. South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (AIDS Office) via Catholic Relief Services Consortium through PEPFAR from U.S. Government.
3. Benedictine Mission House - Schuyler, NE / U.S.A. (and all their and our benefactors who sent their donations for us to them).
4. Missionsprokura - St. Ottilien / Germany (and all our benefactors who made their donations to us through their account).
5. Initiative gegen Armut (INGEAR) - Zeilarn / Germany
6. Päpstliches Missionswerk der Kinder (Aktion Dreikönigssingen) - Aachen / Germany
7. Mr. Martin Marciniszyn - Zug / Switzerland
8. Order of Malta (Canadian Association) (and all our benefactors who sent their donations for us through them).
9. Nampak - Johannesburg / South Africa
10. Mrs. Hildegard Grulich - Mainhausen / Germany
11. Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa
12. SAPPI - Mandeni / South Africa
13. Mr. Victor Claudius - Durban / South Africa
14. Vilseck gibt Hoffnung e.V. - Vilseck / Germany
15. Andreas Schmeller Gymnasium - Nabburg / Germany
16. Share for Smiles e.V. - Germany
17. Dr. Robert Bock - Kösching / Germany
18. Inkamana Abbey - Vryheid / South Africa (and all our benefactors who sent their donations for us through them)
19. Father Josef König - Pielenhofen / Germany
20. Mr. Johannes Lagleder - Neuburg / Germany
21. Gymnasium Puchheim / Germany
22. Passauer Kreis e.V. - Passau / Germany
23. Caritas St. Stephan - Wien / Austria
24. Schottenpfarre - Wien / Austria
25. South African Sugar Association - Mount Edgecombe / South Africa

BBG in Cyberspace How you can find us online

	E-Mail Office Care Centre	info@bbg.org.za
	E-Mail Father Gérard	father@bbg.org.za
	fathergerard	
	Homepage	http://bbg.org.za/
	Blogger	http://fathergerard.blogspot.com/
	facebook	http://www.facebook.com/pages/Brotherhood-of-Blessed-Gérard/121315771246398
	XING	http://www.xing.com/profile/PaterGerhard_LaglederOSB
	twitter	http://twitter.com/FatherGerard
	LinkedIn	http://za.linkedin.com/in/lagleder/
	kathspace	http://kathspace.com/community/PaterGerhard
	YouTube	http://www.youtube.com/user/FATHERGERARD
	gloria.tv	http://www.gloria.tv/?user=2073
	betterplace.org	http://www.betterplace.org/organisations/bbg
	meinvz.net	http://www.meinvz.net/Profile/jpz68_ZFeMRGZmNuoMjggAsrPUImHmZ2YALUPy6vSZE

Please send an E-Mail to father@bbg.org.za if you changed your address or e-mail or if we do not have your e-mail address.

Annual Report 2010

The activities of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and the Blessed Gérard's Care Centre in the year 2010, like in the year before, were concentrating on maintaining momentum in our existing projects.

We were faced with challenges in our management force hence we had to refill the positions of the General Manager of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** and of the Principal of **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**.

Fund-raising has also become a more and more important and vital challenge, because our expenditure has increased tremendously through the gigantic staff development in 2008 and 2009 and the ever increasing demand of AIDS treatment, Hospice- und Palliative Care.

The outstanding events of 2010:

Blessed Gérard's Children's Home now looks after 42 children since the arrival of Liam on 5 January 2010 and Charles on 29 August 2010 and the discharge of Siya on 13 December 2010



right: Max Rauecker, Gabi Rauecker, Johannes Lagleder, Hans Sporer, Mechthilde

8 May 2010: AGM of our German Support Association, the "Bruderschaft des Seligen Gerhard e.V." at Neuburg / Germany (from left to

Lagleder, Albertine Sporer, Fr. Gérard)

20 May 2010: Dedicated Members' Meeting and Council Meeting of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**: Dr. Khaya Nzimande commences his year of probation as a candidate for the dedicated membership.



27 June 2010: We celebrate the Solemnity of the Patron Saint of the Order of Malta: St. John the Baptist. The highlight is the reception of Father Sithembiso Ngcobo as a member into the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**. See the article: The Solemnity of St. John the Baptist 2010

Fr. Ngcobo and Yvonne Renaud joined the Council of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**.



9 July 2010: Our great benefactor Father Georg Weinzierl from Steinbach/Germany celebrates his 75th birthday. He asked for donations towards our work in lieu of personal gifts. Congratulations and wholeheartedly "Thank you!"

15 - 25 July 2010: Father Gérard represented the AIDS Work of the Order of Malta in South Africa at the International AIDS Conference at Vienna invited by the Austrian "AIDS Dienst Malteser".



10 October 2010: We celebrate the Feast of Blessed Gérard 2010. The highlight is the investiture of our active member



Dr. Andreas Heinze (from France) as an Honorary Dedicated Member of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**.

2 December 2010: Dedicated Members' Meeting and Council Meeting of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** (AGM)

The Council of the Dedicated Members of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** elected the **new Executive Council / Board of Directors** according to our statutes for a period of office of two years (2nd December 2010 – 1st December 2012). The new Council / Board consists of
President: Father Gérard T. Lagleder O.S.B.
Vice-President: Mrs Yvonne J. Renaud
Medical Superintendent: Dr Paul Z. Thabethe
Director of Charity Work: Sister Nokuthula M. Thabethe
Administrator of Goods: Father Siphosenkosi T. Gamede

Father Gérard thanked all Councillors / Board members for their wonderful service rendered which resulted in such an impeccable audit report, and he thanked especially Father Gamede for his services as Vice-President in the past term of office and welcomed Mrs Renaud into the Executive Council / Board of Directors.

NPO Registration



1. July 2010: **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** finally was issued its Certificate of Registration as a Non-profit Organisation.

Audits:

26 February 2010: **Financial Audit** of the Brotherhood of **Blessed Gérard** and of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** for 2009. We are absolutely proud of the impeccable results. A special vote of thanks to our Financial Officer Mr. Thamsanqa Gumede!

8 November 2010: The **Board of Auditors** of the Brotherhood of

Blessed Gérard performs its audit for the years of 2008 and 2009 and comes to laudatory conclusions: "We are satisfied that the members of the **Executive Council** as well as all other officials have faithfully and competently performed their tasks as laid down in the Constitution of the **Brotherhood**." and "In evaluating the service rendered by the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** we can but express our admiration for the work the members of the **Brotherhood** are doing, especially in its **Care Centre**, for the people in **Mandeni** and its surroundings."

Personnel / Employees

After the unprecedented increase in employed staff over the years 2008 and 2009 we had no new positions created in 2010 and just replaced staff where positions became vacant.

Mrs. Caroline Beaumont, member of the Management Committee and Housekeeper of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**, took on the additional task to manage **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home** from April 2010.

26 April 2010: Mrs Gloria Buthelezi, the head of our laundry, qualified as a housekeeping supervisor. Congratulations! Well done!

18 May 2010: Sr. Thecla Gamede O.S.B. from Twasana Convent joined our Sisters' Convent filling the third of the four positions there. Sr. Thecla has taken on the task of a pastoral assistant, i.e. she is the sacristan, makes regular pastoral visits to all our patients at **Blessed Gérard's Hospice** and teaches Catechism to children of **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**.

Sakhile B Ndlovu was employed as a receptionist on 22 May 2010.

After the resignation of Axel Pape as General Manager of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**, Dr. Khaya Nzimande took on this task as the acting General Manager of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** on 1 June 2010.



The new General Manager of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**, Mr. Sven Anderson, commenced his duties on 6 September 2010. He just got married on 28th August 2010. Congratulations and wholeheartedly welcome!

We welcomed the new Principal of **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**, Mr. Sibusiso Ntobela, on 1 August 2010.



11 September 2010: Sr. Edith Zulu O.S.B. graduated as "Early Childhood Educator". Congratulations, Sister! Well done! (The date on the camera was wrongly set!)

22 September 2010: Mrs. Carolyn Nunn attended the St. Mary's Hospital Nursing College Graduation of 2010. It took place at the Pinetown Civic Hall and started at 11.00. Dr. Ross the CEO of St Mary's was the Master of Ceremonies and Dr. Andrew Mumgherera the Guest Speaker. Two of our Bursary Recipients' graduated Zandile Thobile Mkhawamubi gained a Distinction in Theory Paper 2 and is now a Registered



Professional Nurse and Sthembile Promise Masuku gained a Distinction in Theory and is now an Enrolled Nurse. We were entertained by the St. Mary's Hospital Choir of which two of our current Bursary recipients' are members, Ms Lorraine Mbatha and Ms

Sibongakonke Xulu. The two items they sang were greatly appreciated by the audience of family friends and students. The awards were presented to the graduates by Councillor Nkosi

Dimba who presented the EtheKwini Municipality Awards with Citations, Mrs Mncadi, Mrs F Ngcobo and Mrs ZP Mlaba presented the Hospital Awards and Citations. The Meaning of the Lamp was presented by Mrs ME Mncadi. The ceremony ended with the St. Mary's Hospital Choir singing the National Anthem.



Visitors



22 - 17 May 2010: Our member Dr. Robert Bock and his wife Christa, who were married 25 years ago by Father Gérard come to celebrate their Silver Wedding Anniversary with us on 25 May 2010.

9 - 16 October 2010: Our active member Dr. Andreas Heinze from France comes to visit us at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre



17 October 2010: Eudi Farge from Australia came to visit Brian at Blessed Gérard's Children's Home. Brian stayed in her house when his deceased mother worked in her

household. "Aunty Eudi" made and presented Brian with a lovely album with photos and many wonderful stories about his early childhood with his mother. Then we went onto our traditional Sunday outing with her.

24 October 2010: Anne and Peter Hehl from Germany visit Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and join in our Sunday Outing to Ballito.



20 - 21 December 2010: Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B. of Inkamana Abbey honours us with his visit.



Christmas 2010

Membership statistics

on 20 December 2010

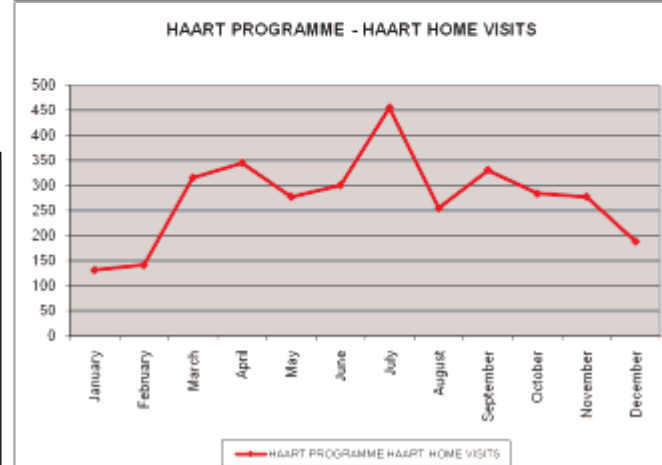
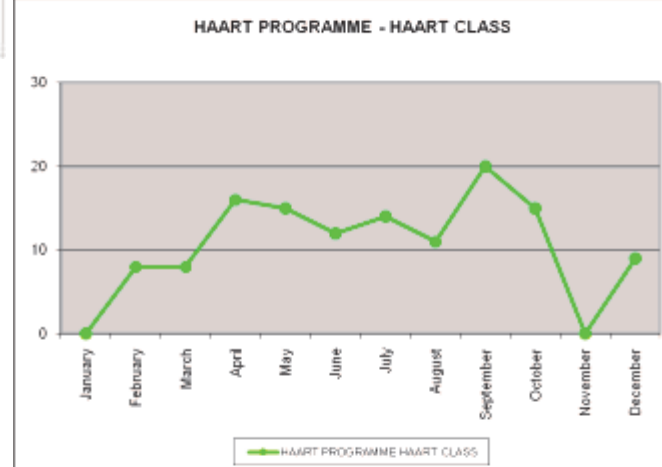
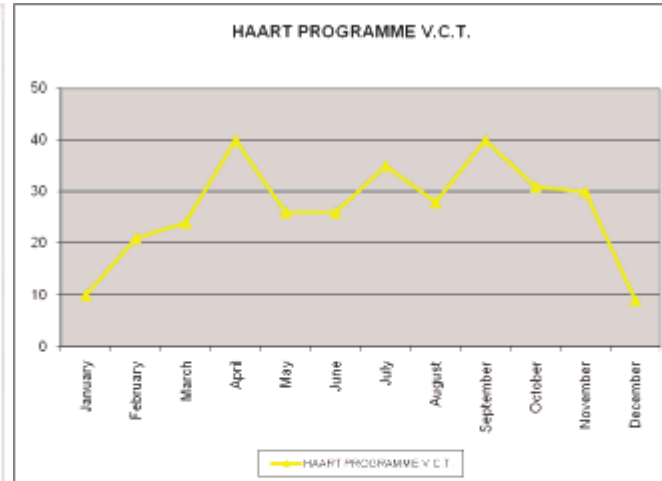
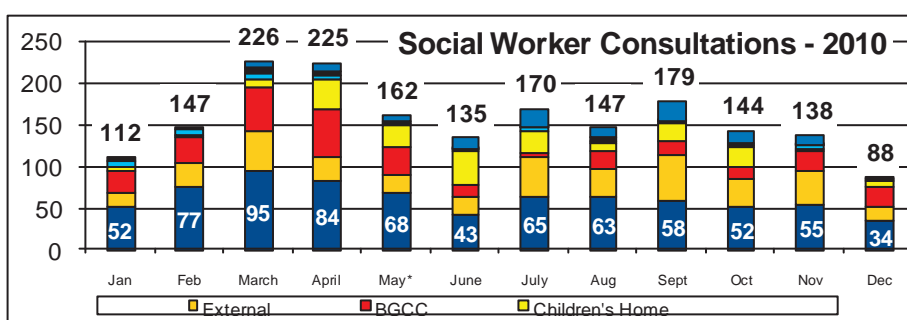
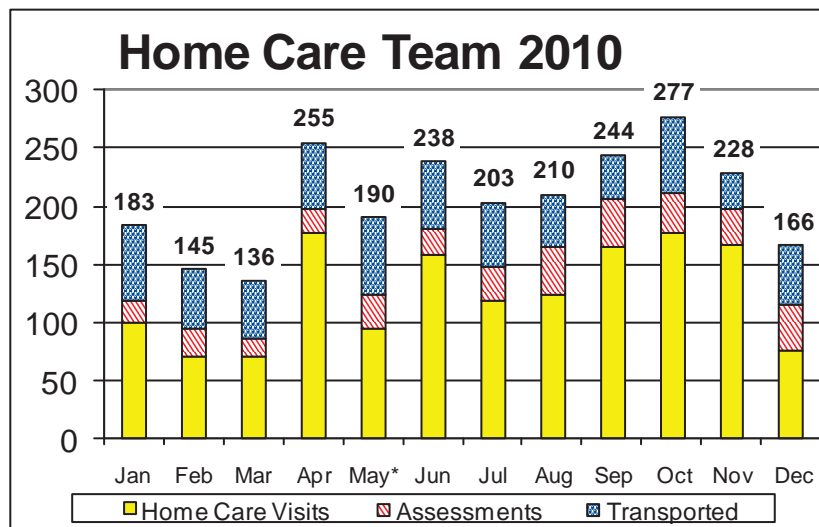
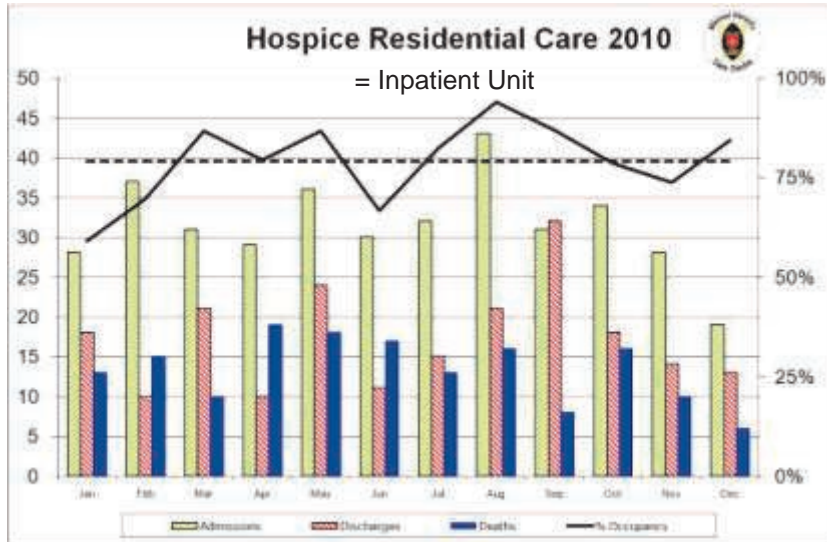
	Increase 2010
1326 active Members	12%
554 financial supporters	1%
370 spiritual supporters	0%
2250 Members in total	7%

Statistics (KPI) for 2010

Hospice average occupancy rate	78%
Bursaries awarded in 2010	24
Children in Children's home	42
Children who joined our Pre-Primary School and Crèche	57
HAART: HIV positive patients who do not need ARVs yet	94
AIDS patients attended HAART readiness course	128
Patients who passed away in our hospice	164
HAART: Patients receiving ARVs by December 2010	319
HAART: VCT (Voluntary Counselling and Testing) done	319
Patients admitted to hospice	378
Home visits by Home care team	1456
Consultations done by our social worker	1526
Home visits by HAART therapeutic counsellors	3212

Accumulated Statistics

2010 only	1992-2010	Increase
15 patients transferred (Hospice)	664	2%
5 First Aid patients	322	2%
18 new paediatric patients (Hosp.)	483	4%
12 emergency patients	271	5%
267 new patients admitted to Hosp.	3013	10%
272 patients counselled (Hospice)	1528	22%
567 new home care patients (Hosp.)	3084	23%
209 day- and outpatients (Hospice)	1129	23%
183 home carers trained (Hospice)	939	24%
190 new HAART patients	955	25%
616 patients transported (ambul.)	2906	27%
427 social cases (Care Centre)	781	121%



The Celebration of the Solemnity of St. John

on Sunday, 27th June 2010, at **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**

09:30 High Mass with reception of and conferral of the membership medals to all new members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



Blessed Gérard's Church was filled to capacity. Sr. Thuli Thabethe read the reading from Holy Scripture



Father Gérard delivered the sermon

The main celebrant, Father Ngcobo, blessed the medals for the new members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



The new Parish Priest of Mandeni, Father Sithembiso Ngcobo was the first who was solemnly received by Father

Gérard as a new member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



Mrs Yvonne Renaud, our resident Dedicated Member, and Dr. and Sr. Thabethe conferred the mem-

bership medals to the new members.



Father Ngcobo then blessed all the new members.



11:00 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of our members and Festive Function

The AGM was very well attended



The councillors and VIPs

from left to right: Dr. Khaya Nzimande, Father Siphon Gamede, Father Sithembiso Ngcobo, Dr. Paul Thabethe, Sr. Thuli Thabethe, Mrs. Yvonne Renaud, Mr. Louis Renaud



Dr. Khaya Nzimande, our acting General Manager, chaired the AGM, and informed everybody about the progress of the Brotherhood's activities and asked for suggestions and ideas for our work in future.

Dr. Nzimande presented a comprehensive report about our work in the past year. Everybody was so impressed and content, that no suggestions and ideas were



voiced by the members.



Caroline Beaumont and Carolyn Nunn, two experienced and reliable columns of our management committee

Father Gérard then welcomed Sr. Thecla Gamede O.S.B. to **Blessed Gérard's Convent**. She has taken on the duties of a pastoral assistant in **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**.



Father Gérard presented Sr. Thecla with a "Divine Mercy" picture of Jesus hence she will recommend all our clients and patients to the Divine mercy.

12:00 Lunch, refreshments and entertainment

Our staff, children and volunteers added the right swing to the function.

Our multi-talented Sr. Edith got everybody into the right rhythm



and the traditional Zulu dance "Shaya ingoma" brought the entertainment to a climax much to the delight of everyone.

The Celebration of the Feast of Blessed Gérard

on Sunday, 10th October 2010

09:30 High Mass

celebrated by Most Reverend Father Bishop Xolelo Thaddeus Kumalo



Father Gérard welcomed everybody and gave an introduction of the significance of the celebration.

Dedicated Member Dr. Paul Thabethe read the reading from Holy Scripture.



Bishop Xolelo Kumalo delivered a very touching and lively sermon.

Investiture of Dr. Andreas Heinze as a Honorary Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



Bishop Xolelo Kumalo blessed the Cape for the Dedicated Members which Dr. Andreas Heinze was to be invested with:

"God uses signs to express his extraordinary mercy toward us. We also use signs to express our gratitude, declare our willingness to serve God, and profess to be resolved to live up to our baptismal consec-

ration.

This cape is a sign of entering the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard as a Dedicated Member.

The cape thus expresses the intention of living in the spirit of that association.

That intention renews our baptismal resolve to put on Christ with the help of Mary, whose own greatest desire is that we become more like Christ in praise of the Trinity, until, dressed for the wedding feast, we reach our home in heaven.

Almighty God, bless + this cape and give the one who wears it the grace to live up to the promise they have made to implement the beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount by protecting the faith and serving the poor.

This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen."



Prayer of Conferral:
"Dr. Heinze, receive this cape as the sign of your acceptance as an Honorary Dedicated Member into the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

Live in such a way that, with the help of the mother of God, St. John the Baptist and Blessed Gérard, you may more and more put on Christ, who redeemed us by his blood, for the glory of the Most Holy Trinity and for the service of the Church and of your neighbour. Amen."



Father Gérard invested Dr. Andreas Heinze with the Cape for the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Bishop Xolelo Kumalo gave the new Honorary Dedicated Member of Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, Dr. Andreas Heinze, a special blessing:

"May almighty God bless you with his gentle kindness and give you the vision of his saving wisdom. Amen.

May he continue to nourish you with the teaching of faith and enable you to remain steadfast in doing what is right. Amen.

May he turn your steps always toward him and lead you along the pathway of peace and charity. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen. "

Our new Honorary Dedicated Member: Dr. Andreas Heinze



Reception of and conferral of the membership medals to all new members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Bishop Xolelo Kumalo blessed the Members' Medals of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard:

Then Bishop Xolelo Kumalo prayed the Prayer of conferral of the medals.

The Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of **Blessed Gérard** then conferred the medals to the new members.



Amongst the new members of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** were very distinct personalities:

Major Ian Crowther JCD MBE GCSTJ, the Prior of the Priory for South Africa of the Order of St. John.



Mr Craig Troeberg KStJ, the CEO of the Priory for South Africa of the Order of St. John.



(from right to left): Mr. Sven Anderson, the new General Manager of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** and Mr. Simiso Ntobela, the new Principal of **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**.

(right to left): Major Ian Crowther JCD MBE GCSTJ, Mr Craig Troeberg KStJ, Mr. Sven Anderson



Bishop Xolelo Kumalo blessed all new members of the Brotherhood of **Blessed Gérard**:
At the bidding prayers

(left to right) Main Celebrant Bishop Xolelo Kumalo, Father Gérard, Father Sithembiso Ngcobo (Chaplain of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**), Father Richard Multerer O.S.B. (Prior of Inkamana Abbey) and Father John Paul Mwaniki O.S.B. (Superior of the Benedictine Study House in Cedara/Howick)



11:00 Function



Father Gérard welcomed all guests (with him at table from left to right) Dr. Paul Thabethe, Sr. Andreas Heinze, Yvonne Renaud and her husband Louis Renaud

A special welcome was given to Mr. Horst Achzahn, the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Durban and his wife,



the members of the Order of St. John (who since today are also all members of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**)

(from left to right) Mr. John Schnell, Mrs Caroline Clark, Mr. Craig Troeberg, Mr Victor Claudius and Major Ian Crowther, Father Richard Multerer O.S.B. (Prior of Inkamana Abbey), Br. Daniel Gakuya O.S.B. (Professor for Veterinary Medicine at the University of Nairobi/Kenya and member of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** for more than 11 years) and Father John Paul Mwaniki O.S.B. (Superior of the Benedictine Study House Cedara),



The Benedictine Sisters of Twasana (three of them - Sr. Thecla, Sr. Edith and Sr. Conradine - are forming **Blessed Gérard's Convent** within

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre) and

Mr. Erich Winkler (Member of the Board of Advisors of the Brotherhood of **Blessed Gérard**)



Commemoration of 15 years Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche



Commemoration of 10 years Blessed Gérard's Children's Home

Commemoration of 10 years Blessed Gérard's Disaster Relief Project



Dr. Paul Thabethe conferred the epaulettes for Dedicated Members to Dr. Andreas Heinze.

Welcome of Mr. Sven Anderson as the new General Manager of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

Dr. Paul Thabethe handed Mr. Sven Anderson the Certificate of Appointment as General Manager of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**.



Welcome of Mr. Simiso Ntobela as the new Principal of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.

Mrs. Yvonne Renaud handed Mr. Simiso Ntobela the Certificate of Appointment as Principal of **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**.



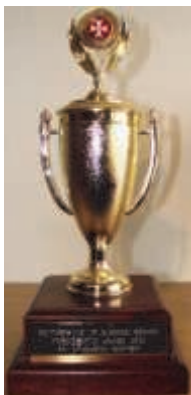
Dr. Paul Thabethe and Fr. Gérard conferred the epaulettes for members in managerial positions to the Chaplain of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**: Father Sithembiso Ngcobo.

Miss Ntombi Ndlamandla received her certificate of appointment and epaulettes as Vice-Principal of **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**.



Conferral of the President's Award 2010

**BROTHERHOOD OF BLESSED GÉRARD
PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2010
FR. SITHEMBISO NGCOBO**



Father Gérard conferred the Presidents Award 2010 to Father Sithembiso Ngcobo "in gratitude and acknowledgement of his most faithful and invaluable service as the Chaplain of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**, his leadership role as a Council Member of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** and his exemplary zeal as an active member of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**."



Father Gérard handed a special **Certificate of Gratitude to the Priory of South Africa of the Order of St. John**

Major Ian Crowther responded with a moving speech cherishing the mutual friendship between the Order of St. John and the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** as the South African Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta. He emphasised that on this very day the Lord Prior of the Order of St. John and the Grandmaster of the Order of Malta are meeting at Rome to discuss ways of even closer cooperation between these two Orders of St. John.



Father Gérard gave a special Vote of Thanks to tireless and most dedicated fund-raiser Mr. Victor Claudius.

12:00 Lunch, refreshments and entertainment programme

After a most delicious lunch provided by the Caterers of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** everybody was entertained by singing and dancing children of



Blessed Gérard's Children's Home accompanied by our "Reverend Drummer Girl" Sr. Edith Zulu O.S.B. (She graduated recently as Early Childhood Educator. Congratulations!)



Dr. Khaya Nzimande, the Manager of **Blessed Gérard's Hospice**, lead us



through the entertainment programme.



Dr. Andreas Heinze and Mrs. Yvonne

Renaud making friends with the currently youngest child of **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**: Charles Benedict.

The new General Manager of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**

Sven Anderson and his wife (they got married on 28th August 2010 - Congratulations!).

We thank Mrs. Anderson very much for taking these photos.





The children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home express our gratitude on behalf of the several thousands of people, who we were privileged to help, care for and look after, for all your benevolence and support.

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** Annual Report / Newsletter is the official mouthpiece of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**.

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URL <http://bbg.org.za/>

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 Gerard'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 Gerard'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:**

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

If you live in the **U.S.A.:**

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: **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/finance/giftaid.pdf>

If you are subscribed to **PayPal**, you may send us a **donation online** using our e-mail father@bbg.org.za