

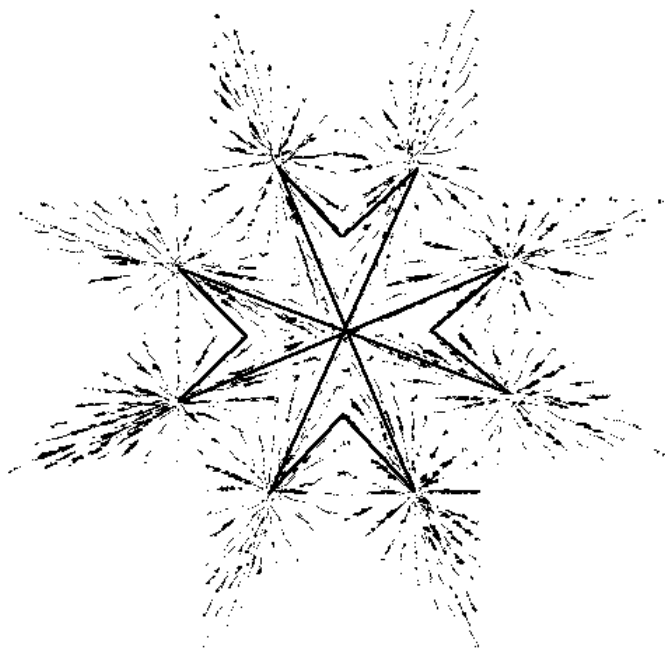


Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

NEWS LETTER
No. 18

Christmas 1999

We wish you a Merry Christmas



and a Happy New Year 2000!



Dear members and friends of our brotherhood,

A baby with blood on his hands and feet, held high up by mom and dad. All are looking at him: His parents are content and glad. His eyes are wide open and his head is attentively bent listening to the people in front of him. He lifts his hands up ready to touch, to grip, to get involved. They are staring at him in expectation and need: the man with the bottle in his hand, the prisoner behind his bars, the prostitute and her customer hiding behind her and the dog, the man in the wheelchair and his family

and last but not least the injured man covered with blood, reaching out in a silent cry to the baby. If the baby were not there, all they would see in the perspective of their lives, would be the cross. As they see him, the cross stays behind the baby, but his hands and his feet are full of blood. He got involved. He went in between the people and their cross and got his hands dirty, dirty with the blood of our misery and he ended up on the cross himself. He is the crucified and he is alive and he is still ready to get in touch with the miserable, the addict, the captive, the sinner, the handicapped and the hurt. He knows what they are going through, the blood on his hand and feet proves it. Christmas today is not a sentimental memory of an idyllic phantasm, but the continuous advent of the risen Christ into the darkness of our misery. Christ was born 2000 years ago, but he wants to get in touch with us, especially there where we are dependent, caught, guilty, lame and wounded and Christmas is his advent, his arrival at the grassroots of our life. This was for 2000 years, is now and will always be his graceful offer and all we have to do is to accept him, being touched by him, and allowing his light to dispel our darkness. This is his invitation for Christmas, the New Year, new decade, new century and the new millennium and for all future to come.

May I invite you now, to take on the role of Mary and Joseph, to present Christ to the people, to make Christmas, the advent of God's word - made flesh - a real experience, divine in human ways? This is, what our brotherhood is all about. Every good deed in any of our projects is part of our mission to protect the faith and serve the needy in body mind and soul.

Merry Christmas and may Christ be the source of light, hope and life for you and our new millennium!

Yours most sincerely

Father Gérard

Celebration of St. John's Feast



24th of June each year is the solemnity of St. John the Baptist, who is the patron saint of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. We, the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, are the South African relief organisation of the Order of Malta. Therefore this feast is one of the most important celebrations in our calendar.

St. John's Feast was especially memorable this year because we had the pleasure and privilege of receiving the Bishop of Eshowe, His Excellency Mansuet Dela Biyase, into the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



We would like to welcome you, dear Father Bishop, into our midst. We feel blessed that you do not just want to support our works in words only, but that you want to give us your full support and encouragement by being a part of our organisation.

Thank you!

- **Blessed Gérard's Friendship Club** for the funds which they raised.
- **Miss Zikhali** of Blessed Gérard's Pre-primary School and Crèche for the children's' singing and dancing.
- **Mrs. Mdletshe**, the teacher of Blessed Gérard's Community Development Centre, for her sewing display.
- **Mrs. May Goodwin** for organising the donations and selling of second hand items.
- **Mrs. Dlamini and her daughters** for selling the cold drinks.
- **Mrs Renee and Shona Pieters** for their artwork with the face paints.
- **The Mandini Stables** for bringing their horses free of charge to give rides to the children
- **Mrs. Jane Gounden** for organising the lunch.
- **Mrs. Caroline Beaumont and all the staff** who are always there to give assistance where ever and when ever it is necessary.
- And anyone else who contributed to this wonderful celebration.



News flash! News flash! News flash!

There was another major reason for celebration this year, as it was the inauguration of the new project of our organisation -

Blessed Gérard's First Aid & Emergency Service



Although the ambulance and home nursing vehicle of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre & Hospice had been meant to be used just to visit sick people at their respective homes and to transport them occasionally between their home or hospital and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre & Hospice, we have been called by members of the public in many cases of emergencies when the Provincial or private ambulance services were not available. On other occasions it just happened that our ambulance was first on the scene at road traffic accidents.



We have been asked to render First Aid Services for public events like the Tugela Raft Race, the Mandeni Spring Fair or the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima. Our equipment comprises a 4x4 ambulance, a First-Aid tent with 12

field beds and First-Aid equipment stored in a trailer towed by a 9 seat 4x4 pickup.



The inauguration of our service and blessing of the equipment by Bishop Biyase of Eshowe took place on 26 June 1999.

We are part of the local contingency plans for disasters and civil defence.

Thank you!

- ❖ We would like to extend a very big and heartfelt thank you to the sponsor who has donated the trailer to this project.
- ❖ Another big thank you to Stanger Car Plates for donating the sign writing on the trailer.
- ❖ A third thank you to Gavin's Auto Electrical who did the wiring on the trailer.

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre & Hospice

Let me tell you a story...

Bongani R.I.P.



This is little Bongani aged 3½ months.

Bongani was brought to us on a Friday evening by his grieving grandmother. She was grieving for her daughter who had died two months earlier from AIDS and this was her baby. The grandmother had not known that her daughter was pregnant as she lived in Johannesburg. When the father of Bongani brought him to KwaZulu/Natal for his grandmother to care for him, he informed her that he could not look after the baby as he was unemployed and was unable to buy the right kind of food for Bongani. Sugar water was all the nourishment the baby was receiving at the time and he was suffering badly from malnutrition.

To make matters worse he told the grandmother that Bongani was also HIV-positive. She was devastated and did not know which way to turn. She took him to the local hospital where it was entered on his card "*marasmic baby – immunocompromised. I do not think hospital admission will change the outcome and have advised the grandmother that the baby is terminally ill.*" They were then sent home to cope as best as they could. This proved to be very difficult because the grandmother had to work and did not have the time to care for a tiny, sick baby.

Fortunately for her, her employers knew of our organisation. Of course we agreed to look after him. But the poor little boy, at 3½ months was already in full blown AIDS. All we could do was to show him as much love as possible and keep him comfortable.



This we achieved by managing his spiralling fever, controlling his ever-present cough and easing his pain. Everyone in the Care Centre & Hospice grew to love him during his short time with us. 26 days later God called him to his eternal place in Heaven.

Unbeknown to him, Bongani, as little as he was, changed all our lives and we will never forget him. Our deepest sympathy goes to his grandmother, who cared so much.

[This story is written with the permission of the family.]
And this is another...

Junior Mtshali – there is hope!

The passages of our Care Centre & Hospice ring out with the laughter and squeals of a little boy of approximately three years. But this was not the case five months ago when he was brought to our facility.



Just after his arrival

Four months later

Junior was a typical case of kwashiorkor (malnutrition). He had sores all over his body, had a respiratory infection, was far behind in his physical and mental development and was psychologically affected by the trauma of having been abandoned, not once but thrice, firstly by his own mother, secondly by his father and thirdly by the mother of the father's estranged wife. (Not his grandmother)

Our first aim was to cure him of his kwashiorkor and to heal his wounds. This proved to be the easier part of his treatment. However, after intense care and lots of love, he soon began to thrive. We made contact with the social workers who are trying to place him in foster care, where he would grow up in a family atmosphere. But this is proving to be quite difficult.

In the meantime he continues to stay with us. He has put on several kilograms and a few centimetres in height since July. He has begun to talk and is slowly learning to trust some people.

There is hope for him!

We would like to introduce our new staff members



Ambulance Assistant and Caregiver Mr. Nkosinathi Dlamini



Caregiver Miss Happiness Mfeka



and assistant housekeeper Mrs. Ignatia Biyela

Growing needs and growing tasks necessitate growing capacities ...

The community of Mandeni, Sundumbili and the adjacent areas, are fast recognising the fact that the help offered to them by the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard is something to which they are not accustomed to get. Each and every day we have new cases with many varied problems – from genuine hospice cases and rehabilitation cases referred from hospitals and clinics, malnutrition, abandoned children and other social problems.

Due of the increased utilisation of all our facilities and capacities, we have decided to upgrade the inpatient unit and service area of our building. This means a new high-care ward, a new mortuary, a bigger laundry and sluice room, a new pantry and an enlarged scullery. This addition to the building will have a second floor. The main section will house Blessed Gérard's Community Development Centre (the sewing school) and the smaller section will be a much needed store room.

We are appealing to our members to try and find sponsors to fund this upgrading. The Executive Council have already awarded the building contract and work will begin in the middle of January 2000, when the builders return from their annual holidays. This should take approximately two and a half months, which means the estimated date of completion is the end of March 2000.

It is almost unnecessary for us to say that we continue to need **your** help. But many people and organisations ask if there is something in particular which they could sponsor. Here are some of the ways in which we think your help would be beneficial.

Equipment needed in Blessed Gérard's Care Centre & Hospice

	Cost in	Rand	US Dollar	D-Mark
1. Large washing machine		25 365.00	4 227.50	8.455,--
2. Large Tumble Drier		17 556.00	2 926.00	5852,--
3. Refrigeration for new pantry		7 500.00	1 250.00	2.500,50
4. Extractor hood over stoves in kitchen		3 000.00	500.00	1.000,--
5. Printer		3 334.50	555.75	1.111,--
6. Tables for dining room (Existing ones to be used in sewing school)	or each	11 628.00 969.00	1 938.00 161.50	3.876,-- 323,--
7. Large dishwasher		13 908.00	2 318.00	4.636,--
8. Emergency Trolley		2 274.00	379.05	758,--
9. Medicine Trolley		951.00	158.65	317,--
10. Dressing Trolley		1 137.43	189.57	379,--
11. Medical Waste bin		796.86	132.81	265,--
12. Wheelchairs	each	1 500.00	250.00	500,--
13. Vital Signs Monitor		53 680.00	8 946.00	17.893,--

Other ways to assist the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard financially.

You may consider...	Rand	US-Dollar	D-Mark
14. Sponsoring the monthly salary of a nurse:	6 000.00	1 000.00	2.000,--
15. Sponsoring the medical supplies for the Care Centre & Hospice: per month	2000.00	333.00	666,--
16. Sponsoring one day inpatient care for a patient in the Care Centre & Hospice	120.00	20.00	40,--
17. Sponsoring a bursary for a needy but capable university student: per annum	20 000.00	3 333.00	6.666,--
18. Sponsoring the feeding of a malnourished infant: per month	50.00	8.33	17,--
19. Sponsoring the fabric for our sewing school per month	800.00	133.00	266.00
20. Sponsoring the new first aid tent	20 000.00	3333.00	6.666,--
21. Sponsoring a field bed each	270.00	45.00	90,--
22. Sponsoring the construction of the high-care ward in the Care Centre & Hospice	75 000.00	12 500.00	25.000,--
23. Sponsoring the construction of the community development centre / sewing school	125 000.00	20 500.00	42.000,--
24. Sponsoring the construction of the new mortuary, bigger laundry and sluice room, new pantry and enlarged scullery for the Care Centre & Hospice	150 000.00	25 000.00	50.000,--

N.B. The above figures are based on the current exchange rates.
Therefore they are not accurate and they are subject to change

Blessed Gérard's Community
Development Centre
Sewing School
We would like to introduce our new
teacher



Mrs. Florence Mdletshe

The Executive Council would like to welcome Mrs. Mdletshe to the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and to wish her well in her new venture as the teacher of this very worthwhile programme.

It was decided that it would be much more practical to relocate the sewing school to the Parish Hall in Mandini. The school opened in its new home on 1st July 1999. Having done some promotion and advertising at the feast of St. John the Baptist, amongst our members and the public, this school now has a good compliment of students, with more enquiring daily. This is the course, which the students are taught -

Primary Course

(The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard pays for the fabrics and other materials and equipment for this course)

Equipment: Scissors, pins, tape measure, quick unpick, pencil, notebook, sewing machine. The students are taught safety and maintenance in the use of a sewing machine, over locker, scissors etc. They are also given an explanation of uses of different needles and the need for a pattern.

Fabric: An explanation of how to lay out and cut fabric including the use of a pattern. A basic explanation of the different types and the uses of fabric is given.

Stitching: An explanation of different types and the uses of sewing, e.g. hand sewing, machine sewing is given. Show how to sew by hand - tacking, hems, and buttonholes. Show how to sew on the machine - straight seams, zigzag.

Cut out & Sew the following: Pillow case, child's panty & vest, child's T-shirt, small boy's boxer shorts with elastic waist, small boy's shirt with short sleeves and collar, boy's shorts with pockets and zip fly, small girl's dress, lady's skirt with zip and button, lady's blouse, girl's school uniform with zip.

Intermediate Course

(The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard pays for the fabrics and other materials and equipment for this course)

The students are taught how to take a person's measurements, how to sew different fabrics, e.g. Stretch fabric, nylon, chiffon, tulle and denim, cut out and sew a tracksuit (stretch material), small girl's dress (nylon), men's trousers (denim), lady's jacket with lining, man's shirt with collar and cuffs and a lady's two piece suit with lining.

Advanced Course

(The student must pay for all fabrics and finishes for this course)

Basic explanation on how to begin one's own business:

How to finance one's work, i.e. taking a deposit for the order, paying cash for the fabric, cotton etc., getting approval from the customer, how to advertise one's work, how to arrive at a selling price for the garment, how to keep a record of what one has spent on one garment, understanding what profit one has made.

Explanation on how to apply for a job, how to draw up a curriculum vitae, how to approach an employer, how to dress when going for an interview.

Cutting and sewing: A wedding gown with train and petticoat and a man's tailored suit.

Designing, cutting and sewing of one garment of one's choice.



Notes:

The students work at their own pace.

The Intermediate Course and the Advanced Course are optional.

The students are awarded a certificate after each course is completed.

The students receive a pack at the beginning of the Primary Course, which includes scissors, tape measure, pins, hand needles, notebook and pencil. The pack becomes the property of the student.

The students pay a contribution of R100.00 per month.

The students may use their own sewing machines if they wish.

The times of the lessons are Monday to Thursday from 8.00 to 16.00, Friday

from 8.00 to 14.00.

Introducing the German Volunteers

from the second half of 1999.



Miss **Walburga von Ohnesorge** helped in Blessed Gérard's Care Centre & Hospice for two months. Miss von Ohnesorge had just completed her schooling and wanted to use her free time for the good of humanity, until she began her studies at university. She has a feeling for the needs of the patients and cared with exemplary dedication, patience and skill for the sick. Nothing was too much for her, nothing too unpleasant, nothing beneath her dignity. Thank you Miss von Ohnesorge, we hope and pray that your experience with us was fulfilling and rewarding.

We wish you all the best in your new path in life.

Mr. **Florian Hecke** is a paramedic who originally came for two months, but he has extended his stint of volunteer help for another two months, because he really enjoys his work here. We equally enjoy his uncomplicated personality, idealism and his untiring eagerness.



When he returns home he will begin a new career with the Police Force. Thank you for all your hard work and your readiness to help in any circumstance.

Honorary Dedicated members

Hans & Albertine Sporer



Our members and friends, Mr. & Mrs. Sporer, visited South Africa from Germany during their summer vacation. They spent four weeks working with us in the Care Centre & Hospice. More over they are some of our most hard working fundraisers. Mr. & Mrs. Sporer are teachers at Descartes High School in Neuburg and are the

colleagues of Mr. Johannes Lagleder. They encourage the pupils at their school to contribute money which they raise through selling things, raffles etc.

Thank you both for sharing Holy Mass with us each day, for all the repairs you did around the building, for the willingness to make yourselves available when we were called out late at night and any other time and for your support and encouragement in every respect.

You are truly an example of dedication to us all.

Johannes Lagleder



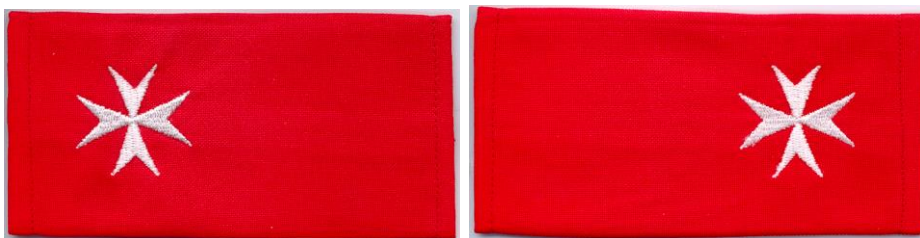
Mr Johannes Lagleder is continuously working in the background of our organisation and most of our members do not know about it. He spends hours and hours each week updating the database for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, monitoring the donations from Europe, organising the banking, updating the German bookkeeping, acknowledging the donations to the donors and he even pays for all the stationery, postage and phone calls out of his own pocket.

We thank you Johannes, from the centre of our hearts and may God reward you for all your generosity in goodwill, in time and in goods.

Corporate Identity

Epaulettes and Badges of Qualification

In keeping with all other relief organisations and ambulance corps of the Order of Malta around the world, the Executive Council decided that the active members should be further identifiable as volunteers and staff who protect the faith and serve the needy (See our motto "*Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*") and as such would wear red epaulettes with a white Maltese Cross embroidered on them and a badge on the left sleeve of the uniform shirt, identifying the volunteer's specific qualification. It was fortunate that the epaulettes were ready by the 26th June 1999 and were therefore handed out at the celebration on that day.



Our epaulettes



Our badges of qualification

Seats of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta

An article contributed by our member Dr. Peter Martinez

The Grand Priory of Bohemia

The origin of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta may be traced to the founding of the Order of St John in Jerusalem in 1099. As the Order grew it became necessary to organize itself locally into Priories and Grand Priories. The Grand Priory of Bohemia was founded in 1183.

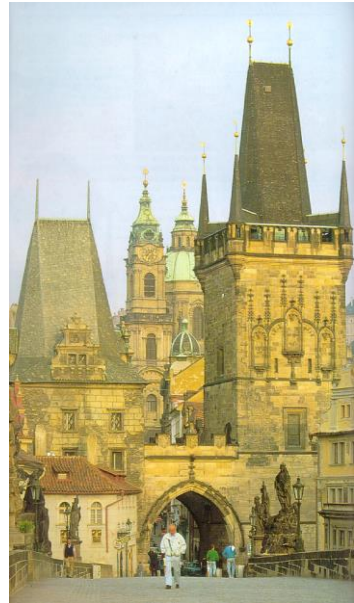
The history of the Knights of Malta in Prague is commemorated in several place names in the Little Quarter at the west end of the famous Charles Bridge. Until 1741, Charles Bridge was the only crossing over the Vltava. The Bridge was commissioned by Charles IV in 1357 to replace the Judith Bridge (built in 1158), which was destroyed by a flood in 1342. The gateway to the Charles Bridge is flanked by two towers of different height. The taller pinnacled tower on the north was built together with the Charles Bridge. To the south is a shorter tower, the remains of the Judith Bridge Tower, built in 1188 to guard the entrance to the original Judith Bridge.

A short walk from these towers lies Maltese Square and Grand Priory Square. At the northern end of



The Grand Prior's Mill.

"Venice of Prague."



The Judith Bridge Tower (left) and the Charles Bridge Tower (right).

Maltese Square is a statue of St John the Baptist - part of a fountain erected in 1715 to mark the end of a plague epidemic. At the northern end of Grand Priory Square is the former seat of the Grand Prior. In its present form the palace dates from the 1720s. A large mural of pop musician John Lennon has decorated the wall of the Grand Prior's garden since his death. The wheel of the Grand Prior's Mill has been totally restored and runs in a short side-channel of the Vltava river known as the

Also in this area is the Church of Our Lady Beneath the Chain, which has two massive towers dating from the time when this was a fortified priory. The Church, founded in the 12th century, is the oldest in the Little Quarter and was presented to the Knights of St John by King Vladislav II. It stood in the centre of the Knights' heavily fortified monastery, which guarded the



The towers at the entrance to the Church of Our Lady Under the Chain, with the Order's embassy in the left foreground.



Interior view of the Church of Our Lady Under the Chain.

approach to the old Judith Bridge, precursor of the Charles Bridge. The church's name refers to the chain used during the Middle Ages to close the monastery gatehouse.

A Gothic presbytery was added in the 13th century, but in the following century the original Romanesque church was demolished. A new portico was built with a pair of massive square towers but the work was abandoned and the old nave became a courtyard between the towers and the church. The church was given a baroque facelift in 1640 by Carlo Lurago. The high altar features a painting depicting the Virgin Mary and St John the Baptist coming to the aid of the Knights of Malta in the famous naval battle at Lepanto in 1571.

In spite of adversities encountered during the French revolution and during the Napoleonic wars that followed, the Bohemian Grand Priory survived down to the 20th century, arguably the most testing century of its long existence. During World War I the Order operated a hospital train which circulated throughout Europe treating the casualties of war. Over 27000 operations were conducted in the field.



In 1938 the (independent) Grand Priory of Austria was formed as a consequence of the Anschluss of Austria by Hitler. During the Nazi occupation of Bohemia the activities of the Order were banned and its properties were confiscated. Although the Order's activities were suppressed by the Nazis, the Regent Schwarzenberg used his political influence to ensure the survival of the order.

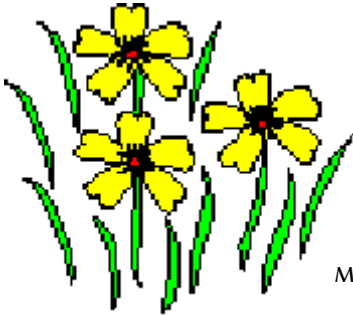
Following the war, the socialist state did not return the properties confiscated by the Nazis but instead nationalized them. A minimum level of activity was tolerated by the communists until 1950, when the Order, together with other Church orders, was dissolved and banned. The majority of the Order's members went into exile. A small group of knights remained in Bohemia and continued the Order's charitable and hospitaller activities with the support of their confreres abroad. They were headed by Prince Charles Schwarzenberg (1911-1986) as Regent of the Grand Priory of Bohemia, who untiringly defended the right of the Grand Priory to survive. In 1981 Fra Charles Paar was elected Grand Prior in exile.

Following the Velvet Revolution in 1989 the Order immediately resumed its activities. New members were inducted and the first steps were taken towards securing the return of the Order's buildings in Prague, namely the Grand Prior's Palace and the Church of Our Lady Under the Chain. Finally, Maltese Help was formed as the relief organization of the Order in the Czech Republic.

In 1991 the Order established diplomatic relations with the Czech Republic. The Order's embassy today stands next to the Church of Our Lady Under the Chain. Thus, once again the eight-pointed cross serves as a symbol of assistance and comfort for those suffering in body or spirit and reminds us of the Order's motto, *Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum*.



MEMBERS' NEWS



We wish a blessed and very happy birthday

In 1999 to:

Mrs Margaret Hiza on her 85th

S. H. Franz Graf von Ledebur
and Frau Centa Honig on their 80th

Herrn Ernst Lang on his 75th

Frau Jutta Betzler and Mrs Joy Fynn on their 65th

Mrs Kornelia Spyropoulos, Mrs Barbara Braun
and Herrn Walter Ruhland on their 60th

Mrs Zodwa Thomo, **S. E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager,**
Mrs Clare Kalkwarf, Mrs Nancy Bartell

and Mr Garry Wilson on their 50th

Mr John Craparo, Fräulein Birgitt Dittner, Miss Martilda Gumede,

Mrs Thokozile Nzimande, Mrs Mary Cominato

and Mrs Siphwi Ngema on their 40th

Mr Zakhele Mlangeni and Miss Thembile Majola on their 30th

Mr Sabelo Ngwenya, Miss Syvie Leonard, Mrs Nonhlanhla Nkosi, Mr Brian Lehto and Miss

Heather Kalkwarf on their 21st

In 2000 to:

Mr Louis Renaud on his 80th

Herrn Hans Neumann on his 75th

H H Stiftskanonikus Heinrich Wachter

and I H Nadine Freifrau von Redwitz on their 70th

Mrs Mumsy Dlamini, Mrs Johanna Mkhize, Frau Anna Knecht,

Mrs Margaret Rouillon and Mr John Pieters on their 65th

Herrn Heinz Himmels and Frau Helga Krenn on their 60th

Mrs Ursula Toohey, Frau Marianne Herner, Mr Eddie Stecker,

Herrn Josef Brunner and Herrn Norbert Pape on their 50th

Mr Jetro Qwabe, Herrn Dr med Robert Bock, S H Mauritius Graf von Brühl,

Signora Giovana Barbato, Prof Edmundo Pellizari Fiho

and Herrn Stephan Elster on their 40th

Mr Collin Ntuli, Mrs Yvonne Gumede, Mr Rasheed Kallen, Mr Joseph Stanford

and Mr Velenkosini Mdluli on their 30th

Miss Maureen Khumalo, Miss Kim Curzon, Mis

Mrs Fortunate Mthembu, Frau

and Miss Gizelle 1



***Happy 50th birthday to our founder member, vice-president and manager,
Mrs Clare Kalkwarf***

The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard wants to express very special birthday wishes to a very special person. The Golden Jubilee of your birthday is an opportunity for us to thank God for your birth and to thank you for your unmatched dedication, your wise and exemplary leadership and your tireless readiness to tackle whatever work crops up in our quest to be instruments of God's healing plan for this world. May the Lord reward you for all your faith, hope and charity!



Sincere condolences to

Father Gérard, Mr. Johannes Lagleder and Dr. & Mrs. Heinrich Hirmer on the sudden death of their beloved father, our member Hans Lagleder. **Mr. Lagleder** was one of the Brotherhood's most staunch supporters, both in prayer and financially.

We thank him for his wonderful generosity and pray that God will grant him eternal peace.

The family of our active members **Mr. Wiseman Mathonsi** and **Miss Gugu Mzimela**, who passed away earlier this year.

The family and friends of **Prälat Anton Maier** and **Margarete Leibold**, who were financial supporters of our brotherhood and of **Father Gerhard Brunner**, who was a spiritual supporter of our organisation.

We pray that all our deceased members will find eternal rest in the loving arms of God and that the families will find comfort in the knowledge that their loved ones are safe in the arms of Christ Jesus.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to

Mr. Christoffel Tait, Mr. Guy Dunn, Miss Hlengiwe Mabasa

The Brotherhood salutes Beverley Dunn!



[Nkosinathi Dlamini, Walburga von Ohnesorge and Beverley Dunn
in our First Aid Tent at the Diocesan Fatima Pilgrimage]

Seven years ago one of our active members, Mrs. Beverley Dunn, began a little kindergarten at home in the Emoyeni area. When her home got too small she was lucky enough to have the use of a room at Holy Cross Mission, which was very close to her house. Finally that was also too small and she looked for somewhere else to house her little children. When she heard of a disused railway building in Gingindlovu, she negotiated with the relevant authorities and received permission to use this building.

The Management of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard received an invitation from Beverley to attend a function at her school. What we found was a well-organised school, smiling teachers and a happy atmosphere.

We would like to congratulate Beverley who has had to fight against all odds to keep the school running. We admire her tenacity through which she has achieved a great deal. We consider ourselves blessed to have Mrs. Dunn as an active member of our organisation because, despite her busy schedule, she still finds time to help in our Care Centre & Hospice as a caregiver and also makes herself available to do duty with our First Aid & Emergency Service.

WELCOME to all our new members:

Mrs Ellen G Hilburn, Miss Nokwazi Samukelisiwe T Ntshangase, Miss Precious Nosipho Ntshangase, Fräulein Melanie von Wolff, Miss Fayeeda Mahomed, Signore Claudio Vozza, Miss Thobekile Thubelihle Maphumulo, Miss Maureen Lethiwe Khumalo, Valencia, Mr Penuel Thembinkosi Zondi, Mr Themba Vincent Ngema, Miss Racheal Makhosi Miles, Miss Lindiwe Fikile Zulu, Miss Magnificientia Zanele Sibisi, Miss Yvonne Sibongile Ndimande, Miss Thandekile Nonhlanhla Mabaso, Miss Jabulisiwe Bhodoza, Herrn Josef Brunner, Mrs Apeliefie Carol Khuzwayo, Mrs Johanna Mkhize, Mrs Thokozile Ignatia Biyela, Rev Brother Ansgar Stüfe, Mrs Fortunate Slindile Kheth Mthembu, Mrs Nontobeko Christobel Mthembu, Mr Thembinkosi Cyril Mthembu, Mr Thulani Vusumuzi Mthembu, Mr Alex Ren, Rev. Brother Aloysius Roets O.S.B., Mrs Thokozile Gladys Nzimande, Benedic, Mrs Siphindile Anne-Mary Ngcobo, Mrs Mama Y Nzama, Fräulein Walburga von Ohnesorge, Rev Sister Margarette Sibisi, Mrs Nozipho Jill Dlamini, Rev Sister Ignatia Sikhakhane, Mrs Zandile Olga Khumalo, Rev Sister Cordelia Siestrup, Mrs Bronwyn Verdé Monique Adams, Rev Father Denis Ndomba, Rev Brother Daniel Waweru Gakuya, Mrs Duane Oden, Mrs Thobile Virginia Dlamini.

Membership statistics on 3.12.99	Active Members	Donors	Spiritual Supporters	Total
South Africa	289	88	31	408
Tanzania	0	0	3	3
Kenya	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	1	4	5
Belgium	0	2	1	3
Germany	21	162	72	255
Denmark	0	1	13	14
Finland	0	0	1	1
Great Britain	10	1	1	12
Italy	2	20	2	24
Ireland	2	6	1	9
Hungary	0	0	1	1
Malta	0	0	1	1
Switzerland	1	0	0	1
USA	10	24	17	51
Canada	0	2	2	4
El Salvador	0	0	2	2
Chile	0	0	1	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	1	0	1
UAE	0	1	0	1
Japan	0	0	1	1
Australia	0	3	1	4
Singapore	0	0	1	1
Total	335	312	158	805

NB: Active members outside South Africa are members, who have worked in South Africa as volunteers. These members keep their active status. Many of them continue to support us actively, e.g. through fund-raising and canvassing for membership.

Making your donation

It might help our **South African members** to know that you may pay your membership fees directly into our banking account. The most convenient solution for both sides would be if you organised a stop order on your account. Our banking details are as follows:

Name of Account:	Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard
Type of account:	Current Account
Bank:	First National Bank
Account number:	529 4004 0349
Branch:	Mandini
Branch code:	22-04-29-43

Please ensure that you put your personal details on the deposit or send the information directly to us, so that we can credit your membership fee account correctly.

Thanks to the generosity of the Benedictine Mission House in Schuyler, Nebraska, we can now 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 **"for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, RSA"** **(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.

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

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