



Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

NEWS LETTER

No. 22

*christmas 2002
new year 2003*



Celebration of the
10th anniversary
of the foundation of the
Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard
and Blessing and Opening of the
new building of
Blessed Gérard's Children's Home
and the extension of
Blessed Gérard's Hospice
on Sunday, 15 December 2002



*may the light of christmas shine in you
on every day of the new year 2003!*





His Excellency, the Rt. Reverend Bishop of Eshowe, Dr. Mansuet Dela Biyase, was the main celebrant of the solemn High Mass at Blessed Gérard's Church in Mandeni, South Africa.



The solemn High Mass was concelebrated by the parish priest of Mtunzini, Rev. Father Albert Herold O.S.B. (left) and Rev. Father Heribert Ruf O.S.B. from Inkamana Abbey (second from left).



(from left to right): 1. His Excellency, the Grand Commander of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Bailiff Frà Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein, travelled all the way from Rome, the seat of the Order of Malta, to grant us the honour of personally opening Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and the Extensions to Blessed Gérard's Hospice. 2. Mrs. Nokuthula M. Thabethe, founder member and Director of Charity Works of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. 3. Dr. Paul Z. T. Thabethe, founder member and Medical Superintendent of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and 4. Mrs. Clare A. Kalkwarf, D.M., founder member and Vice-President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



The founder and President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, Rev. Father Gérard T. Lagleder O.S.B., welcomed all the members and guests.



Father Gérard preaching.



The medals for the new members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard being blessed by Fr. Gérard, assisted by Mrs. Kalkwarf.



The new members receive the medal of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



The Sovereign Council of the Order of Malta in Rome had decided to promote Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf in acknowledgement of her outstanding merits for the work of the Order of Malta in the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard from the rank of a "Donat of Devotion" to a "Dame of Magistral Grace".



The Grand Commander of the Order of Malta, who is the deputy of the Grand Master, conferred the Order's Cross on Mrs. Kalkwarf.



The Intercessory Prayers were offered by Dedicated members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, Dr. Thabethe, Fr. Gérard, Mrs. Kalkwarf and Mrs. Thabethe.



At the end of Holy Mass Fr. Bishop Mansuet blessed the new building of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and the extension of Blessed Gérard's Hospice.



Bishop Biyase then went through Blessed Gérard's Hospice to bless all the enlarged wards.



Subsequently Bishop Biyase blessed the new building of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.



Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf welcomed all members and guests at the Official Reception.



Some of the VIPs who attended the reception.



Some of the members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Some of the guests during the function.

Some of the major donors were acknowledged for their valued support: Whirlpool, Nampak, the South African Sugar Association, Loungefurn, SEC Electrical



Mrs. Pat Grimbeek from Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Umhlanga Rocks and VOC Investments, Verulam, raised the funds to finance 40 duvets and duvet covers, embroidered with the logo of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home, all the curtains and the decorating and furnishing of the playroom.



Mr. Erich Winkler of Loungeweave, iSithebe, handing over an enlarged cheque



Mrs. Melanie Jackson, the Public Affairs Officer of SAPPI Limited.



"Thank you for giving me the morning, ... thank you that I can know my worries can be cast on you ... thank you for all my friends and brothers ... thank you for every pleasure small ... thank you for them all!" sung by the children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home in gratitude.



Mr. Mark Wassink from Round Table No. 81, Mandini, on behalf of the Round Tables of the Natal North Coast Area.



Frà Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein officially opening the new building of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and the extension of Blessed Gérard's Hospice and thanking all people involved.



Active members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard expressing their joy and togetherness in song and dance.

The Badge of Honour of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard was conferred on:



Mrs. Caroline Beaumont



Rev. Father Albert Herold O.S.B. and



Mrs. Dorothy Wynne



The Sundumbili Youth Choir singing a prayer of blessing for Africa.



Mr. Victor Claudius of Durban was presented with the President's Award for 2002 of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in gratitude and acknowledgement of his outstanding hard work and generosity in support of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. Mr. Claudius had raised the funds and donated R20,000.00 in cash, 40 beds, 20 blankets, 5 TVs, 1 VCR, 1 Microwave oven, the dining room furniture, 10 picnic sets for the playground, 2 chests of drawers and numerous other smaller items for Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and Hospice.

Our active member Brother Aloysius Roets O.S.B. was ordained a priest at Inkamana Abbey on 27 July 2002

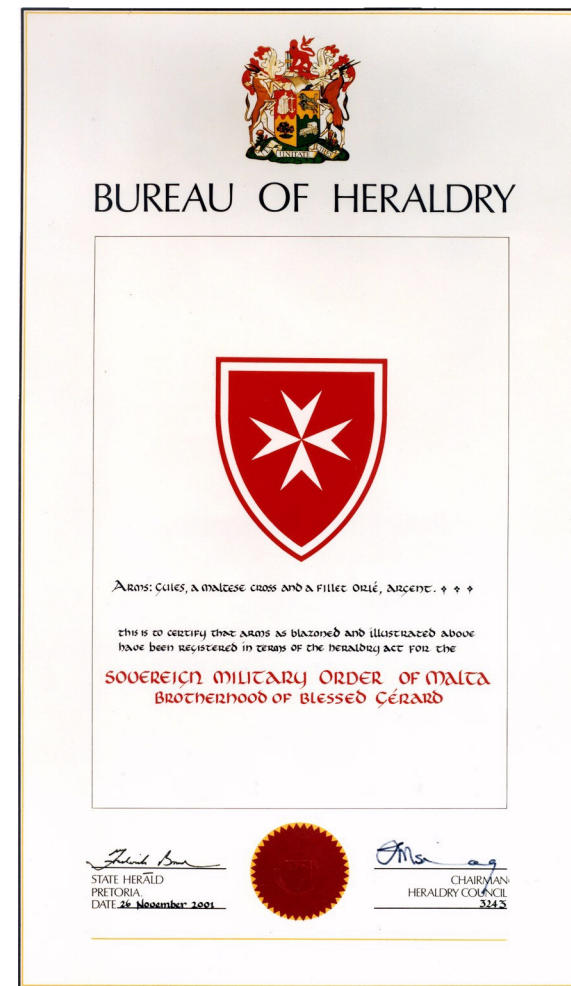




Mrs. Kalkwarf (left) and Fr. Gérard (right) congratulate our active member Father Aloysius on the day of his Priestly Ordination



Father Aloysius visited us in Mandeni on 5 and 6 August 2002, said Holy Mass at Blessed Gérard's Church and gave us the special blessing of a newly ordained priest.



The coat of arms for the works (e.g. relief organisations) of the Order of Malta "Gules, a Maltese Cross and a Fillet Orlé, argent" was registered for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard by the Bureau of Heraldry, i.e. by the State Herald of the Republic of South Africa.

This means that the coat of arms is protected.
We express our profound thanks to Dr. Peter Martinez for his advice and mediation!

Blessed Gérard's Church got a new cross



The corpus was carved by Bernard Gcwensa and given to us by Inkamana Abbey. Gerrit Booysen made a wooden Maltese Cross and mounted the corpus onto it. The cross was erected on 2 and 3 August 2002 and is now a most wonderful dominating feature of our church.

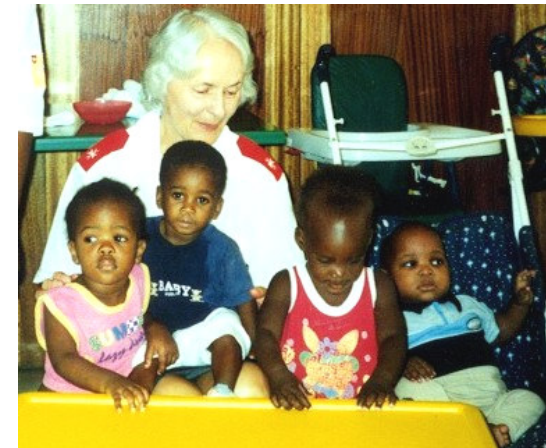
The Constitution of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard has undergone major additions and changes.

The changes were approved by the competent entity of the SMOM in Rome on 21 December 2001 and came into force on this day. Exact information on what was added and what was changed are published on the Internet at <http://www.smom-za.org/bbg/code/codechange.htm> and the new code is available at <http://www.smom-za.org/bbg/code/index.htm> It would enlarge the volume of this newsletter unnecessarily if we printed the new code out here, but if you want us to send you a printed copy, kindly contact our office.

Another major legal change had to take place for tax rebate reasons within South Africa:

A separate legal entity has been established on 25 April 2002 under the title "Blessed Gérard's Care Centre",

which combines Blessed Gérard's Hospice, Blessed Gérard's Children's Home, Blessed Gérard's Friendship Club, Blessed Gérard's Community Development Centre and Blessed Gérard's AIDS Education Programme into a new juridical person. This is only a legal change and bookkeeping will be a bit more difficult, but the operation of our projects will not change at all. The advantage is that South Africans who donate to one of the above projects, can get a tax deduction for their donations.



Our member, **Mrs. Wilburg Helbich-Poschacher**, the founder and head of the AIDS Dienst Malteser from Vienna, Austria, visited us from 12 to 16 April 2002.

Father Gérard joined the Grand Priory of England and the British Association of the Order of Malta at the **International Lourdes pilgrimage of the Order of Malta** from 3 to 10 May 2002.



We celebrated the solemnity of the patron Saint of the Order of Malta, **St. John's Feast**, on 22 June 2002.



We gladly welcomed a delegation from the Most Venerable Order of St. John, from Durban and Pietermaritzburg, to share in our celebration.



**The Sovereign Military Order of Malta
at the United Nations
World Summit on Sustainable Development
Johannesburg, South Africa,
26 August - 4 September 2002**



The Representative of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta at the World Summit: Father Gérard T. Lagleder O.S.B.

The statement of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta delivered to the plenary session on 30 August 2002:



[Mr. President of the World Summit,] *Madam Chair*,
Your Excellencies, [Heads of State and Government,]
Distinguished Heads of Delegations and Delegates,
Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are all seeking the best possible solutions for sustainable development. Development and its sustainability though, must not be seen as an independent aim detached and idolised, but it must always include and focus on the human person, who is to be developed, and on the human person who develops programs, systems and society. No. 46 of the "Draft plan of implementation" of this World Summit quotes the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which states that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. Human development therefore, must be our first concern in order to develop the human family. This educational process will only be sustainable if we try to achieve it through a holistic approach, developing the whole human person: body, mind and soul. A perfectly educated brain in a healthy body though may become a threat to humankind, if it is not part of a morally and spiritually well-balanced personality.

There are developments taking place in our scientific world where the sacrosanct nature of human life is disregarded and crucified: The very matter of humanity, human life, is threatened through the practise of abortion and active euthanasia in many countries. Life is degraded to become merchandise where *human* life is generated, harvested and (ab)used and where *human* life, not meeting the criteria, is disposed of in the trash bin of [gene technology] *laboratories*. Where development is not based on a morally sound foundation and where it is not embedded in synergy with our creator, technological progress may be misled and jeopardise the aim of development: the holistic well-being of humankind.

I am not here, to preach morals to you, but I am humbly and urgently requesting, that all governments may do all in their power, to protect human life from conception to its natural end on earth.

**If development wants to be sustainable, it must develop the human person towards respect for life, maturity, responsibility and care – or in religious terms, towards faith, peace and love.
Only a respectful, mature, responsible and caring person will have the right attitude towards the environment that "mother nature" provides for all of us.**

We have the knowledge and technology to save and to destroy our earth. What we have to do and what this World Summit wants to facilitate, is to use all our most wonderful resources, abilities, talents and knowledge to develop the earth and all its people and ecology to make it an even better place for everybody.

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta has always subscribed to sustainable development according to our very modern, but ancient motto "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum" (Protection of faith and service to the poor). As the oldest regular relief organisation of the occident and the oldest hospital order of the church, we proudly boast more than 900 years of history, working for sustainable development through programs and activities implemented in many countries all over the world by our national and international associations and organisations to

- alleviate poverty [including
 - educational programmes to increase employment and generate income,
 - hunger relief,
 - community development,
 - educational programmes for children,
 - health care and
 - health education and
 - disaster management] and to

- promote health [including
 - the care for vulnerable groups of society, such as people with disabilities and elderly persons,
 - the running of health care systems to deliver health services to all, in an efficient, accessible and affordable manner aimed at preventing, controlling and treating diseases, and
 - the provision of special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS].

In my capacity as the president of the South African Relief Organisation (www.bbg.org.za) of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, I am happy about the emphasis of this World Summit on sustainable development for Africa. I am particularly proud that the foundation of our South African Relief Organisation was not a satellite initiative from a foreign entity, to develop us Africans, but an idea and program entirely made in South Africa for South Africa by people living in South Africa.

We are Proudly South African!

Our main focus are children, youth and adults infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, providing child care and hospice care, HIV/AIDS education and community development to eradicate HIV infection caused by dangerous ways of income generation as a result of poverty.

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta highly appreciates the "(Draft) plan of implementation" of this World Summit [, especially its chapter II on "Poverty Eradication", chapter VI on "Health and sustainable development" and chapter VIII on "Sustainable development for Africa"] and publicly renews its commitment to remain actively involved in sustainable development on an international level.

May this World Summit bear fruit a hundredfold and may God bless us all to achieve it.

Thank you!

Rev. Father Gérard T. Lagleder O.S.B.

Text *inserted* at time of delivery is printed in *Italics* and text [omitted] at time of delivery is put in [brackets].



We thank the foreign Volunteers who helped us during 2002:



WELCOME to all our new members:

Senor Jorge Petit Medina, Herrn Dr med Bodo Hahn, Reverend Sister M. Eobarda Ries O.S.F., Mr Gerrit Johannes Booyesen, Mrs Suria Booyesen, Herrn Walid Nakschbandi, Miss Ntombini Miriam Qwabe, Reverend Father Herfried Holzgassner O.S.B., Herrn Klaus Wotzka, Signore Michele Fiaschi, Frau Margrit Schmidt, Herrn Heinz Schmidt, Miss Nonhlanhla Cynthia Mthembu, Ehrwürden Sr Mary de Sales Kuchler O.P., Miss Brigitte Doktor, Signore Valerio Papajorgji, Signore Robert Guirao, Herrn Jerry Schlechter, Herrn Rainer Opgen-Rhein, Mr Thokozani Bhiza Mthembu, Miss Monica Ntombifuthi Dube, Mr Patrick Dube, Miss Zamile Maphila, Mr Bethuel Sakhile Kubheka, Miss Tholakele Masuku, Miss S'bongile Patricia Dube, Miss Ncanisile Beauty Makhoba, Miss Carol Sotshange, Miss Sihle Queen Nzuzza, Mrs Zishitshe Gladness Xulu, Miss Emily Thoko Mnguni, Miss Joyce Hlengiwe Sishi, Miss Fikile Carol Mthembu, Miss Joyce Sindisiwe Sibiyi, Miss Ntombiyenkosi Desaderia Nozipho Khumalo, Mrs Busisiwe Mathombi Cele, Frau Claudia Wögerer, Herrn Peter Wögerer, Herrn Maximilian Wögerer, Frau Stephanie Müller, Señor Pedro Conrado Baca Montaña, Signore Giovanni Faccia, Herrn Frank Heitzenröther, Frau Barbara Biehl, Frau Anja Rieger, Herrn Volker Rieger, Sr. Charlotte Irmeler, Herrn Helmut Pschorn, Herrn Dr. Hans Stöckl, Frau Frieda Ederer, Frau Hedwig Kunz, Herrn Thomas Rieger, Herrn Günter Wolfsmüller, Frau Jutta Wolfsmüller, Herrn Franz Böhm, Herrn Wolfgang Schneider, Herrn Rudolf Thanner, Frau Jutta Thanner, Hochwürdigem Herrn Direktor Georg Weber, Frau Bianka Stöcker, Frau Gertraud Kreuzer, Herrn Gottfried Petz, Frauen Union Bach, Ehrwürden Sr Gerharda Kils OSB, Hochwürdigem Herrn Pater Eugen Lausmann, Hochwürdigem Herrn Kaplan Norbert Senge, Herrn Ernst Wolfsteiner, Frau Angelika Wolfsteiner, Herrn Hans Höfer, Hochwürdigsten Herrn Prälat Hermann Lutz, Herrn Rudolf Kilgert, Frau Gerti Kilgert, Hochwürdigem Herrn Pater Franz Epp CMM, Malteser - Hilfsdienst e.V. Traunstein, **Hochwürden Frau Äbtissin M. Coleta Fleckenstein**, Herrn Wilfried Dohr, Frau Bürgermeisterin a.D. Anna Stierstorfer, Hochwürdigem Herrn Pfarrer Arnold Pirner, Miss Gertrude Celani Xulu, Frau Adelgunde Pirner, S.H. Thomas Graf von Rechberg, Herrn Karl Wiedemann, Frau Magdalena Wiedemann, Herrn Johannes Pfanner, Hochwürdigem Herrn Professor Dr. Konrad Baumgartner, Herrn Werner Metzdorf, Frau Irmgard Rimkus, Herrn Martin Weidner, Frau Regine Posch, **I.k.u.k.H. Theresa Prinzessin von Bayern**, Mr Vulindlela Frans Saul Buthelezi, Mr Charles Brown, Mr Thomas Brown, Herrn Gregor Tautz, Herrn Daniel Jürgen Monninger, Miss Sibongile Maria Sikhosana, Miss Lillian Molloy, Mr Ken Johnson, Frau Margit Götz, Frau Margarete Bregulla, Herrn Johann Engelschall, Frau Klara Engelschall, Herrn Frank Heitzenröther, Ehrwürden Sr Gertrudis, Herrn Markus Kast, Frau Ursula Kast, Wohlehrwürden Herrn Diakon Otmar Götz, Frau Berta Götz, Frau Maria Gurt, Frau Barbara Reitingner, Ehrwürden Sr M. Imelda Gindner, Herrn Günter Königseder, Frau Irmgard Königseder, Reverend fr. Beda L. Kukula OSB, Herrn Peter Franke,

Frau Frauke Franke, Reverend Brother George Ostheimer O.S.B., Reverend Sister Ignatius Huber O.P., Reverend Sister M. Fromunda Zimmermann O.P., Frau Dr Irmgard Schmidt-Sommer Obl. OSB, Miss Marinda Pelser, Miss Zanele Angeline Zikhali, Miss Ntombikayise Nomvula Biyela, Miss Hlengiwe Majota, Miss Gladness Lindeni Dlamini, Miss Luckyness Khanyile, Miss Zanele Patience Ndlovu, Miss Tholie Happiness Mzimela, Miss Precious Zama Shabane, Miss Nompumelelo Sigfrida Khumalo, Miss Treyce Nokuthula Mkhize, Miss Gugu Daphney Khuzwayo, Miss Samukelisiwe Xolile Nxumalo, Mrs Tholakele Rebecca Biyela, Frau Ronja Steichele, Signore Roberto Solazzo, Mr Christopher Braddock, Mr Marc Nicolin, Mrs E. Busisiwe Mapalala, Miss Delisile Fikelephi Khuzwayo, Miss Octavia Nikiwe Shabane, Reverend Father Pius Konrad Mühlbacher O.S.B., Herrn Gunnar Maximilian Altendorf, Miss Thulile Gladness Xulu, Mr Simphiwe Siphamandla Mdunge, Miss Nokukhanya Sithembele Manqe, Miss Celiwe Nkosingiphile Zungu, Miss Bongekile Fikile Mkhize, Miss Mariah Vumile Mkhize, Miss Fikile Bongekile Shandu, Miss Purity Zandile Masinga, Miss Nelisiwe Thandeka Ngema, Miss Mbalenhle Alphosinah Gcwaba, Mrs Thembi Jane Sibiyi, **Frà Matthew Festing (the Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of England of the Order of Malta)**, Miss Maria Nomsa Mthembu, Miss Goodness Nobuhle Mogwaza, Miss Philisiwe Lucia Ntanzu, Miss Cebile Barbara Ngema, Miss Simphiwe Angeline Khumalo, Miss Zanele Goodness Mzimela, Miss Patricia Bongile Thusi, Miss Ntombifuthi Khululiwe Mzimela, Miss Jabulile Thobekile Ndimande, Mr. James William Little, Herrn Christoph Jank, Herrn Michael-André Schnitzler, Miss Sonja Pricilia Octavia Booyesen, Miss Ulrike Wagner.



Frà Matthew Festing
Grand Prior

Membership statistics on 31.12.2002	Active Members	Donors	Spiritual Supporters	Total
South Africa	416	95	47	558
Kenya	0	0	1	1
Seychelles	0	2	0	2
Tanzania	0	0	3	3
Uganda	0	0	1	1
Zambia	0	0	1	1
Zimbabwe	0	0	1	1
Andorra	0	0	1	1
Austria	2	1	7	10
Belgium	2	0	1	3
Czech Republic	0	1	1	2
Germany	56	232	102	390
Denmark	0	1	13	14
Finland	0	0	1	1
France	0	4	0	4
Great Britain	12	1	3	16
Italy	3	23	14	40
Ireland	2	7	2	11
Hungary	0	1	1	2
Malta	0	0	1	1
Netherlands	1	0	1	2
Poland	0	0	2	2
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	1	1	2
Switzerland	1	0	0	1
Argentina	0	1	0	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	2	4	6
Chile	0	0	1	1
El Salvador	0	0	2	2
Mexico	0	1	1	2
Peru	0	0	1	1
USA	17	28	24	69
Venezuela	0	0	2	2
Australia	0	3	1	4
Japan	0	0	1	1
Singapore	0	0	1	1
UAE	0	1	0	1
Total	512	405	245	1162

NB: Active members outside South Africa are members, who have helped 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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