

Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



NEWS LETTER No. 23 Christmas 2003 New Year 2004



“Mary ... gave birth to a son, her first-born.

... In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. ... The angel of the Lord said,
”... Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. ...”

And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

”Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour”.

May the glory and peace of the incarnate saviour fill your life in this Christmas season and on every day of the New Year 2004!

Hello! I am Adrian.



This picture was taken on the day I was born, 18 March 2003.

Some men were playing soccer at the sports grounds outside the township Sundumbili. They kicked the ball too far and Jacob Ncube, one of the players, ran into the bush to look for it. That is when he heard me crying. What else should I have done? It was cold and I was in my birthday suit and even the placenta was still attached to my umbilical cord. Only the ants had found me until then and lots of them were crawling all over me. The soccer player gently picked me up and the team got quite a surprise when Jacob carried me back, instead of the ball, from the bush. Thank God there was a security van and these nice people called the police, who took me to the clinic, where I got rid of the clumsy placenta and was wrapped in a nice clean, warm sheet.

The clinic was convinced that the best place for me to be was Blessed Gérard's Children's Home, because they lovingly look after many children like me - and other children who have been in lots of different trouble. Some of my friends in Blessed Gérard's Children's Home had been neglected and abused in one way or another before coming here, some are sick, some have no parents and some are handicapped. In the meantime, I have put on lots of weight and the care-givers say that I am a good boy. I can crawl now and like to learn new things every day.



Fr. Gérard baptised me on 27 April 2003 and I was given the names Adrian (after Blessed Adrian Fortescue) and Sibusiso (which is Zulu for “Benedict”, the blessed one) The picture shows me in the arms of my godmother, Clare Kalkwarf, but we children in the children's

home call her “Aunty Clare”. I wish my mummy could see me now – big and healthy, having all that I need and getting lots of love.



The nice people, who help us, also run a hospice for the children, who suffer from AIDS or other incurable diseases. But the big people are also helped. All the nice volunteers in Blessed Gérard's Hospice look after the dying patients with lots of tender loving care and many patients who are brought here even get a little better. Some of them can go home again.

When I get big, I want to become a nurse or a doctor. Then I can also be so nice to other people and help them so much, as the helpers in Blessed Gérard's Hospice do.

Love

Adrian



**We celebrated the Feast of St. John
on 21 June 2003**



The highlight of the celebration was the solemn reception of Most Reverend Father Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B. as a member into the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



(left to right) Rev. Siphon Gamede, Fr. Albert Herold O.S.B., Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B.

Abbot Godfrey was elected abbot of Inkamana Abbey on 8 February 2003

and received the abbatial blessing on 26 April 2003.

We wish him God's richest blessings and are proud and grateful that he joined our brotherhood on 26 May 2003 and is so supportive of our service.

Other prominent members received were



the Ilembe district operations manager of the KwaZulu / Natal's Provincial Emergency Medical Rescue Services (EMRS), Mr. Navin Naidoo,



and the chief of the Road Traffic Inspectorate of KwaZulu/Natal, Mr. John M. Schnell MMM JCD K.St.J., who is a Knight of Grace, a member of the Priory Chapter and the Deputy Director of Ceremonies of the Most Venerable Order of St. John and as such has been a long lasting friend of ours.

Welcome in our
Brotherhood!

**We celebrated the Feast of Blessed Gérard
on 12 October 2003**



The President's Award of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard for the Year 2003 was presented on the Feast of Blessed Gérard to

Mrs. Dorothy Wynne

for her outstandingly gentle and professional way of caring for our patients, her friendly guidance of our caregivers and her readiness and reliability to take on great responsibility as the nurse-in-charge of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre and as an active member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Vice President Mrs. Kalkwarf, Mrs. Wynne and President Fr. Gérard

Jubilee Celebrations



Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund celebrated its **10th anniversary** on 4 January 2003.



Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund celebrated its **10th anniversary** on 3 February 2003.



Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic - Feeding Scheme for malnourished infants celebrated its **10th anniversary** on 15 March 2003.



Blessed Gérard's Friendship Club - A social club for the aged celebrated its **10th anniversary** on 15 May 2003.



Blessed Gerard's Community Development Centre celebrated its **10th anniversary** on 1 June 2003.



Caroline Beaumont celebrated her **10th anniversary** of joining our brotherhood on 25 August 2003 and was awarded a jubilee certificate for her long service.



Our youngest local members



(left to right) Nokwethemba P. Dunn, Zamashimane P. Masuku, Mduduzi J. Masuku, Nadine Beaumont and Andiswa Manzini posed for a picture after the celebration.

If a feeling for caring, charity and giving comes from the cradle it will surely have an influence on a child into maturity.

There's nothing like starting young, isn't it?



Welcome to Sr. Fidelia Wilp O.P.



After looking for a registered nurse for our hospice for 4 ½ years, Heaven had mercy on us and sent us Sr. Fidelia Wilp O.P. on 1st November 2003.

Sr. Fidelia is a Dominican Sister of Oakford and has many years of experience as matron of Osindisweni Hospital and St. Francis Care Centre in Boksburg.

Sr. Fidelia holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of South Africa and a diploma in Clinical Care, Administration and Instruction of the South African Nursing Council. She is qualified and registered with the South African Nursing Council as a general nurse and midwife.

We welcome you wholeheartedly.

You are a blessing to us and we wish you God's richest blessings, too.

I am happy now,

I am without pain and I am not afraid any more!

My name is Mpume and in July 2000, just like everyone else, I was happy and looking forward to the future. At 29 years of age, the world was at my feet. I had moved from Mandeni to Durban to look for work. It was there that I attended a party with some of my new friends and it was there that I met a man who had all the qualities which I liked. In April of the next year I gave birth to his son. Sduduzo was a big bouncing baby – but his father did not take the time of day to show he cares. In fact, his father disowned me when he found out I was pregnant with his baby. He accused me of lying and that the baby could be anybody's child.

I cried but decided to carry on with my life as best I could. My precious little Sduduzo grew big and healthy. But I myself started feeling very tired and was constantly coughing. In the meantime, I had met another man, who was a wonderful father to my son. Sduduzo and I moved in with him. He was good to us and he helped us through our problems. I started to feel worse and worse and then I found out I was pregnant again. Buyi, my partner, took responsibility for all of us. I believe he really loved my son and me. As my term of pregnancy progressed, I regularly went to the local clinic for a check-up. I was just 30 years old, in the prime of my life, when disaster struck me like lightning. The nurse at the clinic had taken a blood sample. She asked me to sit down and then proceeded to tell me, that I was not only HIV positive but that my CD4 count was very low and I was in Stage 3 of full blown AIDS and I had pulmonary TB. I was devastated!

What do I do now? What will happen to Sduduzo? What will happen to the baby in my womb? Will the clinic give me antiretroviral drugs? How long will I live? Is Buyi also HIV positive? All sorts of thoughts went through my mind.

My world fell apart. There was no help for me. The nurses at the clinic gave me TB treatment, this made me vomit. They gave me multivitamin and iron tablets, but these did not really help. They gave me paracetamol for pain and something to stop the diarrhoea. I was rapidly losing weight, although I was pregnant. In August 2003, Buyi's and my son was born. I was so weak that we could not get to the hospital in time. The baby was born at home but he too was very sick and did not survive. Now I had to bury my little baby.

By this time Buyi had become tired of two year old Sduduzo and me. We moved to my mother's house, which she shared with my brother. He came home late one night. He had been drinking and was in a terrible mood. My mother was angry with him for being drunk. He took a knife and stabbed her right there in front of us. I was too weak to do anything. Sduduzo ran to Mama, who was lying on the floor. He was crying "Gogo, Gogo" but it was too late, she was dead. My brother kicked out at Sduduzo. His heavy boot slammed into Sduduzo's head. Sduduzo went flying and fell unconscious to the floor. I do not really remember what happened next, it was all such a blur.

The next thing I remember is sitting next to Sduduzo in hospital. He had bandages around his head. His skull was fractured and he had a burst eardrum. I kept wondering why this was happening to us. I had done nothing to hurt anybody. Buyi came, he told me that he thought I should go back to Mandeni to where my sister lives. I felt really guilty, as I had not been in contact with Zama since I left the area. She did not know about all my trouble.

I arrived at Zama's kraal where she lived with her unemployed husband and three children. Zama took one look at Sduduzo and me and realised that she could not look after us. She did not know how to care for someone who is dying from AIDS and she did not have enough money to feed her own children. I knew that I was asking too much of her and her husband.

But Zama did not abandon us. She took us to Blessed Gérard's Hospice.



Sduduzo was still frightened and in lots of pain when he was admitted.

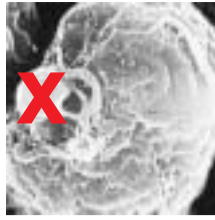
The nurses took Sduduzo and me in and cared for both of us and I could spend time with my precious Sduduzo until God called me three days later. I was reunited with my mother and my tiny baby. Sduduzo is in the care of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home now. His ear has stopped oozing, he has lots of friends and he is beginning to laugh again. I am happy now as I watch him from above because his future is secure in the hands of people who really care.

This story is true and Sduduzo is still with us (see picture at the right), but all names have been changed for confidentiality reasons to protect the privacy of the people concerned.



The major good news and a tremendous milestone in our steady development is the fact that:

Blessed Gérard's Hospice will start rolling out antiretroviral medication to HIV/AIDS patients as early as in 2004!



We could not believe our own ears when the project manager of the AIDS desk of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference, Johan Viljoen, phoned us in September 2003 and informed us, that the Catholic Church in South Africa will become the pioneer of large scale antiretroviral medication (called ARVs) roll out in South Africa, through the support of international funders and that we have been chosen as one of the first five sites in the whole of South Africa to start with the programme immediately. This contradicts the German saying "God's mills grind slowly but surely". This time God's mills will be the first in place grinding the HIV virus in South Africa, for those who cannot afford to buy ARVs themselves. When after this announcement, our government indicated its readiness to also get involved, the Bishops' Conference first thought our programme would not be needed any longer, but many different high ranked informed sources assured us that our pioneer project would surely far precede any practical implementation of ARV roll out plans of the public health sector.

We thank God on our knees that our efforts to help the needy and sick have been acknowledged in such a great way. When Johan Viljoen said to Lillian Molloy, one of our active members, in a private conversation last year, that he considers us the flagship of the AIDS work of the Catholic Church in South Africa, we thought, this might be just a nice compliment, but now we are humbled by this acknowledgement and ongoing financial support by the Bishops' Conference and resolved to keep up with the trust which they put into us.



Although the medication, the testing and the personnel directly involved in the ARV programme will be sponsored, we also expect a major influx of such patients into our hospice, who do not qualify for ARV treatment, but still need palliative care. Therefore **we ask you kindly to support us financially** to ensure that we will cope with the increased volume and cost of our hospice work.

The 1st National AIDS-Conference in South Africa



was the occasion that a TV crew from BBC London visited Blessed Gérard's Hospice and filmed scenes from our palliative care. Hilary Andersson's impressive report on the inequality of access to antiretroviral medication was broadcast in the BBC Newsnight programme on 5 August 2003 and surely played a role to persuade the South African Government to make a declaration of intent to roll out antiretroviral medication to the public in future.

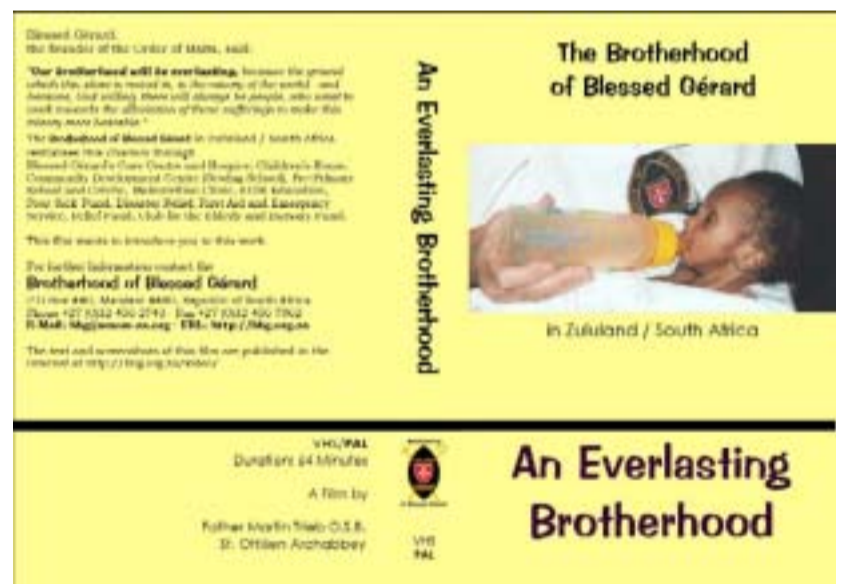


The text of the report and screenshots are published online at <http://bbg.org.za/tv/bbc1.htm>

It is with joyous pride that we notify you, that Father Martin Trieb O.S.B. from St. Ottilien Archabbey Media Centre has produced a

video film

about our service. The film has the title



"An Everlasting Brotherhood"

You will find an online "preview" at <http://bbg.org.za/video/>
The video film (duration 64 minutes) is published on three different media:

1. Video Cassette VHS - PAL [as used in Europe and Africa]
2. Video Cassette VHS - NTSC [as used in America]
3. Video-CD-ROM / MPEG-Format [To play this you need a computer with a media player installed - e.g. Windows Media Player or Real Player -, which is downloadable via the Internet for free]

The film can be obtained directly from our office:

Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard
P O Box 440 · Mandeni 4490 · Republic of South Africa
Phone: +27 (0)32 456 2743 · Fax: +27 (0)32 456 7962
e-mail: video@bbg.org.za

We do not sell the film, but we ask you for a donation to support our service and to cover the cost of the film's production and distribution. Visit <http://bbg.org.za/donation.htm> to find out about the most convenient way for you to send us a donation!

We are very grateful to Father Martin, that he enabled us, to give you an impressive glimpse of our service and thus give you a report on the way we fulfil our missionary vocation in the area with the highest AIDS rate worldwide.

Very special visitors

The Honourable Premier of KwaZulu/Natal, Dr. Lionel P H M Mtshali visited Blessed Gérard's Care Centre on 10 December 2003.



The Premier with the Executive Council of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard: (from left to right) Clare Kalkwarf, Father Gérard, Premier Dr. Mtshali, Sr. Nokuthula Thabethe, Dr. Paul Thabethe.

Our Premier listened attentively to a presentation about our work and we showed him our hospice and our children's home. He was very impressed about our work, even left a personal donation and promised his help for our fundraising. Premier Mtshali is renowned for his courageous stand and actions to enable HIV/AIDS patients' access to antiretroviral medication and we are proud to be united with him in the fight against AIDS in our province.



Premier Dr. Lionel Mtshali is introduced to Gérard Mtshali (in the blue T-shirt), Jody (right), Phiwa (left) and the other children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home. Left behind the premier our Medical Superintendent Dr. Thabethe and right next to him the Mayor of eNdongakusuka Municipality Makhosonke Ntuli.

The Premier updated us on the latest developments in the KwaZulu/Natal HIV/AIDS policies and the province's commitment to a holistic and integrated response to the AIDS pandemic.



(from left to right) Inkosi V J Ngcobo, Ilembe Mayor Simo Mfayela, Prince Nhlanhla Zulu M.P., Premier Dr. Lionel Mtshali, Mr. S V Naicker M.P.P. (who had initiated and co-ordinated the event), eNdongakusuka Mayor Makhosonke Ntuli, Father Gérard.



Fritz Count of Strachwitz and his wife Elisabeth Countess of Strachwitz visited us from 24 to 29 November 2003

Count Strachwitz joined our brotherhood on 15 December 1992, only 17 days after it was founded and he is member No. 9. He is now the procurator of the Bohemian Grand Priory of the Order of Malta. Fr. Gérard first met Count Strachwitz, then Youth Officer of Malteser Hilfsdienst in the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart in Germany, on 31 October 1984, when they jointly trained youth brigade group leaders and they have been close friends ever since, for nearly 20 years.

His wife Elisabeth, called "Sissy" Countess of Strachwitz also joined our brotherhood during her visit and immediately got involved in the care of our patients in the hospice and showed her good heart especially to our babies who are terminally ill with AIDS.

Members' News



Congratulations!



We welcome Luca Lawitschka into the world. She was born on 18 February 2003 and our active member **Miriam Lawitschka** and her husband Alex are overjoyed.

Our active member **Lillian Molloy** celebrated her 50th birthday on 27 September 2003. Lillian came to us already twice all the way from England to train our active members in First Aid and she is very busy and successful in fundraising for us in the U.K. Thank you so much!



Our Spiritual Supporter and second oldest member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, **Father Heribert Ruf O.S.B.** of Inkamana Abbey, celebrated his 90th birthday on 11 April 2003.



Congratulations!

Our Spiritual Supporter member **Father Herfried Holzgassner O.S.B.** of Twasana celebrated his 65th jubilee of monastic profession on 8 September 2003.



Congratulations!

Our Spiritual Supporter member **Sr. Eobarda Ries O.F.M.** from Nardini Convent in Nkandla celebrated her 40th jubilee of religious profession on 27 September 2003. It was a special honour for us that she invited Fr. Gérard to be the main celebrant and homilist for the occasion.



Our member **Rev. Sr. Benedicta Nzimande O.S.B.** was elected Vicarress (i.e. the Deputy of the Prioress General) of the Twasana Sisters on 3 January 2003. We pray for her and wish her God's blessings for her term of office.



Congratulations!

Our Spiritual Supporter member **Giacomo Beschi** was ordained a priest on 7 June 2003 at Milan in Italy.

Our Spiritual Supporter member **Thomas Graf von Rechberg** was ordained a priest on 29 June 2003 at Munich in Germany. He celebrated a solemn Holy Mass with the parish of Jesenwang on 6 July 2003 and donated the plate collection to the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Our Spiritual Supporter member **Father Albert Herold O.S.B.** of Mtunzini celebrated his 50th anniversary of missionary assignment on 14 May 2003.



Congratulations!

Our active member **Leon Kalkwarf**, the architect who had designed the original building of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, was married to Joanne Airey on 19 April 2003 in Westville.



Our active member **Navin Naidoo** was married to Yamantha Reddy on 12 July 2003 at Tongaat.



Our active members **Dr. Andreas Heinze** and **Martine Sutter** married on 4 October 2003.



Congratulations!



Our members **Manfred Schulz M.A.** and **Dr. Uwe Bernzen** were awarded the Federal Cross of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) by the Federal Republic of Germany.



A speedy recovery!

Our member **Bishop Dr. Mansuet Dela Biyase** had to undergo a triple bypass operation on his heart on 19 May 2003. The operation went well. Fr. Gérard visited him on 25 May 2003 at the Cardiac High Care Ward of Entabeni Hospital in Durban and told him about the good wishes, which some of our members had sent in response to our e-mail asking for prayers. Father Bishop was very pleased and grateful.

After recuperating very slowly at home Fr. Bishop went overseas to Germany and returned on 15 October 2003 in a critical condition. He was re-admitted at Entabeni Hospital and had a pacemaker implanted. He is still quite weak, but improving.

Kindly include him in your prayers!

Our Spiritual Supporter member **Abbot Willibrord van Rompaey O.S.B.** had to spend several weeks in hospital when he was on home leave in Belgium, but could return now to Inkamana Abbey. We wish him God's blessings for a speedy recovery.

Our member **Marc Nicolin** wrote on 25 January 2003: "I was diagnosed with Terminal Cancer of the throat, Tumours on the brain and in my Lungs, But Praise God. My chemotherapy has reversed the Cancer and it has gone into remission." Please include him in your very special prayers!



Sincere sympathy!

Our active member **Hlengiwe Majota** died during childbirth on 17 September 2003.

Our member **Margaret Hawthorn senior** died on 2 August 2003 at the blessed age of 94.



In gratitude for his loyalty, commitment and dedication, the Council of Dedicated Members awarded him an Honorary Dedicated Membership and the Grand Commander of the Order of Malta, Frà Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein, invested him as such at the opening of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre on 3 September 1996.

Johannes is truly a great treasure for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, as he continues to administer the donations, which are given in Germany, to update databases, to help raise funds, to write letters and to carry out many other tasks. He is the epitome of humility as he consistently works in the background and does not expect any acknowledgment, he is dedicated as he continues under any and all circumstances, his integrity is exemplary and his faithfulness and loyalty to God and his family are extraordinary. We admire him for all these virtues and thank him from the very core of our hearts and the heart of the organisation for which he works so hard in his precious spare time. We would like to take this, the occasion of Johannes' 50th birthday, to express the gratitude of the Council of Dedicated Members, the Executive Council and all the members.

We pray that God will bless you throughout your life. May He keep you safe and protect you from all harm. May God grant you good health, much joy, lots of peace and contentment.

Happy 50th Birthday, Johannes!

Clare Kalkwarf



Our honorary dedicated member and representative in Germany, Mr. Johannes Lagleder, will celebrate his 50th birthday on 24 December 2003.

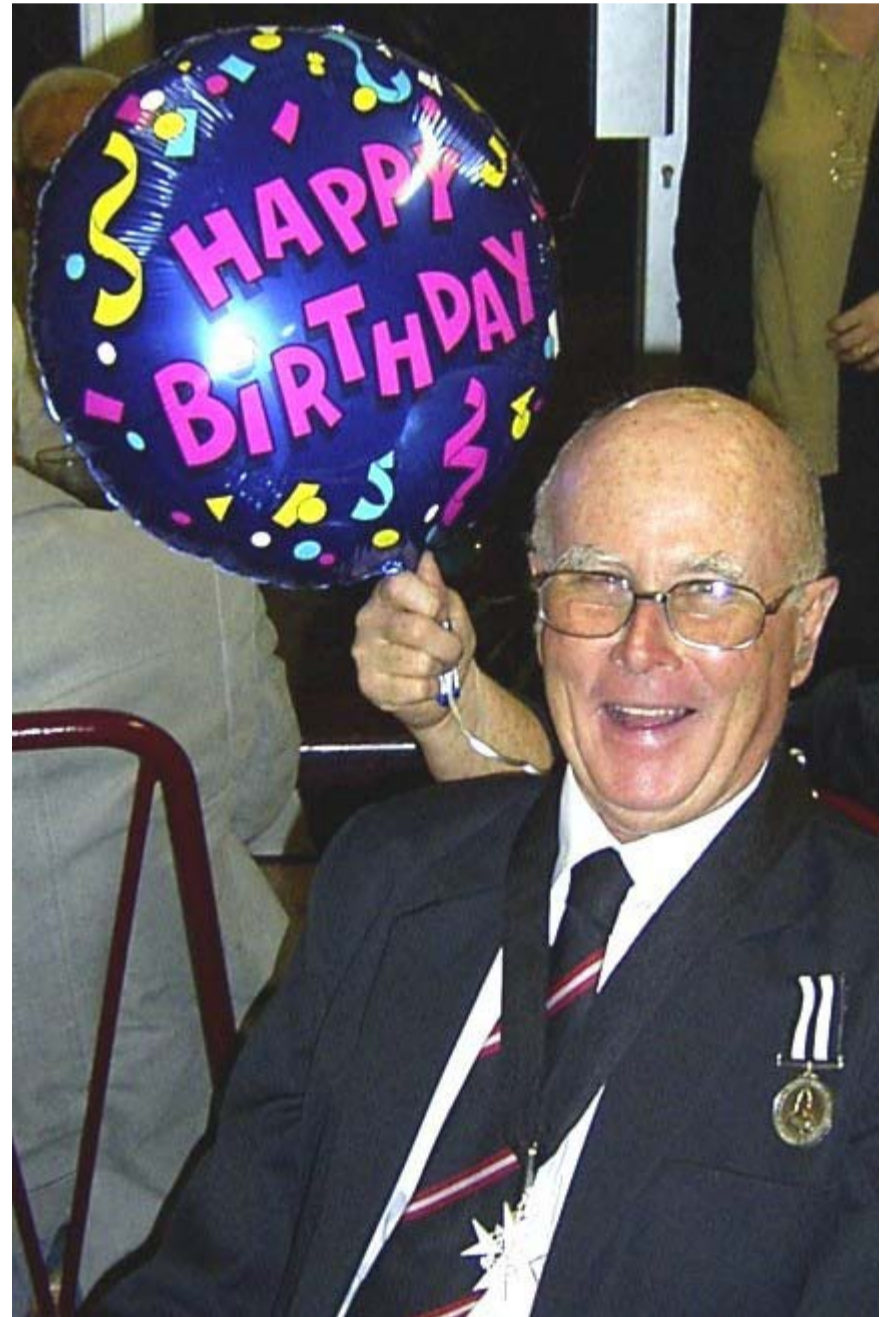
Mr. Johannes Lagleder was born on 24 December 1953 in Regensburg. He is the eldest son of Mr Hans and Mrs. Thilde Lagleder and brother of Mrs. Mechthilde Hirmer-Lagleder and Rev. Father Gérard Lagleder O.S.B.

Johannes was always an achiever and followed in the footsteps of his parents. He studied at Regensburg University and qualified as a high school teacher. He teaches Geography, German and History at Descartes High School in Neuburg, Germany.

The missionary work of his brother, our President, Fr. Gérard, has always been very close to Johannes' heart and he has really been more than supportive during the past 17 years. Consequently when Fr. Gérard founded the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, Johannes once again stepped forward and offered his assistance.



Happy 70th Birthday!



Mr. Victor Claudius,

recipient of the 2002 President's Award of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and tireless fundraiser for many good causes, Commander in the Most Venerable Order of St. John, celebrated his 70th birthday on 26 July 2003.

For he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow and so say all of us:

Hip, hip, hooray!

We thank the foreign Volunteers who helped us during 2003:

WELCOME to all our new members:



Michael Schnitzler



Christoph Jank



Ulrike Wagner



Gabi Rauecker



Max Rauecker



Clare Sudak



Brittany Payton



Gunnar Schröter



Andrea Schwarz



Evi Pieringer



Lillian Molloy



Ken Johnson



Tim Stohrer



Dr. Andreas Heinze



Martine Sutter



Albertine Sporer



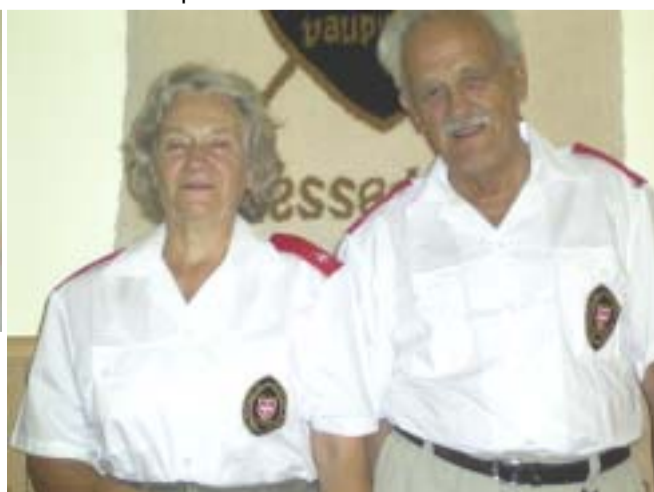
Hans Sporer



Dennis John



Sven Bauer



Sissy Countess Strachwitz & Fritz Count Strachwitz

Frau Elle Brändle, Herr Herbert Brändle, Miss Antonia Themba Mdlalose, Miss Lungile Thandazile Ndwandwe, Miss Thembisile Londiwe Nzuza, Mr Ntokozi Msawenkosi Ngcobo, Miss Nobuhle Cynthia Sikhakhane, Miss Nkosingiphile Faith Ngubane, Miss Happiness Zibuyile Nyaba, Miss Sannah Bongekile Dlomo, Miss Zempilo Prisca Shongwe, Miss Nomfundo Muriel Mthethwa, Miss Cynthia Mthiyane, Miss Sthembile Promise Masuku, Miss Elizabeth Tholakele Nxumalo, Miss Gloria Nonhlanhla Nxumalo, Miss Khethiwe Rose Mashaya, Mrs Nombali Priscilla Mhlongo, Miss Precious Nompumelelo Buthelezi, Miss Zandile Emmaculate Nsele, Miss Patience Nomusa Nxumalo, Miss Nombulelo Maureen Khethiwe, Miss Zanele Gugulethu Makhoba, Miss Busisiwe Nomthandazo Kunene, Miss Nontobeko Queen Xulu, Miss Nokuthula Bonangani Biyela, Miss Makhosi Ngitheni Mzimela, Miss Busisiwe Thokozile Nxumalo, Mr Russell Langelihle Mkhwanazi, Miss Nomusa Magnificent Nxumalo, Miss Precious Philisiwe Mtshali, Mr Moses Muntu Mngomezulu, Mr Nkosinathi Godslove Khumalo, Mr Sandile Agrippa Ngiba, Miss Khanyi Eunice Ngema, Miss Khululiwe Ignatia Dube, Miss Velile Annamaria Nzuza, Signore Umberto Aurora, Signore Carlo Carttaneo, Signora Roberta Strobbe, Miss Gugu Winfridah Mthembu, Miss Virginia Fikile Mthethwa, Miss Goodness Nobuhle Magwaza, Miss Judith Nelisiwe Magwaza, Herr Gerhard Kostka von Liebingsfeld, Mrs Mirjam Elisabeth Anne Zwart, Miss S'indile Yvette Mbokazi, Miss Jabulile Emmerencia Mbokazi, Signore Christian Ristori, Miss Slondile Brilliant Mncwango, Mr Andrew Bourne, Mrs Barbara Bourne, Mrs Nokuthula Mbatha, Miss Bongive Lindiwe Nene, Miss Nokwethemba Priscilla Dunn, Ehrwürden Sr M. Philomena Gröner, Ehrwürden Sr M. Juliane Dimauro, Ehrwürden Sr M. Rosa d'Auchamp, Ehrwürden Sr M. Gracia Dvořaková, Ehrwürden Sr M. Faustyna Koblová, Ehrwürden Sr M. Devota Uwimana, Reverend Father Antony Conlon, Don Antonio Cipriano, Mr Ramon Jose Moreno, Miss Thembisa Lephina Ximba, Mr Assah Mkhanyisi Gumede, Signora Gina Rossi, Mr Robert Nixon, Miss Nonkululeko Elsie Bani, Miss Zinhle Patricia Maduma, **Most Reverend Father Abbot Willibrord Van Rompaey O.S.B.**, Mr Bernard Mkhize, Miss Emmerencia Mkhize, Miss Ellen Clare Sudak, Reverend Sister Immaculate Ndlovu, Miss Brittany Payton, Frau Gudrun Jänicke, Mrs Hlengiwe Emmeltruedis Duma, Mrs Glenrose Lindiwe Mkhonza, Mrs Veronica Ndwandwe, Miss Pretty Lindiwe Mpunzana, Miss Cynthia Nokuthula Mgenge, Miss Thobile Gloria Nkwanyana, Miss Ayanda Ntombifuthi Mpanza, Miss Gladness Nokwanda Hadebe, Miss Adoration Tozi Mzobe, Miss Ntandoyenkosi Emelda Khoza, Fräulein Andrea Schwarz, Herr Christian Weber, Mr Michael Michaud, Mr Anthony Lifu, Fräulein Eva Christine Pieringer, Mr Navindhra Naidoo, Mr Chan Casey, Miss Shannon Terene Williams, Miss Andiswa Kylin Manzini, Mrs. Rs S'bongile Kombayo Booysen, **Most Reverend Father Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B.**, Miss Zibuyisile Sweetness Thwala, Miss Disemelo Sandra Kubheka, Miss Hlengiwe Nokuvela Xulu, Mrs Desraé Lillian Rolando, Mr Jorge Miguel Oliveira Silva, Miss Zamashimane Precious Masuku, Master Mduduzi Innocent Masuku, Madame Martine Sutter, Mr John M. Schnell MMM JCD K.St.J., Miss Nozipho Audrey Khoza, Miss Khethiwe Primrose Linda, Miss Bongive Purity Linda, Miss Ningi Anita Mthiyane, Miss Ntombizodwa Nelisiwe Shandu, Miss Hlengiwe Maureen Mafuleka, Miss Nokuthula Grace Sokhulu, Miss Qinisekile Simangele Sikhakhane, Miss Ncamisile Nene, Miss Zandile Thobile Mkhwamubi, Miss Bongive Ellen Makhanya, Miss Nomkhosi Adelaide Khanyile, Miss Fikile Faith Biyela, Herr Dennis Tobias John, Frau Ann-Katrin Johannsmann, Frau Irmela Dinter, Frau Konstanze Birkner, Mr Nkosiphezulu Norman Mhlongu, Mr Romeo Tomaz, Mrs Emily Therese Gaskins, Frau Katharina Karstens, Brother Marsayuti Noviar, Herr Sven Bauer, Sr. Fidelia Maria Franziska Wilp O.P., Mr Dhanasagren Mudali.


Membership statistics on 5.12.2003

	Active Members	Donors	Spiritual Supporters	Total
South Africa	483	106	56	645
Germany	64	237	103	404
USA	18	28	27	73
Italy	3	23	20	46
Denmark	0	1	19	20
Great Britain	12	1	4	17
Ireland	2	7	2	11
Austria	2	1	7	10
Canada	0	2	6	8
France	2	3	0	5
Australia	0	3	2	5
Tanzania	0	0	3	3
Belgium	2	0	1	3
Seychelles	0	2	0	2
Czech Republic	0	1	1	2
Hungary	0	1	1	2
Netherlands	1	1	0	2
Poland	0	0	2	2
Portugal	0	0	2	2
Spain	0	1	1	2
El Salvador	0	0	2	2
Mexico	0	1	1	2
Venezuela	0	0	2	2
Kenya	0	0	1	1
Namibia	1	0	0	1
Nigeria	0	0	1	1
Uganda	0	0	1	1
Zimbabwe	0	0	1	1
Andorra	0	0	1	1
Croatia	0	0	1	1
Finland	0	0	1	1
Malta	0	0	1	1
Switzerland	1	0	0	1
Argentina	0	1	0	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1
Chile	0	0	1	1
Peru	0	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	0	1	1
Japan	0	0	1	1
Philippines	0	0	1	1
Singapore	0	0	1	1
UAE	0	1	0	1
Total	591	421	277	1289

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.

The hall of fame / gallery of good examples

Mr. Victor Claudius organised a benefice concert



Hymns Triumphant
with the eminent
Durban Men's Choir
on 30 May 2003 in Durban in aid of Blessed Gérard's Hospice and
Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.



Through this concert and countless hours and hours of further fundraising in "101 different ways" he could raise an amount of R30,000.00 which he handed over to us in July 2003. The Daily News Newspaper of Durban styled him "Durban's Mr. Charity" and we are most blessed to have such a tireless and determined friend on our side. A few days later it was an honour for us to celebrate his 70th birthday with him and congratulate him to his promotion as an officer in the Most Venerable Order of St. John.



**The British Association
of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta
(BASMOM)**

has adopted us as a project sponsored by their International Emergency Aid. We are most grateful to the Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of England of the Order of Malta, Frà Matthew Festing, the Hospitaller of BASMOM Peter Loyd, Mr. Jim Little and their enthusiastic supporters Lady Jan Bruntisfield and Ms. Lillian Molloy for their continued and regular help. We say a special "Thank you" also for agreeing to receive donations for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on our behalf to add value to each donation through a gift aid declaration. A special fundraising function in aid of our work is

THE ORDER OF MALTA CAROL SERVICE

DECEMBER 11TH
2003 AT 7.30PM

WITH THE CHOIR VOX CORDIS



AT ST. THOMAS
MORE & THE MOST
HOLY REDEEMER
CHURCH, CHEYNEY
ROW, LONDON

ALL PROCEEDS TO HELP
THE WORK OF THE ORDER
IN SOUTH AFRICA & SERBIA



TO INCLUDE A READING GIVEN BY
THE ACCLAIMED ACTOR
MR JOHN STANDING

TICKETS £10 FROM
11.30 AM ON
LIMITED TICKETS AVAIL
ON THE NIGHT



We are proud and grateful that BASMOM has accepted the South African members of the Order of Malta into their team at the annual Lourdes Pilgrimage of the SMOM. Our Vice-President, Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf joined them in 2003.

**The Justice and Peace group of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in
Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, United Kingdom**

John Crook wrote to us on Monday, 20 October 2003:

"our Justice & Peace Group decided to hold a series of "Open Garden" events during this recent summer, all of which were very successful. Not only did everyone thoroughly enjoy themselves, but a great interest has been shown by our parishioners in the work that you are doing in Mandeni.



The personal link has been forged with Clare Kalkwarf's visit, and Jim Little and Lillian Molloy provide a continuity of encouragement that could not be ignored! Added to that, Lillian Molloy and Frà Matthew Festing both attended one of our fund-raising events, talked to people about the Order of Malta and Mandeni, and gave us a copy of your excellent video. This has gone a long way towards both

consolidating our interest and, keeping the parish up to date with the progress you are making in alleviating the suffering in your region.



With this letter, I am enclosing a cheque for £2,000, together with our prayers for your continued success in all the wonderful work you are doing. ... I have great pleasure in sending you, your colleague Clare Kalkwarf and all your helpers, the most sincere wishes for your continued success in Mandeni. On behalf of our Chairman, Peter Weighill, our Treasurer Margaret Graham all our Committee and myself, God Bless and you are in our prayers".

Thank you so much for your generous support!

Mrs. Pat Grimbeek



from Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Umhlanga Rocks has been most supportive of our work for more than two years, especially for Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and Blessed Gérard's Community Development Centre. This year she continued to motivate and initiate donations of fabric from Reactor Clothing in Tongaat, the factory she works for. She also raised funds from many people and groups of good will to buy equipment for our Children's Home and she even took the time to come personally and mother our children, who just love their "Aunty Pat" and her exciting stories.



Round Table 81 Mandeni



visited Blessed Gérard's Children's Home on 21 April 2003 donating babyfood and nappies.

Thank you!

Loungefurn



Our long standing relationship with Loungefurn, a furniture manufacturer in iSithebe, continued also in 2003. The employees of Loungefurn raffled a Lounge Suite, donated by the company and promised to pass on part of the proceeds to us. We are very taken by the fact, that the employees show gratitude to us for looking after their families and friends when they need hospice care and for the HIV/AIDS education we have given to them. We thank Mr. Raheem, Mr. Zaf Khan, Mr. Johannes Motola for being the driving force behind the AIDS programme of Loungefurn.

Loungeweave

Loungeweave, a factory for weaving fabric for lounge suites in iSithebe, have won the competition for having the most beautiful garden round their factory for several years in succession. They have repeatedly donated the prize money to us to support our free service for the community. This year they were generous again and gave us part of the prize money. Congratulations and Thanks! The delegation handing over the cheque on 20 November 2003 at Blessed Gérard's

Care Centre were:



from left to right) Johannes Malobola, Tim Jenkins, Erich Winkler, Champa Daniels, Father Gérard, Gary Gallagher, Desmond Rajamani, Wayne van Niekerk.

Erich Winkler has been the driving force behind the generosity of Loungeweave. He will retire next year and we wish him all the very best for the future and thank him wholeheartedly for his enthusiastic support!

Nampak



Mr. Fezekile Tshiqi, the Group Human Resources Manager South Africa & Africa of Nampak Limited, together with Sr. Jill Wacher, the occupational nursing sister of Nampak's iSithebe branch, paid us a friendly visit on 20 August 2003. He invited us to apply for a donation from his company again. When their Corporate Social Investment Committee looked at our application, they decided to double the amount which we had requested.

Not only was a cheque deposited into our bank account but a delivery van arrived at our door with a supply of baby nappies for the children in Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and the babies in Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

We are absolutely overwhelmed and most grateful for these wonderful donations and the warmth and openness Nampak showed to us and our patients.



has assisted us in our work for many years and we are specially grateful for their regular and continuous support by partly sponsoring the salary for a nurse at Blessed Gérard's Hospice. Moreover they donated a refrigerator for Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and a tumble drier for Blessed Gérard's Care Centre. We paid them a friendly visit at their factory in iSithebe with our Honorary Dedicated Members Hans & Albertine Sporer visiting from Germany.



(from left to right) Megan Saunders, Hans Sporer, Father Gérard, Ernest Smith, Clare Kalkwarf, Albertine Spenzinger-Sporer



Shoprite/Checkers and Africa Web Press, (associate company of Stanger Weekly), recently made a generous donation of gift vouchers to us. Seen above is Shoprite/Checkers Public Relations Officer Ms. Pinky Naidoo with Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf and Father Gérard, the Mayor of the Ilembe District Municipality Mr. Simo Mfayela, Mr. Haresh Ouderajh of Africa Web Press and the store manager, Mr. Gaya Ramdhani. Shoprite/Checkers auctioned a painting to raise the money. The painting was purchased by Africa Web Press who nominated us as the recipient of the proceeds. We are most grateful to Mr. Haresh Ouderajh for his thoughtfulness and generosity.

We thank Stanger Weekly wholeheartedly for printing this newsletter free of charge!

South African Revenue Services (SARS)

The revenue services are normally known for taking money from people to fill the government's pockets, but the **South African Revenue Services (SARS)** acted totally differently on World AIDS day, the 1st of December 2003: Rose Pezisa and Marcia Mkhize from the KwaZulu/Natal Provincial SARS office had come to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre previously and were so impressed with our work that they started collecting clothing, household goods and money amongst the SARS employees to support the AIDS work in our province. We were one of four beneficiaries in the whole province and are most grateful for their donation, which was handed over at the SARS offices in Durban by Patricia Molefe from SARS headoffice in Pretoria.



Afterwards they paid us a visit at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre and the picture shows that we welcomed not only their donation, but these lovely people, too.

Making a donation

We have been acknowledged by the South African Revenue Services (SARS).

A further milestone of the past year was the acknowledgement of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre and the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard as public benefit organisations operated not for profit.



If you live in South Africa:

You may make a donation directly into our banking account. Our banking details are as follows:

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 sides would be if you organised a stop order on your account, if you want to donate regularly.



If you live in the USA:

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 "**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 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 for the full amount.



If you live in Great Britain / United Kingdom:

- You may send a cheque:
Any cheques sent must have the payee name: "BASMOM (**BGG**) Fund" (a fund of BASMOM, Charity No. 227994) and to be sent to this address:
The Hospitaller BASMOM - Mantle Hill - Bellingham - Hexham - Northumberland NE48 2LB
- 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 Emergency Fund
Bank: LloydsTSB
Account number: 00872754
Branch: Bellingham Branch
Branch code: (30-94-19)

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

The "Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard - NEWS LETTER" 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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TAX EXEMPTION UNIT



Office
Private
Enquiries
011 33 334665
Telephone
011 422 8021
Facsimile
011 422 8030
Room
411
Reference
18/11/13/2777
Date
2 July 2003

Mr. GT Lagleder
The Director
PO Box 440
MANDENI
4490

South African Revenue Service
SARS TEL
Pro-Equity Court
1250 Pretorius Street
Halford
0028
PO Box 11555
Halford
0028
SARS online: www.sars.gov.za

Dear Sir

EXEMPTION FROM TAXES AND DUTIES AND APPROVAL IN TERMS OF SECTION 18A: BLESSED GERARD'S CARE CENTRE

I write with reference to your application for exemption from income tax dated 20 April 2002 and apologise for the delay in replying.

1. It is confirmed that -

- 1.1 the association has been approved as a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, (the Act) and the receipts and accruals are exempt from income tax in terms of section 10(1)(d) of the Act.
- 1.2 the public benefit organisation has been approved for purposes of section 18A(1)(a) of the Act and donations to the organisation will be tax deductible in the hands of the donors in terms of and subject to the limitations prescribed in section 18A of the Act.
- 1.3 donations by or to the public benefit organisation are exempt from donations tax in terms of section 56(1)(h) of the Act.

2.

3.

1.4 bequests or accruals from the estates of deceased persons in favour of the public benefit organisation are exempt from the payment of estate duty in terms of section 47(c) of the Estate Duty Act, 45 of 1955.

1.5 in terms of section 4(1)(f) of the Stamp Duties Act, 1958, any instrument which is executed by or on behalf of the public benefit organisation is exempt from stamp duty, if the duty thereon would be legally payable and borne by the public benefit organisation; and

1.6 the public benefit organisation is exempt from the payment of the skills development levy in terms of section 4(c) of the Skills Development Levies Act, No. 9 of 1998.

2. Kindly note that the relevant exemptions are subject to the following conditions:

2.1 Annual returns of income be submitted to the Tax Exemption Unit, together with financial statements and supporting documentation which must include full particulars of the receipts issued in respect of tax deductible donations in terms of section 18A and how those funds were expended.

2.2 The following information must be given on the tax deductible receipts issued:

2.2.1 the reference number of the public benefit organisation, issued by the Commissioner for the purposes of this section; (The reference number quoted on this letter.)

2.2.2 the date of the receipt of the donation;

2.2.3 the name of the public benefit organisation, which received the donation, together with an address to which enquiries may be directed in connection therewith.

2.2.4 the name and address of the donor;

2.2.5 the amount of the donation or the nature of the donation (if not made in cash); and

3.

4.

2.2.6 a certification to the effect that the receipt is issued for the purposes of section 18A of the Income Tax Act, 1962, and that the donation has been or will be used exclusively for the objects of the public benefit organisation concerned.

2.3 The public benefit organisation will, within a period of five years, formally amend the founding document to comply with the provisions of section 30 of the Act on or before 15 July 2006 or whenever an amendment is effected to the founding document, whichever date occurs first.

2.4 The exemptions approved in paragraph 1 above, are subject to review on an annual basis upon receipt of the financial statements.

2.5 Within 30 days from date hereof the following information relating to the public benefit organisation be submitted to this office:

2.5.1 PAYE reference number;

If not registered for any of the above, please format reasons.

2.5.2 Register in terms of section 12(5) of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 1997, within a period of 12 months.

Sincerely

M. J. van der Merwe
For THE HEAD, TAX EXEMPTION UNIT

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, being a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, has also been approved on 2 July 2003 by the South African Revenue Services (SARS) for purposes of section 18A(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act, i.e. donations to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre are tax deductible in the hands of the donors in terms of and subject to the limitations prescribed in section 18A of the Income Tax Act and donations to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre are exempt from donations tax in terms of section 56(1)(h) of the Income Tax Act. [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.