



20 years of charitable service as a „Private Association of Christ’s Faithful“ and Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta

Brotherhood
of Blessed Gérard



**Newsletter No. 32
2013**

with
Annual Report 2012



Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

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

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

A large number of these have to live in poverty.

All its services are rendered free of charge.

Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

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

Caring without borders!



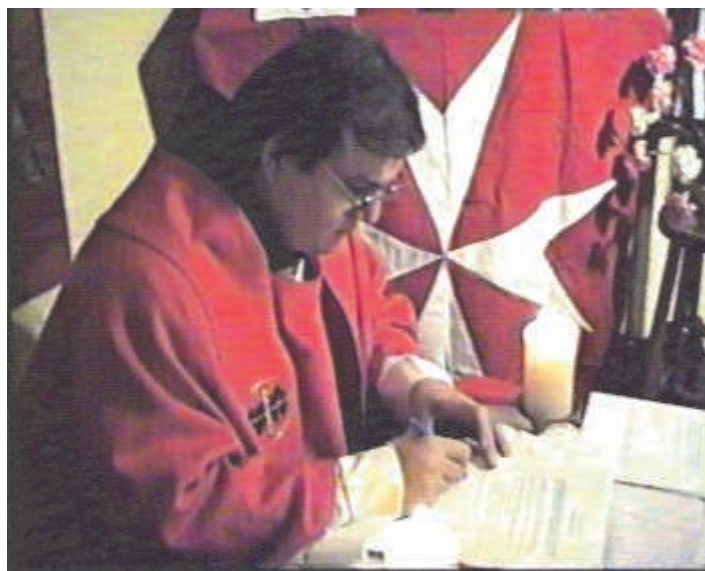
Our **mission** is to further the glory of God and strive with a common effort to foster a more perfect life of our members by devoting ourselves to the apostolate of the Church in works of charity to serve "the poor of our Lord Jesus Christ" extending God's loving care to them under the motto "tuitio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

"Vision"

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



We care in any case!



28th October 1992:
Father Gérard Lagleder O.S.B., Dr. Paul Thabethe, Sr. Nokuthula Thabethe, Geoffrey Kalkwarf and Clare Kalkwarf **founded the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** in the chapel of the priest's house in Mandeni as a Private Association of Christ's Faithful (according to Canon Law).

5th December 1992:
The Bishop of our Diocese of Eshowe (Mansuet Dela Biyase) **acknowledged the newly founded Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard verbally as a Catholic Association**. (The Formal Decree followed on 20th April 1993).

We are ...

- a group of nearly 2500 **idealists** with the aim to enable and empower people to help themselves and to provide direct aid in cases of emergency and immediate need.
- the South African **relief organisation** of the Order of Malta. The latter was founded as a nursing brotherhood by Blessed Gérard more than 900 years ago.
- a **faith based organisation** (FBO) putting into action what our motto "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum" means: "Protection of faith and service to the needy".
- a "**Private Association of Christ's Faithful**" in the Roman Catholic Church, open to members from all different faiths and cultural backgrounds.
- a **community based** (CBO) **non governmental organisation** (NGO).
- a "**public benefit organisation**" (PBO) operated **not for profit** (NPO) and dedicated to the welfare of all people.
- a **non-discriminating** and **non-exclusive** organisation, which serves the needy irrespective of their creed, colour of skin, political affiliation, sexual orientation or social status.
- a **charity** which helps within its own capability according to the identified needs of the people.

We run ...

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

This Annual Report and Newsletter is also published online at
<http://bbg.org.za/pr/newsletters/32/index.htm>

Dr Ruth Stark The Four M's of Father Gérard

The year 1099, Jerusalem The First Crusade



A gentle looking monk enters the ward. Two novices trail behind. Emblazoned on the front of their long black robes is a huge white Maltese cross.

The room is crammed with the sick and injured. Some are crusaders, wounded in the bloody battles for control of Jerusalem. Many are pilgrims in a state of near collapse, hungry and exhausted, ill from their arduous journey to the Holy Land. Others are simply poor and have nowhere else to go.

The monk is Brother Gérard, a member of the Benedictine order. He has reorganized this monastery guesthouse into a hospital and founded a nursing brotherhood, which became only fourteen years later the Order of St John, to care for the "Poor of Christ", "our Lords, the Sick".

Brother Gérard walks from bed to bed giving comfort and care to the ill and injured—washing and feeding the helpless, dressing their wounds. As he lifts a spoon to the mouth of one of the dying men, he turns to the two black-robed novices behind him. "It's a favour and an honour to care for this

suffering man. This man represents Christ. The way we come close to God is to serve "the holy poor."

The year 2012, Mandeni, Zululand, South Africa The HIV Epidemic

Now, 900 years later, I happen upon him. In South Africa. In an HIV care centre hidden away in the mountains of Zululand, in a small rural community ravaged by poverty and AIDS.

We fly from Johannesburg to the coastal city of Durban and then drive through the mountains, past clusters of Zulu homesteads, until we reach Mandeni, a nondescript South African town. The centre we have come to visit is located next to the Catholic Church {easy to find in this small town}, and minutes later we arrive. But the large two story building would have been



hard to miss in any case. Painted on the outer wall is a large black shield that looks like the one Zulu warriors take into battle, except that the Zulu shield on the wall has another shield superimposed in the middle—a bright red western-shaped shield with a white eight-pointed Maltese cross in the centre, the kind of shield the crusader knights carried into their battles. Above and below the shield are written the words, Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. And under the shield directly over the entrance in huge bold black letters, the words: BLESSED GÉRARD'S CARE CENTRE.



I enter the lobby and look up with a start. There he is, Blessed Gérard, at the bedside of a patient whose arms reach out to him in desperation. The tall monk in his long black habit with the big white Maltese cross on the front picks up a bowl and spoon and feeds the starving man, while the two black-robed novices behind him look on.

The last person I expected to encounter in 21st century Africa is this medieval monk. As I stand before the life-sized figures on

this floor-to-ceiling mural, I hear the voice of another Gérard—a Benedictine monk who carries on the spirit and the work of his namesake in this unlikely corner of the earth, Father Gérard Lagleder.



"Welcome! You are so very welcome! Come, let me show you around."

Father is a hefty German man in his fifties with thinning hair, a short grey beard, and black glasses. I have seen him many times at meetings in standard priest issue dress, black shirt and clerical collar. But today he dons a white pilot shirt with bright red epaulettes on the shoulders, distinguishing devices like the ones worn by pilots, military officers and nurses in some countries (including South Africa) to indicate qualifications and rank. On each epaulette is a white Maltese cross. On the breast pocket of the shirt is the same shield I saw on the entrance to the building, the badge designed as the insignia of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in South Africa.

"Come up to my office for a cup of tea. Afterwards I'll show you around the hospice and children's home."

We follow Father down the hall past wooden Zulu carvings representing the fourteen Stations of the Cross and up the stairs to his office. On the narrow stairway, framed black and white antique etchings of the monk who started this "everlasting brotherhood" line the walls—the monk the Vatican has set on the path to sainthood and now refers to as *Blessed Gérard*.

I take a seat at Father Gérard's massive wood desk. Everywhere I look—white Maltese crosses on bright red background—on candles, mugs, and medallions in glass fronted display cabinets. Even a blond Barbie doll in a black cape with its red shield and cross mounted atop a big white horse. On Father's desk a notepad with a Maltese cross printed on the red cover and a small red flag with the same white symbol.

I just don't get how this all comes together: the Brotherhood of St John; the Maltese crosses; the Benedictine monk—Blessed Gérard; and the AIDS care centre here in South Africa. Father explains.

Blessed Gérard was a Benedictine monk who ministered in a monastery guest house near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem during the First Crusade. Many who sought refuge at the monastery were pilgrims and crusader knights who were either ill or injured. To provide for their care, in 1099 Gérard transformed the guesthouse into a hospital, the Hospital of St John and founded the Brotherhood of St John, the oldest existing medical religious order in the Catholic Church, to run the hospital. In addition to nursing the sick, the dedicated members of this order housed abandoned chil-

dren, fed the poor and cared for discharged prisoners.

Throughout the Crusades, as the battles raged over control of Jerusalem, Brother Gérard built additional hospitals along the routes frequented by pilgrims. Knights, sometimes referred to as the Knights Hospitaller, defended these charitable institutions from attack, and the Order of St John developed into a military as well as a medical order.

Over the years, European wars and shifting political alliances forced the Order of St John of Jerusalem to relocate its headquarters from one country to another, including to the island country of Malta, where the Order came to be popularly known as the Order of Malta.

Eventually the need to defend itself diminished and the Order lost its military character entirely. Today, while it retains a historic base in Malta, the headquarters are in Rome and there are many categories of members. There are priests who serve as chaplains but most members are lay people, some of whom make “promises,” to serve, rather than take the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Some lay members are even designated as knights. And although its official name remains the “Sovereign Military Order of Malta”, the focus now is exclusively on the charitable works for which it was founded. Curiously though, the Order’s “sovereign” status continues. To this day, the Order of Malta maintains diplomatic relations with 104 countries and has observer status at the United Nations.

We finish our tea and Father tours me through the care centre he founded under

the banner of the Order of Malta and introduces me to the staff. Every single person I meet dons the same uniform. Whether cleaners or nurses, doctors or cooks, every person in the building dresses exactly like Father—white shirt with the black shield badge on their breast pocket and white Maltese cross on red epaulettes on their shoulders.

Near the entrance a young Zulu medical doctor provides life-saving antiretroviral drug treatment to people living with HIV. For Dr Nzimande, his clinical work is more than a job; it is a ministry, and he has joined the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard as a dedicated lay member, in the centuries-old tradition of the Order of Malta. This morning we find him giving a talk to a room of patients he is preparing to put on treatment, explaining the importance of taking their medication every day. Since the doctor is busy we move on to the hospice, the largest inpatient hospice facility in South Africa, a place where those beyond treatment spend their last days. Each ward is identified by the name of a saint of the Order of Malta on the door. We open the door to the St Flora’s ward. As a nurse, I immediately note how clean the room is, how comfortable the atmosphere is, how delighted the patients are to see Father.

He goes to each bed, leans down close to give words of comforts, and gently holds their bony hands. This is not the Father Gérard I see at meetings in the city—intense, driven, making his case for additional funds; this is Father Gérard the priest.



We leave the hospice and head towards the section of the building that houses over forty children with no where else to go— children “left over” when their parent dies in the hospice, those who have been tormented and abused, orphans with no relative who can give them a home, those who are disabled and in need of constant care, children unable to be placed in foster homes. Father sees himself as just that to the little ones, their father. He spends time with them and closely follows their development. He is now expanding the home so he can care for more children and renovating to make it “more homey” and to provide more place for play. Later in the morning when we pass by the kitchen, Father stops to introduce me to a developmentally challenged young woman helping with preparations for lunch. She grew up in the children’s home and is now one of the staff. In her white shirt and red epaulettes, she is protected and secure in the only home she has ever known, a home she will never have to leave. The last stop on our walkabout is the Cath-



olic chapel, a large room dominated by a wall-sized outline of the Maltese cross. Hanging life-sized on the cross, carved in wood is the Zulu Christ. This is the place Father offers mass for the staff and ambulatory patients and for the wider community of Mandeni. It is also the place he presides over the ceremonies where those associated with the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard put on their long black capes, badges, and Brotherhood medals and perform the rituals that characterize the Order.

We return upstairs, to the section of the centre where he Father lives and works. “I’m impressed with the centre with all you accomplish here. But I’m also curious. How

did a man from Germany connect with the centuries-old Order of Malta and end up in Africa as the founder of an AIDS Care Centre? Would you be willing to tell me about your personal journey?” Father agrees and tells me his story.

“I always say I’ve got four vocations — I call them the four M’s.

My first vocation was to be a member of the German relief organization of the Order of Malta.”

In Europe the Order of Malta trains nurses and nursing assistants as well as emergency medical technicians and offers courses in first aid and home nursing. The Protestant offshoot of these activities is represented by the Johanniter Order and the Anglican orientated Order of St John and its Ambulance Services operate in many Commonwealth Countries. A friend of his family was a first aid trainer for the Order of Malta. She talked about it and he convinced her to take him along to some basic classes. “It was highly interesting to me and caused a thirst to learn more.”



“What sparked your interest in these nursing courses in the first place?” “My mother was always a sick person. I never experienced my mother as happy and healthy—happy but not healthy—so nursing was a part of our day to day life. We did that for our mother...She died of cancer.” The young adolescent, who would later take the religious name of Gérard, could only take the more advanced nursing courses if he became a member of Malteser Hilfsdienst the relief organization of the Order of Malta in Germany. Today, as in the distant past, there are many categories of membership, from professed religious to lay volunteers, even modern day knights. At age fourteen, however, Gérard was too young to qualify for any class of membership. But he didn’t give up—shades of the persistence that would later characterize him:

“I begged and begged and they finally gave in.”

Through high school he continued his classes with the Order of Malta’s relief organization and eventually qualified as a nursing instructor and placed in charge of training of 3500 nurse aids.

Gérard wanted to be a doctor. He attended class during the day and worked night shifts in the hospital to support himself.

During the long nights, when patients feel the most vulnerable and alone, they would tell him their life stories and many times it would be a “life confession.”

“I thought that what those people would need was if I could tell them ‘your sins are forgiven’ but I couldn’t. I thought that maybe what people need is a doctor for their soul. This was one of the many reasons that

made me think of the religious vocation.” He left the study of medicine to prepare for the priesthood.

Thus began the second **M** of Father Gérard’s vocation—**Ministry as a priest.**

Then around the time of his ordination he began asking himself, “What does God really want of me?” He meditated on Scripture where Jesus calls people to become his disciples and was especially moved by the story of the young rich man who wanted to follow Jesus until he learned that to follow



Jesus totally he would first have to sell all he had and give the money to the poor. “For me, that meant to become part of a religious order. Then I thought, “where do I go?” Because I had medical and nursing experience with the Order of Malta and felt that this [the first M] was part of my vocation, I decided I should enter into a missionary order... On the day of my ordination as a priest, I entered the Order of the Missionary

Benedictines.”

It was when he joined the Benedictine religious order and took his vows as a **monk**, {the third **M**},

that Father took on a new name, the name we know him by, the name of the Benedictine monk in the mural on the wall, the name of Gérard.

Initially the Order planned to mission Father Gérard to the Philippines. But then the Abbot needed someone urgently in South Africa. These were the days of apartheid and Father Gérard was concerned about what he, as a white man, could contribute in that conflicted country.

“My heart told me to take the challenge,” and he arrived in South Africa in 1987, a time of great social unrest, when the struggle to dismantle apartheid had escalated and threatened to tear the country apart.

“I was absolutely surprised when I found that I was not a white man in a black community, but I was a priest looking after people in need, in spiritual need and bodily need, and I found that this is really my vocation.”



Father had found his vocation as a **missionary**, the 4th **M**,



For the first three years Father Gérard worked in a parish “in the middle of nowhere.” He and the parish priest were the only white people in the district, and there he became fluent in the Zulu language with its complex grammatical structure. Then he was assigned to be the parish priest in Mandeni.

“Mandeni was known as a white parish surrounded by black townships. I turned up my nose at this because I was a missionary priest sent to the Zulu people, and I didn’t think that the white people would need my kind of missionary input—how wrong I was!” When Father settled into Mandeni, he found that white people were the minority, that the great majority were black people living in squatter camps, now euphemistically called “informal settlements.”

“When I went out into the community I said to myself, ‘Aha, this is why God sent me here—there is more than enough work.’” He soon realized the need to expand and better organize the charitable work of the

Church, but he wasn’t sure where to start. Then two things happened, two events that would bring together the four M’s of his vocation together and shape the future of his ministry.

The first event happened in 1991 when he visited a dying lady in her shack. As Father Gérard administered the Sacrament of the anointing of the sick and gave her communion, he could tell that she in pain. He asked her about it and she told him that her back hurt so much she could hardly bear it. “Then I said, ‘Would you mind I have a look what’s wrong with you? I’m not only a priest, I’m a nurse.’ Then she lifted up her blouse and I saw that her back was one huge bed sore, so deep that the spinal cord was exposed. I took her to a doctor who was active in our parish, Dr Paul Thabethe, and he admitted her to hospital. She died that night.”

“Then Dr Thabethe said to me, ‘Father, so many people in the community are dying of neglect. Can’t we do something—something like a home? He opened an open door when he asked that question.” The second event that was to define his mission was a phone call about two destitute families who were about to be evicted from their hovel. The father had lost his job and there was no money for the children’s school fees, not even money for food. Father asked the parish for help. A lady, Clare Kalkwarf, responded and said she would organize the parishioners to provide relief. In two days the members of the church had provided food and clothing for the family and had paid the fees so the children could attend school. They had even found someone to hire the father.

“Then I knew that there was someone local who has got the heart, who has the skills, who has the drive to organize. That for me was an eye opener.”

Father Gérard saw that there was a great need to help the community and that there was a core of people in the church who were motivated to take on the task.



So he sat down with Dr Thabethe and his wife, a nurse, and Clare Kalkwarf and her husband, a businessman, and suggested that they found a relief organization as an arm of the Order of Malta and in the spirit of Blessed Gérard. They agreed and began the process of drawing up the documents and securing the required permissions, including the permission of the Benedictine Order for him to embark on this path.

“It was the Benedictines who sent me here, not the Order of Malta. And when I came to South Africa, I thought I would never again be involved with the Order of Malta in all my life.”

On October 28 1992, The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard was founded and on April

20 1993 it was accepted by the Sovereign Council of the Order of Malta as the relief organization of the Order of Malta in South Africa and by the Bishop of the Diocese of Eshowe as a “private association of Christ’s Faithful”.

The four **M**’s of his vocation — **Malta, Ministry, Monk, Missionary** —

had come together in ways he could never have imagined. He gives medical care to the sick through his association with the Order of Malta; he ministers to the spiritual needs of the community as a priest; he is a monk in the Benedictine religious order; and he serves as a Missionary in Africa.

As we talk together in this care centre, surrounded by all the symbols of the oldest existing medical order in the Catholic Church — the Maltese crosses and red shields that hark back to the middle ages, Father Gérard reflects on his personal journey. Today, in addition to the AIDS treatment program, the inpatient hospice, and the children’s home, the Blessed Gérard’s Care Centre runs other community programs. The list is long: an HIV/AIDS education program, a malnutrition clinic, a poor-sick fund, a relief fund, a pre-primary nursery school, a social club for the elderly, a first aid service, a scholarship fund, and a disaster relief project.

“Each and every one of our projects is a direct response to an identified insufficiency of care in our community, an area of need where there is no one else involved. It is exactly these gaps that we try to bridge.”

Continued on page 9 ⇨

Annual Report 2012

The activities of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and the Blessed Gérard's Care Centre in the year 2012, like in the year before, were concentrating on maintaining momentum in our existing projects:

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre provides a comprehensive and holistic system of care by running:

Blessed Gérard's Hospice and HAART Programme: We render a health care service to **poor and needy** persons by providing - amongst others:

- hospice palliative care and counselling of **terminally ill** persons and the counselling of their families in this regard,
- hospice palliative care, counselling and Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART) of **persons afflicted with HIV/AIDS**, including the care or counselling of their families and dependants in this regard
- primary health care education through training, home care, day care, outpatient and inpatient care.

Blessed Gérard's Children's Home:

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

Blessed Gérard's HIV/AIDS-Education Programme:

We distribute information to the **public** relating to HIV and AIDS, namely how to avoid HIV infection and how to live positively with AIDS. This includes information about antiretroviral treatment.

Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche: We provide "educare" and an early childhood development service for **underprivileged pre-school children.**

Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic:

We provide a health care service to poor and needy persons by running a clinic, where we examine, treat and feed **malnourished infants** and teach their parent/carer in proper baby care and nutrition.

Blessed Gérard's Poor-Sick-Fund:

We provide poverty relief by helping **sick** people from our local community, if they cannot afford urgently needed medical treatment.

Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund:

We provide poverty relief by giving bursaries to poor pupils and students of our local community.

The outstanding events of 2012 were:

The development of our AIDS treatment programme

The number of treated AIDS patients has more than doubled in the past year, i.e. there are now 805 patients in our care, of which 724 are in the (lifelong) treatment phase. After lengthy and difficult negotiations, we have reached, that the South African government now contributes one third of the cost and is meant to take over another third soon. The remaining third is currently funded half by the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference and the other half we need to raise ourselves. However, the Bishops' Confer-

ence can only afford this until March next year and then we have to finance the entire third ourselves. In plain English, this means that this year we have to raise about 1.5 million Rand and from next year we need to raise 3 million Rand of donations to fund the AIDS treatment program in future. Even a single human life is worth that effort and 1000 lives all the more. Without treatment the patient would die very soon, with the treatment they can live in good health up to 30 or 35 years, go back to work, raise their children and live in the fullness of life.

Our Children's Home

has a new manager since the beginning of the year, Mr. Hayne Clark, who is an experienced educator, and a deputy manager, Miss. Nomfundo Myeza, a great social worker, who had previously worked with us as a maternity-leave locum. Already at that time we were delighted about her work. In this way the quality of the care of our children at the Children's Home has even improved and we are very happy about that.

COHSASA Accreditation

Our efforts to get five-star **accreditation by the Council for Health Services Accreditation of South Africa (COHSASA)** through the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA) continues. We hope to get the third star still this year and to finalise the five-star accreditation within the next year or the year after next.



The most outstanding event of the year

was on 28th October 2012, when we celebrated the **20th anniversary of the foundation of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.** (see the article further down in this newsletter!)

Audits:

The **Financial Audit** of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre for 2012 on 14th/15th March 2013 yielded impeccable results again which we are absolutely proud of. A special vote of thanks to our Financial Officer Mr. Thamsanqa Gumede!

The **Board of Auditors** of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard met on 23rd March 2012 at the Care Centre for their audit of our performance in 2010/ and 2011. Their audit report reads:

"We, the members of the Board of Auditors of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, have been provided with comprehensive financial statements of the year 2010 and 2011 of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. These cover the Blessed Gérard's Care Centre with its various departments.

After studying and evaluating all the documents we are satisfied that the members of the Executive Council and all the officials of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard have fulfilled their tasks with great integrity, faithfully observing the Constitution of the Brotherhood.

The performance of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard has once again shown that its institutions are an invaluable asset in the Pastoral Plan of the Diocese of Eshowe by providing

works of charity to serve "the poor of our Lord Jesus Christ" in accordance with the motto they follow: "tuitio fidei at obsequium pauperum".

The reports submitted to us show that the leaders of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre are trustworthy, reliable and committed to good governance. They have adequately fulfilled their responsibilities.

We are convinced that with the services they render to the people in the wider Mandeni area, the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre fulfil the mission and vision they are committed to, i.e. to be a sign of Christian faith.

*Bishop Xolelo Kumalo
Abbot Godfrey Sieber
Sr. Gregoria Lutter"*

Order of Malta Audit

Guy Count Moy, the relevant entity of the Order of Malta, who we are finally responsible to, came to us for the first time since his appointment in this position from 20th to 25th March 2012. Not only did he write an enthusiastic report, but he has never stopped since, singing our praises at every opportunity and got very involved in lobbying and fund-raising for our cause.

Personnel:

Membership Statistics (as on 31st December 2012)		Increase 2012	
1392	Active members	+12	+1%
592	Financial Supportes	+6	+1%
367	Spiritual Supportes	+1	+1%
2351	Members in total	+18	+1%

Employees

Seven employees left us in 2012 and six were newly employed:
We welcome: Hlahlameliwe Dlamini (Crèche assistant), Hloni Zulu (kitchen assistant), Phindile Mthembu (receptionist), Ntombiyenkosi Zungu (housekeeping assistant), Ngitheni Zulu (caregiver) and Nomfundo Myeza (Children's Home Deputy Manager).

Foreign visitors

Ralph Thielemann (2nd November 2011 – 22nd February 2012)
Dr. Katja Heering (9th to 22nd March 2012)
Guy Count Moy (20th to 25th March 2012)
Ursula Ostermeier (15th - 18th March 2012)
Deacon Reiner Fleischmann & his daughter Mirjam (24th July - 8th September 2012)
Iona Hughan (30th July – 2nd August 2012)
Stief Family (26th – 28th August 2012)
Monika Racher (5th October – 21st November 2012)
Elena Rehder (10th October - 15th December 2012)
Hans-Peter & Maresi Rehder (26th October - 17th November 2012)
Ernst Wolfsteiner (19th November – 16th December 2012)
Theresa Willmann and Luisa Kleiser (18th – 24th December 2012)

Public Relations:

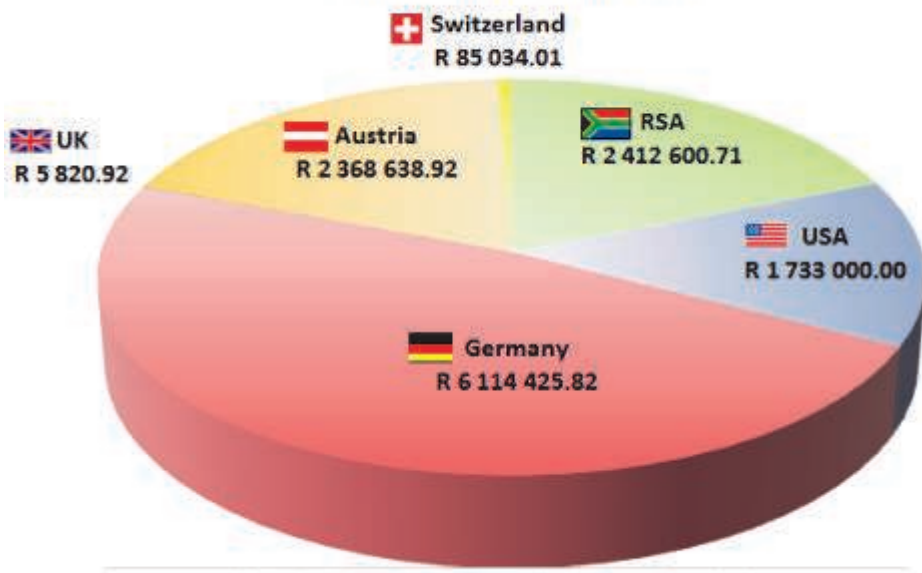
Apart from our website and our publications in Social Media (Facebook, Google+, KathSpace, LinkedIn, MeinVZ, Twitter and XING)

We also featured in a **Radio** transmission: 6 January 2012: Brian Patrick of **Sacred Heart Radio in Cincinnati, OH / U.S.A.** interviewed Father Gérard about the work of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in their **"Son Rise Morning Show"**.

Finance report: Income and expenditure in 2012

Total income 2012: R12 719 520.38

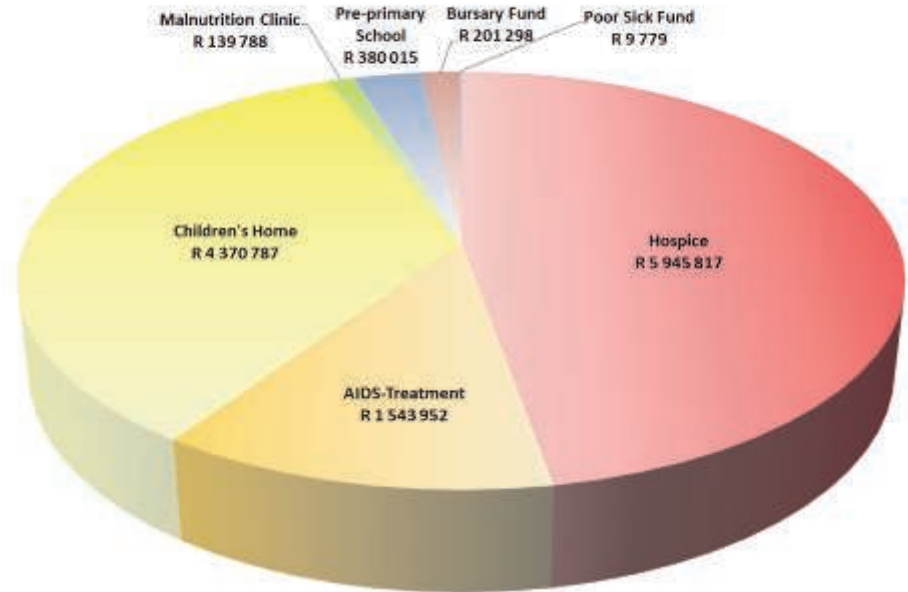
split into countries of our donors



All foreign donations reflected in their Rand equivalent as credited to our accounts in South Africa after foreign exchange.

Breakdown of our total expenditure in 2012

(R 12 591 437)

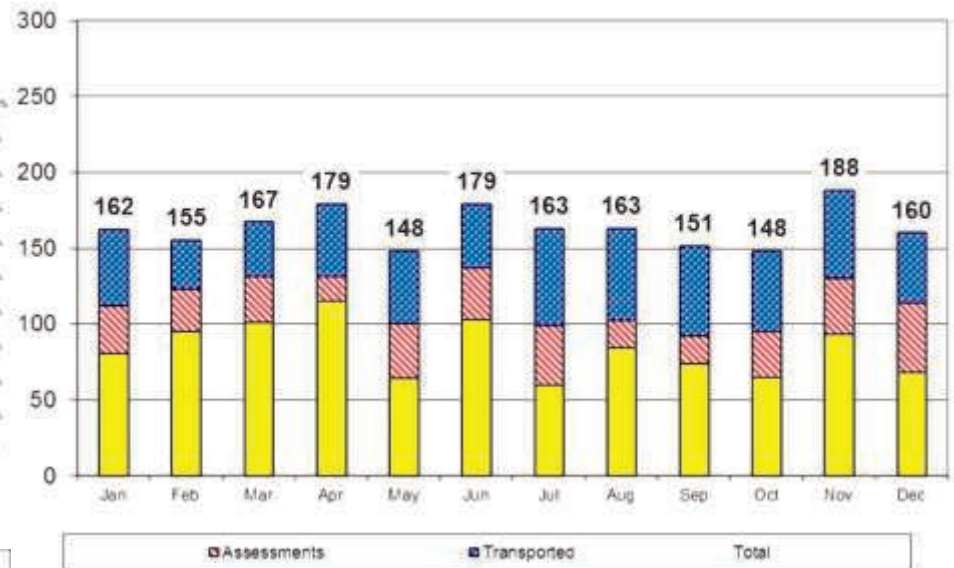


Activity Report: Statistics for 2012

Statistics by Key Performance Indicators 2012	
Hospice average occupancy rate	75%
Bursaries awarded in 2012	6
Children in our Children's Home	33
Children in our Pre-Primary School & Crèche	68
HIV positive patients not yet in need of ARVs	96
Patients who passed away in our Hospice	171
AIDS patients who attended HAART readiness course	202
VCT (Voluntary Counselling & HIV Testing) done	310
Patients admitted to our Hospice (inpatients)	409
Patients receiving ARVs by December 2012	656
Home visits by our Home Care Team	1002
Consultations done by our Social Worker	1951
Home visits by our HAART therapeutic Counsellors	2818

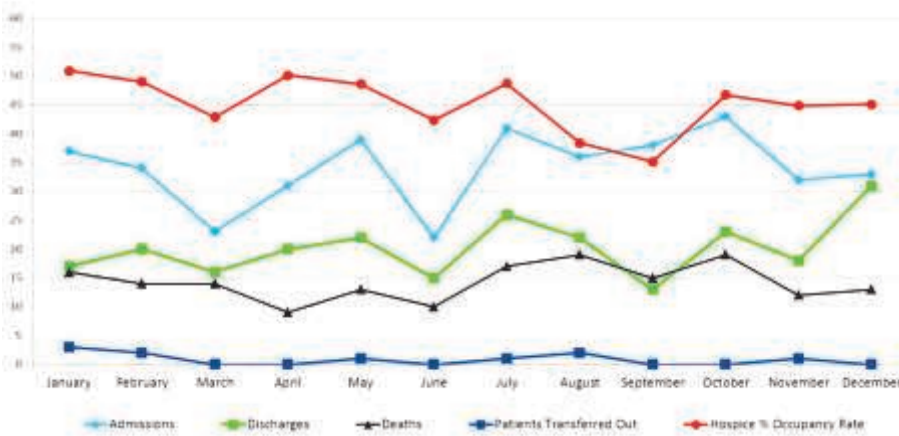
2012	Accumulated Statistics	1992-2012	Increase
10	Patients transferred (Hospice)	690	0.1%
4	New paediatric patients (Hospice)	498	0.8%
32	Social Cases (Care Centre)	1743	1.9%
364	New home care patients (Hospice)	3673	11.0%
409	New patients admitted to Hospice	3788	12.1%
295	Patients counselled (Hospice)	2097	16.9%
597	Patients transported by ambulance (Hospice)	3980	17.6%
316	Outpatients and daypatients (Hospice)	1716	22.6%
269	New HAART patients (Hospice)	1424	23.3%

Home Care Team 2012

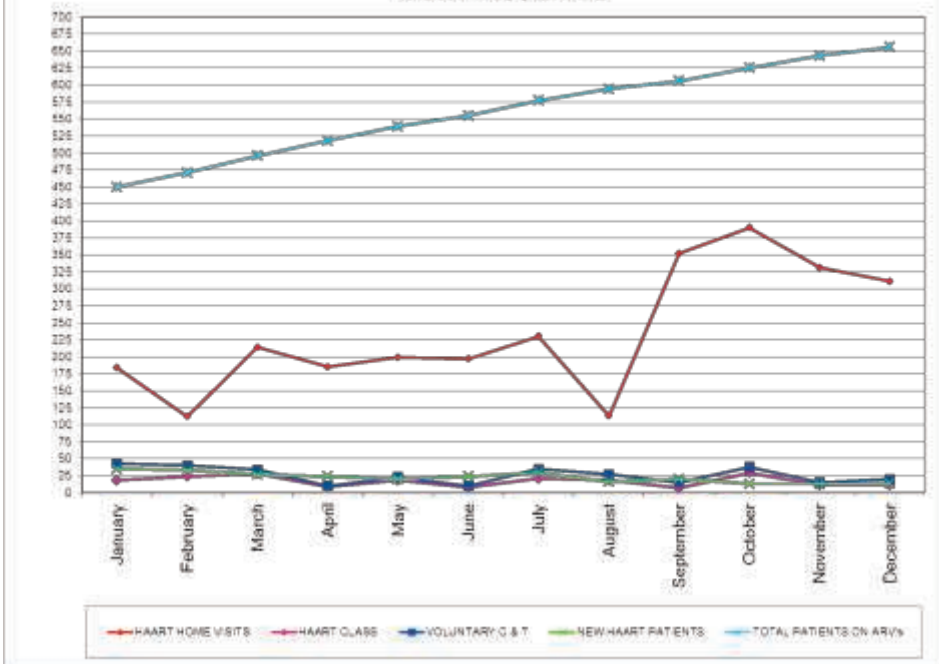


Not every "visit" is the same. There are just visits to supervise the home-based-care provided by the family and there are visits to assess and then transfer a patient to our hospice, a clinic or hospital (including transport by our ambulance).

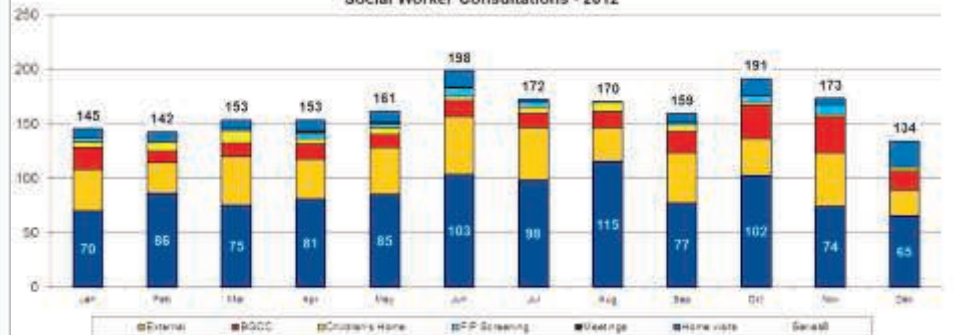
Hospice KPI Total



HAART PROGRAMME



Social Worker Consultations - 2012



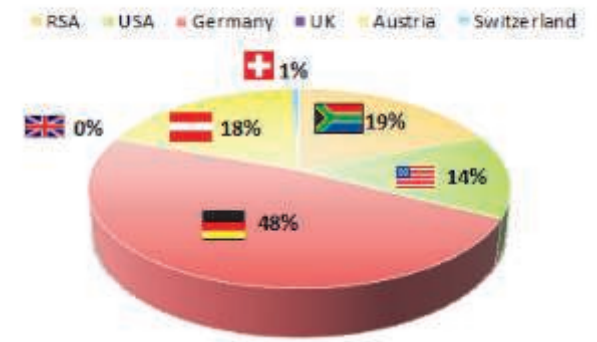
Our Social Worker, Miss Hlengiwe Dube, is involved primarily in our Hospice and Children's Home, but is also involved in our Malnutrition Clinic, Relief Fund, Bursary Fund and Poor-Sick-Fund.

Our 2012 top donors' charts

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

- Bruderschaft des Seligen Gerhard e.V. - Neuburg
(and all our benefactors who made their donations to us through their account).
- Sternstunden e.V. - München
- Dr. Viktor Freiherr von Baillou - Salzburg
- Benedictine Mission House - Schuyler, Nebraska
(and all their and our benefactors who sent their donations for us to them).
- South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (AIDS Office).
- Kloster - Mallersdorf
- Päpstliches Missionswerk der Kinder (Aktion Dreikönigssingen) - Aachen
- Initiative gegen Armut (INGEAR) - Zeilarn
- Missionsprokura - St. Ottilien
(and all our benefactors who made their donations to us through their account).
- Dr. Marlene & Annemarie Weinzierl - München
- Malteser Hilfsdienst DGS - München
- Mallersdorfer Schwestern - Bad Wörishofen
- Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa
- Malteser Hilfsdienst DGS - Regensburg
- Pfarrei St. Peter - Manching
- Hilfsverein Nymphenburg - München
- St. Georgenberg Abbey - Fiecht (and all our benefactors who made their donations to us through their account).
- Pfarreien St. Peter & Hl. Geist - Neuburg
- Andreas Schmeller Gymnasium - Nabburg
- Vilseck gibt Hoffnung e.V. - Vilseck
- Nampak - Johannesburg
- Konditorei Pernsteiner - Regensburg
- Mr. Johannes Lagleder - Neuburg
- Dr. Darius Taheri - Regensburg
- Pfarrer Josef König - Pielenhofen

Where our donations came from in 2012



The **percentage of local donations** from South Africa (19%) is quite respectable - and has even increased since last year - compared with other mission entities in our region, but ought to be considerably increased to safeguard long-term sustainability of our services.

We are wholeheartedly grateful to all our donors!

Through the generous help of „Sternstunden e.V.“ we could start building:

Extension of our Children's Home

20th November 2012



11th April 2013

Soccer ground for our Children's Home



15th November 2012



11th April 2013

Double the capacity of our Pre-Primary School & Crèche

22nd November 2012

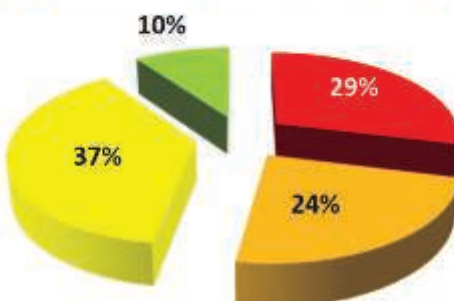


26th Februar 2013

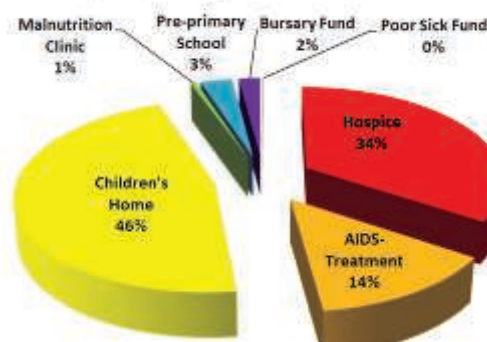
AIDS-treatment cost

contributors as per 31 December 2012

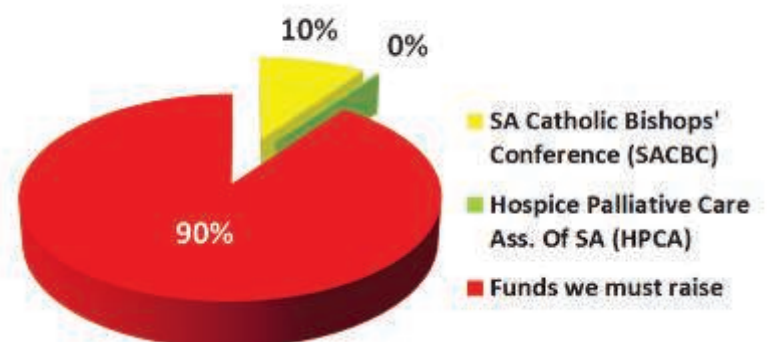
- Our contribution (Donations needed)
- SA Cath. Bishops' Conference (SACBC)
- KZN Department of Health (Medication)
- Laboratory Cost (until now SACBC, soon KZN DOH)



Expected Expenditure 2013

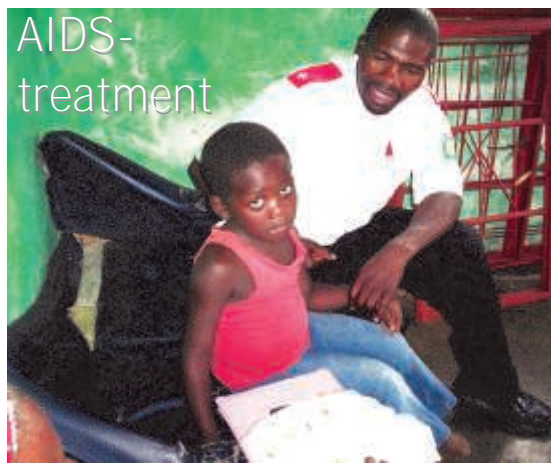


Contributions towards our expected total expenditure 2013





Hospice



AIDS-treatment



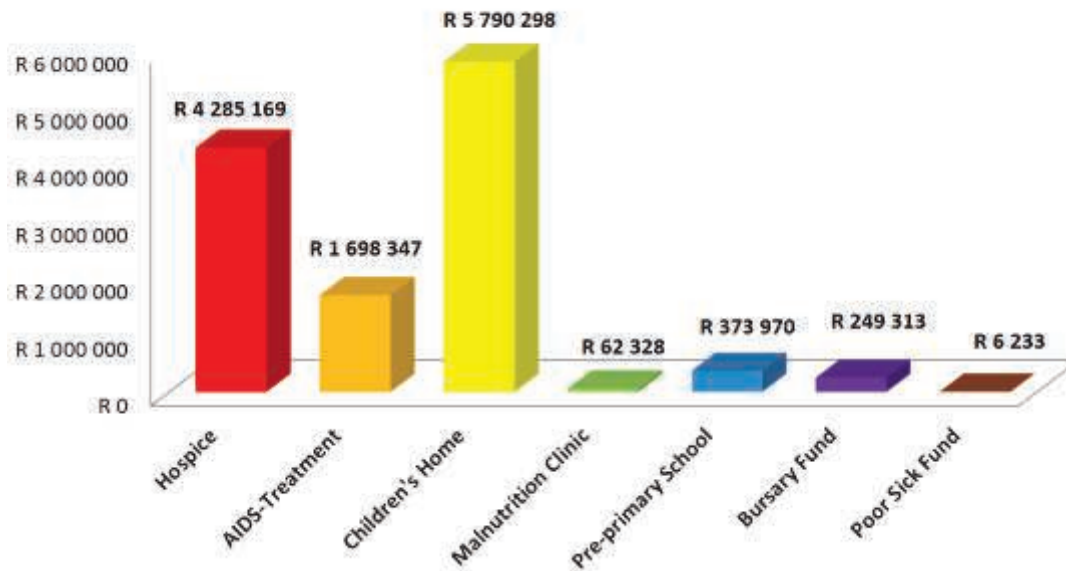
Children's Home

What we need to cover the running cost of our institutions in 2013

Hospice	R 4 285 169
AIDS-Treatment	R 1 698 347
Children's Home	R 5 790 298
Malnutrition Clinic	R 62 328
Pre-primary School	R 373 970
Bursary Fund	R 249 313
Poor Sick Fund	R 6 233
Total	R 12 465 658

Amounts in Rand (ZAR)

Expected Expenditure for the running cost of our institutions in 2013



Every Cent is urgently needed!

Please help us to help!



Malnutrition Clinic



Pre-Primary School



Bursary Fund



Poor Sick Fund

Additional Needs

Over and above the „normal“ running cost of our projects there are additional needs, which we will only be able to realise, if we can raise the additional funds:

Staff training & „Skill training“ for the children (Children's Home)	R 32 832.00
Replace collapsed concrete fence (wall) at Pre-Primary School	R 34 860.00
New parking area (50 % share for Children's Home)	R 61 390.60
Alteration of the air-conditioning in the Children's Home	R 77 243.70
Renovations to the Sisters' Convent (50 % share for Children's Home)	R 101 118.00
Replace school bus for the Children's Home	R 300 000.00
Repairs & Renovations at the Children's Home	R 395 779.80
Subtotal: Children's projects	R 1 003 224.10
New parking area (50% share for Hospice)	R 61 390.60
Renovations to the Sisters' Convent (50 % share for Hospice)	R 101 118.00
Replace ambulance	R 535 000.00
Alterations & Renovations at the Hospice	R 548 396.60
Subtotal: Hospice	R 1 245 905.20
Total	R 2 249 129.30

Repairs / Renovations of the existing Children's Home and Hospice

We recently went through the entire building and checked every room and the outside for damages and faults and made a voluminous list with all the necessary repairs and renovations to be done. To maintain safety and security and

the high hygienic and environmental standard of our building we ought to do all of these repairs and renovations.

New Parking Area

The parking space inside the fence of our Care Centre is quite limited and there have been many times when we struggled to maintain an open pathway for our ambulance and the other patient care vehicles and where some of our staff just had to park their vehicles outside on the pavement. Therefore we would like to establish a paved parking area outside our fence, to reserve the parking inside for our own vehicles and provide parking space for our staff and visitors outside.

Replacement of our ambulance

Our ambulance has often to drive off-road. Once even the frame had a crack and had to be welded, but we are worried about this. Meanwhile it has done more than 160 000 km and the daily use on these bad roads causes a lot of strain on the vehicle. With its six years of age it is getting increasingly more expensive old-age-symptoms.

Replacement of the minibus (school bus) of our Children's Home

It is now eight years old, has close to 130 000 km on the odometer and is also quite strained by the daily use. It is also needing more and more expensive repairs and ought to be replaced.

Renovations to the Sisters' Convent

Through a generous donation of the Franciscan Sisters of Mellersdorf we could buy a small house close to the Care Centre. This is in a very bad state of repair, though and needs to be to-

tally overhauled to become properly inhabitable again. We want to move our Sisters' Convent there to provide larger rooms for our Sisters and to enable us to use the rooms they will vacate in the Care Centre as guest rooms..

Air-Conditioning for the extension of the Children's Home

The extension of our Children's Home, which we will soon occupy is not yet air-conditioned. To save cost and energy we have planned to modify the existing air-conditioning system in the old section of the Children's Home and just cool all bedrooms in future.

Replacement of the concrete fence of the Pre-Primary School & Crèche

The concrete fence of our Preschool had been done very cheaply 18 years ago, because we had no funds for a better one. It had collapsed and we had to replace it.

Staff training and "skill training" for the children in our Children's Home

In-service-training is indispensable, especially when the personnel has to deal with children who have a difficult history. Skills are needed that supersede common sense by far. These children also have to learn and practise how to deal with frustrations resulting from their special situation. That is what this training is all about, which is currently running.

Plan for the future: A major energy saving concept

The research institute for energy in Munich developed an energy saving concept for us, that should enable us in future to enjoy major savings of our electricity bill. We have no quotations yet, but assume that we will have to invest about 1.5 million Rand for this project.

Continued from page 4:

**Dr Ruth Stark:
The Four M's of Father Gérard**

...
Father is gratified that most of the work these days is done by local members of the Brotherhood, that today he is the only foreign passport holder on the Board.

He likens the role of a missionary to the scaffolding on a building — when the building goes up, the scaffolding goes down. When he speaks about the local members, Father never fails to mention Clare Kalkwarf, the woman who dedicated her life to the work of the Brother from its earliest days. Murdered in 2006 when robbers broke into her small home, her life as well as her death testifies to the conflicting forces still at work in this beautiful land. Clare now lies in a grave on the grounds of the Brotherhood behind the chapel wall.

Today Father's main task is to raise funds and to create public awareness and interest in the centre, and he spends three months every year on fundraising in Europe. He is a master at communications technology and from his desk in Mandeni sends his messages out in cyberspace to reach the global community. In addition to his blog, information about the Blessed Gérard Care Centre can be found on at least ten different sites, Facebook and Twitter.

"What about the future, Father? Do you think you'll spend the future here?"

"My idea of retirement is to be the hospice chaplain—that I go from bed to bed and hold the hand of the patient, go back to basic nursing and basic pastoral care, feed the patients, talk to them, just be there, a good grandfather to the children in the home. That would be my dream..."

I look around the room at all those Maltese crosses and when I look back at him, I see the 900 year old Blessed Gérard.



A request to all our members in South Africa

Dear members of our Brotherhood,

we spend quite a considerable amount of money twice a year for postage to send you the invitations for our meetings and feasts by letter mail. Nevertheless we have the impression that many of you do not even receive these letters.

From now on we will send these invitations by e-mail and SMS.

Only members without e-mail and cell phone will receive invitations by letter mail in future.

Please make sure that our office has your correct and current e-mail address and/or cell phone number.

Kind regards
Father Gérard



We, the children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home, express our gratitude for all your benevolence and support on behalf of the several thousands of people, who have been helped, cared for and looked after through the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

How You can help us to help:

By joining us

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

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

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

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

Making a donation

If you live in South Africa:

Blessed Gerard's Care Centre, being a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, has also been approved on 2 July 2003 by the South African Revenue Services (SARS) for purposes of section 18A(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act, i.e. donations to Blessed Gerard's Care Centre are tax deductible. [Reference 18/11/13/2777]

This means that now we can issue South African donors with tax receipts for their donations, which they can use for tax deduction from the SARS. If you are a taxpayer in South Africa and want to utilise this facility, make sure, that you make your donation to **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**. (not to the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard!**). For donations of R500.00 and above we will issue such a receipt automatically.

You may make a donation directly into our banking account:

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

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

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

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

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

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

These should then be sent to:

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

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

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

We thank

**wholeheartedly for printing
this newsletter free of charge!**

Imprint:

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

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Mandeni 4490
Republic of South Africa
Phone +27 82 492 4043
Fax +27 86 693 8940
E-mail bbg@bbg.org.za
URL <http://bbg.org.za/>

**The jubilee celebration of the
20th anniversary of the foundation of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard
with the Investiture of Hans Peter and Maresi Rehder as Honorary Dedicated Members**
on Sunday, 28th October 2012, at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

We began the jubilee celebration with a **Solemn Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop Xolelo T Kumalo**



Nokuthula Thabethe read the first reading from Holy Scripture,



Fr. Gérard's monastic superior and our member Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B. of Inkamana Abbey, pronounced the Gospel (behind him Dr. Khaya Nzimande and the candidates for honorary dedicated membership Mrs. Maresi & Mr. Hans Peter Rehder from Hinterzarten/Germany).

The Bishop of our Diocese of Eshowe, our member Bishop Xolelo Thaddeus Kumalo, delivered a warm-hearted sermon acknowledging the importance of our foundation and the contribution of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard to the church and society.



The investiture began with the blessing of the capes by the bishop and

Dr. & Mrs. Thabethe invested Mr & Mrs Rehder with the capes of the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Elena Rehder, Monika Racher and Sr. Augustine were among the new members received.



The Dedicated Members read the Intercessions.



Bishop Kumalo, Abbot Godfrey, Fr. Ngcobo and Father Gérard at the Eucharistic Prayer.

Nokuthula Thabethe was presented with President's Award for the most outstanding volunteer in 2012



Patricia Ntuli got the President's Award for the most outstanding employee in 2012.



Patricia Ntuli got the President's Award for the most outstanding employee in 2012.

Victor Claudius was given a certificate of gratitude for his tremendous and very successful fund-raising efforts over many years.



Victor Claudius was given a certificate of gratitude for his tremendous and very successful fund-raising efforts over many years.

Amongst the recipients of the Commemorative Medal of the Order of Malta for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the



Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard were Caroline Beaumont

and Victor Claudius. Hans Peter & Maresi Rehder presented the medals to the honoured personalities.



Abbot Godfrey made a very moving speech admiring and praising our service over the years.



Children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home and Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche rounded off the celebration with their lively dances and singing,



choreographed and accompanied - as always - by our very special "drummer girl" Sr. Edith Zulu O.S.B.



Modern and traditional dances were presented



and the famous gumboot dancing concluded to wonderful celebration.

The speech of Father Gérard at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

Dear Father Bishop, Father Abbot, Reverend Fathers, Brother and Sisters,
Dear members, supporters and friends of our Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard,

As we celebrate 20 years of activity of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard today, which Mr and Mrs. Kalkwarf, Dr and Sr Thabethe and myself founded exactly on this day, the 28th of October, 20 years ago, one might be tempted to be proud of all our impressive statistics which we can rightfully boast with.

Yes, I am proud, even very proud, but not just about all these statistics – I am proud of you, the members of our Brotherhood,

- all 2394 of you – who make us the largest Catholic Relief Organisation in South Africa
- the 1386 of our active members, who look after those entrusted into our care,
- the 594 financial supporter members, who contribute to finance our work
- and the 369 spiritual supporters who take us and those in our care into their prayers and I remember especially all the 144 members of ours, who have already passed away but were active before).

Without all of you our Brotherhood would just be a juridical construct, a skeleton with Terabytes of data, many cubic meters of filed documents and dead papers full of information only.

You, our members, give our Brotherhood its life and its face.

It is the good words, the loving touches, the healing treatment, the consoling hugs, the uplifting hands, the pious prayers, the supportive advice, the nourishing feeding, the therapeutic counsel-

ling, the educating guidance, which makes our Brotherhood what it really is. It is not all about what we do, but it is much more about how we do what we do.

What impresses me the most is when for example foreign visitors come to us and tell me how impressed they are about the tender loving care given to our patients and our children by our personnel – employees and volunteers.

What impressed me a lot was when a doctor from the USA, who had seen many hospices all over the world, told me how impressed he was because we were the only hospice he had ever visited where the patients are smiling and laughing.

Who impresses me the most are those of you who are not clock watchers and job description minimalists, but who see what needs to be done and just do it.

Some of you have absolutely excelled and done much more than what could normally be expected and many of you have done this over many many years.

Therefore I have asked the Grandmaster of the Order of Malta in Rome to give special recognition to those of you, who have excelled in dedicated service over many years and I am proud to announce that the Order of Malta has rewarded these with a special medal commemorating this day of the 20th anniversary of our foundation today.

Before I award these long standing meritorious members with the medal of the Order of Malta I would like to mention the awards our Brotherhood itself has chosen to give.

1. Honorary Dedicated Membership

The highest ranking award that the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard can give is the Honorary Dedicated membership.

We have invested Hans Peter and Maresi Rehder today as Honorary Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

Ever since we first met during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 2008 they have supported us in an extraordinary way:

- They have hosted numerous fundraising-dinners for us persuading all their relatives, acquaintances and friends to donate substantial amounts for us.
- They have hosted me twice for a series of fundraising events in their area,
- they have successfully applied to the Röchling Foundation to donate a car to us – we would not have our “Caddy” if it were not for their interventions,
- They have done lots of lobbying and fundraising for us in their parish of Hinterzarten, with our colleagues of Malteser Hilfsdienst in the Diocese of Freiburg
- And many more activities which not even every Dedicated Member of ours may be able to match.

Therefore the Council of our Dedicated Members has decided to grant this highest honour we can give to Hans Peter and Maresi Rehder and we thank you wholeheartedly for your great support.

2. The President’s Award given by the President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

has for the first time been divided into two sections: One for the most outstanding volunteer and one for the most outstanding employee.

The Award can be given only once to any one person - and it is awarded by the sole discretion of the President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

The previous Award winners were
Caroline Beaumont in 2000,
Wiseman Zulu in 2001,
Victor Claudius in 2002,
Dorothy Wynne in 2003,
Sindi Ndlovu in 2004,
Fikile Mthethwa in 2005,
Susanne Stauffer in 2006,
Fr Siphon Gamede in 2007,
Angelika & Thomas Müller in 2008,
Johan Viljoen in 2009,
Fr Sithembiso Ngcobo in 2010,
Abbot Godfrey Sieber in 2011.

And in 2012 there are two Award winners:

As most outstanding volunteer I have chosen Sr. Nokuthula Thabethe in gratitude and acknowledgement of her faithful service in the governance of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, her leadership role as a Member of the Council of Blessed Gérard’s Care Centre, her service as founder and project manager of Blessed Gérard’s Malnutrition Clinic and her faithful service as a Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

As most outstanding employee I have chosen Patricia Ntuli in gratitude and acknowledgement of her faithful service as the principal of Blessed Gérard’s Pre-Primary School & Crèche as an Active Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

3. Certificates of gratitude for our main donors were awarded to

- SACBC AIDS Office
- Nampak South Africa
- SAPPI
- Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA)
- Networking HIV/AIDS Community (NACOSA) and
- Mr. Victor Claudius

4. Commemorative Medal of the Order of Malta for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



It is a very special honour and acknowledgement of our organisation that the Prince and Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller

Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta established and donated the “Commemorative Medal for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard”. Only few medals have been minted and they will be awarded to personalities who for a long period of time have excelled in a special way in their support of our organisation and its work.

The South African members who have excelled in

dedicated service over many years and who were awarded the medal by the Order of Malta are (in alphabetical order):



Caroline Beaumont, Ignatia Biyela, Nomvula Biyela, Verster Brent, Gloria Buthelezi, Victor Claudius, Patrick Dube, Joan Dunn, Bongumusa Mgenge, Dumisani Mlambo, Fikile Mthethwa, Ntombi Ndlangamandla, Sindi Ndlovu, Patricia Ntuli, Gavin Nunn, Carolyn Nunn, Yvonne Renaud, Sr. Eobarda Ries O.S.F., Sindi Sithole, Nokuthula Thabethe, Dr. Paul Thabethe, Dorothy Wynne, Lientije Yeo, Zanele Zikhali, Sr. Cynthia Zulu O.S.B., Nonhlanhla Zulu and Wiseman Zulu.

The overseas recipients of the medal will be notified and invited separately to an award ceremony.

5. Thank-you-flags

were given to the members of the Management Committee of Blessed Gérard’s Care Centre present:

Mr. Sven Anderson,
Mrs. Caroline Beaumont and
Dr. Khaya Nzimande.



**Blessed Gérard's
Care Centre**
Mandeni / South Africa



We at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre in Mandeni care for people living with HIV/AIDS at the hotspot of the AIDS pandemic in the world, the North Coast of Zululand in South Africa.



We give information to the public relating to HIV and AIDS, namely how to avoid HIV infection and how to live positively with AIDS. This includes information about antiretroviral treatment.

We send out mobile home-nursing teams, who supplement and support the family's home based care through hands-on training and additional aids in the home situation of the respective patient. This includes the assessment of patients at home and proper medical home care.



**A „heaven of care“
in the „hell of AIDS“**

We render a health care service to poor and needy persons by providing

- hospice palliative care, counselling and Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART) of persons afflicted with HIV/AIDS and terminally ill persons, including the care or counselling of their families and dependants in this regard
- primary health care education through training, home care, day care, outpatient and inpatient care.



Blessed Gérard's Children's Home:

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



Our HAART Programme comprises

Voluntary Counselling and HIV-Testing (VCT)

We promote and offer free and confidential HIV Tests to the general public.

Adherence Monitoring



Our Therapeutic Counsellors make monthly home visits of our patients on ARV-treatment to ensure that they adhere to the treatment and so to prevent treatment failure. This enables us to discover adverse drug reactions early and to

prevent problems.

Support Groups and Peer-Counselling

We have several Support Groups where our HAART Patients meet voluntarily to encourage and support one another and prevent isolation.



Some of the members were prepared to become peer counsellors for the adherence monitoring and we are about to give them the necessary training.

Motivation and Income Generation

Our Therapeutic Counsellors motivate and encourage our HAART patients to engage in income generating activities instead of expecting that their families or society would have to provide for them because they are sick.

HAART Readiness Courses



Before starting a patient on the medication we ensure that the patient gets sufficient information to give his informed consent and to understand the vital importance of the antiretroviral treatment for him/her.

Antiretroviral Treatment

We provide free Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment as comprehensive medical care including regular medical examinations, blood monitoring, on-going prevention or treatment of opportunistic infections, medical and psychosocial counselling and dispensing of the drugs.



AIDS
has many faces



but only one adequate response:

C A R E !

If you are HIV negative

If you are HIV positive

CARE not to get infected!

CARE not to get re-infected!

CARE not to discriminate against HIV positive people!

CARE to live positively with HIV/AIDS!

CARE to get information and updates about HIV/AIDS!

CARE to live a healthy lifestyle!

CARE

in any case:

CARE for people living with HIV/AIDS with friendship, compassion and respect!



Blessed Gérard's Care Centre was established by the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, which is the South African Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta. Its work is financed solely through fund-raising.

