



# Newsletter 2015

## Annual Report 2014



### 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

### Imprint:

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

This Newsletter and Annual Report is also published online at <http://www.bsg.org.za/en/our-organisation/publications-media/newsletters-annual-reports.html>



## 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



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.**

# When you're lacking the essentials of life

## Report on the work of our social worker Miss Myeza

Our social worker in Blessed Gérard's Care Center Miss Myeza has two main tasks. First she is vice manager of the Children's Home and secondly she is the contact person for our Bursary Fund and for our Relief Fund.

In this function she deals with a lot of enquiries from needy people who come for help because they are lacking the essentials of life.



Each case is different but they all have one thing in common: The poverty is gruesome.

I would like to describe you a quite normal case she has to deal with nearly every day, which shows very clearly the circumstances under which many people must live here in Mandini.

A friend and good neighbour of the family reported this case to our office

### The Case of the Sinenkinga\* family:

The Sinenkinga family lives at Manda farm, in Sundumbili Township. The family consists of two siblings, Dingusizo and Hluphekile. Their parents and another younger sister passed away a while ago. The younger sister left behind three children, a boy aged six and a boy aged nine years and a girl aged seven years. They were entrusted into the care of their uncle Dingusizo. Hluphekile has three children of her own. That makes a household of eight, living in one yard but two different flats. The only breadwinner in the family is Dingusizo. He earns his money washing cars at Sundumbili Plaza. His sister Hluphekile is without work. Both, sister and brother don't see eye to eye and especially when they have consumed alcohol

they start to fight each other. The financial circumstances and the alcoholism cause a severe neglect of the children. One of the boys who is taken care of by his uncle is on chronic medication, which is vital for him. Due to his uncle's inability to care for the children the boy has already missed several appointments in the local clinic. The uncle can't even apply for Foster Care Grant for the children because he lost his ID, or never had one. Hluphekile having three children and being unemployed, does not receive any child support grant due to the fact that she never registered the birth of her children. Her oldest child, who his 14 dropped out of school a year ago with no reason and the mother didn't follow up on this. She cannot re-apply for school because of the missing documents.

Our social worker, Miss Myeza helped the family as follows:

- Miss Myeza agreed with the reporting neighbour that he will follow up on the chronically ill child's medical care and
- our doctor agreed that the boy receives all necessary medical health care from our side.
- She assisted Dingusizo to try to get his ID so that he can apply for child support grants.
- She counsels the family and advises them in parental skills.
- She linked the family to the relevant stakeholders such as school, Department of Home Affairs and Department of Social Development.
- She visited the Family several times and
- supplied them with food parcels and child clothes to relieve the worst need.

\*Sinenkinga, Hluphekile and Dingusizo are not their real names.





Hayne Clark

## Our First Camp



On the 15 July 2014 the boys of Blessed Gerard's Children's Home went on their first ever camping expedition, which took place at Nkwazi Camp on the Kwazulu-Natal North Coast.

From the time the announcement was made that the boys would be going on a camp, our home was abuzz with excitement. Every day Mr. Clark would be swamped with questions ranging from "Will we have to cook our own food?" to "Will we have to hunt for own food?" At every opportunity, in the weeks leading up to the camp, groups of boys would gather to discuss plans and possible experiences in hushed tones, going over every detail and building the spirit of adventure that was fast consuming them all. By the last week before the camp, excitement and anticipation were at a fever pitch and dreams filled with camping adventures ruled the hours of slumber. With one day to go, checks and double checks were done to ensure that all the necessary gear was packed. Finally the day of departure arrived, and the boys, who scarcely could contain themselves, bundled into the bus that would take them to their first camping experience.

On arrival, they were given a briefing, where camping and safety guidelines were explained. The first task at hand was to pitch the tents. Some struggled to understand and visual-



ize the process of pitching the tent, while others made short work of joining the tent poles and getting the tents up and secure. Boys were divided into small groups and tasks, chores and responsibilities were explained. Supper needed to be prepared and a beef stew, cooked on the fire in a three-legged pot, commonly called a 'potjie', was on the menu. The groups quickly got to the tasks at hand. Some collected firewood while others cleaned and

peeled veggies in preparation for the cooking of the meal. The entire trip was designed to be an exercise in self-reliance and self-sufficiency with all the cooking, cleaning and other

chores to be done by the boys themselves. They showed brilliant teamwork as they made the fire and cooked the meal, under the watchful eye of Mr. Clark. After supper everybody sat around the fire chatting, laughing and telling stories. This activity was accompanied by the traditional roasting of marshmallows. After a few hours of fireside fun the boys retired to their tents. This, however, was not the end of the evening as the boys lay in their sleeping bags in the dark telling ghost stories until after midnight.

The next morning, surprisingly, the boys were up early with only one thing on their minds...the beach. After a quick breakfast, washing of dishes, neatening of tents and taking of showers everybody was ready to go. With water bottles in hand they set off for the ocean. The hike was a few kilometres long, walking along the banks of the Amatikulu estuary until it reached the ocean. The boys enjoyed the walk and



broke a sweat which made the cool waters of the Indian Ocean that much more appealing. On arrival at the destination time was taken to explain the dangers of swimming in the ocean and how to enjoy it responsibly. Without any encouragement needed, the boys sprinted into the water where they spent the next few hours playing in the waves and on the sea shore. Needless to say, the long walk back to camp was not as interesting or enjoyable as getting to the beach. After lunch we explored the camp more and began preparing the equipment for the fishing trip the next day. A hearty BBQ supper was prepared and wolfed down. I was surprised at how much growing boys can eat. Unlike the previous night, there was no long, drawn out stories around fire session as everybody seemed too tired to keep their eyes opened.

The next morning, after all the regular activities and chores

were done, the gear and bait was gathered and off to the estuary we went, with hopes of catching a few fish which we would clean and cook for lunch. Unfortunately that was not to be. Whether it was the sudden, hot weather or the fish just weren't hungry we don't know but we didn't catch a single fish that morning. The boys soon found other activities much more interesting than waiting for the fish to bite. A combination of the heat and the allure of the cool water soon proved irresistible and they opted for swimming instead of fishing. They had a great time playing games in the shallows and a 'sea-grass war' ensued as they formed two teams and threw clumps of sea-grass at each other.



With an appetite built up we headed back to camp. The fire was quickly resurrected and the sausages were cooked and enjoyed with bread and a cold drink. After lunch the boys opted to give the fishing another try but this time in the ocean, which I perceived as being an excuse to go to the beach. I was correct. The interest in fishing seemed to vanish at the sight of the waves and only one activity was on their minds...swimming. They won and most of them spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying the waves. A few opted for casting lessons and trying their hand at fishing in the ocean. Jody hooked a fish that proved to be a little too strong for him and after a three minute fight he lost the fish. Although the fish did not play along, it was a day well spent. It was lovely to listen to the boys merrily singing and laughing as we made our way back to camp.

Back at camp I informed the boys that we would be having dinner guests that evening. Aunt Caroline, who works at the Care Centre, her family and Mr. Clark's wife would be joining us for supper. This spurred the boys on to neaten the camp and get everything ready for our guests. A delicious chicken dinner was prepared. As the cooking, cleaning and fire-tending unfolded one could clearly see which individuals possessed leadership qualities. I was pleasantly surprised at how efficient and proficient at preparing and cooking the meals they were. Our guests arrived to a sea of smiles, which grew in size when they saw the bags of marshmallows our guests were carrying. The boys impressed with good service, friendly conversation and good behaviour. An enjoyable evening was

had by all and with a belly full of chicken and marshmallows our guests headed home and the boys headed for bed. Sadly it was the last night of camp and we would be heading home the next day.



Once again the boys were up at the crack of dawn. The fire was made, water boiled and coffee and hot chocolate prepared. With it being the last morning the boys were given the liberty of choosing

how they would spend the last few hours before we left at midday. It didn't take more than a minute for the decision to come. Yes, you are correct; they chose swimming in the ocean. No surprise there, they love the ocean. Before we could head off to the ocean the camp had to be broken, tents taken down and everything packed away in the trailer. This was done in record time and the boys were ready to go. As expected they loved the waves and the sea shore. As we climbed over the dunes leaving the ocean behind, some of the boys took advantage of the soft sand dunes and began executing gymnast-like flips and tumbles. This proved infectious and soon everybody was jumping off the edge of the dune in delight. When all their energy had been expended we headed back to camp to hook up the trailer, say goodbye to the camp manager and leave Nkwazi Camp behind us.

As we drove back home, one question kept popping up "Mr. Clark, when are we going camping again?" I don't blame them; it was a lovely experience and a great way to end the winter holiday.



## Empowering self-sufficiency

### Education, the pivotal key to a good future

Our Bursary Fund

During the last few months the bursary committee was engaged in sighting and checking the numerous applications for training grants and study support.

After a careful examination we could award thirty-five applicants with a grant.

With these grants we help to finance e.g. nurse education, a Bachelor of Pharmacy and one of Psychology, a Bachelor in Physiotherapy, several Bachelors of Social Work. We also award book grants and living grants.

We also support children whose parents cannot pay any school fees.

We award our grants for a year and at re-application for the subsequent year the applicants have to proof that they have passed their exams.

So we make sure that the donation monies of our benefactors are handled carefully and conscientiously.

We can all in all make promises to grants in the value of almost 80 thousand Dollars (929.336 ZAR) this year.

The children in Blessed Gérard's Children's Home who leave us after finishing school successfully are of course also entitled to education support.

Most young people in South Africa are dependent on such training allowances. In this country education is a luxury good and simultaneously the only possibility of escaping from the circulation of unemployment, poverty and illness.



Visiting three of our students, former wards of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home, in Durban



**Caring without borders**

## A Prayer Answered

### Gogo's Family

Our Relief Fund

Do you remember the article in our last Newsletter 2014 about the family which came to ask for help because they lived in a leaking and falling apart mud house?



This is an update on their story.

Our Home-Care Team still pays a visit to the family regularly, primarily to monitor the grandmother's health but also to see the progress, which the construction of the new house makes.



On Monday, the 4th of March we once again went with the Home-Care Team for yet another visit and to view the construction progress.

The family was in and they showed us proudly their new home. We brought a care package, which included blankets, beddings and some clothing as well as some food like maize, rice, beans and samp.

The family was very grateful to Mangete Catholic Church, which had built the house with substantial financial assistance from Blesed Gérard's Relief Fund, as well as to the Blessed Gérard's Care Centre social worker who has helped them dealing with government departments and all that have assisted in building their new home.



## The only meal this day

for the poorest and smallest in society

Our Pre-Primary School & Crèche



When I visited the Care Center in Mandeni in April last year I was particularly looking forward to revisiting their Pre-Primary – School and Crèche. At my first visit I was greatly impressed by the good work they are doing there. The area, in which the Crèche is situated, is an

especially poor area. Most of the fathers have to go very far to find work and the mothers stay behind and have to raise their children alone. The Crèche offers the children a safe place while the mothers can go to work and the children receive a good preschool education, which is very important for a good start in school. Since my last visit to the Crèche the building was enlarged. A second class room was added to create space for the steadily growing number of children. When we arrived they just had lunch. For some of the children this is the only meal they get on this day. 60 little children were sitting and waiting for their porridge incredibly well behaved. They use a special porridge prepared for malnourished children. One portion of it already provides all the necessary nutrients the body needs per day. Later they showed me their hand drawn pictures and writing exercises with lots of enthusiasm. Finally they performed a traditional tribal dance.

The little children were delighted to present their Zulu dances and accompanied them by beating drums. This visit was very moving for me. It was a real pleasure to see the joy and eagerness of the children.

The Crèche was opened in January 1995 and the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard has done a marvelous work for the poorest and smallest in the South-African society for twenty years now. I really hope that they will succeed in carrying on for many more years to come.

## Feeling comfortable

through patience, empathy and time

Our Hospice

I would like to tell you about Thobile, one of our oldest patients. She came to us more than three years ago. Thobile is about eighty years old and suffering from dementia.

Her neighbors had brought her because she had nobody to care for her. Since this time Thobile lives with us in the hospice.

Now Thobile is completely dependent on our nursing care. She has withdrawn into her own world and it is increasingly difficult to communicate with her. In her dementia she is often distrustful and afraid. The everyday care is not easy.

But Thobile loves her baby doll affectionately. She holds her in her arms and sings for her. She considers the doll her own child.

This love for her “baby” now shows us the way, how to communicate with Thobile.

We talk to her baby and everything we would like to do with Thobile, we do with her baby first. We wash the baby then we may help Thobile. First we feed the baby and then Thobile will eat as well.

It requires patience, empathy and time to do every nursing step with a doll first but this helps to overcome Thobile’s fears.

Thanks to our numerous volunteer helpers we can take all the time that Thobile needs to feel comfortable.”



Maresi Rehder

## Inside the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

### Why do you do this? Questioning myself



For some years now I have been a member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

First watching from far, then as a financial supporter and now as an active member whenever I am in Mandeni.

In addition to that I was honoured with the Honorary Dedicated Membership.

I have visited the Care Centre quite often and it looks as if I will do this even more often in future.

I am in charge of the foreign voluntary helpers and I help as much as possible in German public relations and fundraising.

Meanwhile I'm quite well known in the Care Centre. Wherever I turn up with my camera, asking a lot of questions for the German Newsletter and taking pictures, all the volunteers and employees are extremely nice and helpful.

I love these conversations, learning about the different ways of living.

There is one question I'm always asked, no matter if it is a patient, a nurse, a voluntary helper or a child:

#### ***Why do you do this?***

I think it is time to give this question a good thought.

My first answer, very spontaneously would be: "Because I like it. I like the people I meet and what I am doing" but this wouldn't be enough.

There are more reasons.

I grew up in a catholic family in which hospitality and the interest in the guest was always very important. Our house was always open to a lot of very different guests.

My father with his distinctive liking for hobos, taught me that despite of the outside, there is always a person inside that is worth it to be discovered.

This hospitality, getting out of hands sometimes, this welcoming attitude towards the poor and the big devoutness of my grandmother has stamped me from early childhood on.

From my grandmother I learned that Christ wants to meet me in every person that needs my help. "Sometimes this is hard to believe, especially when this person is unfriendly or dirty or stinks, but never give up, I know it's worth it."

I believe these two points of view were decisive that I found my way into the Order of Malta.

We believe that every poor, sick and needy person shows us Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore we try to serve the sick and needy as we would serve our Lord.

I want to be part of this idea and try to live accordingly to this commitment.

It is a reassuring thought that in a lot of countries many people live according to these ideals.

My first encounter with the work of the Brotherhood dates back some years. My husband and I were on a Pilgrimage of the Order to the Holy Land when we met Father Gérard.

I was deeply impressed from what he told us about Mandeni. So impressed, that, once back home, it continued to work in my thoughts.

I started to become active, we raised some money and organised presentations. We were quite successful.

Despite all activities and all knowledge about the work in South Africa, the most important impact on my engagement had my first visit to the Care Centre.

Here I found a **work** of the Order of Malta that embodies the ideals of the Order in an almost perfect way.

The idea that every human being has his own dignity that is worth being protected; here they put it into action.

The idea that every sick and needy person shows us the suffering face of Jesus Christ, that therefore every patient in our hospice is our honoured guest; here they live it every day.

The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard is host for many sick, poor or desperate people and I am thankful to be a small part of it, trying to do my best in helping where I'm needed.

I firmly believe that God somehow shows us our place where we are needed.

We just have to answer the call.





# Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

## Annual Report 2014

The activities of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** and of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** in the year 2013, as 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

through home care, day care, outpatient and inpatient care.

**Blessed Gérard's Children's Home:**

We look after, counsel and give a home to **orphans and vulnerable children**.

**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.

### Special events in the year 2014:

The visit of the Prince and Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, Frà Matthew Festing OBE, TD, DL, from 8th to 14th April 2014 in Mandeni, was not only the most outstanding event of the year, but a privilege of extraordinary importance.



*Children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home welcome the Grandmaster at Durban International Airport.*



The Grandmaster attending Holy Mass at Blessed Gérard's Church in Mandeni,



visiting Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche



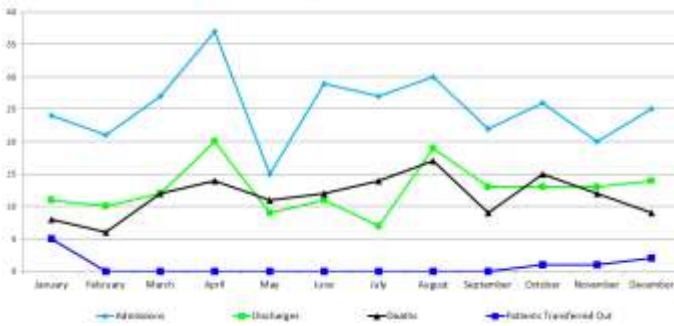
and the terminally ill at Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

(See article on pages 13—17)

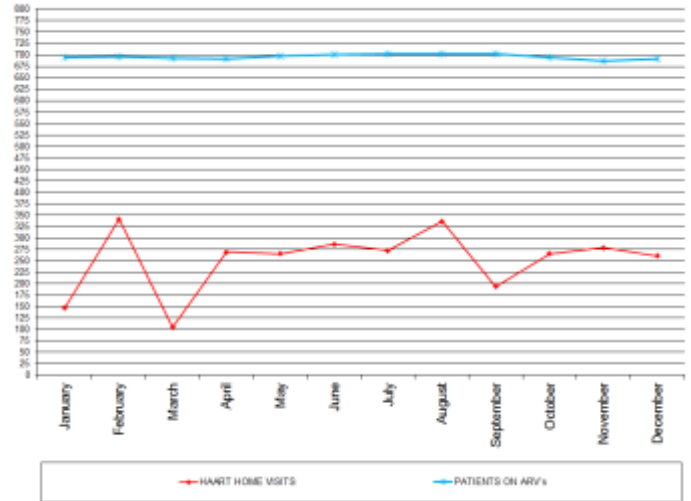
# Activity Report 2014

## 2014 Statistics: Graphs

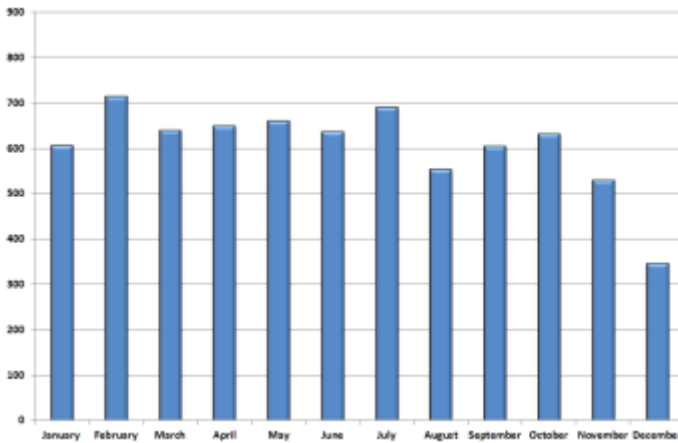
Hospice Statistics 2014



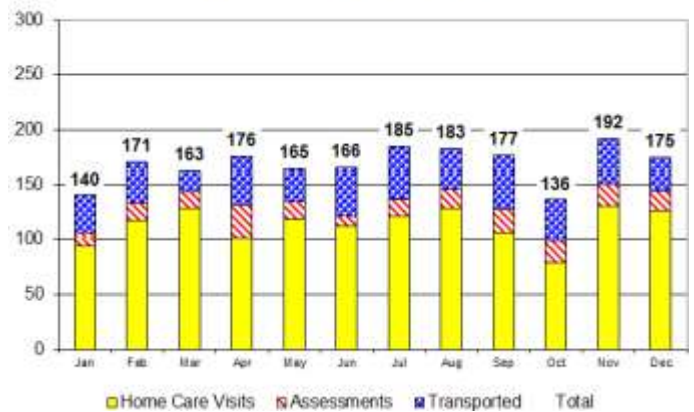
HAART PROGRAMME 2014



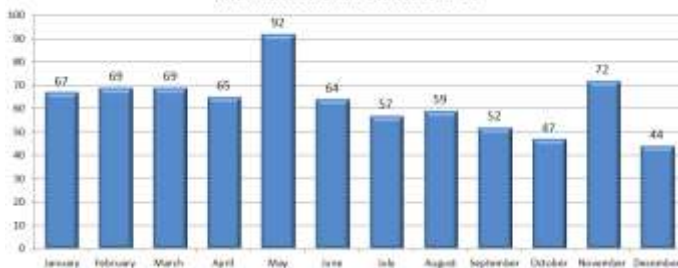
Total Outpatient Consultations 2014



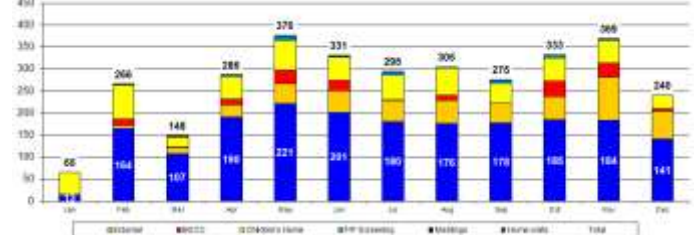
Home Care Team 2014



Malnutrition Clinic Statistics 2014



Social Worker Consultations - 2014



## 2014 Statistics: Numbers

	2014	1992-2014	increase
Bursaries awarded	9		
HAART: VCT (Voluntary Counselling and HIV testing) done	14		
Children in Children's Home	27		
Children in our Pre-Primary School and Crèche	81		
Patients who passed away in our hospice	139		
Patients admitted to our hospice (inpatients)	303		
HAART: Patients in the AIDS treatment programme	736		
Home Care Patients	1106		
Home visits by Home Care Team	1360		
Consultations (Malnutrition Clinic)	1514		
Home visits by HAART therapeutic counsellors	2756		
Consultations done by our social worker	3289		
Outpatient consultations	7264		
<b>Accumulated Statistics</b>			
New HAART patients (Hospice)	5	1506	0.3%
New outpatients (Hospice)	15	1868	0.8%
Social cases (Relief Fund)	58	1818	3.2%
New Home Care Patients (Hospice)	210	4304	4.9%
Inpatient admissions (Hospice)	303	4381	6.9%
Patients transported by ambulance (Hospice)	459	4933	9.3%
Patients counselled (Hospice)	303	2690	11.3%

## Financial Audit:

The Financial Audit of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre for 2014 yielded impeccable results again which we are absolutely proud of.

## Personnel:

### Membership Statistics

As on: 31 December 2014		development 2013	
1431	Active members	+18	+1,3%
627	Financial supporters	+13	+2,1%
367	Spiritual supporters	+1	+0,3%
<b>2425</b>	<b>Members in total</b>	<b>+32</b>	<b>+1,3%</b>

### Employees

Three employees left us in 2014 and four new staff members were welcomed: Sr. Thandeka Mbokazi and Sr. Thulisiwe Ntombela (Registered Professional Nurses), Muzikayifani Magwaza (driver) and Muziwandile Mbatha (maintenance assistant)

## Public Relations:

### Internet:

Our new homepage **moved to** [www.bsg.org.za](http://www.bsg.org.za) while our old website is still available at [www.bbg.org.za](http://www.bbg.org.za)

You will also find us on Social Media:

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BBG.ORG.ZA>

**Google+:**

<https://plus.google.com/110017496259664788354/posts>

**LinkedIn:** <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1833474>

**Twitter:** @FatherGerard · <https://twitter.com/FatherGerard>

**YouTube:** <http://www.youtube.com/user/FATHERGERARD>

**XING:** <https://www.xing.com/net/priffc80x/brotherhood/>

## Film and Television

Director Ingo Langner came to us with a camerateam from 23rd to 28th August 2014 to film scenes for his film „**The face of Christ. The Jesus Trilogy of Benedict XVI.**“ which will be broadcast for the first time by Bavarian Television on Easter 2015.

Tellux Film were commissioned to make a film about Pope Benedict XVI's book "Jesus of Nazareth". Benedict XVI calls his book "a search for the face of Christ".

The intention of the film is to search the face of Christ in our world today.

The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre were proposed by Bavarian Television to showcase the mission work of the Church.



The German Newspaper "Tagespost" wrote on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014:

"Because Benedict XVI calls his book a search for the face of Christ, the film team travelled to countries where other people make the face of Christ shine, like in South Africa, where the Bavarian Missionary Benedictine Father Gérard Lagleder is in charge of an AIDS Hospice in Zululand, the AIDS capital of the world ..."

The report about our work will be longer than 6 Minutes, which is considered quite significant.

The vice director of the film offered to make a short **promotional film** for us.

The entire cost of this would be carried by his film company.

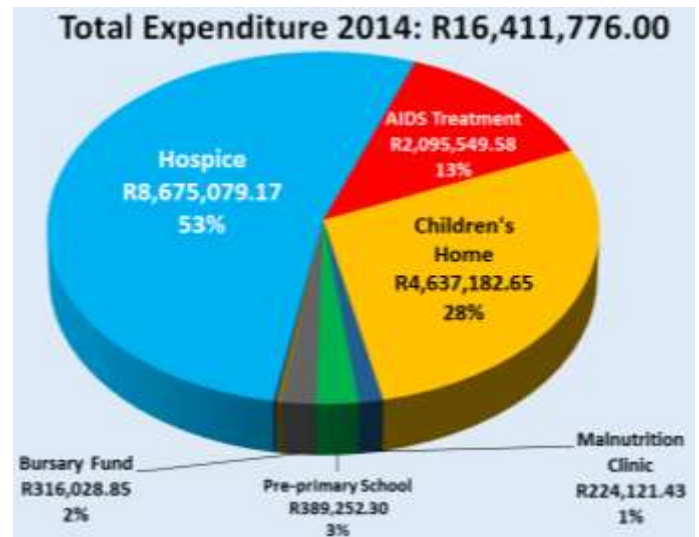
Fr. Gérard will meet him in Germany on 28th April 2015 and has suggested the filming to be done after his return to Mandeni in August 2015.



When Father Gérard was presented a **donation of R500,000.00** by the „**Orlando Pirates**“ Soccer Club on 18th November 2014 he gave several interviews to South African TV channels. He was quite surprised when even strangers greeted him afterwards and said: „Oh, we saw you on TV! We are glad that you got this wonderful support!“

# Finance Report 2014

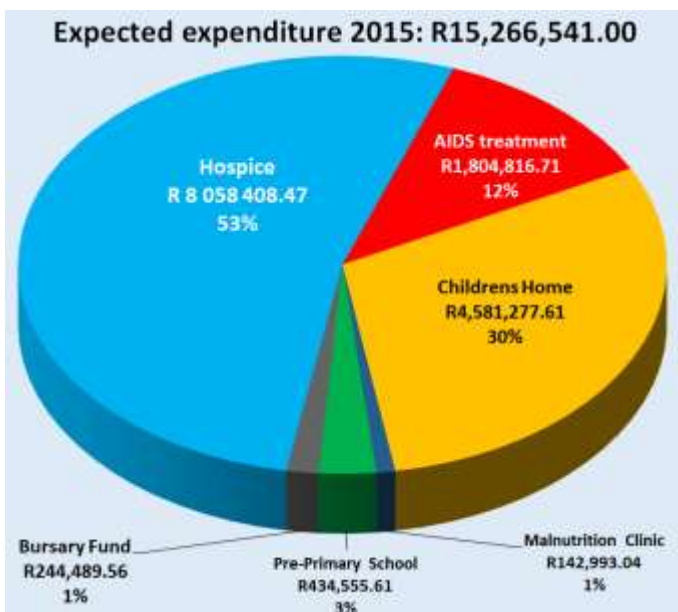
Figures in South African Rand (ZAR)



We wholeheartedly thank all our donors for enabling us to render our services.

We serve an impoverished community.

Therefore we offer all our services free of charge and have to rely solely on donations and grants to finance our work.



The following **Special Expenditures** are not contained in the list of expected running cost:

1. Our **industrial dishwasher**, which had been donated to us by Toyota South Africa many years ago as a second hand appliance, is now beyond repair and has to be replaced. Our kitchen personnel had to wash the dishes for about 500 meal portions per day by hand. Cost: **R77,000.00**
2. Unfortunately we also have to replace the **furniture of our central kitchen** which after 18 years of use has badly deteriorated, in order to maintain our high standard of hygiene. Cost: **R182,000.00**
3. One of the cars, which our Therapeutic Counsellors use to visit the 800 patients in our AIDS treatment programme at their homes for adherence monitoring has after six years of service more than 200,000 km on the odometer and ought to be replaced soon. Cost: **R260,000.00**
4. The replacement of our defective **ironing machine in our central laundry**. Our laundry works 12 hours per day, 7 days per week, which is a great strain on the equipment. Cost: **R70,000.00**
5. The purchase and installation of a **photovoltaic system** that will enable us to counteract the tremendously rising cost of electricity in South Africa. Cost: **R1,500,000.00**, because we also have to replace the roof of Blessed Gérard's Community Centre to enable it to carry the weight of the system.



# Frà Matthew Festing, the Prince and Grandmaster of the Order of Malta, visited the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard from 8th to 14th April 2014.

His Most Eminent Highness has been a member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard since 9th July 2002. We are enormously pleased that he accepted the highest Award and Honour which the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard can grant.

**Thus Frà Matthew Festing  
was invested as an "Honorary Dedicated Member" of the  
Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on Palm Sunday 2014.**



Father Alan Moss O.M.I., Bishop Xolelo Kumalo and Father Gérard at the blessing of the palms prior to the palm procession.

The lectionary is brought to the altar in solemn procession according to African custom.



Our Dedicated Member Dr. Nzimande reading the epistle.

Bishop Kumalo preached the homily



and blessed the cape for the new Honorary Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard: Frà Matthew.

Dedicated Members Dr. Paul and Sr. Nokuthula Thabethe invested Frà Matthew with the cape



and Father Gérard, who had presided over the reception ceremonies presented Frà Matthew with the members' medal

and wished him God's abundant blessings as new Honorary Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



The new Associate Members of the Brotherhood also received their members' medal.

Because we unfortunately did not have a good photograph of Frà Matthew as Honorary Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, he kindly sent us this picture depicting him next to their relic of Blessed Gérard in the chapel of the Grand Magistracy of the Order of Malta in Rome.

We thank him wholeheartedly for the great honour.



The Grandmaster of the Order of Malta awarded highly meritorious Honorary Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard with the Order Pro Merito Melitensi of the Order of Malta at the subsequent function:



**Maximilian Rauecker** from Traunstein/Germany with the Officer's Cross pro Merito Melitensi



**Johannes Lagleder** from Neuburg/Germany with the Cross pro Merito Melitensi



**Gabriele Rauecker** from Traunstein/Germany and



**Dr. Andreas Heinze** from Beinheim/France with the Silver Medal Pro Merito Melitensi



Then the tide

turned and Frà Matthew was awarded, not in his capacity as the Grandmaster of the Order of Malta, but in his capacity as a longstanding and very helpful member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. So Father Gérard presented him with the "Commemorative Medal for the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard".



The same medal was presented by the commissioner of the Order of Malta for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, Guy Count of Moy, to the former Grand Hospitaller and current Grand Chancellor of the Order of Malta, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, who has been a member

of our Brotherhood for the last 20 years.

Some local deserving members of our organisation have also been awarded the Jubilee Medal. Among them was the head of our Children's Home Hayne Clark.



Grand Master Frà Matthew said moving words of thanks and recognition and encouraged us to persevere in our good work. He promised his further help and made us feel how much we are part of the wonderful family of the Order of Malta.

Dr. Thabete presented the Grand Master our emblem as a Zulu shield (made from real skin) as a sign of our gratitude



and Dr. Nzimande presented Baron Boeselager a Zulu carving, which expresses symbolically the motto of Zululand "Songqoba Simunye" (United we will win).

# Admission to the Order of Malta

The Grandmaster of the Order of Malta, Frà Matthew Festing, invested six members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard as members of the Order of Malta on 14th April 2014:  
**Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM, Bishop Xolelo Kumalo, Dr. Paul Thabethe, Nokuthula Thabethe, Yvonne Renaud and Dr. Khaya Nzimande.**

The members of the Order of Malta are called "Brothers who come to the service of the poor" and „Servants of the Poor of the Lord" in the original monastic rule. In later versions of the rule this is extended and the members are called "brothers acceding for the service to the poor and to protect the Catholic faith". It was already in the 13th century that members of the Order promised "to be servants and slaves of our Lords, the sick". The Order of Malta is not an order of merit, but a religious order, which takes its members on duty to humbly serve the needy.

The Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood devote themselves with all their heart, with all their soul and with all their strength (cf. Dtn 6.5) to Jesus Christ and his body, the church (cf. 1 Cor 12.27), by striving to be the yeast (cf. Gal 5.9) of God's love in their entire life as members of their family, community, at their work and in their leisure time. Over and above this, their special task is to initiate, facilitate, guide, support and bear responsibility for the activities of the Brotherhood. For the Dedicated Membership only baptised and confirmed members of the Roman Catholic Church qualify, who are known for their outstanding character, loyalty to the Church and good Christian life.

This attitude and practice of lived charity is also one of the requirements for admission to the Order of Malta. Therefore it was an immense joy for us that the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council (Board) of the Order of Malta accepted our request to admit our Dedicated Members to the Order.

It was on 14 April 2015 that the Grandmaster himself admitted

- Wilfrid Fox Cardinal Napier O.F.M. as Bailli of Honour and Devotion

- Bishop Xolelo Thaddeus Kumalo as Conventual Chaplain ad honorem



- Dr. Paul Thabethe, Sr. Nokuthula Thabethe and



- Dr. Khayelihle Nzimande as Donats of Devotion



to the Order of Malta. The gentlemen were invested with the cuculla of the order and the lady with the cape of the order.



The Grandmaster presented the priests, gentlemen and the ladies with the Cross of the Order. (The photo shows the Cross for the Bailli of Honour and Devotion, Cardinal Napier.



We remember with reverence and gratitude our late South African member of the Order of Malta, Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf, who had been a member of the Order of Malta since 2000, most recently as a Dame of Magistral Grace, until her assassination in 2006.



Fra ' Matthew presented the Order's Cross on the day before to Yvonne Renaud who could not participate at the investiture because she was hospitalised.

Thus South Africa now has seven members of the Order of Malta, the six newly admitted and


The members of the Order of Malta across the globe endeavor to live in the spirit of our Order's prayer:

Lord Jesus, you have counted me worthy to enlist me for your service among the Members of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. I humbly entreat you through the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin of Philermo, of Saint John the Baptist, Blessed Gérard and all the Saints and Blessed of our Order, to keep me faithful to the traditions of our Order. Be it mine to practice and defend the Catholic, the Apostolic, the Roman faith against the enemies of religion; be it mine to practice charity towards my neighbours, especially the poor and sick. Give me the strength I need to carry out this my resolve, forgetful of myself, learning ever from the holy Gospel a spirit of deep and generous Christian devotion, striving ever to promote God's glory, the world's peace, and all that may benefit the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. Amen.

Father Gérard, who has been a member of the Order of Malta for over twenty years.





  
THE PRINCE AND GRAND MASTER  
SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

24 April 2014

Dear Father Gerard,

I am so sorry not to have written to you till now about my visit to Mandeni. We had rather a complicated journey home and I arrived much later than I was expecting. Please forgive me for not having written to you at Easter.

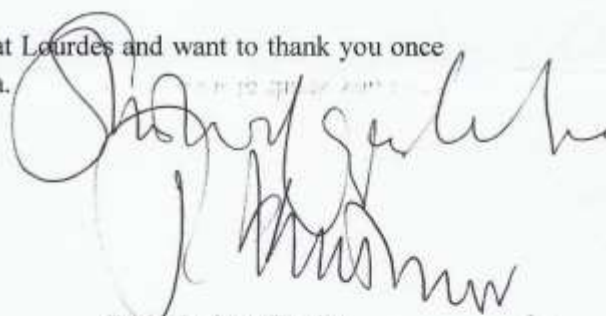
I enjoyed my visit enormously and I am absolutely full of admiration for what you are doing. You set a wonderful example which the rest of the Order should emulate. Please will you pass on my congratulations to everybody at Mandeni. They were all so incredibly kind, hospitable and welcoming.

I thought that all the various ceremonies and events were absolutely excellent and you deserve congratulations for having everything so well organised.

Thank you also for laying on the visits to the wild life park, the battle fields and the museums of Zulu history. I was absolutely fascinated by everything you showed us and the whole thing was beautifully organised.

I very much look forward to seeing you at Lourdes and want to thank you once again indeed for a wonderful visit to South Africa.

With best wishes.



Fra Matthew Festing

Reverend Father  
Gerard Tonque LAGLEDER, O.S.B.,  
President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gerard  
del S.M.O. di Malta  
P.O. Box 440  
4490 MANDENI  
SUD AFRICA

MAGISTRAL PALACE - VIA CONDOTTI, 68 - ROME

# Celebrating the Feast of Blessed Gérard

on 12th October 2014 in Mandeni.

Outstanding members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard were honoured for their extraordinary merits at the function after the service in church:

Caroline Clark, who has meanwhile emigrated to Australia, was presented with the Commemorative Medal for the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard“.



The **President’s Award for the most outstanding employee** in 2014 was presented to **Sin-disiwe Angeline Sithole**

“in gratitude and acknowledgement of her faithful service as an active member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and caregiver at Blessed Gérard’s Hospice.”



**We care in any case**



Caroline Beaumont, our longest serving employee, and many other faithful employees were presented with their Jubilee Employment Certificates.

Maresi Rehder, this time in her capacity as the Diocesan Superior of Malteser Hilfsdienst Freiburg/Germany, presented a donation of 750 Euro for Blessed Gérard’s Children’s Home from the Sponsored Swimming Competition of the Malteser Youth of Freiburg.



The **President’s Award for the most outstanding volunteer** in 2014 was presented to **Sr. Edith Zulu OSB**

“in gratitude and acknowledgement of her faithful service as an active member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and as a volunteer at Blessed Gérard’s Children’s Home.”



**Caring without borders**



## Stunning facts from the OXFAM report

[https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file\\_attachments/hidden\\_hunger\\_in\\_south\\_africa\\_0.pdf](https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/hidden_hunger_in_south_africa_0.pdf)

# HIDDEN HUNGER IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE FACES OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN A FOOD-SECURE NATION



**SOUTH AFRICA HAS A POPULATION OF 53 MILLION PEOPLE**  
**1 IN 4 PEOPLE SUFFER HUNGER**

EXPERIENCING HUNGER  
**32.4%**

URBAN INFORMAL

RURAL INFORMAL

EXPERIENCING HUNGER  
**37.0%**

AT RISK OF HUNGER  
**36.1%**



AT RISK OF HUNGER  
**32.8%**

Source: SAMWVS 2013



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**.



# Kindly help us to help!

## All our services entirely depend on your support!

### How You can help us to help:

#### By joining us

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

#### By a donation

towards our charity work. Financial contributions are most needed.

If you want to donate goods, kindly contact us beforehand to make sure that the donation will be really useful.

#### By making us a beneficiary

in your Last Will and Testament.

#### By your prayers

that God may bless our service and those we serve.

### Making a donation

#### If you live in **South Africa**:

Donations to Blessed Gerard's Care Centre are tax deductible. [Reference 18/11/13/2777]

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.

If you want to donate regularly, please organise a stop order on your account.

#### 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](mailto:father@bbg.org.za)

### Pledge to donate

Kindly indicate  how you would like to support the patients of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard:

I want to support the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard as a **Donor member** through an  annual  quarterly  monthly donation of (amount): \_\_\_\_\_ (currency) \_\_\_\_\_

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr): \_\_\_\_\_

First Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname or Company/Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

(use letters, not figures for the month) \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postal/ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

☎ (home) Code \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

☎ (work) Code \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Code \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Homepage URL: <http://> \_\_\_\_\_

Signed at: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form to the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**  
 P O Box 440 - Mandeni 4490 - Republic of South Africa

Fax +27 86 6938940

See <http://bbg.org.za/finance/donation.htm> for information about obtaining tax deductible certificates in several countries.