

LESELI

June 2016

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM HOLY FAMILY OF BORDEAUX P.O. BOX 538 MASERU 100 LESOTHO

EDITORIAL

Pope Francis has declared this year, in the three years dedicated to family life, as the year of celebrating the jubilee of mercy. We all have our different understandings and interpretations of this, but what remains is that there are acts of mercy that we together with the church ought to do.

The earlier version of the copy of Catechism has all the works of mercy clearly stipulated, but that is not enough. We live in a world which is calling unto us to exercise fully the virtue of patience, love, humility and seeking justice. We are challenged daily to be the Witnesses of the love of Christ in our torn world.

It is therefore now time to re-negotiate the living of mercy in today's world, see what it is that needs our attention the most..... DISCERN, it is by doing this that we will be able to live and celebrate this jubilee without any hindrances. Let us be merciful like our creator!!!!!!!



WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE

Our country has not been very peaceful since the general elections in February 2015, a few happenings has left some families without members of their loved ones, either by death or imprisonment. We still remember the brutal killing of the head of the army by some members of the army. It was after this that some members were imprisoned because they were suspected to have plotted a mutiny to overthrow the army commander. These members are still in prison and with the coming event of Father's day, their children are planning to celebrate this day together.

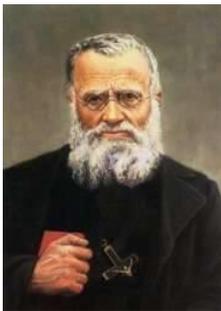


They have organised a walk that is indirectly a way of raising awareness to the society at large of how it feels to have a father and yet he is absent in one's life. This however has not pleased the members of the army. Fr. Charles Matsoso OMI in his show on the Catholic radio indicated that this has appeared as a threat to the children as well as their families. However the

children continue to sell T-shirts for this event which they have sadly named ‘Fatherless Father’s day.’ We remain united with these children and their parents, especially their fathers whom they do not know they will ever get to meet again.

This is one of the few apostolates that we can embrace, especially during now when the whole church talks a lot on mercy and doing the works of mercy. As Holy Family, we are called to act and be the advocates of peace.....
If we don't dare now, then when?

BLESSED JOSEPH GERARD



Fr Joseph Gerard OMI

Each year, the church in Lesotho gathers together during the month of May to remember the apostle of the Basotho, the Blessed Joseph Gerard. This year, the celebration was on Saturday evening of the 28th May 2016. This special occasion is celebrated to honour the life of this tireless disciple of Christ who died 102years ago on the 29th May.

It was a very solemn and prayerful occasion led by the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Maseru together with the Bishop of Mōhale’s Hoek. In his homily for the opening mass, the

Archbishop encouraged each one to remain faithful in prayer and especially to seek help through the intercessions of the Blessed Joseph Gerard; he said by so doing, this helps in the process of beatifying this Basotho apostle. He emphasised on the need to visit often the Blessed Sacrament for that is the centre of all the graces needed in the journey of life.

This was followed by a time for reconciliation and Sacrament of penance, which was led by Fr. Matsora OMI. He said that it is wise to let ourselves be loved wholly by our redeemer and to nurture our relationships with God as this helps us to be able to surrender ourselves totally to the will of God.

The closing mass which was celebrated by Rev Bishop Tlhomola SCP and since it was the feast of The Corpus Christi he indicated on the need to receive the Holy Eucharist as often as it is possible because it nourishes our soul.

For us, Holy Family in Lesotho, we cannot think of Blessed Joseph Gerard without remembering our beloved Foundress, Mother Marie Joseph Angot, who also worked tirelessly to evangelize Basotho nation, especially to uplift the dignity of a woman.



COMMON FORMATION

Our team for common formation organised a team of reflection on Meeting Point 4 as a preparation to reflect on Meeting Point 5. This was on the 5th June 2016. The day began with the celebration of the Eucharist by Fr. Sidney Boatile OMI. In his homily, he emphasised on the need to free ourselves from our weaknesses and wish our brothers and sisters well as they strive to do well daily. After mass we had time for tea. This was followed by a time to reflect together as a family. We began by reading together and sharing what struck us in the readings, as this continued we were given some tasks to do in groups, the lay associates group of adults, the youth, and the sisters having been divided into three groups. We were to reflect on what it is that we need to let go in order to be better disciples and also what does God use to saw/cut us from our comfort zones.

Each group had a time to share and clarify its reflections. This was a time of discerning together and seeing what we are called to be in our world today.



However, the highlight of this day was the presence of Sr. Eithne, General

Councillor, among us. After we had all shared, she had a chance to address the whole group. She briefly but prayerfully talked about how we often are stuck in one area of life and are not even aware when it's time to move on. She gave a short story on a big elephant which had a small string tied on its foot; the elephant did not make any attempt to move from its place of hostage. This was because, as a baby elephant it had been tied with a big chain and although it tried escaping, it could not, and thus it was tamed. She said that sometimes we feel held in chains and yet it is only a thin thread that is tying us to our past and therefore encouraged us to see whether we continue to live as tied up big elephants or are we ready to loosen the string and be free.

She also indicated how joyful she was to have had the opportunity to attend that time of reflection with the whole group and wished each one of us well in our different ministries.

THE DEDICATION OF THE HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL

It was a very solemn occasion as the Archbishop Emeritus blessed the Holy Family chapel on the 1st May 2016. The celebration began with the procession from the sister's community house to the chapel which was led by the Holy Family Youth, The Lay Associates then lastly the sisters. The bishop began by reading the appropriate rites and then blessing the chapel. This was followed by mass which was sung beautifully. However mass, was presided by Rev. Fr Koetlisi who was present to give a talk

on the year of mercy. Fr. Koetlisi has also been appointed as a confessor of mercy in Lesotho. He is a diocesan priest of Leribe, currently working in the Major Seminary- St. Augustine.



After mass, lunch followed and a chance to meet, greet and socialise. Preceding Fr. Koetlisi’s talk was a time to officially close the 150th jubilee year. This was done by presenting a tree to each community and lay associate groups, which will be planted in different communities to commemorate this big event.

Afterwards followed a talk by Fr Koetlisi. He briefly talked about how to live this year with grateful hearts, he also stipulated all the requirements of this year and asked of us to be open and see the mercy of God in our hearts. He lastly added that we are called to be the witnesses of God’s mercy and love in our torn world today It continues to be a challenge but the ball is in our court now.

WEDDING BELLS!!

Four Holy Family Youths received a Sacrament of Matrimony as two couples at Loretto Parish. They both



come from the group of Loretto Parish. It was on the 27th February 2016.

The couples were Teboho Maema and her spouse 'Matli Koenene and Reitumetse Rampai with her spouse Lekulane Mokhotho. The parish priest Rev Fr. Fred Ejiofor presided and was very excited. He told the couples to go and imitate the Holy Family of Nazareth in their families.

The Holy Family gave as presents, two bottles of wine to the young couples for them to offer as offertory during mass, as plea to our Lord Jesus that, like at the wedding at Cana, the wine should not finish in their respective families, wine of love, oneness and other gifts in their families. And that should the wine get finished, Our Lady, the mother of Jesus intervene on their behalf to her Son.



Mr and Mrs Mokhotho

After exchange of vows, one couple, Teboho and 'Matli, and Lekulane, made their commitment as Holy Family Lay Associates

Mr and Mrs Koenene



GRATITUTES – REA LEBOHA

It was a joy for the Holy Family and some members of the Family attended the celebration. The two couples gave a good example to the other youths. Everybody wished the new couples best of luck in their new lives.

Mrs Fumane Sefako - Lay Associate

I, Sr Patrick TSEKA, would like to thank each and every one for the support you gave me and the TSEKA family during the most difficult time in our lives of the passing of our brother. I am truly grateful and may you all be blessed.

HOLY FAMILY YOUTH-LORETTO

To mark the ending of the 150th jubilee, each group was given a tree to plant to commemorate this big achievement. The Holy Family Youth in Loretto, came together on Saturday 18th June to plant their tree at the convent in Loretto.

It was for them a joyful time. They named the tree ‘Dr Mpho’ which literally translates to Dr Gift. They composed praises and sang of ‘Dr Mpho’ as the tree of good life, a tree that cures all afflictions and brings joy. The youth enjoyed this time and were very joyful.

The family of Rapitso would like to convey its sincere gratitude for the love and support given to us when we lost our brother. We are very grateful to you dear children of the Good Father.

The Mpuru family would like to take this opportunity to convey its gratitude to the family of PBN at large for the love and support showed to us during the most difficult time in our lives of the passing of our beloved mother. May you be blessed a hundredfold.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!



Sr. Constance Mapane (left) and Sr. Christina Molise

We rejoice with our dear sister, Sr. Constance Mapane for having completed her studies at the Lesotho College of Education, we are very proud of you and wish you well now as you put into practise what you acquired during your years of study, sleepless night and lots and lots of assignments.

Congratulations SISTER!!!!!!!!!!

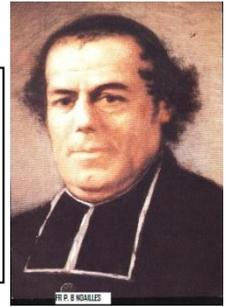
KANANELO COMMUNITY (*Bienvenu Community*)

The sisters in Maqhaka have been working in Kananelo Centre for the Deaf for years now. There was no community after the St Cecilia parish community was closed and the sisters had to travel daily to get to the Centre.

However, this is in the past now as a new community comprising of three members was opened on the 4th June 2016. The pioneering sisters are Sisters are Rene KHIBA, Miriam MOSEBO and Violet TJATJI.

Best wishes dear Sisters!!

The new community which is named after our founder will be officially opened on the 29th June 2016.



PASTORAL CARE FOR VOCATIONS

The children of Mary in the deanery of Maseru had their retreat on the 27th-29th May 2016 at Pelo e Tlotlehang Parish in Maseru. The animator for the deanery being Sr. Cecilia MOSALA HFB, had invited the pastoral care for vocations team to address the young women. Talking to them on how to be disciplined and well behaved women, Sr. Angelina Lekhotla, briefly discussed with them the challenges faced by the youth of today which include, homosexuality, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

Sr. Angelina furthermore added that everyone is called to live in a certain way; she said that marriage is the source of all vocations and that all other vocations are a result of a union in marriage. Marriage, she added, is a good thing and should not be tainted by other impurities like infidelity and unfaithfulness, because it demands purity of intention and chastity for both partners.

Sr. Violet Tjatji's talk was on the Holy Family Association. She showed the different branches in the association and indicated that although they are all different, they are nourished from the same sap of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, and thus all the branches share the same charism, spirit and mission.

Lastly, Sr. Cecilia talked about different vocations in the church, she said that all vocations are equal and it is wise that discernment is done thoroughly in a spirit of prayer so that each one is able to distinguish what it is that God wants of them.

As members of the Pastoral Care for Vocations team, we are aware that the youth need a lot of guidance and hence we try to be involved in youth ministries in our respective parishes and apostolates.

WE REMEMBER THEM

We remember in a special way all those who have touched our lives in one way or the other and who have left this world. In a special way we are united with our sisters at `Malithuso High School who have lately suffered a few loses, being students and teachers as well, we remember the likes of Mrs `Mampho Moletsane, the secretary who has been at the school since its foundation, Mrs `Masenekane Senekane, Miss Lipuo Khoete, Mr `Moleli (also

one of the founding teachers) and all those who have left this world having been either students or teachers there. We also remember from St. Mary's High School, Mr Mathias and a student by the name of Paulina Mofutisi and all others ... all these people and all those who have left this world having been a part of us are daily remembered in our prayers. May they all rest in eternal peace.

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MAMPOTA HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHERS' RETREAT

As Holy Family sisters, we advocate for communion wherever we are and to be fully united with our loving creator and the whole of the universe, we are aware of the need to reflect back, have a time of prayer and evaluation in our apostolates, and thus, we find it vital to be nourished spiritually and have a good relationship with God and creation.

Sr Blandina gives a brief account on the retreat held for the teachers at `Mampota High school.

`Mampota High School staff had their retreat on the 2nd June 2016. The retreat was preached by Fr. Felix Molumeli OMI, who first began by reminding the teachers what the time of retreat means to them. He said that to retreat is to leave everything aside and get into oneself and reflect.

The theme of the retreat was **professionalism teaching**. He said it is

the way teachers publicly portray and carry themselves, it has standards to uphold and live up to, and for example, how one does things in a certain way and not in any other way. He continued to say that professionalism has written its code of Ethics where it announces to the public what it does. He added that each profession has values such as, privacy, confidentiality, multidisciplinary or what is commonly termed as teamwork.

Fr. Molumeli also gave a talk on the purpose of education; he first introduced this by deriving what the term 'education' means. He indicated that it is derived from the Latin word 'educare' which literally means to train or to educate. He emphasised that education helps us to develop to the fullest that which is inside us. He added that it is good to remember that the purpose of education is to cultivate human minds with values and principles that help to distinguish between right and wrong. And thus, the work of a teacher is to apply his or her knowledge to the learners in an efficient way.

It was indeed a time of deep reflection for all the teachers, and although it was not in the beginning of the year, it was very enriching and educative. The staff was very happy also to be on the away from their daily duties and get to interact among themselves.

SUBJECT FARES

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE FARE

The fare took place at Zenon High School, on the 11th to 12th of May. It was a district fare, all Berea schools were there and we as Mampota High School took part in that fare. The fare was composed of quizzes and projects. There were three categories of quizzes; primary, secondary and high school level. We took part in secondary level where we had three students participating but unfortunately we did not succeed. However, in high school level, our students tried their level best, there were also three students taking part, even though they did not manage to win, they got 8 marks whilst highest got 11.

The other category was on scientific projects which are classified as follows;

- 1) Working models
- 2) Research
- 3) Electronics
- 4) Mathematics and;
- 5) Environment.

Mampota students made projects falling under research, where students made research about *glycerin soap*.

There was also an environmental project of *yoghurt*. Three projects of working models which were; *battery heater, kettles witcher, pioneer charger and safety house*. Then one project which was *eater* falling under electronics.

Therefore there were seven projects altogether. The projects which managed to win were *kettle switcher* getting a GOLD MEDAL position one by MOLISE MOLIELENG.

MONYANE MOTSAMAI and LEKHAFOLA RETHABILE got GOLD MEDAL of position one *with eater*, the last one were BOLAE and MOTEBANG who did *safety house* and got GOLD MEDAL .so these students will be representing the district Berea in the national science fare that will be held in August. Lastly, ‘Mampota High School math and science teachers were awarded for being the best judges in the fare.

80% and position 3, the student being TEFELO TSIMANE under business Education. Then ‘MANNUKU KOAO got the same mark in Accounting with position 4. These students have qualified to participate in the next fare for finals.

AGRIC FARE

The fare was held at St Agnes High School on the 6thMay; there were 14 schools participating in quizzes. ‘Mampota took part and became position 3 with three students taking part, position 3 with three students and got **Bronze Medals and a Trophy.**

Sr. Blandina Tsibela.

GO FORWARD

In the light of the gospel and the story of the new cosmology, we are called to be present to all that shares this sacred universe with us, we are called to be more discerning people who seek the will of God in everyday activities. As members of the Holy Family, we know that we are called to read the signs of the times and respond positively in a life giving manner. What we are called to be, is to remain as witnesses of the love and mercy of God. Let us then therefore open ourselves to the challenges of world today and be open to pioneer new apostolates that we see. The future is unknown, but we are determined to face the future with better understanding and in light of the new story. We look forward to that time when all of creation shall be one and interdependent.



It was a very lovely event!!!!

COMMERCIAL FARE

This was held at ‘Malithuso High School on the 11thMay, the fare comprises of quizzes in Business Education, Accounting and Business Studies. Our students managed to score

IF WE DON'T DARE NOW, THEN WHEN?????



