



AFRICA



KOINONIA JOHN THE BAPTIST

Newsletter

Nr° 5 May 2010

They responded, "Let's start rebuilding!" And they got ready to start the work.

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The new mission



Michal W.

OUR AFRICAN REALITY HAS EXPECTED

an oasis for some time. We were convinced for a couple of months it would be in Zimbabwe where our community had started the first reality of Koinonia in Africa. But the events were different. The bishop of the diocese of Umzimkulu in South Africa offered to us the work near the cathedral in Lourdes Mission in January. After the visit of our general pastor Fr. Alvaro we decided to move the internal community to South Africa, from there we will coordinate the works of the other realities of our community: the activities of the koinonia in Bulawayo in Zimbabwe with the regional coordinator Louise Satchmo. The rising realities in Johannesburg and Umzimkulu and the works (pastoral and constructions) in Lourdes Mission where the oasis is going to start. On the 3rd of May we came in Umzimkulu, the country hidden among the beautiful hills of Natal, about 120 km from the city of Durban. The general vicar of diocese Fr. Leonard sent by bishop, was waiting for us in the parish house and he gave us warm welcome in diocese and the parish of Umzimkulu. We will stay for the next 6 months waiting for the transfer,

as soon as the works of rebuildings will allow us, to the final destination of Lourdes Mission. With the parish council we have already planned the first courses of the School of Evangelisation in this parish, for a long time neglected. We will coordinate the works of rebuilding of our oasis in Lourdes mission from Umzimkulu, a distance of about 30 km from our parish. Lourdes mission is a very special place not only for the whole diocese. In the past this desolated place for now, was one the biggest centres of evangelisation in South Africa. Hundreds of missinaries lived in lourdes. There, is the cathedral of the diocese of Umzimkulu (the only renewed building) and the ruins of the old convents, schools and houses. On the land of the missin we find the high school with about 500 students studying in the precarious conditions, without electricity and fit buildings. Many things would be there to write about those places and the mission stations connected to Lourdes mission, but we leave it for the next news letter. The interest and the curiosity of the new mission is growing in us, mean while we may involve every body to continue with us this adventure of faith and with the power of prayer and sharing making this dream the light reached from Camparmò to Africa.



Stanislaw Dziuba bishop of diocesi of Umzimkulu.



Shepherd of Umzimkulu



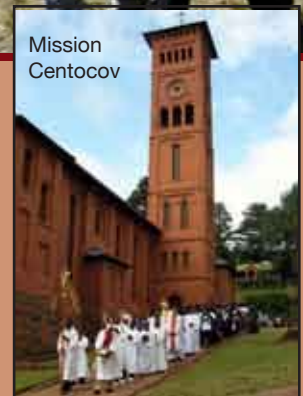
After the painful story connected to problems with leadership, the lack of human and material resources and a period of about 15 years with the absence of a bishop. The diocese of Umzimkulu waited for the appointment of a new bishop with impatience. A man who could give a spiritual direction, renewal and a new enthusiasm to rebuild (in every sense) the church among this people hungry for the word of God and a united community. Finally a new bishop was elected at the end of 2008. Father Christoph a friend of Koinonia who works in that area, before we came to Umzimkulu, had phoned me and shared with me particular characteristics of the new bishop of which I was tou-



ched by this one: "he is my brother, very beloved by priests and people". The bishop Stanislaw Dziuba arrived in the diocese of Umzimkulu as a missionary about 20 years ago, he was dedicated in his work in Centocav mission, the African version which means Czestochowa, the most important sanctuary in Poland. Our bishop had lived and worked there before he came in Africa as superior of the Monastic Community of Paolines. With his brothers he was able to make very vibrant the mission hidden among the mountains of Kwazulu Natal. For us it is a big privilege to work in this diocese bringing the kerygmatic experience, cooperating beside the man who dedicated all his life for the gospel. MW



Easter with the Zulus



Mission Centocov

WHO WOULD HAVE EVER SAID we would pass through this experience as well. On 29 March the present community in Bulawayo, composed of the "Big Five" and the two "chocolates", left for South Africa to spend the time of Easter together with the bishop Stanisław in the land of the Zulu people. We were staying in a polish mission in Centocaw. It is close to Lourdes mission, where we celebrated the the Holy Week. About a thousand of Zulu's participated in this event coming from the different areas around Lourdes mission, the majority of them came on foot or on horse. The welcome by these people towards us was great, the bishop made us feel at home and it will be home in some days. Naturally we need to say the



whole area of Lourdes is without electricity, so our dear bishop Stanisław invented a system to have it during the Easter, in a special way during Good Friday, that day we were outside of the cathedral: the solution was very original, connecting the different batteries, to those of his car, thereby creating a small generator. It made the work of amplification possible, so that the people who had come could follow and participate in the event. The car remained switched on, during the celebration, it was a typical african celebration of seven hours. The wide wonderful field of evangelization which awaits this land of KWA ZULU NATAL, a land wrapped up with mysteries and traditions of the tribes surrounding the area.

Maria Grazia



Restoration



THE LAND IN OUR FUTURE OASIS

is almost 2000 h, a sufficient space for one to fantasise on the future appearance after completion. Coming back to reality, there is a high need for “patience” and “perseverance” as there is still a lot of work to be done. The wise say, “Rome was not built in one day”. Therefore step by step and also day after day we will realise with you the fulfilment of the dream of our African Oasis.

Unfortunately the infrastructure in Lourdes requires profound restoration. For the houses, the best solution is to entirely put them down and re-initiate on the building from scratch. The exception is the Cathedral which had been rebuilt years ago. Three of those buildings are highly possible to be inhabited in, out of the eight that existed.

The first works of restoration should start in the first days of May. Finally, further information will be supplied in the course of any developments.

Piotr



Bank Account #:

FEDERAZIONE DELLE KOINONIE GIOVANNI BATTISTA “PRO AFRICA”
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Durban - in perspective



From the mission of Lourdes rooted strongly in the traditions of the Zulu people, we visited one of South Africa's cities which is very developed and prosperous, Durban. In this beautiful city, situated at the coast of the Indian ocean, we spent a couple of days after Easter, visiting different places including the Moses Mabhinda stadium built and is ready for the World Cup tournament which begins in June. We spent our nights in the town Mariann-



hill, one congregation in South Africa and founded by fr. Francis Phaner who dedicated his life to evangelization. Standing close to his sepulchre we asked for his intercessory prayer in the work of evangelization of which we would like to do in the next coming years in the city of Durban. We plan to continue the work already started by the Mariannahill missionaries by bringing forward the KeKaKo project to South Africa.

Ewa



P. Francis Phaner



Mariannahill

