



Word Aflame

Botswana Province Newsletter

June/July 2011

Word from the Provincial

Recently I read a book titled “The Bushman Way of Tracking God: The Original Spirituality of the Bushman People” by Bradford Keene published in 2010. “There is a river, and it is everywhere. There is a wind, and it is everywhere. They are the same except when they are different.” There is a god in the sky and a god on the earth that keeps changing. They are the same except when they are different. The bushman elders talk and think in circles. That is the reason we missionaries proclaiming God from liturgical book shelves rather than from profound religious experience feel a bit disoriented and nervous when we try to understand or communicate with the Bushman. The Kalahari Bushmen are the keepers of the world's oldest living culture and spirituality tracing back to some 60,000 years! The original force that creates and changes everything is called N!o’an-ka!’ae. The spiritual leader in the Ju/’hoan Bushman tradition is called a N/om-kxao (an owner of the vital force that touches the whole of our mind/body/heart/soul). The N/om-kxao’s shaking (thara) is a way of moving back and forth between First and Second Creation upheld by their worldview. This movement is the breathing and heartbeat of the creator Sky God and its never-ending creating. This is the pulse or vibration of N/om that raises our hearts and gives us renewed life. For the bushman it is only when one is full of N/om he or she can find the way, receive answers, directions, inspirations and divine blessings. They experience ultimate tracking achieved by heart rather than mind.



MICHAEL D. WATSON



N/om is an awakener. Awakened by N/om means one’s feelings for God have caught hold of the person. !Xo kxao means I am an Owner of God, and when you own God, God owns you. The way N/om enters our bodies is through the needles (//Auhsi) and arrows (=oah tchiasi) that are put into our g//abesi (belly and abdominal region) or into the top of our head (//hang n!ang). Arrows and thorns are symbolic expressions of intensified feelings to such an extent that it feels real and solid. The needles wake up when they sing and dance in a strong way. This kind of “waking up” is !aia. The first

moment of !aia is called gaqm symbolically similar to the moment when one strikes a match to light a fire. It is the initial spark of waking up one’s strong feelings, and it is the beginning of feeling a special sense of power. The first station of !aia is called n!aroh-//xam, in which fire is the dominating source of power. The next stage involves healing. It requires moving from raw power (a place of ignorance they call !Xaua-khoe) to a place of love, known as the rising of our heart (!ka tsau l’an). The strongest !aia takes us into the third stage or station, called thara n/om. This is when they most strongly tremble and shake where proper seeing—seeing through one’s feelings and heart is fully present.



Dear Confreres, as we begin triennium 2011-14 let our prayer be to become n/om-kxao, that one who awakens, recreates and transforms! Learning the Bushman spirituality enables the process- "God wants to cook you. Jump in to God's pot and get cooked." After all during Pentecost God cooked the apostles gathered together with Mother Mary through flames of fire in the Cenacle. Outpouring of the spirit is embracing the timeless N/om wisdom in to our whole being. This is indeed the greatest gift of Bushman Spirituality, the oldest living spirituality igniting our missionary spiritual landscape. In this wisdom we encounter the rope, the track to God that holds and pulls our heartstrings; let us wake up to the N/om Blessings of Pentecost, and keep tracking God with our dialogue partners!

Provincial Council Team for 2011-2014

Provincial	: Fr. Shiju Paul
Vice-Provincial	: Fr. Marek Marciniak
Admonitor	: Fr. Sunny Vattapparayil
Councilors	: Fr. Klemens Amaunut Bro. Raul Santos

I appreciate and thank the outgoing members of the provincial council Bro. Lutwin and Fr. Chrysostome Kiyala for their generous support, cordial and confrerely understanding. I warmly welcome the new members of the council Fr. Sunny and Bro. Raul for the triennium 2011-14.

Shiju Paul

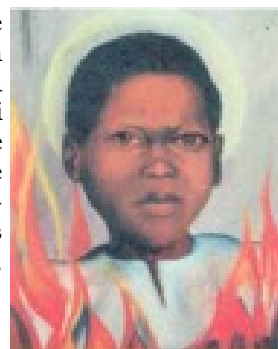
INSTALLATION OF PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION



The newly appointed Provincial Superior and his council for the triennium 2011-2014, was installed in a solemn Eucharistic celebration at Provincial House in Francistown on 2 June 2011, the feast of Ascension. Most of the confreres from Botswana District, some from South Africa and Zambia, and the SSpS sisters in Francistown participated in the evening Mass. The mass began by reading out the appointment letters of newly appointed Provincial and the new council members. The provincial thanked the two outgoing members of the previous council Bro. Lutwin and Fr. Chrysostome Kiyala. The celebration ended with an outdoor braai.

FEAST OF ST. KIZITO, PROVINCE PATRON

The feast of St. Kizito, the youngest of all the Ugandan Martyrs who died at the age of 14 was celebrated on 3 June. Fr. Klemens Amaunut, the former Parish priest of St. Kizito Mission Sesheke, Zambia celebrated the Mass for Botswana District. St. Kizito was a Muganda by tribe born at Waluleeta, Bulemeezi County. His father was Lukomera and mother Wangabira of Civet Cat Clan. He belonged to the Lungfish (Mamba) clan. Kizito was a page of the inner private courts of King Mwangi II whom fellow pages credited for his love and determination to follow Christ. Kizito was baptized on 26th May 1886 by Charles Lwanga and was burnt alive in the Namugongo furnace on the Ascension Day, Thursday 3rd June 1886. He is the patron of children and Primary Schools.





HANDING OVER



As the transfers and appointments take place in this new triennium, I would like to thank all the confreres for their cooperation and support in assuming new responsibility and offices in the Province. My appreciation and gratitude goes to those who have worked hard in their previous assignments. Please note: Have an updated inventory of the offices you administered when you hand over to your respective successors. All the appointments take effect from 1 July 2011.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN GABORONE

On 2 May, the Mogoditshane Catholic community together with Bishop emeritus Boniface Setlalekgosi and Bp. Valentine Seane, and confreres from Botswana District, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Fr. George SVD. The celebration began with a Holy Eucharistic celebration, and Bishop Valentine gave an inspiring and message-filled sermon. A significant number of clergy and religious were present to grace the occasion. The memorable celebration ended with a sumptuous meal prepared by the parish community. Again on 14 May the Kerala community in Gaborone celebrated his Jubilee by offering the Holy Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite of Chaldean Liturgical Family.



EASTER – THE WAY



There are many ways in the world. Someone said: "There are as many ways as many people in the world, and every day the people use different ways". Some roads in Zambia cannot be called any more

roads because you can hardly find there any small piece of tar. On some roads during rainy season big pot-holes develop that even small fish inhabit it from the nearest streams. On our way we meet different people, some show us the right way, while others lead us the wrong way. There are some labyrinths through which you can move only with a good guide. Sometimes someone very confident goes

alone finds quickly lost in the direction, tries many ways until exhausted, loses all hopes and dies. In Southern Poland there is a mountain called: the Bledne skalki with many small paths in its middle. Here even the very confident mountaineers quickly start doubting hearing the stories of those lost their lives and obediently follow the guide. The way to God could be a short one – if someone in his young age as a child, and later as a youth met God and faithfully followed Him. Someone else for many years of walks on different ways, which take him farther and farther from God, until one day he meets a person, who can show him the right way – he becomes a right sign-post for him. On our way to salvation God makes many steps towards us, but always the first step must be made by us, that we really want to change our life and to be with God for ever. If you truly believe in Jesus Resurrection, then you are on the right way to find eternal life. By Fr. Romek svd

OUR CO-WORKERS- MAGIS IRELAND



Magis Ireland (Magis is a Latin word means "More") is a Jesuit initiated program which accompanies and empowers young adults in their search to find

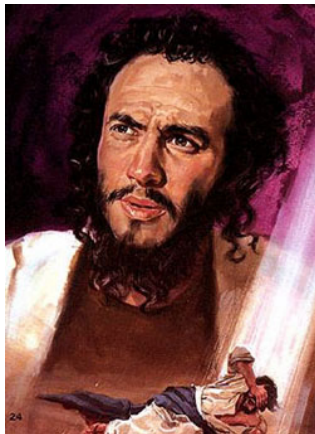
'God in all things'. It engages them around the core values of Ignatian spirituality, community and social justice. It does this through a creative range of programs of self-discovery, retreats, spirituality courses, pilgrimages and justice and community initiatives at home and abroad. The community of St. Arnold Mwandia Parish welcomed Mr. Pdraig Swan, the Magis Ireland Director from 4th to 9th May. He comes annually to work out the logistics for young Irish voluntary workers for two weeks in July. The friendship started back in 2008 and has been yielding

much fruits in term of social development undertakings. The initial commitment plan of 3 years has been further renewed for another 3 years after its evaluation. Their main focus areas are: Health service in Masese – a government run rural clinic, Educational facilities at Lipumpu Basic School, OVC project of United Church of Zambia in Mwandu and Agriculture and rural Development activities in Lutaba Catholic Community and its

surrounding villages. Their contributions have made a big difference in people's lives in those isolated geographical frontiers. The receiving communities are so happy and thankful for this blessed friendship and empowerment approach of the Irish Friends. The prayer of Mwandu communities is that God continue blessing this encounter and friendship for greater dreams. By Fr. Klemens

ONGOING FORMATION: SVD SOUTH AFRICA

The dry and mountainous surroundings of the Mater Dei Pastoral Centre greeted us with a sense of freshness and newness as we gathered on the 30-31st March for our first meeting of the SVD South Africa District in 2011. We travelled from the Limpopo parishes of Malamulele, Giyani and Phalaborwa, and also from the Lumko Institute in Johannesburg to join our confreres at this Centre. The first day was district meeting. The second day was ongoing formation for the district members. The three hours break after lunch provided the cricket die-hard fans to nervously stand and cheer. India was playing Pakistan in their quarter final match at the Cricket World Cup. There wasn't any live television coverage so we practiced our listening skills as the car radios were blaring away. One can always tell if it's a 1, 2, 4, or 6's by the strength of the shouting. And one can only imagine the beating of the hearts of our Indian



Cricket supporters.

Fr Wojciech Szypula SVD, from the Lusaka SVD Formation Community was the facilitator on the second day. He gave us inputs on the journey of St. Paul the Apostle. We were taken back to our seminary days of learning the Pauline Scriptures and Literature but only this time it was received with a sense of maturity and experience that made the input and sharing renew us all in our theology and knowledge. The confreres all agreed with one voice that inputs given by our confrere Wojciech was excellent so much so, there was a proposal at the end of the session to call him back next year for another session on the Gospel of St. John. The group left Mater Dei Centre with a well fed stomach, a sense of renewed hope and vision for our various ministries, and a huge smile on our Indian Cricket fans because India had beaten Pakistan in the World Cup. By Fr. Ioane Racumu

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL, DAMBWA



St. Francis Junior Secondary School came into existence in 2005. It was the idea of Fr. Peter Sledz, then Parish Priest of Dambwa Parish. This center was opened as a tuition centre for those pupils who are poor in studies. Later, it became a community based school in order to accommodate more pupils and to render proper education to them. At present we are running Grades 8 and 9. Most pupils are very poor economically, either single orphan or double orphans and broken families. In line with the

Government policy, the unwed/ single mothers are also helped to complete their basic education. So far we have helped about 20 girls of this nature. It is a community based project. The parish chairperson is the ex-officio member of the board of management. The coordinator of the School is a retired Basic School teacher. Most teacher who teach here are from neighboring schools. They make sacrifices to come and teach in this school during their free hours. Since the inception of the school, the school has registered 365 pupils. This year we have 40 pupils in Grade 8 and 45 pupils in grade 9. The pupils contribute a commitment fee of 100,000 Kwacha per term. The school has recorded a pass rate of 45% in 2010 in spite of the poor background of the pupils and the poor infrastructure of the school like study materials, books, lab equipments furniture etc. With the help of the SVDs and the community we are just managing to run it. In short, the school provides a second chance to the vulnerable pupils who would otherwise be out of school for ever. By Fr. Louis



OUR MISSION JOURNEY



(Fr. Marcel and Fr. Paul)
We started the process of acquiring our visa six months ago, and finally we (Marcelinus Kaja Samon and Paul Haman), arrived in South Africa

on the 28th of April, 2011. Fr. Sunny our district Superior picked us from the air-port, with a day of rest in Mokopane we arrived Giyani on the 29th of April. First ten days we spent our time visiting some

of the SVD missions. We too had a cordial meeting with the Bishop of Tzaneen. Our preparation to this journey was marred with the unfortunate incident of the demise of Fr. Marcel's father. It happened just a week before our journey, with God's grace Fr. Marcel took the whole pain in his stride and continued with his original plan of travel. So here we are in our mission land with the open mind. It is our hope that with the support of our confreres and the blessing of our Lord we will have meaningful time. We started our Language learning on the 9th of May, 2011. Since we are just from learning one language (English), it is a bit tuff going. But we have two teachers who are trying their best, so we are confident; with the help of everyone we will pick workable knowledge of Xitsonga.

APPOINTMENTS FOR TRIENNIUM 2011-14

Provincial Bursar Bro. Lutwin Dollwet
Vocation Promoter: Fr. Theophan Misengo
Formation Board Chairperson: Fr. Biju George Mappoore
Superior Delegatus: Bro. Albertus Babu
Province Website Maintenance: Fr. Marek Marciniak
Provincial House Praeses and Bursar: Bro. Jan Staniszcze Potyka
Bible: Fr. Wojciech Szypula
Communication: Fr. Ariel Tampus
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation: Fr. Joseph Leo Vadakkan
Bursar, St. Arnold's School: Bro. Doan Thao Minh Paul

Transfers: Bro. Silas Peregrino Tumlay, Manager of St. Bridget's Pre-school Tonota
Fr. Aldus Muspida to Indonesia

Arrivals

Fr. Marcel and Fr. Paul in S. Africa from Indonesia
Donatus, Ajit and Louis from home leave
Lawrence Likulano from Kenya on home leave
Deacon Fabian Kalaluka from Congo for deaconate ministry and ordination

Departures

Fr. Slawomir and Fr. Marciniak Marek to Poland on home leave
Fr. Tony Rebello to India for hernia operation
Fr. Freddy for Holy Land Retreat as part of IRF
Fr. Jean Chrysostome to Nairobi for Ignatian Retreat
Fr. Natun Wendefredus to Indonesia for the funeral of his mother
Fr. Theophan to Ghana for AFRAM Zonal Formators' Course
Fr. Jacek Gniadek, to Acton University conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan June 15-19
Fr. Ioane Racumu to Fiji, 20 July, for anticipated home leave and to attend his parents' 60th Wedding anniversary and the 81st Birthday of his Mother



AFRAM EVENTS & SCHEDULES

MA Coordinators JPIC Coordinators	17 PM – 23 AM July 2011	Nairobi, KENYA	Franciscan Portiuncula Near CFC-Langata
BPM Coordinators COM Coordinators	18 PM – 24 AM September 2011	Antananarivo MADAGASCAR	Venue will be announced later
AFRAM Formators and future Formators	12 PM – June to 12 AM - July 2011	Nsawam, GHANA	The Catholic Conference Center

Our new Philosophy Students

Seminarians Mpofo Mthokozisi, Jacob Sibelo and Crispen Ndlovu Ju have been recommended for admission to Philosophy Studies in Lusaka. The council appreciates the demanding accompaniment journey undertaken by the formation team in guiding these young men for their holistic formation and integral growth. We are aware pre-philosophy stage of formation is the toughest phase of formation from the perspective of a formator as candidates arrive fresh from cross-cultural backgrounds and their homes.

Recommended for Novitiate

The Provincial Council has recommend postulants Gabriel Thula Masimuko Jr. and Anthony Chisanga Musonda to go to our common novitiate in Ghana, at Divine Word Novitiate-Nkwatia Kwahu for the year 2011- 12. We thank the Formation Team in Lusaka.

News from Fr. Tony

Fr. Tony arrived in Mumbai on 6 May for Hernia Operation. He was operated upon on 14 May. Subsequently he was discharged and had been resting in the Soverdia House in Mumbai for recuperation. The stitches were removed on 25th May. Since then he has left for his home state of Goa for rest. We wish Fr. Tony a healthy recovery!

ORDINATION

The Priestly Ordination of Fabian Kalaluka Mate svd is scheduled for 16 July 2011 At St Kizito Parish Sesheke, Livingstone Diocese Zambia. If you are intending to attend the Ordination of Dn Fabian, kindly contact your respective district superior as early as possible who will inform us for arranging accommodation and visa. District Superior, Zambia

WORTH REMEMBERING – BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

Bp Frank	7
Isaac Muimui	8
Janusz	11
Brigita	12
Silas	13
Josephine Flores	15
Elisabeth Hoon-Hee	15
Rose	24
Shiju Paul	27
Slawomir Wiecek	28
Dorothy	30

JULY

Vincent Mwiya	4
Aldus	6
Edson Mlambo	16
Arun D' Mellow	25
Maria Gasparina	27