



## Circular Letter of the Archdiocese of Windhoek

KM 352 /10/ 2021

May – October 2021

*Glorify the Lord with me; together, let us praise his name.”*

*(Ps. 34:4)*

### **O. INTRODUCTION:**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

Honouring Mary in a special way, we dedicate the month of October as the month of the Holy Rosary. Mary, being the Mother of Jesus is so close to him that everything we ask from her, is immediately whispered to her Son. “Since the prayers of the Rosary come from such excellent sources – from Our Lord Himself, from inspired Scripture, and from the Church – it is not surprising that the Rosary is so dear to our Blessed Mother and so powerful with heaven.” (*Mary in our Life* by Fr William G Most). Like Jesus who loves his Mother, we, too are invited to imitate his love towards Mary by praying the Rosary.

“The rosary is an accessible reminder of the constant prayer of the Church, the incessant prayer of God’s people throughout the ages. The Psalter of Mary, as the rosary is sometimes called, is a remembrance of the Church’s deepest nature as a community of continual prayer.” (*Pope Leo XIII, 1896*) With these words, I encourage you to pray the Holy Rosary daily as a family, as a community and as a parish for peace, justice and reconciliation in our country, for the end of the Covid 19 pandemic and for more vocations to the priestly and religious life. Likewise, let us include Pope Francis’ “prayer intention for the month of October, calling on everyone to pray that all Christians might be missionary disciples and open to the demands of the Church’s evangelizing mission”. (*Devin Watkins, Vatican News, 31 September 2021*).

**NEWS**

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### **1. PRIESTLY ORDINATION:**

- Fr Fereks Nangolo was ordained on 26 June 2021 at R C M Oshikuku.
- Fr Linus Shipena was ordained on 03 July 2021 at Christ the King Parish-Okatana.
- Fr David Paulus and Fr Kristofelius Andreas were ordained on the same day of 24 July 2021 at Peter Canisius Parish of Anamulenge.
- Dc Eliazer Keendjele Nakakuwa, OMI is scheduled to be ordained on 13 November 2021 at R C M Okatana.

- Dc Max Hambabi Haundapiti, OMI likewise is scheduled to be ordained on 20 November 2021 at St Theresa of the Child Jesus, Ongha.

## **2. DIACONATE ORDINATION:**

- Dcc Protasius Uuyuni from Oshikuku Pastoral Region, is scheduled to be ordained as a permanent married Deacon on 14 November 2021 at Oshikuyu R C Community. Mr Protasius is born on 25 October 1970, married to Mrs Leocardia Endjala on 23 August 2003 and has two children. He is a teacher by profession.
- Br Antonius Tshivute Alugodhi, OMI was ordained a Deacon on 09 October 2021 at St Joseph's OMI Scholasticate, Cedara, South Africa by Archbishop Siegfried Mandla Jwara, CMM, Archdiocese of Durban.

## **3. CONFIRMATION:**

During the course of the last few months, confirmation was conducted at the following parishes:

PARISH	Number	PARISH	Number
Khomasdal	21	Khomasdal	19
St Joseph's - Döbra	40	Holy Redeemer Parish - Katutura	65
St Boniface - Pionierspark	26	St Mary's Cathedral	66

## **4. PROFESSION OF VOWS: FINAL**

### **4.1 Final Vows:**

- ☞ SMIC: Sr Helena Kasiku Simuku, SMIC – final vows on 02 October 2021 at Gunichas RCM.

- ☞ OSB-Tutzing:

Sr Emma Aindongo, OSB                      Sr Grace Kakweno, OSB  
 Sr Mercy Gabriel, OSB                      Sr Ester Andowa, OSB  
 Sr Cherubina Shiningeni, OSB              Sr Theophora Hamukwaya, OSB  
 Sr Prisca Shilongo, OSB                      Sr Ottilia Mukwangu, OSB  
 Sr Hildegard Kandjimbi, OSB

The abovementioned 9 Sisters made their Final vows on 16 October 2021 at St Benedict's Priory House Chapel – Windhoek.

Congratulations to all for this milestone in your lives. Be assured of our continuous prayers.

## **5. TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

- 5.1 Fr Apolinarius Martin has been appointed as a care-taker Priest of Tsumeb Pastoral area after the death of Fr Benjamin Sheelongo, effective 01 September 2021.
- 5.2 Fr Erastus Kapena Shimbome, OMI – was re-appointed as Provincial Superior of the Oblate Province of Namibia, on 24 September 2021 by the Superior General, Fr Louis Lougen, OMI. Congratulations, Fr KK.
- 5.3 Fr Jijesh Paul, MSFS – is being transferred as from end of December 2021 to early next year (2022) for further studies. We thank him for his contribution, especially to the youth, towards the Local Church.
- 5.4 Fr Sydney Sakala, OMI – originally from Zambia has received his Obedience for Namibia from the Superior General and has been assigned by the Provincial to work in R C M Anamulenge. We welcome him whole-heartedly.
- 5.5 Fr Clement Tsita, OMI – has been transferred from Gunichas R C M to Rundu Vicariate and was replaced by Fr Joseph Nakakuwa as an acting Parish Priest.
- 5.6 Sr Celine Mariya Xavier, SJC – who arrived in 2017 in Namibia was re-assigned to India and departed on 05 December 2020. She worked among others at RCH hospital, doing voluntary work and counselling of patients.
- 5.7 Sisters Antonia Mersch, SMIC and Adelinde Terhort, SMIC left for good to Germany on 01 October 2021. Sr Antonia and Sr Adelinde arrived in Namibia in 1968 and 1962 respectively as missionaries. We thank them for their efforts to build up the Local Church over so many years.

## **6. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 6.1 **The SMIC – Congregation has decided to shift their Formation House to R C M Epukiro.** The local community has embraced the idea and welcomes the Sisters whole-heartedly. The movement will take place early next year (2022). The Sisters will be involved both in pastoral activities and development projects (e.g. gardening, bakery, etc.).
- 6.2 **XXVIII World Youth Day:** The Holy Father has announced that it will take place in Lisbon, Portugal from 1-6 August 2023, with the theme: “Mary arose and went with haste” (Lk 1:39). I do hereby call upon the youth in our parishes to be pro-active, under the guidance of those previous participants in preparing for this WYD event around our Shepherd Pope Francis who said, “may young people’s evangelization be active and missionary, for this is how they will recognize and witness the presence of the living Christ.”

**6.3 St Joseph's Year Celebration:** This year was declared the Year of St Joseph by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, as from 08 December 2020 until 08 December 2021. May our devotion to him help us to be committed to follow his example of obedience, humility and care towards our families, that is, to live according to the example of the Holy Family.

**6.4 Synod 2023 Process:** The theme for this Synod: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission". The process was solemnly opened on 9-10 October 2021 in Rome and on 17 October in each particular Church. The celebration of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023 will be the fundamental stage. It will be followed by the implementation phase that will again involve the particular Churches (cf EC, arts 19-21). In this Synod, Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium." Synodality is 'the form, the style, and the structure of the Church (*Preparatory Document*). "The synodal process is first and foremost a SPIRITUAL PROCESS. It is NOT a mechanical data-gathering exercise or a series of meetings and debates. It is a LISTENING process that helps us in 'journeying together' to discern what God is asking from us as Church during this time, the times we live in." (*Pope Francis*).

This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's "renewal" proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to mission. Our "journeying together" is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God. (*Preparatory Document*)

**6.5 Spiritual On-going Formation/Renewal:** In the light of the newly elected Parish Pastoral Council officers, Catechists Training Courses, Youth Leadership Upgrading and Charismatic groups which were organized in the Archdiocese helped them really to experience growth in their Faith as they prepare for their special ministry in their respective parish communities. Most of them found it useful and encouraging in their faith formation. The youth were given workshops in Leadership to enable them to lead or animate others to Christ and to have a better understanding of the Church.

**6.6 October Month:** as a month of the rosary, it has united communities and families through this powerful prayer as we prayed for different needs of our world: end of wars, hatred, corruption particularly in our country and specially in our families. Although in some communities the attendance was good, in others were minimal. The holy Father's intention called us "to pray that all Christians might be missionary disciples and open to the demands of the Church's evangelizing mission". (*Vatican News, 31 Sept 2021*).

**6.7 Universal Mission Sunday:** called us all to reflect on our baptismal commitment. Furthermore, it reminded us to actively be involved in the mission of the universal, local Church and as individual disciples of Jesus Christ. The missionary collection we offer is a sign of Baptismal Solidarity – although it seems to have been disrupted by Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the Holy Father, Pope Francis has chosen as a theme for 2022 Mission Sunday: "You will be my witnesses." – *Eritis mihi testes (At 1, 8a)*. Thus, we have enough time to prepare ourselves in the parishes by being actively involved in missionary work, thus, being at the Service of the Universal Church.

**6.8 General Chapter 2021 of the Brothers of Our Lady Mother of Mercy:** The CMM Regional Superior has announced their GC to take place on 09-30 November 2021 at Tilburg, the Netherlands. Let us keep them in prayer during this Leadership discernment process.

**6.9 OFM-Cap Councilor's Visit:** Rev Fr Mathew Sebastian Mulangacherryil, OFM-Cap came to Namibia to visit his confreres as from 10 October-01 November 2021. In the Archdiocese, the Capuchins are working in St Michael's Pastoral District (Outjo).

**6.10 Priests' Meetings during November 2021**

- 09/11/2021 Archdiocesan Finance Committee (09h00-12h30)
- 09/11/2021 College of Consultors (15h00-17h00) – this is changed from 11/11/2021 owing to the priestly ordination in Okatana.
- 10/11/2021 Presbyteral Council (08h00-12h30)
- 10/11/2021 Deans' Meeting (15h00-17h00)
- All Priests' Meeting will take place as scheduled from 30 November – 01 December 2021 at Döbra RC Mission.

6.11 **Archdiocese Head Office holiday closure:** This is to notify all Church personnel and the general public that the Church Office will be closed on 11/12/2021 until 10/01/2022. For emergency, please contact the following numbers: Cell # 081 609 2922/081 616 7115 (Sr Steph) and/or 081 733 4044 (Sr Lydia).  
I wish the staff a well-deserved vacation.

## **7. OUR SICK / DECEASED**

We continue to pray for our sick and deceased brothers, sisters, and family, friends and relatives especially those who suffered or succumbed as a consequence of Covid-19 pandemic.

- Sr Symphoria Damases, HC – died 13/01/2021 Pretoria, South Africa – aged 100 yrs.
- Fr Benjamin Sheelongo – died 15 June 2021 at Tsumeb State Hospital and buried on 19/06/2021 at Oshikuku Mission.
- All the deceased lay faithful in our parishes. May their souls rest in God's eternal peace.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

Undoubtedly, no one can dispute the fact that this year was indeed, a challenging year which was full of ups and downs so far, which calls us to re-think our way of doing things or exercising our duties. The challenges which our society is still facing, which still call us, as a Church, to be on board and play our prophetic role are: food insufficiency, unemployment, corrupt activities, abuses of any kind, sanitation and housing, and above all, the unacceptable bills being contemplated by the Parliament (e.g. abortion). Covid-19 still poses health risks, hence we need to continue taking necessary precautions as provided for by the Health Authority – by washing hands, sanitizing, social distancing and mask wearing. Furthermore, let us continue to pray for the end of the pandemic through God's mighty intervention. May the God who walks with us in history provide us with all the graces and blessings we need.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

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**+Most Rev. Archbishop Liborius N. Nashenda, OMI**  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF WINDHOEK**