

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.

Father Gérard delivered this speech at the **Anniversary Function** commemorating **10 years Blessed Gérard's Church and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** on 15th October 2006:

Your Excellency, Bishop Ndlovu, Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, distinguished guests of honour, dear Sir Chancellor Major Crowther and dear friends of the Most Venerable Order of St. John, dear members and friends of our Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the blessing and opening of this church and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, we are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude for the innumerable benefits which this house had the privilege to provide for "our Lords, the Sick" in these 10 years. We are looking back to a time which was most successful on the one hand. We can proudly boast with remarkable statistics: Our membership has developed from the 5 founders to more than eighteen-hundred members today, which makes us the largest catholic relief organisation in South Africa. Half of these 1818 members live in South Africa, including 727 active members locally. We have trained 469 people as caregivers in home based care, 180 in First Aid and 16 as Therapeutic Counsellors for Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy. We have looked after more than three-and-a-half-thousand patients, driven more than half-a-million kilometres with our vehicles and raised and spent almost 25 Million Rand in the fulfilment of our charitable projects in these ten years. I could carry on bragging with these impressive statistics, but allow me to say, that all these numbers and figures would mean nothing in the eyes of God, if the work done was not done out of selfless love and compassion. What I am most proud of and most grateful for is the wonderful spirit of our staff and volunteers, their empathy and idealism and their readiness to go out of their way and walk the idiomatic extra mile when a patient is in need for it. I am proud and grateful that hundreds of our volunteers – most of them being unemployed and without income –



3 September 1996



Blessed Gérard's Care Centre



3 September 2006

have found pride and purpose in their lives through their volunteer service in our Care Centre... Blessed Gérard's Care Centre has not only had an enormous impact on the wellbeing of our patients who we provide with a comprehensive system of holistic care, but also on their families and the communities they belong to. Moreover it is the dependants and families of our own staff and volunteers, who have benefited tremendously from the fact that their family member found a new purpose in his or her life and the people wearing our uniform are well loved and respected in the whole community. Looking back on these 10 years of service of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre I am humbled by the tremendous and most effective support which we have received: The acknowledgement and praise by the church, government and the public; the friendship and tremendous support from our Brothers and Sisters of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, especially in the British Association of the Order of Malta, Malteser Hilfsdienst Germany and the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta; the friendship and brotherly relation with the Most Venerable Order of St. John in South Africa. We really enjoy the presence of the Chancellor of the Order of St John in South Africa Major Ian Crowther and the Chief Executive Officer Mr Craig Troeberg and all our friends from the Order of St. John in KZN and cherish our mutual respect and common commitment to serve under the same eight-pointed cross. We are grateful for the innumerable prayers of so many spiritual supporters and the unflinching help from our donors locally and overseas, which enabled us to raise the 25 Million Rand in these 10 years, which we spent in aid of the needy entrusted into our care. A special vote of gratitude is due to my own monastic community, the Missionary Benedictines and there especially to Inkamana Abbey, which assigned me to do the work I do as my special missionary task. We thank the Benedictine Mission House in Schuyler, Nebraska in the U.S.A. and my home monastery, St. Ottilien Archabbey in Germany for their great financial and moral support. We thank the government of the U.S.A. for their PEPFAR funding and the Catholic Relief Services Consortium for financing a major part

His Most Eminent Highness, the Prince and Grand-master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Frà Andrew Bertie, sent this message:



"Dear Father Gerard, Please convey my prayers and best wishes to all of the Brotherhood for the Feast of our Founder, the

Blessed Gerard, on 13th October.

I am very sorry that I am unable to be with you to celebrate your ten years of existence, as I had intended, but I shall certainly be with you in spirit. The work you do for Our Lords the poor and sick is an example to us all, and I thank you very much indeed.

Yours sincerely,

Frà Andrew Bertie"



Frà Andrew Bertie and Fr. Gérard at the 2006 Africa Conference in the Order of Malta

of our antiretroviral treatment programme. We are proud that we were able to raise a significant percentage of our funds locally here in South Africa. A special mention is due to the AIDS desk of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Southern Africa, Mr. Victor Claudius – our most hard working and very successful private fundraiser – who dedicated his life to charity, takes nothing for himself and gives all his heart and energy for the less fortunate. We thank Nampak, the SA Sugar Association, SAPPI, Tongaat-Hulett's and Loungeweave. I could and should carry on with a long litany of benefactors and I do so in my prayers indeed. We are grateful for the most dedicated service which our staff and our volunteers render to those who were and are entrusted into our care and I would love to read out all the 727 names of you. All of you are worth to be mentioned by name. You are the champions of charity and our Care Centre would be a skeleton without you. Your names are engraved in the heart of our Lord and in the hearts of our Lords the Sick who you have served in such an exemplary manner. We are so proud of you and forever grateful. May God bless you all and reward you in his divine abundance for your wonderful work! It is because of you that we have such a great reputation and are admired and praised all over the world. Dear festive assembly, my heart is overwhelmed and filled with utmost joy: I want to sing a solemn accolade of praise to the giver of all good things, our Lord and God, who has inspired and empowered all of us to do what we did: All glory, laud and honour to God, the almighty, all-compassionate and all-loving Lord! All praise and grateful tribute to his divine grace, which made everything possible and which carried us through even the most difficult times and situations! And here we stand, o Lord, with empty and open hands, ready and prepared to be filled again with your grace to pass it on to those in our care and thus carry on our divine vocation, the motto, which all of us wear on our uniform badges "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum" to protect and defend our faith and serve the needy. May the good Lord keep you all in the palm of his hand and make us continue being instruments of his divine love. Thank you all and may God bless you!

Life and Death - Heaven and Hell

Reverend Deacon Thomas Müller and his wife Angelika Müller are in their second year of a three-year voluntary service which they render at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre in Mandeni, South Africa. We had asked him to write articles for the German press and magazines as part of our public relations work. His articles were so well written that we translated them into English and want to share them with you in this newsletter.



Deacon Müller reflects on our work from his angle and although all the stories are real and true, he has sometimes amalgamated several cases and scenarios into one story and - of course - he has replaced the names of the patients with pseudonyms. Doing so no person in our care can be identified and their anonymity and dignity is safeguarded.

Enjoy reading his articles now:

These people die in my heart as well

We are frightened by the news again and again:

Bad motor vehicle accident: 10 died

Bus accident: 34 died

Mining disaster: 105 died

Plane crash: 347 died

Natural disaster: 6500 died

Tsunami: several hundred thousands died

AIDS in Zululand: 15 Million died!

The last fact will probably never get into the news, although it is the truth. It does not happen within a few hours and albeit really trying to do so it cannot be phrased in a way to hit the mass media. The AIDS problem is so vast that no politician can quickly find an instant solution as part of his election campaign. It needs lots of money and time - both of these nobody has in the rich countries and the Zulu have no crude oil and nothing else what the U.S.A. or Europe would need by all means. Thus the dead will be carried out of their huts further on and every day and mostly buried informally - many grave yards are already overcrowded.

I grew up in Berlin / Germany, worked as a telecommunications technician, a turner and fitter and manufactured air filters.

Later on I felt the irresistible call of Christ in my heart and studied theology and religious pedagogic while I was still working as a sacristan and caretaker. Then I was working for more than ten years as a permanent deacon and community counsellor in the Diocese of Hildesheim / Germany and lived in Oyten in the vicinity of Bremen.

Now I am staying together with my wife as a volunteer for three years at the heart of the AIDS death.

It was more than ten years ago that five courageous people started to do something against the indescribable misery. They had no money, but a big heart and infinite trust in God. Thus an exemplary project grew with high speed: The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. A Care Centre was built in Mandeni, 100 kilometres north of Durban, shortly after the foundation of the organisation ten years ago which was twice enlarged meanwhile. People allowed themselves to be infected again and again with the pioneer spirit and the incredible work of these idealists. Thus the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, which is purely financed through donations, has become a pacemaker in the fight against AIDS with the largest hospice of the country

with 40 beds in air-conditioned wards, a Children's Home with another 40 beds and many outreach projects. Government and private institutions keep coming for advice how to implement antiretroviral AIDS treatment.

My wife and I help wherever a helping hand is needed. Boredom is a foreign word. It happens nearly every day that one of us goes out into the township or into the bush by ambulance with a nurse.

We fetch patients from their dwellings, sometimes out of pretty Zulu huts, rondavels with a thatched roof, sometimes out of low-cost-housing township dwellings, square and stuffed with furniture which looks as if it was collected from a rubbish dump and repeatedly also out of slum areas.



They are closer to death than to life and most of them die on the following days.

We are able to and want to give these people an opportunity to die in a dignified way, bathed and cared for, wearing clean clothing in a freshly made bed accompanied by a helper.

It is amazing though how often our patients recover just through re-hydration, proper nursing care and nutrition.

Then we can prepare them for HAART, Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy.

Doing so we have to treat their tuberculosis first, an opportunistic infection, which almost all of them are suffering from as well.

Succeeding in that these patients can continue to live for many years vigorously enjoying a high quality of life.

The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard will not solve the problem of AIDS in South Africa, but they show in an exemplary way how it may be done.

An entire people lies in agony here -



and here where I carry dying babies in my arms, where young people die from AIDS every day - there the people do not just die in my hands, but in my heart as well.

Khethiwe may live

„God the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit." ... Yes, my dear little Khethiwe, you will come to know this new life much too fast - that is what I think about as the baptismal service carries on. "He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so

may you live always as a member of his body sharing everlasting life. Amen." I make the sign of the cross on her forehead. Khethiwe is so weak, she will most probably not survive the night, not in the earthly sense of the word.

Khethiwe is a bit more than a year old, but she is malnourished and was infected with HIV through breastfeeding. It was much too late until somebody tried to get help. When it became obvious that her mother was suffering from AIDS she was locked into her hut together with her child. A bowl with maize-meal porridge a day pushed into the hut through a gap underneath the locked entrance door, was all the food they got. Their family ostracised them because of fear of infection and even more because of fear of the ancestral spirits and evil spirits. This is what happens again and again here in Zululand at the east coast of South Africa. Neighbours notified the Social Workers and they brought mother and child to us to the Care Centre of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in Mandeni, 100 kilometres north of Durban. Our help was too late for the mother suffering from AIDS in its final stage. She died on the day of her admission. We had hope for Khethiwe, but she is so weak now that she can hardly breathe. What a joy it is as I enter her ward the next day and she is still alive. I take her into my arms, but she does not react at all



with her serious small face. I hope you will not have to suffer too much, my little one! I find her in her ward even on the day after and on the following day and she is even improving slightly. Is there still hope though? Khethiwe's granny has to walk a long distance to visit her and she does so twice - three times a week. It was just through proper nutrition and good care that the little one regained so much strength that she qualifies for antiretroviral treatment. Granny being the legal guardian now agrees. She promises to take Khethiwe home as soon as possible and takes part in the drug readiness course for Highly-Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART). She will make sure that Khethiwe will take her strong medication twice daily from now on for the rest of her life. She starts HAART in our hospice. A little Zulu girl leaves the Care Centre walking alongside her granny nearly six months after we thought that she would have to die.

Khethiwe may live for many more years, ten, fifteen maybe twenty. We hope and pray that by that time medication may be found which could really cure AIDS.

Khethiwe may live because there is the Care Centre of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard - a Catholic Relief Organisation which is solely financed through donations - for 10 years already. Although we get monies from the U.S.A. through the South African Bishops' Conference for HAART patients, these do not cover all the cost. Another 500 Rand per patient per month is needed to run the HAART programme successfully and in a sustainable way. Information and training of patients and their partners (or treatment companions) inpatient care during the initial phase, regular medical after care and home visits of these chronic patients. What we can do here locally, we do happily. We do it because of our faith and our reward are the beaming faces of those we can help and the grateful looks of those whose hands we hold as they die as we pray with them and for them.

Angels in the hell of AIDS

If one coloured in the continents according to the prevalence of AIDS the black continent would really be the black continent. If we coloured in Africa only in the same way, the most southern part would be the darkest: South Africa (27.9% of the population being HIV-positive). Within South Africa it is the province of kwaZulu/Natal (37.5% HIV-positive) and within this the Sundumbili area (76% HIV-positive) and iSithebe with even 88% HIV-positive people when factory workers once were tested there. That means that probably about 200000 people will die from AIDS within the next few years just here in the catchment area. That is nearly the entire population! AIDS, poverty, "no-future-feeling" - It was that situation which the German Missionary Benedictine Gérard Lagleder was sent into as a parish priest about 15 years ago. He initiated first relief projects together with four South Africans. These pioneers founded the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard to achieve this. Grace abounds where misery prevails. Thus the Brotherhood grew with her tasks. Industrious fundraising enabled them to provide professional help besides the tireless work and readiness of the volunteer staff. 38 employed staff and many hundred donor members support the work of more than 700 active members and half of these volunteers help in the Care Centre regularly. Financed purely through donations an impressive Care Centre could be built with 40 hospice beds in air-conditioned wards and further 40 beds in a Children's Home. The Care Centre is also the base for many further outreach relief projects. It is for more than a year already that my wife Angelika, a medical assistant in a doctor's surgery, and I, Thomas Müller, deacon, are here in Mandeni as volunteers in the proximity of Sundumbili and iSithebe. We come from Oyten next to Bremen in Germany. We got and used the chance to be able to help here for three years. Where darkness is greatest the light shines brightest. Thus we meet here in the hell of AIDS angels of charity like Wiseman Zulu. He goes out into the bush with a 4-wheel-drive pickup to visit our AIDS patients in their homes.



If AIDS patients do not come for treatment too late it is possible to prolong their lives by many years at a high quality of life through Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART). Usually they regain that much strength that they are able to work again and feed their families. The Brotherhood visits such patients regularly at their homes to discover possible difficulties and adverse drug reactions as soon as possible and to eliminate these subsequently. Wiseman is our man for this task. Sitting far out in the bush outside the hut of an HAART patient he discusses his life situation with him: How are you doing with your medication? How is the family doing? Do you have a prospect for work? and so on - and so forth.

South Africans are trying here with great effort to solve South African problems within a South African Project. It is a highly professional relief project rooted in the heart of the Zulu. I am glad to be able to help here for a while and I am full of praise for the work done here.

Velezulwini

It is one of these normal and still unbearable days again. The wind pushes the smoke from the paper factory close by into the township and it smells

awfully. The wind moreover drives lots of dust over the roads and paths. The air can hardly be breathed. On top of this it is so hot, that one can only survive in the shade. At the taxi rank, a sort of minibus station are always crowds of people. Half past four, the early shift is over and thousands want to get home as soon as possible after a short shopping spree. "Would you be so kind to hold my baby for a moment, that I can get my shopping bags into the taxi?" Zandile takes the baby from the young Zulu mother and has a smile on her face as she looks at the baby lovingly. A sweet boy, seemingly newly born; he sleeps. The mother cannot be made out in the crowd. Maybe her shopping trolley is at the entrance. That may take two - three minutes anyway.

„So, please get all in, we are fully loaded, let's go!", shouts the taxi driver. "Just a moment, please! Somebody is still missing. She is getting her bags and wants to come along as well." We are in Zululand - one more minute does not matter. Zululand is far South, at the east coast of South Africa. Durban is a city which can be found on most maps. Mandeni and Sundumbili township are located at the Tugela river 100 kilometres north of Durban. The passengers avoid the dust standing closely together behind the Toyota bus. It is far too hot inside the bus. "Where is she? We want to go!" "She just wanted to get her shopping bags." "Five more minutes, then we will go with her or without her!" Time is running. The five minutes are past, but the young mother is not to be seen. "I'm sorry" says the taxi driver "but who knows if she will come back again at all." Having said this he asked his passengers to get in and puts his foot on the accelerator. Zandile stays back with the baby in her arms. Her smile is gone. "What should I do? If I go to look for the mother she may probably just come and miss us, but I cannot just stay in the blazing sun and do nothing!" On the other side of the taxi rank there is a tree. Several Zulu women have sought shelter in its shade already. There Zandile talks about what happened to her and asks for advice.

Two hours have past. "Velezulwini" (Who fell from heaven) as the Zulu may call him, starts crying with his small voice, if you want to refer to this even as crying. Zandile herself has mothered several children, but the last birth was too long ago, she cannot satisfy the Baby's needs. Finally she decides to go to the Police. "Well, somebody has just put the child into your arm and you claim not to have noticed or known anything? What is the child's name?" "But I told you, that I do not know! There was just that young mother, who only wanted to fetch her bags to load them into the taxi." "And you did not watch, where she went to?" "It was rush hour traffic. You surely know how crowded it is everywhere at that time." "And you did not know the lady?" "No, I did not and I told you so several times already." "And what are you going to do now?" "I won't do anything any more. I brought this child to you and now I am going to go home finally. My family does not know where I am. They will be worried about me already." "We cannot keep this child here." "I also cannot keep it." "Then wait, so that we can take a statement."

It is dark for some time already when a police van stops at the door of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre. They bring a little baby. Father Gérard, on whose initiative the Care Centre had been founded more than ten years ago, a nurse employed by the Brotherhood and two police officers discuss in the treatment room what has happened. The baby is being examined, bathed and sorted out. Doing so the clip on the umbilical cord is discovered. Therefore the boy must have been born a short while ago in a clinic and delivered by a professional midwife.

Although the Care Centre is solely financed through donations, it is a very big institution with 40 hospice beds and further 40 beds in the Children's Home. That enables them to admit "Velezulwini" without bureaucracy. He gets a baby grow and a fresh bed in an air-conditioned ward. The staff of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard succeeded on the next day to find out, where the little one was born and who his family are.

The mother had hidden the pregnancy from her family and still refuses to accept the baby. The little "Velezulwini" aunt took over. "Velezulwini" will be able to grow up normally under her care.

Once more it was possible to help quickly and directly because the Brotherhood is rooted locally. It was on 28 October 1992 that the Missionary Benedictine Father Gérard Lagleder founded the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard together with four South Africans. What had started as a small idea in the centre of the AIDS capital of the world is growing very fast. Many charitable projects were initiated and just four years after the foundation the first sod is turned for the Care Centre which after having been enlarged twice already celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

Being on first-name-terms with the AIDS death

„Good morning Deacon. How are you?" I turn around and I look directly into the dark brown beaming face of a Zulu, who must have approximately my age. One of our patients, Siphon, stands at the reception of our Care Centre. I have been here in Mandeni, South Africa, as a volunteer for more than a year. Thus it happens increasingly frequently that I know patients coming into the house from before. I had collected Siphon from his house myself six months ago. He had been so weak that all of us thought that any help might be too late for him. He lay on the floor of his hut as we arrived with our ambulance. The entrance door was unusable and patent. He lay in the only room with his feet nearly in the door opening. His whole body was covered with dust so that he looked totally grey and he himself was just skin and bones. It was difficult to lay him onto our stretcher in this narrow and dark hut. He had been much too weak to help.

Now he stands there, still marked by the past suffering, but well strengthened. We greet each other in the special Zulu way of shaking hands. "You look well, how are you doing?" "Oh, Deacon, I am so grateful to all of you. I am very well. I have no trouble with my antiretroviral medication and - you see it yourself - I have to be careful not to get too fat." "Well, don't worry, you can easily afford to gain some more weight." He found work again in iSithebe close by and he could even repair his hut.

I am happily whistling as I carry on doing my duties. Yes, it is so nice to be able to see that even very sick people can be helped. Siphon suffers from AIDS and apart from tuberculosis he had a whole string of other typical opportunistic infections which accompany the immune deficiency. AIDS still cannot be cured to this day, but taking modern medication AIDS patients like Siphon can still live for many years enjoying a good quality of life and work to raise their children and help to finally curb AIDS. Of course, all of us here have hope that medication may be found within the coming years which will be able to cure AIDS. I had not considered AIDS to be a big challenge before, but here, in the middle of Zululand in Sundumbili 76 % of tested people are HIV-positive, in iSithebe 88 % of factory workers were HIV-positive in a test! It is a people dying here! The middle generation is nearly extinct already today.

The mostly volunteer helpers of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard are working right in the centre of this hopelessness. Many of those who come here into our Care Centre come too late for treatment to be effective. AIDS is still denied in spite of big educational drives and even the most basic rules of prevention are disregarded. Thus we can just accompany many patients lovingly in their last short phase of life and make it as pleasant and pain free as possible. Others are a bit stronger, like Siphon, and find the way back to their normal life with the help of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

Our Care Centre became ten years old. All of us, Zulu, South African Indians, English South Africans, coloureds and a few overseas volunteers are helping happily and as well and much as we can.

Our celebration of the Solemnity of St. John the Baptist

The Solemnity of St. John the Baptist was celebrated at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre on Sunday, 25 June 2006, at 9.30 a.m.



A festive High Mass was celebrated by the Administrator of the Diocese of Eshowe, Right Reverend Father Jabulani Ndaba.



Deacon Thomas Müller and



Miss Susanne Stauffer received the silver-braided epaulettes signifying their new authority.



he had joined the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard together with all the other new members who were officially received into the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard during this celebration.

The Council of the Dedicated Members had decided in an Extraordinary Meeting on 20 April 2006 to invite **Rev. Father Siphosenkosi Titus Gamede, Miss Susanne Stauffer and Rev. Deacon Thomas Müller to apply to be accepted as candidates for the Dedicated Membership in the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.** Due to the special circumstances it was decided that the three candidates could already act as Dedicated Members during their candidacy. Therefore the new (candidate and acting) dedicated members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, Father Sipo Gamede,



After this Father Ndaba blessed the medals for the new members of our Brotherhood.



It was a special joy and honour that he himself received one of them as



After Holy Mass

lunch was served on the veranda.



Feast of Blessed Gérard

It was with great joy and gratitude to all who contributed to its institution, building and running that we celebrated the

10th anniversary of the Blessing and Opening of Blessed Gérard's Church and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

We did this as we celebrated the Feast of Blessed Gérard and **blessed and opened a new dining room and study room for Blessed Gérard's Children's Home** on Sunday, the 15th of October 2006, at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre. The celebration started at 9:30 a.m. with a **Festive High Mass** celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop Gerard Ndlovu (bishop emeritus of Umzimkhulu Diocese).



(from left to right: Deacon Thomas Müller, Bishop Gerard Ndlovu, Father Sipo Gamede, Father Gérard, Dr. Paul Thabethe, Sister Nokuthula Thabethe, Miss Susanne Stauffer)



Bishop Ndlovu during his sermon

Bishop Ndlovu blessed the medals for the new members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard after the sermon. Doctor and Sister Thabethe presented the medals to the new members while Father Gérard said: "Receive this medal as the sign of your acceptance into the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. Live in such a way that you may honour God through the protection of faith and service to the poor."

Father Sibusiso Zulu, the parish priest of Mangete and many others were received.

After the conferral of the medals Father Gérard blessed all the new members.



After the reception of the new members Holy Mass continued.

Blessing of the new dining room and study room of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home



After Holy Mass Bishop Ndlovu blessed the new dining room



and the new study room of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.

Anniversary Function commemorating 10 years Blessed Gérard's Church and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

Father Gérard read a message from His Most Eminent Highness, the Prince and Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Frà Andrew Bertie, and delivered a speech. (The texts are printed on the front page of this newsletter)

Blessed Gérard's Church was filled beyond limit and some people had to be seated outside on the veranda.

Special guests of honour (from right to left): The Chancellor of the Most



Venerable Order of St John in South Africa Major Ian Crowther, the Chief Executive Officer of the Order of St. John in South Africa Mr Craig Troeberg, Mr John M Schnell MMM JCD KStJ and the Assistant Chief Commissioner of the Order of St. John Mrs Caroline Clark.

Presentation of the President's Award 2006 to Miss Susanne STAUFFER

Miss Susanne Stauffer is an active member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard since 2nd September 2004. She came to South Africa as a foreign volunteer for one year and after she had finished this year she came back for another year of volunteer service. On 16th June 2005 Miss Stauffer, lovingly known as "Susi", took over the task of the Principal Caregiver of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home. After Mrs. Kalkwarf was murdered on 6 April 2006, Susi accepted to take over from her as the Project Co-ordinator of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home. The Council of the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard decided on 20th April 2006 to invite her, Father Siphon Gamede and Deacon Thomas Müller to become candidates for the dedicated membership and act as dedicated members with immediate effect. The Executive Council of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard has nominated her as the Vice-Manager of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on 10th of August 2006. The Department of Home Affairs extended Miss Stauffer's residence permit for another three years on 28th September 2006 and thereafter she can apply for permanent residence in South Africa as she has agreed to stay here for good as she considers her vocation in the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard her life task.

The President of Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard has awarded the President's Award 2006 to Miss Stauffer for her excellent care of the children as the Project Co-ordinator and Principal Caregiver of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home, her outstanding responsibility and unparalleled readiness to sacrifice her life for the voluntary service of our organisation.



Children's Home, her outstanding responsibility and unparalleled readiness to sacrifice her life for the voluntary service of our organisation.

Decoration of meritorious members through the Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Mrs Caroline Frances BEAUMONT

Mrs Beaumont has been an active member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard for more than 13 years. She was employed as the parish secretary in Mandeni from 1993 to 1996, when Father Gérard, the president of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, was still parish priest and her office duties for the parish included work for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard at an increasing level, so that she was transferred to the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in 1996. Her duties were first as a secretary, then as a bookkeeping assistant and for many years already as the chief housekeeper. Mrs Beaumont is a bearer of the "Badge of Honour" of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. Mrs Beaumont was further acknowledged for her outstanding loyalty, diligence and efficiency as the secretary of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Housekeeper of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre and Hospice – as the first recipient of the newly established honour - with the President's Award of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on 9th July 2000. In acknowledgement of her good leadership abilities she has been nominated as a member of the Management Committee of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on 10 August 2006. Mrs. Beaumont has not only been the longest serving employee of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, but a very loyal, steady and reliable column of continuity, good spirit and a real hard worker.

His Most Eminent Highness, Frà Andrew Bertie, the Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta has awarded the Silver Medal of the Order "Pro Merito Melitensi" to Mrs. Beaumont.



Mrs Nokuthula Marigold THABETHE

Bearer of the Silver Medal of the Order pro Merito Melitensi. Sister Thabethe is a registered professional nurse and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing Science by the University of South Africa. She is a co-founder of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. She was elected as the Director of Charity Work of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on 5 November 1992 and has held this position (through re-election) ever since. Sister Thabethe initiated and heads Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic as the project co-ordinator since its inception on 15 March 1993. She has spent every second Saturday in the service of our Malnutrition Clinic for the last 13 years and it is due to her service and perseverance that the Clinic continues its valuable task. Sister Thabethe has done all her work for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard as a true volunteer, free of charge and has invested lots of most valuable time for her activities in our organisation.

His Most Eminent Highness, Frà Andrew Bertie, the Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta has awarded the Cross of the Order "Pro Merito Melitensi" to Sister Thabethe.



Doctor Paul Zakhele Titus THABETHE

Bearer of the Silver Medal of the Order pro Merito Melitensi. Dr. Thabethe is a co-founder of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and was elected as the Medical Superintendent of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on 5 November 1992 and has held this position (through re-election) ever since. Dr. Thabethe has spent many hours serving in our Brotherhood as a volunteer doctor and it is due to his extraordinary readiness and volunteer service that our Highly-Active-Anti- Retroviral-Treatment (HAART) Programme could develop sustainably and become a pioneer project in our country. Dr. Thabethe heads Blessed Gérard's HIV/AIDS Education Programme since its inception on 23 May 1994. After Mrs Kalkwarf's death Dr. Thabethe was elected as the new Vice-President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on 20 April 2006 and as the new Vice-Director of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre on 8 June 2006. Dr. Thabethe has done all his work for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard as a true volunteer, free of charge and has invested lots of most valuable time for his activities in our organisation, although especially his involvement in the HAART programme even caused a considerable loss of income for him in his surgery.

His Most Eminent Highness, Frà Andrew Bertie, the Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta has awarded the Cross of the Order "Pro Merito Melitensi" to Dr. Thabethe.



Mrs Clare Ann KALKWARF

Dame of Magistral Grace and bearer of the Silver Medal of the "Order pro Merito Melitensi" of the Order of Malta. Mrs Kalkwarf had dedicated her entire life for the last 14 years to the Order of Malta for the co-foundation and development of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. She was the most important and efficient motor and heart of the Brotherhood, worked 12 to 16 hours per day for the Order and served in many responsible committees and functions. There could be hardly anybody more loyal and dedicated to our Order than her. **His Most Eminent Highness, Frà Andrew Bertie, the Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta has awarded the Gold Medal of the Order "Pro Merito Melitensi" to Dame Clare Kalkwarf posthumously.** The Gold Medal of the Order "pro Merito Melitensi" is in fact the

rarest decoration and is considered the most valuable reward which the Order of Malta awards. The regulations for the Order "pro Merito Melitensi" state: "The Gold Medal shall always be reserved for those who have participated in our activities putting their life in danger" - and indeed she was not only murdered in

her uniform returning from an Executive Council Meeting of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, but she had sacrificed her life in total dedication to her vocation in the Order of Malta.



Father Gérard (centre) posing with the decorated members (from left to right) Sister Thabethe, Caroline Beaumont, Susanne Stauffer and Dr. Thabethe.

The Anniversary Function was followed by Lunch and entertainment for young and old

Father Gérard thanked Bishop Gerard Ndlovu, Major Ian Crowther, Mr Craig Troeberg, Mr Victor Claudius, congratulated Zandile Mkhwamubi and Nomusa Nxumalo again on their graduation as enrolled nurses.



Susanne Stauffer with Sibusiso and Magdalena, the youngest children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home at the moment.



The children from Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School and Crèche in Whebede singing and dancing



and finally two "real" teddy bears visited our children. All left over energies could be used up for a jump on the jumping castle and the last attraction were some balloons from Malteser Germany. What a most wonderful day! A sincere vote of thanks to everybody, who contributed to this most memorable event!

In loving memory of



Mrs. Clare Ann Kalkwarf D.M.

13 October 1949 - 6 April 2006

Clare Kalkwarf was a Dame of Magistral Grace of the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta (Order of Malta) and a bearer of the Silver Medal of the "Order pro merito melitensi" of the Order of Malta. She was



- a founder member, the Vice-President and manager of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.
- the Vice-Director and manager of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre
- the project manager of Blessed Gérard's Hospice HAART Programme
- the project coordinator of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home, Blessed Gérard's Community Development Centre, Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund, Blessed Gérard's Poor Sick Fund and Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund
- a parishioner and for a long time pastoral council member of St. Anthony's Parish in Mandeni, Diocese of Eshowe, South Africa.
- a board member of CATHCA (Catholic Health Care Association), a South African national body for organisations involved in the Church's Health Care Ministry,
- a working group member of the Inter-diocesan AIDS Committee of the Catholic Church in the Province of kwaZulu/Natal and
- the secretary of the Diocesan AIDS Committee

of Eshowe.

The last picture of Clare Kalkwarf alive

taken by Deacon Müller on 6 April 2006 at 17:43 (about 5 hours before she was murdered) showing children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home pictures



from her last Lourdes pilgrimage:

Clare Kalkwarf's murder

Thursday (6 April 2006) night about 19:00 hrs, Clare Kalkwarf's husband Geoff came home and when he opened the house door four armed men forced their entrance to their house in 8 Kudu Road in Mandeni. Geoff was tied with ropes and covered with a sheet and they started taking whatever they considered valuable.

Clare was at an Executive Council Meeting of the

Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and when she returned home she walked into the inferno, shouted for help and tried to run outside. She was caught there by others, stabbed twice and pushed back into the house where a gunshot made an abrupt end to her earthly life at 23:02 hrs.

Thank God Geoff is bodily unharmed, but only he knows what psychological ordeal he had to endure.

We are absolutely speechless and ask for your



May perpetual light shine upon her!

Clare Kalkwarf's life

Who was Clare Kalkwarf?

Clare Kalkwarf was the most dedicated and faithful person one could ever have the privilege to meet and I had the great privilege to work closely with her since 1991. She was a co-founder of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and if it was not for her, the Brotherhood would never have come into existence and would never have developed to the organisation it is now. It is not just her unparalleled efficiency and determination to do whatever is possible to alleviate the sufferings of the sick, the poor and the destitute, but it was her very motherly way, which won the hearts. Although coming from an administrative and business background, she would well deserve an honorary degree in nursing, social work and pastoral care. When I sometimes was downcast about things not happening or problems which we had to face it was her who always had the stronger faith and absolute trust in God's help. Her maybe dearest place in the



world was the chapel at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre in Mandeni. It was there where the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard had Holy Mass together and only two

hours later after a joint supper with the Dedicated Members she went home and was stabbed and shot dead. I am convinced that she is now looking down from heaven onto us and knowing her organisational talents I am sure that she found out about all the red tape in heaven and is already organising heavenly support for the people, who were entrusted into her care. Without being presumptuous I just want to quote what several people already told me: "She is one of those unrecognised saints" I agree with them and I am proud that I could share in her life for such a blessed time.

Father Gérard T. Lagleder O.S.B.

Clare Kalkwarf's life and vocation in the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



Together with her husband Geoff, Dr. Paul Thabethe, Sr. Nokuthula Thabethe and Father Gérard she **co-founded the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** on 28 October 1992. Clare said in an interview with Father Martin Trieb

O.S.B.: "My personal motivation in founding the Brotherhood was to help the community in the area. All my life I have been involved with charity work in one way or another, but this was a way for me to be involved on a formal basis with the help of other people; to be able to network with other people and to really make an impact on the community, that is was not just a little bit of help here or a little bit of help there but it was a way that we could really make a difference for the people in the area. I saw there was so much poverty and so many social problems in the community, especially family problems, that it was a way for me to get involved and to help in a way that would make a big difference to the community."

Clare Kalkwarf was invested as a Dame of the Order of Malta



South Africa is honoured by the fact, that the first South African has been invested into the Order of Malta.

On 9 July 2000 the Grand Hospitaller, who is responsible for the Relief Work of the Order of Malta internationally came all the way from Rome to Mandeni especially for this occasion and invested Mrs. Kalkwarf as a Donat of Devotion into the Order of Malta. As such Mrs. Kalkwarf, who was married with three children did not make a religious profession like a nun, but donated time and energy in devotion to the work of the Order.

Clare Kalkwarf wrote about her investiture: "In this holy year, 2000, I feel most privileged to have been invited by and accepted into Blessed Gérard's 900-year-old "everlasting brotherhood", the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. I will always remember the 9th July as the day that changed my life. I would like to thank God for counting me amongst those worthy to serve him. I will endeavour to live up to the promise, which I have made, to the best of my ability and I will wear the cross and the vestment of the Order as a sign of affirmation of my vocation and loyalty to our motto "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum". I humbly accept the responsibility of being the first South



African to become a member of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and to continue to assist the President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, in introducing and spreading the Order of Malta and its spirituality to our community and to our country. ... Lastly, thank you to those who work with me, who help me and support me. May God bless you all. Yours Sincerely In the service of "Our Lords the Sick" Clare Kalkwarf D.M."



His Most Eminent Highness, the Prince and Grandmaster of the Order of Malta, Frà Andrew Bertie, had conferred the **Silver Medal of Merit of the Order of Malta** to Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf, Dr. Paul Thabethe and Mrs. Nokuthula Thabethe in

acknowledgement of their outstanding merits for their role in the founding and development of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. His Excellency, the Grand Hospitaller of the Order of Malta, Albrecht Baron Boeselager passed on the decorations.

The Sovereign Council of the Order of Malta in Rome had decided to **promote Mrs. Clare Kalkwarf** in acknowledgement of her outstanding merits for the work of the Order of Malta in the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard from the rank of a "Donat of Devotion" to a "**Dame of Magistral Grace**".



The Grand Commander of the Order of Malta, who is the deputy of the Grand Master, conferred the Order's Cross on Mrs. Kalkwarf when he came to Mandeni at the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and the blessing and opening of the new building for Blessed Gérard's Children's Home on 15 December 2002.

Father Martin Trieb O.S.B. interviewed Clare Kalkwarf in preparation of his film "An everlasting Brotherhood". He asked: "On your door is written „manager". What is your duty as manager? What makes you happy and what are your problems? What is the job description of a manager?"

Clare Kalkwarf replied: "My duties include the running, the administration of the whole Brotherhood, the whole organisation. It includes the running of the Care Centre and Hospice and of course all the projects, that fall under the whole Brotherhood. So, on one hand I am the manager of the whole Brotherhood and on the other hand I am the manager of the Care Centre and Hospice, which is our biggest project. The duties include correspondence, the accounting, the fundraising, organising personnel, the modern term of that is human resources, dealing with problems, that come up for the personnel. It also includes looking for volunteers, helping the volunteers and encouraging them when they come. One of my biggest portfolios in my job as manager is membership, which means it is my job to find new members. When we do get new members to train them in basic homecare for the Care Centre and to motivate them into volunteering their time for the Brotherhood. But **I see my job not just as a job but as a vocation** and therefore what my job description says is not all what I actually live by. I get involved in all aspects of the Brotherhood, the being a manager is only one side of it, the administration of the Brotherhood is a very big side of it, but much more important is the religious side of it and I find myself doing more and more and more in every aspect of our Brotherhood. As a Dedicated Member I couldn't just do admin work and not worry about our patients, not worry about our personnel, not worry about our volunteers and their circumstances at

home. All those things play a role, all those things fall into my portfolio and I have a saying, which I tell all our volunteers and all our staff: „My door is closed for confidentiality reasons, but my door is never locked. If you have problem, come! Come and talk! Whatever your problem might be, if it is personal or if it is work related or whatever it might be, come and talk, that is what I am here for. And so for me my job description



is not so important, because although I do all the things that are in my portfolio **I feel that it is my duty having been called by God to do this work to go further than just what my job description says."**

The "Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard - NEWS LETTER" is the official mouthpiece of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and is edited by the Management Committee of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

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Farewell from Clare Kalkwarf

Mrs Clare Ann Kalkwarf's funeral took place on Tuesday, 18 April 2006, at Blessed Gérard's Church, Mandeni

Clare Kalkwarf had stated in a codicil to her last will and testament: "I ask that this occasion (her funeral service) be a happy one with light and happy music and no black is to be worn, except as part of a uniform - as this is a celebration of a new beginning and not an end."



Clare Kalkwarf's body lay in state from 9 a.m. A Holy Requiem Mass was celebrated at 14:00 hrs / 2 p.m. Clare Kalkwarf further stated in the same codicil: "The main celebrant should be ... Rev. Father Gérard Tonque Lagleder OSB". We thank His Eminence, Cardinal Napier and the administrator of the Diocese of Eshowe, Father Ndaba for their kind and uncomplicated way to step back and thus fulfill Clare's last wish.

My dear friends, this is the faith which was a characteristic for Clare. In a codicil to her last will she wrote: "I ask that my funeral service be a happy one with light and happy music ... as this is a celebration of a new beginning and not an end."

What a Easter faith! This is Easter faith pure! She was convinced, even if I am going to be dead one day, please don't cry, because I am going to be happy. I am going to be in those hands of God and as we all believe that in the moment of our death the hands of God are waiting for us to receive us in the one big divine hug of Christian resurrection.

Our faith is dead, if it is not put into action. Clare's Easter faith was so strong and she put it all into action: She brought Christ to life in those she prepared for baptism, for First Holy Communion and Confirmation as a Catechism teacher for decades of her life. Clare made Christ's love live in her family, caring for her husband Geoff, her children Sean, Leon and Heather with a love which only they really know and which Clare has repeated in that codicil to her last will and testament.

Clare made Christ's love live when she became a co-founder of our Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard so that an effective instrument of the Church might be founded to really and truly be able to help those people who are in trouble in our area. Clare made Christ's love felt to the countless sick people, to the countless poor people, destitute and needy people who came here. She helped them not just by desktop solutions as the Vice-President and manager of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, but through hands-on care, through hands-on counselling and through hands-on motherly care for the children in our Children's Home. Clare made Christ's love felt in a very special and motherly way especially to our children in our Children's Home. If those children are asked "Who is your mum?" they say "Aunty Clare" and that shows how much a mother she was to the 36 of them. I could carry on with the endless litany, with an

Father Gérard's Sermon

Once upon a time, my dear friends, there was an old man in the hill country of Zululand, and he was one of those old people who was very wise and therefore many people came to him asking for his advice - somehow like Clare, who had so many people coming to her for advice -. And the name of this old man was Solomon. And this old wise man in the hill country of Zululand was taking a nap at noontime in his hut. And as he was sleeping - all of a sudden - he heard a sound which we hear now from the children of our Children's Home up there on the balcony, it was a bit louder actually, it made "waa, waa, waa". As he was going outside the hut he found a little bundle and that little bundle was crying and when he picked that little bundle up from the ground it was a little child and he thought: "Might be a mother has come to ask my advice and let me see, where the mother is, and he went behind the hut and he looked and he could not find her, and he waited the whole day and she didn't come back. So he kept that little bundle of humanity, that little boy with him, and because that little boy was given to him like a miracle, he gave him the name of Mangaliso. What should he do with the little Mangaliso? Somehow he found out because he was so wise. He knew where to get advice how to feed the little Mangaliso. And this little Mangaliso stayed with him, very much like the many children in our Children's Home. Mangaliso was one of them. And like Clare looked after so many of such children, Solomon looked after the little boy Mangaliso. And when he grew up and he became actually like every little child is very interested in what is going on in the world, and therefore he asked those thousand questions, which only three year olds can ask. And one of the questions I would like to tell you what happened:

"Mangaliso watched the swallows as they were flying about in the sky, up and down, hither and thither. He was amazed that they could all move so swiftly and

endless litany of good deeds of Clare, but they all sum up in putting into action, what Christ wanted us to do and this was her special and personal vocation, that we love one another as Christ has loved us. I think I can sum up Clare's life if I may in the words from the bible: "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends." Clare laid down her life for her friends, for her family, for those who were entrusted into her care and she was an absolute tireless example of somebody who never ever would give up, who never ever would take "No" as an answer, if there was a "Yes" to be given to somebody, who needed help. We are here to celebrate the life of Clare. We are here to celebrate the resurrection of Clare. We are here to celebrate the faith of Clare and to say a huge huge huge big "Thank you" to her, to thank her wholeheartedly for what she has done for each and every one of us, and I suppose there might be very few amongst us here, who have not benefited in one way or another from Clare's loving care. Clare dedicated her whole life to put into action what she prayed daily in the Prayer of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Through your grace you have called me to serve you as a member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. I thank you for counting me worthy of this task. I ask you humbly, with the intercession of Our Lady, St. John the Baptist, Blessed Gérard Tonque and all the Saints that the spirituality of our Brotherhood may pervade my life and my actions to be always dedicated to your service in my family, my friends and whoever needs my help. Trusting in your help I always want to protect the faith and have an open heart for my neighbour, especially the Poor, the Sad, the Lonely, the Handicapped and the Sick. Grant me the strength needed to live according to this resolution as an upright Christian selflessly in the Spirit of Your Gospel. For the honour of God, for the peace of the world and the benefit of our community. Amen."

safely in the air, never touching each other. And he said to Solomon: "I have never seen a swallow drop dead out of the sky onto the earth." Solomon told the little one: "The birds are more firmly in God's hands than the animals of the earth are. When it gets cooler in our part of the world, the swallows fly to the north across the sea where there is summer. One day they flew crowded in large swarms across the vast ocean. Yet when they were half way across, one swallow dropped out of the flock and fell back. She was too weak for the long flight. The poor swallow saw her sisters disappear further and further into the distance, and eventually she was all alone. Above her the clear sky, below her nothing but water. She fluttered aimlessly over the endless stretch of water becoming weaker and weaker. When the last strength of her wings left her, she plummeted down and the sea received her. That is the story of the swallow that plunged into the sea." And, he added: "The swallow has not fallen out of the hand of God, because He even holds the sea in the cup of His hand." "God even holds the sea in the cup of His hand," repeated Mangaliso, filled with wonder."

(quoted from "Mangaliso" by Albert Herold)

We can never fall out of God's loving hands and that was a central part of Clare's faith. She trusted that we are in God's hands.

And what happened on the 6th of April? Where was the hand of God?

This question, I suppose, many of us have been asking, but there is only one answer. And the one answer is that the hand of God was underneath her, like the sea, which is in the hand of God, and received her, when she fell. God is there for us in the worst times, which you and I can't even imagine. In the worst time which Geoff had to go through being an ear witness to Clare being murdered. We can never fall out of God's loving hands.



The Administrator of the Diocese of Eshowe, Father Jabulani Ndaba, acknowledged Clare's tireless work for the Church in the Diocese in the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard: "On behalf of the Diocese of Eshowe I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Eminence, Cardinal Wilfrid Napier, for honouring us with his presence as he is the highest authority of the Church in Southern Africa. ...

Baba, we are so honoured with your presence in our midst. Normally at celebrations like this, when the highest authority of the Church, the highest authority is the one who presides over whatever celebration. He is a humble man. He respected Clare's wish that Father Gérard be the one who presides over her funeral service. ... So he is full of humility. Thank you very much, your Eminence! We really appreciate your presence.

To my brother priests, who have come, who heard the call, that one of the members of Blessed Gérard is fallen, they have come to join us at this celebration to bid farewell to Clare. She has done so much for the Diocese simply by being here whilst this hospice is one of the biggest projects we have in the Diocese, she has been part and parcel of this project. With dedication and commitment. So on behalf of the Diocese as we bid her farewell we ought to say "Thank you!" Life does not end in the grave. Now she is at a better place where there is no pain, that she might have suffered at that moment, where there is no suffering, where there is joy and happiness. We should also pray for this hospice, the people who work here, the children and all people who live here being taken care of.

To the family, Geoff and children: On behalf of the Diocese I would like to thank you, the family, for allowing Clare to share her life working for the Church, share her life with the hospice taking care of faceless people like no one in the community. ... So we really appreciate that on behalf of the Diocese. May God

bless you and may Clare be a good angel to the family and to Geoff. Now she prays for you much better. She is closer to her creator.

Father Gérard, I know your heart is heavy. You lost a companion, a co-founder of this hospice, a friend. I was not too sure whether you will hold out to celebrate without tears, but having heard all these positive things that filled you rather with joy than sadness, the moments that you shared with Clare, with Clare at this place, looking after these people. Actually where she is now I am sure she is smiling as she wished that you will be the main celebrant and also that all the members here she smiles - she smiles. She said "nobody should be sad but filled with joy and song. I think you have fulfilled her wish. May God bless you all!"

Final commendation



Wilfrid Cardinal Napier, the chairman of the Southern African Catholic Bishop's Conference and Archbishop of Durban said the final commendation and emphasised in moving words Clare's exemplary role in the Catholic Church of South Africa and the need to prevent further violence through total commitment to the intangible sanctity of human life, which Clare had dedicated her life to, especially at Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

"I know I am not addressed to give a eulogy, but I

thought perhaps that I need to explain that I have come certainly to be with the family and with the community here at Blessed Gérard, but I am here also as Father Ndaba has said as one of the highest authorities of the Catholic Church in Southern Africa. Well, as the situation in our county and in the countries around us is such that we have to make a statement. When somebody who spent the best part of 24 hours looking after those who are struggling to keep their body and soul together, struggling against the effects of HIV and AIDS, and that person has her life taken away, than not a week later, this morning's newspaper front page "Two people found dead off the highway in Cape Town" and driving up here I listened to the news another four bodies found in Philippi in the Cape. There is a pandemic of killing, an utter disregard for the value of life and here we are celebrating Easter, the great Feast of Life. The feast that should be giving everyone, not just we who believe, but everyone too, what they see us rejoicing about... A real faith and a real confidence that life is the most precious gift that one could possibly give. In fact, it is not just a gift. It is God's presence that he moved into each and everyone of us. So I am hoping that together with you I can stand for life against this anti-life mentality that is getting a hold of our whole country and it is only if we, who believe, that we have this share of God's life in us, and that it goes further than simply being physical life. It is a spiritual life. And if we take it serious, then we are convinced and we can pass it on to others, when they believe then we will make a difference. I heard a wonderful little proverb on the radio yesterday morning. It says, if you think that you are too small to make a difference try sleeping in a room with a hungry mosquito. I think it is a wonderful way of saying to us: Never ever despise the impact that you can have if you are convinced, if you are hungry to tell people about this precious gift that God has given us, then I don't think that they will ever believe that you cannot make a difference.

We are here because this person Clare made a difference in the lives of so many people. I don't have to tell you what a difference she made. There are so

many others who can tell you from first hand experience. And if you will take away just that one idea from this day that we are going to be witnesses to the value of life, I think we can make a difference. And that difference is to go much further than simply protesting and tough talking and checking our place every time we get into conversation of bad things there are in our country. I think we must be more serious than that.

We have a law in our statute book, which says that the life of a baby in a mother's womb can be taken lawfully, legally, quiet, o.k. As long as that is on the statute book I cannot see how we as a people can actually say we object to the taking of life as Clare's life was taken. I don't see how we can say this. We see our parliamentarians carrying on as if nothing has happened, as if they are not responsible for inflicting on our national psyche the scar that we as a country allow the killing of innocent babies. How can we argue later on and say "but it is wrong to kill somebody" just because they are not yet born?

I think we have to make a difference. Change the mind setting in our own minds that we can change it in others and eventually like that mosquito we will make them sit up and think and sit up and act and I believe when we do that we will certainly start bearing fruit like the disciples standing round Jesus after he had risen and after he appeared to them: Go now and tell the whole world that I am risen and that a new life has appeared on earth and you have a share in that life and you are witnesses to that life.

Let's not allow Clare's death, Clare's sacrifice, to be in vain. Let us also stand for life. Blessed Gérard is a symbol. This hospice is a symbol of people who are saying "no matter how threatened, how weak, how subject to the disease of AIDS and opportunistic disease that come with HIV. I am looking that the smallest life is worth struggling for. It is as if I and you are standing up and saying "this is only this part of your life and then a new life comes, a life that will last for ever. That has not exactly been a eulogy but certainly a call for us to make a statement."

Eulogies



Clare's son Leon, speaking on behalf of the family gave this great and moving Eulogy:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am going to say a few words after which I invite any one to stand and share a short message with us. Mom has asked us to make this a happy occasion. So Mom, if I do shed the odd tear its normal as I didn't always listen to you anyway. In Moms codicil to her will she asked people not to wear black unless as part of a uniform. I must thank you on her behalf for respecting her wishes. Reading through all the e-mails which I received over the past week there is a reoccurring theme which struck me. Almost each and everyone of the e-mailers stated that they remember Mom with a smile on her face. These were people from all backgrounds, of all ages and from all over the world. They were from people who saw mom the day she passed away and

from people who had not seen her for many years. We, and I mean many people do see today as a celebration of a good life. This is borne out by this wonderful gathering of people which I see before me and from all the messages from people around the world who could not be here today. Mom always wanted the best for people. She proved to be a loving wife, a wonderful mother, a real friend, a great leader and a true confidant. Mom's remarkable journey started in the Johannesburg area where she grew up. In her late teens she met my father and the 2 of them eventually moved to Rhodesia where Sean and I were born. As a family we returned to South Africa where Heather entered this world. The next phase of her journey brought Mom and Dad to Mandini to start their own business. It was here that I believe that Mom found her true calling. She has achieved so much in the last 13 years with the Brotherhood. Mom was always quick to show how proud she was of her family and of many people. Mom, I think it is safe to say that today we are immensely proud of you and all you have achieved throughout your life.

I wanted to read a verse as it sums up this celebration and Mom's life beautifully.

We remember a life today and all that made her who she was - all that delighted her, that made her laugh or moved her to tears, calling to mind her story, and the many lives she touched along the way.

We honour a life today - her outlook, her inner strength, and the things that she believed in - recognizing her goodness, her uniqueness, her own special gifts shared generously with the rest of the world. We celebrate a life today and her connections with family and friends and all who loved her - feeling enriched for having known her and so grateful for our time with her, for the way she affected us... inspired us... and affirmed for us this is how a beautiful life should be lived.

Mom, Clare, Mrs Kalkwarf, Mrs K, Aunty Clare. You will always be very much loved and missed. May you rest in the peace you so richly deserve, knowing that you have touched so many people and that you leave us with so many special and loving memories."

Victor Claudius paid tribute to Clare is his unique way. Dr. Douglas Ross, who sat on the board of the Catholic Health Carers' Association of South Africa CATHCA with Clare, said words of appreciation for Clare's involvement in Catholic Health Care on a national level. One of the volunteers at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre added an emotional vocalist's tribute. Finally hundreds of people, who had come to attend the funeral, said their last farewell in front of the mortal remains of Clare at Blessed Gérard's Church. Clare further stated in the codicil to her last will and testament: "I further request the remains of my body should be interred. (Not cremated) If it is at all possible, I would like to be buried in the grounds of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre & Hospice, 61 Anderson Road, Mandini."

With special and exceptional permission by the administrator of the Diocese of Eshowe and eNdongakusuka Municipality Clare's wish could be granted and we hereby express our special gratitude to them for this.



On request of Clare Kalkwarf's husband and children the Rite of Committal at the burial site took place later this afternoon at 16:20 within the close family circle.

Clare Kalkwarf's legacy

Clare Kalkwarf Memorial Tree

Clare Kalkwarf had stated in a codicil to her last will and testament:
"A tree should be planted in the grounds of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre & Hospice - so that my children and grandchildren may see only beauty and a new beginning in my death."



Therefore the Kalkwarf Family planted a Natal Mahogany Tree in memory of

Clare on the day after her funeral, on 19 April 2006 right next to her grave.



By request of the Kalkwarf Family children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home - which was headed by Clare - attended the planting ceremony as they are kind of extended family because they considered Clare their mom.

ceremony as they are kind of extended family because they considered Clare their mom.



The children sang:
"iNkosi iphile, iNkosi ithathile, iNkosi iphinde yenza futhi. Alleluya. iNkosi ikusize uwele umfula iJordan. Aunty Clare, lala noxolo."
"The Lord has given. The Lord has taken. The Lord will do it again. Alleluia. May the Lord help you to cross the river Jordan. Aunty Clare, rest in peace!"



Afterwards Clare's children Sean and Leon and Clare's grandchildren Jannah and Nial joined our children at their playground.



The Clare Kalkwarf Memorial Fund

On the initiative of Clare Kalkwarf's brother Graham Sprake and with the unanimous consent and support of Clare's closest family Blessed Gérard's Care Centre has established a Clare Kalkwarf Memorial Fund to help finance the continuation of Clare Kalkwarf's life work: Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

Donations to the fund are tax deductible in South Africa, USA and Canada and may be made out to and addressed to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre "in memory of Clare Kalkwarf"

Further information on the banking details etc. are at the last page of this newsletter.

We carry on with Clare Kalkwarf's life work

The Council of the Dedicated Members held an Extraordinary Meeting on 20 April 2006

Elections:

Dr. Paul Zakhele Titus Thabethe was elected as the new **Vice-President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**.
Father Gérard was elected as the new **Administrator of Goods of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**.

Decisions:

It was decided to invite **Rev. Father Siphosenkosi Titus Gamede**, **Miss Susanne Stauffer** and **Rev. Deacon Thomas Müller** to apply to be accepted as candidates for the **Dedicated Membership** in the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. Due to the special circumstances it was decided that the three candidates could already act as Dedicated Members during their candidacy.

It was decided that the free position in the Management Committee of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre will only be reassigned later when a suitable person will be found to fill the position. Meanwhile Fr. Gérard agreed to carry the managerial burden on his own with the help of the existing office staff.

It was decided that **Miss Susanne Stauffer** should become the **project co-ordinator of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**.
Father Gérard should become the **project co-ordinator of Blessed Gérard's Community Development Centre, Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund, Blessed Gérard's Poor Sick Fund and Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund**.

The Executive Council of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard decided in its meeting on 10 August 2006 to nominate **Miss Susanne Stauffer** as the new **Vice-Manager** and **Mrs. Caroline Beaumont** as a **member of the Management Committee** of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

Clare Kalkwarf will be looking down from heaven with a big smile on her face

and we truly attribute it to her intercession for us, that there are major new developments of our work partly planned and partly already happening:

1. Since Clare's death we have employed **nine new staff members** (Fikile Khumalo, Silindile Buthelezi, Silindile Mngomezulu, Nicole Aralandi and Fikile Mthembu as child caregivers, Nomusa Nxumalo and Zandile Mkhwamubi as enrolled nurses, Carolyn Nunn as a secretary and Dr. Mdletshe as a medical practitioner) Welcome to all of you!

2. We have advertised the new positions of a **Social worker** (to work especially for Blessed Gérard's

Children's Home and Blessed Gérard's Hospice), a **nursing tutor** (to continuously teach home based carers courses, caregiver courses and HAART readiness courses), an **Educator** (as a deputy for Miss Stauffer at Blessed Gérard's Children's Home) and a **Personal Assistant** to the director (as Mrs Shirley Meyer was promoted as bookkeeping assistant).



3. We have already blessed and opened additions to **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**, i.e. a **new dining room and a new study room** (see article above!)

4. We have decided to **build another addition to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** to create space for a pharmacy, an office for the nursing tutor and a consulting room and office for the Social Worker, accommodation for the Educator, an office for the Personal Assistant to our director and a file room. The building plans are about to be finalised and submitted to the local authorities and we expect to start building early next year.

5. **Father Herfried Holzgassner O.S.B.** of Inkamana Abbey will have moved into our Care Centre by the time this newsletter is printed. He will work full time as our new **Hospice Chaplain** and thus take some workload off Fr. Gérard's shoulders. Wholeheartedly welcome, Father!



6. **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home is now full to capacity** - housing 40 children - and the government Social Workers are trying to help us to place some of the children back in their families, who just came to us for a supposedly short while.

7. **Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School and Crèche** in Whebede was designed for 30



places, but is **attended by 42 children**. We watch the development with vigilant eyes as we have the space to double the capacity if necessary.

Chronicle of the Year 2006

January 2006

4 January 2006: Mrs Sheryl Wüst, the regional mentor for kwaZulu/Natal from the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA) came to help us in the preparations for the accreditation of Blessed Gérard's Hospice by the Council for Health Service Accreditation of Southern Africa COHSASA.

18 January 2006: Meeting with Johan Viljoen from the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB).

18 January - 4 March 2006: Cristina Rodriguez and Constanza Lara from the Fundación Auxilio Maltés (Chile) came to volunteer in our Care Centre.

25 January 2006: Dr. Malebo Maponyane from the SACBC AIDS desk came to visit.

27 January 2006: Fr. Gérard gave a special service to the employees of èNdondakusuka Municipality.

February 2006

1 February 2006: Fezekile Tshiqi from Nampak visited us.

6 - 7 February 2006: Sheryl Wüst from HPCA visited to help us preparing for the COHSASA accreditation.

14 February 2006: Mrs Kalkwarf and Father Gérard attended a meeting of the Hospice Association of kwaZulu/Natal (HAKZN).

15 February 2006: Dr. N N Nkabinde started working as the new doctor employed by Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, especially for Blessed Gérard's Hospice and its HAART programme.

22 February 2006: Father Gérard attended the "Bavaria - Western Cape HIV/AIDS Symposium" in Cape Town.

24 - 25 February 2006: Father Gérard represented South Africa at the Africa Conference of the Order of Malta in Yaoundé / Cameroon.

28 February - 31 April 2006: Sr. Flicka Will, as South African registered nurse, came to volunteer at Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

28 February 2006: Father Gérard gave a lecture about HIV/AIDS to employees at Whirlpool factory in iSithebe.

March 2006

2 March 2006: Mrs Kalkwarf and Mrs Meyer attended a workshop on statistics by the Hospice Association of kwaZulu/Natal (HAKZN) in Chatsworth.

7 March 2006: Father Gérard gave a lecture about HIV/AIDS to employees at Whirlpool factory in iSithebe.

8 March 2006: Father Gérard gave an informational talk about the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard to the employees of First National Bank in Mandeni.

21 March 2006: Our member, Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B. celebrated his 40th anniversary of monastic profession at Inkamana Abbey. Father Gérard

attended the celebration.

28 March 2006: Mrs Ostermeier from Malteser Hilfsdienst Garmisch-Partenkirchen / Germany paid us a visit.

31 March - 2 April 2006: Dr. N N Nkabinde attended the FPD HIV/AIDS Management Course at Durban.

April 2006

5 April 2006: First National Bank Mandeni presented donations to us.

6 April 2006: SABC1 filmed at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre for a report of "Spirit in Action" for the programme "Spirit Sundaë"

6 April 2006: Mrs Clare Kalkwarf was murdered (see article!)

13 April 2006: Holy Thursday Celebration with First Holy Communion at Blessed Gérard's Church.

15 April 2006: Easter Vigil Service at Blessed Gérard's Church with baptism of Mxolisi, Mpilwenhle, Siyabonga, Nthuthuko and Nothando from Blessed Gérard's Children's Home.

18 April 2006: Funeral Service for Clare Kalkwarf (see article!)

19 April 2006: Visit of Archbishop Ludwig Schick of Bamberg / Germany, Auxiliary Bishop Mathias König of Paderborn / Germany, Mr Ralph Poirer, secretary of the German Bishops' Conference and Mr Ulrich Pörner.

19 April 2006: The Kalkwarf family planted a tree next to Clare Kalkwarf's grave (see article!)

20 April 2006: Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the Dedicated Members (see article!)

29 - 30 April 2006: Sr. Sheilagh Schröder and Father Gérard attended the Conference and AGM of the Catholic Health Carers' Association CATHCA and were presented the membership certificate of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

May 2006

7 May 2006: Benefit Concert in Durban organised by Mr Victor Claudius.

9 May 2006: Fr. Gérard attended the quarterly meeting of the Hospice Association of kwaZulu/Natal (HAKZN).

15 May 2006: Dr. N N Nkabinde resigned.

June 2006

1 June 2006: Meeting with Celiwe Nsibande from the SASA.

10 June 2006: Sr. Liz Coetzer, Sr. Sheilagh Schröder, Sr. Flicka Will and Fr. Gérard attended a Palliative Medicine Seminar in Durban (Highway Hospice).

13 June 2006: HAKZN AGM at Blessed Gérard's Hospice.

25 June 2006: St. John's Feast (see article!)

July 2006

10 July 2006: Father Gérard attended the Investiture and Rededication Service of the Most Venerable Order of St. John at Durban.

12 July 2006: Fr. Gérard and Sr. Liz Coetzer attend the SAHIV KZN branch meeting at the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine in Durban.

13 July 2006: Lancet laboratories visited Blessed Gérard's Care Centre and presented a donation.

13 July 2006: Aviation without borders handed over a donation at Johannesburg International Airport. Deacon Müller received it and transported it to Mandeni.

22 - 25 July 2006: Visit of Franz Graf Harnancourt Unverzagt

25 July 2006: SAPPI GM S W Engelbrecht, HR Manager Fred Carelssen, AWB Co-ordinator René Grobler, Communications Officer Verster Brent and Peer Educator Duke Ndwandwe presented a cheque to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre and listened attentively to our presentation.

25 July 2006: Megan Caminsky from the Victor-Daitz-Foundation paid us a fact-finding visit.

August 2006

1 August 2006: Elzet Malherbe and Mrs. Buthelezi who started a Children's Hospice in Tugela Ferry came to get information on our work and setup.

2 - 4 August 2006: Fr. Gérard attended the Conference and AGM of the Hospice Palliative Care Association of Southern Africa (HPCA) in Port Elizabeth.

4 - 31 August 2006: Visit of Johannes Lagleder, our representative in Germany.

5 August 2006: Parishioners from Mtunzini Catholic Church came to pay a visit to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

7 August - 4 September 2006: Visit of Gunnar Schröter and Veronica Dietzel.

8 August 2006: Fr. Gérard and Johannes Lagleder attended the quarterly Meeting of the Hospice Association of kwaZulu/Natal (HAKZN) in Durban.

8 - 9 August 2006: Sheryl Wüst from the HPCA visited us in preparation of the accreditation of Blessed Gérard's Hospice by COHSASA.

12 August 2006: Visit of Dr. and Mrs Biermann and their son. Dr. Biermann had worked with us at the Mozambique flood disaster in 2000, when Blessed Gérard's Disaster Relief Programme had its first big deployment.

15 August 2006: Ms Chalufu and Ms Angel Ndwandwe from the Department of Welfare visited us in preparation of the official placement of children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home by the Children's Court.

17 August 2006: Fr. Gérard was interviewed by Radio Horeb / Germany about our response to the AIDS pandemic.

30 August 2006: Visit of Mr Johan Viljoen, the project manager of the SACBC Aids Office.

September 2006

1 September 2006: Dr. Philile S S Mdletshe started employment with us as our new medical practitioner.

3 September 2006: 10th anniversary of the blessing and opening of Blessed Gérard's Church and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre (see article!)

14 - 17 September 2006: Father Gérard, Dr. Mdletshe and Mrs Meyer attended the CRS ART Conference in Bronkhorstspruit.

21 September 2006: Dedicated Members met with Mrs. Sheryl Wüst, the Regional Mentor of the HPCA for KZN

28 September 2006: The Department of Home Affairs extended Susanne Stauffer's temporary residence permit until 25 September 2009

October 2006

13 October 2006: Graduation of Zandile Thobile Mkhwamubi and Nomusa Magnificent Nxumalo as enrolled nurses (see article!)

15 October 2006: Celebration of the Feast of Blessed Gérard (see article!)

24 - 27 October 2006: Visit of Sophie Vangheel, founder & chairperson, Julien Freiherr d'Aussy de Beemersch and Patrick Huys, coordinator, from CUNINA / Belgium.

24 - 26 October 2006: Visit of Petra Heising from AGEH Cologne / Germany, the organisation which provided the legal framework for the voluntary service of Deacon and Mrs. Müller.

28 October 2006: 14th anniversary of the foundation of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

30 October 2006: Deacon Müller, Mrs Müller and Father Gérard attended a workshop on the "Code of Ethics of the HPCA" at Highway Hospice in Durban.

31 October 2006: Strategic Planning Meeting of the HAKZN.

November 2006

7 November 2006: Visit by the Executive President Eugen Brysch and Ms Silke Lehmeier from the German Hospice Foundation.

13 November 2006: Deacon Müller and Fr. Gérard attended the Blessing of the tombstone of our member Bishop Mansuet Dela Biyase at Eshowe Cathedral.

14 November 2006: Fr. Gérard attended the quarterly meeting of the HAKZN.

29 November 2006: "Graduation" at Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche.

30 November 2006: Fr. Gérard gave a presentation to Lancet Laboratories.

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:

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, being a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, has also been approved on 2 July 2003 by the South African Revenue Services (SARS) for purposes of section 18A(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act, i.e. donations to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre are tax deductible. [Reference 18/11/13/2777]

This means that now 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.

The most convenient solution for both parties would be if you organised a stop order on your account, if you want to donate regularly.



If you live in the USA:

Thanks to the generosity of the Benedictine Mission House in Schuyler, Nebraska, we can now 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 live in Canada:

Make out a check to the "Order of Malta", mark it "**for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**" and send it to:

**Order of Malta
1247 Kilborn Place
Ottawa ON K1H 6K9**

You will receive a Canadian tax receipt for the full amount.



If you live in Great Britain / United Kingdom:

1. You may send a cheque:

Any cheques sent must have the payee name: "BASMOM (BBG) Fund" (a fund of BASMOM, Charity No. 227994) and to be sent to this address:

The Hospitaller BASMOM · Mantle Hill · Bellingham · Hexham · Northumberland NE48 2LB

2. You may deposit your donation directly into the banking account of the BASMOM and mark it for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard:

Name of Account: BASMOM Emergency Fund
Bank: LloydsTSB
Account number: 00872754
Branch: Bellingham Branch
Branch code: (30-94-19)

3. In any case, please make a Gift Aid Declaration.

You will find a form on-line at <http://bbg.org.za/giftaid.pdf>



May the glory and peace of the incarnate saviour
fill your life in this Christmas season
and on every day of the New Year 2007!