



# CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

## ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

JULY 2021



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### CARDINAL'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you know my time with you is quickly coming to a close. So I would like to leave you with some thoughts which are drawn from the Covid-19 pandemic and the havoc it has done to our “normal” way of life, but also from the satanic violence and looting which followed the incarceration of former President Jacob Zuma. Although it was purported to have been triggered by the “unjust” imprisonment of Zuma, it was far too well orchestrated to have been a spontaneous reaction.

As if God wanted us to have a much closer focus of the poor and needy, and to heighten our consciousness of the hardship they are suffering on a daily basis even without the two phenomena referred to above, we held two meetings which directly concern the charity of the Church, namely, the 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Caritas South Africa and just yesterday 28<sup>th</sup> July, the meeting of the Board of Governors of Caritas Durban.

Needless to say much of our discussion at both meetings was about how we responded to the mayhem of violence and looting as well as how we continue to do the same to the pandemic.

To give you a picture of some of the thinking here are some addresses given to the General Assembly from Caritas Internationalis, from Caritas Africa and from Caritas IMBISA. I will start with my address as President of Caritas Africa to the General Assembly, in which I try to present Caritas not as an optional Extra but as an essential element of being a Christian Disciple of Jesus. I hope it will help you in the parishes to understand the key importance of Caritas as a key element in your parish as the official charity arm of the parish.

Please note that Caritas Holy Trinity, for example, is not going to take over what SVDP, or CWL, etc., are already doing but will coordinate and strengthen what is being done. That is why there needs to be a Caritas portfolio on the PPC to make budgeting for this ministry as well as coordinating it part and parcel of parish life and ministry!

I wish you every grace and blessing in living the motto of Caritas Durban:

“I am my brother’s/I am my sister’s keeper”!

Cardinal Wilfrid OFM

## **Presentation of Cardinal Wilfrid Napier OFM**

**21 July 2021**

### ***Greeting & Welcome***

Dear friends, both here at home, out there in Africa and over in Rome.

Welcome to this Fourth General Assembly of Caritas South Africa on the Advent of Hope and Creativity.

Thank you very much for honouring us with your presence.

### ***Introduction***

The Latin saying: “Ex Africa semper aliquid novi”, (Out of Africa there is always something new), comes to mind this morning, because it describes exceptionally well & accurately the meaning, the purpose and the goal of Caritas South Africa. Caritas is the instrument for enabling the Church in South Africa to find ever new and appropriate ways of responding to the changing situations of life among the people it serves, in particular the poor and needy.

### ***Special circumstances***

As we meet here on Zoom today that saying “Ex Africa...” takes on a shaper focus, first of all in response to the long lasting effects of apartheid and its ramifications. But it is even more significant as the country reels under the impact of the Covid19 pandemic. As if that was not enough, we have been dealt another body blow by the “socio-political Covid of violence and looting”, which has reduced some towns and villages in KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Johannesburg to war zone status. The purported cause was the incarceration of Jacob Zuma, former president of the ANC and the country, for contempt of court by refusing to appear before a lawfully constituted Commission of Enquiry into the corruption which has deprived the poor and needy of essential resources.

### ***Three Days of satanic Madness***

Over the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, July every aspect of life in KZN & Gauteng was turned completely upside down, by violence & looting on a scale never before experienced in South Africa, let alone the “New” South Africa!

Bad as the physical damage has been to buildings, businesses, transport and infrastructure, what is infinitely worse is the unseen devastation done to people’s lives & livelihoods, to their sense of worth and dignity. Overnight they were turned into virtual beggars, forced to queue up for hours to acquire even the most basic necessities of life, (bread, milk, groceries, household necessities, medications, fuel), let alone queueing for the lifesaving vaccine against the Coronavirus, which is in its third wave of devastation!

As a result of the wanton looting and destruction, there is bound to be a huge demand for relief and assistance of all kinds. These new demands for the basics to survive are bound to stretch already meagre resources beyond the limit!

### ***How do we see this new development?***

As always our Christian faith leads us to see these changed circumstances as God's way of urging us to make sure that Caritas is not seen as an optional extra, something set up as a devotion or a badge of honour. No! Caritas is and must be a necessary and essential instrument for the Church to fulfil its mission of charity at national, Diocesan and local level. The current combined crisis (Covid19 and Civil Unrest) is a concrete challenge to both CaritasSA and the Diocesan Caritas to be effective expressions of God's love for the poor made visible by the Church in response to all situations of need, not just in this crisis. CaritasSA must rise to the occasion and show that it is truly the charity of the Church in action.

This is what gives this Fourth General Assembly special meaning for the 26 member Dioceses of Caritas South Africa. From this Assembly must go forth the clear message that Caritas is not and cannot be simply an organisation of the devout, but rather the Church's effective outreach to help those in dire need, thus bearing witness to the commitment of Caritas SA to announce the Advent of Hope and Creativity!

Welcome, and thank you once again for being with us. Even though our presence to each other is virtual, we know that the love which brings us together is real, as real as the presence of God to each one of us.

God bless us with his loving and warm presence.

**+ Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM**  
President of Caritas South Africa

## **IMBISA**

### **INTER-REGIONAL MEETING OF THE BISHOPS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

#### **CARITAS SOUTH AFRICA- FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY- 21 JULY 2021**

1. Dear Brothers and Sisters who hoist the Caritas flag in South Africa, greetings. I bring you the greeting of the Bishops and the Holy People of God in IMBISA, i.e. in Angola and Sao Tome e Principe, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe as well as members of the IMBISA Secretariat here in Harare. In our IMBISA Region, people still look towards the Church for direction. This is especially true when life seems to present many challenges and difficulties.
2. The fact that people look towards the Church when presented with difficulties presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the Church. It presents a challenge because the Church should be always ready to show the face of Christ to all peoples all the time. Another challenge is that the Church should always be open to the cries of the poor and the needy. In fact, she should not only be open to the cries of the poor and the needy but, as Pope Francis teaches us, should also go forth so as to seek these poor of Christ. It is an opportunity precisely because this allows the Church to make her contribution towards the development of society. A society without a spiritual compass is heading towards ruin and as such can never really develop accordingly.

3. The IMBISA region is not without its problems. The economic and political problems of a country like Zimbabwe are well known. These have had the unfortunate effect of forcing many Zimbabweans to emigrate in search of greener pastures. On its own emigration is not a problem. However, the desire not to emigrate should be protected and secured as well. Even as we have to applaud the disappearance of civil wars in the Region, nevertheless we see dark clouds gathering on the horizon as conflicts take root in the Northern Province of Mozambique, Cabo Delgado as well as the Lunda Norte Province of Angola. In recent days we have observed the unfortunate events in Eswatini where the security forces killed more than fifty people whose only sin was communicating their right to have a Government of their choice. Most of them were sadly young people. As if that was not enough we have now witnessed the riots in South Africa with loss of lives and livelihoods.
4. Our countries are inter-dependent. No country is an island. South Africa depends on the neighbouring countries for its economic advancement in the same manner that the neighbouring countries tend to, by and large, depend on South Africa for their economic well-being. South Africa needs to sell goods to her neighbours and her neighbours seek to buy from South Africa. This is the nature of a properly functioning society or Region. In this way lives and livelihoods become secured and assured in all these countries.
5. As human beings we have to affirm that we are all brothers and sisters. We have thus every duty to continue shining the divine light upon all our brothers and sisters. This comes from our relationship with God, our Father, who desires to save all. From the beginning, once God had created Adam, he went out to seek him: Where are you? We too should always seek others and never be closed upon ourselves. We need to advocate for the lives of those who have been killed unjustly, the forgotten and mistreated.
6. Caritas South Africa has done a lot in welcoming the needy and the poor in its territory. From IMBISA, I can only wish you God's blessings as you continue embracing these important and significant acts of love. Continue to show the love of God who causes his sun to rise upon the good and bad alike as well as causing his rain to fall upon the good and bad alike.

Fr. Dumisani Vilakati

21 July 2021

**SOLIDARITY MESSAGE OF CARITAS AFRICA  
AT THE CARITAS SOUTH AFRICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Dear Brothers and Sisters

On behalf of the Bishop President of Caritas Africa, I would like to thank you very much for inviting Caritas Africa to participate in the General Assembly of Caritas South Africa. As Caritas Africa we are indeed very pleased to engage in this convening.

As Caritas Africa we are attentively following your initiatives, mainly the ones we have undertaken together since 2017 and the steps you have achieved especially in setting Caritas at the diocesan level, fulfilling your duties towards Caritas Internationalis and Caritas Africa,

responding to the Covid-19 crisis, engaging in the migration and development policy area. This is a very active Caritas that is indeed promising.

As Caritas Africa we are indeed proud that His Grace Archbishop Buti Tlhagale is actively engaging with the UNHCR at the Council of Religious Leaders for Peace. We believe that this is an avenue for us to amplify the Catholic Voice in matters of Peace and Security through a human security approach.

This brings me to the main purpose of my message today.

On behalf of the Caritas Africa Network, I would like to express our solidarity with the people of IMBISA Region. We take note of the protests in Eswatini and the unrest in South Africa. We are aware of the impact of this especially on the economic development that has greatly been affected following the Corona Virus Pandemic. We believe that all human beings deserve to live a life free of fear and in human dignity. As such this informs our mission to conduct advocacy on matters of peace, security and fragility.

Nevertheless, following our engagements with the members of our network we observe that for development to take place there must be peace and vice versa. Democracy in such contexts has to advance as well. But democracy requires more than an absence of discrimination of certain segments of society. Democracy thrives in governance and good governance means sharing the power to make decisions – in politics, in economic and social life, in public administration and even in our homes.

We stand in solidarity with you during this challenging time and we believe that through our Church Structures we can make a change. We have Caritas South Africa and sister Commissions such as the JPC and the Office of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison and also Religious Congregations who we are working closely with. We believe that through these entities we will continue calling for peace, justice and strong institutions for the benefit of the communities we serve.

I want to end my message by reminding us that Africa is a Land of Hope, let us not grow weary of doing good as our efforts are making a difference in small ways.

We stand in solidarity with you and we continue to pray with you that peace will prevail and for your pain (Isaiah 61:7) God will give you a double recompense.

## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

We have pleasure in announcing the appointment of the following Parish Priests with effect from 1 August 2021:

- Fr Zithulele Mkhize                      Mooi River and Nottingham Road
- Fr Malusi Zaca                              Clermont
- Fr Simon Sibisi                              Greytown
- Fr Siphwiwe Mbili                          Bergville (Assistant Priest)

We thank you for accepting this pastoral charge and pray that the Lord may guide you in the exercise of your ministry.

## ANNUAL RETREAT

The Police Chaplain, Rev. Fr. David Sithole, invites all members of Law Enforcement from the Security Cluster (SAPS, Metro Police, etc.) to the Annual Retreat on **27-28 August 2021** at Mariannahill Retreat House.

For more information, please contact Brigadier Shazi (082 567 4163) or Hlengiwe Msomi (078 507 2803)

## DENIS HURLEY CENTRE UPDATE

### What is it like on the ground?

#### *The view from the Front Line*

All of us in the Durban area have experienced at close hand the destruction, mayhem and fear of the last week. Graphic scenes taken very close to our centre have left us all shaken.

Where has the DHC been in all of this? We thank God for the fact that our building, and the Cathedral and Mosque on either side, have been spared any damage. Whether that is the protection of our heavenly patrons, or just good luck, we leave you to judge.

Sadly, many of the shops around us were looted and destroyed; across the city a huge proportion of shops, malls and warehouses were targeted and have been left desolate. We have been a city under siege. Now, we hope, we are emerging into the light.

Because of the risk to our staff of travelling, we have been unable to operate. But, thanks to a partnership with medical NGO ADD, we have made sure that patients who rely on daily medication (for TB, HIV and epilepsy) have been cared for.

Many thanks to all who have sent messages of support and prayers to us, even in the middle of facing their own traumas. It is good to feel such a strong sense of solidarity.

Our team are all safe and well and, despite all they have been through personally, are keen to return to serving those in need in our city.

***Doing what we can with what we have***

Our plan is now to re-open cautiously from Monday (19 July). What better way to mark Sunday's Mandela Day?

We will re-start our feeding programme from Tuesday, aiming to cook 500 hot lunches a day and serve them to homeless people around Durban. Like everyone else, they are worried about where they will get food.

To do this we need volunteers, so please let us know if you can help. We also need to be able to source lots of ingredients.

We appreciate that the break in food supplies is affecting everyone in the city. But if you can help with donations, or even enable us to buy items, please get in touch. We need perishables (potatoes, onions and cabbages) and non-perishables (sugar beans, rice, cooking oil, baked beans, maize meal and samp).

Our clinic team will also be back in action: initially focusing on those who need daily medication and also providing urgent primary healthcare when needed.

We are conscious that the level of need in Durban is now even greater than before. Jobs were scarce before COVID, the pandemic has made things worse, and now even more jobs have been lost.

We cannot do everything and cannot help everyone; but we aim to do what we can, with the resources that we have; and are confident that, thanks to our supporters and partners, the resources will be there when we need them.

For more information, and to donate from outside South Africa, see

[www.denishurleycentre.org](http://www.denishurleycentre.org)

**PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY**

I thank you, Lord, for the comfort of your presence: even in times of loneliness,

You are my hope and my confidence; you have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank you for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life.

I thank you for moments of joy and difficulty,

for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me.

I thank you for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which you call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace,

teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me,

to never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,

that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.

Send your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,

that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed, the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness and help me to live life to the full in each moment that you give me,

in the certainty that you are with me every day, even until the end of the age. **Amen.**

## DIOCESAN DIARY

### August 2021

1	Confirmation: Woodlands-Montclair	Vicar General
2 – 7	SACBC Plenary Session	
4	John Vianney Day, St Philomena's Home	
8	Installation of Bishop-elect Siegfried Mandla Jwara CMM	
12	Catholic Schools Board Exco Meeting	
13	St Theresa's School Building Committee	
14	Holy Family Schools Trust	
15	Confirmation: Kranskop	Vicar General
16	Chancery Meeting	
17	Liturgy Commission	
20	DMI Review	
22	Confirmation: Woodlands PMB	Archbishop
	Confirmation: Mpophomeni	Vicar General
25-26	Diocesan Clergy Business Meeting and Recollection	
27	St Augustine's School Feast Day Mass Napier Centre 4 Healing	
29	Confirmation: Isipingo	Vicar General
30	Finance Board	