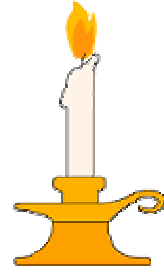




## Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

### Keetmanshoop (Namibia) Region

NEWSLETTER  
1 - 2008



#### YEAR WITH FR. BRISSON – 2008

Having experienced the marvellous celebration in Troyes from 2 – 7 February, we came back refreshed and with renewed commitment to continue the work begun by our beloved Founder. Indeed, the “coming back home”, as Fr. Michel Tournade, French Provincial, said in his welcome made this occasion a truly family affair.

We thank the organizers, the French Province of the Oblates and the Oblate Sisters for their hospitality and letting us go back to our roots in a manner worthy of honouring our common Founder.

We pray that our closer cooperation and continued support of each other's apostolates, will make this Year (and the future) a blessed one.

#### OTHER NEWS

1. In the **Novitiate** at **Keimoes**, South Africa, there are six novices from both Regions: Lu-Wayne Heyns, Alfred De Wee, Michael Joseph, Christopher Ovies, Heinrich Diergaardt and Longinus Amutenya. Under the capable guidance of Fr. Jan Mostert, OSFS, these young men will grow in the Oblate and Salesian way of life. Let us support and keep them in our prayers.
2. At the **Oblate Study House** in **Eersterust**, Pretoria, South Africa, with Fr. Koos Walters as Scholastic Director, we have 10 scholastics from three Regions: Benno van Schalkwyk, Jan Basson, Quinton Coetzee, Jaco Visagie, (*South Africa*), Reynold Esau, Harold Beukes, Etienne Swartz, Derick Apollus (*Namibia*), Boris Houengnessou and Luke Ametodou (*Benin*). Our scholastics from Benin will use this year to learn English and commence with their studies of philosophy and theology next year. We wish our scholastics God's blessings and encourage them to keep their focus on the Way of the Lord.

3. In the **Aviat House, Windhoek**, Namibia, under the guardianship of Fr. Charles Goliath, OSFS, there are four postulants: Levi Tjambari (Katutura), Trevor Rautenbach (Khomasdal), Nikodemus Shilongo (Okatana) and Jerome Titus (Rehoboth). The young man, Levi, is a qualified nurse who finished his training last year and will be working full time this year at the Katutura State Hospital, Windhoek. Trevor will do his first philosophy year and Jerome and Nikodemus have begun the Orientation classes at the St. Charles Lwanga Seminary, Windhoek. This sign of growth in numbers is surely a blessing from God. Let us support all these men in formation and constantly pray to God that they may persevere.

#### **4. MERGER OF KEIMOES-KEETMANSHOOP REGIONS**

The process of merger is far advanced, and after Easter the first communiqué for the nomination ballot will commence. The Joint Meeting of the two Councils, the Restructuring Committee and the whole community of confreres will gather for a chapter in April. We have elected Fr. Brian Williams, of Outshoorn Diocese, as the elections officer, and he will handle the nominations as well the election itself in September 2008. During our annual retreat, at which Fr. Aldino Kiesel, our Superior General will be present, the election will happen.

On **21 November 2008, at Pella**, South Africa, the new SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION will come to life.

This reality challenges and encourages each confrere to, especially through prayer, prepare himself as we walk this road together. Use the Novena also to pray that God's Holy Spirit may enlighten and fill each of us.

#### **5. CONGRATULATIONS**

In the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province **Fr. JAMES GREENFIELD** was elected as the Provincial. We congratulate Fr. Jim, and pray that the Lord will grant him wisdom and strength in the task entrusted to him.

**Fr. JAMES CRYAN** of the Toledo-Detroit Province was appointed as the new General Councillor. We wish him God's blessings. He brings a wealth of experience to this task and we assure him of our cooperation and support.

**Fr. DIRK KOSTER**, of the Netherlands Province, completed the biography of Fr. Brisson and we received the book at the Troyes celebrations. The style of writing is so nice and easy to read. Thank you, Fr. Dirk.

## **SOME NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

**Fr. FRANZ SONNTAG** will return to Germany on March 26, after many years of labour in the Lord's vineyard in Namibia and South Africa. We thank Fr. Franz for all his sacrifices and service to our Regions and the People of God. May the Lord continue to bless and guide you, and grant you health and strength.

**Fr. CHRISTOFFEL JONKERS** has been granted new priestly faculties by Bishop Philipp Pöllitzer, Keetmanshoop Diocese, enabling him to return to active ministry. He will mostly be involved in Oblate apostolates. Let us support him and walk with him the road.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.

**D.S.B.**