

THE BISHOPS FOUNDATION

Newsletter



It has been three months since the last Newsletter was sent out. During those three months I was in Ireland. It is always a memorable moment when one returns to the village where one grew up and where one knows every house, every turn of the road, knows all the neighbours and listens to the stories of what has happened since the last visit. Eventually one has to pack the bags and head for the airport and begin the trek back to South Africa. Many of you have made the same journey and if not to Ireland then to the land of your birth.

In the interim the Foundation has continued to grow. All those who had enlisted and agreed to make debit orders with me have been faithful to their commitment. Others who had decided to make their own debit orders were just as faithful. Then there were a number of people who made one-off donations, all of which swelled the pot as it were and at present we are averaging an income of somewhat under R50,000 a month. This is wonderful, as we are half way to the target we set last January of a 1,000 Catholics donating R100 monthly to provide a monthly income of R100,000. While we are well on the way to our financial target we are falling behind with the number of people who donate. We are still well short of the target of 1,000 Catholics. In this sense the three months break caused a pause in the momentum. Now is the time to pick it up again.

It is helpful to remind everyone of the nature of the Foundation. It was started by the Bishops and registered with SARS as a Public Benefit Organization (PBO) with the goal of supporting the charitable works of the Church. There are so many groups and organizations throughout the Church in South Africa who need financial support. They cover a vast variety of charitable projects such as Disaster Relief, Welfare Projects, Health and Education. Our brothers and sisters who take on these ministries and charitable out-reaches deserve the support of all of us. The Foundation is a channel or conduit by which we can all be involved in these projects. All the details of Foundation, history and structure, aims and objectives are all available on the web site www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za

So far this year if you recall we donated R100,000 to the Diocese of Durban at the time of the terrible outbreak of xenophobia. The Durban diocese had two camps for the refugees. Later we donated R25,000 to Childline for this work with child abuse. As everyone knows Radio Veritas has been in financial difficulties for some time and always in need of support and so the Foundation donated R10,000. In this issue of the Newsletter we highlight the reply we received from Sr. Cecelia Njau of St. Paul's Mission in Taung. That is where she runs the Lesang Bana Early Learning Centre. They received R25,000. Her letter of acknowledgement and some photos of the children are attached.

Going forward at this stage as I continue to invite new people to come on board, I am asking all of you to recruit for the Foundation. Your colleagues at work, (they don't have to be Catholic, just believe in the cause). Your working children, your brothers, sisters, in short, give them the opportunity to join a structured method of reaching out. Remind them they can claim back from SARS.

God be with you all. Fr. Barney.



Dear Father McAleer
Bishops' Foundation

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Cell: 060 693 31 02
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I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the Bishops' Foundation for the donation of R25,000 which they gave us recently. This donation is a great help, and is appreciated so much by us all.

We are very grateful for your support. We were able to buy four months' supply of food for the children as well as some badly needed furniture and some new toys to help stimulate the children.

Let us continue to build the kingdom of God by helping the little ones.

Thank you, and God bless

Sr Cecilia

From the desk of Father Barney 