



CHRISTMAS 2018

In the malls, Christmas trees are on sale, Jingle Bells and Away in a Manger sound all over and decorations are giving the whole area a festive atmosphere. It is Christmas time again. Schools are closed, builders traditionally close down and people plan trips to the coast or even abroad. The year is winding down. In our parishes plans are afoot for carol services. Choirs are practicing for the Christmas masses. Christmas hampers are being organized for the poor. Presents are being bought for loved ones. It's a time of peace and good will to all. That was the message of the angels. Amidst all the hurly burly of preparing for Christmas and the season itself we have to be aware of the Bethlehem event, the Christ event, the birth of Jesus the Saviour. Midnight Mass or Evening Mass is always special. May the blessings of the Christ child be with you all.

Here in the Foundation we reach out to the whole Foundation family in gratitude for all they have done in 2018. Our Foundation is growing year on year as more and more people get the vision of reaching out to the less provided for communities of our Church. All over our Conference region there are groups and communities doing their best to make a difference especially in the lives of children. The Foundation supports them if even in a little way, letting them know that their efforts are not going un-noticed. The Foundation resources are limited and we try to get good value for what we have to give. Sustainable projects are worth investing in.

Why don't you tell your family and friends about the Foundation and what it does? If people don't know about it one can't expect them to support it. There are so many groups and organizations seeking support but the Foundation may appeal to some. If you believe in the Foundation, others will too. Sent me a possible contact.

At Christmas there is a spirit of generosity and a concern for the less fortunate. People feel they would like to help but are not sure how or where. Tell them about the Foundation. I have attached the bank details for the Foundation and they can use those for a one off donation or a regular contribution. They can also access the Foundation web site, www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za for more information.

If you recall, in the November newsletter we disbursed R500,000 to a number of projects nationwide. Here is the story of one such project to which the Foundation donated R25,000.

The St. Luigi Care Centre is situated in the township outside Oudtshoorn. It is owned and run by the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Phillip Neri. It provides a safe haven for youth and children, trying to give them a venue to stay off the crime ridden streets of the township. They try to empower the children and help them discover and develop their sense of self worth, self-confidence and dignity. For more information one can contact Barbara Wirix at

fundingluigi@gmail.com. This project has been running and growing for the last ten years. Below are some photos showing their activities.



Growing children need nutritious meals



Learning the importance of soap and water.



From the desk of Father Barney McAleer

