

2 0 1 6 C H R I S T M A S E D I T I O N

# *the* KOINONIA *family*

*Oasis of Lourdes Mission - South Africa -*

DEAR FRIENDS,  
THE WORD BECAME FLESH,  
AND CAME AND DWELT  
AMONG US!



*Dear Friends!*

*It has been many months  
since we shared our latest  
news with you on our work in  
South Africa.*

*Time flies!*

*Thank you all for your  
constant encouragement and  
generosity!*

*Best wishes for the New Year!*

*May the Lord bless you and  
give you new ways to  
experience His providential  
hand that guides everything  
towards the accomplishment of  
His wonderful, saving plan -  
in our lives, in Koinonia and  
the in whole world.*





## Jabuland 2016

As in past years, on December 18, our mission became "Jabuland" (Zulu for "Land of Joy"), welcoming more than two thousand children. After Mass celebrated by our beloved Bishop Stanislaw and animated by the children's choir we had some artistic entertainment. Then the crowd of children was participated in some crazy joyful fun with water slides, games, hot-dogs, gifts and finally ice cream. It was not an easy task, but we were not alone. We had about thirty collaborators from the orphans project and a good number of volunteers involved in organising the party. And all this happened thanks to the support of the MSC Company and Dante Alighieri Association, who sponsored the event and came along to help us keep the kids entertained.



## Youth Music Festival

We organised for the first time the music and dance festival to discover new talents and create new opportunities for our young people. The small scenic stage of the Mission, with the forest as a background, welcomed sixteen groups who showed up with their traditional clothes. We had about 700 young people in the audience who responded with enthusiasm. It was a great day - definitely to be repeated next year!





## *The first vows of our brother Ignace*

On December 11th, our brother Ignace, born in Congo, professed his first vows in the Community of John The Baptist. It was a day of celebration for the whole community - not only for consecrated brothers and sisters but also for the

local people who expressed their joy and gratitude "in the Zulu way". May his testimony be an encouragement for the youth of this land so that they too will respond promptly to the call to consecrated life.



## *The first commitments of brothers and sisters in Durban*

This was a great joy for all of us! After a number of years of pastoral work in the city of Durban, the first 10 brothers and sisters who engaged with Koinonia promised to follow the spirituality of John the Baptist. Now we have 4 Houses of Prayer there, and we continue to pray for multiplication.

# Testimony of Eleonora

*"Finding out that despite the differences, we are all born under the same sky".*

I would summarise with this quote of the author Andrea Caschetto my experience with the community in South Africa.

The Lord has led me right here, making me

breathe a completely different world from mine, from ours, in big but especially in small things. I had touched with my hand the misery, the total lack of confidence in an improvement in living conditions. In this context is inserted the



valuable work of the community of consecrated brothers and sisters, who are committed every day to inspire in Zulu villages the hope and joy of faith in the Lord. All this, through

valuable and practical help, such as the project of "Adoption at the Distance".

And ... I have spent with them the best Christmas of my life!

## Pastoral activities

There are more and more activities in our Mission. In the month of December alone we had over 100 baptisms and 104 first communions. Many young people have participated in the Philip Course in preparation for Confirmation.

The "School of Evangelization" also came to the most rural areas where we offer kerygmatic formation. The response of the local people is very evident. This transforms their lives and they open their homes as "Houses of Prayer".



## The new fence

Our mission is becoming more and more beautiful. We finally were able to build the fence around our house. This has stopped the cows and goats from eating our vegetables!

We were also able to finish another part of the house, where we have the small chapel and the office of the pastor for now.