

# Leadership Conference of Consecrated Life South Africa (LCCL SA)

12-15 March 2018

Emseni Christian Centre

DRAFT

*Theme: "... UNLESS WE TOUCH HIS WOUNDS"*

## Purposes:

- To explore our experience of woundedness – in our role as leaders, in carrying wounds on behalf of our Congregations, and in responding to the woundedness of the wider world that affects and calls us as Religious – and also to explore the healing dimension of our role as leaders;
- to share this experience with each other as peers, so as to help overcome the isolation involved and provide each other with support;
- to highlight the interior contemplative life as our key source for healing and wholeness;
- to identify things we can do, as leaders and as a body, in expressing our healing role;
- to hear from our Executive a short report on their activities on our behalf, and on developments and information affecting us;
- to be accountable for how we responded to what we undertook at the previous AGM;
- to deal with regular business matters – e.g. minutes, elections, messages, etc.

## MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018

The 2018 LCCL AGM began at 5:00 pm

The meeting was facilitated by Br Michael Burke CFC and Sr Aloysia Zellmann OP- King Sr Maureen Rooney, Secretary General of LCCL, was the Minutes Secretary

### WELCOME: Sr Kathy Rule RSM, LCCL President

Sr Kathy welcomed all present and commented that this AGM was taking place during the year of the celebration of the bi-centennial of the establishment of the Catholic Church in South/Southern Africa. She then asked those present to observe a moment of silence and prayer in memory of Fr Pius Afiabor SMA, previous President of LCCL, and Br Constantino Kaunda FC, former member of the Executive, who had died recently. Photos of Fr Pius and Br Constantino were displayed on the screen.

Sr Kathy extended a special word of welcome to new Congregational Leaders and people attending for the first time: to Sr Clara Mangwengwe CPS an invited guest from CMRS Zimbabwe, to Sr Maureen the AGM Secretary and Br Michael and Sr Aloysia the Facilitators who were with the AGM again this year. A special word of welcome was offered to Bishop Jwara CMM of Ingwavuma, the LCCL Liaison Bishop, who was going to be present for all of the AGM. Sr Kathy closed her words of welcome by noting that the Benedictine priest who was with us last year as Prior of Inkamana Monastery had returned this year as Abbot, Abbot John Paul Mwaniki OSB.

## OPENING SESSION

### OPENING RITUAL: Sr Monica Madyembwa HC and Sr Kathy Rule RSM

Sr Monica led this session. She first drew the attention of the participants grouped at twelve tables to a basket on each table containing various items. The Hymn *Christ Be our Light* was sung. Sr Monica recalled that 2018 is a special year: the bi-centenary of the Catholic Church in South Africa and she quoted the Pope who had encouraged Religious to recall the past, look to the future, and live in the present. [*Opening Message for the Year of Consecrated Life*].

Each one was invited to spend a short period in silence recalling how each Congregation had shared the Good News of the Gospel. Participants were then invited to take a coloured tag from the basket: to write the name of their Congregation, the year in which they had come to South Africa and the year of their foundation; take another card, write the same details and add a few points about how the Congregation had contributed to building up the Church in Southern Africa.

The LCCL candle was lit. Sr Dominica Mkhize took the candle - representing Christ- and carried it held high around the whole room. A procession formed by followers from each table carrying their coloured tag, pinned the tag on the Timeline [1818-2018] on the wall and placed the card recording their Congregation's contribution in a the three legged pot on a symbolic fire. Soft music was playing.

Sr Mary Quimpo HC and Br Clement Sindazi CFC took turns telling the story of Creation, Genesis 1 interspersed with facts from the history of Religious Congregations in Southern Africa. The Refrain was: *And God saw that it was good!* [See Appendix for Text]. The Missionary Sisters of the Assumption were the first Sisters to come [1849], The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate was the first Congregation of men [1852], the Marists the first Congregation of Teaching Brothers [1867]. During the next 200 years Congregations were arriving and Congregations were being founded. *And God saw that it was very good!*

Sr Monica then Invited three volunteers to each take three papers from the pot and read out what was written there as a representation of the life and service of all the Congregations. In conclusion the participants prayed the Bi-centennial prayer which was on specially printed cards on their tables and sang the Magnificat: *Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord...*

### INTRODUCTION OF THEME: Br Michael

Brother Michael invited the participants to ask themselves: *How am I just now? Is there a pebble in your shoe? A pain in your neck? Is there a straw that breaks the camel's back? What gives you energy, refreshes you?* Evocative pictures were shown on the screen. The participants were then invited to share their responses in their table groups.

Announcements and housekeeping information followed and the Opening Session ended.

## **TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2018**

**OPENING EUCHARIST:** Main Celebrant and Homilist Fr David Rowan SJ, Vice-President of LCCL: Liturgy organised by Sr Edith Reischert OSB and team]

Homily: Fr David commented on the meaning of the Temple and the water flowing from the temple and then on the experience of Jesus and of the healed man at the pool of Bethzatha: after a good deed, complications and criticism can come up. He quoted Pope Francis's encouragement to Joy and Perseverance [cf. the man who had kept coming for years]

The death of the mother of Congregational Leader of the Sister Servants of the Holy Childhood, Assumpta Hadebe, the previous night was announced. Sr Assumpta had already left for home. The death of a Nazareth Sister the previous night, Sr Winifred Kingstone (95), was also announced.

During the memento for the dead Sr Edith and Br Clement Sindazi CFC read out the names of Deceased Religious in Southern Africa since the last AGM in July 2017. There were 65 names.

The fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' election was mentioned in the Prayers of the Faithful

### **FIRST SESSION**

#### **Overview of the Day: Sr Aloysia**

Sr Aloysia again welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation for the celebration of the Eucharist, the homily and the reading of the list of the departed. She briefly recalled points from the homily and then called attention to the purpose of the AGM: dealing with the experience of woundedness as leaders, the woundedness of congregational members, and the woundedness of the wider world. The current day would focus on woundedness with the following day being more about healing, on supporting each other and overcoming Isolation as leaders. A contemplative dimension would be kept in mind. In the afternoon there would be LCCL business.

#### **Reflection on Scripture Texts: Br Michael**

Br Michael presented Scripture Passages related to the suffering of Jesus or to people seeking healing from Jesus. He invited the participants: to choose a passage that appealed to them and form groups around the chosen text; individually spend a moment of reflection on the text- a sort of *Lectio Divina*; to speak to their group about the text that spoke to you: *Why did it touch your heart?*

### **SECOND SESSION**

Announcement of the death of Br Christopher Kiernan OFM

#### **Sharing about woundedness in groups: Br Michael**

Sharing in table groups about personal woundedness, woundedness in members/ Congregation: All this was to be kept confidential in the group: they were to share only what they felt comfortable to share without breaking down. They were invited to support one another, not judging. There was a few moments for reflection before sharing.

#### **Communal and Personal Meditation on Woundedness of Jesus: Fr Sean Wales CSsR**

Fr Sean then led a communal meditation related on the theme using Scripture texts [\[See appendix for the text\]](#)

There followed time for quiet, personal meditation.

**TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2018 ctd.**

### **THIRD SESSION**

The bi-centennial booklet was made available and participants were invited, in their free time, to attach to the display area the photos and symbols of their congregations which they had brought. Sr Aloysia thanked Fr Sean for his masterly talk.

### **MINUTES AGM 2017: Br Michael**

The Minutes had been sent out and studied beforehand

**Corrections:** There was one correction:

Item 12: Marist Brothers were celebrating 150 not 50 years in South Africa

**Approval of Minutes:** Proposer: Sr Obehi Ogbede NDM; Seconder: Sr Lorna Costa MSHR

**Matters Arising:**

**Item.9.4. 3** *'In the Gauteng area there is a support network and meetings for Religious Formators'*

A question was raised as to whether this support group still exists especially as regards young newly appointed formators. No one had definite information so the questioner, Sr Stephany Thiel OP, was asked to find out and, if necessary, take an initiative in this regard.

**Item 13.3** *Action for Members :( gleaned from suggestions raised, but not formally processed)*

- *Respond to Exec-members' requests for help and co-operation in regard to their work.*
- *Remember to report all allegations of professional misconduct promptly to the Contact Person of the Diocese concerned.*
- *Inform Exec portfolio-holders of relevant happenings that you know about.*

How did members respond? Participants were invited to discuss this at the table groups. There was no report back.

### **PREPARATION for ELECTONS: Fr Cosmas Chidi SAC**

Using Power Point, Fr Cosmas explained the vacancies on the Executive and which current members eligible for re-election.

First there had to be an Election of a President and Vice-President.

The election of two men and two women would follow.

Fr Cosmas encouraged members to allow themselves to be nominated and explained the Procedure for Elections.

### **PORTFOLIO REPORTS:**

Members of the Executive presented Reports on their Portfolios using written documents and/or Power Point Presentations [\[See appendices\]](#).

### **Responses to the Reports and Matters Arising**

There was a warm expression of gratitude for the work done, especially to Sr Kathy at the time of Fr Pius's death and her taking over from him.

**Matters Arising:**

1. **Child Safeguarding Policies:** police clearance when working with children. Does it have to be renewed each year?

Fr Sean replied: it is only valid for six months: In Cape Town an initiative is being rolled out in every parish to prepare people for this and facilitate the process of applying for police clearances. A firm will come and arrange this with parish workers in a non-threatening social setting

Sr Nkhensani Shibambu [Companions of St Angela] said: The Children's Act requires that an employee etc. must be screened by looking up the Child Protection Register. This is different from Police Clearance. South Africa expects this. Sr Nkhensani can provide documents in connection with this.

Sr Margaret Anne Craig [Nazareth Srs] said: Police Clearance is required from whatever country you have been in for the previous two years. It is valid for six months. As regards the other sort mentioned by Fr Sean: it doesn't have to be renewed.

**2. LCCL Website:** Those who wish to submit items for the LCCL Website? The suggestion was made to submit items by 15th of the month for that month.

There were no further questions:

#### **Further Questions on Elections:**

Fr Cosmas responded to these.

#### **Scrutiny of 2017 Audited Financial Statements:**

Sr Aloysia asked for two volunteers to scrutinise the audited Financial Reports. Sr Alison Munro OP-Oakford and Fr David Busiku FC were approved by the Assembly.

#### **Request for 12 Volunteers and presentation of issues for first session of Wednesday 14 March:**

Twelve participants volunteered to share in the table groups a personal experience of issues faced by many congregational leaders. They were asked to prepare to speak about an experience of dealing with one issue and to be an anchor for those who wished to discuss that issue. The group would then choose and discuss one real 'case study' among, offering advice and encouragement about possible solutions or steps to take.

List of 12 issues for the volunteers and the group work:

- A leader being "frozen-out"
- Resistance to change
- Resentment at being transferred
- Reaction to closing a house
- Reaction to terminating a ministry
- Having to send someone away during formation years
- Dealing with a dysfunctional member
- Dealing with addiction
- A community that is dysfunctional or blocked or toxic
- Dealing with indiscipline in financial matters
- Abuse of children or vulnerable adults
- Some other common problem

#### **Closure of the Session and the day's work**

Sr Aloysia led a brief reflection on the day and gave a brief overview remembering the Eucharist, the homily, the different activities, the discussion and input.

*What did you experience today as healing and life- giving?*

*The wounds in us, around us, in the world: What would you like to entrust to the healing power of Christ, to the healing power of his wounds?*

Participants were invited to share briefly with one person next to them.

The Assembly then prayed together: *Prayer to Christ the Healer*

## WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2018

### FOURTH SESSION

#### **Centring Exercise and Imaginative Meditation on a Gospel Text: Sr Aloysia**

*The first step to healing is recognising that there is a wound*

*We are in God like a fish in the ocean and the ocean in the fish*

Sr Aloysia invited the participants to do a personal body scan, slowly become aware of any tense or aching part, breathing warmth into any tense or aching part. Relax. *Enter into the core of your being where you meet with God: In your imagination welcome Jesus.* She offered a choice of two Scripture readings for individual reflection and prayer followed by sharing at the tables twos or threes.

*The man with the withered hand:* Lk 6:6-11

*The woman bent double:* Lk 13: 10-13

As a closing activity participants were invited to pray with or for the person with whom he/she had shared.

#### **The ministry of healing or healing dimension of our leadership roles**

Two participants told real-life stories to the whole assembly of how each had attempted to bring healing into a difficult situation: Sr Monica [Success in bringing some healing] and Fr David SJ [Success in bringing healing and also Failure- no apparent healing]

The participants were then invited to tell their own stories in their groups of attempts to bring healing in situations related to one of the twelve painful issues previously discussed.

The groups were then invited to choose and work on one real 'case study' offering healing, support and constructive suggestions.

There followed a period for silent reflection: *What have I learned from the group sharing?*

#### **Healing Ritual; Fr Cosmas [See appendix for the text]**

Introduction: We have shared about wounds. *Am I ready to receive the healing of God?*

Say to yourself: *I need to be healed in this area of my life. Am I ready to receive healing?*

*Where am I still hurting?*

There are so many things that are pulling us down.

Trusting in the One who powers the engine; like being in an aeroplane together. He needs our trust or willingness to be healed.

Opening Hymn: *O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder...*

Prayer for Healing: Fr Cosmas prayed this.

Gospel Mark 2:01-12: the healing of the paralytic brought in through the roof. Sr Letta Mosue SSB read the text aloud. There was a period of individual imaginative meditation on the gospel text, with guiding questions read out by Fr Cosmas.

There followed a period of praying for healing with or for each other, using gestures, holding a hand, etc. using healing words, healing promises:

A Special Prayer for healing was prayed in common followed by the Our Father

Closing Hymn: *God forgave my sin in Jesus' name...*

There followed a period of individual quiet time.

### **Election preparations ctd. Sr Aloysia**

There was need for one more man to be nominated.

With reference to two issues brought up previously two announcements were made:

1. Treatment for Addiction in South Africa: Sr Claudia-Maria Muhle, Franciscan Siessen Sister, has more information.
2. There is an offer to set up a peer group for formators in Gauteng: contact Sr Stephany Thiel OP.

### **FIFTH SESSION: Br Michael**

*The woundedness of the wider world around us: How are our Communities affected by the wounds of society?*

Divisions, imbalances, abuse of substances, person abuse, power abuse, unhealthy mind-sets, corruption, mistrust, deep prejudices, trafficking, xenophobia, all kinds of inequality, racism ... all the opposite of RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS .

As Religious we come with our values: Spirituality; Consecrated Celibacy; Gospel Poverty; Religious Obedience; Ministry; Community Formation; Vocations...

There was time for naming issues and sharing in the twelve table groups. A report from each table was prepared.

A participant from each table then presented a spoken report and handed in a written version of the report to the Facilitators for collation and presentation the following day.

### **5:00 Pm: Celebration of Eucharist:**

Main Celebrant and Homily: Bishop Jwara CMM, LCCL Liaison Bishop. Bishop Jwara spoke about the difficulties that come with leadership and encouraged those present to carry their cross and persevere.

## **THURSDAY 15 MARCH**

### **The day began with announcements:**

1. Preparation for Elections: more male nominees still needed
2. Advice, arising from a specific situation, about being cautious in accepting candidates who have been in other Congregations; contact the previous Congregation/s!
3. If you have property to sell please let LCCL know first.
4. Please remove all the Prestik very carefully and completely from the walls.
5. There will be a Workshop/Seminar for temporarily professed Religious in Koinonia Centre, Johannesburg 01-04 October.
6. The Programme for Addiction in South Africa mentioned by Sr Claudia-Maria is only for males: There is possibility for females in Mozambique

### **Reflection: Sr Aloysia**

Sr Aloysia recalled the theme: *Unless we Touch His Wounds* and the previous day's focus on healing. Participants were invited to centre to focus on our Creator God, the Holy Spirit within us among us and everywhere. *Why can I be a person of Hope? I believe God is at work. I can expect the unexpected. God is ever creating.*

A prayer was displayed on the screen.

Participants were invited to silently repeat a word or phrase that touched them

Praying together: *Risen glorious Christ...*

### **Elections to the Executive**

The LCCL President, Sr Kathy presided over the election.

There were 61 participants present and eligible to vote. So the absolute majority was 31.

***Election of the President:*** only Fr David Rowan SJ was nominated. Fr David accepted election.

***Election of the Vice-President:*** only Sr Monica Madyembwa HC was nominated. Sr Monica accepted election.

There were three nominations for the two vacancies for women: Sr Nkhensani Shibambu, Sr Thobile Gumede, Sr Stephany Thiel. Each was invited to address the assembly briefly.

Voting was by means of written ballots. The votes were counted by Sr Claudia Maria Muhle and Sr Clara Mangwengwe neither of whom had passive or active voice in the elections.

#### ***FIRST ROUND for a woman member of the Executive***

##### **First Ballot**

Number of votes: 61

Sr Nkhensani Shibambu: 22

Sr Stephany Thiel: 22

Sr Thobile Gumede: 15

Sr Mary Quimpo [had not signed acceptance of nomination]: 2

Absolute majority was not reached

##### **Second Ballot**

Number of Votes: 61

Sr Nkhensani Shibambu: 29

Sr Stephany Thiel: 27

Sr Thobile Gumede: 4

Abstention: 1

Absolute majority was not reached

##### **Third Ballot**

Number of Votes: 61

Sr Nkhensani Shibambu: 35

Sr Stephany Thiel: 22

Sr Thobile Gumede: 3

Abstention: 1

Sr Nkhensani received absolute majority: Sr Nkhensani accepted election

#### ***SECOND ROUND for a Woman***

Number of Votes: 60

Sr Stephany Thiel: 45

Sr Thobile Gumede: 14

Abstention: 1

Sr Stephany received absolute majority: Sr Stephany accepted election.

#### ***Elections for two vacancies for men***

Only two men were nominated for the two vacancies:

Fr Jude Burgers (Comboni) and Br Clement Sindazi (Christian Brother). Both accepted election.



**Collated Suggestions from 2018 LCCL AGM:** (These are also on a separate page as an Appendix)  
The Facilitators presented the following collated Suggestions from the Assembly:

**Suggestions from AGM 2018 to LCCL EXECUTIVE:**

1. Provide workshops addressing common problems faced in Religious Life – to clarify and to inspire.
2. Offer formation workshops according to age-brackets, e.g. to face our woundedness.
3. Provide lists of resource persons (e.g. facilitators, those who can help with community-building).
4. Remind members about the commitments we take on together as LCCL and Joint Witness.
5. Share useful PowerPoints with leaders.

**Peer Suggestions and Advice for Leaders – from LCCL AGM 2018:**

1. Leaders need to walk their talk: be the change we want to see – ubuntu, the Gospel's challenges (e.g. tolerance), taking not shirking responsibility, being prophetic and evangelising in our own behaviours.

**Structures and practices**

2. Test and ensure that our structures are life-giving, not stress-giving.
3. Promote healthy lifestyle (e.g. exercise and community recreation) and the cultivation of individual talents.
4. Try to involve all members in decision-making and implementation.
5. Ensure our communities are aware of best practice around child protection.
6. Ensure transparent financial structures and clear lines of accountability.
7. Make Right Relationships a central focus of our ministries and programmes.
8. Encourage participation in available enrichment opportunities.
9. Encourage communities to use facilitation.
10. Use helpful instruments for understanding and appreciating personality differences.
11. Help communities recognise which society norms are acceptable in Religious Life and which are in conflict with what we stand for.

**Community building**

12. Provide opportunities around identified themes, e.g. reconciliation; healing workshops using existing resources; sharing of our own AGM experience on woundedness, giving members the opportunity to express their hurts and tell their stories.
13. Work at values underpinning Religious Life – discipline, healthy work ethic, unselfish generosity of spirit, putting the God-quest first, accountability to one another, sensitivity to diversity, inclusion (e.g. in our use of language), and the call to be counter-cultural.
14. Keep working at deepening our understanding of our charism, the relevance and implications of our vows, and endangered elements of our culture such as silence.
15. Look into ways of opening our communities appropriately.
16. Develop a discipline around the use of cell-phones.
17. Work at openness to constructive criticism, seen as means of growth rather than as attack.

**Addressing problems**

18. Face obstacles and problem situations courageously – don't sweep them under the mat.
19. Try using a less formal setting to deal with sensitive matters.

**Substance-abuse**

20. Provide professional help accompanied by compassion without judgement.

**Racism**

21. Talk about it before problems arise, and deliberately counteract it in our structures.

**Awareness**

22. Make ourselves aware of the cultural background of those we lead.
23. Inform ourselves about what is happening in society and help our members to be informed.
24. Accept woundedness as part of our reality.

**Formation**

25. Do it in a local context, training people in both local and religious cultures.
26. Work with the families of the young people who join us to help avoid inappropriate expectations.
27. Be careful of accepting candidates who have been in another congregation.

The suggestions were all approved by the Assembly.

## **More Suggestions and Concerns from the Floor**

### *Suggestions:*

- Possibility of Advice and one Voice from LCCL on Land expropriation
- Send Out Power Point presentations used in this AGM
- Send out the Minutes quickly
- On the List of Participants give contact details
- We were our own resources! No outside speakers needed.
- Request from a group of members about a request from LCCL to SACBC about revising the current English translation in the liturgy:
- More contemplative dimension of Religious and Christian Life- a very contemplative approach, prayerful way, a bit like a retreat.
- Church Music: Sesotho Hymnbook: Is anyone composing new hymns?
- Need for hymn books for SA with different up to date hymns

*Concern:* The day of Consecrated Life, 02 February: we are not celebrating it and owning it. What are we doing with it?

*Concern:* What are our Bishops doing about Lumko - it is our home: we would like to be at home at a place with the Eucharist. Expand Lumko?! The money we spend in other places: they get our money

### **Address by Sr Clara Mangwengwe CPS, First Full time Secretary, CMRS Zimbabwe:**

Sr Clara thanked LCCL for the invitation and for its collaboration with Conference of Major Religious Superiors [CMRS] Zimbabwe. She also offered condolences on the deaths of Fr Pius SMA and Br Constantino FC on behalf of the Conference of Religious in Zimbabwe. And stated that in Zimbabwe they recorded 17 deaths of Religious including two Bishops.

She made some comments on the new political dispensation in Zimbabwe since the installation of President Mnangagwa. People are excited with the sense of peace that is prevailing at the moment although our problems still persist with cash shortages though most people have embraced the use of ATM cards and mobile money for transaction. People are both excited and scared. There is a general peaceful atmosphere: you can see positivity, depending on your point of view. The spot checks, e.g. in hospitals, helped in change of attitude in the medical staff. Even with all this, Zimbabwe still has a long way to go, we are not sure what things will turn out to be after the forthcoming elections in the country. There is a lot of uncertainty. But we are hopeful – hoping for the best with the “Zimbabwe is open for business” mantra by the current president.

About Religious Life and CMRS Zimbabwe: Formation is a key focus. CMRS has launched a pilot study to train Formators in the country with a total of 14 candidates – 5 men and 9 women Religious. The programme is affiliated to the Catholic University of Zimbabwe but being run or housed by Holy Trinity College, in Harare. CMRS has made links with the Association of Women Religious in Malawi (AWRIM) and in September 2017, became an associate member of the Association of Consecrated Women of East and Central Africa (ACWECA). Since 2016, six Sisters from Zimbabwe have joined in the training programmes in Malawi sponsored by the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC). And since 2014, CMRS re-established the All Africa Conference: Sister to Sister (AACSS) for women Religious and Zimbabwe will, for the first time, host the AACSS Regional Conference (comprising; Zambia, Malawi & Zimbabwe) in April 2019. Sister Clara went on to mention some challenges: CMRS has not got its own place, but is renting office space; reduction in Religious vocations and the worry about the motivation of those who come to join Religious life.

### **Announcements about events marking the 200 Years Celebration**

Johannesburg: 21 April at Mother of Mercy Shrine

Cape Town: There had been a number of events. The closing Mass will be on 24 June in Cape Town

Diocesan Formation of Religious: There is really a lack of communication

Fr David made a suggestion to ask Southern Cross to present an inside double page on history of Religious Life in Southern Africa. He also said he could ask a Jesuit with the necessary skills to make a booklet.

### **Additional Announcements**

Sr Maureen spoke about sending in material to Radio Veritas and encouraged the Congregations to make a regular financial contribution to Radio Veritas

There was a suggestion to launch in every diocese/region a celebration on 02 Feb 2019: a gathering of Religious. Combine with other Dioceses when there few Religious in a Diocese.

### **Scrutiny and Approval of 2017 Audited Financial Statements**

Sr Alison Munro and Br David Busiku reported on their scrutiny of these:

Money had been managed very well; there is an increase in Investments due to capitalization.

LCCL does not come out on annual subscriptions from the Congregations as regards annual running expenses. Subscriptions had been raised in 2018 but it is not desirable to ask for subscription which are too high. This reality needs to be carefully managed. Having a Religious rather than a lay person as Secretary General results in quite a saving. There are investments which come due in July.

The following quotation from the AGM 2017 Minutes 9.11.2 is still relevant: *The General Fund had decreased, but this was due to the fact that there had been a deficit in the running expenses of the LCCL. The Revaluation Fund includes interest which will be paid. The Capacity and Formation Fund involves money which had accumulated when the Men and Women Conferences merged, and is used for specific needs in relation to Formation and Training. The Trafficking in Persons Fund is related to money that could be made available to a project of the Human Trafficking Programme run by Sr Melanie. These funds are touched when necessary, and thus earn some interest in the interim.*

Sr Alison and Br David recommended that the 2017 Audited Annual Financial Statement be approved by the AGM. The 2017 Audited Financial Statement was unanimously approved and adopted by the AGM

### **Jubilee Congratulations**

The following received a gift candle marking their special Jubilee this year:

Fr Maluvu Ghislain OSB	25 years Profession
Br Joseph Walton FMS	50 years Profession
Sr Ann Wigley OP- King	60 years Profession
Sr Anne Patricia Flynn MSA	60 years Profession
Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Congregation: Sr Cecilia Anawanti	75 years since Foundation
Holy Cross Child and Youth Care Centre:	100 years since Foundation
Sisters of St Vincent de Paul	200 years since Foundation

### **Expressions of Gratitude and Appreciation: Sr Kathy**

There followed many expressions of Gratitude and Appreciation, including gifts to:

Facilitators: Br Michael and Sr Aloysia

Secretary General: Sr Maureen

Outgoing member: Sr Mary Quimpo

CMRS Representative: Sr Clara

Liaison Bishop: Bishop Jwara CMM

Bishop Jwara addressed a few encouraging and appreciative remarks to the Assembly. The Bishop suggested as regards having a Catholic venue large enough to accommodate meetings such as LCCL AGM that LCCL draw up a proposal and present it to the Bishops.

### **Expression of Appreciation to the outgoing LCCL President: Fr David**

Fr David, the newly elected LCCL President spoke warm words of appreciation to Sr Kathy for her many years' service, hard work and dedication on the LCCL Executive, her work as Vice-President and most especially for the way she had taken over the Presidency after the death of Fr Pius Afiabor SMA especially for overseeing the planning, preparation and running of the 2018 AGM

### **CLOSING EUCHARIST:**

The main Celebrant and Homilist was Abbot John Paul Mwaniki OSB. In his homily Abbot John Paul spoke about a very painful personal experience of rejection and humiliation and disillusionment, followed later by healing, new life, new wisdom and new ministry. He encouraged the Congregational leaders to trust in the Lord, bring their wounds to Him, have hope and persevere.

*Minutes Secretary: Sr Maureen Rooney HC*