

# LCCL AGM 2018



You are invited to sit in groups that mix those you know with others you don't yet know, to help everyone to feel included.



Fr Pius Afiabor  
SMA died 11  
October 2017



Brother Constantino  
Kaunda FC  
died 19 January 2018





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The wound  
is the place  
where the Light  
enters you.

RUMI

[www.TheSilverPen.com](http://www.TheSilverPen.com)

The code for  
the gate is  
8028#

Unless we  
touch his  
wounds



# Purposes

1. 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;
2. to share this experience with each other as peers, so as to help overcome the isolation involved and provide each other with support;
3. to highlight the interior contemplative life as our key source for healing and wholeness;
4. to identify things we can do, as leaders and as a body, in expressing our healing role;
5. *to hear from our Executive a short report on their activities on our behalf, and on developments and information affecting us;*
6. *to be accountable for how we responded to what we undertook at the previous AGM;*
7. *to deal with regular business matters – e.g. minutes, elections, messages, etc.*

# Unless we touch his wounds

it was for  
our sins  
that he  
was  
wounded

by his  
wounds  
we are  
healed

I bear in  
my body  
the  
wounds of  
Jesus

a sign  
that will  
be  
rejected

they  
mocked  
him

he was  
grieved at  
their  
hardness  
of heart

he was  
astonished  
at their  
lack of faith

seeing the  
city, Jesus  
wept over  
it

they took  
offence  
at him

he went to  
his disciples  
and found  
them asleep

"If I can but  
touch the  
hem of his  
garment"

"Unless I  
touch his  
wounds"  
(Thomas)

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# screen

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**OUR WOUNDS  
ARE OUR  
SOURCES OF  
GROWTH**

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PICTUREQUOTES.com

# A chance to be heard in our role-experience of woundedness

*Only select what you feel you can emotionally handle sharing here.*




*Respond sensitively – don't judge, just listen and support. Naturally, this is totally confidential.*

both personally as leaders, and through things we carry as leaders on behalf of our Congregations.

*Share the time (about 45 mins) – give each a fair chance to share.*





Grace flows  
through wounds

Christopher West

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PICTUREQUOTES.COM

You are invited  
to put up the  
photos and  
symbols you  
have brought  
along, on the wall  
with the 200-year  
timeline of the  
Church in  
Southern Africa.



# *Painful issues faced by many congregation leaders*

**a leader being  
'frozen out'**

**resistance  
to change**

**resentment at being  
transferred**

**reaction to the  
closing of a house**

**abuse of children or  
vulnerable adults**

**reaction to  
terminating a  
ministry**

**dealing with  
indiscipline in  
financial matters**

**having to send away  
someone during  
formation years**

**dealing with a  
dysfunctional  
member**

**dealing with  
addictions**

**a community that is  
dysfunctional or  
blocked or toxic**

**(some other  
common problem)**

Please sit at a table (maximum 6) whose case-study topic interests you.

Reaction  
to closing  
a house  
(Bernadette)

Dealing  
with  
addictions  
(Thandi)

Reaction  
to being  
transferred  
(Veronica)

Financial  
indisci-  
pline  
(Cosmas)

Financial  
indiscipline  
(Sean W)

Resistance  
to change  
(Marie-  
Claire)

Resist-  
ance to  
change  
(John  
Paul)

Sending  
someone  
dysfunc-  
tional away  
(Joe W)

Sending  
away  
during  
formation  
(Jude)

Sending  
away  
during  
formation  
(Margaret)

Dysfunc-  
tional  
member  
(Alison)

Dysfunc-  
tional  
member  
(Anne W)



**THE FIRST STEP  
TO HEALING IS  
RECOGNIZING  
THAT THERE'S  
A WOUND.**

*PictureQuotes.com*

## *Jesus cures the man with the withered hand.*

On another Sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue and taught, and there was a man whose right hand was withered. Jesus said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up and stand before us." And he rose and stood there. Then Jesus said to him. "Stretch out your hand." He did so and his hand was restored. (Lk 6:6-11)

## *Jesus heals a woman.*

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath. And a woman was there who for eighteen years had been crippled by a spirit; she was bent over, and completely incapable of standing erect. When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said, "Woman, you are set free of your infirmity." He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God. (Lk 13:10-13)



# *Healing:* *the healing dimension of our leadership roles*



## *Sharing stories:*

- a) stories of **successes** in this sphere of healing – especially our own stories, but also others' (offered to encourage each other)*
- b) as well as stories of **failure or falling-short** in this sphere – especially our own stories, but also others' (stories with which we may be able to identify).*

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# screen

**Reaction  
to closing  
a house**  
*(Bernadette)*

**Dealing  
with  
addictions**  
*(Thandi)*

**Reaction  
to being  
transferred**  
*(Veronica)*

**Financial  
indisci-  
pline**  
*(Cosmas)*

**Financial  
indiscipline**  
*(Sean W)*

**Resistance  
to change**  
*(Marie-  
Clare)*

**Resist-  
ance to  
change**  
*(John  
Paul)*

**Sending  
someone  
dysfunc-  
tional away**  
*(Joe W)*

**Sending  
away  
during  
formation**  
*(Jude)*

**Sending  
away  
during  
formation**  
*(Margaret)*

**Dysfunc-  
tional  
member**  
*(Alison)*

**Dysfunc-  
tional  
member**  
*(Anne W)*

# Case studies

Please volunteer actual case studies from your experience, according to your group's chosen problem-theme, that you are willing to put forward for workshopping by the group - cases involving leadership pain and woundedness (both in our roles and in our Congregations).

Please offer each other

- healing support (including the possibility of praying together)
- constructive suggestions and alternatives about how a healing role might be found and played in such a situation.

We have about 45 minutes.

*What did I learn from this exercise?*

# Wounded Healers

They are not born and they are not  
made...

They create themselves through  
conquering adversity, trial and  
error and extreme pain and  
suffering.

They conquer fear and find a way  
to speak their truth even when  
they are afraid.

In doing so they shine light for  
others who are lost and feeling  
alone, and in return their inner  
light ignites with renewed purpose.

A purpose greater than they ever  
could have imagined.





## Good news!

There is a Catholic facility in South Africa to assist those who struggle with **addiction**.

Based in Bethlehem Diocese, within an international network,

*Fazenda da Esperanza*

*(Farm of Hope)*

offers a year-long programme of faith-based recuperation, not 'treatment' or 'therapy'. For more information, look up the website [www.fazendadaesperanza.org](http://www.fazendadaesperanza.org) or speak with Sr Claudia-Maria Muhle (present here) or phone Fr Dekson on 078 502 2830.

## How about?

Is anyone else interested to set up a **peer support group** for formators in the Gauteng area?

This would be a group that meets periodically to share and discuss their experiences as formators, for the sake of mutual support and enrichment.

Please contact  
Sr Stephany Thiel at  
[regionpr@netactive.co.za](mailto:regionpr@netactive.co.za)  
or on 081 8798416  
or 011 892 8865 (o)  
or 011 892 5301 (h)

"Other people are going to find healing in your wounds. Your greatest life messages and your most effective ministry will come out of your deepest hurts.

- Rick Warren



*The woundedness of the wider world around us*  
*How are we ourselves affected by the wounds of society?*

Spirituality

Consecrated Celibacy

Vocations

Formation

Ministry

xenophobia

inequity

racism

divisions

imbalances

substance abuse

trafficking

tensions

misunderstandings

prejudices

mistrust

corruption

unhealthy mindsets

person abuse

power abuse



RIGHT  
RELATIONSHIPS

Gospel Poverty

Religious Obedience

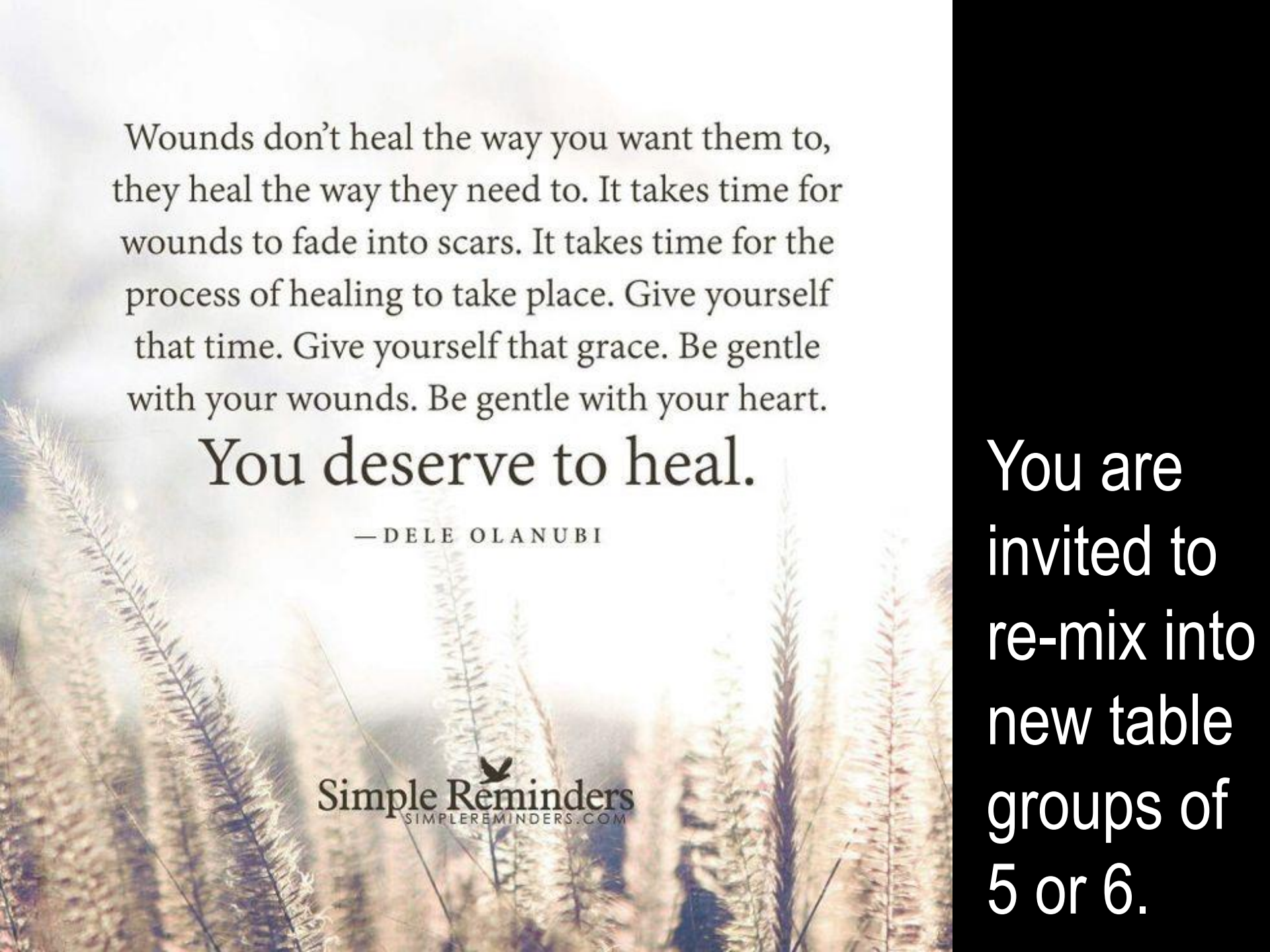
Community



# *The call to leaders implied by these challenges* *– the call to be relevant today*



1. What can we do as leaders – proactively and in response – about the woundedness that surrounds us, that creeps into our communities, and that challenges the mission we profess? (i.e. instead of being overwhelmed, how can we find ways to be prophetic in word and action?)
2. Is there something we could suggest that our LCCL Exec might do on our behalf?



Wounds don't heal the way you want them to,  
they heal the way they need to. It takes time for  
wounds to fade into scars. It takes time for the  
process of healing to take place. Give yourself  
that time. Give yourself that grace. Be gentle  
with your wounds. Be gentle with your heart.

You deserve to heal.

— DELE OLANUBI

  
Simple Reminders  
SIMPLEREMINDERS.COM

You are  
invited to  
re-mix into  
new table  
groups of  
5 or 6.

# *To be a person of hope*

## Why can I be a person of hope?

Because I believe that God is born anew every morning.

Because I believe that God is creating the world at this very moment.

God did not create it at a long-ago, forgotten moment in time. It is happening now, and we must be ready to expect the unexpected from God.

## Why can I be a person of hope?

Because I believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in me, in the Church, and in the world, even where God's name seems to be forgotten.

Because I believe that to those who welcome God's Spirit she gives fresh eyes, renewed trust and deep joy.

## Why can I be a person of hope?

Because I believe in God's love and mercy made manifest in Christ Jesus.

Because Christ Jesus proclaimed and lived a gospel of life, fullness of life, through forgiveness and healing, loving and total giving of himself, and overcoming sin and death.

Risen, glorious Christ Jesus, you are our companion on the journey of life.

We are yours, and yours we want to be.



When  
you can  
tell the story  
and it doesn't  
bring up  
any pain,  
you know  
it is healed.

**Structures and practices**

**Community Building**

**Addressing problems**

## **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.



## **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.

# *Celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the Church in Southern Africa*

What is planned and happening?

A proposal about a contribution from LCCL.

# *Reviewing this AGM*


- Something I found particularly helpful...
- Something I think we achieved together here...
- Something I suggest might be done differently...
- Something I would value at a future AGM...

“Time doesn't  
heal any wounds,  
it's what you  
do with time  
that heals wounds.”



TIME DOESN'T  
HEAL ALL  
WOUNDS;  
GOD HEALS  
WOUNDS.





Our sorrows and  
wounds are healed only  
when we touch them  
with compassion

Gautama Buddha

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PICTUREQUOTES.COM

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**1**

a leader being  
'frozen out'

**2**

resistance  
to change

**3**

resentment at being  
transferred

**4**

reaction to the  
closing of a house

**5**

abuse of children or  
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**6**

reaction to  
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**7**

indiscipline in  
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**8**

having to send away  
one in formation yrs

**9**

dealing with a dys-  
functional member

**10**

dealing with  
addictions

**11**

a dysfunctional/toxic  
/blocked community

**12**

(some other  
common problem)