

# Uxolo

Volume 13 No.2

October 2011

The Newsletter of Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery



## The Next Natural Step

The event happened on Freedom Day, the 27th of April 2011, during Vespers in the Church of St. Peter on the Rock at Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery. He was just taking the next natural step, as he described it. This is what Roger Stewart said about being clothed as a Novice into the Order of the Holy Cross, and we have to agree.

One of his sisters, Joanne Bullock, and a close friend, Colleen Hart, stayed at the monastery guesthouse for the whole week, so he was able to spend much of that time with them. Both flew from Johannesburg. We also hosted some of the Associates from Grahamstown as well as members of three different Anglican religious communities. Even some friends of Roger's and the community's from Grahamstown and Bathurst joined us. Brother Roy Parker, our own OHC brother was visiting us before moving from our house in Santa Barbara, California, to our house in West Park, New York, and we were glad to have him with us as well.

Roger was surrounded by much warmth as he made his desire known to seek the mercy of the Order and God and to live in love. As part of the ceremony, he received the white tunic, scapular



Among the many friends and family of Roger's and the monastic community's present to support him were his sister (to his left), Joanne Bullock, and a good friend from his home parish, Colleen Hart (behind and to his left), both from Johannesburg, as well as friends from Grahamstown and Bathurst.

and belt of the habit. He will wear the habit for all of the offices and services as well as when he represents the Order in any official way. So, in appearance, he truly takes on a dramatic change, but none of us or his friends seemed surprised he was entering this new phase in his monastic formation. His Novitiate is at least two years.

He has entered into the community's life and work, generously contributing his computer expertise by helping to manage our website as well as offering other computer help. He assists in the library and with



The monastic community with Roger as a clothed Novice. Br. Roy Parker, OHC (back row far right) was visiting us while in transition before moving to our Order's house in West Park, New York. Brother Robert James was away in Rome during this event.

the community's mailing list, and he is a good photographer. In addition to contributing many of the photos in this issue of Uxolo and our website, he has had a photo recently displayed in a landscape in literature exhibition at the National English Literary Museum in Grahamstown.

We are so delighted that he has chosen to continue to discern his vocation with us and look forward to seeing how he grows into the life of being a monk in the Order of the Holy Cross.

*The greatest honor we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love. -- Julian of Norwich*

# The Holy Cross School Begins to Take Shape ~Br. Timothy, OHC

Holy Cross School reached a milestone when the Chapter of the Order of the Holy Cross, meeting last June at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York, voted to found the school formally as an institution of the Order.

Thus, Holy Cross School enters into the tradition of other schools founded by the Order, namely, St. Andrew's in Sewanee, Tennessee and Kent School in Kent, Connecticut, and the monastery school in Bolahun, Liberia. As a sign of our commitment to this vision, we designated funds from the insurance realised from the tragic fire that destroyed our monastery in Santa Barbara, California, to construct the new building and to have it ready for occupancy by January 2012. Our decision is a step of faith, one informed by years of prayer, listening to the culture and needs that surround us and the cry for justice from those who have little or no access to education.....the key to freedom.

Shortly after Chapter, the contractor in Grahamstown was given the go ahead, and ground was broken in July. The drawings for the school had already been approved by the Makana Municipality. The water system, using water taken from the monastery's dam and stored on the hill, was the first accomplishment along with the septic system. This



The students and staff of Holy Cross School.



Here are recent images of the construction of the school. The top shows the site itself while the bottom gives the idea of where the school is situated on the property with the monastery in the background to the left. The pre-school is currently housed in the building to the right near the top of the ridge. You can consult our website for the most recent photos of the construction.

was followed by rivers of concrete poured for the footings. Eskom has contracted to install electricity, and the solar hot water supply has been ordered. Because the land slopes, the decision was taken to step the building into



three sections so as to avoid heights and balustrades. Each classroom will have a basin with hot and cold water and a DVD player mounted on the wall of each room for instruction. An office and conference room will provide for administration and private conversations. The assembly hall with an opening into the kitchen is ample for meetings, gathering of the learners and prayer at the beginning of each day. The kitchen and staff room provides privacy and relaxation for the staff. It includes its own toilet and shower. We have designed all so that nothing is lacking for the children.

But, Holy Cross School is not only the work of the monks. The vision of what the school can be has broadened into the community. The builder has not changed his quotes. The electrician is donating heating units for the classrooms. The plumber has not charged to dig

out rocks for the water line. The brick manufacturer is giving us the bricks at production cost. The Niven Trust has made a grant of R30,000 to help furnish the new Grade 1 class. And, the Diocesan School for Girls (DSG) has decided to adopt our school for their outreach. Already DSG has contributed generously from a swimathon and a bike ride from Upington to Grahamstown. DSG girls have volunteered at the school. Our children were invited to a concert at DSG and attended an assembly where they were presented with a cheque representing the proceeds from the swimathon. The girls then decided to donate to the school the money raised from their 850km hike and bike trip. The amount was close to R100,000! To celebrate Nelson Mandela Day the little ones were invited to join with learners at St. Andrew's Primary School for a social time together which was great fun for both schools.

Thanks to the Centre for Social Development at Rhodes, we have hired next year's Grade 1 teacher, and through the Isibindi Project we have found a full time child care worker to help us be responsive to the children and their families. She will be responsible for visiting families, intake of new learners and facilitating workshops for parents which the school will host throughout the year. A school can be the finest facility available, but without the involvement of parents, learning is greatly hindered if not rendered impossible.



**In response to our school receiving a R10,000 cheque from the Diocesan School for Girls Interact Club from a fundraiser swimathon that they organised for our benefit, Masixole Simandolo offers the president of the club a portfolio of the artwork of the children of the school as a heartfelt thanks for their hard work and generosity.**



**Stephen Smith, from the San Francisco Bay area, is our new Young Adult Service Corps volunteer from the Episcopal Church in the U.S. who arrived here in August to assist in the school. More about him on our website.**



**As part of the preparations for the new school building, the children took part in a planting ceremony of an indigenous wild peach tree, the first on the grounds of Holy Cross School.**

For Holy Cross School to continue to serve the rural community, we will need as much participation from others as possible. We will need financial support to meet operating costs. Besides our fundraising efforts in South Africa, the Order of the Holy Cross has established the Holy Cross School Committee to coordinate fundraising efforts in the United States and Canada. In South Africa we have established the Holy Cross School Trust which will be responsible for operating the school, insuring transparency and accountability and seeking ways of funding. Besides monks of the Order we have as trustees those who know Holy Cross well...a seasoned school principal, a financial person, a psychologist and one of our own Rhodes graduates. We have operating costs for the next two years, and we must be very proactive to see that a gap doesn't occur. The school is free to the learners, but we must expect to spend about R20,000 per child per year. The futures of these little ones depend on our steadfastness and faithfulness to Jesus' command to "Let the children come to me."

# Scholarship Fund Update

-Br. Josias, OHC

We are now in the second half of the 2011 academic year. As most people will know that Br. Timothy and I were in charge of the Scholarship Fund during Br. Robert's time away, this article will be based on the events that took place during that period.



Ntombesizwe Booi

During the winter school holidays one of our girls at Victoria Girls High School, Ntombesizwe Booi, participated on the school's choir tour to Austria and Germany. The group had a chance to visit the home towns of the great classical music composers, Wolfgang Mozart's Salzburg and Ludwig van Beethoven's hometown, Vienna. They also had a chance to witness the Cantus MM International Choir Festival in Salzburg. We are very pleased with 'Ntombi'

and pray that God will continue to bless her and her talent in music.

Before the beginning of the National Arts Festival, we held a follow-up programme for the girls we sponsor from age 11. Nompumelelo Magwa, Peliwe Dunga and Nosipho Nzwana (Isibindi childcare workers) came back to direct the programme. Through group work, art, discussion and writing, a safe place was created and there was great sense of bonding between the girls. From the experience of the two programmes (one in January and one in June) we have employed a full-time certified child-care worker who will be responsible for the social needs of the kids in our school and in our Scholarship Fund. We hope to have a similar programme for the boys we sponsor before the end of this year.

We look forward to a number of our tertiary learners graduating this year. We are happy to announce that three of the girls at Victoria Primary were accepted to study at Victoria Girls High School and Kingswood College for grade 8. Sanelisiwe Waka and Siphokazi Soxujwa will be going to Victoria Girls High School. Lutho Zono has received a full scholarship from Kingswood.

The Scholarship Fund is closed to new applicants for this year. The reason behind this action is to direct our focus to the Holy Cross School. However we will keep and continue to help the people in the system now.



Siphokazi Soxujwa



Sanelisiwe Waka



Lutho Sono

## ...And so it was number four!

—Br. Daniel Ludik OHC

It feels like yesterday that we had the first one, but now we have just had our fourth Holy Cross Reading Camp. What made this one even more special was the fact that Bp Stacy Sauls and his wife, Ginger, the founders of Reading Camp in Lexington, Kentucky, were here to visit us. They came to our inaugural camp in 2008 as well. This time they were accompanied by their son Matthew.

We were so lucky this year with our volunteers. Not only did we have extra teachers, but also counsellors who could be “interns” for next year. So already we have a good head-start for the future. The teaching volunteers came from Rhodes



One of the special guests at the Holy Cross Reading Camp this year was the children's author Phillida Kingwill.

University and schools around Grahamstown and counsellor volunteers from Diocesan School for Girls and St Andrews College in Grahamstown, Templeton High School in Bedford and the Durban University of Technology in Durban. We also had considerable help from the National English Literary Museum in the person of Basil Mills, who was again instrumental in making the camp a wonderful adventure for the children, with hikes and wonderful stories. Also on a return visit was Mary Jane Amick from Lexington, Kentucky, who has been the camp nurse for all four camps. We are especially grateful to her for her help.

Kariega and Kwantu Game Reserves both were so generous in giving the children free day-visits to their parks. At Kariega the children were treated to a game drive and at Kwantu an elephant experience; some got to ride and we all got a turn to feed the elephants.



Among many of the adventures the children had were opportunities to ride elephants at Kwantu Game Reserve. Kwantu and Kariega game reserves both generously offered free day visits to their parks.

As always, none of this could be possible without the generous donations of money and time from so many people. We give thanks to God for that generosity. Mary Jane and St Raphael's parish in Lexington, Kentucky, deserve a special mention, since they raised and donated almost R25,000 this year. Old family friends in Germany of Kary McConnaghie's, one of our Steering Committee members, had their 50th wedding anniversary and asked for cash donations toward Holy Cross Reading Camp instead of gifts and in this way managed to raise an additional R14 000.

Reading Camp is such a rich and precious part of these children's lives. In the four years of its existence in Grahamstown, we have seen how children have changed dramatically. They have more confidence; they do better in school and some even go on to exhibit leadership qualities in the classroom, often much to the surprise of their teachers.

If you would like to sponsor an individual child for Reading Camp, the amount of R4,000 covers everything for a child for the week ~ food, accommodation, transport, tuition materials, medicine and clothes for those cold winters in Grahamstown.

Please email me at [daniel@umaria.co.za](mailto:daniel@umaria.co.za) for the Holy Cross Reading Camp bank details and any other information you would like to know about this exciting, blessed gift for children ages 9 to 11. Thank you and God bless.

## From the Novice Master

~Br. John, OHC



I did some more travelling again educating the church about the monastic life and letting it know of our presence in Southern Africa. At the beginning of September, I went to the Diocese of False Bay where I spoke at a Vocations Day Conference at beautiful St. Matthew's Church in Elgin.

And in the middle of September we held the Enquirers Week here. We had three men here for the week, one from Cape Town and two from Lesotho. They prayed with us, learned about the monastic life and engaged in our monastic rhythm. Stay tuned for future dates of the Enquirers Week in 2012. Again, it is an excellent opportunity to begin the exploration of the monastic life first-hand.

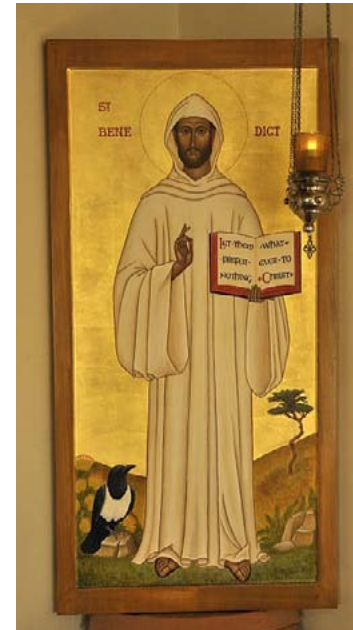
In the meantime, many men still ask about our life from all over South Africa, and we are delighted that there is a steady interest expressed in at least making initial steps to investigate our life. .

Roger Stewart continues to flourish in the vocation, now as a Novice. Teaching him has become such a learning experience for me because of his rich insights into his own life and into the monastic life overall.

Our discussions have led me to reflect on a realisation that is very important and yet very difficult to learn in some ways. When Jesus is called the Beloved at his baptism, all of us who read that Gospel are all called the Beloved. Fulfilling our vocational life and being "formed" into the likeness of Christ involves very much living into the reality of just how much we are loved by God. This process is sometimes so difficult to learn or even to accept, but so fundamental to the vow of conversion of heart that we Benedictines take. God is calling us, drawing us into an acceptance of our identity in God's eyes. Then, we are freer to become who God desires us to be. Underlying our own discernment of vocation is this desire of God's, and being aware of it is perhaps the first step to discernment. God's desire only enkindles our own.

## He Watches Over Us

A year ago, Br. Timothy was at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York, where he happened to meet a man named Zachary Roesemann, an Associate of the Order of the Holy Cross and a celebrated iconographer. Br. Timothy expressed a long-existent wish that our community has had for an icon of St. Benedict in our church. Zachary wasted no time and began asking for measurements and viewing pictures from our website for ideas.



And before we knew it, the icon was blessed by Zachary's home church, St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brattleboro, VT., was visible during Vespers at the Order's Chapter at West Park in June and then, brought back by Bros. Timothy and Daniel from Chapter where it was unveiled and placed in its final home in our monastery church.

It shows 'Benedict dressed in the original white robe worn by his monks. He holds his "Rule" open to one of its most famous passages. (Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ.) At his feet is an image of the crow that Benedict used to feed, and that helped save him once from being poisoned by a jealous priest. At the request of the commissioning monastery, the crow and the landscape around Benedict are meant to suggest South Africa (the crow is shown as an African Pied Crow). Behind Benedict glows the uncreated light of Heaven.'

We feel so blessed to have this luminous Benedict watching over us as we pray in our church and we thank Zachary for this very precious gift to us and to all who come to worship with us.

## A South African Sojourn

~The Rev. Elizabeth Broyles



I have had the privilege to be at Mariya uMama weThemba for nearly three months. I come from New York State in the U.S. and was here last August for a month as well. With the immersion in the prayer, presiding at the altar and experiencing the ministry that has grown out of the prayer, I have been deeply fed. The daily round of prayer offices has its way of encouraging ears to hear scriptures in new ways. Conversation with guests about how they experience life in this beautiful land which is struggling to make changes and to improve the lives of its people has opened my eyes a little further. As much as I have tried to be aware of the abundant tangible gifts in my life—food, water, clothing, warm shelter and entertainment—I have in fact been quite unable to grasp how this isn't true for so many.

During long retreat I found myself challenged by a fierce Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. “Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do what I tell you?” The Gospel of Luke says again and again that to follow is to share mightily with those who suffer from poverty. Several places Jesus says “Sell all!” The Gospel has been a “spiritual” document for me and for many who are faithful members of churches. We often split off spiritual impact from behavioral change. The Gospel however is to be lived in action, and being here opens my eyes to more of what it means to do that.

As a Christian striving to live the Gospel I need to begin to love my sisters and brothers concretely and not just affectionately as I establish my life style. That does not mean to create a very comfortable life for myself and THEN give to those who are in need, but live in gratitude and enjoy what I have. Then, I can create a life that enables me to share amply of those gifts. Change is an essential process.

I will not know how much my experience here has impacted me until I go home and let the experiences shape my life there. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to live here for this time, and God help me to be faithful to what I have been shown.

## Some Other Visitors at the Monastery

We were pleased to welcome the clergy of the Diocese of Grahamstown for three retreats and the students from the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown for two retreats. The child care workers from the Isibindi Project in Alice also came twice for two different workshops. Two workshops and writing weeks were also held by the Women Academics of Africa from Rhodes University.

A pleasant surprise for us was our engagement with the Transformers, a group of young, dynamic youth leaders, from the Diocese of Johannesburg. We offered them a Benedictine Experience while they were here and were very impressed by their genuine interest in the monastic life and how they could apply some of its principles to their own lives and teaching of their youth. Their time with us also gave us an indication of where youth in the churches in South Africa are and some of the concerns that they have living Christian lives. One of the themes that was expressed so eloquently by many of the group was their desire for prayer. We felt encouraged by the kind of wise and compassionate leadership and guidance that the youth of the Diocese of Johannesburg in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa must be receiving.



We so enjoyed the presence of the “Transformers” from the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg with us for a Benedictine Experience in August. They showed a real youthful spirit and eagerness for a life of prayer and community, which encouraged us about the future of the youth in the Church in that area.

*A brother came to a certain solitary, and when he was going away from him he said, “Forgive me Father, for I have made you break your rule.” But he replied, “My rule is to receive you with hospitality and send you on your way in peace.” -- Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

# The Guesthouse at Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery

As part of the Benedictine ministry of hospitality, the monks of Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery offer a 24 bed, fully equipped guesthouse for those seeking a quiet place of prayer and retreat for groups and individuals and for conferences and meetings. **All faiths are welcome.**

The Guesthouse is open from Tuesday morning until Sunday afternoon.

## To make a booking:

### The Guesthouse

Tel.: (046)622-8111

Fax: 086-243-1738 Please note our new Fax #.

Email: [guesthouse@umaria.co.za](mailto:guesthouse@umaria.co.za)

---

## New Guesthouse Director

Some of you might have noticed a new voice and face in the Guesthouse Office. We have decided to appoint a Guesthouse Director in the person of Marian Lanham. Grahamstonians may know her from Surego Travel. She is a huge benefit to us, both in energy in the office and the expertise she brings with her from many years of working in the travel industry. We are indeed very lucky to have her here.



Marian Lanham, our new  
Guesthouse Director

## IZZIT?

### News of the Community



**Timothy:** In May I flew to the United States for a visit with my mother and brothers in Memphis. Our mother is in a nursing home, and it was probably the last time she would see all three of her sons together. The three of us are scattered at quite a distance from Memphis, and the likelihood of our being there when she dies is remote. It was an emotional time for me, but felt complete.

While in Memphis I also spent time with old friends and wandered around the familiar scenes of my childhood. So much had changed since I left home in 1967!

Chapter was an exciting event for me. We have grieved the loss of our Order's monastery in Santa Barbara, California, due to fire two and a half years ago, but now this year we shifted. Using some of the money from the insurance settlement we created new life for the Order and our ministries. In addition to deciding to build Holy Cross School in Grahamstown, we are putting a roof on the monastery in West Park, New York, that has been needed for more than 30 years, and we are creating assisted living space for the Order's elderly monks and those who need special attention in the West Park monastery. We endowed the monastic community in Santa Barbara and made a grant to Holy Cross Priory, Toronto, for badly needed repairs. And, a vast amount of the insurance money went to endow the Holy Cross Development Fund which can be used for just about anything we choose from educating monks to working on buildings and new foundations. I found that Chapter most creative and forward visioning as the Order looks to where God might be leading us next.

I was delighted to have old friends Stacy and Ginger Sauls and their son Matthew back in Grahamstown for our Reading Camp and a bit of the Grahamstown Festival. Stacy is the new Deputy Episcopal Visitor

of the Order of the Holy Cross and has just moved from the Diocese of Lexington to the Episcopal Church headquarters in New York City where he will oversee the operations of the centre. They left us for meetings on how to expand the Reading Camp in the Cape Town and Johannesburg areas, and reported much interest and commitment from the dioceses involved. It would be wonderful if the Holy Cross Reading Camp could grow and carry its success to other parts of the province.

I continue to be deeply moved and awed by the different ways God is calling our community here to creative ways of service and hospitality, and I am grateful for the men I have the privilege to share this life with. It truly is amazing!



**John:** Both teaching the one novice of the community, Roger, as well as travelling to various areas of the country educating the church about the monastic life, have been delights.

Publicising our community and its news has been a contribution to our community life that I have also enjoyed. Thanks also goes to Roger who has become our web master and manager for making sure that news and new items get posted on

the web frequently. Working on the newsletter continues to engage my time and attention as it evolves and develops with each issue.

The writing continues. Lately, I have been working through *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron, an excellent guide to allowing the artist within to breathe. The writing of Morning Pages each morning has been the best thing about the book, providing a wonderful opportunity for meditation. Anything goes on the page in Morning Pages, which helps me a great deal to open up my prayer life as well. A great thing to engage with during the Long Retreat.

I have been happy to hear how our voices change and open up in the monastic choir and as the form of our office grows. We have a dynamic relationship to our communal prayer while constantly being faithful to it.

After chairing the meeting of the Council for the Religious Life of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa in Durban at the beginning of October, I look forward to a trip to Turkey with my parents. I am very excited about this especially since I have no idea what to expect. Turkey is a place my father has always wanted to see, and we thought that it would be a great way for the three of us to spend time together. Please pray for us in this great adventure.

**Daniel:** Well finally, I have been back to Namibia. It had really been too long. I went with my sister Ann and was able to catch up with some family and friends as well as to travel around the country. It is still as beautiful as ever and it was great to have many braais and speak nothing but Afrikaans for a few weeks.



Our annual Chapter meeting was a very good experience for me. I have met brothers that I have only heard about, for the first time.

On my way back from Chapter, I was so fortunate to be able to spend a week at Bolton Abbey, a community of Cistercian monks near Moone, in Ireland. During that week, I attended a workshop on discernment, led by Sr. Mary Margaret Funk, a Benedictine nun from the US. The workshop was arranged for all the Cistercian and Benedictine Formators in Ireland and Britain.

Back in South Africa, I had exactly one day at home, time only to wash clothes and repack, and was off for our fourth annual Reading Camp. It is really growing from strength to strength. More about Reading Camp elsewhere in the newsletter.

After that the annual National Arts Festival was happening and I managed to work in a few very good shows.

Some sad news is that our dog, Nomonde, has died recently from cancer. She is sorely missed, but the memories are in danger, since we have been joined by a stray Chow puppy, named Molly, who has simply walked straight into all our hearts. I think there is a picture of her on

our website.

Our annual winter retreat was a real treat. It is such a privilege to have the space and time to be able to refocus again on God and prayer. I also studied quite a bit of Cassian's Conferences and as always, he was very challenging.

**Robert James:** The highlight for me since the last issue of the UXOLO was the three-month Monastic Formators Programme in Italy. I have been back for a month and am once again adjusting to life in my own community.



There were twenty-nine participants in the MFP, and two coordinators, living, praying, and studying together. Our community was comprised of Benedictine and Cistercian monks and nuns from eighteen countries. Our days were long and full, with five hours a day of class, six days a week. Between Offices, classes, and meals, there wasn't much free time to process all that is being presented. Our first two months in Rome also included a number of optional tours around the city with Brendan, who had studied and lived in Rome. We had a number of day trips as a group to Subiaco, Monte Cassino, Casamari, Vitorchiano, and Ostia Antica. Our final month was spent in Assisi. On our way to Assisi we visited Fontecolomba, Greccia, and San Pietro in Valle. Before returning to Rome, we visited Norcia, Camaldoli, Todi, and Orvieto.

The content of the program was extensive and excellent, including issues in human development, identity, formation, conversion, monastic origins, history, texts, values, Scripture, lectio, and the Rule. Our instructors included many notables of the Benedictine/Cistercian world like Michael Casey, Columba Stewart, and Aquinata Bockmann, to name a few.

In addition to lectures, we did some intensive small group work. Presentations were required of all participants, with research done prior to the programme, My topic was "Aelred of Rievaulx: the Integration of

Desire, Sexuality, and Intimacy in Monastic Life". I enjoyed working on it and it was well received. I'm grateful to my community for giving me this extraordinary opportunity, and especially for Timothy and Josias, for assuming my responsibilities during my absence. As construction proceeds on the school building, I look forward to my new duties as the administrator of Holy Cross School.



**Josias:** I am continuing with the studies at UNISA. I passed the first module (Invitation to Theology). For the second semester I am doing the OLD and NEW TESTAMENT studies.

I had a lovely time during the National Arts Festival. The shows were great, but Don Laka and 'LBM' (Ladysmith Black Mambazo) were outstanding.

During our Long Retreat at the end of July, I made it part of my spiritual practice and prayer to build the labyrinth. A very temporal one, made with grass. This was just to test if I was able to make one. I am hoping to build the one that would last in the near future.

My visits to Johannesburg and Cape Town for holiday were superb. In Johannesburg I visited my friends and family and stayed at my cousin's house in Soweto for the first weekend, and while there had a chance to attend the Old Mutual National Choir Festival, Gauteng regional competitions. *Hone hole hobe, 'nonyana lilula batho*. I also had the chance to spend a day at Ezibeleni Special School for the Special Olympics Unified Sports competition. It was great to be back with Special Olympics again. After Johannesburg I went to Cape Town to spend the last days of my vacation. I am very grateful to all the people who showed me around the Cape and for the hospitality of Innocent Siwela and that of Lindsay Wakeford. *Molimo ole roise molemo osafeleng*. I used the train for transportation from one area to another. I visited the Robben Island Museum and Table Mountain. The beach and the mountain view in Fish Hoek were breath-taking. While in Fish Hoek I went to St. Margaret Church for their Sunday Mass. I also went for a

walk at Boulders Penguin Colony in Simonstown and to Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. I then took the bus back to the monastery and enjoyed the views on the way.

Thanks again to all people who made this vacation meaningful. As we are nearing the end of the year, I wish a very good luck to all the students who will be writing their exams and a happy holiday season to all.



**Roger:** I returned to Johannesburg for two weeks at the end of March to finalize my resignation from my previous employment and to enjoy time with family and friends there. I then experienced my first Easter season at the monastery, having spent my first Christmas at the monastery earlier in my postulancy.

In April, of course, I was clothed as a novice. It was good to have family and friends present. It is significant that a number of people from outside who are important to me now have

personal knowledge of the monastery and of the community here.

Another first was being able to experience aspects of the National Arts Festival during July. We were privileged to be enriched by various movies, music and theatre performances as a sampling of the extensive programme on offer throughout those ten days.

I continue to benefit from the integration of so much diverse input during each week, whether from the prayer times, the weekly communal Bible discussion, or the classes. During the classes, we have studied both Benedict's Rule and the Rule of the Founder, have considered aspects of lectio divina and of the showings of Julian of Norwich (which I have continued using during personal reading and prayer time), and more recently have been working with the wisdom of the Desert Fathers.

A major theme emerging for me is the value of the crucible of community life in the determining and living out of my identity as the beloved of God.

*Blessed are the ears that hear the pulse of the divine whisperer, and give no heed to the many whisperings of the world --Thomas a Kempis.*

## We've Just Made Donating Easier!

Donating to the monastery has now become easier through our website! You can make a donation using your credit card or other on-line means. Setcom MonsterPay provides a secure facility for processing the financial transaction. When you are on our website, go to Donations and select the area you want to support. You can specify whether you would like your contribution to go to the Monastery, Holy Cross School or the Scholarship Fund. Then, select a currency, and enter the amount. The currency is either in rands or dollars. Click the form of payment. We take all major credit cards and you can pay by Direct Deposit as well. Click the Donate button. This will take you into the MonsterPay system and just follow the directions.

Your gift will be appreciated!

---

## Uxolo is Now Online

*Uxolo* is now online! And it looks good! So we are asking you to tell us whether you still would like to receive the *Uxolo* through the mail or just view it online on our website [www.umaria.co.za](http://www.umaria.co.za).

On the send-back sheet, we have added a place where you can tell us which way you would like to view the *Uxolo*. If you would like to read it online, please send us your email address so that we can inform you when new issues come out. We want you to keep up with our news, read about how our ministry is growing and developing, read interesting articles from our Associates and guests and learn what the monks are doing in recent days.

We thank all of those who have sent donations to help us with printing and mailing costs of this newsletter throughout the 12 years of its existence. We also thank all of those who have sent feedback about the newsletter. Your comments are very helpful. We look forward to many more years of bringing the *Uxolo* to you, our friends and supporters.

# Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery

PO Box 6013

Grahamstown 6141 South Africa

Tel: (046) 622-8111 - Guesthouse

(046) 622-6465 - Monastery

Fax: 086-243-1738 *Please note the new fax no.!*

Email: [guesthouse@umaria.co.za](mailto:guesthouse@umaria.co.za)

Website: [www.umaria.co.za](http://www.umaria.co.za)

PBO#: 930/000/363

NPO#: 036-811

*Uxolo* is the isiXhosa word meaning peace. Benedict teaches his monks to "seek peace and pursue it". This quest has been the hallmark of Benedictine monasticism since the 6th century. We strive to continue to bring peace to not just ourselves but to all who come to us.

On the cover: The major happenings at Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery: (top left hand corner) Roger Stewart was clothed as a novice; (top right) the Holy Cross School is now an established part of the Order's work; (bottom left) Brother Robert James spent three months at the Monastic Formators Programme in Italy. He is seen here with Br. Samuel, OCSO from Brazil. ; and (bottom right) the Monastery now has a new icon.

## Contributing to Our Monastery

Please send your gift to:

The Prior  
at the address to the left.

For our banking details, please email [timothy@umaria.co.za](mailto:timothy@umaria.co.za) or ring (046) 622-6465.

### If you are in the United States:

Please send your gift to

Ms. Barbara Fiore  
Order of the Holy Cross South Africa Fund  
Fiduciary Trust Company International  
600 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10020-2302

Please contact us or look at our website for details about tax exemption.

You can now donate online! See [www.umaria.co.za](http://www.umaria.co.za)

### Requests

If you would like to know how you can remember the monastery in your will, please contact the Prior.