



DIOCESE OF MARIANNHILL

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19 July 2012

A CLARION CALL FOR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES OF OUR LADY OF KEVELAER COMFORTER OF THE AFFLICTED

Dear Rev. Father (Parish Priest and Assistant Priest)
Provincial Superior, Superior
Chairperson of Pastoral Council (PPC & DPC)
Chairperson of the Sodality/Association of the Faithful

I greet you all in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

I hereby inform you that the Kevelaer Committee has been reestablished, and it had its first sitting on 30 May 2012. The main objective of the committee is to plan and kickstart the renovation project of the Kevelaer site where pilgrimages to Mary Our Lady of Kevelaer take place every year. The purpose of the renovation is to render the facilities of the site to be pilgrim friendly, thus enabling the pilgrims to feel at home at Kevelaer to worship the Lord God and to solicit the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary Comforter of the Afflicted in an atmosphere of joy and freedom.

The committee explored the various ways of fundraising, and regarded local fundraising as a priority. No time is to be wasted. I ask the priests to announce on several Sundays about the Kevelaer renovation campaign, and to conscientize the parishioners to contribute generously and regularly towards this project until it is accomplished. We call upon the business sector to make individual contributions by direct contributions using the diocesan account shown below. We ask the religious communities who are resident in the diocese to offer generously towards the same goal. I also call upon all leaders of the faithful to motivate those they lead to accept wholeheartedly to be part of this noble campaign: namely, the chairpersons of Parish Councils on the parish and diocesan levels, as well as presidents of sodalities and other associations of the faithful. It is important to evaluate every year the present situation at Kevelaer and come out with concrete suggestions and steps to be taken to improve the conditions for the worshippers.

Next year (2013) will be a year of great spiritual celebration, as the Kevelaer Mission will be 125 years old since it was established in the Diocese of Mariannhill by the Trappist Abbot Francis Pfanner. Let us begin now with enthusiasm to prepare ourselves for that occasion.

A special fund is now being established, and a special bank account solely for this project is opened:

Name of Account: Diocese of Mariannhill Kevelaer Pilgrimage
Account Number: 1029654263
Branch Code: 16482600
Type: Nedbank Current Account

Therefore, starting from the 18-19 August 2012 onward, a special second collection will be made at all Holy Masses celebrated in Kevelaer pilgrimages,

congresses and other functions or meetings. Each participant is expected to contribute not less than R20.00 (as a minimum) into the basket towards this project.

Kevelaer stickers or symbols shall be purchased for R10.00 each by pilgrims and visitors at the entrance into Kevelaer Mission premises. Even those who remain at home and do not go to pilgrimages are encouraged to purchase the stickers/symbols as a way of support for the project.

PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROJECT

The renovations of the Kevelaer pilgrimage site are God's own work. I call upon all Catholics in the Diocese of Mariannhill to pray. Let us all fall on our knees and ask the Almighty Father to give us the deep faith and courage to work hard that this project will be accomplished at the right time.

Everyday, either as individuals or gathered together as families, sodalities or small Christian communities, let us say the rosary (or at least one decade of the rosary), prayers of the faithful and then conclude with this prayer:

Almighty God and Father, we the faithful of the Diocese of Mariannhill kindly ask you to shower down upon us your graces to work hard putting together our resources and skills, to build anew the facilities of Kevelaer Mission and thus create a suitable venue for prayer of thousands of pilgrims who congregate every year to worship you.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Kevelaer the Consoler of the Afflicted, give us the wisdom and loyalty to seek your will and to accomplish what you have sent us to do, so that all pilgrims who come to Kevelaer may find mercy and consolation in all their troubles.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

Yours devotedly in Christ

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Bishop Mlungisi Pius Dlungwane
Diocese of Mariannhill.

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