



APRIL 2024 (2)

Dear Friends and Benefactors

New Apostolic Nuncio



On the 16th of April 2024 the Vatican announced that H.E Mons Henryk Mieczysław Jagodziński has been appointed the new Nuncio (Ambassador) to South Africa and Lesotho. He was born in Małogoszcz, Poland on 11 January 1969 and ordained a priest on 3 June 1995. He belongs to the Diocese of Kielce, Poland. He is a graduate in Canon Law. On the 1st of July 2001 he entered the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See and has served in the Pontifical Representations in Belorussia, in Croatia, at the Section for Relations with the States of the Secretariate of State, at the Apostolic Nunciature in India, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the 3rd of May 2020 he was nominated as Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana, and Titular Archbishop of Limosano (Italy). He speaks

several languages among which are Polish, Croatian, French, English, Italian, Russian, Spanish. On behalf of the members of the Foundation I would like to wish him all the best in his new ministry.

Vocations Sunday/Good Shepherd Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is kept in our region as Vocation Sunday. The Gospel speaks of Jesus as the good shepherd who looks after the sheep. This care has a human face through the ministry of the Christian community. The recent *Pontificio Annuario*, that is the book of statistics which is published by the Vatican each year, tells us that the number of Catholics is increasing but the number of vocations to the priesthood and religious life is decreasing. We can see this in our local Church where the numbers entering the priesthood and religious life have dropped over the years. There could be and are many reasons for this but it does leave many questions. Why is the good example of many priests and religious not seen by young people? Have we stopped appreciating vocations in our Church communities? Is the life the priest or religious not seen as being of value? Vocations are rooted in the lived life of families, parishes and communities and we need to look at our selves as a



Church to seek answers to the situation that is before us. We also need to look at the vocation and calling of all the Baptised. What does God want of me, of us? It is important to include in the plans that I make for my life. To help us with this I offer a prayer that we can pray for ourselves or adapt for others who are seeking their way.

Lord, my God, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings.

I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you. But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you.

Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all my strength right to the end. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen

Fr Barney McAleer: Several of the members of the Foundation have asked about Fr Barney. This recent picture of Fr Barney was taken on March 17, 2024, at a St Patrick's Day gathering. Fr Barney joined the band to provide entertainment for the evening. Alongside his priestly duties and making music Fr Barney is also teaching the Irish language to those interested in learning it. Just as Fr Barney put all his energies into his work so he also is putting all his energies into his retirement.



Projects supported by the Foundation.

St Charles Clinic, La Rochelle, Johannesburg: The clinic is spearheaded by the Congregation of the



Missionaries of Saint Charles, commonly called the Scalabrini Fathers. The charism of this order of Catholic priests is to minister to refugees, migrants and displaced persons. Fr Eduardo Gabriel secured funding to renovate the old convent building to meet the specifications for the clinic. He secured the regular assistance of a gynaecologist oncologist and a registered nurse. He also has an administrator and a team of willing volunteers who are supporting him with the

initial project activities. St. Charles Clinic Centre is a sanctuary for women, particularly refugees and migrants, and children, where they will be treated with dignity and respect and will feel comfortable to discuss their problems without any judgement. They will experience no social, ethnic, economic, or religious discrimination. www.stcharlesclinic.org

Childline South Africa: Childline services began in KwaZulu-Natal in 1986 in response to the very high levels of child sexual abuse which characterize South Africa. Other provincial offices developed from this date with the National Office opening on 1st August 2003. Childline South Africa is committed to:



developing appropriate social services including a 24-hour toll-free helpline and supportive therapeutic social services for children who have been victims of violence, and their families; education and awareness

raising programmes facilitating the prevention of violence against children; networking and advocating for policy changes that will facilitate good management practices for abused children; research into violence against children within the South African context; and ongoing training and development of staff members and volunteers. www.childlinesa.org.za

Mthatha feeding Programme: As with any feeding scheme this project aims to provide nutritional



support to those who would not otherwise have their daily nutritional needs met. Situated in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, a province with much poverty and high unemployment this project provides a lifeline to the poor and needy. They are the face of Christ in a situation of desperation.

Thank you for your continued support for projects like these which through your generosity are supported by the Foundation of which you are proud members and friends.

Fr Hugh