

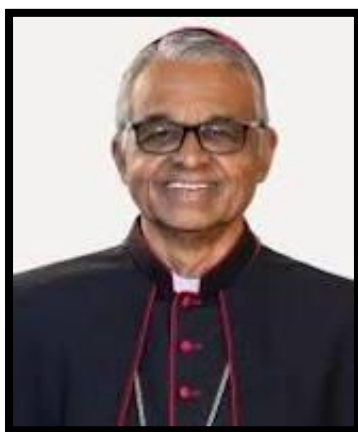


MAY 2024 (2)

Dear Friends and Benefactors

Greetings from a still warm Pretoria. I trust that you had a blessed Pentecost. In this Newsletter I have put together several stories which show the Holy Spirit moving the Church in the past, present and future. God in all things happy and sad.

Bishop Anthony Rebello RIP (1950 – 2024)

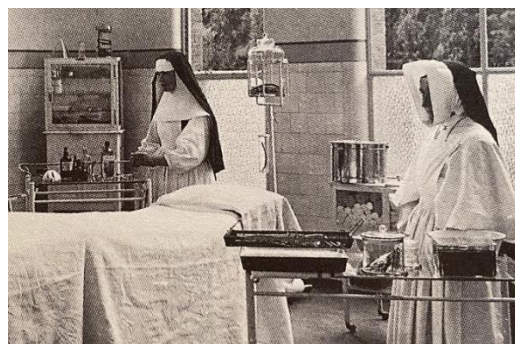


During a recent celebration of Holy Mass Bishop Rebello felt unwell. He was taken from the Mass to the parish house and then to a local clinic. A doctor was called but the Bishop had sadly passed away. Bishop Rebello, whose family hails from Fatorda, Goa in India, was born on 18 March 1950 in Nairobi, Kenya. He entered the Society of the Divine Word and was ordained a priest in Goa on 10 May 1977. On 5 July 2021, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Anthony Rebello, as the Bishop of the Diocese of Francistown in Botswana. *The Chargé d'affaires ad interim*, at the Apostolic Nunciature in South Africa, Monsignor Dario Pavis, representing the newly appointed Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Henryk Mieczyslaw Jagodzinski, praised Bishop Rebello for “his genuine humility and simplicity ... his unassuming

demeanour, displayed unwavering resolve and resoluteness in proclaiming the Word of God.”

Did you know?

The Johannesburg General Hospital (later renamed the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital) had an initial close relationship with Catholic religious sisters. The Holy Family of Sisters of Bordeaux were involved in the establishment of the Johannesburg General Hospital. In 1888 the sisters started to work in the temporary hospital until the Johannesburg General Hospital on Hospital Hill was officially opened in 1890. The sisters continued to serve in the hospital, despite many challenges such as the smallpox outbreak in 1893 and the dynamite explosion of 1896. They showed devotion to nursing all patients with equal care and dignity. They served at the hospital until 1915.



“Walking Together as Leaders of Catholic Education in Africa and Madagascar”

The South African Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga addressing a Conference of Leaders in Catholic Education said that “Catholic schools strive for academic excellence and focus on



nurturing social and conscious citizens. These institutions instil a deep awareness, encourage students to become proactive members, commit to making a difference and have a holistic approach to education as instrumental in shaping the moral and ethical fabric” She went on to praise the role

of Catholic education saying it “extends beyond the classroom...It is about moulding individuals who carry forward the values of compassion, integrity, and service. As we navigate the complexities of modern society, the Church’s guidance is invaluable in promoting moral regeneration. We can address our communities’ moral and ethical challenges by reinforcing these core values...May you live long enough and produce more civic-minded youngsters”. (Sheila Pires (Adapted))

Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year, the second of his Pontificate. The logo for the Jubilee shows four figures indicating humanity coming from the four corners of the earth. They are embracing each other to indicate solidarity, brotherhood, and sisterhood. The figure at the head is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which embraces, but also of the hope which can never be abandoned because we are always in need of hope, especially in moments of great need. It is helpful to observe the rough waves underneath; this indicates that life’s pilgrimage does not always move in calm waters. Life’s circumstances and the events of the world often demand a greater call to hope and because of this we see that the lower part of the cross has been turned into an anchor which stands out in the wave as a sign of hope and stability. The image shows that the pilgrim’s journey is not individual, but communal and marked by a growing vitality leading one always closer to the cross, which is itself by no means static, but also dynamic. The cross leans towards humanity, not leaving it alone but going out and meeting it to offer the certainty of its presence and the sureness of hope.



Blessed Carlo Acutis soon to be Saint. - “The Eucharist is the highway to heaven.”



The mother of an Italian teenager set to become the Catholic Church’s first millennial saint has told of her “great joy” as she portrayed her son as an otherwise ordinary boy who enjoyed video games and pets. Carlo whose computing skill helped him spread the message of the Catholic Church and earned him the nickname “God’s Influencer” - died from leukaemia in 2006 aged 15. Speaking to the media she said “As I did: you too can become holy ... it seems sometimes that holiness is something that belongs to the past. Instead, holiness is also something nowadays in this modern time.” She said her son was bought a PlayStation when he was eight, but limited himself to one hour a week of gaming as he was wary that it could become addictive and that he knew the “dangers of the internet”. Along with his computing and gaming, Carlo played the saxophone, enjoyed soccer, loved animals and would make short, humorous films of his dogs. Her son she said used his computer skills “to spread the Gospel [the message of Jesus Christ], to help people, and to spread devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. He was full of joy and was unafraid to stand out from the crowd.” He was devoted to Saint Francis, the saint renowned for poverty, humility, and care for creation. Carlo became ill in early 2006 and was later diagnosed with Leukaemia: he died on October 12. At his funeral two days later, a large crowd gathered with many of them immigrants to Italy and those belonging to a variety of religions. Devotion to Carlo quickly began to spread across the world,

Blessings Fr Hugh

“The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy.” Blessed Carlo Acutis