



**December 2008**

Hello the Salesian Family

Cloud Nine...?? Isn't that what we say when we are absolutely thrilled and ready to pop? We think so! If not we are daring to set a precedent! The reason for all the euphoria is that we have received more money, and have made more progress and that another Christmas to celebrate the birth of Joy is just around the corner. For what more can we ask? A holiday and yes that is to happen as well! As you can see, our feet are already up in the air!

We received the very good news from the Collins Trust during November. They have once again generously supported our operations and that is not what people in general like to do. They prefer seeing concrete evidence of where their funds have gone. We can assure the Collins family and friends that we will see the first sod turned during 2009 or else the heavens will fall down! Caroline Halpin gave a presentation to the folk of Fr Declan's parish who have for so long given generously and this in spite of all the hold ups. This was at a fund raising function: a Christmas cookery demonstration and raffle was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November. We once again thank all concerned for their care and efforts for us. We feel a part of them in a special way.



We remembered Fr Declan Collins at our Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November. We placed flowers at his memorial stone and lit a candle. Sister Margaret and Fr Robert lead the celebration. You were all remembered as were those who have gone before you. The Parish at Ennerdale remembered him on his anniversary 16<sup>th</sup> November and laid a wreath for him.

More money! The Missionary Development Fund (Ireland) have promised us a substantial donation that they are keeping in reserve until we get

**The Steering Committee: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008: Fr Robert Gore, Fr Jeffrey Johnston, Chester Browne, Ester Buthelezi, Sr Margaret Sweeny, Sr Helen Fitzgibbons, Anthony Reeves and , Bernie Mullen**

the building permission. This will mean that we have almost got enough funding for the first phase of the project. We thank Sr Moira O' Sullivan very sincerely for all her hard work and negotiations on our behalf. You are very much appreciated.

More progress! We had a letter from City Power saying that they have capacity to support our power supply needs for the project. This is a really big hurdle. The application has now gone to the next stage in the process. We are negotiating with engineers who will produce a road traffic report and a site services report. Hopefully all this will be done very early next year. We are also hoping that the engineers we are approaching will be ones dressed in red suits, snow boots and huge white beards with merry laughs and large, bulky sacks on their backs! Tell Fr Declan please!

While all the fuss has been going on we have been preparing for 2010. We play hard every day. We have appointed a referee with serious sun glasses and a sense of purpose. We never argue with his decisions. Bernie came to visit us and we were happy to demonstrate our expertise. We invite you at any time to challenge us! We look forward to the day that we can play on a proper soccer field but in the meantime....this is the next best thing!

We have had the pleasure of meeting folk from Austria and Germany. Michaela, Silvia, Anita and Reynard who hardly had time to land but who were keen to see the famous Erf 4623, to hear of what progress has been made and most of all to find out what funds are still needed to see the project built. We have many friends we hope their work for us will be very rewarding. We will certainly do our bit and our best! We thank all who help us.



On the Crafting Front: there has been much action during November. We have met Louis from Mpumalanga. He gave us a big order for a tourist shop with which he deals. The ladies have been making belts, shoes, hats and traditional outfits. We do hope to be a regular supplier to our new client. We will have all the details of the shop and how we will work Louis in the next issue. Hold thumbs please! Should you require anything from us please contact Bernie. The ladies will finish the order during the first week of December and should have a good idea of how sales will go after that. We once again thank Sr Rosaria and her companions of Bankuore for supporting this project. The group made some

traditional outfits for the First Communicants at Lawley Parish and received some very encouraging compliments. They hope that some of the youth being confirmed at Ennerdale will also want to wear some!

In other ventures we have met with Laia Sampler who may be joining the project next year as a representative of our Multi-purpose hall donor agent Red Deporte. Laia already lives and works in Johannesburg and so would be a real help regarding our writing of reports in Spanish. We have been trying but have ended up being trying...very! Please hold your other two thumbs!

Our Permaculture graduates are doing very well and have found good facilitation jobs within the community. The garden at Lawley has been used for teaching purposes as Ekukhanyeni has partnered Siyakana and the University of Wits and have become a service provider for the City of Johannesburg. They have been training interested students from Rainbow Farmers Association in Orange Farm which is not far from here. Ryan Dickey uses the new trainers for all this work. Liza Rossi, Ryan and Bernie will set up a meeting with Br Terry Dowling of The Catholic Institute of Education to discuss how we can move forward with becoming an accredited Permaculture training course. The CIE are keen for us to achieve this so that they can help us and we them.

Just shows you that there is more to growing beans than meets the eye! We thank Liza and Ryan for their continued and very valuable partnership with us. There was just one mishap; Ryan mixed up his index finger with an artichoke and sliced a little piece of it. We helped him find a doctor in time for the training workshop and the visit from the Wits Professor who was very impressed...not with the finger but with the garden and the teaching skills. We wish Ryan a speedy recovery!



**Ryan in sore contemplation of artichokes... who said that they are good for you?**

**Overheard from my window:** Remember me; the only current resident on Erf 4623? I have been your faithful signboard and silent but informative town crier? I was last seen in a wheelbarrow on the way to the local scrap yard. Yup, I have been stolen. Bernie

says I am not being replaced until there is a caretaker on site. She has threatened to visit the scrap dealer and ask for an interview regarding my new status. Ah well, it's Christmas and I may well have provided somebody with a good meal or two. See, one can serve even by standing around all day! No... that is not an invitation!



**Our lost Town Crier!**

Please do enjoy the festive and holy season of new birth. May Christ's peace and love and joy, rain down on you. We

thank all those who support us and take the trouble to read our saga through the year. See you in January.



Bernie Mullen

