



**Mariya uMama weThemba
Monastery**

May 2015

Dear Friends in Christ:

What joy it was to experience the Easter Vigil and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ once again in the company of so many of our friends and children from the surrounding community! While we look back at the year since our last appeal, there is so much to celebrate, even given the particular challenges of some of these situations. For all of it we thank God:

1. Two more of our young people on our Scholarship Fund have been accepted into University; one to study Education and the other to study Film and Scriptwriting.
2. This past December, our first Grade 3 class graduated and we are so very proud of them.
3. Two of our graduates have won bursaries to the Diocesan School for Girls and two have been enrolled at Victoria Primary School. While two boys have been enrolled at Graeme College.
4. Meanwhile, the rest of our former Grade 3's have moved on as a group to the one township school, Archie Mbolekwa, with strong academic credentials. We built a relationship with this school before passing on our kids to ensure that their education would continue to be strong. We also help to finance a tutor for those learners and purchased text books for them. Seen against the prevailing situation in the country, this arrangement will probably continue for quite some time.

Given our commitment to the education of the children of our area and our commitment to keeping the retreat ministry alive, both of which we believe are truly necessary at this time in the history of South Africa, we have decided to reconfigure our fund raising operation. Given the world economy and specifically, South Africa's economy, combined with the great need of the people we serve, it is clear to us that we need to be more pro-active in our fund raising efforts and so have decided to open an office of Advancement and Mission which will be directed by our Brother James Dowd. Brother James moved here from our monastery in West Park, NY this past November and is extremely excited about this new adventure. Advancement and Mission will be working with individuals, parishes, and dioceses throughout the Anglican Communion to build prayerful and financial support for our life and ministry here in Grahamstown.

You will be hearing much more from Brother James in the coming months and we invite you to communicate with him directly should you have any questions, concerns, or interest in helping with this effort. Brother James can be reached at james@umaria.co.za.

Please note that in recent years, the Superior of the Order of the Holy Cross has sent a second appeal, usually toward the end of the calendar year, to support some aspect of the work we do. In order to stream-line our fund raising efforts, that appeal will no longer be sent and this will serve as our only annual appeal letter. We hope you will consider giving generously to our life and mission.

May God bless you and we thank you for your continued participation in God's vision for Holy Cross in South Africa.

In Christ,

Br. Daniel Lüdik, OHC

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