

Bishops' Lenten Appeal



Thank you for your support for the past 50 years

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

On behalf of the Bishops of Southern Africa I would like to thank you, once again, for your wonderful response. Despite challenging financial times, which is a true testament to your compassion and concern for the plight of the poor and needy that is served through the many projects served through the mission of the Catholic Church. At the time of writing this letter we have raised a total amount of R9 819 701. Unfortunately, this was 3% lower than that raised last year which was R10 093 642. But we continue praying this will improve because we are aware that the cost of living is a daily challenge for all of us.

The Bishops' Lenten Appeal is the primary source of financial support for our local church's activities. The Bishops, in addition to being tasked with the responsibility of nurturing the spiritual wellbeing of our people are also concerned about the holistic development of the people of God. Your generous contribution to the Bishops' Lenten Appeal continues to make this possible. We are extremely grateful to you for helping us fulfil our mission and this you have done faithfully over a period of 50 years.

Lenten Appeal is 50 years old

Yes, for 50 years you have faithfully supported the Bishops' Lenten Appeal. When I mentioned this to a priest from the Archdioceses of Durban recently, he remembered the day he first put something in the mite boxes and so clearly he said: "I gave my spending of a penny for the Lenten Appeal". This is where I would like to begin today. Thank you to you all, we all remember the day we gave our spending money for this worthwhile cause. As children the mite boxes played an important role, we all wanted to just fill it up – let us pray that this spirit will continue among our children today.

A group of South African Catholic bishops.



Looking at the records of the first National Lenten Appeal just over R100 000 was collected then. Today we stand at let's say 10 million rand. Thanks to you all this money is spent on the needs of the Poor and Needy of the Church. On the opposite side of this page you will get a breakdown and see how your money is working.

We appreciate the kindness of the Catholic Community for the work they do to fulfil what the Pope teaches us daily. In his recent visits he visited hospices and hospitals to offer his service to the sick and also at prisons to visit the prisoners. We all cannot do these works of grace, but by the support we give the Church we allow Sister or Father the opportunity to visit the person in prison and see how we can help his family buy a simple pair of shoes to put the child through school. We also help the migrant that have arrived here with nothing on his back and have to endure the injustice of society because he is a stranger. We go out of our way and help him. Fifty years ago the Bishops Conference said, let's help our under-privileged people in their need for education. The Church opened its arms and hearts and did this, many of our Catholic schools in the townships benefitted from this, and today we have good leaders in the form of Parish Priest, Bishops and laity. The First collection was not a loss, it helped and still is helping towards the growth of the Church

in the Conference of Southern Africa. Thank you.

We can see that the monies collected are just not for the works of the Church, but for the poor and needy. The works of the Church is looked well after because this is where the people

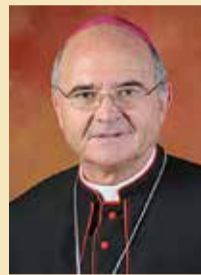
really need our help, so please next time during the Lenten Appeal period remember the Father, Sister, Brother and laity doing these works on your behalf, and they are fully accountable to you for what they are doing. Support them not just with your generosity in the annual collection but also by praying for them to be "good and faithful servants".

May the good Lord continue to bless you all in the generosity of the work that you are doing. It is only through giving that we shall receive. May God bless your kindness through the love that reflects in your heart.

In Christ sincerely

Bro. Ashley Tillek, OFM
BLA National Director

Thousands of interventions alleviate the suffering of people, bringing consolation and hope through the Lenten Appeal



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With great joy and gratitude we celebrate the golden jubilee of the Bishops' Lenten Appeal. All anniversaries are worth commemorating and are opportunities to turn once more to the Lord, giving thanks for his strength and guidance which have allowed us to reach the particular milestone.


A golden anniversary is especially important as the endeavour has stood the test of time. Gold is purified by fire and the result is precious and valuable. It is true of human endeavours as well – after fifty years they have proved themselves and their value, despite hardships that may have been encountered.

It is with deep gratitude to God that we celebrate the 50 years of the Bishops' Lenten Appeal. Undertaken so many years ago by the bishops, with vision and faith, the annual collections of the Lenten Appeal has made an enormous impact on the life of the Church and the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in Southern Africa. Inspired by Jesus' parable of the separation of the goats and sheep (Matt 25:31ff), recognizing the moral imperative to serve those in need, as well as the command "to go to all nations to proclaim the Good News" (Mk 16:15), the Lenten Appeal was set up to help those in need and the for the works of the Church in proclaiming the Good News.

We are also deeply grateful to all those who have contributed through the years using mite boxes and envelopes, as well as other means of supporting the Lenten Appeal. For many, it has been similar to the "widow's mite" (Mk 12:41ff) – not giving from excess but truly making a sacrifice by giving from that which they need. Their sacrifice has truly been a Lenten Offering and with all our hearts we say "thank you" for your kindness and love.

Few people, even within the Church, are aware of how many programmes are run by the Bishops' Conference itself. Taken with the initiatives of dioceses and parishes, thousands of interventions are made which alleviate the suffering of people, bringing them consolation and hope. The Gospel is proclaimed through these good works as well as through specific programmes of evangelisation and catechesis. The Church has provided support in the fields of education, health, development, skills, advocacy and crisis relief. Catechesis, media


Continued on page 4.



South African Catholic Bishops' Lenten Appeal

GOLDEN JUBILEE


Are you a Catholic Business?



For the last 50 years the Catholic Bishops Conference, through the Bishops' Lenten Appeal have been supporting the Poor and Needy and looking after the Works of the Church. Can you as a Catholic business do the same? To mark this momentous milestone in a meaningful way, we ask all our Catholic Business people to please consider a special donation to the Bishops Lenten Appeal during this period of Lent.

Our banking details are:
Account: SACBC Lenten Appeal
Bank: Standard Bank, Pretoria
Account No: **010009744**
Reference: Company Name

(Please email the office for more details for acknowledgement)
Contact details: 012 323-6458 or email: lentenappeal@sacbc.org.za





MESSAGE FOR LENT 2017

The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift.



their own ego. Those around them do not come into their line of sight. The result of attachment to money is a sort of blindness. The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door. Looking at this character, we can understand why the Gospel so bluntly condemns the love of money: “No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money” (Mt 6:24)

3. The Word is a gift

The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that “we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it” (1 Tim 6:7).

We too see what happens in the afterlife. There the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls “father” (Lk 16:24.27), as a sign that he belongs to God’s people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: “During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony” (v. 25). In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life’s evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: “They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them” (v. 29). Countering the rich man’s objections, he adds: “If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead” (v. 31).

The rich man’s real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God’s word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbour. The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God’s word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.

Dear friends, Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favour the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

From the Vatican
Feast of Saint Luc the Evangelist
FRANCIS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ’s victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God “with all their hearts” (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Lk 16:19-31). Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion.

1. The other person is a gift

The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. His body is full of sores and dogs come to lick his wounds (cf. vv. 20-21). The picture is one of great misery; it portrays a man disgraced and pitiful.

The scene is even more dramatic if we consider that the poor man is called Lazarus: a name full of promise, which literally means God helps. This character is not anonymous. His features are clearly delineated and he appears as an individual with his own story. While practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbour or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.

2. Sin blinds us

The parable is unsparing in its description of the contradictions associated with the rich man (cf. v. 19). Unlike poor Lazarus, he does not have a name; he is simply called “a rich man”. His opulence was seen in his extravagant and expensive robes. Purple cloth was even more precious than silver and gold, and was thus reserved to divinities (cf. Jer 10:9) and kings (cf. Jg 8:26), while fine linen gave one an almost sacred character. The man was clearly ostentatious about his wealth, and in the habit of displaying it daily: “He feasted sumptuously every day” (v. 19). In him we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride (cf. Homily, 20 September 2013).

The Apostle Paul tells us that “the love of money is the root of all evils” (1 Tim 6:10). It is the main cause of corruption and a source of envy, strife and suspicion. Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 55). Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.

The parable then shows that the rich man’s greed makes him vain. His personality finds expression in appearances, in showing others what he can do. But his appearance masks an interior emptiness. His life is a prisoner to outward appearances, to the most superficial and fleeting aspects of existence (cf. *ibid.*, 62).

The lowest rung of this moral degradation is pride. The rich man dresses like a king and acts like a god, forgetting that he is merely mortal. For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond



SPRED

Special Religious Development (Spred) is financed by the Bishops’ Lenten Appeal so that it is able to develop the Spred programme in Southern Africa.

Spred responds to the call from the Revised SACBC statement on Catechetics, particularly point 10.9 page 30 which refers to Catechesis for the Disabled and the Handicapped; Catechesis of the Marginalised and Environmental Catechesis.

Sr Teresa Marie does Spred work in the following dioceses: Cape Town, Durban, Kroonstad, Rustenburg, Marianhill and Witbank.

Sr Teresa said she would like to express her gratitude and appreciation for the consistent support by the Bishops’ Lenten Appeal over the past few years.



Department for Christian Formation, Liturgy and Culture Commission for Culture



Above left: Rev. Fr Jeffrey Scott Grob J.C.D., exorcist of the Chicago Archdiocese

Above right: Fr Vincent Paul Lampert, exorcist at the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Two presenters from the United States of America will be conducting a number of workshops and training to our Conference regions in early February. Neighbouring Episcopal conferences will join us.

They will return to the States on the 9th February 2017

We thank Bishops’ Lenten Appeal for making this work possible through their funding.

Sr Phuthunywa
(Coordination Secretary for Culture)

Thanks ... St Philip Neri Collegium

We, the management, staff and students of St Philip Neri Collegium wish to congratulate the Bishops' Lenten Appeal Office for their 50 years of service to humanity. We would also like to express our profound gratitude to them for their financial contribution to the Collegium.

The St Philip Neri Collegium is a bridging seminary, facilitating the preparation of aspirant seminarians for the demands of tertiary education in the context of a Catholic seminary in South Africa. The aim of the Collegium is to provide a solid academic and spiritual foundation for the candidates, who have a vocation to the priesthood, or those who may be discerning their vocation to priesthood. We provide these candidates with the learning/study and language skills they need in preparation for their philosophy and theology studies in the major Seminary. Most of our students come from less privileged academic and spiritual backgrounds in the rural areas. At times we offer them the opportunity to upgrade their Matric results so as to qualify for the Seminary Degree programme.

We are most grateful to the Bishops' Lenten Appeal Office for your yearly financial contributions to the Collegium, which has enabled us to offer the following courses to our students annually: study skills, life skills, Bible history, spirituality, Catechism, church history, Liturgy and three English-related courses (English grammar, English public speech and language skills).

We rely solely on your financial support to enable us carry out our ecclesiastical mandates of providing our students with stationery, food and accommodation as well as sports equipment. The support also supplies petrol (pocket) money to our academic staff, who do not receive salaries from us since they have volunteered their time and energy to helping the Church in her mission of spreading the gospel of Christ among the poor.

We pray that one day, your office will be able to aid us in acquiring a mini-bus for transporting our students to and from their places of pastoral works.

Once again, thank you for your immense support to the Collegium. We appreciate all that you have done for us! Thank you for touching many lives in our region. Congratulations!

Fr Henry Ezenwanne C.O.
(Rector)

Bringing hope to the lives of migrants and refugees in South Africa



The Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town is a registered non-profit organisation founded on 16 September 2002 to address the dire needs of thousands of highly vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and displaced as well as poor people in general, including local South Africans. The Centre runs under the leadership of Executive Director, Miranda Madikane, who reports to a board of nine Trustees chaired by Scalabrini Father Gerardo Garcia.

Since 1990, South Africa has become a new destination for refugees from the rest of Africa. In 2010 more asylum applications were lodged in South Africa than any other country in the world. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), South Africa currently

hosts some 65 000 recognised refugees and 230 000 asylum-seekers, mainly from other African countries. The vast majority have fled poverty-stricken or war-torn countries where they have survived torture, rape and relentless violence as well as numerous other human rights violations. Once in South Africa, refugees and asylum-seekers are particularly vulnerable to high levels of crime as well as sexual and gender-based violence, poverty, exploitation in the workplace and detention due to the lack of proper documentation.

Projects and Programmes

To achieve our mission and realise our objectives, the Scalabrini Centre offers a variety of programmes developed over the past 10 years under advocacy, welfare, employment access and

Sacred Heart Child and Youth Care Centre (Diocese of Mariannhill KZN)

We would like to share with you how the Bishops' Lenten Appeal has made it possible for our organisation to continue with our good work.

- Since they started helping us:
- we supplied school uniforms for the vulnerable children in our care because each child has the right to education with no discrimination
 - we supplied food parcels during the holidays. Children on medication need to eat before taking it. They contribute to the family as a whole and make it possible for the children to be reunited with their families.
 - we installed security to our therapeutic centre to prevent theft
 - we supplied Winter clothing for all the children in our care
 - we painted the boys unit
- Our church makes us proud for the support they give to the poor and vulnerable children and youth.



Food parcels supplied during holiday period.



"LET IT GO" – our children express healing after all our programmes, they let the past painful experience go in the form of a balloon.

Uniforms are supplied to all our children.

Below: Our children proudly wear their new Winter clothing.



Training and assistance for rural communities

The Rural Development Support Programme (RDSP) is an associate body of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference and has been operating since 1992. Our liaison bishop is Bishop Adam Musialek, SCJ of De Aar.

We operate from Cape Town, housed in the Catholic Chancery building, but working nationally. We also have a staff member based in Bhisho, Eastern Cape.

Our core work is building the capacity of rural community-based organisations and dioceses to overcome socio-economic problems and to build local leadership. We have written all our own training materials to suit our predominantly rural target group. We facilitate 60 training modules annually with exposure programmes and field visits. We work with approximately 1 200 beneficiaries annually from a wide range of rural communities.

We began our partnership with BLA more than a decade ago to work specifically with priests, religious and parish leaders to improve their leadership ability, understanding of community development and response to the problem of family violence.

RDSP serves as the coordinating agency of the SACBC's Catholic Social Action Department, made up of the ten national agencies that carry out development and advocacy work. We are accountable to our Management Board and report to the SACBC through the Catholic Social

Action Department and our liaison bishop.

We have worked in the fields of gender-based violence and family violence since 2006 and share what we have learnt and experienced with priests and religious facing these problems in their ministry.

RDSP's work with rural groups is based on the social teachings of subsidiarity, the common good and solidarity. We aim to strengthen civil society within rural areas by building leadership and organisational skills. A very important part of our work is the training we carry out with priests, religious and lay leaders. We encourage dioceses and parishes to work with communities to identify needs and solutions.

Due to the nature of rural areas (including isolation, lack of resources and a shortage of skilled people) priests and religious often find themselves having to play a stronger leadership role than anticipated. Their role has moved beyond the celebration of the sacraments and provision of spiritual guidance to include being involved in everything from AIDS hospices and income-generation projects to solving social problems such as teenage pregnancies, substance abuse and domestic violence. The life of a priest or member of a religious order is far from simple within this context and our training is designed to support and assist those who have been called to this life of service.



Readings and Prayers

Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ash Wednesday March 1, 2017	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.				
First Sunday in Lent March 5, 2017	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by in the desert: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.				
Second Sunday in Lent March 12, 2017	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9
O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.				
Third Sunday in Lent March 19, 2017	Exodus 17:3-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.				
Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2017	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.				
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 26, 2017	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.				
Fifth Sunday in Lent April 2, 2017	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.				
Liturgy of the Palms April 9, 2017 Sixth Sunday in Lent		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11	
Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.				
Liturgy of the Passion April 9, 2017 Sixth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

A Challenge to every Catholic ...

For our Golden Jubilee celebration we challenge every Catholic to donate every Sunday during Lent – a minimum of R1,00.

We are not asking much, all we ask every Catholic who has been baptised and is practising during this period of Lent to kindly support the work of the Bishops' Lenten Appeal this year as we celebrate our 50th anniversary.

In essence, every Catholic gains from this. We train your future parish priests, we look after the works of the Church and we support the poor and the needy in every diocese in our country.

The Bishops themselves monitor the money that you have so willingly donated to this cause that began in 1966.

Please be faithful and support this worthy cause. That's right, we just ask R6 minimum from each Catholic during Lent this year.

What sacrifice will YOU be making?

The Bishops' Lenten Appeal is 50 Years Old

Over the years we all have experience of what the Lenten Appeal has meant for us as Catholics. As an exercise in our parishes, let us share with one another what Lent meant for us through relating our stories.

I once met a priest who fondly told me of the first shilling he placed as a child in the envelope

for the Bishops's Lenten appeal. That was 50 years ago. Today he is a priest and the local director for the Archdiocese that he serves.

So besides making the sacrifice of a shilling, he has become a priest as well and made the ultimate sacrifice of service to the Church of Christ as a priest.

What sacrifice are you making?

Continued from page 1.

programmes, small Christian communities, the formation and training of priests and deacons – to name a few – have ensured that there is both the proclamation of the Word and the deepening of the faith.

All such enterprises have benefited from contributions by the Lenten Appeal. The many demands made on the funds mean that no particular project can be fully covered by a Lenten Appeal grant. Some only receive a small amount of their overall budget. Nonetheless, such small amounts are important beyond their monetary value, as they also indicate the support of the local Church, making it easier to approach foreign donors.

Such local support is essential. Although we are a young Church – in 2018 we will be celebrating only 200 years of the official establishment of the Church in Southern Africa – nonetheless we need to work much harder to become a self-reliant Church. No longer should we be dependent on other countries for Church personnel or finances. In the spirit of stewardship, knowing that we have been entrusted with the faith in this part of the world and are responsible for the life and work of the Church, we must strive to generously share our resources.

In particular, we appeal to all of you to ensure that this year of the Golden Anniversary of the Lenten Appeal be a year of generosity and a year to remember. There are many needs and countless opportunities for the Light of Christ to dispel the darkness of poverty, ignorance and suffering in our beautiful countries. Your generosity will make a difference.

Archbishop Brislin

New Mite box

Over the years many different designs for the Mite boxes have come and gone. This year's has been designed by Bafana Magagula here in the Bishops' Lenten Appeal office.

The box bears the Sacrificium logo, the face of Christ, and for the first time a picture of the first Blessed for our beloved country Bl. Benedict Daswa.

Please encourage children to make use of these boxes during the Lenten season.

The collection envelope is also different and bears the logo for the golden jubilee.

Let this be a season of prayer, fasting, penance and alms giving. May God bless you all.

Br Ashley Tillek OFM



To donate ...

Contributions can also be sent via sms
(sms LENT and your diocese
to 40810
– the cost is R20 per sms)

or you can contribute directly to the
Lenten Appeal account as follows:

Account name: SACBC Lenten Appeal
Account number: **010009744**
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Pretoria Cnr Paul Kruger & Church St

As a reference:
use LA, your name and your diocese