



In Service to the People of God  
Ukusebenzela Abantu bakaNkulunkulu  
W służbie Ludu Bożego

# Diocese of Umzimkulu

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A short time ago I became bishop of the Diocese of Umzimkulu, a little diocese in the territory of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa. This diocese has had a painful history for many years, linked to a lack of human and material resources, but particularly because of the absence of a bishop for about 15 years. For a long time now all the Christians have been waiting impatiently for a new sun to rise, a new reawakening of faith in this land which once was a source of evangelization. I too, as the pastor of the diocese, wish to dedicate all of my efforts to realising this desire, which has by now become my most important commitment.

The arrival of the consecrated brothers and sisters of Koinonia John the Baptist, who were warmly welcomed by me, is a sign of this new beginning especially for the "Lourdes Mission", a locality which was the heart of the diocese for many years, and which is still a very special place, not only for the Diocese of Umzimkulu, but also for the neighbouring dioceses. In the past, precisely in this place which is now desolate, there was one of the biggest centres of evangelization in this region of Africa. In fact, the cathedral is to be found here (the only building that has been renovated) and the ruins of once flourishing convents and schools. There are still elementary and secondary schools to be found on the mission terrain (currently there are about 500 students, both children and young people who go to school there) but they are in a very precarious condition, without electricity and suitable buildings.

The rebirth of the "Lourdes Mission" is not a mere desire to restore ruins from another era and neither is it motivated by a nostalgic, cultural spirit, but it comes from the determination to go to the roots of the local Christian faith so as to have an even deeper, universal reawakening. In fact I believe that a return to our roots is the best testimony of our belief in Jesus, the One who has risen and who lives forever. To rebuild the "Lourdes Mission" is to begin a New Evangelization. It is not just about reconstructing buildings, but about a genuine and true evangelization, a rebirth of faith that drives us to revive something that in reality was never dead, but present in the hearts of the faithful.

This letter allows me to reach you and it desires to be an outstretched hand in the realisation of this dream: the evangelization of Africa. This is why I dare to ask for your help in order to face the most urgent and immediate needs of the "Lourdes Mission" and at the same time offer you the possibility of being, together with us, participants in the work that God is accomplishing and which has been entrusted to us.

I thank you in anticipation for your generosity and I assure you of my personal prayers and the prayers of the whole diocese.

May the Spirit of the Risen Christ fill your hearts and may you experience the joy of being part of the one Church which incessantly gives thanks to its Lord for the gift of grace received for the brothers.

*Stanislaw Dziuba, OSPPE*

Msgr. Stanislaw Jan Dziuba, OSPPE  
Bishop of Umzimkulu Diocese



Harding, 26 June 2010