

Frà Matthew Festing, the Prince and Grandmaster of the Order of Malta, visited the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard from 8th to 14th April 2014.

His Most Eminent Highness has been a member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard since 9th July 2002. We are enormously pleased that he accepted the highest Award and Honour which the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard can grant.

**Thus Frà Matthew Festing
was invested as an "Honorary Dedicated Member" of the
Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on Palm Sunday 2014.**



Father Alan Moss O.M.I., Bishop Xolelo Kumalo and Father Gérard at the blessing of the palms prior to the palm procession.

The lectionary is brought to the altar in solemn procession according to African custom.



Bishop Kumalo preached the homily

Our Dedicated Member Dr. Nzimande reading the epistle.



The new Associate Members of the Brotherhood also received their members' medal.

Dedicated Members Dr. Paul and Sr. Nokuthula Thabethe invested Frà Matthew with the cape



and Father Gérard, who had presided over the reception ceremonies presented Frà Matthew with the members' medal



and wished him God's abundant blessings as new Honorary Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Because we unfortunately did not have a good photograph of Frà Matthew as Honorary Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, he kindly sent us this picture depicting him next to their relic of Blessed Gérard in the chapel of the Grand Magistracy of the Order of Malta in Rome.



We thank him wholeheartedly for the great honour.



and blessed the cape for the new Honorary Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard: Frà Matthew.

The Grandmaster of the Order of Malta awarded highly meritorious Honorary Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard with the Order Pro Merito Melitensi of the Order of Malta at the subsequent function:



Maximilian Rauecker from Traunstein/Germany with the Officer's Cross pro Merito Melitensi

Johannes Lagleder from Neuburg/Germany with the Cross pro Merito Melitensi



Gabriele Rauecker from Traunstein/Germany and

Dr. Andreas Heinze from Beinheim/France with the Silver Medal Pro Merito Melitensi



Then the tide

turned and Frà Matthew was awarded, not in his capacity as the Grandmaster of the Order of Malta, but in his capacity as a longstanding and very helpful member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. So Father Gérard presented him with the "Commemorative Medal for the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard".



The same medal was presented by the commissioner of the Order of Malta for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, Guy Count of Moy, to the former Grand Hospitaller and current Grand Chancellor of the Order of Malta, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, who has been a member

of our Brotherhood for the last 20 years.

Some local deserving members of our organisation have also been awarded the Jubilee Medal. Among them was the head of our Children's Home Hayne Clark.



Grand Master Frà Matthew said moving words of thanks and recognition and encouraged us to persevere in our good work. He promised his further help and made us feel how much we are part of the wonderful family of the Order of Malta.

Dr. Thabethe presented the Grand Master our emblem as a Zulu shield (made from real skin) as a sign of our gratitude



and Dr. Nzimande presented Baron Boeselager a Zulu carving, which expresses symbolically the motto of Zululand "Sonqoba Simunye" (United we will win).