“……we are perplexed, but not in despair,…..crushed, but not destroyed.”[2 Cor. 4:8-9]

TRANSFIGURATION CHIDZIKWE
In February this year, the Lord Bishop and the Diocesan Development Officer paid a visit to Transfiguration Chidzikwe during the lockdown period to check on the crops and assess the possible yield. We also wanted to finalize our decision to move a cattle herd of nine (9) to Daramombe Mission Farm, where there is a lot of land for pasture. We are looking forward to a bumper harvest of maize this year at Transfiguration Chidzikwe. Some of the maize was already due for harvesting upon the time we visited the Centre.

PROMISING YIELD AT TRANSFIGURATION CHIDZIKWE

ST. BONIFACE MISSION ADDITIONAL WATER RETICULATION FACILITIES
The Diocese in partnership with UNICEF, under the Water, sanitation and health (WASH) program managed to procure and install an additional 5000 litre water tank, tank stand, a spare solar pump and additional five (5) draw off points/taps. The total draws off points are now ten (10). This has enabled the Mission institution to start embarking on some agro-related projects which will enhance the nutrition of the students and teachers through production of various vegetables and chicken farming which is also earmarked to commence soon.
CLERGY MEETING ON 15 MARCH 2021
Following the relaxation of COVID 19 restrictions beginning of March 2021, the Bishop had a meeting with the Diocesan Clergy at the Cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels, Masvingo on 15 March. Victims of COVID 19 world over were remembered and prayed for. Some of the Faithful in the Diocese of Masvingo succumbed to related COVID 19 complications. 
Clergy and the faithful in the Diocese of Masvingo returned to their Church buildings for worshiping on Sunday 14 March after the lockdown in January and February. The Bishop and Clergy had an opportunity to share lockdown experiences and encouraged each other to persevere despite the numerous challenges being faced as a result Of COVID 19 pandemic. The Bishop emphasized that COVID 19 regulations were to be taken heed of in all ecclesiastical divisions. It was emphasized that the 2021 calendar of events were to be undertaken where possible. The Bishop informed Clergy that the disease is still with us and that we should learn to live with it taking the necessary precautions. 
The Bishop and Clergy had time to learn together about how to minister to the faithful during these difficult times of COVID 19.
ST. MARY’S POSHAYI BOREHOLE DRILLING AND INSTALLATION OF WATER RETICULATION FACILITIES

On the 15th of March, in partnership with USPG, we drilled a 60m deep borehole for St. Mary’s Poshayi. The School and Church had been without a safe water supply source. A lot of potential in terms of fundraising through agro-activities was being suppressed due to absence of water. We are grateful to USPG for enabling the school and Church have a safe water source.

On the 29th of March, installation of the Water reticulation facilities was done and there is running water at the institution now. Teachers and students can now wash their hands using running water. The school’s permaculture activities which were on a small scale are expected to boost as well.

DIOCESAN CROP FARMING AND CATTLE BREEDING PROJECT AT DARAMOMBE MISSION FARM

The Diocese, in an effort to promote financial sustainability of the Church, as we learnt from Peer Mentoring Workshops facilitated by Trinity Church Wall Street; has almost 6 hectares of land at Daramombe Mission Farm which is under maize and 2 acres are under sugar beans. Given the good rains we received this year, we look forward to a bumper harvest. We have plans to do crop farming throughout the year through irrigated land crop farming activities. There is a river (Mwerihari) which flows throughout the year through our farm and is 250 metres away from the farming land. If we get requisite financial resources, we have the vision to procure a heavy duty water pump, some irrigation pipes and install 5x 5000 Litres water tanks. This will ensure perennial and profitable crop farming activities.

We also transferred cattle from Transfiguration Chidzikwe Youth Skills Centre to Daramombe Mission Farm where there is a sufficient pasture. The major logic is also to commence cattle fattening project and dairy farming. A herd of 9 cattle were transported to the Mission Farm on 19th March. The projects committee had already made the cattle pens and look forward to get some dairy cows this coming quarter.
DIOCESAN SCHOOLS FEEDING PROGRAM

After easing of the lockdown restrictions, schools were given the green light to open. Cognizant of the need to promote meaningful learning; the Diocese, with the help from Community of Resurrection (CR Fathers), procured some maize meal, soya mince, salt and cooking oil and delivered to all schools in Shurugwi. Students are having their meals at school prepared by some members of the Mothers’ Union and the local community. School child supplementary feeding has proven effective to our students; hence our good Grade 7 pass rates in our Diocesan schools. The results clearly indicate that meaningful learning actually took place because the students were being fed at school.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE EQUIPMENT PROJECT

Through the support we got from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Office, we managed to procure and install health and hygiene equipment at St. Cyprian Ngundu. Ngundu has perennial water problems, but the installation of the water reticulation facilities at St. Cyprian Ngundu Church, will ease the challenges of water to both the Church, Clergyman resident there and the Wellness Group which wants to start poultry production within the Church premises. The water reticulation facilities were linked to existing water line manned by Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA). Futuristic plans are having our own borehole and connect the facilities to our own borehole.
LADY DAY CELEBRATIONS
The feast of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated by the Mothers’ Union throughout the Diocese at District level in order to comply with COVID 19 regulations. Some celebrated on Friday 26th March while others celebrated on Saturday 27th March.
The Mothers’ Union President, the Mothers’ Union Coordinator, the Mothers’ Union worker and the St Agnes Guild Coordinator had an opportunity to visit the members of the Mothers’ Union in the Church District of St. Paul’s at Nharira on Friday 26 March. On Saturday 27 March they split, the St Agnes Coordinator went to Christ the King Daramombe Mission and the Mothers’ Union Coordinator went to Holy Apostles Church while the Mothers’ Union President and the Mothers’ Union worker went to St Augustine’s Church. The Theme was, “Work whilst its day time night shall come” [John 9 Vs 4].
The reports reaching the office of the Mothers’ Union are that attendance throughout the Diocese was good although there are some members who are still skeptical about attending Mass or being part of Church gatherings fearing to contract COVID 19.

CHRSIM MASS
Chrism Mass took place at the Cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels on 31st March 2021 at 12 noon. Attendance was limited to the Diocesan Clergy so as to comply with the COVID 19 regulations. After Chrism Mass, Clergy travelled to their respective ecclesiastical divisions in time for the evening Eucharist on Maundy Thursday.
SHEARLY CRIPPS SHRINE
Due to excessive rains this year some parts of the Shrine collapsed. The damaged sections will be repaired after Easter. The road that goes to the Shrine has also been severely damaged and needs attention. Pilgrims will not be able to visit the Shrine for the festival due to COVID 19. This year and last year commemorations were not held because of the pandemic. Clergy and the faithful will hold commemorations in their respective Church Districts on 01 August 2021 under the theme, “hardly pressed but not crushed”.

CLERGY CONTINUING EDUCATION
In 2020 13 Diocesan Priests did Diploma courses with Springdale College in the following areas:
1. Diploma In Leadership + Developmental Studies [8 Priests]
2. Diploma In Leadership + Governance [4 Priests]
3. Diploma In Leadership For Post Conflict [1 Priest]

This is part of Clergy continuing education
The priests graduated at UMMA Masasa Campus in Harare on 14 November 2020. Certificates were not given out at the graduation ceremony because they had not arrived from outside the country. However the certificates were later delivered to the Diocesan office. Clergy who graduated were given their certificates and transcripts by the Bishop on Wednesday 31st March before Chrism Mass.
MOTHERS’ UNION OFFICE

Speak One Voice (SOV) in conjunction with Mary Sumner and Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) organized Mothers’ Union workshop in the Church Of The Province of Central Africa for Bishop’s wife, MU Presidents, St Agnes and MU Coordinators in Lusaka Zambia in 2019. At the workshop an overview of what SOV is about was given.

From 1-6 March 2020 just before the lockdown, the Provincial MU Coordinators, St Agnes and St Veronica representatives attended another workshop in Lusaka Zambia. At this workshop those who attended were trained to be facilitators in their respective Dioceses.

SOV encourages people to speak against GBV and speak out and not keep quiet. Those who were trained were encouraged to get into Churches, communities and institutions encouraging people to speak out against all forms of GBV.

When Clergy came for Chrism Mass on 31st March 2021 MU members who were trained as facilitators had an opportunity to speak to Diocesan Clergy and Diocesan Staff about forms of GBV. Clergy were encouraged to speak out against GBV in families’, churches and communities. They were also encouraged to encourage GBV victims to speak and not to keep quiet.

FENCING OF SHURUGWI SCHOOLS GARDENS

St. Francis Mission School and St. Boniface School, who received their fencing materials for schools gardens on 24 December 2020, fenced their schools gardens after the lockdown restrictions were eased in March 2021. Low input nutrition gardening and market gardening activities are expected to commence soon. We are grateful to the Community of Resurrection (CR) for partnering with us in doing this project.
FENCED SCHOOL GARDENS FOR ST. FRANCIS MISSION SCHOOL AND ST. BONIFACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compiled By: Matthias Thompson Maduba
Diocesan Development Officer