



# **ST. BERNARD MIZEKI MENS GUILD**

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## Report

### **Introduction.**

This journey started when interest grew in a young man originating in the diocese of Mpumalanga. This young man saw an opportunity and headed the words of St. Matthew 28: 19. After the diocese of Pretoria laid foundation, and having a handful robbed, the launch was still necessary. The young man referred to is bro Xolani Sibisi.

### **Building a team.**

The great task was winning the hearts of the clergy and most importantly of getting a full support from the Right Reverend Martin Breytenbach. Numerous meetings happened with the help of the task team that received the bishop's blessing to plant this evangelical call.

The mission got its momentum, when Provincial Executive of the St Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild heeded the invite to meet with the bishop in help to establish the guild in the diocese. After that meeting a pilgrim continued with the task team visiting parishes within the diocese. The aim of the visitations was to take the guild to the people and the target market was the young men. Bernard Mizeki, as the guild is called today, was a missionary from Marondela to Cape Colony and back to Marondela where he was killed.

The priests played a commendable role by their willingness to support the task team. In introducing the task team to their congregation, the priest gave them a warm welcome. This made it easy for the task team to carry on with their mission. This mission had seen the birth of the guild in seven parishes within the diocese.

### **The big day**

The day finally arrived after numerous postponements. What was amazing was the overwhelming support the guild received within the diocese. The following parishes were represented:

- St. Mathews- Seshego
- St. Gregory The Great-Lebowakgomo
- St. Peters- Marishane
- Mapela parish
- Baken-Matji parish
- Mashashane parish
- Christ The King- Mokopane

The parish of Mokopane, which does not have robbed members, was willing to host the launch. The parish has interested number of youths who have already started with their trials.

The program was planned to start at 09:00, but due to a funeral of one of the members, there was a shift to 16:00. However, the actual event started at 16:30 with the hosting rector, Rev Lesiba Meso welcoming the visitors in Mokopane. See Annexure 1 for the Program

The Provincial Treasurer then took the podium to present the workshop. The main highlights of the presentation were:

- Aims and objectives of the Guild of St. Bernard Mizeki;
- Aims of the workshop, which are:
  - ✓ To set uniform methods of operation throughout all Dioceses in the Province
  - ✓ To ensure all our members throughout the Province have similar understanding about the Guild of St Bernard Mizeki.
- Constitution of the Guild of St. Bernard Mizeki;
- Services of the Guild of St. Bernard Mizeki
- History of Bernard Mizeki as a Person
- History of St Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild

After a well presented workshop, elections were conducted. With only seven parishes within the diocese that has St. Bernard Mizeki Guild, the process was very quick. The final results of the elections are:

President	: Rev. Makoga
Chairman	: Bro. Samuel Marishane
Secretary	: Bro. Nong Koena
Assistant Secretary	: Bro. Neo Lephondo
Treasurer	: Bro. Elias Monama
Chaplain	: Rev. Matlejoane
Media Officer	: Bro.Solly Modimola
Social Responsibility	: Bro. Prins Mphoshi
Training and Development	: Bro. Alpheus Manamelo

Legal Advisor

: Bro. Darius Rakabe

At this point, Rev Lesiba Meso led the Eucharist Service. Afterwards, when the parish was almost full, Rev Thato Molipa took the stand to present the memorial lecture. The former Provincial President and Chaplain gave a detailed history on Bernard Mizeki, the man and the Guild. In his address he highlighted the following:

- Who was Bernard Mizeki? a saint, a traitor or a fool?
- Who is/was Bernard Mizeki?
- What can men learn from Him?
- Meaning of the Guild today
- What can the member of the Guild do/What can be done?

At this time, the following diocese had joined in support to the new diocese launch:

- Diocese of Mpumalanga
- Diocese of Johannesburg
- St. Paul's Saulsville, Diocese of Pretoria

After the memorial lecture a fundraising was held and the following amounts were raised from the following church groups and structures:

<b>Parish/Diocese</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Mary Magdalene	R1,600.00
Marishane Parish	R600.00
Seshego Parish	R750.00
Hlahlagane parish	R700.00
Lebowakgomo Parish	R650.00
Mashashane Parish	R700.00
St. Stephens Parish-Modimolle	R379.60
St Paul's Saulsville, Diocese of Pretoria	R100.00
Diocese of Mpumalanga	R1,830.00
Diocese of Johannesburg	R900.00
<b>Total amount collected</b>	<b>R 8,209.60</b>

Soon after the fundraising, guilders were showing their thirst for the revival. The Rev Jeff Velelo from Barberton, diocese of Mpumalanga was asked to be the forerunner by issuing the word for the revival. The word was related to the theme of the launch and was from St John 20: 19-23. This word was then led by three representatives from dioceses of Mpumalanga, Johannesburg and St Mark. The revival went on until in the morning when streets of Mahwelereng were filled with young men in celebration of their mission.

The Holy Eucharist followed with the Right Reverend Martin Breytenbach presiding. During the service, the bishop inaugurated the newly elected diocesan executive and unveiled the diocesan banner. The Provincial Chairman was allowed to welcome the newly elected DEXCO. In his speech, he didn't forget to thank bro Xolani for the hard work of championing the launch. He again thanked Rev Thato for the great memorial lecture delivered. The Provincial Chairman did not forget to thank Provincial Deputy Secretary, Provincial Treasurer and Provincial Legal Advisor for their tireless efforts in ensuring that the event becomes a success.

A token of appreciation in a form of St. Bernard Mizeki blanket was presented to Bishop Martin for all the support he has given to the guild in ensuring that the event becomes a success. Lastly a word of appreciation was conveyed to the dioceses who attended this event.

## Many thanks

Compiled by: Andile Hlahla  
Provincial Assistant Secretary

Assisted by: Frans Malema  
Provincial Treasurer

# **Annexure 1**

## **Launch Program**

DATE : 26 TO 27 APRIL 2014

VENUE : CHRIST THE KING ANGLICAN PARISH, MOKOPANE @ DIOCESE OF ST. MARK EVANGELIST

### **26 April 2014**

16H00 – 18H00	Workshop	TDO
18H00 – 18H30	Elections	IEC
18H30 – 19H30	Supper	CTK
20H00 – 21H00	Evening Prayer	CTK
21H00 – 22H30	Memorial Lecture	BMMG
22H30 – 23H00	Fund Raising	BMMG
23H00 – 00H00	Unveiling of Banner	BMMG

### **27 April 2014**

00H00-04H30	Imvuselelo	BMMG
05H00- 06H00	Street Evangelism	BMMG
06H00-07H00	Tea	CTK
08H00	Official Inauguration	Bishop

## ANNEXURE 2



IMPRESSIVE ATTENDANCE FOR ST. MARK LAUNCH SERVICE



ST. MARK BMMG UNVEILED