

“FIND AND THANK YOUR LEADER” (FATYL) CELEBRATION

THE INVITATION

A report by Sr Marie Bernarde Jean-Louis OP:

“Initially I received a telephone call from one of my past pupils, Irene Dlomo (1982 – 1985) politely enquiring how I was health-wise and thereafter sending the official invitation for me to attend the special celebration of: **“FIND AND THANK YOUR LEADER” ON SATURDAY THE 8TH JULY 2023**. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would visit Kimberley again.

After the initial excitement, I googled the cost of the return flights from Pietermaritzburg to Kimberley, NC. I was horrified to see the cost thereof. After calming down and reflecting on the whole affair I felt this was rather an extravagant venture.

But the past pupils would hear nothing of my logic. To eradicate any health issues I could be concealing, I received a call from another past pupil, Eula Mothibi (now an Orthopaedic Specialist). After Eula’s interview she assured me that there was nothing to worry about or preventing me from embarking on the trip to Kimberley. That very afternoon I received an email with the flight tickets and an itinerary notifying me of my accommodation and the chaperons appointed for the necessary occasions.

THE TRIP TO KIMBERLEY

On the 7th July 2023 I was a bundle of excitement – with every neuron in my body at its maximum working potential. The flight to Kimberley was wonderful – the assistance I received excellent. And I now know from experience what it means to be a VIP.

On my arrival at Kimberley Airport Irene Dlomo was there to chaperon me to the Protea Hotel, Marriott. Incidentally the car stopped at the entrance door (not in the parking zone) and the porter off loaded my luggage into the reception area where Dr Bridgette Ikalaefeng was present to settle my “book-in” requirements.

SATURDAY 08TH JULY 2023 – “THIS DAY WAS MADE BY THE LORD.”

It was an overwhelming experience entering the foyer area to be greeted by so many of my past pupils (1982 -1985) Each glowing with excitement and

taxing my memory, awaiting expectantly to see if I could recognise them after so many years.

It was a tall order, although appearances had changed radically, in some instances the voice and their idiosyncrasies gave them away... to my relief. As we chattered it was mind-boggling to hear snippets of their stories regarding their professional journeys and their families.

At 10h45 we (approximately 80-100 persons) proceeded to the Conference Centre which was magnificently arranged. It spoke of Beauty, Goodness and Togetherness!

The whole event was one of **deep gratitude for all they had received and become** through their education at St. Boniface Girls' and Boys' High School. They expressed their deep appreciation for the nurturing of Christian values, **the core factor being: "You are a child of God, created in His image with dignity and Gifted with God-Given gifts not merely for self-enrichment BUT to be shared with others"**. It was obvious they are exceedingly proud as alumni and as "Products of Saint Boniface High School, Kimberley, hence their togetherness and family spirit.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS OF APPRECIATION – "FIND AND THANK YOUR LEADER"

The red carpet was rolled out for the occasion. Each teacher who served on the staff whilst I was Principal of the Girls' Department was honoured and thanked with a Certificate of Appreciation and given a personal gift for their contribution.

Finally, I was honoured and thanked with a Certificate for my valuable contribution and Leadership in Education, and for my contribution to their personal formation and ultimately for the upliftment of the Galeshewe Community.

CELEBRATION OF BR. DONAL MADDEN – 90TH BIRTHDAY

Finally Br. Madden was honoured and presented with a Certificate for his valuable contribution during his period of teaching and Principal-ship at St. Boniface High School and especially for the outstanding achievement during his term of service. Thereafter a grand luncheon took place.

THE OFFICIAL LAUCHING OF "FIND YOUR AND THANK YOUR LEADER"

The closing item on the agenda was the official launching of the project

“FIND YOUR AND THANK YOUR LEADER (FATYL)

A brain child of Dr Bridgette Ikalafeng. The primary aim is to perpetuate: **“You have received without cost – give without cost.”** It provides a programme of Personal Formation and Academic Guidance to Grade 11 and 12 learners of St. Boniface High School.

Each learner is also monitored by an appointed personal mentor. The initial group of learners present were introduced to the audience. It was awe-inspiring to witness what God has done and is doing in the lives of the people of Galeshewe, Kimberley and is spreading throughout South Africa, Africa and even globally.

“TO GOD BE THE GLORY GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!”

ALLELULIA, ALLELULA.

Sr Marie Bernarde Jean-Louis OP

25.09.2023