Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



The Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta in South Africa



How it all started

■ Father Gérard reports: I came to the area of Mandeni as the parish priest in 1990. In this position and especially as a missionary, I was, of course, approached by everybody, especially when **people were in need** of any particular care.

■ One day I was called to take Communion of the Sick to a dying lady. I visited her as I had done so before regularly. When I arrived I noticed that she was in a very bad condition. She had terrible bedsores and she was totally emaciated. I gave her Communion of the Sick and I gave her the Anointing of the Sick. Then I said to her: “I really would be glad if you would allow me to take you to a good doctor.” “But I don’t have any money”, she said to me and I said: “Let that be my worry, because I think, that you really need to see a good doctor.” She agreed and then I put a mattress on the back of my pick-up, I laid her on it and I took her to the doctor. The doctor was Dr. Paul Thabethe from Sundumbili. When we arrived he said: “For heavens sake, she must go to hospital immediately.” She was transferred to hospital and died there on the same night. When I met Dr. Thabethe again he said to me:
“Father, can’t we do something? There are so many people here who simply die from malnutrition or from being totally neglected at home and that should not happen. This kind of thing should not be a cause of death. By saying so he was knocking on open doors with me.

■ The second event, which was very impressive, was this: There were two very poor families in Mandeni, living in one house. The father had no work. They could not feed their seven children and the landlord, who they had rented a house from, had threatened to evict them. They had nothing to eat and nothing to wear: A totally desperate situation. As usual when people are desperate, they come to the Catholic Church, even if they are not Catholics. So on Sunday, after the service, I made an announcement in church and I asked “Is there anybody who could possibly help to get these totally desperate families back on track again?” A member of the pastoral council, Mrs. Kalkwarf, responded and said: **“Oh yes, we can do something to organise help.”** She went off and a day later she had organised the whole parish and other people, too. Some brought food, others brought clothes, others got the children back to school and others even found jobs for the men, so that within three months the need of the families was alleviated. This was most inspiring: “Well, there are people here who know how to organise help!” And this was exactly the spark I needed.

■ As I had been involved with the work of the Order of Malta in Germany since 1969, where organising help became my second nature, it struck me and I said: “Let’s plan and do something to help the people in this area of Zululand on a long term basis.” Then I said to myself: **“It would be good to found an organisation within the country, where South Africans make plans on how to give help to South Africans who are in any kind of need.”** Therefore, on 28 October 1992, I founded the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, an organisation of South Africans, which is based in South Africa and works with local people.

What we now are

■ a group of close to 1500 **idealists** with the aim to enable and empower people to help themselves and to provide direct aid in cases of emergency and immediate need.

■ the South African **relief organisation** of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, which was founded as a nursing brotherhood by Blessed Gérard more than 900 years ago.



■ a **faith based organisation** (FBO) putting into action what our motto "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum" means: "Protection of faith and service to the needy".

■ a "**Private Association of Christ's Faithful**" in the Roman Catholic Church, open to members from all different faiths and cultural backgrounds.

■ a **community based** (CBO) **non governmental organisation** (NGO) based on the voluntary service of its members.

■ a "**public benefit organisation**" (PBO) operated **not for profit** (NPO) and dedicated to the welfare of all people.

■ a **nondiscriminating** and **nonexclusive** organisation, which serves the needy irrespective of their creed, colour of skin, political affiliation or social status.

We strive to maintain a high standard of professionalism in the care provided to our patients.

Let Pierangelo Cerana, Director of WHIRLPOOL, explain to you:



“My motivation why we strengthen the relationship with Blessed Gérard is very simple. I am coming from an idea that big ideas need big wings to fly, but in the meantime they need big wheels to land and I think, that there is a good combination here: ***Big heart and big pragmatism*** *so they are able to have a good marriage with* ***heart and quality*** *and this is what impresses me the most. In this structure people is taken with* ***a lot of heart but also with a lot of professionalism****.”*

Brotherhood of



Blessed Gérard's Disaster Relief Project

We give medical assistance and care as a relief organisation in case of a disaster.



Blessed G Children'

We look after an to sick, neglec malnourished, and orphane

Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund

We help people in our local community in genuine cases of immediate need.





Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund

We give bursaries to poor pupils and students from our local community.



Blessed Gérard



Blessed Gérard's Poor Sick Fund

We help sick people from our local community, if they cannot afford urgently needed medical treatment.



Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic

We run a clinic, where we examine, treat and feed malnourished infants and teach their parent or carer in proper baby care.

Blessed First A Emergenc

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Blessed Gérard



Gérard's
s Home

nd give a home
cted, abused,
, abandoned
ed children.



Blessed Gérard's Hospice

We run a Hospice to provide home based care, day care and inpatient care for needy sick people, suffering from HIV/AIDS, and train the public in home based care.



Blessed Gérard's Community Development Centre

We run a sewing school to fight unemployment and thus prevent HIV infection through dangerous alternate ways of income generation.



l's Care Centre

Blessed Gérard's Friendship Club

We organise meetings to enable the elderly to get out of their isolation and socialise with others.





Blessed Gérard's HIV/AIDS Education Programme

We teach the public how to avoid HIV infection and how to live positively with AIDS.

Gérard's
Aid and
cy Service

First Aid and
n emergencies.





Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School and Crèche

We run a Pre-Primary-School and Crèche for underprivileged children.

Brotherhood
tuitio fidei
et obsequium pauperum
of Blessed Gérard

How You can help us to help:

By joining us

☐ as an **Active Member**
if you are able and prepared to help in our projects
to serve the poor as a volunteer and agree with our principles.
In this case, please call us for an interview.

☐ as a **Donor member**
if you want to support our service financially on a regular basis.

☐ as a **Spiritual Supporter**
if you want to help us through your prayers regularly.

By a donation towards our charity work.
Financial contributions are most needed.
If you want to donate goods, kindly contact us beforehand
to make sure that the donation will be really useful.

By making us a beneficiary in your last will and testament.

By your prayers that God may bless our service
and those we serve.

Dear reader,

this centre sheet of our newsletter serves like an independent insert giving basic and general information on our whole organisation, its tasks and its work. It can be used like a prospectus or even as a poster to inform others about us.

If you are not already a member of our organisation, we ask you to join us now, and if you are already a member, please invite others to join us.

The more support we can get regularly, the better it is! If every member would only bring us one other member, we could double our support base and help even better and more.

Application for Membership

Indicate ☑ which kind of membership you want!

☐ I am prepared to support the work of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** as a **Donor** through an
☐ annual ☐ quarterly ☐ monthly

donation of (amount)_____ (currency)_____.

☐ I want to help the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** through my prayers as a **Spiritual Supporter.**

Title: _____

First Name: _____ Middle Initials: ____

Surname: _____

Date of birth: (day)_____(month)_____(year)_____

Residential address:_____

Postal address: P O Box _____

Place _____ Postal Code _____

☎ Code _____ No _____

Cell phone Code _____ No _____

Fax Code _____ No _____

E-Mail: _____@_____ Homepage: http://_____

Signed at _____ on the _____

Signature of applicant _____

Fill in and send this form to:

Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard
P O Box 440 · Mandeni 4490 · Republic of South Africa

Fax +27 (0)32 456 7962

If you want to join as an active member, come and talk to us personally!

Making a donation



If you live in South Africa:

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, being a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, has also been approved on 2 July 2003 by the South African Revenue Services (SARS) for purposes of section 18A(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act, i.e. donations to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre are tax deductible. [Reference 18/11/13/2777]
This means that now we can issue South African donors with tax receipts for their donations, which they can use for tax deduction from the SARS. **If you are a taxpayer in South Africa and want to utilise this facility, make sure, that you make your donation to "Blessed Gérard's Care Centre" (not to the "Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard"!). For donations of R500.00 and above we will issue such a receipt automatically.**

You may make a donation directly into our banking account.
Our banking details are as follows:

Name of Account: Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

Type of account:	Current Account
Bank:	First National Bank
Account number:	529 4004 0349
Branch:	Mandini
Branch code:	220 429

Please ensure that you put your personal details on the deposit or send the information directly to us, so that we can acknowledge and assign your donation properly.
The most convenient solution for both sides would be if you organised a stop order on your account, if you want to donate regularly.

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