

## Nolan Tobias TSSF, Minister Provincial, African Province

Brother Nolan was a humble and caring man, deeply imbued with a sense of vocation to follow the teaching of the Gospels as demonstrated by Blessed Francis. His untimely death has left us with a feeling of disbelief; and a void in the lives of his Franciscan brothers and sisters in the Third Order, that will be difficult to fill.

His membership of the First Order Brothers in the UK and his work amongst the deprived and destitute in the major cities in England and Scotland were a source of fulfilment and joy to him.

When circumstance at home in Cape Town required his return to South Africa he was faced with an extremely difficult choice; as there are no other First Order Brothers here, he was obliged to withdraw from the First Order but found a new home amongst the Third Order and he brought good council to our African Province.

He was a much loved member of the Cape Town Group and was the obvious choice when the position of Minister Provincial became vacant five years ago. In this position he became responsible for tertiaries throughout Africa and visited them in Ghana, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe. At our Chapter in Durban a month ago he was enthusiastically making plans to visit Zambia and Uganda. Nolan was a familiar figure in many airports carrying his carefully wrapped Damiano Cross, which was always a prominent feature at our Third Order gatherings. Another major feature of any gathering where Nolan was present was his love of music and his wonderful singing voice. His adaptation and enhancement of services with musical versions from around the world were inspirational.

Nolan represented Africa at the General Chapter in New York and was host to a gathering of Ministers Provincial from America, Europe, New Zealand and Australia in Simonstown in September of last year. He was scheduled to meet up with his fellow Ministers Provincial in New Zealand next year. He had great tales to tell about all his trips and took hundreds of photographs, which he was always happy and eager to share.

In 2012 he led a party of Southern Region tertiaries on a pilgrimage to Assisi and having visited before whilst based in England, proved to be a wonderful guide, full of information and anecdotes for his fellow sojourners. During a visit to the Little Portion Chapel he was able to renew his Life Vows, this was a source of great satisfaction for him.

The members of Nolan's Franciscan family share in the deep grief felt by his siblings and extended family. He is cherished and will be forever in our hearts.

Pax et Bonum