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PBO No. 930003968

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Greetings of peace, hope, and joy.

Gaudete Sunday was different for me this year as I preceded the Kolping Christmas carols event with the celebration of Holy Mass. Along with fellow Kolping families from Cape Town, the air was filled with anticipation. Seeing the youth of our diocese participating in the Mass, and then watching them later embrace their Christian heritage filled me with immense joy.

This has been a very eventful year, and I thank God for the many opportunities. This year has been challenging, and I thank God for the chance to deepen my trust in Him. This year has gone by so fast, and I thank God for being there every step of the way.

I write this letter to you with great hope for the future of our diocese. Not only will we again have two young men preparing for the priesthood next year (Mr. Lethan Damons who begins his third year of philosophy, and Mr. Keithin Lebaea who begins his first year), but we can celebrate the return of two brothers in the presbyterate who used a year-long sabbatical to focus on their vocation.

Father Steven Scheepers will take up the responsibility of Saint Blaize and Saint Charles Lwanga parishes, Mossel Bay, from 5 January 2026.

Father Richard April will move to the convent in Swellendam in February 2026. Here he will be responsible for the spiritual wellbeing of the Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration, as well as conducting retreats and spiritual workshops.

Father Dominic Kofi CSsR will join Father Raphael Ogbudu CSsR in Knysna to form a Redemptorist community. On behalf of the communities that he has served in Mossel Bay, I echo a very joyous thank you.

There are a few other surprises for the new year, but let us wait until next year to unwrap these beautiful gifts that God has given us.

May our blessed Mother, under the patronage of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, intercede on our behalf.

Love and blessings for you and your loved ones this Christmas, and for 2026.

Bishop Noel