



VERITAS NEWS

The Good News. For a change

December 2017

576 AM

CHANNEL 870
DSTV AUDIO

A Message of Hope & Good News

The year 2017 has unfortunately been a very destructive year.

Globally we have seen war and threats of war in different parts of the world. We have seen landslides, destructive hurricanes in the Americas, and earthquakes. Many countries have experienced disturbing political unrest and shady elections. In South Africa we have had a devastating fire in the Eastern Cape, floods in Johannesburg, extreme drought, political unrest and crippling corruption, ongoing protests, escalating costs of transport, food, water and electricity, and a relegation to junk status. Ongoing crime, murder and assaults are the order of the day. All very depressing.

We are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful countries of the world. Alas, all is not well in this beloved country. Many are being driven to emigrate to greener pastures, taking with them the expertise we so desperately need here. Our political leaders, acutely aware of this pervading cancer, are trying to put on a smile to encourage us and tourists. Politically we are more divided than ever with constant cries for the President to step down.

Thanks be to God, there are voices of reason and hope in the midst of chaos. From the ranks of the Dominican Order in the Catholic Church came the call for an investigation into state capture which has become part of our everyday vocabulary.

By Fr Emil Blaser OP

It is into this kaleidoscope of chaos that we as a Church have to address a message of hope and good news - difficult as this might be. Jesus faced a similar situation in his time when he reached out with good news to those who were being oppressed by the religious and state authorities. We have to use all the means at our disposal to inject new life into our situation which is crying out for the birthing of God's kingdom.

If we don't do this, it makes little sense to pray "Thy kingdom come".

As Catholics we are blessed with many in high places in government. We have many Catholic journalists and business people. Unfortunately, the sound and relevant teaching of the Church is either not known by some of them, or is seldom spoken. Our Catholic conscience and convictions mean little or nothing. Jesus would have cried out "alas for you hypocrites"!

Politics and money have become more important than consciences formed by good Catholic values and standards.

It hardly needs saying that the media - the printed word, social media, radio or television - is practically the most formative influence on the lives of people nowadays. Catholic media is thus one of the

most important instruments we have to form the lives and consciences of our people and be the most powerful instrument in our hands to do what Jesus has asked us to do, namely, to evangelise - to facilitate the message of the gospel permeating the fabric of the lives of people. We, in Catholic radio, believe this deeply. This message is our ongoing breaking news bringing light, joy and hope into a darkened world.

This was the message that the Angels brought at the birth of Christ and which was heard and experienced by simple shepherds and which transformed the lives of the poor and marginalised in the ministry of Jesus. This message continues to fill us with wonder and delight. What an incredible powerhouse of evangelisation we are!

Christmas is upon us. In Christ, God has burst into our world as the light of the nations and the hope of people. Those whose lives he touched by his message were the poor, the rejected and marginalised and those who were humble enough to get off their pedestals and walk with him.

This is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and this needs to be our conviction. This truth needs to penetrate the darkness and destructiveness of the world we live in. Before God, we are all called to bring this light into the darkness and we in Catholic radio are here to help you do this more effectively.



We wish you and your families a very Happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.
- Fr Emil Blaser OP & all at Radio Veritas

Do Something NOW!

Radio Veritas needs your help NOW. Please help us in the following ways:

* Forwarding us a little donation towards defraying the expenses of this mailing; * Increasing or doubling your monthly contribution * Finding ONE other person or group to make a monthly contribution of at least R100

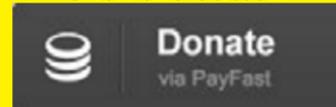
Do something now and complete the coupon on Page 3, or contact Lucia at 011 6634700 or email her at

lucia@radioveritas.co.za

Thank you and may God bless you and your family!

DONATE NOW!

Make a Once-Off Donation right now through PayFast! Click the button



Farewell, Jean Jones

This year one of our staunchest supporters, Jean Jones, died at the age of 90.

She was a Methodist and often expressed the wish of becoming a Catholic. She accidentally came upon Radio Veritas five years ago and never switched off! She loved Radio Veritas and Father Emil and never ceased to speak well of us and was a frequent caller on air. A large number of Radio Veritas listeners were present at her funeral at which Father Emil preached.

She leaves behind many happy memories, one of which was during our recent telethon when she phoned in and said that she was contributing R190 - R100 as



a donation from a pensioner and R1 for every year of her life!

Thank you, Jean, for being such a wonderful friend and supporter. Rest in the peace of the Lord whom you loved so dearly and with whom we have no doubt you are with right now.

Journalism School

Over the years we at Radio Veritas have become aware of the sad lack of knowledge journalists have of the Catholic Church.

We have always tried to reach out to young journalists but found that they have very little basic knowledge of their faith.

A facility became available at Radio Veritas which we have been able to transform into a serviceable classroom. This was made possible by an anonymous donor through EWTN. A business plan and budget has been drawn up and we are approaching a possible donor to assist us. The school will be open to local aspiring journalists as well as candidates from other countries in Africa.



The course will provide basic radio journalism skills and the basic knowledge of the Catholic faith. We have also been dialoguing with EWTN and St Augustine's College in Johannesburg. Accreditation is also being planned. Local professional radio journalists will provide the necessary input.



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Bits 'n Pieces



Water

Several months ago at the height of the drought in the Free State we encouraged our listeners to donate water. About 14 tonnes of water was collected in plastic bottles and transported to Senekal with a parish priest and congregation were ecstatic and truly grateful for this much-needed commodity. A very big thank you to those listeners who responded so lovingly and generously.

Website

Our Webmaster is Frank Nunan of SA Catholic Online (www.sacatholiconline.org). He is very dedicated to this ministry and we are grateful to him for his expertise and ideas. Naturally, if the website is not up-to-date, it is our fault not his. It is sometimes very difficult with our limited staff and responsibilities to keep feeding the website. We try but don't always succeed and trust you understand. Please also know how much we would appreciate your ideas to improve our website.

Technical assistance

Technical assistance in our studios and with all sound equipment at Radio Veritas is provided by Hein Zentgraf of Avecon. He is very much part of our team and very competent.

All our computer and IT needs are supplied by Stefan Kruger whom Father Emil baptised many years ago! There is nothing that Stef doesn't know about computers and we highly recommend him. His company is called FluidIT. Someone else who takes care of our live streaming and email facilities is Chris Grant of NetDynamix - also highly recommended.

Blankets and CDs

There is a constant demand for Divine Mercy and Blessed Benedict Daswa blankets. These are available at R300. We are also the only stockists of all the CDs of David Parkes which are available at R200 each. There are six CDs. If all six are bought the cost would be R1000. The CDs of Dr Scott Hahn are also available either on our website or from our offices at R75 each. We are the approved supplier of these CDs in South Africa. CDs of the Rosary are also available at R75.

Afrikaans programming

We are grateful to Fr Mokesh Morar for his weekly Afrikaans programme on Wednesday mornings at 10 o'clock. Naturally he puts a lot of work into these programmes and they are greatly appreciated by our Afrikaans speaking listeners. The programme is repeated on Sundays at 10am.

Parish website feature

Our website is colourful and informative. One feature we have is very informative if you are planning your holiday. One simply clicks on the feature and types in the name of the lodge or holiday resort that you are going to and it will indicate where the closest church is with all relevant information. Keeping this feature up-to-date is a mammoth task and is work in progress.

Fowler Tours

This company is run by Gail Fowler. We are happy to be officially associated with this Catholic touring company. We collaborate with Gail on several pilgrimages each year and would encourage you to consider them if planning a pilgrimage. Costs are very reasonable and either she or a member of her family always meet with pilgrims before going on the pilgrimage and then accompany them on the pilgrimage. Radio Veritas is also supported by Fowler Tours on pilgrimages which we do together.

The Southern Cross

We are more than delighted with our relationship with Gunther Simmermacher and his team at the Southern Cross. As Catholic media we walk hand in hand, supporting each other where we can. The Southern Cross has given us much support in advertising and has co-sponsored our October pilgrimage. Each week, on Friday morning at 8:30, Father Emil interviews Gunther who gives a birds eye view of the forthcoming edition of the Southern Cross. We would like to encourage you to buy your copy on Sundays at R8. This is very little to pay for a quality newspaper in comparison to what many might spend R8 on.

St Martin de Porres

At the foot of our home page of our website you will find a link to St Martin de Porres Centre. This functions under the Dominican Order and Fr Emil is the director. There are many people who have a strong devotion to St Martin de Porres. Every two months a newsletter is published and available on the site. We trust you will enjoy and be inspired by the site and newsletter.

EWTN

Many people love listening to EWTN through the night. Their programmes are very inspiring and informative and above all Catholic. We believe that the popularity of EWTN is thanks to Radio Veritas which has given more than ample exposure to this international radio station. We are grateful to them for the feed that they allow us to broadcast. We have a good relationship with them through their Africa representative, George Wirnkar. Thanks to an EWTN anonymous donor we receive the money needed to renovate our facility in preparation for our media school.



Men in Christ

This is a group of Catholic men which originated through the inspiration and enthusiasm of Albert de Nobrega and Carlos Camara of the parish of Maria Regina in Lyttleton.

There are now almost 200 members in parishes around the country. Their purpose is to bring Catholic men together to share their Catholic faith and enthusiasm for the Church.

We believe every parish in the country should have such a group. It can only enhance evangelisation and the dynamic role of Catholic men in the Church. They don't just talk about things but encourage each other in their faith and get on with it.

They recently grabbed an opportunity at Radio Veritas and came together as a group to be trained in presenting a weekly radio programme. On 6 September they presented their first two-hour programme with much enthusiasm and success. It really is a programme not to be missed between seven and nine on a Wednesday evening.



300 Gogos and Mkhulus celebrate

Fr Emil's Birthday

About 300 Gogos and Mkhulus, faithful listeners to Radio Veritas, gathered at the Johannesburg Chancery hall to celebrate the belated birthday of Fr Emil Blaser OP, the director of Radio Veritas on Saturday, 21 October 2017.

For some years now this event has been supported and publicised by Tshidi Ramogase, a non-Catholic and faithful listener to the radio station, who has kindly sponsored the event.

Before the five-star luncheon, speeches were accompanied by pre-lunch drinks and snacks. The brass band of the national Apostolic church performed for the guests. It was interesting to note that several players were teenagers and the group performed professionally. This was a wonderful ecumenical gesture.

In welcoming everybody, Tshidi, our generous host, paid a loving tribute to her mother who had died earlier in the year and who was always a welcome guest at this feast. She also thanked all those who would spend so much time in preparing this event. Unfortunately, this was to be the last annual event that she would be able to sponsor. She also welcomed the Deputy Minister of Social Services who graced us with her presence and who addressed the Gogos and Mkhulus about their pension payouts. Everyone present received from her a gift of a beautiful blanket and toiletries. Each was also given a security remote which could be used in emergency.

The biggest and most pleasant surprise of the day was the arrival of the famous MaCecelia choir which entertained the gathering with beautiful choral pieces.

The hall was very colourfully decorated and what was very obvious was the beautiful, newly launched logo and branding of Radio Veritas.

All the guests were treated to a comforting neck massage and could also have free professional photographs taken of themselves.

Father Emil (shown here with Tshidi Rmaogase) thanked everybody for being at the event and for their good wishes and generosity. He told them that all those who were donors of Radio Veritas would be receiving a special gift for Christmas and that his plea to them would be to find just one more donor who would make a monthly contribution of R100 a month. He assured them that after being off-air for a couple of weeks due to his illness, he would soon be back again on his morning show.

The day was a great success and much of this was due to the hard work of members of staff, like Mahadi Buthelezi, Vincent Mokoena and Khanya Litabe, who, with the equipment of Radio Veritas provided background music and the very effective PA system.



RADIO VERITAS

88, 8th Avenue

Edenvale

P.O. Box 4599

1610 Edenvale

Telephone: 011 663-4700

www.radioveritas.co.za

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