



# Archdiocese of Cape Town

July 12, 2010

Dear Monsignor, Father, Deacon, Brother, Sister

## VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST THERESA OF LISIEUX TO CAPE TOWN

In my letter of June 3, 2010, I informed you that the relics of St Theresa of Lisieux would be arriving in Cape Town on Monday, August 9, 2010. The reliquary arrived in Johannesburg from Lisieux on June 27, and will remain in South Africa until October 5, 2010. A photograph of the reliquary which weighs 132 kg and contains bones from the thigh and foot of St Theresa can be found on our diocesan website.

For your information, I enclose the detailed programme for the two-week visit to Cape Town. You will notice that the relics will be hosted by four parishes - the parish of St Theresa, Welcome Estate, the parish of St Theresa, Camps Bay, Holy Redeemer parish, Bergvliet and the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Retreat - and by the Carmelite Convent, Retreat.

At about 4.30pm on Monday, August 9, representatives of the four host parishes and of the Carmelite Convent will travel in procession behind the hearse, transporting the reliquary from the airport to the parish of St Theresa, Welcome Estate. There will be a welcoming ceremony outside the church at 5.30pm as the reliquary is removed from the hearse and carried into the church. A concelebrated Mass with Archbishop Emeritus Lawrence Henry as principal celebrant will commence at 6.00pm. I encourage you and members of your parishes to participate in this welcoming liturgy and also in some of the other liturgies planned for the two weeks during which the relics will be in Cape Town.

For many years St Theresa's relics have travelled the world, having visited over 40 countries where many thousands of pilgrims have thronged to pray in their presence. I pray that these coming days of pilgrimage in Cape Town will indeed be a time of conversion and healing. The real meaning of the relics is, of course, that they are but a sign, a token of the holy life of this much-loved saint. They are God's way of opening our hearts to his unwavering love.

Naturally, there are significant costs involved in bringing the relics to Cape Town. Since the four host parishes fall within three deaneries – the City Bowl, Eastern and Constantiaberg deaneries – and since the faithful in the parishes within those deaneries may be able more easily to participate in the liturgies in each host parish, I especially ask parish priests of those parishes to contribute towards these costs. You may choose to have a special collection or make a contribution from parish funds. The amount suggested is R500.00, but I leave that to you. Of course, contributions are not limited to parishes in those three deaneries. All contributions will be most gratefully received and acknowledged. Cheques should be made payable to the Archdiocese of Cape Town and sent to Monsignor Clifford Stokes who is coordinating the visit on my behalf.

With thanks for promoting the visit in your communities and every prayerful good wish.

Yours sincerely in the Lord

+Stephen Brislin  
Archbishop of Cape Town