

Harvesters of Jesus

(Newsletter 129 – 05/03/2010)

The Association of the Harvesters of Jesus was established in order to provide the regular daily spiritual needs of the Little Eden Society. It is firmly believed that without such support, Little Eden would wither.

"Family means putting your arms around each other and being there." - Barbara Bush

Those of us who are lucky enough to be part of a family will know the value that such a close network of people has. Our families are usually the first to know about major events in our lives and we usually turn to them first to share our joys and sorrows. With family, we can be ourselves. Within a family, there is love and acceptance for who we are deep down.

A staff member recently told me about a touching moment she witnessed inside the Edenvale Home. Ahmed, a youngster of about 15 years was sitting next to our youngest resident, Keketso, who is not yet 2 years old. As the "baby" in the Home, she holds a special place in everyone's hearts. Ahmed was holding a teddy bear and was "walking" the bear up and down on her stomach in a joking manner – very gently, but nevertheless causing Keketso to shriek with laughter!

Knowing the residents involved, I could picture that precious interaction between them and I suddenly felt grateful. Knowing that they are obviously happy in their own special kind of family circle warms my heart. The majority of our children may not have had the best start in life.... for some there may not even be much hope for progress in the future. The closest thing to family that many of them will ever have, is their *brothers and sisters* and carers at LITTLE EDEN – as well as the many individuals who care about and support our youngsters.

I believe that being related by blood is not a prerequisite for being part of a true *family*. Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu once said: "You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them."

These angels (the ones who have passed away and the ones who are still with us) were entrusted to LITTLE EDEN long ago in a vision that Domitilla had of our Blessed Mother. Our gift to them is unconditional love and acceptance. Their gift to *us* is perhaps learning more about ourselves and that which really matters in life.

Hanneli Esterhuysen

Daily prayer for the needs of LITTLE EDEN

Jesus, Great Harvester, who desires the salvation of all mankind, accept the offering of my life and work in assisting You to help garner the fields for the harvest. Teach me compassion, understanding and love for those most in need. Bless our Association; strengthen the bonds of love and charity amongst us, so that with hearts united we may say "Thy kingdom come". Mary, comfort of the afflicted, pray for us.

