

# Harvesters of Jesus

(Newsletter 279 – 01/02/2024)

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.

## A New Commandment: Embrace the love that the Lord has bestowed

*A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another as I have loved you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples: if you have love one for another. By this shall all know that you are my disciples: if you have love one for another.*

In the heart of our mission at LITTLE EDEN Society, the essence of love takes centre stage. As we reflect upon the profound words of the hymn inspired by 1 John 4:20 – "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another" – we are reminded of the transformative power of love within our community.

The verse from 1 John 4:20 serves as a touching reminder of the divine command to embrace and extend love to one another. At LITTLE EDEN Society, this commandment resonates deeply as we provide lifelong care to 300 children and adults living with Profound Intellectual Disability. It is a reminder that love is not only a moral imperative but also a cornerstone of our shared humanity.

In the spirit of this new commandment, the LITTLE EDEN community stands united in fostering an environment where love is not just an emotion but an action. Each resident, caregiver, and supporter play a vital role in creating a space where compassion, understanding, and acceptance flourish.

Our *angels*, despite their unique challenges, embody the purest form of love – a love that transcends words and is expressed through smiles, laughter, and the joyous connections formed between caregivers and residents. It is a testament to the transformative impact of love when it is unconditionally given and received.



As we navigate the intricacies of caring for those living with intellectual disability, the verse encourages us to look beyond differences and see the common thread that binds us – the thread of love. It prompts us to embrace inclusivity, cultivate empathy, and extend kindness to one another.

The hymn's timeless message serves as an invitation to the broader community to join hands with LITTLE EDEN in fostering a culture of love. It challenges us to step outside our comfort zones, reach out to those who may be marginalised, and embody the love that can bring about positive change. In the spirit of "A new commandment," let us be inspired by the selfless love demonstrated daily at LITTLE EDEN. Whether through volunteering, donations, or simply acts of kindness, each member of the community has the power to make a difference.

As we move forward, let us embrace the call to love one another, recognising that in doing so, we contribute to building a community where everyone, regardless of ability, is truly valued and cherished. In the words of the hymn, "By this shall all know that you are my disciples: if you have love one for another." May the love that defines the LITTLE EDEN Society community serve as a beacon, inspiring us all to embody the transformative power of love in our daily lives.

Gaahle Mokgoro

### Daily prayer for the needs of LITTLE EDEN Society

*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.*