



Please pass this on to any friends who you think might be interested in supporting Mater Domini Home. You can write to us at

[info@matercapetown.org](mailto:info@matercapetown.org)



## Message from the Committee

Mater Domini Home is a home for women in crisis pregnancy, as well as women suffering from emotional, physical of sexual abuse. It is a response to the tragedy of

abortion and aims to give women real, accessible and practical alternatives to aborting their children.

An urgent need for this type of project has been evident for many years, and the inability of the Church to offer help, especially to women who want to keep their babies, was of real concern. An individual case where we found there was no help available for a woman who had been thrown out of her home because of her refusal to abort her child spurred us on to form a committee, from which Mater Domini was born.

With the help of many private donors, we were able to open our doors on 27th September 2007. We were accepted as a branch of the Right to Live Campaign, who run 7 such homes in the Archdiocese of Durban. We receive no funding and rely solely on donations from private individuals to be able to offer this support to women in crisis.

Over the past 4 months, we have already been able to offer help to 31 people. We thank God for this. We have had hiccups and problems on the way. After 3 attempted break-ins, and one successful attempt in which the wheels were stolen off our car, we have at great expense been forced to surround the property with an electric fence which we hope will be a deterrent. The safety of the women in the home is worth this expense as many are already traumatised by their past experiences.

We thank all our individual generous donors, the Knights of da Gama, the CWL, all the parishes who have supported us, CBC School, the volunteers, our counsellors, the House

February 14th 2008

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## Get in touch

Phone: 021-852 0473

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web: [www.matercapetown.org](http://www.matercapetown.org)

## Who've You Helped so Far?

Total Number of people helped by Mater Domini, with your support, since September 2007

**31**



## What we Need

managers and all who have made Mater Domini a reality. We give thanks to Almighty God, the lover and giver of all life, through whom all things are possible, and we continue to pray for the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, our patroness and protectress of the unborn, whose "yes" to God facilitated our salvation.

Peace be with you,  
The Mater Domini Committee

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## Thanksgiving Mass

On Saturday 3rd November, a thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by Fr Andrew Cox and Fr Douglas Wiseman at Christ the King Catholic Church in Pinelands, to thank God for the many blessings which he has bestowed on us during the past months, culminating in the opening of Mater Domini Home. Sr Lethiwe Mazibuko, who has worked for the Right to Live Campaign for the last 12 years and currently runs Mater

Vitae Home in Durban, who was spending some time at Mater Domini, to train and advise us, was able to join us for the occasion. Below is her address to congregants after the Mass. We include it here because it is a powerful witness to what the Right to Live Campaign is all about.

I am Sister Lethiwe Mazibuko, of the Dominican Sisters of Montebello in Kwa Zulu Natal. I have been with the Right to Live Campaign since its foundation in 1996. I would like to share a short story with you. It goes as follows:

"It was December 2001 when I got seriously ill. I was pregnant and the father of my baby had left me. When I was admitted in hospital the doctor advised me to have blood taken for HIV testing and I agreed. One Monday while still in hospital, just as I was getting ready to eat my breakfast the sister in charge of the ward called me into her private room.

When I got there, the sister said we have to begin with a prayer. In that time I was happy, thinking we were praying because of the good results. After prayer, I became confused as she gave me the results, which were written that I was HIV positive. I did not believe that, and as I looked at the results it dawned to me that it was the end of my life. I was sent to have a scan and they told me that my baby was not growing well. I lost hope in life and thought that I will die with my baby. I even thought that it would be better if the baby was aborted because it had no chance of living anyway.

A social worker referred me to Mater Vitae Pregnancy Crisis Home. When I got to Mater Vitae I received counselling and great support, my needs were taken care of in such a way that I changed my mind. I kept my baby and I was helped in accessing medical care, i.e. Antiretroviral treatment. Because of my HIV status, I could not breastfeed my baby, which meant a huge expense of buying baby formula, which I could not afford but because of the help I got at Mater Vitae, my baby was never starved. He grew up to be a very healthy child. My child is HIV negative and I live a positive life with HIV. I converted into Catholicism and was later baptised with my child.

### Dry goods including:

- cleaning products
- long life milk
- tinned goods
- rice
- washing powder

### Baby goods including:

- nappies
- milk formula
- baby porridge
- baby wipes
- Vaseline
- Aqueous Cream
- Cotton Wool
- breast pads
- maternity pads
- baby wash
- baby clothes

### Financial Assistance:

Due to a number of incidents at the Home, one during which the wheels were stolen off our car, we have had to surround the property with an electric fence, as well as installing an alarm and other measures to safeguard the residents, and the property. As you know, the cost of adding security features to a dwelling comes at great expense. The safety of the women and children in the home is of tantamount importance, and cannot be compromised.



### [Donate Now](#)

### Reflection

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; My eye is wasted away from grief, my soul and my body also.

"I am far removed from your sight", I said in alarm.

Yet you heard the voice of my plea when I cried for help.

Be strong; let your heart take

I thank God for the help I got at Mater Vitae, without this home my baby would not have had a chance to live and I would not have survived. I am grateful to all the people who supported me at Mater Vitae."

The Right to Live has now expanded to Cape Town and the successful setting up of Mater Domini Crisis Home is a great achievement and a reflection of God's blessings to those who are pro-life. The importance of reaching out and saving the unborn child can never be expressed enough but that cannot be done without important people like you, the faithful of God who are giving prayerful, material and financial support to Mater Domini and those offering their skills in development and the maintenance of the Home.

Today, we thank God for you and we want to say that your contribution is much valuable and appreciated. The continuation and success of this project does not only depend on the Executive Committee and the House Mangers, but also on each person who believes in the sanctity of life.

Thank you for being an instrument in saving the unborn child, in making a statement that women need to be treated with dignity, and not made into punching bags, and most importantly, by witnessing that human beings are made in the image and Likeness of God and therefore sacred. MATER Domini

will exist because of your constant support in many ways. May God bless you.



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## Vehicle Donated

The donation of a Toyota Venture has made transport problems a thing of the past for the staff of Mater Domini Home. The transport of residents to and from medical facilities is now much easier in this large vehicle, which can accommodate 8 residents. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the generous donor.

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## Christmas Party

Mater Domini residents celebrated Christmas in Style at a Christmas party organised by the committee and volunteers. Good food and Christmas cheer flowed as volunteers and residents celebrated together. Residents were delighted with gifts, which had been generously donated, with each lady receiving a wonderful care package. The children also received gifts. A tree was decorated, Carols were sung and a crib was arranged and food and drink was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all donor and volunteers who made this possible.

courage, all who hope in the Lord.

From Psalm 31

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"remove" in the subject line.



## Prayer To Our Lady Of Guadalupe

Remember, O most gracious Virgin of Guadalupe, that in your apparitions on Mount Tepeyac you promised to show pity and compassion to all who, loving and trusting you, seek your help and protection. Accordingly, listen now to our supplications and grant



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## **Knights of Da Gama Complete the Renovations to Mater Domini**

For the past 5 months a dedicated group of Knights turn up almost every weekday evening at Mater Domini. Slowly but surely, they have transformed the garage and what used to be the Archbishop's chapel into private accommodation for the two house managers, who have been patiently living in temporary accommodation. Now at last, after months of hard work and many hours of sacrifice, the rooms are finally ready.

Not only did the Knights donate their time and expertise, they also managed to get most of the building material donated. Brights agreed to donate most of the materials needed, from tiles and bathroom fixtures to paint and dry walling. The plumbing, plastering, bricking up, installation of cupboards, painting, electric work, tiling, grouting and digging was all done by the Knights of Da Gama. It is impossible to convey to them our gratitude.

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## **Introducing Mater Domini House Managers**

Colette Thomas and Gerda Shaw are the House Managers at Mater Domini. Colette has been with Mater Domini since it's opening, and Gerda joined her in January. Gerda and Colette have taken on the difficult job of the daily running of the home. We thank them for their dedication.

Please keep them in your prayers.

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## **Mater Domini needs Volunteer Counsellors**

As we receive more residents into our Home, the program requires volunteers in many areas; specifically we are looking for people to volunteer to be counsellors. Prior experience is not essential and training is provided. If you would like to volunteer to be a counsellor or if you want to find out more about how you can get involved, please contact Karen at 076-970 1152.

us consolation and relief. We are full of hope that, relying on your help, nothing can trouble or affect us. As you have remained with us through your admirable image, so now obtain for us the graces we need.

Amen

Clear star of the morning  
In beauty enshrined!  
O lady, make speed to the  
Help of mankind.