ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. My deepest gratitude to Fr. John S. Finlayson (Vicar General of the Diocese of Johannesburg), who “appealed to all that is best” in me, believed I was capable of far more, gave me responsibility, and through this enabled me to experience a resurrection of my Priesthood. Thank you, John!

2. Fr. Bonaventure Hinwood OFM, a friend and mentor who influenced my theological development, who assiduously encouraged me to believe that I am capable, and who acted on my academic behalf on numerous occasions – Illustrisime Professore et amicus fidelis, dedicatus est.

3. A huge debt of gratitude to Prof. Ras van Niekerk (UNISA) who believed in and encouraged the vision I had for this Project. Thank you for your confidence in my ability, your guiding wisdom, and your patience.

4. To my sister, Megan Hards, thank you for your self-sacrificing love and unstinting support.

5. Thank you to the Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Yeoville, for showing me what a community of faith is capable of – performative faith in love that is bounded only by the degree of our receptivity and responsiveness to the Holy Spirit.

DECLARATION

“I declare that Elements of the Prayer of St. Benedict as a Foundation for an Epistemology of Faith is my own work and that all sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.”

Terence J. Bateman