

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

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23th December 2013

My dear Friends,

On this second day before Christmas, I am happy to come again and to wish you a very "lucid" one! This is an idea taken from the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Lucid comes from latin and means "from the light", "filled with light", "clear".

We just lost our dear Tata Madiba who was one of those lucid ones, who reflected light and was a bearer of light in our world. May we try to imitate some of his virtues by being bearers of peace, justice and reconciliation. Indeed, Christmas awakens in us our deepest longings, and only God can fulfil them, but occasionally, in the course of history He gives us some models to imitate, and Nelson Mandela was surely one of them.



Lamec taking his Missionary Oath

At the beginning of December, I was in Cape Town for a few days. I met many young people, individually, and also in some meetings. There are at least six or seven who show serious interest in joining the Missionaries of Africa. At the beginning of May 2014, I will go back and hold a *Come & See* weekend with them. There seems to be more interest on that side than here! What is happening? The Spirit surely blows where He wants, not where we want!

In Abidjan, Ivory Coast, our friend Lamec Ciza (from Burundi, who was for two years in Lebombo Parish, Mpumalanga, for his pastoral experience) took his Missionary Oath on 6th December; by doing so, he officially became a Missionary of Africa; the following day, he was ordained deacon. With him, four other students took these two important steps in their lives as missionaries. Fr. Didier Michon was there to represent us for the two events, and he brought back some beautiful photos.

In Merrivale, at our seminary, on 13th December, two of our theology students also took their missionary oath; the following day, they were ordained deacons. They are Antony Alckias from India and Tomasz Podrasik from Poland. We were many people for the two celebrations. Our two students studying Zulu were also present: Martin – who



Antony & Tomasz

wrote that nice article in the last two *Newsletter* – and Samuel. One aspirant from Bethlehem, Mpho Moses, was also present. After the feasts, Mpho went with the Fathers from Lebombo to spend a few days in their Parish. He went back home just in time to celebrate his birthday with his family!

All these students who took their oath and who became deacons,

shall be ordained priests in the coming year. Let us keep them in our prayers.

Yesterday, I received a message from Patrick, who is now taking his second year of philosophy in Balaka, Malawi. See the box for some extracts. Patrick, keep it up! And we wish you all the best in your studies! I don't know yet who will go to join you there before you finish your third year!

Once again, I would like to wish you a very "lucid" Christmas, filled with the light of the New Born Christ and guiding you to Him, and to others who are in need of his golden light and solace.

Fr. Michel.

"Greetings from Mzuzu, Zolo Zolo (St. Thomas), the new Parish of the M.Afr. here in Malawi. This is where I have been appointed for my holidays. Indeed, I am becoming a missionary within Malawi already. Though the challenge of learning Chichewa is still there, now I have to deal with chitumbuka for 3 weeks and learn some cultural aspects of the area, which is new to me. However, I am happy to experience such, because it is broadening my knowledge of Malawi and its culture and as well its languages.... (after mentioning that he did well in his exams, he adds): "...this semester is more demanding and more assignments to be done..." Patrick.

**HAVE A LUCID
CHRISTMAS!**

Michel Meunier, M.Afr.
Vocation Director
Cell: 072.987.2990
Email: michelm4africa@gmail.com

*Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!*

P.O. Box 10057
Edenglen 1613
Tel: 011.452.5283
Fax: 011.609.9335