



MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

South Africa

NEWSLETTER No. 20

26th September 2012

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Rome! I have been here since the 7th September, following a course of “Transition to the Third Age”. I gave it another name though: “How not to become a grumpy old man!” This is only a joke! Really, it is a very good session to help us realise that our missionary life is not yet over at 65 – 70 years old and that we still have a lot to give –albeit in a different way - to help build the Kingdom of God.

We are 13 Missionaries of Africa from six different nationalities. We have worked and are still working in nine different African countries and all together we have learned more than twenty languages. We have two facilitators, one Missionary of Africa and one MSOLA (Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Africa). All the different experiences we have gone through in our many years as M.Afr. have helped us to grow in our faith and to live in a joyful hope for this continent which we love.

When we look at our lives, we see that our strength and energy are slowly diminishing and we wonder who are going to take over from us; this is why we need more and more young men like you to join us and give yourselves totally to God’s plan for building a better Africa. Every day we pray for vocations, and especially for you who have already showed some interest in following the call of God to the missionary life.

Although far away from South Africa, I received news from Patrick. He spent some time of rest with his family in Maseru and is still in Johannesburg. On October 2nd he will travel to Malawi to start his philosophy. Surely one of the highlights of his holidays was on August 25th when he attended the official opening and blessing of our new House of Formation in Merrivale for our theology students. I heard it was a very good feast and the atmosphere of joy was ever present. Well, let us read from his own words: *On Friday the 24rd I left Lesotho to Merrivale for the blessing ceremony of the formation House and the Chapel. I left Maseru in the Morning but the taxi left around 13h00 and reached Merrivale around 18h30. Reaching there, we had a choir practise for the following day and we joined for supper with the other students. On the 25th, Saturday mass started at 10h00 and after mass we had lunch at the hall, before lunch soon after mass I had the opportunity to introduce myself to the Superior-General and he told me that he heard about me, and I asked for a picture with him, we had a picture together.* (Unfortunately the photo is not clear enough for publishing! The photographer must have moved!)

I will be back in Johannesburg on 6th October. Don’t forget that October is Mission Month. The theme for this year is **“Called to Radiate the Truth”**. Every Christian must be a missionary. Every Sunday of October, read carefully the cover page of the Sunday bulletin that you find at the entrance of your parish church. Meditate the words of those short articles and ask the Lord to inspire you as you try to discern your vocation. See also the posters in your church and also the leaflets.

During this coming *Mission Month*, let us pray for more vocations to the missionary life among our youth everywhere in the world, and especially in South Africa.

God bless you!

Fr. Michel.

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

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