

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

South Africa

NEWSLETTER No. 21

28th October 2012

Dear Friends,

Greetings! I hope you are all fine! Some of you are busy writing your Matrics exams; we keep you in our prayers: "we", meaning the Missionaries of Africa in our communities' regular times of prayer, including our daily mass.

On September 27th, all the M.Afr. of the Transition Course in Rome, we met at our General House for a farewell mass, dinner and entertainment evening. With the residents of the House, we were around forty and we had a very good time singing and talking with old friends with whom we worked in different countries of Africa.

On October 6th, I arrived from my home-leave after spending some time in Rome, as I mentioned in last month's *Newsletter*. I also spent five days in Medugorje (in Bosnia-Herzegovina); it is a small town where our Mother Mary has been appearing regularly to six people since 1981 when they were all teenagers (15 to 19 years old). She still appears to them at different intervals, bringing messages of peace and encouragement of conversion in order to build a better world. I was very fortunate to be integrated into a group of 26 pilgrims from Canada, accompanied by a retired Missionary of Africa (81 years old and always active!). It was very impressive to witness the expressions of faith of the 5 to 6 thousand pilgrims from all over the world during the Masses concelebrated by more than 100 priests and as well during the other prayers, especially the Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Every day, thousands of people were coming to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) from priests of different countries and languages.

From October 15th to 18th, all the M.Afr. of South Africa met at Hartbeespoort Dam at the Good Shepherd Retreat Centre for our quarterly meeting. We worked very hard, evaluating our various activities since the last meeting and planning for the future. Fr. Philippe Docq, our new Sector Delegate, led the meeting very well and we are grateful to him. We are sad though that his dear mother had just died; after the meeting he went to her funeral in Belgium. We offer him our heartfelt condolences.

On Friday 19th, I flew to Malawi; the next day, with Fr. Martin Onyango (Kenyan, in charge of the five month candidacy course), we drove to Balaka, our House of Formation, where we spent the night. We met Patrick who has been there since October 3rd for his three years' philosophy. He looks good and sounds very happy. Early the next morning, with Fr. Robert Tebri (Ghanaian, Rector of the Formation House), we left for Beira, Mozambique. After more than twelve hours, we finally arrived at Beira. On the way, we stopped in Chimoio to see Bishop Francisco Silota, M.Afr., who received us well for a cup of tea in his very simple house. He is Mozambican and has been a bishop for 23 years.



With Patrick in front of the Chaeol in Balaka

The meeting started on Monday and ended on Thursday evening. On Friday we went to a deserted beach where we had a picnic and some time to relax. On Saturday, Fr. Martin, Fr. Tebri and I returned to Malawi where we arrived on Sunday after sleeping over in Tete. We met again with Patrick in Balaka; he seems to be very happy.

You can see that in the M.Afr., there is no dull moment! We kept very busy during all these activities. I urge you, at the end of this **MISSION MONTH** to pray for all missionaries and for vocations to the missionary life.

God bless you and keep smiling!

Fr. Michel.

COME & SEE! There will be a *Come & See* weekend the first weekend after the end of the Matrics exams. More details will come soon. Mark your calendar!

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*Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!*

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