

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

South Africa

NEWSLETTER No. 22

28th November 2012

Dear Friends,

Greetings! This month has been very busy for me, as well as for you, I imagine! I hope some of you have well written your Matrics and are getting ready for a new life! This December, we will not have a *Come & See* for 2 reasons: I don't feel completely ready, and none of you from around Joburg has given a sign of life. I guess I will organise something in January or February in the Cape Town area where there are a few interested ones.

Since the last *Newsletter*, I had the chance to meet a few young men, after Mass in some parishes where I helped out, but the Missionary vocation always seems to be such a big challenge for them; it is surely not easy to leave a beautiful and especially rich country like South Africa and go to work in a poorer country. Yet, this is an integral part of being a Missionary of Africa.

On 11th November, we launched the celebrations of the **125th Anniversary of the Anti-Slavery Campaign** started by our Founder Cardinal Lavigerie in 1888. We are proud that he led a strong campaign against slavery at a time when many people thought it was completely finished. He helped awaken the minds of many to the reality that the evils of slavery were still alive and strong on the African continent. Between the years 1500 and 1900, more than 11 million Africans were taken into slavery. Nowadays throughout the whole world, more than 25 million people are still suffering in this new slave trade called **Human Trafficking!** More than just celebrating, we, Missionaries of Africa, want to conscientize people to the reality of this modern slavery. Each and everyone of us has to DO something about it.



Let us Break the Chains!

On 17th November, I was in Pretoria for *International Tolerance Day*. It was organised by the Xaveri Movement, The Damietta Peace Initiative group and the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees). I gave a talk on the Anti-Slavery Campaign and modern forms of slavery, like Human Trafficking. I mentioned, in the context of *Tolerance*, that we must tolerate people, but never tolerate evil. **Let us Break the Chains!**

If you want to organise a presentation or a short retreat on the theme of **Liberation** (another word for anti-slavery), let me know. I could come and meet your youth group or any other group in your parish or your school. We have 12 PowerPoint Presentations on themes as varied as 1) Child Slavery; 2) Human Rights in Africa; 3) Human Trafficking; 4) Land Grabbing; 5) Migrants; 6) Poverty; 7) Slaves; 8) Way of the Cross; 9) The Rosary: Glorious Mysteries; 10) The Rosary: Joyful Mysteries; 11) The Rosary: Luminous Mysteries; 12) The Rosary: Sorrowful Mysteries. They are all between 15 and 25 minutes. It could be a simple presentation with discussions (1 or 2 hours) or a short retreat (half day to a full day).

On 25th November, last Sunday, in our Lebombo Parish (Mpumalanga), we had a nice celebration: Brother Alfred Nkundimana (from Rwanda) renewed his Intention of continuing his training to become one of us. It was a great feast organised by the parishioners whom he has been serving for almost 2 years, after his Zulu course. In a few months, he will go back to his family for a holiday, and then he will go to start his theology. In a few years he will be ordained a priest.



Alfred signing his Declaration of Intent

Christmas is coming very quickly! I wish you a very good Advent season to prepare yourself well for the birth of the greatest of all Missionaries: Jesus who was sent on a very special Mission on this earth.

May He bless you!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Fr. Michel.

P.S.- If you want calendars of the M.Afr. for 2013, I will take some when I come to your parish or school for a presentation

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