

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

South Africa

NEWSLETTER No. 24

27th January 2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings! Happy New Year! Yes, January is not over yet! We can still pass on New Year's greetings! And as in today's Gospel, Jesus was quoting Isaiah (61: 1-2): "*The Spirit of the Lord... has sent me... to proclaim **the year of the Lord's favour***", may this New Year be *the year of the Lord's favour* for each and every one of you! May He give you the favour of helping you to discern his will on you; may you discover your vocation in the course of this year.

If you remember well, in the December 2011 issue of the *Newsletter*, I mentioned that I was in Qwaqwa, in Bethlehem Diocese, for a *Come & See* weekend with nine boys interested in discerning their vocation. Well, one of them wrote to me last December to tell me he is interested in joining us, Missionaries of Africa. So, on 14th and 15th January, I went to Bethlehem to visit him and have a good chat with him. He is in Grade 12 and preparing to write his matric at the end of this year. He seems to be sincere and well decided. I also met his mother, grandmother and aunt who are all staunch Catholics. I also was happy to meet Bishop Jan DeGroef and eleven of his seminarians who were having a meeting at the Pastoral Centre of the Diocese. As you can see, there are still generous young men who want to follow Jesus fully in a life consecrated to Him and His Kingdom.

In Malawi, Patrick is still busy with his philosophy studies. He has also received another function as a librarian; while his fellow-students have French language classes, he works in the library, classifying the books and magazines. During the Christmas holiday, he went to Salima Parish with another student (a Zambian) to help out and to rest. They had a chance to go a few times to Lake Malawi, which is very near Salima. He seems to be very happy,

Up to now I have no news from our Cape Town aspirants. I was hoping they would give a sign of life, but I guess the Christmas Holidays and the beginning of the New Year have been very busy for them.

The archdiocesan Vocation Team has been active preparing a youth Vocation Day for this coming Saturday, 2nd February. Indeed, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we celebrate at the same time the **World Day for Consecrated Life**. There will be a Youth rallye at the Cathedral beginning at 10:00 am with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Buthi Thagale. It will be followed by some concert and entertainment in the newly renovated hall; There will also be some testimonies by some Brothers and Sisters of different Religious Orders. Hot dogs will be served for lunch, and the day will end around 3:00 pm. You are all welcome! Bring some friends!



WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE
Saturday, 2nd February 2013
From 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Cathedral of Christ the King
Johannesburg

For those far away, and who cannot possibly come, please, pray in a special way on that day: for **your own** vocation and for **other young people's vocation**. A vocation is a life-long commitment, and God must be in the midst of your discernment. Also, on this same weekend, talk with a consecrated person (a Brother, a Sister, a Priest), and ask them about their vocation: how did they find out that God wanted them in this specific vocation, etc...

Wishing you all God's very best for a fruitful discernment!

Fr. Michel.

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*Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!*

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