



# MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

## SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 26

26<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings! We have just begun the peak moment of the Church Year: the Holy Week, which invites us to journey with Jesus, carrying our cross through thick and pain in order to reach with Him the Resurrection, and the New Life which comes with it.

Since the last *Newsletter*, we had two Vocation Days for the Archdiocesan Youth, at the Johannesburg Cathedral. On the first one, February 24<sup>th</sup>, they were only thirteen; but on the second one, March 17<sup>th</sup>, about twenty youth (boys and girls) came; one young man came from as far as Pretoria! Those two days went very well, with many beautiful and interesting contacts. Three young men showed some interest in the Missionaries of Africa vocation: we had a good chat together, they took some of our pamphlets and flyers, and I guess they are still reflecting and praying about it.

**WORLD VOCATION SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the**  
**Cathedral of Johannesburg**  
**From 10h00 to 15h00**  
*Come one, come all!*

The next BIG EVENT will be on **April 21<sup>st</sup>, WORLD VOCATION SUNDAY**. As the name suggests, it is a celebration taking place throughout the whole catholic world. It is the "Sunday of the Good Shepherd", where Jesus invites us to become in our turn good shepherds for others. This is the essence of one's vocation. On that day, do not miss whatever is organised for vocations in your Parish and/or diocese. I am sure you may benefit a lot from it.

The big news in the Church since the 13<sup>th</sup> March is our new Pope! Yes, Pope Francis seems to be quite a figure! Very human and very humble, he took the name of saint Francis of Assisi to remind us of these qualities. Being from South America, we can be sure that he is filled with a missionary spirit. And he is surely inspired by that great saint Francis, who already almost 900 years ago, ventured into Muslim territory to visit the caliph of Egypt and preach the Gospel. Although he did not succeed in his endeavour, he nonetheless learned to dialogue with Muslims and to appreciate their faith. This is in line with the charisma of the Missionaries of Africa. Francis will surely be a missionary Pope!

Patrick wrote from Malawi (Philosophy Centre)  
*...a period very busy for me, we finish the first semester end of February, beginning of March. We also had the annual retreat... for one week with Sister Marie Angela, who was facilitating. My first semester went well; I believe so, although with some challenges with Philosophy, English, and with some activities here. ... to refresh our minds after two weeks of exams we (my team members) went for an outing at Mangochi.... Friday we closed school for Easter Holiday, and on Monday morning we (student and some formators) are going to Lilongwe where we are all invited to perform a play with the theme of Cardinal Lavigerie's anti-slavery campaign, for the Malawi sector(SAP Province). We will go on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and come back on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> afternoon: we will perform for two days and in different places: first at Kanengo and then the following day in town in a hotel.*



On this, I invite you to pray in a very special way for our new Pope and especially in the next three days leading to Easter; pray also for your vocation. May the Risen Lord give you peace and joy!

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**Be apostles,  
nothing but apostles!**

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