

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 27

26th April 2013

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter Season! I hope you are fine and that you had great Resurrection Celebrations! Myself, I was happy to celebrate in Palm Springs (Orange Farm) where the Easter Triduum was very lively and full of joy, especially on the Easter Vigil, with drumming, singing and dancing; all this to celebrate our New Life in the Risen Lord!

On 3rd April, we had a special meeting of the *Mission Group* to start planning for this year's **Mission Month** next October. We were from different missionary congregations of Priests, Brothers and Sisters. Our aim is to help the South African Church to become more missionary. On this, I would like to relate the following from our good new Pope Francis. Writing to the Bishops of his home country, Argentina, he tells them to be a missionary Church, "because a Church which does not go out of itself, soon or later falls sick in the stuffy atmosphere of the rooms in which it has enclosed itself". He then invites them to go out towards the people outside the Church. And he adds: "It is true that the same thing can happen to a Church that goes out as to a person who goes out on the street: to have an accident! Yet I prefer a thousand times an injured Church to a sick Church!" Interesting, ne? What do you think?



On Friday, 12th, I went to meet the 260 students of Grades 8 to 12 in Maryvale College. It was a very good meeting where we talked about God's infinite love and mercy for each one of us, even though we are sinners and we often forget Him. He never forgets us! And He wants us to spread this love and compassion to others.

On 21st April, Good Shepherd Sunday, was also **WORLD VOCATION SUNDAY**. We had a great celebration at the Cathedral and in the beautifully renewed Parish Hall. A good number of youth showed up, although not as many as



Near our exhibition board, with two young men.

we wished. But those who came were probably among the most interested. Two of our "old friends" came: Simon and Kenneth, both from Orange Farm. It was nice to see you, guys! Two others showed some serious interest in the missionary vocation. We pray for them. The programme was quite interesting. One Parish Youth Group presented a meaningful play where we see how young people are generous and really want to give their lives to the Lord, but at the same time, how many fears inhabits them.

In the course of the discussion, we found out that in the Bible, God tells us 365 times "Do not be afraid", and we know that Jesus will be with us always till the end of time (Matthew 28:20), which means of course every single day of the year!

Patrick just wrote from Balaka, (read in the box).

I wish you all a very good and fruitful month. Do not forget our next **VOCATION MEETING at the Cathedral on Sunday, 26th May.**

Wishing you all God's blessings!

Fr. Michael, M.Afr.

I am happy here... I hope that the Vocation-day went well at the Cathedral and that all our new and old friends are well. I believe that August will be suitable, and It is a good idea to speak about Vocation to the youth in my parish and that will be nice. We are terminating this academic year on the 28th of June with a graduation for the third years, and probably we will open next academic year during the first week of October 2013, they will communicate to us the exact date before we leave for holidays. I believe that during the first week of July, I should be in Johannesburg.... Patrick.

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**Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!**

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