

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 28

24th May 2013

Dear Aspirants,

I am starting to write this on my birthday! Besides this, yesterday was my 43rd anniversary of ordination as a priest. I can say I have been very happy to be a priest and a missionary of Africa and I wish many of you would one day find the same joy in being a missionary, as a priest or as a brother.

On May 1st, I met two young men, both University students, who are interested to join the Missionaries of Africa; this is good news! I encouraged them to go on with their studies and keep in touch and pray to really discern God's call in their hearts. One day, they could become M.Afr. and serve God and His people somewhere in Africa, while using their acquired knowledge from their university studies.

From 6th to 13th May, we, the Missionaries of Africa, had our common retreat on the South Coast at a retreat centre called Coolock House. We spent all those days in silence and prayer. The retreat was guided by a Dominican Sister who really helped us to go deeper into our relationship with the Lord and become closer to Him and understand better our Mission. On 14th May, we held our Sector Meeting, where we discussed and planned for a better presence and action as servants of God for his people. The issues of Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) and the celebrations of the 125th Anniversary of the Anti-Slavery Campaign were really parts of our main focus.

On 3rd May, Father Erus Kishor Tirkey was ordained priest in his home village of Saraitoli in India. Erus did his two years of pastoral experience in Orange Farm (south west of Joburg) – where we used to work in that big parish – then his four years of theology in Cedara, in KZN (staying at our formation house of Merrivale, just 2 km from Cedara). Fr. Didier Lemaire, who was his parish priest in Orange Farm, and Fr. Jean-Paul Chirhakarhula, who was also in that Parish, but who is now working in Ireland, were present at his ordination.



Fr. Erus with his parents , Fr. Didier (4th from right) and Fr. Jean-Paul (2nd from right)



With parishioners from Orange Farm

Also, 5 parishioners from Orange Farm went for that great occasion. It seems it was an unforgettable experience! The following day, Sunday 4th May, Fr. Erus celebrated his first Holy Eucharist. The two celebrations were high in colours, singing and dancing, all organised by his family, friends and parishioners.

Fr. Erus will now serve in his home country until the end of this year and in early 2014, he will go to work in Ghana where he has been appointed. There, he will have to learn a local language in order to communicate well with the local people. Here, he had become very fluent in siSutu and he also learned some isiZulu while he was in

Cedara. This is part of missionary life: to leave one's family and country and to go to new places and learn the language and culture of the people to whom God is sending us.

I am winding up this *Newsletter* today, Saturday, 25th May. Tomorrow, Feast of the Holy Trinity, we have a vocation meeting at the Cathedral of Johannesburg. I hope I will meet some of you there. God bless you and keep you!

Fr. Michel.

Notice the new email address here below: mavocsa@gmail.com

Feast of the Holy Trinity

"Do you know what goes on in the core of the Trinity?

I will tell you.

In the core of the Trinity the Father laughs

And gives birth to the Son;

The Son laughs back at the Father

And gives birth to the Spirit;

The whole Trinity laughs and gives birth to us."

(Meister Eckhart, 1260-1327)

(You see: our God is a God of joy, even laughter!)

Michel Meunier, M.Afr.
Vocation Director
Cell: 072.987.2990
Email : mavocsa@gmail.com

**Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!**

P.O. Box 10057
Edenglen 1613
Tel: 011.452.5283
Fax:011.609.9335