

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 30

22nd August 2013

Dear Aspirants,

Greetings! I hope you are well and keeping busy in your respective places of study or work.

On July 28th, we had a very good Vocation Day at the Cathedral with more than 20 youths. It coincided with the closing Mass of the World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro on Copacabana Beach (now nicknamed *Papacabana* in honour of Pope Francis celebrating the biggest "beach party" ever with 3 million youth attending!).

Now and again, Pope Francis has told young people to be revolutionaries, trouble-makers (in the right sense!) and not to be afraid to stand up, go out and defend the oppressed and proclaim the Good News of liberation to those who suffer. This is the essence of being a real missionary!



During the Vocation Day, we learned about Justice & Peace, which is quite a challenging issue in our Church: it is exactly living the Gospel to the full, by taking side with the poor and the marginalised, exactly like Jesus did. But we learned the difference between charity and justice. A Chinese proverb summarises this well: "Give a fish to the poor and you feed them for one day; teach them how to fish, and you feed them for life." Therefore, justice can be more demanding, but it is the sure way to establish peace in our world.



During the same meeting, we had the pleasure to have the visit of Patrick who just finished his first year of philosophy in Malawi; he was happy to meet some old friends from the time he used to attend these monthly meetings when he was in Joburg. In the afternoon, before Mass, he addressed the group and we could feel his enthusiasm in preparing himself to become a Missionary of Africa. We had also the visit of two of our students who just finished their spiritual year (noviciate) in Zambia: Martin (from Burkina Faso) and Samuel (from Ivory Coast) have just come to South Africa for their two years of pastoral experience; now, for the last three weeks, they have been in Assisi in KZN for their Zulu course. They shall be there until Christmas, after which they will go to a parish for the rest of the two years.

On Sunday, 4th August, after Mass in Lenesia, I had an interesting meeting with around 20 youths to talk about their vocation. One who is already in University, is thinking about priesthood. The Lord calls us at any time and at different stages of our lives. Let us be attentive to his voice.

Dear young friends, do not forget: you are the field of faith! You are the athletes of Christ! You are the builders of a new and more beautiful Church and of a better world! Let us lift up our eyes to Mary; she helps us to follow Jesus, she gives us a good example by her "yes": "I am the servant of the Lord: be it done to me according to your word." (Lk. 1 :38) (Pope Francis, at the closing Mass of WYD)

VOCATION DAY: this Sunday, 25th August is the last one for this year. These discernment days will resume in February 2014. So, you are welcome at the Cathedral from 10am to 2pm; this includes Sunday Mass

Keep well and God bless you!

Fr. Michel.

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**Be Apostles,
Nothing but Apostles!**

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