

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 31

23rd September, 2013

Dear Aspirants,

Greetings! I hope you are fine.

This month was quite busy again, but I would like to narrate only a few things which concern our Vocation as Missionaries of Africa.

Patrick went to our Kamshlushwa Parish in the Lebombo mountains, near Mozambique and Swaziland. He spent three weeks with Fr. Chrispin Vungwa (Tanzanian) and Fr. Jean-Pierre Lescours (French). It was good for the Fathers to have him, as Fr. Sebastien Ndrutsomi had just gone to D.R. Congo for his regular home leave. Patrick told us that he really enjoyed it, in spite of the challenge of communication: Zulu and Swati mixed together is not something that he is used to! But he loved it, especially meeting the youth and taking part in their activities.

Last Wednesday, he came to our house with his elder brother Oliver and younger sister Christelle and we rejoiced together around an excellent meal. Thanks to Christelle, we ate a very good pap (or fufu)! Patrick is traveling today back to Malawi to start his second year of philosophy. We hope and pray there will be no bus breakdown!

As I am writing this *Newsletter*, I just lived an interesting event on Saturday, 21st August. Together with two of our Merrivale seminarians studying theology in Cedara, Alphonse from Rwanda and Ryan from the Philippines, and with Fr. Didasio Mwanza, Zambian M.Afr. who worked in Mali and now is in Malawi at our philosophy House – where Patrick is studying – we traveled to Durban. There, at the Cricket Stadium, we took part in a youth rally to close



Alphonse & Ryan preparing the display

the Year of Faith with two thousand youth, Sisters, Brothers and priests. They came from the seven dioceses of KwaZulu Natal province. We put up our Vocation Exhibit and the youth were free to come and visit and ask



Some of the youth at the Rally

questions. We gave out many leaflets and we hope that some vocations will come out of that day.

At the end of the Mass, presided by Bishop Khumalo of Eshowe diocese and assisted by two other bishops and more than thirty priests, two youths from each diocese came to receive a huge candle of Faith on which is written, *“Go forth, make disciples of all nations”* (Matthew 28:19), the same theme as World Youth Day in Brazil last July. As the Bishop was giving them the candles, he told them to go and spread the faith to their fellow-youth and to be the light of Christ for others, to be missionaries to all. *“Go out to others, do not keep your faith to yourself”*, he told them in the like manner of Pope Francis.

During the whole Month of October (**MISSION MONTH**), we are reminded that we are all missionaries. There will be articles in the *Southern Cross* and the *ADnews* (Archdiocesan News, Johannesburg). In all churches, you will see posters reminding us that *“Every Christian is a Missionary”*. On *Radio Veritas* (AM 576 or on www.radioveritas.co.za), you will be able to listen to various interviews on the themes of Mission: every Friday between 4 and 5 pm on the programme *Changing Gears* and every Sunday between 6 and 7 pm on the programme *The Melting Pot*. During this whole month, let us try to understand better the Mission that Jesus has entrusted us.

Wishing you all a very good Mission Month, especially an excellent **Mission Sunday** on October 20th.

United in the Mission of Jesus.

Fr. Michel.

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**Be Apostles,
Nothing but Apostles!**

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