

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

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My dear Friends,

Greetings in this beautiful Easter Season! During this time, the first Christians used to greet each other like this: “*The Lord is risen, Alleluia!*”, and the others would answer: “*He is risen indeed, alleluia!*” What a strong faith affirmation! I hope you all had a very good Holy Week and Easter Triduum.

Before I tell you about my Holy Week in KZN, I like to share with you the beautiful experience I had from 28th to 30th March with 34 teenagers and 12 adult leaders in a LIFE TEEN camp; they were all from Amanzimtoti Parish near Durban, and they were very dedicated to live their weekend in a great way. There was a lot of fun and games, but also a lot of serious prayer, Masses, confessions, and discussions where they tried to make room to Jesus in their lives. Many came out of the weekend renewed and in love with the Lord. It was a great event for them and for me. Maybe some of them one day will find their vocation from having lived this weekend and from their weekly meetings. God bless them all!

Now, back to the Holy Week. The whole week (from 13th to 20th April) I help in our Parish of Henley in KZN. Together with our student Martin Somda of Burkina Faso (the one I talked about previously and who is now doing his pastoral experience in that Parish), I go to KwaNgubeni for all the celebrations. I had to brush up my IsiZulu and revise my written homilies, so as to make it as interesting as possible for the people.



Some of the LIFE TEEN youth during the camp

Martin takes his turn in preaching as well. I really enjoy it, especially the Easter Vigil: we start at 10:00 pm on Saturday night and finish at 2:30 am Sunday morning! We have 3 adult Baptisms with Confirmations; also, in the other 4 churches of that Parish, 15 Baptisms and 17 Confirmations and 2 “come back” of people who have been away from the Church for some years. There is great joy everywhere and the Spirit of the Risen Lord can be felt in the singing and dancing of the people! In Lebombo (our Parish in Mpumalanga), where our other student Samuel Affoumane (Ivory Coast) is, I am told they had 10 adult baptisms and one reception into the Church of someone who was in another Church.

Three young men from Cape Town have confirmed their participation in the forthcoming **Come & See** of 2nd to 4th May (in

only one week’s time!). I am really looking forward to meet them and spend the weekend together, trying to deepen their vocation and really discern what God wants them to do with their lives. Please, pray for each one of them and for me, especially on that coming weekend.

Yesterday, Friday, with my community, we withdrew in a quiet place for our monthly recollection; the theme was *Prophetic Dialogue*. Yes, every Christian is called to announce the Gospel and the good around and denounce the evil. It is not always an easy task, but our Lord instructed us to do so, as He commands us often, especially during this Easter time, to be His witnesses everywhere.

And this is what I wish you all. Have a blessed Easter Season! Be proud of belonging to Christ: **He is risen, alleluia!**

Fr. Michel.

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**Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!**

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