

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 40

27th June 2014

My dear Friends,

Greetings from Canada!

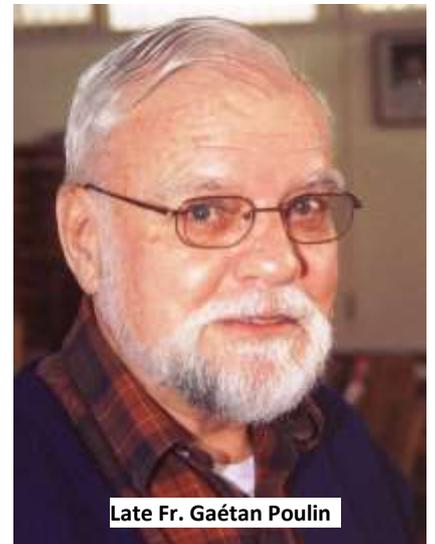
I hope you are well, each and everyone of you! Here, summer has started and in the last few days it has been very hot and humid! (sometimes 30° Celsius during the day and 18° at night).

This month, there is not much news to give you, except that at the beginning of the month, Martin Somda, our student from Burkina Faso doing his pastoral experience in our Parish of Henley (Kwa Zulu Natal), received a bad news. His dear mother died in an accident; she was killed by a motorbike near her home. Martin went to Burkina Faso to mourn with his family. Although he arrived too late for the funeral, he took two weeks to stay with his family and help in supporting them during their time of grief. I am sure he and his family have been consoled by the words of hope from the Bible, especially from Jesus declaring *"I am the resurrection and the life..."* (Jn. 11: 25). Let us pray in a special way for Martin himself, his mother and the rest of his family. May God bless them all!

Our other student, Samuel Affoumane from Ivory Coast (doing his pastoral experience in Lebombo Parish near the Swaziland and the Mozambique borders), took part in a vocation meeting for the diocese of Witbank. Here is what he wrote: *"on the 24th June, we attended the vocation directors' meeting in Maria Trost. We were 13 and the Bishop was the one who led the meeting. All the congregations of the Diocese were represented. It went on well and things are moving. We are making a pamphlet with all the congregations in the Diocese to promote vocations with the youth. I will send it to you as soon as I get it."*

The rest of the month for me was spent in visiting family and friends. I have been travelling a lot throughout the province of Quebec to spend time with them.

On Thursday 26th with around 40 retired Missionaries of Africa, I attended the funeral Mass for Fr. Gaétan Poulin who died a few days earlier at the age of 79 years old. He had worked 18 years in Malawi (where I met him quite a few times; he was in the diocese of Lilongwe) and 29 years in South Africa (in Thlabane Mines, KwaNdebele, KwaNgwane, Lebombo, Tweefontein, Edenglen and again in Lebombo). May the Good Lord give him a well deserved rest! Let us pray for him who gave so many years of his life to the people of Africa. Who among you will replace him as a Missionary of Africa?



Late Fr. Gaétan Poulin

Here is what I just received from our Sector Superior, Fr. Philippe Docq, M.Afr: *"As agreed previously, the retreat for the stagiaires (students doing their Pastoral experience) will be directed by Deogratias (Fr. Deogratias is a Tanzanian M.Afr who is a member of our formation team at our seminary in Merrivale). I have booked three rooms at the "Jacob's Well" retreat centre from Sunday 20th July in the afternoon until Saturday 26th July after breakfast. Samuel should arrive at Merrivale latest on Saturday 19th."*

Please, pray for Martin and Samuel so they may have a good and fruitful retreat. Pray also for Fr. Deogratias so the Holy Spirit may inspire him to direct the retreat well.

I leave you on these words of reflection and prayer: may God inspire you to live fully for Him and His people.

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**Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!**

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