



MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 41

29th July 2014

My dear Friends,

Greetings from Johannesburg! I came back on Friday 25th and am still struggling with my jet lag: I feel sleepy at any time of the day and cannot sleep well at night! But normally after six days, it should be ok. This is what doctors say: 6 hours' difference in time zones, 6 days to recover completely!

On 8th July I had the joy to celebrate an anniversary Mass for a couple whose wedding I blessed in Nairobi (Kenya) 25 years ago! They now live near Toronto (Canada) where I was visiting for a few days. It was a great family event where their big teenage children gave beautiful speeches about their parents and the love they have received from them since their birth!

On 12th July, I baptised the newborn daughter of a couple whose wedding I blessed in Toronto in 2008. The husband immigrated to Canada from Ethiopia and the wife is from a Congolese father and a Canadian mother; she was born here. The baptism of their little Victoria took place in Québec city, home of the family on the mother's side.

These two important events show how interesting and varied can be the work of a missionary priest! It is really a blessing and a great joy to be able to celebrate these landmarks of Christian life; we really become part and parcel of the lives of these lovely people! We even feel like we belong to their families!

The rest of the month was spent in visiting friends and relatives. Many approached me to talk about their lives and really take seriously the advice and the prayers of "their" missionary priest!

On my arrival at OR Tambo Airport, Fr. Didier Michon and our seminarian Patrick welcomed me with opened arms! Yes, Patrick is on holiday after completing his second year of philosophy in Malawi. He came from visiting his family to keep company to Fr. Didier who was alone due to departure of Fr. Didier Lemaire who left to take his new function as Provincial Treasurer of the European Province. Fr. Christophe, who will replace him here as Sector Bursar, is in France, still waiting for his work permit.

I spoke on the phone to Martin and Samuel: they had a beautiful retreat at Jacob's Well in KZN. Unfortunately, on the last day, a thief erupted into Samuel's room, trying to steal his laptop; Samuel fought for it and ran after him, and finally, with the help of the gardener and some school boys, they caught the thief and took him to the police station! Thank God, he was not armed! Samuel arrived here today on Tuesday, on his way back to Lebombo, his parish in Mpumalanga.

On Sunday, 27th, Patrick and I went to celebrate Mass in a francophone community; at the end of Mass, Patrick addressed the congregation, telling them about his vocation. Then we went to the cathedral to join the youth at the end of their vocation discernment day. The Priest, Brother and Sisters, as well as the youth were very happy to meet us. We also were glad to interact with them for quite a while after the meeting was over.

ATTENTION! Cape Town people, we shall have another *COME & SEE* sometime in the second half of SEPTEMBER. More information soon!

Wishing you a good continuation in discerning your vocation.

May the Lord who always call, open the ears of your heart to a great generosity.

Fr. Michel.

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**Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!**

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