



## MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

*"I am a man, and nothing human is foreign to me."*

JPIC / ED

Bimonthly Bulletin

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*Conquer evil with good!*

The month of September has been marked in a number of countries by demonstrations, some very violent, leading to loss of life and property. They were carried out by Muslims in protest against the film that denigrated prophet Muhammad and Islam. Truly, whoever takes to heart the golden rule: 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you' (Lk 6: 31), will judge this film as the work of evil and therefore denounce it! And, if it is true that the actors were duped with regard to the subject matter of the film, this would confirm its evil inspiration all the more.

On the other hand, the reactions of some Muslims in some countries, leading to the loss of innocent lives and the destruction of public and private properties, leave us with a big challenge; how to react to such provocative instances? The challenge, for us believers, is to know how to tap into this "layer of non-violence" found in the treasures of our religious beliefs and teachings. Thank God, this "layer of non-violence" exists in all religions and cultures where it is often presented as the best solution to deal with our social misunderstandings and conflicts. Thus, St. Paul told the Romans: "Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good." (Romans 12: 21)

Nnyombi Richard, M Afr.

### NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

#### **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Anti-Slavery Campaign of Cardinal Lavignerie**

Within a month or so, we shall inaugurate the year to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the antislavery campaign of our Founder. Once again we are invited to be creative and take local initiatives to organise and coordinate the activities for this year. The major aim of our commemoration is, through the inspiration of the Cardinal's reflections and actions, to become more involved in the fight against the modern forms of slavery present all around us.

#### *Materials available*

The following materials will be available to help us in our spiritual and social activities.

- *Historical Booklet*, mainly presenting extracts from the texts of the Cardinal.
- *Dossier for reflection* with articles on some major issues linked with modern forms of slavery and its causes: poverty, land grabbing, human rights, human trafficking, child slavery and migrants.
- *Photo Exhibition*, video-power point version.
- *Recollections*, for the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Theme: "Liberation". Others: Covenant, Solidarity, and Reconciliation [We are very grateful to the White Sisters who have prepared these recollections]
- *Diaporamas* on: the Cardinal's antislavery campaign, the Way of the Cross and praying the rosary in the context of these forms of slavery; the themes are presented in the 'dossier for reflection'. The objective of these diaporamas is to help us in our prayer and group reflections leading to concrete actions. We are very grateful to our confrere, Fr.

Emmanuel Quertemont for this precious contribution to this event.

NB: These materials will be available from: Provincials, JPIC-ED coordinators, and some on the Society Website.

\*Special email address for the anniversary will be: [125antischiavista@gmail.com](mailto:125antischiavista@gmail.com)

## Inauguration activities in Rome at the Church of the Gesù

Photo Exhibition: "Let us break the chains" 9<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Official opening on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 18h00 by Mgr. Claude Rault bishop of Laghouat-Sahara, Algeria (Mafr).

### Conferences:

+9<sup>th</sup> November 2012. In Italian at 18h30.

+10<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 16h00: Two conferences: **French:** "Un engagement pour la dignité de l'homme - La campagne du Cardinal Lavigerie contre l'esclavage en Afrique au XIX<sup>ème</sup> siècle (1888-1890)", by Fr. Jean-Claude Ceillier; **English:** "Human Trafficking - 21st Century Slaves - The Silent Epidemic; Our Story and Our Challenge", by Sr Margaret Kennedy MSOLA

Eucharistic Celebration: "Let us break the chains! Let us break the Bread!"

+11<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 11h00: Main Celebrant, Mgr. Michael Fitzgerald (Mafr)

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### 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prayer - 1888 - 2013

Father of love and justice

It is now 125 years since your servant Cardinal Lavigerie launched his humanitarian campaign against slavery in Africa. The Lavigerie family thanks you for the fruits of this evangelical mission.

However, it is not yet finished! Today you call on us to confront the new forms of slavery which, like a giant wound, disfigure humanity and perpetuate the passion of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Father, give us your Holy Spirit. May he obtain for us strength and courage for this anti

slavery campaign that we continue in the steps of our Founder, Cardinal Lavigerie And you, Our Lady of Africa, Mother of the Afflicted, we ask you to be close to our brothers and sisters who are suffering and dying under these new forms of slavery.

**Amen**

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## FORMATION AND MEETINGS

+ 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Sept: Meeting of JPIC-ED commissions - PAO at Bobo Dioulasso

+ 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> October: Meeting in Mours, France. Main theme will be: "Religious and Human issues in Europe" with papers on "Challenges to Islam", by Etienne Renaud, "Challenges to Europe and the Church" by Christophe Roucou (SRI), "Challenges to the Missionaries of Africa from Islam in Europe : Contribution of the Missionaries of Africa to dialogue with Islam in Europe", followed by open discussions.

+ 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012: SENO UFO Meeting. Theme: Slavery among the Senoufo people, past and present. What inspiration from Card. Lavigerie's Campaign and our predecessors?

+ 20<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012: JPIC-ED Coordinators' meeting in Kampala, Uganda: Each Province will be represented by two confreres. **Agenda:** 1) Follow-up on JPIC-ED activities in the light of 2010 General Chapter and Provincial Post-Capitular Assemblies. 2) Role of the coordinators at the provincial and sector levels. 3) Deepening our understanding on the relationship between the JPIC and ED ministries. 3) Collaboration between our parishes and centres for JPIC-ED. 4) Church in Uganda: her involvement in JPIC-ED ministry and implementation of Africae Munus.

+ 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012: Public conference and other activities on the Cardinal's antislavery campaign and the New forms of slavery in Uganda, at Sharing Youth Centre in Kampala.

## OTHER NEWS

### *Attack on Church of Zinder, Niger*

In the wake of the manifestations by Muslims against the 'Islam phobia film', the Catholic

Church of Zinder was attacked by a mob on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross) and many liturgical objects were destroyed. Thank God, the confreres were not hurt. However it was reported that some Christian families were mistreated. The Archbishop of Niamey, Mgr. Michel Cartatéguy, asked all the parishes of his diocese to have special prayers in solidarity with the parish of Zinder, on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012. [Confreres in Zinder: Kasule Charles (Uganda), Maria Joseph Laurence (India) and Nyembo Delphin (RDC)]

### *Mali*

The social and religious developments in northern Mali are still as worrying and ambiguous to the Muslims in the South as they are to all people of good will. According to our confrere Fr. Jupp Stammer, some Muslims leaders in the south clearly condemn the 'Islamists' in the north but others only condemn the destruction while their attitude vis-à-vis the Islamists remain ambivalent. As for the Muslim common folk, he says that they are, in general, indifferent to what is happening in the north except for those whose families are affected. For the Muslims with western modern formation, he says that a minority of them are completely opposed to what is happening in the north but, generally, they are divided about the means that should be used to recapture the north.

### *Ethiopia*

Abune Paulos, patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, passed away on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This Patriarch was admired around the world for his work on HIV/AIDS, interfaith dialogue and the protection of refugees. Presently there are eight confreres, one stagiaire and seven students in Ethiopia (Adigrat, Wukro and Kombolcha). Their activities are mainly in the field of social development, promotion of women (girls) and working with youths. This is the platform for ecumenical dialogue with the Christians of the Ethiopian Church and interreligious dialogue with the Muslims.

### *Aid al-Fitr - Education for justice and peace*

In his traditional annual message, on the occasion of this feast, to the Muslims, the President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue invited the two Communities to collaborate in the work of "*Educating Young Christians and Muslims for Justice and Peace*".

Young people make up a big majority of the population in most of the countries where we are working. A majority of the members of the fanatical Islamic and Christian groups are young people. Focussing on them, therefore, for a more just and peaceful world society in the future, is well founded.

### *Olympics - Games - Promote Sports for Peace building*

Pax Christi and other religious groups profited from the recent Olympics games in London to preach the *gospel of peace and reconciliation* among peoples of different cultures and faiths. Sports and games are effective instruments to build up unity among people. They are also a very effective instrument to bring together people of different opinions and beliefs for a *common human cause*. In his antislavery campaign, Cardinal Lavigerie organised a musical (poem) composition competition aimed at bringing more awareness to public opinion of the horrendous slave trade in Africa. We too could creatively use this fertile field of 'games and sports' in our initiatives to organise and coordinate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his campaign.

### *Zambia*

The news of the deportation (2<sup>nd</sup> August 2012) of Fr. Viateur Banyangandora to Rwanda came as a surprise and a shock to many people in Zambia and outside it. The reasons which were given by the government for its action and the way the case was handled left many questions un-answered. The letter of the Bishop of Chipata, Mgr George Cosmas Zumaile Lungu, concerning this event spelt out clearly some of these questions. Would

this be the fate of foreign missionaries who dare to preach the gospel in favour of the poor and the little ones?

#### *PISAI - New President*

Fr. Valentino Cottini, a diocesan priest from Verona, was appointed by the Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education to be the new president of PISAI (2012-2015). He replaces Fr. Miguel Ayuso (Comboni) who was appointed Secretary to the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID).

During the academic year 2012/13, six members of the Generate community will be students at Pisai, three are Missionaries of Africa and the other three are diocesan priests. On the staff of PISAI, there will be 2 fulltime M. Afrs. and one part time.

#### *AEFJN - 25 Years*

In 2013 Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN) will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. The Opening of the Celebrations will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in Rome, at the General Assembly.

### **INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS DAYS**

#### **October (Mission)**

- +01:** World Habitat Day. *Theme: **Changing Cities, Building Opportunities***
- +02:** International Day of Non-violence (Birth Day of Gandhi)
- +04:** St. Francis of Assisi - Patron Saint of Animals and Environment
- +07:** Synod of Bishops: *Theme: **The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.***
- +11:** Inauguration of the Year of the Faith

**+15:** International Rural Women. *Theme: **"Empower rural women: End hunger and poverty"***

**+16:** World Food Day. *Theme: **"Agricultural cooperatives – key to feeding the world"***

**+17:** Eradication of poverty. *Theme: **"Ending the Violence of Extreme Poverty: Promoting empowerment and building peace"***

**+21:** Mission Sunday: *Theme: **"Called to radiate the Word of Truth"***

**+24** United Nations Day

**+26:** Id-al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice, Tabaski - Muslims)

**+27:** Assisi Day

**+31:** Birth Day of Cardinal Lavignerie

#### **November - 2012**

**09.** \*Photo Exhibition - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniv. - Church of the Gesù - Rome (9-18). Conference in Italian.

**10.** \*Conference - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniv. - Church of the Gesù, Rome

**11.** \*Eucharistic Celebration - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniv. - Church of the Gesù, Rome.

**20.** Universal Children's Day: *Theme: **Every child in school.***

**25.** Eradication of Violence against Women

**26.** Anniversary of the death of Cardinal Lavignerie (1892)