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#### WHAT IS EASTER?

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the foundation of our Christian faith. Easter reminds of us our heavenly calling and of the open door for our relationship with God through His Son.



The resurrection

continues to be the foundation of our hope and life in the Lord. When all was darkness and without meaning, the dawn came with glory, power, joy and hope. Life conquered death once and for all.

Our Lord is truly Risen and he challenges us to rise from what weighs us down to slavery of sin to newness of life in love. He invites us to true freedom in the light of the Gospel. Once again we have this grace filled period to reflect on our lives and offer all we are in humility to the spirit of Easter. May God grant us the strength and peace we need to remain in his love.

Fr. Kangwa Francis, M.Afr. Vocation Director

# MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE 50TH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Theme: Vocations as a sign of hope founded in faith

Dear Brothers and Sisters, what exactly is God's faithfulness, to which we adhere with unwavering hope? It is his love! He, the Father, pours his love into our innermost self through the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:5). And this love, fully manifested in Jesus

Christ, engages with our existence and demands a response in terms of what each individual wants to do with his or her life, and what he or she is prepared to offer in order to live it to the full.

The love of God sometimes follows paths one could never have imagined, but it always reaches those who are willing to be found. Hope is nourished, then, by this certainty: "We, ourselves have known and believed in the love that God has for us" (1 Jn 4:16).

Vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life are born out of the experience of a personal encounter with Christ, out of sincere and confident dialogue with him, so as to enter into his will. It is necessary, therefore, to grow in the experience of faith, understood as a profound relationship with Jesus, as inner attentiveness to his voice which is heard deep within us.

This process, which enables us to respond positively to God's call, is possible in Christian communities where the faith is lived intensely, where generous witness is given of adherence to the Gospel, where there is a strong sense of mission which leads people to make the total gift of self for the Kingdom of God, nourished by recourse to the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and by a fervent life of prayer.

Deep and constant prayer brings about growth in the faith of the Christian community; in the unceasingly renewed certainty that God never abandons his people and that he sustains them by raising up particular vocations — to the priesthood and the consecrated life — so that they can be signs of hope for the world. Indeed, priests and religious are called to give themselves unconditionally to the People of God, in a service of love for the

Gospel and the Church, serving that firm hope which can only come from openness to the divine.

Equally, I hope that young people, who are presented with so many superficial and ephemeral options, will be able to cultivate a desire for what is truly worthy, for lofty objectives, radical choices, and service to others in imitation of Jesus.

Dear young people do not be afraid to follow him and to walk the demanding and courageous paths of charity and generous commitment! In that way you will be happy to serve, you will be witnesses of a joy that the world cannot give; you will be living flames of an infinite and eternal love.

## Pope Benedict XVI

#### **TOURING THE EAST**

This year again I joined the Vocation Team on our usual tour of schools and this was done in two parts. Our first tour involved all the schools between Nyimba and Katete and our second, all the schools around Chipata, Chadiza and Mambwe. In **June** we shall be visiting schools in Lumezi, Lundazi, Lumimba, Kanyanga and Chama.



Fr. Kangwa with Aspirants at Petauke Boarding

My gratitude to all young people who were so welcoming and showed the spirit of availability to be part of the Mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. We keep praying for these young people who are subjected to the confusions of this material world, that the good Lord may always guide them to aspire for riches of his Kingdom.

#### **TIMES OF JERUSALEM**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013, our young brother Emmanuel Mubanga and three others will do their Missionary Oath in Jerusalem at Saint Anne's

Basilica. Let us keep them in our prayers. Emmanuel we wish you all the best and God's blessings. Last month I was home in Kalichelo, mum and the rest of the family are fine. It is always a pleasure for them to hear from you,



keep in touch and God bless.

# TO THIRD PHASE OF FORMATION

Three of our young men who have been on stage are now winding up their pastoral experiences. They have been appointed to the third phase. These are:

Martin Kasongo Abijan Sytem Chiluba Nairobi Fredrick Chungu Abijan

Congratulations to them on completing their stage.

# BRIAN BANDA WRITES FROM BURKINAFASO

Dear father, it has been long. How is life there? Here all is fine. It has been a time of silence, prayer and work. I have really appreciated it. The Community has been good and helpful. I have experienced this through the spirit of fraternity towards my brother Chisanga over the death of his mother as well as four other brothers who lost their loved ones in the same month.

We are soon beginning the retreat of 'election'. I am personally asking for your prayers, but pray for us all to make well reflected discernment. Warm regards to my brothers in Serenje and Balaka. I love you all.

### **IN LOVING MEMORY**

We remember in a special way the mother to our brother Hendriscks Chisanga and the sister to Fr. Jean-Luc Gouiller. May their souls and all the souls of our departed brothers and sisters rest in Eternal peace, Amen!