

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 47

26th January 2015

My dear Friends,

Greetings! As the first month of the year is not yet over, I wish you all a very HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR! I Hope this New Year is treating you well so far.

This month has been busy for many of you, returning to school, college, university, seminary... Let us pray for one another that everyone may give himself totally to his studies and to his vocation discernment. For the time being, your day to day vocation is to be a good student, or a good worker for those who are taking some time out to earn a living and to acquire a good life experience by working with people whose outlook on life may be quite different from our own.

Here, we are busy preparing activities for the YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE. (see last month's *Newsletter*). One characteristic of consecrated religious (priests, brothers and sisters) is that they take three vows. Although we, the Missionaries of Africa, do not take vows, we take a missionary oath (we swear on the Bible) that we are going to keep these three evangelical counsels. See the article in the box on the right. →

If some of you are interested in learning the Song for the Year of Consecrated Life, you can open the other two attachments: in one, you find the music score, and in the other, the audio version. Notice that the words come from different writings and speeches of Pope Francis.

On 18th January, it was a day of rejoicing in our Parish of Henley in KwaZulu Natal: our student Martin Somda from Burkina Faso renewed his intention to continue his training as a future



Fr. Philippe & Martin preparing to sign

Missionary of Africa. The whole Parish and our seminarians from

Merrivale had prepared a beautiful liturgy for the Mass presided by Fr. Philippe Docq, our Sector Delegate who received Martin's Renewal of Intent.

After Mass, there were rejoicing and sharing of abundant food and drink. Congratulations, Martin! We pray for you that you may continue increasing in love for the Lord and in service for his people. In these last few months of your pastoral experience among the people of Henley, may God bless you with a fruitful apostolate.

Wishing you all good singing, but especially, make sure to Wake up the World!

God bless you all!

Fr. Michael

THE THREE VOWS

or

EVANGELICAL COUNSELS

The three vows of **POVERTY**, **CHASTITY** and **OBEDIENCE** are taken by consecrated people when they commit themselves in religious life. We often call them *evangelical counsels*, meaning they are formal pieces of advice given in the Gospels by our Lord.

In a more positive way and engaging us more for action, we could talk about **Freedom of things** (poverty), **Freedom to love** (chastity) and **Freedom to serve** (obedience). In other words – maybe more appealing for the youth – we could say that consecrated people promise to live according to the following:

no bling-bling (poverty),

no sweet things (chastity),

I gotta serve my King (obedience).

If you look deeply into your own life, can you say that only religious priests, brothers and sisters are called to live according to these three counsels?

Next month (February), we will read more about **Freedom of things**; in March, about **Freedom to Love**; and in April, about **Freedom to serve**. See you soon!

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Be Apostles
Nothing but Apostles!

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