

# MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 49

25<sup>th</sup> March 2015

My dear Friends,

Happy Feast day! What Feast? Today is the Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord as told in St. Luke 1: 26-38. But **what if Mary had said “No”?** After all, she was a free human being; the greatest gift God gives us in our human faculties is the freedom to say yes or no. The first meaning of the Annunciation for us should be that Mary, whom we often call the second Eve, could have said “No” to God, but she said “Yes” instead. And if I believe that, inevitably, she could not refuse and just felt she had to agree, then we make her decision too easy, effortless. No, I believe that Mary’s “Yes” was inspired to her by the Holy Spirit, but that being human like us, it was a puzzling and hard decision to take. She surely realised that God wanted her, even “needed” her, for a very special mission, and she entrusted herself totally to Him. *“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word.”* Mary knew – at least she suspected – that there would be not only joyful moments, but painful moments as well. Yet she put her full trust in God whom she loved so much, and she took the plunge!



The Annunciation from the Mafa paintings

To a certain extent, it is the same with the story of our vocation: I don’t have to say Yes to God’s call – after all, I am free! So, I can find all kinds of reasons, like: I am not really good enough (I am not worthy), others could do it much better than me, I can serve God as well in marriage and as an accountant or a teacher, and a thousand other excuses... Yet God is still calling, asking you: “Are you ready to follow me through thick and thin?” Let us ask our Lady of the Annunciation to help us in our vocation discernment.

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we had a beautiful celebration at Lenasia Parish, where Samuel Affoumane, our stagiaire from Ivory Coast, is concluding his two year stage in South Africa. Samuel decided to renew his intention to continue his training with us Missionaries of Africa. The Mass was very lively and inspiring. Afterward, there were refreshments and finger food in the Parish Hall. We had a chance to put up the Vocation Exhibition board and distribute publicity material; we hope and pray that some youth have been inspired for a possible vocation. Martin Somda was present, as he had just arrived from Burkina Faso where he spent two weeks with his family to mourn the departure of his beloved father. The next day, he went back to Henley Parish where he is ending his pastoral experience (stage), like Samuel, at the beginning of next month.



Samuel with Fr. Philippe Docq, Sector Superior

I take this occasion to wish you all a very prayerful Holy Week and a **HAPPY EASTER!** May the Risen Lord continue to bless you!

Fr. Michael.



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Be apostles,  
nothing but apostles!

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