

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No.51

26th May 2015

My dear Friends,

Greetings! I hope this month of May has been a blessed one for each one of you. It is the Month of Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother; it is a good opportunity to pray the rosary and to take the habit of praying it daily.

From 27th April to 3rd May, we, the Missionaries of Africa were on retreat at Coolock House, 100 km south of Durban. During this time of silent prayer and reflection, we also prayed for you and your Vocation discernment. I strongly believe that God is still calling young South Africans to generously follow Him. In the last two months I have met two young ladies who are leaving everything to become Sisters. Christine, a chartered accountant for a big multi-national company, sold her house and her BMW car to enter the convent! Nathalie is a chemical engineer who earns big money, but she feels she will find more fulfilment by serving the Lord; so she is preparing to join a religious congregation. I am still praying to meet such generous young men ready to join the Missionaries of Africa!

You remember last month, I mentioned the anti-xenophobia cards: we printed 24,000 and distributed them all. But since then, we had so many requests that we printed 24,000 more! Even a High School ordered 3,000 and paid for them! Also, a Bishop I know from the Methodist Church ordered 3,000 and, after giving them out, he wrote this: *"...my passion is to challenge, excite, and enthuse our Senior School and educators. To journey in discovering the LIFE-changing wisdom of Saint Francis - prayer card made available by "Missionaries of Africa". You may not see the impact you have made on hundreds of Soweto families. God knows them by their names and their locations. Your donation of M. Africa has encouraged our young people around Johannesburg to read the message. NO to Xenophobia! And also to learn the relevant contextual prayer for today and always..."* This is a beautiful testimony.

Just this afternoon, Fr. Jean-Pierre Lescour, M.Afr., who works in Malelane (Mpumalanga), ordered 1,500 cards, after having distributed hundreds of them. He works with an anti-human trafficking group at the border with Mozambique, and he said that everybody wants these cards. We are happy if this effort can make a difference. We praise God and we pray for the benefactors who paid for the printing!

The South Africa Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) published a leaflet called "DIVERSE PEOPLE UNITE!" South Africa is for those who live in it! See in the side window a passage from the Bishops' leaflet:→

What does the Bible say about foreigners? Read for yourself: *Leviticus 19: 33-34; Deuteronomy 10: 19; Matthew 25: 35.*

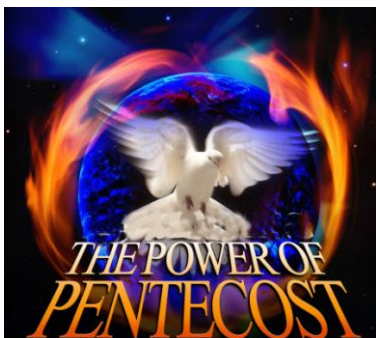
As missionaries, it is surely our first duty to be kind and good towards foreigners, not forgetting that we missionaries are also foreigners in

the countries where we are sent!

Let us ask the Risen Lord to give us the power of his Holy Spirit to make us live in unity and peace with all our brothers and sisters, whatever their nationality, race and creed! May the power of Pentecost be with you all!

God bless you all!

Fr. Michael



What we hear about immigrants...

Myths and facts:

They steal our jobs,... but only 4% of the workforce in South Africa are international Migrants *(MiWORK Report, 2012)*

They over-populate our country,... but only 3.1% of our general population is made up of foreign nationals *(2011 Census)*

They raise crime levels,... but only 4% of the 112,467 sentenced prisoners are foreign nationals *(Leonie Wagner, Business Day, April 2014)*

They dominate the informal sector,... but only 2 out of 10 people who own a business in the informal sector are cross-border immigrants *(Dr. Sally Pederby, Gauteng city-region observatory report)*

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*Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!*

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