

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 52

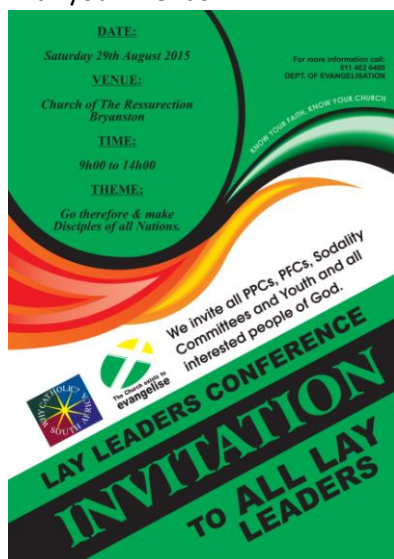
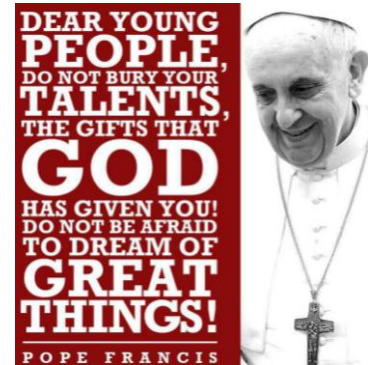
26th June 2015

My dear Friends,

Greetings! I hope you are all fine and keeping warm!

On Sunday 31st May, there was a Vocation Discernment meeting at the Johannesburg Cathedral. About thirty youths participated in a very lively way. On that occasion, Fr. George of the Scalabrinian Missionaries of Saint Charles spoke about their congregation dedicated to help migrants and refugees; they also have a feminine branch of Sisters.

On 2nd June, I participated in a meeting for the Archdiocesan Committee for the Year of Consecrated Life. We have prepared a booklet on that topic. On the cover, we wrote a quote from Pope Francis: "I want to say one word to you and this word is joy". All the Youth Groups of the Archdiocese will receive this booklet through the Youth Office. Take time to go through it. The topics are: **The Three Vows; Free to Share** (free of things); **Free to Love** (freedom of heart); **Free to Serve** (listening with the ear of the heart); **Mission; Youth Missionaries; I Am a Pilgrim; Families can Foster Vocations**. At the end of each topic are a few questions you can discuss with your friends.



On 23rd we had a meeting of the Missionary Group formed of different Missionary Institutes of men and women working in the Archdiocese. We are planning a big meeting for August 29th (look at the green flyer on the left). You are all invited to come and take part in this meeting. Last year, there were more than 500 participants!

This month, with the help of my confreres living with me in this community of Edenglen, we produced a page destined to be part of a "coffee table book" that Archbishop Buti wants to print. Each Parish and Congregation working in his Archdiocese has to present themselves in one page of the book. In a second attachment, I include a copy of that page which gives a summary of the history of the Missionaries of Africa in South Africa. I am sure many of you will be interested to read it. Of course, it is a very short outline. If you want more details, speak with one of us, Missionaries of Africa.

This month also, a great event occurred: the launching of Pope Francis' Encyclical (special letter) on environment called 'Laudato Si' ('Praise be to You'), the first words of the Canticle of the Sun of St. Francis of Assisi. The subtitle is *On the care for our common home*. It is a very comprehensive letter of more than 60 pages in which the Pope urges us to take care of God's gift to us, his creation, which is our home. We must respect it and care for it in order to make it viable for us and the people to come in the future. It is the first time that a whole encyclical is written on the subject of ecology, although previous Popes talked abundantly on the subject. Let us try to read it and put it into practice.

Let me end with the first words ever written on ecology and environment:

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good" (Gen. 1: 31)

Fr. Michael

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*Be apostles,
nothing but apostles!*

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