

# MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

## SOUTH AFRICA

NEWSLETTER No. 68

To all Aspirants of South Africa

27<sup>th</sup> October 2016

My dear Friends,

Greetings! Surely, a very important event which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> October is the ordination to the diaconate of 6 of our students in Merrivale. Being at the end of their third year of theology in Cedara, they were ordained deacons.

They are **Alfred** and **Daniel** (both Rwandese), **Amorain** (Togolese), **Anthony** (Ghanaian), **Eric**, (Mexican) and **Theophile** (Burkinabe).

On the same day, eleven candidates of second year received the order of acolyte, their first step toward priesthood. They are **Philippe** (Malian), **Christopher** (Zambian), **Martin, Robert** and **Victor** (all Burkinabe), **Éric** and **Pierre** (both Congolese), **Ryan** (Filipino), **Silas** (Burundian), **Dominic** (Indian), and **Francis** (Nigerian).

Our deacons ordained last year – now in their fourth and last year of theology – will, in the coming weeks, go to their respective home-countries to be ordained priests and take a well deserved holiday with their families. After two or three months' rest, they will go to the missions where they have been appointed. They are **Robin** (Zambian, appointed to Tunisia), **Damian** (Ugandan, appointed to DR Congo), **Alphonse** (Rwandese, appointed to Burkina Faso), **Albert** (Burkinabe, appointed to Tunisia) and **Konrad** (Tanzanian, appointed to South Africa).

**CONGRATULATIONS to all!** We place you all in our prayers that you may be good and faithful missionaries. These are really **good news** to celebrate Mission Month!



Some of the newly ordained with Bishop Jan De Groef, M.Afr.

As we prepare to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our foundation (1868-2018), we rejoice in having so many young Africans joining our ranks! At present there are 492 students in our formation programme (all in different African

countries); 90% of them come from within Africa. During the first hundred years of our existence, our candidates came from Europe and North America. In Africa, our priority was to promote the diocesan clergy, and not our own missionary Society; we wanted first to establish a strong local Church. Only in the last 30 to 40 years have we started to recruit in Africa for our own. At present, 284 of our members are African. Our new Superior General and 2 of his 4 assistants are from Africa.

Thus, we are starting to fulfil the wish of our founder: the initial work of evangelisation would be done by European and North American M.Afr., but it would be continued by the Africans themselves!

Yet, we are still waiting and hoping for some South Africans to join us!

This month, Patrick, our only candidate, wrote from Ghana. Here is a short excerpt from his email (in the box to the right). As you can see, we put a lot of emphasis on the learning of the local language, so we may be closer to the heart of the people we work with. Also, I had a chance to visit Pascal (see last month's Newsletter) on 13<sup>th</sup> October in Assisi; he is really working hard on learning Zulu! Keep it up, Pascal! In Henley, they are waiting for you!

God bless you as his missionary.

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*Be apostles,  
nothing but apostles!*

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*"I will soon be in the village for the language. Your prayers for this, I will really appreciate. Dagbani, is my first African language that I will sit down and concentrate on learning as such. I wish to speak it like a native speaker. It is not a Bantu language, but I am willing to put much effort into it. May the almighty God, who blew on the Apostles the Holy Spirit to speak in various languages; may He blow in me as He did with them."* Patrick Kadima Kalonji