



TINOTENDA MWARI

« Deo gratias ! » (in shona)

St Joseph Priory

9 Jean Lane

Strathaven, Harare

ZIMBABWE

Tel. (263) 4/339440

Email. sspxzim@gmail.com

N° 18 - December 2011

LETTER TO FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS OF ZIMBABWE

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Merry Christmas! Blessed Christmas!

May this Feast enlighten your families with graces and divine blessings!

During this Christmas celebration, we shall heartily pray for each other. We shall adore together, in the manner of the shepherds and the magi, this very small Child, who is at the same time the Almighty Creator and Master of all things. Through love for us, He made Himself the smallest amongst all. He made Himself the poorest amongst the poor. Let us adore Him in the crib, this tiny Babe lying on the straw, His cheeks blushed by the coldness. He brings His Precious Blood to us, which He will later shed on the Cross for our salvation.

These feelings, blended with joy and compassion, animate our hearts on this Christmas feast: Joy of receiving the Saviour, compassion to see Him so frail and fragile in the winter coldness; joy of being redeemed, compassion for the Redeemer's sufferings.

In Africa, Christ's redemptive work continues, sparing neither joys nor trials for both priests and faithful. This small bulletin will tell you the difficulties and happiness of the past months in Zimbabwe, as well as the slow but promising expansion of the Society in Zambia.

Thank you so much, dear Friends and Benefactors, for sharing these joys and difficulties with us around the Child Saviour. Merry and Holy Christmas!

Fr. Anthony ESPOSITO



Virgin with Child, Order of St Clare Monastery, Lusaka, Zambia.

Zimbabwe

Since Fathers Bély and Picot's eviction in last April (See Tinotenda Mwari N° 17), no solution has yet been found for the priests to reside in Zimbabwe, despite the renewed efforts of both priests and faithful to the administrative authorities. As each priest cannot stay more than one month in the country, Fathers Esposito (prior of Durban, and interim prior of Harare), Trauner, Saa, Bedel, Bély, Martin de Clausonne and Picot succeed each other in Harare so as to ensure the permanent presence of at least one priest at the priory. Obviously, the Zimbabwean Faithful cannot financially support all the travels of their priests. We would like to make an appeal to your generosity, dear Friends and Benefactors. Please help these priests, so that they can continue their ministry in their only place of traditional Catholic liturgy in Zimbabwe. Thank you very much in advance!

However, this lasting ordeal did not prevent the 25 year silver jubilee of St Joseph's Priory in Harare, which was celebrated on Sunday the 25th September 2011, in the presence of Bishop Tissier de Mallerai. On that day His Lordship celebrated a solemn Mass of thanksgiving, and administered 23 Confirmations and First Holy Communions. After Holy Mass and for the rest of the day the Parish community joined the Bishop for a parish braai (barbeque). Yes, the day and its activities were a great success! Deo gratias! Tinotenda Mwari!



Confirmations



First Holy Communions



Zambia



Sermon translated in Bemba

A new President

On the 23rd September 2011, Zambia elected a new President of the Republic, the Catholic Michael Sata, who won the elections over his predecessor, the protestant Rupiah Banda. All the protestant churches in the country were storming Heaven with repeated psalms and fasts, hoping for (I don't say from God, for to which God do they pray?) their candidate's re-election.

The Catholic Bishops just asked their priests to celebrate a Mass on a certain Sunday, for the election of the Catholic candidate Michael Sata. Their prayers are those that have been graciously answered! Does it not remind you a little bit of the trial by ordeal of Elias the Prophet against the 400 priests of Baal? (3 Kings 18)

Fr. Bély went on a journey to Mansa, Zambia, from the 16th to the 19th December 2011. Like Fr. Picot last February (See Tinotenda Mwari N° 16), he was invited, by the Cathedral rector himself, to celebrate the traditional Mass in the parish of St. Francis of Assisi in Mansa. The event was immediately announced at the local radio station. In February, Fr. Picot had only been able to celebrate a low Mass; however on this visit Holy Mass was celebrated with canticles and the organ. Mr Chapewa, a heroic father of a family of ten, who has resisted modernism with his wife and children for years, was very proud of the event. For months, he was practicing on his small harmonium, in order to be able to accompany the liturgy with the Kyriale. He organised several Gregorian chant practices with the small group of faithful. They took the opportunity of wearing their recently renewed habits of the Franciscan Third Order, thanks to the good advice of the Capuchin monks of Morgon (France). And so, hymns and organ were sung and played with gusto, Thanks be to God, this small group, normally no more than 20 or 30 regular faithful, was able to gather a large number, for on this Sunday, 18th December, more than 150 people came to attend the Sunday Mass in the traditional rite! Inquisitive people only? Not necessarily! Like this good lady who, the next day, came to tell the priest: "Father, Mr Chapewa is right! Yesterday, I truly understood what the Mass is! I'll never go back to

the modern Mass!"



Mr Chapewa playing harmonium

Read in the newspaper

On the 20th December 2011 an article was placed in the national daily newspaper of Zambia, in which the Constitution of Zambia was discussed. The Constitution declares quite simply that: "Zambia is a Christian State". Although, unfortunately, the word Christian here means all the true or false Christian religions indistinctly, the newspaper explains that this word means an affiliation to Christ. Consequently, Zambia belongs to Christ, Christ blesses Zambia and the Zambian People – who, in fact, are possibly the most pacific people in Africa. And the newspaper concludes: Zambia is constitutionally Christian, and there is no question whatsoever of changing that!



Thank you for helping the priests to visit these far away countries!



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