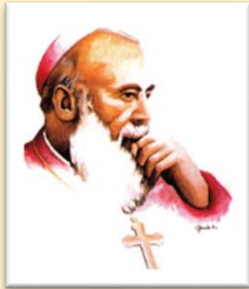


# Mission Letter

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
FROM THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA  
(WHITE FATHERS)

June 2024



*Charles Lavigerie, Founder of the White Fathers, 1884*



Dear friends of the Missionaries of Africa,  
Greetings from Balaka in Southern Malawi on the Feast of Our  
Lady of Africa!

My name is Martin Grenier. I am a young Missionary of Africa, celebrating 61 years of age. Yes! I insist! I am young! And I say this for three good reasons. First, I am the last born of a family of 6 children from La Beauce in Québec. Secondly, since my oath in December 1993 in London-UK, for more than 20 years the youngest Canadian Missionary of Africa. A title that has happily been taken away from me by Fr Armand Galay, a confrere in our community in Toronto. Thirdly, after my many years spent in Zambia in parishes (6 years), in India for studies and as a formator (10 years), in Uganda as a formator (4 years), in Mali for studies (1 year), in Montreal at our Afrika Center (1 year) and in Rome as an Assistant to our Superior General (6 years), I am now happily back to Africa in Malawi as a formator to our many young candidates! Being among young people is the best recipe for remaining young in heart!



*The 24 candidates of Lechaptois Formation House in Malawi.*

This year, in our formation center in Balaka-Malawi, we have the privilege to welcome and accompany 24 young men hailing from Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, each of whom has a sincere desire to follow Christ and make him known far and wide. Our formation house is linked to a major seminary named the Inter Congregational Institute (ICI),

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administered by 5 Missionary Congregations: the Comboni, Discaled Carmelites, Montfortans, Spiritans and the Missionaries of Africa. These seminarians have three years of missionary formation in philosophy and other introductory courses like the Bible, sociology, communication, psychology, and French! I am personally offering the last two. But academics is only one part of the formation process.

Other important parts of our formation program include liturgies, community prayer life, spiritual direction, music, arts, gardening, cooking, sports, pastoral work on weekends in Balaka town in schools, small Christian communities, a hospital, a home for physically challenged children, the local mosque, at the Anglican church or activities with our village youth and needy people. Through these activities, our candidates are exposed to the many aspects of what a missionary life is made of.

So, kindly keep us in your prayers so that these young men may continue to journey and discern where our Risen Lord is calling them to live fully their lives with Him.

May God bless you all!

Martin Grenier, M.Afr.



Quite a few among us enjoy developing our artistic talents!

*“The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few. Pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers into his harvest.”*



We thank the Lord for the gift of **FR. MICHEL MERIZZI**, who is among our Jubilarians this year. Fr. Michel celebrates 60 years of Perpetual Oath in our Society on 29 June 2024. He has worked in Zambia and Canada in different capacities and is a former Provincial Superior in Canada. He is currently in our community in Toronto. We wish him God’s blessings as he celebrates this milestone in his missionary life.

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