

Mission Letter

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

June 2017

Dear friends of the Mission,

The last Letter to Our Friends (no.12 dated March 2017) contained a personal account of missionary life in rural Tanzania by Father Roland Dubourt. He expressed his desire to share “the Good News of God’s love, and to give eternal life to each person”. He gladly shared the simple life style of his community (no grid for electricity, no village water system, no fridge, no television and no computer).

On the 22nd of March we learned that Father Dubourt had died among the people he loved at the age of 80. He died of a heart attack when cycling to a neighboring village.



In a letter written to us in Toronto and received after his death, he wrote:

“I am at Njugilo, 100 km south of Mbeya (diocesan headquarters) where I have been asked to establish a new parish. Our bishop asked me to come here because according to him, we have forgotten the members of the WANYAKYUSA tribe. There are only 500 Catholics living in 12 prayer centers. We are beginning missionary work; there is the work of the Holy Spirit because the catechists have a missionary spirit and the local population is beginning to respond. I am still able to visit the outstations”.

I believe that Father Roland died the way he would have wished, visiting the people to whom he was sent to evangelize. And the parishioners will be pleased that he will be buried among them.

When we became missionaries of Africa we expressed our willingness to serve in Africa until the day of our death. In the past a great number of our confreres died and were buried in Africa. Nowadays, thanks to improved health care and a longer life span, fewer of us will have that privilege.

Whether we have returned to Canada to carry out missionary assignments, or because of ageing or health problems, we remain missionaries until we return to the Lord.

We thank you and we continue to count on the support of your prayers and financial assistance.

Fr. Mike Merizzi M Afr.



Father Maurice Charpentier who died in Sherbrooke on the 9th of March, worked for 37 years in Tanzania, and also in Toronto (Sacré Cœur Parish).

Father Pierre Croteau from the dioceses of St-Boniface died in Winnipeg on January 23. He worked for 26 years in the RDC (Congo). He returned to Canada in 1994 for serious health reasons.

