

Mission Letter

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

September 2019

Dear friends and benefactors,

My name is Fr. Armand Galay, a member of the Missionaries of Africa. I joined our community in Toronto, in the summer of 2013. It's been a home for me since. We help out in different parishes mostly for masses and confessions. One of us teaches at PISAI (Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies), in Rome, for one semester a year. We do mission appeals to help our various mission projects in Africa, in particular, the formation of our young students.



In collaboration with other vocation directors, we do vocation promotions at schools and universities, in Toronto. But it is in the parishes where I perceived more receptivity to our missionary and vocation message. Various parish-based catholic charismatic movements are in need of priests to minister to them. Their main goal is to build strong families who abide in Christ and participate actively in the mission of the church.

The old axiom: “***The family that prays together, stays together***” is their guiding principle and they know that this still works today even among Christian families in North America. Without common prayer and observed traditions, they believe that families tend to fall apart.

I regularly co-facilitate Family Encounters, as well as Youth, Singles and Marriage Encounter Weekend across Canada and the US.



In July 2019, I co-facilitated a ‘Youth Encounter Weekend’, in Orangeville, ON, gathering young people of different cultural backgrounds. I was definitely amazed by the talents and organizing capabilities of these youth leaders. Designated youth facilitators presented a theme and followed it up by sharing their life stories. After our talks, youth participants were made to share in their small group and later in the bigger group.

Bullying at school in relation to their looks, race and academic handicaps were on top of the list in their sharing. Sadly, many of them suffered at home too because of the constant quarrels between their parents. While caught in these troubles, they couldn't find someone trustworthy to talk to. This led some to attempt to end their lives. Thankfully, observant and helpful young people have found them before it was too late. In this encounter, youth participants experience an open, affirming and loving community.

During the entire weekend, I make myself available to those who want to reconcile themselves with the Lord through the sacrament of confession. From this sacrament, they experience peace, healing and desire to remain in Christ. The well animated morning praise and worship and the Eucharistic celebration lead many young people back to the church.



Working with these young people taught me a lot of new things. Above all, their high energy in witnessing their faith today assures me of a vibrant church tomorrow.

As Missionaries of Africa, we thank God for the abundance of vocations coming from different countries in Africa and some from Asia. Though America and Europe face vocation crisis, God is still in charge.

Through our presence as Missionaries of Africa in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, through our ministry and pastoral commitments, we keep hoping that we could still ***inspire young people in Canada to consider a life devoted to preaching the Gospel and serving God and his people in Africa and other continents.***

Friends and benefactors, you have helped us greatly to keep hoping for the future. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your continued prayer and support for our mission.

We pray for you. And may God bless you all,

Fr. Armand O. Galay, Missionaries of Africa - Toronto