

Mission Letter



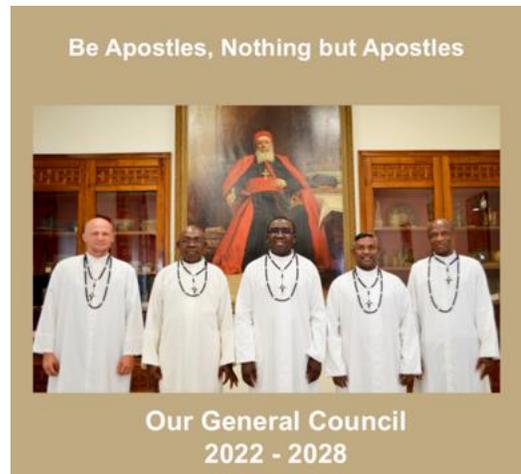
*Charles Lavigerie, Founder
of the White Fathers, 1884*

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

September 2022

Dear friends and benefactors,

The missionaries of Africa have recently held a general chapter in Rome and elected the members of the general council. **Fr. Stan Lubungo** (from Zambia) was re-elected as superior general. He is assisted by **Fr. Francis Bomansaana** (Ghana), **Fr. Parvel Hulecki** (Poland), **Fr. Leo Joseph Maria** (India) and **Fr. Ansele Tarpaga** (Burkina Faso). If you look at the photo of the members of this council you will understand why we are still known as the *White Fathers* !!



Statistics for the last six years confirm that there are virtually no missionary vocations for us in Europe and America, where we are ageing and diminishing in numbers. But the good news is that most of the new members in our society were born in Africa. During that period there were 200 new members, and 300 departures for heaven. This reflects the prophecy made by our founder Cardinal Lavigerie that "Africa would be evangelized in depth by African themselves." Presently we have 486 candidates in our formation program and 90% of them come from Africa.

"The number of our communities in several countries has decline sharply in recent decades so that there was the need to open new ones to welcome new confreres. This is all the more true given that most of our confreres are quite

young and so will remain fit for active apostolate for many years to come; there are many requests from dioceses, especially in Africa. Out of 1,101 confreres, the Society has now 556 confreres less than 65 years of age and 546 confreres over 65.” (Report of Superior General)

Canada is becoming a missionary country with the need for new evangelization. Already the dioceses are welcoming priests from Africa and Asia. We expect some of our new members to come to work in Canada.

We need to continue to pray for and to promote missionary vocations in Canada and Europe.

During the chapter pope Francis exhorted us to continue our mission as prophetic witnesses to Africa and to the world.

We need to pray for the continued growth of vocations to religious life, priestly life and missionary life in Africa. Our formation program also needs your continued financial support.



Fr. Mike Merizzi, MAfr

Cardinal Richard Baawobr

The Holy Father pope Francis has just consecrated bishop Richard Baawobr, MAfr, of Wa diocese in Ghana as a cardinal. In the past he has also served as the Superior General of our missionary Society.

