

Missionnaires of Africa

White
Fathers



“Chosen to serve...”



The mission of the Missionaries of Africa is closely linked to issues of peace and social justice, intercultural and ecumenical dialogue. Our involvement in all these areas is evident in our pastoral commitments in parishes and in our specialized centres, particularly on the African continent. In the name of Gospel values, we also campaign against modern forms of slavery.

We live in intercultural communities reflecting an increasingly universal world. The Missionaries of Africa number about 1,200 members, priests, brothers and lay associates, from 36 different nationalities. Our houses of formation welcome more than 500 young people from different African countries, India, the Philippines and Mexico.

For more information, contact the Missionaries of Africa according to your region. See the list on page 14. You can also reach us by email at this address:
ams.voc@mafr.org

The Missionaries of Africa on the Internet



Canadian site: www.mafr.net

Site of the Afrika Center in Montreal:
www.centreafrika.com/fr



US site in Washington:
www.missionariesofafrica.org



International site in Rome:
www.mafrome.org/

Misioneros
de Africa
Padres Blancos

Mexican site in Guadalajara, Mexico:
www.misionerosdeafrica.org.mx



Missionary Sisters of Our Lady
of Africa in Rome: www.msolafrica.org

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or by phone: 514-849-1167 ext. 110**

Happiness and peace around us

Happiness and peace come to us through others thanks to the good climate of life that we create around us. This is why the Missionaries of Africa, having the privilege of managing a historical spiritual patrimony, Saint Anne's house in Jerusalem, offer the opportunity to religious congregations and dioceses to benefit from the sessions and spiritual retreats that they organize every year in French and English. The testimonies of Father Adrien Édouard and Father Luc Kola show that happiness is also found in the spiritual moments that we share.

Dear friends, you have taken action, filling with joy and creating good living conditions for the mothers and children of Nioro in Mali thanks to your participation in the project 67 of June 2022. This is why Father Vincent Kiye has asked God to bless you by blessing the work of your hands whose fruit you have accepted to share. It is your active way of participating in the mission of evangelization which also passes through the development of the human being. The young people of Saint Thomas Parish in Ibadan will also see their nights light up thanks to your missionary action when you participate in their solar panels project.

Like Cardinal Richard Kuuia Baawobr who left us, the missionary gives himself entirely in joy and also in suffering, following Jesus. Father Ha-Jo Lohre, a missionary in Mali, who is until now in the hands of unknown kidnappers, can only count on the Lord and the prayers of all of us to keep this happiness of self-giving in his heart. Let us take prayerful action with this prayer that we offer you in this issue, for his release.

So, dear friends, nourished by our hope and our aspiration for happiness, let us remain confident for the future.



Freddy Kyombo Senga, MAfr



Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, October 2022

As part of a sabbatical year, I had the opportunity to be welcomed by the White Fathers of Jerusalem and to stay in the Holy Land.

I only knew them by name. However, from the first day of my arrival, I felt like in a family that I had known for a long time. It defines itself thus, “A community: a family of 17 brothers and 14 nationalities.” I would call it the *United Nations of Christianity*.

Staying in the Holy Land, the country of Jesus who seduced me and to whom I dedicated my life, is a privilege. I am amazed to learn that I am staying in the very place where Mary’s parents, Anne and Joachim, lived, where the Virgin Mary was born. On the site of their house is now a sanctuary dedicated to Saint Anne and administered by the Missionaries of Africa. This place is also the place where the pool of Bethesda

was located where Jesus healed a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years (John 5, 1-15).

Archaeological excavations have uncovered two cisterns once located outside the walls.



Hundreds of pilgrims and tourists visit the place every day and always find a Missionary of Africa who welcomes them. If they wish, they can celebrate

this moment in the basilica or in the chapel of the Nativity of Mary located in the crypt, or in a small chapel inside the courtyard. This is where you can contemplate an icon of Jesus healing a paralytic and another icon **representing Joachim, Anne and Mary, the Holy Family of Jerusalem**. It is a beautiful place to share in the joy of the healed man and that of this blessed family of God.



The House (Centre Sainte-Anne) also welcomes visitors from all over the world to recharge their batteries, physically and spiritually, in order to better respond to their mission. They are mostly men and women religious or missionary priests working in Africa.

I am grateful to my bishop, Mgr. Denis Grondin, Bishop of the Archdiocese of Rimouski, who allowed me to experience this time of renewal in view of a new momentum to follow Christ.

I also thank Father Josef Buholzer, superior of the house of the Missionaries of Africa in Jerusalem, and all his confreres who welcomed me.

I offer my deepest gratitude to the whole team responsible for the Bible sessions. A person animated by the love of God awaited us on each of our visits to a significant place in the Holy Land. This added oil to our inner lamp so that after our stay it would continue to shine for a long time.

Adrien Édouard
priest in Rimouski

From Ouagadougou to Jerusalem

In 1995, while I was studying philosophy in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Father Georges Salles, Missionary of Africa, hosted a radio program on the history of the Church entitled *From Jerusalem to Ouagadougou*.

So, my dream was to discover this city and the Holy Land. This dream came true when I landed at Tel Aviv airport en route to Jerusalem. So *From Jerusalem to Ouagadougou* has become a reality for me!

I am Luc Kola, a member of the Society of Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers). I was ordained a priest on July 3, 2004, in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, my country of origin.

I arrived in Jerusalem on September 16, 2022 to participate in the Bethesda session organized by the Missionaries of Africa of the Sainte-Anne community. The session aims to help participants reread their personal life accompanied by Bible lessons in class and by various visits to Bible sites around Jerusalem.

In reality, Jerusalem is a large cosmopolitan city. It holds a central place for Jews, Christians and Muslims. The old part of the city is historically composed of four quarters: Jewish, Christian, Armenian and Muslim, where the basilica of Saint Anne is located.

I dreamed of discovering the country where Jesus physically lived two thousand years ago. But I also had great apprehension about the insecurity that arises at any time in the country. Fortunately, we were able to visit the city without any worries, even in the evenings.

The holy places are numerous; Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre, Gethsemane, Mount of Olives, Jordan, Kidron Valley, Bethlehem, Bethany, Nazareth, Galilee, Mount Tabor, the Church of the Beatitudes, Lake Galilee, the Dead Sea, Capernaum and Masada, not to mention the archaeological excavations of Qumram, the Negev desert and many national parks.

Most holy places have a historical reference. Essentially, this is where Jesus was born, raised and exercised his public ministry. I realized that the holy places preserve the memory of the mystery of God in the midst of the humans that we are.

My stay in the Holy Land helps me to better know Jesus Christ and his Gospel. I lived a journey *From Jerusalem to Ouagadougou* much deeper than I could have imagined when I listened to the radio broadcasts of Father Georges Salles.



Luc Kola, MAfr
Jerusalem, December 2022

“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— we announce to you. »

1 Jn 1, 1

Reopening of the Afrika Center



The house of the Missionaries of Africa has housed the Afrika Centre for more than 30 years. Located at 1644, rue St-Hubert, Montreal, very close to the Berri-UQAM metro.

After several months of closure due to lack of staff and a sharp reduction in its activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the centre opened its doors once more on a beautiful Epiphany Saturday, January 7.

The new team welcomed more than 70 people during this reopening: recent or long-term immigrants or people studying, from several African countries, men and women religious who have worked there, neighbours and friends. Note that the newspaper *Le Montréal Africain* broadcast the event live on social networks.

The Afrika Center aspires to promote the meeting of «Africas» in their diversity, their cultural and spiritual riches. It will continue its efforts to promote the integration of Africans thus contributing to harmonious living together where diversity becomes a betterment for everyone.

During the event, the enthusiastic congregation met the new team: Rita Toutant and Monique Bonnefoy, Missionary Sisters of Our

Lady of Africa; as well as Fathers David Gnadouwa, Freddy Kyombo and Serge St-Arneault, Missionaries of Africa. The latter, director of the centre, presented the strategic plan that the new team has adopted.

Thanks to African associations and interested people, this plan will take shape in the coming months in a spirit that the team hopes to be creative and participatory. The reopening event on January 7 already had the characteristics of what the Afrika Center wants to be: a meeting space in order to share a spirit of mutual solidarity.

Three rooms are available for members. The team's dream is to develop a portal where virtual rooms will be offered. The Afrika Center continues to welcome new immigrants. It also provides convivial spaces for interreligious dialogue.

The Afrika Center is already a beautiful family and a place of universal fraternity. Its doors are open again!

Louise Royer, Director,
Pastoral Social Office,
Archdiocese of Montreal



Photo : Serge St-Arneault,
Louise Royer, Stone Awaasa
and Akate Amedee

Internet link :

<https://www.centreafrika.com/fr/>

Death of the Cardinal Richard Kuuia Baawobr

Appointed cardinal on May 29, 2022, Cardinal Richard Kuuia Baawobr, from Ghana, was elected two months later president of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, SECAM, during the 19th plenary assembly held in Accra, Ghana.

Unfortunately, health problems did not allow him to attend the consistory on August 27, 2022, for the creation ceremony of the cardinals. His condition subsequently deteriorated until the announcement of his death on November 27, 2022, at Agostino Gemelli Hospital in Rome.

From 2010 to 2016, Richard Kuuia Baawobr was the first African-elected

Superior General of the Missionaries of Africa.

According to the current Superior General of our Missionary Society, Father Stanley Lubungo, “As a religious family we knew how to appreciate his total commitment for the good of our Society and of the confreres. He was a charming companion and a model for our religious family. His pastoral intelligence and his commitment were recognized by all. »

This sad news affects us a lot. We hope that his departure for the house of the Father will be a source of inspiration for our religious family and for the Church in Africa.





Aged 66, our German confrere Ha-Jo Lohre, disappeared from his home in Bamako, Mali on Sunday, November 20, 2022. In the evening, his confreres noticed that his car was in the yard, but was badly parked and the door, on the driver's side, slightly open. They looked for him everywhere without finding him. The police have been notified.

The missionary was well aware of the danger he faced every day in his work: "You don't know when or where it can happen to you. As Europeans and whites, we are an easy target, and we have been told that the jihadists are watching us."

But the imminent danger did not prevent him from staying in the country. «The question given to us in the Gospel, 'Who do you say I am?' is the meaning of our life, and we see that what is important is not how long we live, or how many things we accomplish, but whether what we do have meaning and can make the world a better place."

Let us pray for Ha-Jo. May God give him strength where he is. May our Lady of Africa intercede for him and for his family.

Prayer for the release of Father Ha-Jo Lohre, MAfr

*God our Father,
You, the Merciful,
the all-powerful in love,
You who are always attentive
to the cries of those
who call upon you,
we turn to you with confidence.*

*We pray to you for our brother,
Father Ha-Jo.
Protect him.*

*Strengthen him in faith,
hope and charity.*

*Give him the strength
to stand firm in his new mission
which he did not choose,
in the hope
that he will soon be released.*

*We pray for his captors:
touch their hearts;
that they may understand that
you call us all to live together
in love and brotherhood.*

*To those who are working
for his release,
inspire just decisions
that lead to a happy outcome.*

*We pray for all the other hostages;
that they all regain their freedom
and return to their families
as soon as possible.*

*Bless the Church-Family of Mali;
Bless Mali!*

*Our Lady of Africa,
watch over our brother Ha-Jo,
Watch over Mali.*

Amen



NEW SOLAR PANELS NEEDED

From Nigeria, we are sharing with you a request for new solar panels presented by Erasto Shayo, a missionary from Tanzania living in Ibadan (city of 3.5 million inhabitants) in the disadvantaged district of Agbowo with multiple problems of poverty, insecurity, living in slums. A team of three White Fathers (MAfr) is at work at the parish of Saint Thomas.

As a missionary team, we could not restrict our action to the administration of the sacraments and the celebration of the masses. At the heart of our faith, there is this word of Jesus: «I gave my life - my body, my blood - so that they may have a quality of life. Do the same, in memory of me. »

With our MAfr team, the leaders of our parish organize different activities to support human, personal and

community development. In this way, we work for the continuous training of leaders and to promote justice and peace in our neighbourhood.

We are engaged in a battle to protect the planet which is our common home. For us here, that means advocating for better public safety.

We also offer rooms to students from schools and universities so that they can study, do their homework, learn their lessons. Without electricity we cannot help them and do so safely after the sun goes down in the early evening.

But, how to have access to electricity? See the photo above. In the neighbourhood, everyone illegally connects to the network. Result: overload and almost continuous cuts!

We have two small generators that run on gasoline. In truth, not only do we not have enough money, but gas stations often run out of fuel.

We had a rudimentary system of solar panels with batteries to store electricity. Moreover, lightning fell on our facilities, and we must think of a more efficient and safer installation!

Friends and benefactors of Canada, I present to you this project of approximately \$19,000 Canadian dollars. We need electricity to accomplish our mission. Yes, there are more spectacular projects in the world. But in Ibadan, Agbowo District, according to our needs, it is the purchase of solar panels and batteries. We remember that in the mission, it is sometimes necessary to “give fish” to feed the hungry. But better still, he must be “taught to fish.”

Development goes through the education of young people (photos below). The young men and women in our ward will be able to do this if we provide them with well-lit and safe study rooms at night.

Erasto Shayo, MAfr

**And God said,
“Let there
be light,” and
there was light.
God saw that
the light was
good.**

Genesis 1:3-4



The form for your contribution to project 70 can be found on page 15.

LETTER FROM READERS

I would like to thank you for the beautiful and useful calendar with its numbers that do not require a magnifying glass to read them. It also gives us an overview of the activities experienced among the missionaries. My health has deteriorated (I am 93 years old) and I must leave the residence for a more suitable place where care will be available and it is with sadness that I write to you for the last time.

Have a good winter and good health. With my best memory,

Claire C. Jobin from Québec.

We too, from the bottom of our hearts, wish you to find a new living environment that will meet your needs. Thank you for your support for so many years.

What a beautiful 2023 calendar! The children are so beautiful. Adults are well represented. Very informative ! My husband and I volunteer with refugee families from different countries. I admire the courage of these people. Our friends from Burundi, Congo and Togo consider us as the grandparents of their children. It's very nice ! Good health.

Nicole Provencher Prigge from Granby

With our greetings to all your grandchildren in Africa and elsewhere.



Father Erasto Shayo surrounded by a Nigerian family at Saint Thomas Parish in Ibadan.

Project 67 of June 2022 to help children and pregnant women suffering from malnutrition in Nioro, Mali, received, thanks to your donations, the sum of \$15,280.

This help was a big one. For political reasons, the embargo that was imposed on Mali in April 2022 unfortunately aggravated the crisis and, as a result, there was a strong demand at the nutritional centre.

Allow me, and on behalf of my entire priestly team of Nioro, to express our gratitude for your generosity.

On behalf of all the beneficiaries of this aid and on behalf of the entire Notre-Dame de Fatima Parish of Nioro, we thank you for the help you have given us for the well-being of the children of Nioro and its surroundings.

May God continue to bless you and the work of your hands.

Muzumi Vincent Kiyé, MAfr
Dianweli Counda Nutritional
Center of Nioro, Mali



This project for children and pregnant women suffering from malnutrition in Nioro, Mali, amounted to a total of:

\$15,280.


Thank you for your generosity.

Relatives, benefactors and friends, if you wish to help the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers);


- ∞ with a donation for a specific project (see pages 10 and 11)
 - ∞ with a gift for the works of the White Fathers, in general
 - ∞ by investing money with a lifetime annuity
 - ∞ with donations and legacies by will
 - ∞ by a contribution for the formation of young missionaries
 - ∞ with a donation or gift of publicly traded securities
- You can use page 15 of this magazine, fill it out according to your intentions, cut it out and send it to us with the return envelope to the address indicated on page 16. We also welcome your Mass intentions. Above all, we thank you for your prayers.
- Likewise, you can go to our website www.mafr.net to make a secure online donation.
- You can also meet a missionary at one of our homes.

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Missionaries of Africa Policy for Projects which appear in the *Letter to our Friends*:

- 1- All the projects that appear in the *Letter to our Friends* are exclusively for Africa.
- 2- All the money received goes to Africa.
- 3- A Missionary from Africa oversees all projects.

(Cut out and insert in return envelope)



I wish to help the Missionaries of Africa

ONLINE DONATION > <http://mafr.net/home> > Make a donation

Donation _____ \$ for project no 70 (See pages 10-11)

Gift _____ \$ for the Missionaries of Africa

A donation of \$10 or more allows you to receive a receipt for tax receipt.

Other ways to help the Mission:

• Investments with a lifetime annuity

- If you are 60 or over, you can invest your money in the “Investments with a lifetime annuity” of the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers).

This pension is guaranteed for life and offers a rate that varies according to the life expectancy rate.

- You will receive a receipt for tax use for at least 20% of the amount paid. Only a small portion of the payments you receive may be taxable.

• Donations and bequests

“For a brother and a friend, sanctify your money, rather than letting it rust in your trunk.” (Book of Ecclesiasticus 29,10)

• Scholarships for our 500 Missionary of Africa candidates

- A scholarship for one year of training: 1 700 \$

- A scholarship for three years of training: 5 000 \$

• Donation of listed securities

I enclose a check payable to the Missionaries of Africa.



I prefer to pay by credit card (tick the card).



Name and surname : _____

Card No: _____ your CVV _ _ _

Expiry: _____ Signature: _____

N.B. : *If you do not receive this Letter to our Friends booklet, request it and you will receive it free of charge, four times a year, in addition to the calendar.*

Name and surname: _____

Your postal address: _____

Email: _____

: _____

Sincere thanks!

1640 St-Hubert Street, Montreal QC H2L 3Z3
Phone: 514-849-1167 ext. 110

“Keep Africa in mind!”

www.mafr.net/accueil



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