

Mission Letter

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

June 2023



Charles Lavigerie, Founder of the White Fathers, 1884

Dear friends and benefactors,

Martin Grenier is a native of the Beauce region in Quebec. He is preparing to return to Malawi after six years in Rome and one year at home with his family. Here is his joyful testimony.

A year ago, my six-year term as assistant to the Superior General of the Missionaries of Africa in Rome came to an end. My role was to support and encourage my fellow White Fathers around the world!



The beginning of our chapter coincided with the canonization of Blessed Charles de Foucauld. This ceremony took place in St. Peter's Square.

This appointment allowed me to visit our confreres in West Africa and Mozambique where, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, my two-week trip in March 2020 ended up being a five-month stay!

My mandate ended at our last General Chapter in June 2022. We then re-elected our Superior General, Father Stanley Lubungo, to his position for the next six years. Francis Bomansaana from Ghana, Maria Joseph Léo Laurence from India, Anselme Tarpaga from Burkina Faso and Pawel Hulecki from Poland.

I was then offered to take a sabbatical at home in Beauce to be near Dad. My presence with him was shorter than I had hoped because he went to join Mom in heaven on September 2, 2022. He was 94 years old.



Martin Grenier and his father in 2012.

I cannot thank our heavenly Father enough for having given me the grace to be able to accompany Dad, with my brothers and sisters, during his last days with us! What a joy to have been able to be close to him, to talk to him, to listen to him, to see him, to touch him! His testimony of life and faith will always be a great support for me.

Being in Beauce, I informed our parish priest and moderator, Father Urbain Rhéaume, of my availability. He immediately offered me the joy of being able to live my ministry with the whole pastoral team within our 22 communities. During the last few months, I was able to visit many of them to celebrate Mass, baptisms or funerals. As a result, I have been able to be among my own people and to take the pulse of the vitality and challenges of our Church in Beauce.

I concluded my sabbatical year at the Shrine of St. Anne in Jerusalem, held by the White Fathers since 1878. Back home this month, I will soon leave for my new mission in Balaka, Malawi.

I am returning to Africa as a formator for our White Father candidates or seminarians from Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique. I have already experienced this ministry during my ten years in Bangalore, India and my four years in Jinja, Uganda. It will be a joy to be with our young people again and to communicate to them the joy of being a missionary as best I can!

I also take advantage of this letter to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity and support. In 2022, I was able to distribute the sum of \$24,200 for many projects carried out by confreres, abbots (from India, Cameroon, Zambia, Uganda) and African Sisters working in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. Your support has enabled them to offer concrete help to many people in need and to young people in their studies through the parishes, medical clinics and schools they run.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart and may God never cease to bring you his graces within your families and peace in this world in turmoil!

In union of prayers with you all!



Martin Grenier, M.Afr.