

Missionaries of AFRICA

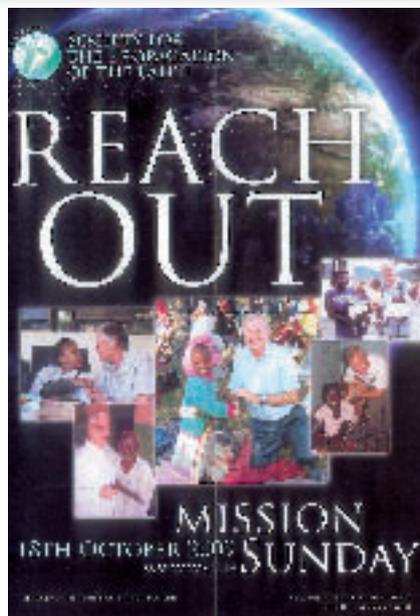
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REACH OUT. THEME FOR THE MISSION MONTH OF OCTOBER

October has traditionally been known as Mission Month and this year Mission Sunday falls on the 18th October. There will be various activities around the country to help bring home the mission message. It is not surprising that the theme this year is "Reach Out". Look out for the poster in your local church and note the 5 missionaries featured on it. They have devoted their lives to bring the Good News to people who have not heard the consoling message of salvation that Jesus brought to us. They came, they saw, they judged, and they acted, carrying out the message in the letter of St. James that, you know a persons faith by the work they do. There were many kind words but there were even more kind actions. The 5 missionaries have been involved in running parishes, providing health care, education, reaching out to the poor and marginalized, especially those with HIV/Aids and those suffering from that dreaded biblical disease of leprosy. In all cases they have tried to bring in those who were on the margins of society and have empowered people to improve their standard of living and quality of life. At the moment there are almost 2,000 Irish Missionaries serving in over 80 countries worldwide. They are examples of extraordinary service and commitment down through the years.

In the good old days of fast economic development, the opportunity was given to the Irish government to bring its Development Aid up to the world standard of 0.7% of GDP. Despite the wealth of the country we never quite achieved this despite repeated promises that we would get there by 2012. In fairness the foundation of the Irish Missionary Resource Service, now known as **misean cara** gave the government the opportunity to be generous to missionary projects and indeed two years ago 20 million euro was allocated. However with the current economic crisis, there has been a series of budgetary cuts that have hit the poor of the developing world much harder than the rich in the first world. Last year saw a big cut in Irish Aid of 20% and **misean cara** saw its allocation shrink to €16 million. There are now fears that there will be more big cuts in Irish Aid and to **misean cara**. Many missionary projects are now in danger of not



being able to fulfill the obligations they made to local communities with resultant drastic consequences for development education and health projects. I think most missionaries will recognize that the deterioration in the country's economy is real and requires drastic action. But it always seems that Aid is the one area that suffers the biggest and most drastic cuts and I feel that our attitude towards Aid needs to be fundamentally changed. I recognize that if I pass a needy person in the street, I will give what I feel that I can afford (in reality I give less) it is often given out of a genuine charitable spirit but also in the knowledge that it will only marginally change that person's lifestyle. It will not take them off the street. I feel that as long as AID is rooted is an attitude of giving from the top down then it will continue to be marginal and largely ineffective operation subject to the whims of economic sentiment. If it was

rooted in a more pragmatic attitude that Aid will make a long term improvement in people's lives and that this will have consequences for improving the world's economy then our commitment to it would be more constant. At the moment it is very difficult for a missionary who wishes to start a project which requires long term planning to undertake this project if the whole thing is going to receive greatly reduced funding in the following years despite undertakings given by governments. I would urge you, as I have done before, to write a letter or communicate in some way with your local TD and members of the Government that every effort should be made to spare Irish Aid the full brunt of cuts in the budget.

Finally, please continue to support missionaries by your prayers and generosity. The collection on Mission Sunday, 18th September, will be for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Many churches in the developing world depend on the assistance given to them by this society and they have been very generous in their support for the Irish Missionary Union and its work to promote awareness of mission in Ireland.

Ian Buckmaster

New faces in Templeogue.

Every year our house in Templeogue welcomes students who come to Dublin for studies. For the academic year of 2009-2010, we are happy to welcome some more students. The following pages trace their journey to Dublin.



I am Henry Byamukama from Uganda. I was born in March 1968, in a small town in the Western part of the country named Ibanda. I am the first born of 13 children, 8 boys and 5 girls. Our dear Dad (Medical assistant by profession) passed on to the Father in June 2001, just two months before my priestly ordination, may his soul rest in peace. My dear old Mother is alive and strong, she will be 73 years this October.

After my primary and secondary education, I went for further studies to Makerere University in 1988 where I obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences degree and a post graduate Diploma in Education. During these studies at the university I came in contact with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement that helped me know about God's love and Christ as Lord and Saviour for each one of us. This challenged and changed my life radically and set a stage for a new orientation in my life. I started searching and yearning for almost two years, without knowing what I really wanted, nor did I know where all this was leading. The desire was in me to share with all people this love of God that I had discovered. The big problem was to find out how to do it. Through prayer, discernment and counseling, I found myself trying the Jesuits, who sent me to the Missionaries of Africa. I felt that missionary life was not for me and I was hoping that this burning curiosity would go away. I ended up becoming a priest, and I am a happy missionary priest. That's what God and His Spirit can do,

However I did not become a priest immediately. I started my formation in our Philosophy Centre in Jinja Uganda. I studied there for 3 years from 1992-1995. Then I was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland, for my Spiritual year, (1995-1996), For Pastoral Training I was appointed to DRC Congo. I stayed there from 1996-1998. I had rough time during the war as a Ugandan but the Lord protected me and in 1998 I was sent to study theology in Toulouse in France where I completed my priestly formation. I pronounced the Solemn Missionary oath in Toulouse on 2nd December 2000 and became a full member of the Society of the Missionaries of Africa. I was ordained priest in my home parish on 11th August 2001.

In November 2001 I was sent by my superiors to serve among the Lozi people in Western Zambia in Mongu diocese, where together with two other missionaries we started a new parish, in a less developed area of Zambia, It is an area dominated by other Christian denominations and the Catholic population is very small.

The Parish of St. Gabriel's, Namushakende was very busy and we were involved in many varied activities. This included building up Christian communities as well as being involved in the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The Parish was also involved in a home based care programme for those who were sick as well as a feeding programme

for infants. I am grateful for the help given by *misean cara* to fund the construction of a Youth Centre in the Parish. For the last 3 years of my stay in St. Gabriel's I was the Parish Priest but I had also a great interest in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement as well as being youth chaplain.

I am in Dublin to do the Religious Ministry Formation Programme in Loreto House. I am doing this in preparation for home service in Uganda to work for vocations and promote the missions there. I am ever thankful to the Lord who has been faithful in my life and has accompanied me constantly in my missionary life.



I am ALESSANDRO FERREIRA DOS SANTOS. I am 32 years old and from Belo Horizonte in Brazil. I am the youngest son in a family of 2 brothers and one sister. I had my first contact with the White Fathers in 1993, when I read about them in a Catholic magazine. I wrote to the White Fathers and remained in contact with them over a number of years. But I felt I was too young to be a missionary at that time. After school I studied Law and did a Post – Graduate course in Human Rights.

During my studies on Human Rights I felt my vocation to be a Missionary of Africa grow because I became aware of the human rights situation in the continent of Africa. After graduation I worked in the Office of Public Security for the Government of Brazil as a lawyer.

In 2007 I decided to join the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers). I had been in contact with them since 1993 and I felt now was the time to put my vocation to the test. I left my job in 2008 and joined the 1st cycle house in Curitiba. Father Angelo Quim Hum Lee gave me great support during my stay in Curitiba. In 2009 I was accepted for the Spiritual Year in Kasama, but first I had to learn some English. It was decided that Dublin was the best place to do this. I arrived in Dublin on the 10th June to begin my studies. The time here was very important for me because I have been introduced to the big family of the White Fathers. I have met many missionaries from Africa and Europe and everybody has made me feel very welcome. I am going to the Spiritual Year in Kasama, Zambia on the 4th September to continue my formation as a missionary.

I am very grateful to the community in Templeogue for their help and support during my period there. Thanks

Allesandro has safely arrived at the Spiritual Formation Centre in Kasama, Zambia to begin the next stage of his training in the Missionaries of Africa.

DEATH OF A GOOD FRIEND AND PASTOR.



Our house in Templeogue, has since the 1960s, been the home from home of many priests from Africa who have come for a period of study in Ireland. Among these was a Fr. Kidane Mariam who came in 1975 and after learning English in the Language Centre of Ireland in Kildare Street, he went on to follow a course in development studies in Kimmage Manor. Fr. Kidane Mariam was rector of the Major Seminary in Adigrat in the north of Ethiopia when, in 1985, he was made Bishop of Adigrat.

At the time of his consecration there had been no rain in the country for a number of years and the people were suffering terribly from famine. As news of the famine spread around the world it was highlighted by the now famous Band Aid concert and the response of many people was extraordinary. Ireland despite its own economic difficulties responded very generously. In fact, of all the financial contributions that were given to fight the famine, Ireland's per capita contribution was the highest of any country. Some time later, when the Ethiopian civil authorities were assessing the famine they thanked Bishop Kidane Mariam for the contribution of the Catholic Church which had helped to save the lives of 200,000 people through its relief operations. It is certain that the help from Ireland was a big factor in this. It should be remembered that Catholic Church membership in Ethiopia is tiny when compared with membership of the Orthodox Church and Islam.

It was also during his time as Bishop that Bishop Kidane-Mariam had to cope with a very difficult military and political situation. The people of Eritrea and Tigray were fighting the Marxist government based in Addis Abeba. He was scrupulously faithful in preserving the neutrality of the Catholic Church but when basic human rights were violated he publicly expressed his opinions. Eventually in 1991 the Marxist government was overthrown and while Tigray remained part of Ethiopia, Eritrea was granted its promised freedom.

In the new time of peace, Bishop Kidane Mariam was able to initiate many pastoral and development projects for the people of his diocese. But peace did not last very long and in 1998 Eritrea invaded Ethiopia over a disputed border area. Since the northern border of Tigray diocese stretched for over 700 kms between Ethiopia and Eritrea, people within the diocese bore the brunt of the hardships created by the war. Before peace was restored in 2000, there were over 300,000 displaced people on the Ethiopian side of the border. Again it was

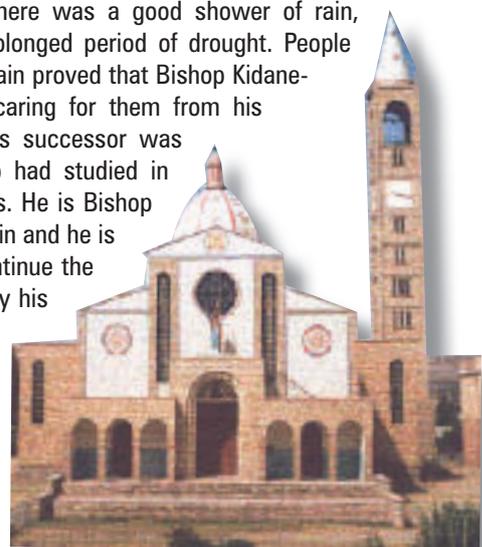
Bishop Kidane Mariam who took on the task of organizing help from the limited resources at his disposal. It was some time before help could be organized from the outside; no doubt due to the ongoing tense military situation and the lack of roads for transporting essential items such as food and tents.

All this had a devastating effect on Bishop Kidane-Mariam's health. In 2001 he offered his resignation to the Holy Father, John-Paul II. However the health of the Bishop remained precarious and he eventually had a heart attack and died in a hospital in Addis Abeba on 2nd June 2009.

The attendance at his funeral reflected the high esteem he was held in by people from all walks of life. His funeral had a truly ecumenical flavour. It was attended by an official Muslim delegation, by members of the Orthodox Church as well as the civil authorities of the Federal State of Tigray. The prime Minister sent an official letter expressing his deep appreciation and sympathy on the death of Bishop Kidane-Mariam Teklehaimanot.

After the funeral there was a good shower of rain, the first after a prolonged period of drought. People remarked that the rain proved that Bishop Kidane-Mariam was still caring for them from his heavenly home. His successor was another priest who had studied in Ireland in the 1980s. He is Bishop Tesfaselassie Medhin and he is very anxious to continue the good work begun by his predecessor.

Fr. Kevin O'Mahoney, M.Afr.



Dates to remember in October

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| October 18th | Live RTE Mission Sunday Eucharist – Celebrating Young People and Mission. |
| October 11th | Celebrating Returned Missionaries – All Hallows College 3pm |
| October 9th | National Day of Prayer – Children Day of Prayer see www.missionsocieties.ie |
| October 2nd -3rd | Milltown International Conference –“Hope in Time of Crisis” Milltown Institute, Sandyford Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6 |
| October 17th | UN Day for Eradication of Poverty – Commemoration at Famine Memorial, Custom House quay. See www.oct17.org |

Further information from www.imu.ie

2009-2010: Year of Priesthood

The happy occasion of the ordination of Fr. Pawel Mazurek in June 2009



*Among those attending was Fr. Joe Mc Menamin from Ireland.
Fr. Mazurek worked with Fr. Joe during his pastoral training in Zambia.*

Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) ROME 2009-2010 40 priestly Ordinations

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Year for Priests, the Society of Missionaries of Africa is pleased to announce that in May, June, July and August, 16 young members of the Society are being called to the priestly ministry. These young men are from India, Poland, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso and Ghana.

In the course of this Year for Priests, 24 young men in our Houses of Formation at Nairobi (Kenya), Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Jerusalem are preparing themselves to receive the ministry of priesthood in view of missionary service in the African world.

We invite you to unite with us in our thanksgiving for such an abundant harvest and to pray for these future missionaries, so that they will be 'apostles and nothing but apostles'.

(Cardinal Lavignerie, Founder of the Missionaries of Africa).

Father Dominique Arnauld M.Afr., Initial Formation Secretary

African Synod

During October an important meeting will take place in Rome of the Second Special Assembly for Africa of Synod of Bishops. It will start on 4th October and end on 25th October.

The theme of the Synod is "The Church in Africa at the Service of Reconciliation, Justice and Peace. "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world."

Fr. Gerard Chabanon our Superior General, and Fr. Sean O'Leary, who is Director of the Denis Hurley Peace Institute in South Africa, have been invited to attend. Fr. Sean is from Dublin and has spent most of his missionary life in South Africa.

Please pray for the success of the Synod.

THE COMMUNITY AT LUBLIN: POLAND

Situated 150 km southeast of Warsaw, the community is run mainly by Polish Missionaries of Africa, with the addition of confreres from other Provinces, to bear testimony to the international character of our Society.

Father Jacek Wróblewski is the Rector of the House of Formation. He is backed by two other Polish Missionaries of Africa who are in charge of missionary and vocation promotion. Fr. Otto Katto from Uganda has joined the team this year and is currently learning Polish at the University of Lublin

The presence of the Missionaries of Africa in Poland is still young. In 2010 the Polish sector will celebrate 25th anniversary of the White Fathers in Lublin, Poland. Yet the Polish presence in the society has been there since 1895 when the first Pole joined as a brother. Through the years there has always been a Polish member who joined through France, Germany Great Britain or Canada.

In the 70s and 80s the society was aware of the flourishing of vocations in Poland despite the Communist regime. It was felt that it was unrealistic to start a house in Poland at that time because of the difficulties involved, so a decision was made to start a Philosophy house in Dublin. The house opened in 1982 with 6 students accompanied by two confreres; Hermann Cornelissen from Belgium and Lazaro Bustince from Spain. But it was difficult for everybody concerned and only one candidate made it through to the novitiate. Some went to the United States and were ordained priests there. However it was felt that in our system of formation that it would be better if the initial stages of formation were done in the candidates own country.

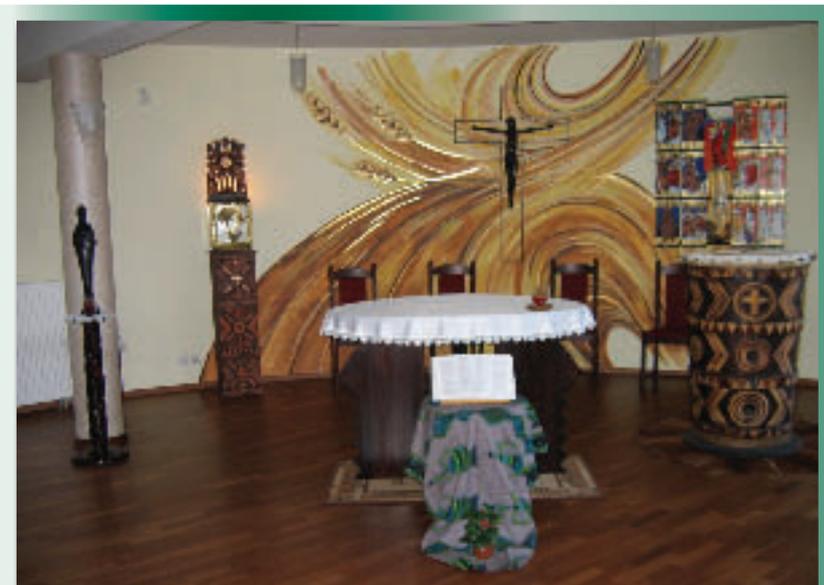
So in 1985 Lazaro and Hermann set off for Lublin in south east Poland about 160 kms from Warsaw. The Bishop of Lublin had offered his assistance to the society to establish a community in Poland. It was very important to have such support, as under the communist regime, no foreigner was allowed to buy land or buy a house. The Bishop bought the house in his own name and he also



helped the Fathers to register at the Catholic University as this was the only way they could get a visa to stay in the country. In 1987 Fr. Frank Barnes from England joined them and they moved into a small house. Soon after, the first students arrived and the project became firmly established. New members of staff arrived and they showed the internationality of the White Fathers. They came from Germany, France, Ghana, and Ireland (Fr. Dave Sullivan). People were impressed by the way all the members of community made an effort to learn Polish. It must also be said that the White Fathers met with great friendliness and openness from the priests and religious of the diocese. This support was given not only on the pastoral level but on the practical level because at the time there were severe shortages of basic commodities as the communist rule lost its hold on power. In 2003, a new house was opened in a suburb of Lublin called Natalin. It is a fine modern building that can accommodate our students and can also serve as a missionary promotion house. In August of this year a very successful camp was held at which 45 young people attended.

This year 2 young men entered the house at Natalin to begin the long period of training for service in Africa. One man was ordained this year and there are hopes that there will be at least two for ordination next year. The staff is mainly Polish with Fr. Jacek Wróblewski as the Superior. He has worked in Mali before coming to Poland. Fr. Otto Katto from Uganda will join the staff this year and further emphasize the link with Africa and the international make up of the society. Missionary vocations are difficult to come by in Poland. The countries recent history did not allow an awareness of missionary work in the developing world to develop in the local church. The small group of Polish White Fathers has a big task to make people aware of this important aspect of the Church's mission.

The 6 other Polish Missionaries of Africa are on Mission in Algeria (3), Tunisia (1) and Zambia (2).



Please Pray for our Friends who have Died

Mrs. Bridget Lorimer, Hugomont Park, Ballymena, Co. Antrim
Miss Bridget (Bee) McAweeney, Gubaveeney, Blacklion,
Co. Cavan And Terenure, Dublin

Ms. Mary Costello, Newport, Co. Mayo
James and Agnes O'Donnellan, Swinford, Co. Mayo
John and Sarah Hogan, Kilmena, Westport, Co. Mayo
Mr. Bryan Myles, Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan
Mrs. Elizabeth Cornyn, Kilduff, Dowra, Co. Cavan
Mrs. Lelia O'Connor, Cork City
Mrs. Philomena Faulkner, Admiran, Stranolar, Co. Donegal
Mrs. Mary McMurray, Leamore, Letterbreen,

Co. Fermanagh

Mr. Pat O'Connell, Whinbrook Grove, Leeds.
Feggie McNiff, Mooneenateriff, Glangevlin, Co. Cavan
Mr. Alan Williams, Becklow Road, Shepherd's Bush, London
Mrs. Mary McGourty, Stranagarvana, Ballinaglera, Co. Leitrim
Mr. Bernard Rooney, Derwent Road, Urmston, Manchester,
Ms. Bridie Durack, Clouny, Scariff, Co. Clare

Mr. Tomas Harney, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan
Ms Teresa McGrath, Belcoo East, Co. Fermanagh.
Mrs. Kathleen Walsh, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo
Mrs. Eily Kelleher, Pallas, Lombardstown, Co. Cork
Mrs. G Cunningham, Newcastle St, Kilkeel, Co. Down
Mr. James Fitzgerald, Sycamore Ave. Kells Co. Meath.
Mr. Willie Sweeney, Railway View, Knocklong, Co. Limerick
Mrs. Kathleen McNally, Dalton Park, Keady, Co. Armagh
Ms. Brigid McQuaid, Smithboro, Co. Monaghan
Very Rev. Canon Vincent Morris, PE. Castleblaney,
Co. Monaghan

Mrs. Elizabeth Farrell, Drumbee, Crossmaglen Co. Armagh.
Mr. John Morrissey, Grangefort, Bennekerry, Carlow
Mrs. Cassie Gallinagh, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal.
Mrs. Ena Heffernan, Templeville Drive, Dublin 6W.
Mrs. Mary McGrath, Leathardan, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal
Miss Brigid Marley, Carrowreagh, Glenvar, Co. Donegal.
Mrs. Elsie Insra, Bells Hill, High Barnet, London.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

May they Rest in Peace with the Father

Remembering the Holy Souls

During the month of November we will be offering Holy Mass each day for the repose of our deceased relatives, friends, benefactors, and for all those you commend to us. We are enclosing a form where you can write down the names of your departed relatives and friends for inclusion in our daily Masses during this month. Please place your list in the envelope provided and return to Cypress Grove as soon as possible. The envelopes are placed at the foot of the altar during Holy Mass.

"It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be released from their sins"

To the Diocese of Derry, thank you

On behalf of the Missionaries of Africa, (White Fathers) we wish to express to Most Rev Seamus Hegarty, priests, religious and the people of the Deaneries of Tyrone and Innishowen our gratitude for your most generous contributions during our mission appeal.

We will remember you in our prayers and a special Mass will be offered for your intentions

PLEASE REMEMBER THE MISSIONS IN YOUR WILL

Our legal name is Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers).

A suitable formula is:

I give to the Society of Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) the sum off €..... free of duty. And I declare that the Provincial of the Society who now resides at Cypress Grove, Templeogue, Dublin 6W shall be in good discharge.

Carry on the good work you have been doing during your life by helping to spread the Gospel after you have gone to the Father.

PDF- Acceptance

