

Missionaries of AFRICA

October 2010 Issue no 130

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A NEW TEAM

The General Chapter of the Society of Missionaries of Africa was held in Rome from 10th May to June 12th. It finished just in time for the World Cup! However what was important for us was the election of a new team that will lead the Society into the future. It was also an historic occasion because our new Superior General is from the African continent itself. He is Richard Baawobr and he comes from Ghana. The other members of the General Council reflect the internationality of the Society. Fr. Jozef van Boxel is from Belgium, Fr. Sergio Villasenor is from Mexico, Fr. Emmanuel Ngona Ngotsi is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Fr. Peter Welsh is from Great Britain. We wish them all God's blessing on their new ministry in these difficult and turbulent times for the missionary church.



If we have a new team then we also have many new shoots that give us hope for the future. This year we have 25 new priests. Again they reflect the multi cultural and multi national aspect of the Society: 6 are from the Congo, 5 from Burkina Faso, 4 from Zambia, 3 from Nigeria, 2 each from Poland and Kenya, and 1 each from India, Tanzania and Malawi. Again we wish them well as they take up the responsibility of spreading the Good News

MEET

Father Richard BAAWOBR, who is from Ghana, was elected Superior General of the Society of Missionaries of Africa on the 31st May, Feast of the Visitation. He will guide the society for the next six years (2010-2016). Father Michel Carbonneau, Secretary General, immediately sent word of the election to Ivan Cardinal DIAS, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, under whose offices the Society of Missionaries of Africa comes.

Father Richard Baawobr was born in Nandom-Lawra, Ghana, on the 21st June 1959. He joined the Society of Missionaries of Africa, making his novitiate at Fribourg in 1981-1982. He was then sent to Totteridge, London, for theology.

He took his Missionary Oath on the 5th December 1986 and was ordained to the priesthood at Kop, Ghana, on the 18th July 1987. His first appointment in Africa was to Livulu, Kinshasa Diocese, and DR Congo. He stayed there for four years.

He then went to Rome for Scripture studies (4 years), then to Châtellard, Lyons, France, for training in Ignatian spirituality. He was appointed to the novitiate in Kahangala, Tanzania from 1996-1999.

In 1998, Father Baawobr participated in the General Chapter as delegate for Tanzania. From October 1999, he was in charge of MAfr students doing theology at Toulouse. He took a sabbatical in 2002-2003 to continue work on his doctorate in Holy Scripture. He came to the 2004 Chapter as delegate of the French Province and he was elected 1st Assistant General (2004-2010). It was in this capacity that he took part in the Chapter of 2010. He was elected Superior General by the 42 members of the chapter.

Fr. Baawobr succeeds Fr. Gérard Chabanon whose mandate (2004-2010) ended the same day. Father Richard is the first African Superior General of the Society.



On the 3rd June 2010, Father Jozef Van Boxel, Belgian, 55 years old, was elected Assistant General of the Society of Missionaries of Africa for the next six years. Father Jozef Van Boxel was born at Turnhout, Belgium, on the 20th July 1954. Entering the Society of Missionaries of Africa, he did his Spiritual Year at Ottawa from 1976-1977. He was then sent to Totteridge, London, where he studied theology. He took his Missionary Oath in the Society on the 5th December 1981 and was ordained to the priesthood at Chimay, Belgium, on the 24th July 1982.

His first appointment to Africa was to Lundazi Parish, Chipata diocese in Zambia. He remained there for four years. Two years of philosophy studies in Rome followed. In 1988, Father Van Boxel was appointed to Mpima Major Seminary, Zambia. In 1991 he was appointed to Tanzania to teach Philosophy in our 1st cycle house in Kahangala.. In 1996, he was teaching in Arusha, Tanzania but in 1997 he left for Belgium to do Missionary Promotion and to become Superior of the community at Leuven. In 1999, he was elected Provincial Councillor for Belgium. In 2002, he did a renewal course in Jerusalem and in 2003 was appointed to Uganda. In Uganda, he was on the teaching staff at our formation house in Jinja. In September 2005, he was elected to the Ugandan Provincial Council. He then became Rector at Jinja in October 2005. He was attending the Chapter of our Society for the first time.



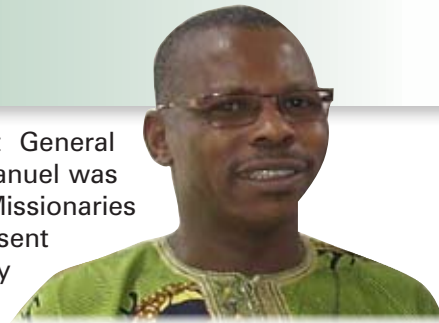
On the 3rd June 2010, Sergio Villaseñor, Mexican, 43 years old, was elected Assistant General of the Society of Missionaries of Africa. Sergio was born at Pedernales M., Mexico, on the 1st August 1966. Entering the Society of Missionaries of Africa, he did his novitiate at Fribourg, Switzerland. He was then sent to France to study theology at Toulouse. He took his Missionary Oath in the Society on the 7th December 1996 and was ordained a priest at La Paz, Mexico, on the 19th July 1997. His first appointment for Africa was at Soalpo in Chimoio Diocese, Mozambique on the 1st October 1997. He was to do parish ministry there until 2000. He was then appointed to the parish of Murraça in Beira Archdiocese, Mozambique. On the 1st December 2000, he was elected councillor for the Southern African Province and on the 31st August 2001, he left for the parish of Inhamizua, still in Beira Archdiocese.

Sergio was elected delegate to the 2004 Chapter. In 2006, he was appointed to Mexico. He was put in charge of Missionary and Vocation Promotion in Querétaro, Mexico. In July 2008, he became Superior of the Philosophy House also in Querétaro later in Guadalajara. On the 17th November the same year, he was elected Delegate Superior of Mexico. He was the Province of the Americas elected delegate for the 2010 Chapter.



THE TEAM

Father Emmanuel Ngona Ngotsi, Congolese, 50, was elected Assistant General of the Society of Missionaries of Africa on the 4th June 2010. Father Emmanuel was born at Bambumines, Congo, on the 1st January 1960. Entering the Society of Missionaries of Africa, he did his Spiritual Year at Fribourg, Switzerland in 1984-1985. He was then sent to Toulouse, France, to study theology there. He took his Missionary Oath in the Society at Toulouse on the 17th December 1989 and was ordained to the priesthood at Fataki, Zaïre, on the 22nd August 1990. His first appointment in Africa was to the parish of Birni N’Konni, Niamey Diocese, in Niger.



Studies in social and economic sciences followed at Paris in 1996. In 1999, Emmanuel returned to Niger to the parish of Zinder Niamey Diocese, where he became parish priest a few months later. He was elected delegate for the Province of Burkina Faso to the 2004 Chapter. He was appointed Assistant Provincial of Burkina Faso in 2005. He was elected as a Councilor of the new Western African Province in 2008 and in the same year, took charge, as Rector of the Maison Lavigerie, Ouagadougou. On the 8th May 2009, he was appointed Provincial of the Central African Province and it is in this capacity that he came to the 2010 Chapter, as an ex-officio member.

Father Peter Welsh, British, 43, was elected Assistant General of the Society of Missionaries of Africa on the 4th June 2010. Peter was born at Beckenham, England, on the 2nd July 1966. Entering the Society of Missionaries of Africa, he did his Spiritual Year at Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1989-1990. He did his apostolic practice in Niger and was then sent to Totteridge, England, to study theology. He took his Missionary Oath in the Society on the 16th December 1995, at London, and was ordained to the priesthood at his home town of Beckenham on the 6th July 1996. His first appointment in Africa was to Tanzania in October 1996, as curate in Nzera parish, Geita Diocese.

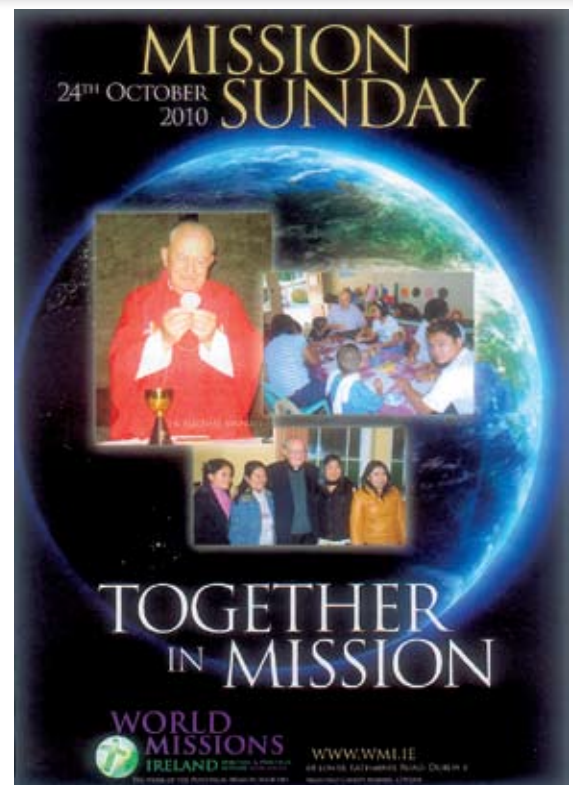


In October 1999, he was curate at Iboja parish in Kahama Diocese. In May of the same year, he was sent to a Muslim majority parish at Makokola, in the Archdiocese of Tabora. In 2005, he was appointed to his home Province of Great Britain to look after the White Fathers - White Sisters Magazine. In 2007, he was elected Provincial Superior of the Province of Great Britain. When the new Province of Europe was set up in July 2008 Peter became delegate Superior of Great Britain and a member of the New Provincial Council. In May 2010, he came to the Chapter as an elected delegate of the European Province.

ABOUT MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday takes place each year on the second last Sunday of October, the traditional month of universal mission. This year it will be celebrated on the 24th October. The theme for this year is “Together in Mission. The poster features Fr. Michael Sinnott, the elderly Columban priest who was kidnapped in the Philippines early on this year. The kidnapping invoked great interest in Ireland and highlighted the work that Fr. Sinnott was doing for the most vulnerable in society.

In his message for Mission Sunday, Pope Benedict asks us to support the young churches by our prayers. He also asks us to support them materially. Pope Benedict also acknowledges the great work of all missionaries, who proclaim the gospel in distant and difficult places, often at the cost of their own lives. We should remember also that missionaries come from all parts of the world to preach the gospel where the message of Christ has not yet been heard but also in areas where the message is just a little wisp of a flame in people’s memories. In Ireland we welcome now many priests, religious and lay people who are working in Ireland. They remind us of the universality of Jesus’ message for all people. They have been evangelised by missionaries coming from Ireland and other parts of Europe and now they come here to help us rediscover anew the great riches of the gospels and their relevance for the secular societies of to-day. Please keep this new generation of missionaries in your prayers during the month of October.



Please Pray for our Friends who have Died

Mrs Rose Sheehy, Hayestown, Navan,
Co. Meath

Mr Sean Fee, Drumkeerin, Co Leitrim

Ms Brid O'Toole, Drumkeerin, Co Leitrim

Miss Mary Byrne, Lisnevenagh Road,
Randalstown, Co Antrim

Sr. Bride McNamara, Convent of Mercy,
St. Vincent's, Galway

Mr and Mrs John McGarrity, Carrickmore,
Co Tyrone

Mr Dunne, Brackagh, Enfield, Co Meath

Ms Nuala McCole, Bunbeg, Co Donegal

Ms Mary Teresa Allen, Carrane,
Tubbercurry, Co Sligo

Mrs Agnes Turley, Umgola Heights,
Armagh City

Mrs Kathleen Gannon, Lerhin, Clonberne,
Ballinasloe, Co Galway

Mrs Helen Barrett, Tattysallagh, Omagh,
Co Tyrone

Mrs Celia Forbes, Station Road, Ballina,
Co Mayo

Tessie McKenna, Lisdadnan, Mohill,
Co Leitrim

Brigid Keegan, Gortlettra, Co Leitrim

Margaret Colreavy, Gortlettra, Co Leitrim

Philbey McGuinness, Mohill, Co Leitrim

Nora Twomey, Clounkeen, Leap, Co Cork

Mr McCoy, Fruithill Park, Belfast

Mr John P. Murphy, Templenoe, Fermoy,
Co Cork

(Brother of Bro. Tim Murphy M.Afr.)

Mr Peter Howard, Kildoon, Nurney,
Co. Kildare

Miss Rose McGovern, 20 Knocklongford,
Mohill, Co Leitrim

Mr Denis O'Sullivan, Balteen, Goleen,
Skibbereen, Co Cork

Mr John McLaughlin, Leathardan,
Rathmullan, Co Donegal

Mr Josie Duffy, Trusk Road, Ballybofey,
Co Donegal

Mrs Bridie McLoughlin, Gorey, Co Wexford

Mr Burke, 'St. Martins' Hillmount Ave.,
Mullingar, Co Westmeath

Mrs Veronica Montgomery, Mountcharles,
Co Donegal

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"

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.