

Missionaries of AFRICA

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INDIAN IMPRESSIONS

Fr Charles Timoney is from Clonmel in Co. Tipperary. He is at present at our Student house in Cebu in the Philippines. He was invited recently to give a number of retreats to our Indian students in Bangalore in India. Here are some of his impressions of his visit.

What a welcome! Four of the brothers went without sleep to meet me at the airport in Bangalore. Coming out we took a wrong turn and I was treated to a tour of Bangalore-by-night, (well, the outskirts really, though I saw little of it as, with jet-lag, I was nodding off.)

Driving in this city requires a special skill. It's fraction-of-an-inch maneuvering. A two lane highway is turned into three and a four into six. When the traffic does open up you weave between cars and cows, trucks and rickshaws. Cows have right of way. I like that! (My surname is Timoney and means cattle drover. We were the cattle dealers and stealers of Ireland so maybe cows touch something primeval in the Timoney psyche?) Last year when in India I fell in love with Indian food – so many subtle and different tastes. Maybe I was Indian in a previous incarnation? So will I become a vegetarian? Not as long as I am in the Land of Lechon (Lechon is very tasty roast pig without which no feast in the Philippines is complete).

I was invited to give retreats to our students in the First Cycle there. And what a fine and generous group of young men they were. I rarely had to wash my own plate and spoon. And they were intelligent too – they laughed at all my jokes.

We went to an Ashram for both the preached and directed retreats. As so often happens in the directed retreat, one is witness to the always surprising grace of God at work in people's hearts. Truly you are on holy ground. It is always a privileged experience.

The Ashram itself is built on a hill overlooking a national park. It's usually very quiet and peaceful except when the villagers light the crackers to scare off the elephants. Scattered throughout the grounds are the brown termite hills. The Chapel is built as if it were itself a giant termite hill. Its pinnacles reach to heaven like a primeval Gothic Cathedral. Inside, the stained-glass windows have Hindu and Christian themes. Everyone sits for the Eucharist. I couldn't manage the lotus position so they gave me a chair.

As celebrant I wore a shawl instead of a chasuble. An Indian Sister then began a haunting Carnatic Hymn in the style of South India

and our students joined in. The symbol of peace - so unlike the gentle nod that intrigues and amuses visitors to the Philippines - is the deep and dignified praying-hands bow.

It is a place of great beauty with its shrubs, flowers and sculptures. Also present with us were twenty one sisters preparing to make their final profession. They were having "The Ashram Experience". Like the flowers they too were easy on the eye with their beautifully coloured saris looking so elegant and dignified.

Their Mother Superior wore a starched white habit which seemed so out of place in that Indian countryside. But I hasten to add that she herself was a charming lady. Shakespeare says: "the apparel doth oft proclaim the man" but in her case he got it wrong.

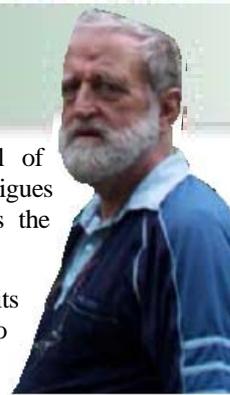
So everything was perfect then? No! There were two negatives. There was no hot water. That may be okay in Africa but not in the cool foothills of Bangalore. And the mattress like their driving was also 'fraction-of-an-inch'. My spine is still recovering. I'll mark it all down to "The Ashram Experience"

The big difference between our First Cycle in Cebu and that in Bangalore is that in the former we need students but in the latter the great need is for staff. The authorities in India are making it more and more difficult to get visas. Our young Indian confreres have been very generous in giving their time and energy to the project. Our non-Indian confreres are so courageous in accepting such a task with its many frustrations and visa complications. And things may well get worse. I couldn't but admire their tenacity and dedication.

For the last weekend we returned to the Study House. There I do my laundry. On the roof is an ideal drying place. The palm trees surrounding the house touch the flat roof and occasionally monkeys come and play there. I feed one a banana but then he grabs a bed cover and takes it away into the trees. I try to stop him but he snarls and shows me his fangs and I back off. He disappears with the bed cover. I decide to dry my trousers and the rest of my laundry in my room.

I left India with a grateful heart, thankful for the experience and the many graced moments of my time there.

Fr. Charles Timoney



Fr.



Venance Rweyunga (M.Afr) was born 07/10/69 in a town on the shore of Lake Victoria called Bukoba - Tanzania. He did his primary school education in Bukoba and part of his secondary school in a minor seminary, with the Salesians of Don Bosco, in Iringa in the South - West part of Tanzania. The second part of his secondary school education was done in the government school at Mzumbe High School in Morogoro. Immediately after his high school education, he did an obligatory military service in Musoma-Tanzania. In 1994, he joined the Society of Missionaries of Africa and he was sent to Jinja-Uganda where he did three years of philosophy. In 1997, Venance went to Kahangala- Mwanza in Tanzania for Novitiate (Spiritual year). Thereafter, he went for two years of stage in the Democratic

Republic of Congo in Kisangani. That was in 1998 to 2000. Venance went to Totteridge-London for Theology and in December 2002, he made his oath and was ordained deacon. On 19/70/2003, Venance was ordained priest in his home diocese of Bukoba- Mugana Parish. Venance was the second missionary of Africa from Bukoba.

His first appointment was in the Democratic Republic of Congo in a Parish on top of a sandy hill called St. Etienne- Kisenso. With the community of Kisenso, Venance did four years as an assistant parish priest. In July 2007, Venance was appointed to the parish of Laybo in the diocese of Mahagi-Nioka as a parish priest. In April, 2010 the community of Laybo handed over the Parish of Laybo to the Diocese of Mahagi-Nioka. Venance was asked to do some studies in Ireland in view of formation. Presently, Venance is following one year course on Religious Formation Ministry Programme in Loreto. In October, Venance got the sad news that his father had died in Bukoba. He was able to return to Bukoba to visit his mother and his family. He was very consoled by the sympathy and good will of his neighbours and of the Missionaries of Africa. He returned to Ireland in early November to continue his studies. He asks for your prayers.



I am Emmanuel Chishala Mambwe and I was born on October 10/1974 in a village called Mbreshi in the north of Zambia. I come from a Catholic family and my father was a catechist. I 'm the third born of seven children. After my primary education at home I entered the minor seminary and did five years of senior secondary school up to 1992.

After finishing my secondary studies, I took a year away from education. Then I decided to join the missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) formation programme. From 1994 to 1997 I did my philosophical and religious studies in Jinja Uganda. From there I went to Mwanza in Tanzania and did my spiritual or novitiate year. After the spiritual Year I was appointed to Kampala in Uganda to go and work with the youth in the city. The two years of pastoral

work went very quickly and I enjoyed it very much. After my pastoral training I was appointed to St. Edwards College, London to study Theology. The three years also went very quickly and I took the missionary oath of the Missionaries of Africa and officially became a member of the Society in November 2002. I was ordained a deacon on 14/12/2002. In May 2003, I left London for my ordination at home in Zambia, and I was ordained to the priesthood on 17/08/2003.

After so many years of learning and listening it was time for me to go and put it all into practice. I was appointed to Uganda but not to the youth center but to a rural parish called Kasambya in Kiyinda Mityana Diocese in the south west of Uganda. I was in the parish for four years working and living with the parishioners and my three other confreres. At the end of the four years, it was so painful for me to leave our beautiful parish and wonderful people. This was also the end of the White Fathers presence in the parish as we handed over the parish to the local clergy.

I returned to Zambia and I was asked to go for studies in accountancy. I followed a 3 year course and I asked my superiors to do a course that would allow me do some personal reflection and formation in leadership. That is how I came to the Missionaries of Africa in Dublin where I am presently following the Religious Formation Ministry Programme in Loreto House. Please keep me in your prayers.

Gimbi To OUR GUESTS



MY name is Abba Solomon Berhanu, a diocesan priest from Apostolic Vicariate of Nekemte, Ethiopia. I was born in 1974 (1966 according to the Ethiopian calendar) into a catholic family. Most Ethiopian Christians belong to the Orthodox Church but there is a small minority who are Catholic. My Father and Mother are still alive. In my family, I am the eldest son and I am followed by 5 brothers and two sisters. Two of them are nurses, one is studying civil engineering, and the rest are in enrolled in secondary schools. I joined the minor seminary in 1995 when I was in 12th grade. The following year, I joined St. Paul's Major Seminary in Addis Ababa and studied Philosophy and Theology for 7 years until the end of May 2002. I was ordained to the priesthood in June 2002 for the Apostolic

Vicariate of Nekemte.

In September 2002, I was appointed to St. Mikael's Parish, Gimbi as an assistant parish priest and school director. Later after a year, I was appointed as Gimbi Area Coordinator and Parish Priest to the same parish up to the end of May 2007. Later on in 2007; I was transferred to St. Mikael's parish in the Dembi Dollo area, as a parish priest and area coordinator. I worked there for 3 years. Dembi Dollo is located to the west of the country and is one of the biggest areas of the Vicariate. Even though Catholics are a small minority, they are involved in a lot of pastoral and humanitarian activity. My bishop is from Holland and is a member of the Vincentian Order. His name is Theo Van Ruyven. In considering the socio-pastoral needs of the Vicariate, he recommended that I study development in the Kimmage Development Studies Centre, Dublin for the year 2010/2011. While studying in Kimmage, I am staying with missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) in Cypress Grove and I would like to thank them for their hospitality.



SYLVANUS ALI DAWAR IS MY NAME. I am a diocesan priest in the Catholic Diocese of Shendam in Plateau State, Nigeria. This is a new diocese and was established in June 2007; formally it was part of the Archdiocese of Jos.

I was born on the 5th October, 1960 at Rafin Sanyi – Jing near the town of Pankshin. I am the first born of seven children (four girls and three boys) My father died when I was two years old and according to custom my mother had to marry my late father's brother and had five other children with her making a total of seven children. In fact my mother was expecting her second child, a little girl, when my father died. All of us are still alive including our mother.

My education followed a normal pattern. After primary school in a place called Jing, I attended a Catholic Secondary School away from home in Barkin Ladi from 1981 to 1986. After my Secondary School I entered St. Augustine's Major Seminary in Jos and studied there from 1986 to 1994. I was ordained to the priesthood on 3rd December 1994 in Our Lady of Fatima Cathedral in Jos.

After my ordination, I enrolled myself in a diploma course in computers and this has proved very helpful to me in my priestly duties. I have tried to be very faithful to the priestly ministry and since my ordination I have had many and varied responsibilities.

During my time as a member of the Archdiocese of Jos, I have worked as the Archbishop's secretary and have been a Parish priest in 3 Parishes as well as serving on the Pastoral/Liturgical Commission of the Archdiocese and as Chaplain to the Catholic Woman's Organisation.

When the new Diocese of Shendam was set up in 2007 I was made Parish Priest of St. Brendan's Parish in Kwa. I was also appointed a Co-ordinator of the Justice Development and Peace/Caritas Commission in the Diocese. Because of the new challenges that lie ahead of me, as co-ordinator of the social development programme in Shendam diocese, my present bishop, James Naanman Daman OSA, asked me to come to Dublin to study development at Kimmage Development Studies Centre, Kimmage Manor, Whitehall, Dublin 12, in order to upgrade my knowledge so as go back and face the challenges of developing the young Diocese of Shendam.

I am fortunate and happy to find myself living with the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) in their house here in Templeogue for the duration of my studies. I count myself fortunate because the White Fathers are really wonderful and great missionaries, very simple people, friendly, and lively people, I admire their ways of community life and their ways of welcoming people here in Templeogue. May God continue to bless them abundantly.

VIOLENCE AND PEACE

Around the Christmas season newspapers reported the killing of Catholics in Baghdad and of Orthodox Copts in Alexandria. A common denominator bound together the two events: the victims in both cases were Christians.

Those sad events are remembered because they took place recently and newspapers gave them plenty of coverage. But during the last decade (2000-2010) – lest we forget – 253 Catholic pastoral workers were killed. In 2010, alone, 23 of those pastoral workers were killed and 15 of them were in Latin America.

No decade has been completely free of those whose blood was shed because of their fidelity to Christ our Lord. They were the messengers of peace witnessing to the values of the Gospel. Inevitably, their peaceful presence was resented by some, whose unscrupulous political or religious ideologies accepted violence as a justifiable means to an end. As an excuse for violence it was frequently stated that the victims' values were provoking social instability of one kind or another. All kinds of different labels were given to the perpetrators of such violence: they were called terrorists, insurgents, fundamentalists and political rebels; and they were not limited to any particular country or religion.

Quite recently, during the last decade, four Sisters of Mother Teresa were living in containers among Muslim nomads near the Red Sea. While out visiting the sick the containers were set on fire by insurgents. The Sisters

lost absolutely all their belongings. The Sisters did not withdraw, however, but continued in their service of the sick and elderly nomads. When asked about the incident, one Sister remarked that it was a blessing in disguise. Now the people had come to realize that the Sisters were not there merely to satisfy an expression of their own religious idealism, but simply to serve and provide assistance to the sick and elderly nomads. As from that time the Muslim nomads express their love for the Sisters by protecting them.

Without going back too far, just taking into consideration the previous decade (1990-2000), in this context of violence and peace, it is worth recalling some of those whose fidelity to Christ brought about the shedding of their blood. In the very early ages of the Church there were many martyrs in North Africa. But now, in the decade under consideration there have been nineteen martyrs in North Africa: six Sisters of four different congregations, one Marist Brother, four Missionaries of Africa, seven Trappist monks and one Bishop.

The Marist Brother had previously jotted down a few words that really express the mind of each of the nineteen: "May the peace of Christ fill to the brim the intimate levels of my humanity. Then I will become patient and gentle both to myself and also to those that the Lord has sent me to serve. May you, Oh Virgin Mary, make me an instrument of peace for the world."

After the Bishop was killed, one of his Muslim friends wrote an appreciation: He was an exceptional man in his endeavour to build bridges between people of different origins and faiths. He strove to promote the right that differences might be accepted and lived without restrictions in a dialogue that was sincere and had no restrictions."

Against such a background characterized by violence and peace, the Christmas message of Pope Benedict XVI is all the more meaningful when he prayed that God might "Grant perseverance to all those Christian communities enduring discrimination and persecution, and inspire political and religious leaders to be committed to full respect for the religious freedom of all."



The Religious Sisters are the backbone of the health service in many areas in Africa.

MISSION BOXES

Mission boxes are a valuable source of income for our missionary projects.



Small money can be big money for the needs of the poor the orphan the sick and the education of priests. If you are willing to have a mission box in your home, school or business we would greatly appreciate your support.

Mission boxes will be supplied and when full, collected by one of our priests.

Please Contact; Fr. Joe McMenamin.

Missionaries of Africa, Cypress Grove, Templeogue, Dublin 6W.

Jubilee Celebrations.

Shortly after the foundation of our Religious Society at the end of the nineteenth century, our founder, Cardinal Charles Lavigerie placed it under the patronage of Our Lady of Africa and since then the feast of The Immaculate Conception, 8th December is celebrated as our annual feast in all our houses worldwide.

This year the community in Templeogue had an added reason to celebrate as the date marked the 25th anniversary of the taking of their final oath and ordination to the diaconate of three of our priests.

Fr John O'Donoghue (Tralee Co Kerry), Fr Diarmuid Sheehan (Kilkeel, Co Down), Fr Neil Loughrey (Rathmullan, Co Donegal) together with Fr Hans Pfeifer from Germany took their final commitment to the Missionaries of Africa and were ordained Deacons in London on 8th December 1985.

Fr John is now working in Mozambique, Fr Diarmuid in Ghana and Fr Hans in Tanzania.

Fr Neil marked the occasion here in Cypress Grove, where our community was joined by our neighbours and friends and Neil's five brothers, four sisters and their spouses. Mass was celebrated followed by a festive meal.

In his homily during the mass Fr Neil thanked God for all the blessings that he had received during this years as he worked in Tanzania, East Africa and in the Philippines. He compared the taking of the commitment to missionary life with the marriage vows that people take. Faith is involved. We don't know where it may lead us, but know in our hearts that God will help us fulfil what we promise.

Fr Neil referred to the fact that the Missionaries of Africa had no community in the Philippines when he took his oath, but he ended up there and spent eight very happy years.

Lets all continue to pray for one another that we have the courage to follow the will of God for us, no matter where it may lead us.



Congratulations

The community at Templeogue would like to congratulate very sincerely **Fr. Stephen Dami Mamza** who was recently appointed as the new Bishop of Yola in Nigeria.

Fr. Stephen spent the year of 2009/2010 as a resident in our house while he was doing a

M.A. In Development Studies at the Kimmage Development Studies Centre. He has also spent some time in the Parish of Ballinteer/Meadowbrook/Dundrum as a curate.

Fr. Stephen is going into a diocese which is 12,474 sq miles

and has about 160,000 Catholics out of a total population of 2,200,000 people. Please keep him in your prayers as he takes on his new ministry.

We wish all our friends a Happy and Holy Easter, in the joy of the Risen Lord.

Please Pray for our Friends who have Died

Miss Nina Martin, Deanscurragh, Longford
Mrs. Mary Forde, Frenchpark, Castlerea,
Co Roscommon
Miss Katie Hogan, Inishere, Aran Islands
Mrs. Maureen O'Donnell, Upper Salthill, Galway
Mrs. Caroline Crowley, Carnanes, Kilrush, Co Clare
Mrs. Kathleen Quigley, William St. Nenagh,
Co Tipperary
Fr. Diarmuid McCormick, Kilkishen, Co Clare
Mrs. Teresa Dullaghan, Upper Marches, Dundalk,
Co Louth
Miss Eileen Buckley, Dublin Road, Sutton, Dublin 13
Brig. Gen. Brian McMahon (.Retd.) Cypress Grove,
Templeogue, Dublin
Mr. Declan McMahon, Harolds Cross and Templeogue,
Dublin
Mr. Timothy Kirby, Liscahane, Ardfert, Co Kerry
Mrs. Anne Fitzgibbon, Ballyhurley, Scariff, Co Clare
Mrs. Mary O'Donnell, Glebe, Carndonagh,
Co Donegal
Sr. Francis Halloran, Convent of Mercy, Newport,
Co Tipperary
Mrs. McCann, Blacklion, Co Cavan
Mr. Patrick (Paddy) Mullins, Doninga, Goresbridge,
Co Kilkenny
Mr. Sean Donoghue, Killala, Co Mayo
Mr. Jerry McGillicuddy, Kilcummin, Killarney,
Co Kerry
Mr. Liam Morris, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands
Miss Josephine Milligan, Upper Lisburn Road, Belfast

Mrs. Sarah McDonald, Lissan, Cookstown, Co Tyrone
Mr. Michael Murnaghan, Cypress Grove Road,
Templeogue, Dublin
Miss Nora Rooney, The Diamond, Lifford,
Co Donegal
Mrs. Kitty Doherty, 42 Sliabh Sneacht, Letterkeny,
Co Donegal
Mrs. Mary Doogan, Glasson, Athlone, Co Westmeath
Mrs. Mary Rafferty, Monaincha, Roscrea
Co. Tipperary
Mrs. Anne Mohan, Fallom, Roslea, Co. Fermanagh.
Miss Kathleen Watson, 51 Watson Pk, Killiney
Dublin 18
Mrs. Rose Kearney, Gubaveeney, Blacklion,
Co. Cavan
Mrs. Patricia Murphy, Cypress Grove, Templeogue,
Dublin
Mrs. Rosaleen, Hennessy, Killinagh House, Clones
Road, Monaghan.
Mrs. Julia McGinn, College Road, Dublin 6w
Mrs. Carmel O'Neill, Cypress Park, Dublin 6w
Sr. Bridget Browne, OLSH Convent, Rossmore,
Dublin 6w
Sr. Coronata, Holy Rosary Sisters, Dartry, Dublin 6
Mrs. Mary Kennedy, Midleton, Co. Cork
Mr. James Reilly, Enniskillen
(Brother of Fr. Peter Reilly M.Afr.)
Mr. Oliver McKibben, Kilkeel, Co. Down
Mrs. Margaret Lyons, Culliagh, Scramogue,
Co Roscommon

*Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
May they Rest in Peace with the Father*

RAFFLE

“With this issue of the Newsletter you will find some raffle cards for our annual raffle. The money raised will go towards a fund that we established for the care of our elderly missionaries, most of whom have spent many years of their lives in Africa and who one day may require special care. We hope that our elderly friends and those who already help us in other ways will not be offended by being sent

raffle cards. The cards(2) are automatically put into the envelopes. We would like to assure you that if you cannot sell the lines yourself, you should not worry. However selling lines is an ideal way of enlisting the help of a wider circle of people who are not regular contributors. We thank all of you for your faithful support of our Missionary Society.

With thanks,
Neil Loughery M.Afr

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.