



EDITORIAL

The Edsa Revolution that 25 years ago ended 14 years of Marcos' dictatorship has continued to inspire non-violent people-led revolutions ever since. Today we witness **people-power** surging in many North-African and Middle-Eastern countries. People are thirsting for more freedom and ready to die to attain it.

The common feature of these popular uprisings is their being directed against regimes that have lasted for decades, as in the case of Tunisia (21 years), Egypt (30 years), Libya (42 years), Yemen (21 years), etc. Leaders have amassed extreme wealth while the population has little to live on. In Egypt 40% of the population live on less than 2\$ a day (90 pesos).

40% of these populations have an average age of less than 25 years and are often without employment. In these countries, Islam is the religion of the great majority with sometimes a minority of Orthodox and Catholic Christians present like in Egypt (10% of the population).

Commenting on the events in Egypt, the Apostolic Nuncio Fr. Michael Fitzgerald, a Missionary of Africa, spells out the demands for accountable government: "Every human community needs an authority to govern it, but the

authority does not derive its moral legitimacy from itself. It must **act for the common good**, using morally licit means to attain this good, and not acting in a despotic manner." "The common good consists of three essential elements: respect for and promotion of the fundamental rights of the human person; prosperity, or the development of the spiritual and temporal goods of society; the peace and security of the group and its members" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No.1925).

As our country is affected by the return of so many overseas workers we realize how connected with

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these events we are as Filipino people. We cannot remain indifferent.

In his recent social encyclical Pope Benedict XVI says: "The development of peoples depends, above all, on recognition that the human race is a **single family** working together in true communion, not simply a group of subjects who happen to live side by side" (Caritas in Veritate n°53).

We are living in a time of **historic change**.

May we be part of the change we want to see in the world by a continued commitment to struggle for freedom based on the awareness of human rights and concern for the common good! **Fr. Thomas**

The Missionaries of Africa were founded in 1868 in **Algeria** and are present in **Tunisia** since 1875. Because of our origin in North Africa we have a particular interest in encounter and dialogue with Muslims.



Cooking with Bro. Lita

Working in the Archdiocese of Tabora can give me some real "aha" experiences. They were not coming from the time when I sat at my office and did some administrative work, counseling or facilitating a seminar but they

were coming from the things which I discover lately as a gift given... cooking! **Cooking** gave me not only a relaxing moment but also an opening of my eyes to some of the realities of the lifestyle of the people especially those who come from the grassroots and villages. They also had their share of "aha" experiences.

They thought that to cook rice without oil and salt, the rice would never be cooked. They were surprised when I prepared the rice and just boiled it with plain water, and in few minutes it was cooked. They thought that the only way to prepare cassava and sweet potatoes was to boil and fry them. I showed them other ways of preparing cassava like cassava roll which is wrapped with young banana leaves and cassava bread which Filipinos call "**puto balanghoy**".

I showed them how to prepare "**bodbod**" – sweet potato roll and "halya" - grated sweet potato with coconut milk and sugar. They thought that by putting a lot of oil while preparing the beef stew or vegetables would make it tastier.

I showed them how to prepare food using a little amount of oil or none at all as





for example by steaming and how the food still tasted good. They thought that it would be impossible to mix a particular fruit as an ingredient when preparing a cake. I showed them that it is possible to have cassava-, carrot-, banana-, and apple cake.

On the other hand, I thought that during the first day of my cooking class, I would only have women who would be

interested in cooking but young men came to enroll as well. From the three distant parishes that I went to, I thought all those who had attended the class were Catholics or Christians but to my surprise, there were some **Moslems** who were neighbors of these Catholics and who would like to learn different ways of cooking. Unfortunately, at the time when I was teaching how to prepare "humba" a popular Filipino pork dish, pork stew and "sisig" I didn't know they were present. At the time of evaluating our preparations, I was alarmed that some of them did not eat the pork and chose only the vegetables without pork. When I discovered their presence I apologized and the Muslim women graciously accepted my apology.

On the whole, it was an "aha" experience for me. These experiences taught me to be sensitive, prudent, more respectful and more assertive to ask and not just to keep quiet. In the same manner, the youth, parents and especially the women would possibly have their share of "aha" in all the cooking lessons that I gave to them especially in changing some of their ways in preparing food.

Bro. Lito G. Doguiles, M.Afr. (Tabora, Tanzania).

*"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step".
(Lao Tzu)*

I joined the formation program of the Missionaries of Africa nine years ago. I did 3 years of **philosophy** at San Carlos University, Cebu. After philosophy I was appointed to Zambia, Central Africa for one year of **novitiate**. That was rather uneasy and definitely a difficult step in my life. For me to change my country, encounter a new climate, language and custom was a tough experience. I must confess that the spirit of adaptation and flexibility is what made it possible for me to persevere with inner joy. Novitiate covered the



whole aspect of prayer life and helped me to dig deeper and lay **strong faith foundations** on which till now I am proudly standing as a missionary in times of joy and sorrow. I have come to discover that actually my whole missionary life is meant to encompass true love for new cultures. I am called to move beyond my own personal likes and dislikes as well as those of my country. **Living "internationally"** as a missionary has been the most beautiful part of my life.

From Zambia, I received my appointment to "stage" that is to a two year pastoral experience among the pastoralist people of **Karamoja-Uganda**, in East Africa. My apostolic training among them was very encouraging and interesting. It was an opportunity for me to experience God's love with them and to deepen my own faith as I interacted with them, experiencing missionary life in the concrete situation of the parish setup that was colored by both painful and joyful experiences. I might say that I am now settled in Africa.

After Uganda, I was appointed to **Nairobi-Kenya** for theological studies. After these all important years of my vocation journey I thought my vocation path would be long but I have found out that it actually passes extremely fast. I am about to complete my theological studies now at Tangaza College (Catholic University in East Africa) and all in view of becoming a missionary of Africa for the African people in the African world. It is for **all these blessings** and for all of you who have been praying of me that I now thank Almighty God. May God bless you always!!! **Jame Dela Cerna** (Nairobi).



It's time for Africa: The history of "Waka Waka"

Tsamina or Zangaléwa is a 1986 hit song, originally sung by a Makossa group **from Cameroon** called Golden Sounds who were beloved throughout the continent for their dances and costumes. The song was such a hit for Golden Sounds that they eventually changed their name to Zangaléwa, too. The song pays tribute to African skirmishers (a.k.a tirailleurs) during World War II (1939-45). Most of the band members were in the Cameroonian Army themselves and used make up, fake bellies, and fake butts

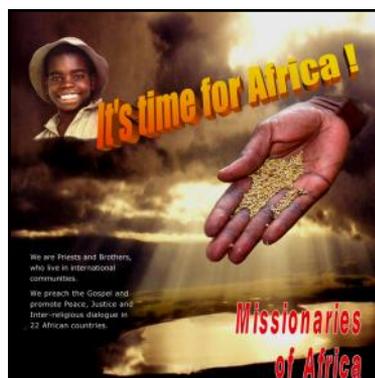


for comic relief. The song is allegedly meant as a **mockery** of African military officers (during the Second World War) who were in league with European commanders to oppress their own people. The rest is Cameroonian slang and jargon from the soldiers during the war.

The song is still used today almost everywhere in Africa by soldiers, policemen, boy scouts, sportsmen, and their supporters, usually during training or for political rallies. It is also widely used in schools throughout the continent especially in Cameroon as a marching song and almost everyone in the country knows the chorus of the song by heart. The song was also popular in Colombia where it was known as "The Military" and brought to the country by West African DJs in Cartagena . It was here that it inspired **Shakira** to add her own verses for the soccer battlefield and theme song of the World Cup in South Africa in 2010.

The original lyrics, which are in a Central African language called Fang, read like this:

Tsa mina mina eh eh
Waka waka eh eh
Tsa mina mina zangalewa
Ana wam ah ah
Zambo eh eh
Zambo eh eh
Tsa mina mina zangalewa
Wana wa ah ah



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zamina_mina_%28Zangalewa%29 ; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHSbpZf8Zy4> (original version) **Fr. Thomas**



A Vocational Inspiration

Travelling is a word I don't get easily excited about nowadays. It sounds good to many but can be stressful when done frequently. But it also brings its own doses of joy that can be heartwarming. I want to share with you one of those instances of simple joys in the vocation

ministry. It happened during one of my visits to a prospective candidate in Lanao del Norte. Once there I decided to continue the trip to Dapitan



accompanied by one of our Lay Associates. The journey was long and the bus full to capacity. We reached Dapitan in the evening of that day.

Early the following morning we set out going around town to put up posters in different parishes and institutions. Tricycles are the common means of transport in the area. While waiting for a ride, we were surprised to notice a **lady tricycle driver**. She looked so happy and comfortable with her job. It was strange and funny to us. As she took us around we came to know her better. Her name is Gemma Aljas. She was not afraid to share her life-story with us and her struggles. She told us that in the beginning people were making fun of her but this did not stop her from driving a tricycle, trying to find ways and means **to support her family**. She managed to send her children to school and she now proudly owns three tricycles. Her husband is also driving a tricycle and takes care of their rice fields. Ate Gemma has become **an inspiration to many** in Dapitan because of her dedication to her work and her family. She was never ashamed to go beyond the expectations of the society because she knew that she had a family to care for and love. **Her vocation is her family.**

Fr. Bernard Monteron

A bold move for the missionaries of Africa in Cebu

Seeking to answer the quest for a meaningful insertion after his participation in the **2010 Chapter** Fr. Bernard decided to reach out to his former school mates and friends. In October 2010, following his invitation, 11 young men and women from different walks of life answered the call and decided to come together to boldly create the Missionaries of Africa **Lay Associates**.



Drawing on the inspiration of sacred dance Fr. Thomas helped the newly formed group to feel at home with each other in prayer. The next morning Fr. Emmanuel in a Power-Point presentation on the Missionaries' of Africa Vision and Mission invited us to view the real "AFRICA" so much in contrast with the negative images carried by the media.



Fr. Charlie encouraged us to join “the army of God’s useless people” making us aware that we don’t have to be saints to follow the **Lord’s calling**. We as “Lay Associates” have heard the call not just to be supporters but **partners** in spreading the Good News.” As of this date the Lay Associates have been growing with new members joining the monthly overnight gathering. We were able to lend a hand during the recent Vocation Jamboree. Our next plans are to support the “Come-and-See!” program (April 10 – May 7, 2011) and hopefully to experience a rural immersion in the near future.

By: Frankie and Melody

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Our Founder Cardinal Lavigerie (2)

Two years after the Religious Revolt of Hermano Pule in the Philippines in 1843, Charles Lavigerie at the age of 18 entered the Major Seminary in Paris (France). His friend the future Cardinal Bourret recalled from these years: *“Charles seemed to **attract everyone**. All wanted to be his friend. He could not be called a perfect student. He was somewhat indolent and liked to make jokes to his friends, and even to his teachers. If he did not know the answer to a question, he guessed, and was able to produce pertinent answers to questions he had not prepared. He was already the man we have come to know and admire.”* At the age of 24 (1849) he was ordained priest and was sent for further studies while teaching Latin. By the end of 1853 he had acquire two doctorates (Church history and theology). His studies on the early Church will be a source of **great inspiration** when he comes to found the Missionaries of Africa. (The re-discovery of the Adult Catechumenate.)

There was an organization in France, founded in 1855, led mainly by lay people and called “**The work of Oriental Schools**”, meant to help and support Christian schools in the “Middle East”. The population there was mainly Moslem, but there was also a minority of Christians helped by Missionaries from European countries. This new organization was looking for an energetic **director**, preferably a priest. Charles Lavigerie’s name came out and he accepted to take up



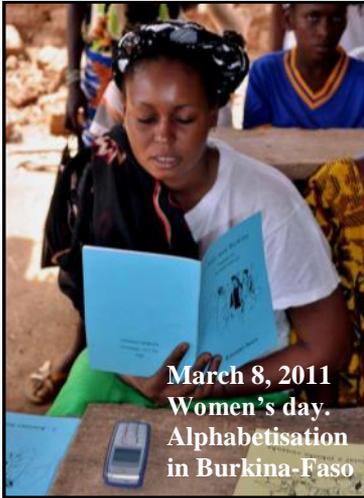
Ch. Lavigerie young priest



the challenge in 1856.

There had been constant trouble and rivalry between Christians and different Muslim's tribes in Lebanon and in Syria. One of the factions, the Druze, decided to go on the offensive in May 1860. Some 22.000 Christians were killed and many more wounded. It was only with the help of the Muslim leader **Abd-El-Kader** that the fight ended as he organized his men into sections to rescue Christians in the city of Damascus.

Lavigerie decided that his organisation had to help the survivors. He travelled all over Europe to raise money. In October 1860 he **visited Lebanon and Syria**



March 8, 2011
Women's day.
Alphabetisation
in Burkina-Faso

for the first time, and was able to bring help to the suffering population. The misery he saw broke his heart. In one instance he fell from his horse and fractured his arm, yet he continued to visit and help people. He would not leave the country before visiting and thanking Abd-El-Kader. Deeply impressed by his encounter he said: *"I listened with admiration and joy to this sincere Muslim, whose words a Christian might have been proud of."* It was after that journey that Fr Lavigerie would say: **"There I found my true vocation."** E.L.

"Come and See"

1 month experience with the Missionaries of Africa in Cebu City.

April 10 - May 7, 2011.

For College students and young professionals. **Interested?**

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How you can help us:

-Above all, please help us with your prayers for vocations and for missionaries in Africa.

-You can spread this « News Letter » through e-mail.

-You can help us in the formation of our seminarians by sending your contribution by check payable to « Missionaries of Africa ».

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