



1/2013

EDITORIAL

Manila Archbishop Louis Antonio "Chito" Cardinal Tagle wept when he was made cardinal last November 2012. It is said that on the following day he apologized to Pope Benedict XVI for his display of emotion. The Pope reassuringly replied: "No, you don't need to apologize. We need heart in the Church!" We hope that Benedict XVI.'s wish has



been granted with the election of the new **Pope Francis**. For us Missionaries of Africa, a Pope coming from Latin America is significant. By his experience in his home country, Argentina, he is a person who has experienced the struggle for a more just society under conditions of political dictatorship and neo-liberal economics. Pope Francis. brings to his new ministry the reputation of being a man close to the people with a heart for the lowly. May our prayers support his ministry as successor of Peter as he has humbly requested.

" **People of heart** " is also what we are looking for as we begin the month-long "Come and See!"-program on April 6, 2013. We invite young people to discover as they journey with our community whether God is calling them to serve others

as missionaries in the African continent. In many cultures the heart is seen as the source of the deep-felt convictions which energize us. A heart rooted in God is the foundation for any sustained commitment. Our newsletter tells you of missionaries who have allowed their hearts to be touched and transformed by God in the struggle for human dignity. Allow your hearts to be moved as well! " Were not our hearts burning within us as he spoke to us on the road ?...." **Malipayong Pasko sa Pagkabanhaw kaninyong tanan!**

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Vocation Jamboree: A life-Changing Experience

What a marvelous and life-changing experience it has been. A lot of exciting and memorable moments happened during those long hours of happiness.

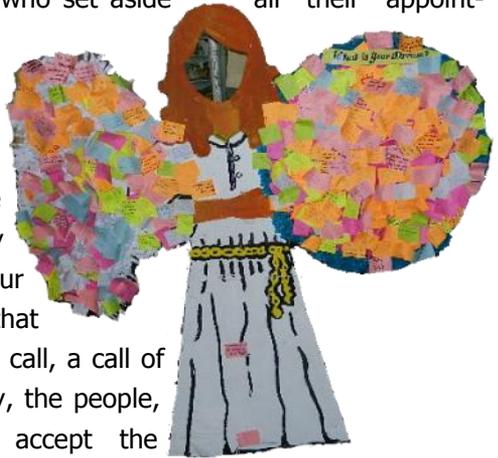
Smiling faces, laughter and enthusiasm were captured. It is truly an honor and a pleasure to be part of that most spectacular activity held at Cebu Technological University - main campus last February 23-24, 2013. Actually, it is really an overwhelming one as if all of us who have participated on the said event have been together for a long time. For the few hours that we have been together, we have created a long-lasting bond that everybody wishes to have.

On the other hand, a lot of teenagers have experienced their captivating and unforgettable moments. Everybody really enjoyed the event and no one was left behind. The true essence of unity, happiness and faithfulness were really felt by every individual who preferred to respond to the invitation and who set aside all their appointments to be in that blissful activity.

Consequently, the hearts, the minds and the hands of the people in that vocation jamboree were built as one. These written memories may be forgotten by the mind but we know they still stay in the heart. For the rest of our lives we will feel that we are part of that life-giving activity. Yes, a vocation is a call, a call of duty for the soldiers of God. And finally, the people, as soldiers, have been brave to accept the

consequences of following their dream goals in life.

Cosep, Jessa Gay; Mayol, Dyahara; Maquilan, Gerda Claire



Facts about Africa

How big is Africa? Very big indeed! Picture the following seventeen countries – they will all fit into Africa and there will still be room left over for the Philippines !



COUNTRY	AREA x 1000 km ²
China	9.597
USA	9.629
India	3.287
Mexico	1.964
Peru	1.285
France	633
Spain	506
Papua New Guinea	462
Sweden	441
Japan	378
Germany	357
Norway	324
Philippines	300
New Zealand	270
United Kingdom	243
Nepal	147
Bangladesh	144
Greece	132
TOTAL	30.101
AFRICA	30.221

Malawi: Braving challenges



Last year was tough because of the political unrest that led to severe economic crisis and bloody upheavals. I hope 2013 would be better for many Malawians. However, that hope is apparently still far-fetched with soaring prices of commodities, unemployment, floating Kwacha (Malawian currency), bureaucracy and corruption that are squeezing Malawians like lemons. There will be Elections in 2014 and politicians' mouths are full of promises.

Filipinos and Malawians have one thing in common: we never seem to learn from the past. We elect the same people who have failed us repeatedly because, most probably, we don't care at all. What matters is the short moment of joy we experience after receiving a few candies.

Conversely, I met a number of young Malawians who are working hard and determined to get out of poverty. There are also lot of young people who are really clever and (..) talented but can't afford to go to school. Getting a stable job is like finding a needle in a haystack, so, a couple of those who have finished secondary school or university end up like those who did not go to school. Some end up addicted to marijuana, alcohol or to sex. Despite all the challenges, many are doing their best to live with dignity and with a determination to succeed. I met a medical student who spends his holidays selling cold water. He takes a wheelbarrow to carry the cooler box with pouches of cold water; walking 2 kilometers each day to sell water at MK10.00 each (about Php 1.30). He stays on a certain spot close to a railway adjacent to a market. He stays there under the sun or occasionally under the rain to earn Php 107.00 in one day, if he is lucky. He is just one of the many who are exemplary in dealing with life's challenges. The following photos are in honor of those people who chose to live life with a purpose, those who believe in themselves and those who courageously take decisions and act.



Though maize is the staple food, in 2012, Malawi produced 72,130 tonnes of rice

Clayb Caputolan M.Afr.

The ingenuity of the people of Malawi

Tobacco accounts for more than 50% of Malawi's exports

In an agricultural country that has only about 4 months of rainy season, the people of Malawi have fashioned various means to make ends meet.

Vendors selling local products

Making fired bricks for about Php 25 cts. each

What is modern slavery?

Slavery is banned in most countries and prohibited by the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Yet slaves are found everywhere, in rich and poor countries. Today's slavery is less obvious but more abundant than in 1888 when Lavigerie undertook the anti-slavery campaign...

Slavery is the reduction of human beings to being mere commodities that are sold and bought for profit as are any other "goods".





"I have already pleaded in Europe; but today it is neither the help of arms nor that of charity that I ask from you as I did before; it is a more important help, that I, as Bishop, ask of Catholics: it is the help of prayer."
 (Cardinal Lavigerie, April 19, 1889)

Modern slavery is symptomatic of the capitalistic system where profits are more important than human beings and where some people are ready to profit from the exploitation and suffering of other humans.

Currently, the price of human beings has reached a historical low! While at the beginnings of the 18th century a slave cost about \$40,000 in today's money, the current rate for a human slave is \$90. The huge number of those living in poverty has increased the supply of people for the slave trade, thus reducing the price...

All over the world millions of children and adults slaves are forced to carry out activities such as; soldiers, prostitution, domestic servants, farm workers, stone breakers, fishermen, child actors in porn videos, forced marriages, mining, road constructions, textile mills, the list is endless.



Positive initiatives

Today, as in the past, people of different faiths and cultures, all over the world, are working to end slavery for good... Many governments have a department to combat trafficking. Though still very few, a number of corporations are fighting slavery, human trafficking, and

child labor, by improving working conditions all along the supply chain.

The way forward

Greater efforts are needed to end slavery definitively. Everyone has a role to play: governments, international organizations, corporations, consumers, the victims, the population and **YOU**. We have to work at the root causes to create a society and an economy at the service of life for all, where the human being is at the centre and creation is respected (Kingdom of God).

What we can do?

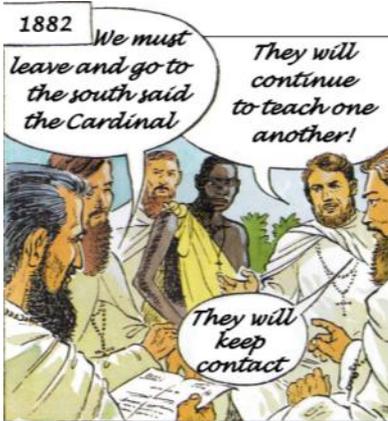
Open our eyes to see and denounce; Circulate the information to create awareness; Collaborate with organizations...

Slavery is a crime because it denies the fact that "all humankind are born in the image of Jesus Christ, they are new Christs and hence brothers (and sisters)"
 (Cardinal Lavigerie, July 1, 1888)

Begoña Iñarga, Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa - MSOLA

Our Founder Cardinal Lavigerie (10) The beginning of the mission in Uganda

On February 17, 1879 Fr. Simon Lourdel and Brother Amans Delmas were the 1st Catholic missionaries to enter Ugandan territory ruled by King Mutesa. In spite of many difficulties they were able to attract aspirants to the new faith and to celebrate the first ever Catholic baptism in Uganda of 4 young men on March 27, 1880.



The powerful king was unpredictable and kept on changing his attitude towards Catholics, Protestant and Muslims, favoring one group now and opposing it the following day. Finally after King Mutesa decided to turn against Christians altogether the missionaries had to cross Lake Victoria in a 28-day journey to the other side of the lake for safety (November 1882).

The remaining aspirant Catholics went underground to pray together, teaching newcomers

while keeping contact with the Missionaries. Following the King's death two years later (Oct 9, 1884) Mwanga, the 19 years old successor, called back the Missionaries.

"My Fathers are back!" were the King's words as he organized a great celebration upon the missionaries' return.

One of the catechumens, Joseph Mukasa told Fr. Lourdel:

"You went away 1,051 days ago. Time seemed to drag and we were getting worried. We had begun to despair of ever seeing you again, but we continued nevertheless instructing our brothers and children, for we were told ourselves that, if our Fathers were to come back only after our death, they would find the divine doctrine still alive in many hearts!"

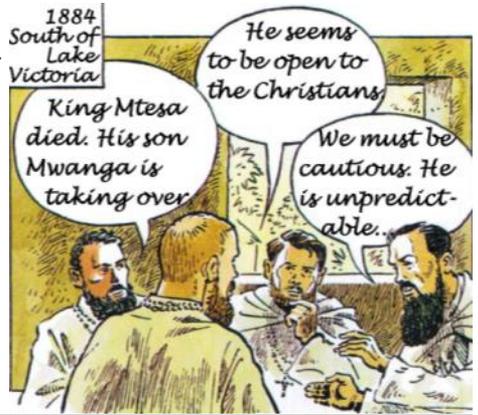
It happened on many occasions that a young Catholic would turn up with a group of new catechumens: *"Here are those I have instructed. There are another 30 back in the village; they will come to see you soon!"*

"God's work continued to be carried out marvelously during our absence" were the words of Fr. Lourdel on witnessing the growth of the Christian community.

"The catechumens are becoming too numerous, and most of them will be too far away to come to us for instruction. How can we oblige poor women to walk 15 to 20 miles in order to attend catechism?"

It is up to the missionaries to go to the villages and make their residence there if we want evangelization to advance steadily. This will be possible only if we can be more missionaries on the job."

It seemed by now that all was well. Yet Fr. Lourdel already sensed how much everything would depend on the favorable disposition of king Mwanga...



Come and See!



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How you can help us:

- Above all, please help us with your prayer for vocations and for missionaries in Africa.
- You can spread this « News Letter » through e-mail.
- You can support the formation of our seminarians by sending your contribution by check payable to « Missionaries of Africa Inc».

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