



LETTER 25

Resurrexit sicut
dixit - Halleluia
He is risen as He
said - Halleluia



BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE LA PROVINCE PIARISTE D'AFRIQUE CENTRALE

Resurrexit sicut dixit - Halleluia He is risen as He said - Halleluia

Beloved brothers,

We are an Easter people and Halleluia is our song. After forty days of meditating on the passion and death of our blessed Lord; after 40 days of journeying within ourselves to detect what could be hindering us from living life to the full, here we are finally at our Christian destination – the resurrection and new life in Christ. I am certain that both at individual and community levels, we have purified ourselves enough throughout lent, to live this Easter joy to the full.

Easter joy is contagious and we live it fully in the context of a Religious community in a more significant way. For this joy to be meaningful, we must get "rid of the old yeast and make ourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be" (1 Cor 5:6), St. Paul exhorts us in the second reading of Easter.

In sequela Christi, our Constitutions underlines the fact that : "we shall be known by all as true disciples of the Risen Lord, if wishing to know nothing but the mystery of Christ crucified, we keep his new commandment. We draw the love, with which we love one another as He loved us, from him who gave up his life for his friends, and dedicate our lives to the evangelization of children and the poor, and while death is at work in us, life increases in all" (C18).

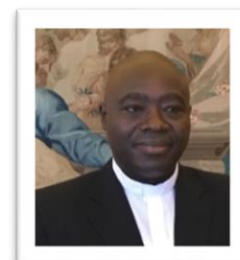
However, for the Easter joy to be complete, we must get rid of the old self and put on the new image of the Risen Lord, by denouncing the anti-communitarian values in us that do not reflect the image of the Risen Lord. As Saint Paul tells us in Colossians 3:1 "since you have been raised with Christ, strive for the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things..."

The Holy Church of God and the Order of the Pious Schools in the world of today is not only in need of vocations, but more in search of authentic vocations that bear witness to the Risen Lord. I exhort you dear brothers to be living witnesses of the Risen Lord in your communities and Parishes; and among the youth and little children in our Institutions. Strive to live this Easter season by following the words of St. Paul – "getting rid of the old yeast...". Our fundamental vocation is to spread the good news of the Easter joy. And we can only do that provided we have been transformed by the light of the Risen Lord.

On behalf the Provincial Congregation, I extend to you and through you to all your collaborators in our parishes and schools, a very joyful and meaningful Easter. May the Resurrection of our Lord be felt in all your undertakings.

Happy Easter and God's abundant blessings.

By Fr. Evaristus AKEM NDI, Provincial



CANONICAL VISIT OF THE PROVINCIAL

In the framework of his canonical visits to the different Piarist communities of Central African province, the Provincial traveled this time to the community of Libreville (Gabon). He was accompanied by his assistant for community life, Fr Emilio Calcena. Their visit also coincided with that of Fr Pierre Diatta, the General's assistant for the circumscription of Africa.

This canonico-fraternal visit began with a very warm welcome that was given to the guests by the members of the community of Libreville. Together with the superiors, a program of interviews, visits, meetings, and book checks was quickly established. After a little rest, the superiors went to visit Malibe which is constitutes the actualité of the Piarist presence in Gabon. The fathers visited the premises of Complexe Scolaire Calasanz in Malibe 1, especially the new buildings and facilities. One could observe from this visit to Malibe that the community of Libreville is fast growing in this area. The school has grown and the attendance has also increased. We should start thinking of a physical presence with the opening of a

community attached to the current one.

Individual talks with the provincial were organized to encourage the brothers of Libreville. The books were also revised and they are all up to date. A meeting was organized with the members of the community during which the provincial encouraged the confreres of Libreville to continue in the right direction. Apart from the fact that this community is the only one to be financially self-sufficient in the province, it also remains one of the most dynamic and active Piarist communities, having a much developed pastoral life according to the 9 keys of life of our last general chapter. However, they still have to make efforts in pastoral vocation and community prayer.

This visit to Libreville was also embellished by small visits to discover the city, a visit to the Archbishopric, another to the monastery of the Clariss Sisters at Essasa, meetings with the teachers of Calasanz College and Lay Piarists, and outings of relaxation to restaurants and other sites in Libreville. In summary, it was a very fraternal visit and very rich in experience.



Picture with the
community of Libreville



With the Lay Piarist of
Gabon



Fr. Pierre DIATTA, The Provincial, his
assistant and the staff of the school
of Malibe



With the staff, Libreville



Cross section of the school of Malibe



Encounter between Fr. Emilio and
the Director of the school of Malibé,
Fr. Cornelius BANAH

EXPLORATION TO NIGERIA

From Monday March 19 through Friday March 23, the Provincial Superior, Fr. Evaristus Akem, accompanied by Fr. Romeo Nghemteu, Provincial Assistant for PV/IF, Fr. Andrew Berinyuy, Provincial Assistant for Ministry and Br. Daniel Egbuji, the first Nigerian Piarist in formation, carried out an exploratory visit to the Catholic Diocese of Ogoja, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Why Ogoja Diocese? First, because of its accessibility and proximity to Cameroon where we can create a link with the communities of Bamenda. As per 2014, Ogoja diocese pastorally served 902,975 Catholics (32.5% of 2,779,037) on 12,557 km² in 65 parishes with 99 priests (96 diocesan, 3 religious), 50 lay religious (3 brothers, 47 sisters) and 137 seminarians.

Objectives of the visit

- To know the context and study the possibilities of founding a new piarist mission in Nigeria
- To present the Order of the Pious Schools (spirituality and mission) to the new Bishop of Ogoja Diocese.
- To understand the Bishop's pastoral plan and priorities



Encounter with the Bishop
of Ogoja Diocese, Nigeria

- To implement the wishes of the previous Chapters to start a foundation in Nigeria
- To understand the proper functioning of school and parish management in Nigeria
- To study the possibility of welcoming vocations from Nigeria and also see the possibilities for initial formation and specialization of our brothers.

It was a wonderful mission that enabled us to visit some 10 parishes and several Institutions of the Diocese. We came back full of joy and thankful to God for the warm welcome that was accorded us by the Local Bishop and his Clergy. As a visionary, we remain hopeful that Nigeria remains a fertile ground for our Piarist ministry.



The missionaries in one of the picture,
full of hope for the future mission

JUVENILE EASTER

The Juvenile Easter (Yaoundé) was held from Thursday 29 to Saturday 31 March 2018 under the theme: Young, faith and Vocational Discernment. During these three days, the young people accompanied by the Piarist brothers were able to discuss on the subthemes: "young people facing the New challenges of the world", "faith" and the question of "vocational discernment".

As a result of these three exchanges, the youths had the opportunity to express their concerns and preoccupation, whether in the large group or during the different workshops. At the end of these workshops, it was noted that young people have the desire to find, in faith, the solutions to the problems they face.

With regard to the vocational question and discernment, the young people showed a greater interest. To help them more, a system of accompaniment although brief, given the time allotted was organized.

Being above all an encounter with Christ, we had moments of meditation both at the personal and collective level. The veneration of the cross animated by Father Jean-Claude, was an intense moment of intimate encounter with Christ in his suffering and moved many youths to the sacrament of reconciliation.

In addition, this year, we had the participation of youths from Equatorial Guinea, coming to live this great moment of sharing, prayer and communion. This youthful Easter experience has also been experienced in our various communities across the province.



Juvenile Easter in Yaoundé, Etetak



The 5th edition of Juvenile Easter in Libreville with 175 participants



**YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH AND
VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT**





conference in Libreville



Yaounde



Renewal of vows in the community of Kumbo



Libreville

For the greater glory of God and the service of our neighbour.

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Supérieur Provincial, PAC

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