

Spiritan Res, Box 1050GD Greendale, Harare, ZIMBABWE.

Oct 31, 2016.

Dear Friend,

A great summer of experiencing: warm welcomes kindnesses and generosity, from friends and family. Back to a more monastic life, and due to the high 30C temps. I have fallen into a less hectic pace. The jacarandas are fast laying carpets of bluish-purple. The police "by hook or by crook", continue to "fundraise", their wages come first. The economy is sliding fast, inflation up 25-35%, most supplies come from South Africa, the diminishing business people and the suppliers in RSA and a host of others, are nervous about the purposed entrance of the: Zimbabwean Bond Dollar and the projected fuel situation.

For me there is the above background to: Ministry at weekends, some teaching at the Theology College; inter-action with the lads and 'quiet' time at the residence, more frequently broken by people seeking help. Zimbabwe is now a 'basket case' with little bread and more evidence of poverty, yet in our frugality, we count our blessings, as we poorly reach out to the needy.

Recently, 17 new Cardinals were announced. Almost a dozen of who would cause us to connect with Google or a world atlas, to check their whereabouts. Not many from big metropolises, or North America or Europe. Most are from relatively small dioceses. Five are from Missionary Congregations, among them two Spiritans; Dieudonne Nzapalainga - Central African Republic, and Maurice Piat - Mauritius.

I am sure that the Pope's message can be read on different levels. For me is the expectation that the November induction of the 17 will have a strong missionary flavour; the call to all of us to show others a little of what God is like. God's identity is Mercy, Mission, Love...to which we give witness in very simple, unassuming ways not to divide or exclude, but to appreciate and learn from the other. To do this, is to make oneself available to God and strive to be God driven in a complex world.

Please be assured that your prayers and generosity, helps enormously in the formation of our future Spiritan priests. Sylvester and I are here with 16 seminarians. This summer 2016, six young men were Ordained, in Blantyre, Malawi. It was a massive outdoor event, with huge jubilation, dancing, singing, movement, joy... unforgettable. You my friend become a real part of the community from which the new priest comes. African Spiritan priests are already ministering in Ireland and doing well. And we are so ... grateful to you dear friends and benefactors who encourage us by your love and prayers... without you we could not have these beautiful celebrations of Ordination.

With love, and prayer.

Locky Flanagan CSSp., (lockyflan@gmail.com).

PS: Thank you for your prayers for my bro. Joe. In July he had an accident, improving for sure, but slow, recently he went into rehab. In prayer with us: family and friends...