The missionary spirit
News from the mission
Special file
Projects
Life of the association

in association with

SOS AFRICA
Faith without borders

SPECIAL NIGERIA

The missionary spirit
News from the mission
Special file
Projects
Life of the association

in association with

SOS AFRICA
Faith without borders

Special File
Bernard Lugan’s column

Nigeria has lost the North

LETTER FROM SAINT-MICHAEL MISSION OF NIGERIA TO FRIENDS AND BENERACTORS-No2- Sept. 2015
Editorial  by Jean-Benoît de Lacoste, president of the Association

It is because faith has no frontiers that the world needs missionaries: this mission is expanding and needs your help!

Why have two young priests been sent to the South of Nigeria while priests are needed here? Several persons have made that comment and the answer has become the watch-word of the association: because “Faith has no frontiers” and it is in that sense that the call from Father Obih was heard.

In these pages you will find details of the activities of the Priory, which is expanding thanks to your large generosity: we have our sights on a big piece of land in order to materialize the project of building a church, a school and a place for retreats, all gathered into the same building.

We have the honour of publishing the vision of one of the greater experts on Africa: Bernard Lugan who gives us the keys to understand the geopolitical and religious stakes of the great African power that Nigeria is.

Thank you for your generosity and be certain of the prayers of Saint Michael, the patron of the mission, for all your intentions.
Saint Michael’s mission
Illustrated report

Baptism of four children in Lagos

Children from catechism

A visit to a farmer

A Nigerian family

The missionary mind

It is too easily believed that being a missionary is reserved to a priest in white with a beard and a hat for the sun. It is forgetting one’s own character as a confirmed Christian. Any Christian endowed with the sacramental seal of Confirmation is or should be an apostle.

« Any Christian endowed with the sacramental seal of Confirmation is or should be an apostle »

And, if the Catholics of today were really aware of this, then Islam and all the sects of all sorts would not progress as we can notice these days. Pray, give for the Mission, but most of all, bear witness to your faith, everywhere and always.
B E R N A R D  L U G A N ’ S  c o l u m n

Nigeria has lost the North

Nigeria does not exist anymore. That colossal State of 932,000 km² populated by over 140 million inhabitants, where nature and history have outlined three main regions dominated by three main populations surrounded by a multitude of minority ethnic groups, had, by the way, never existed before the British colonization.

In April 2007 a northern Muslim from the ethnic group of Haoussa, Umaru Musa Yar’Adua, was elected as head of state. As a governor of the State of Katsina, he had introduced the Sharia. His mandate was to be four years long, but he died in 2010, that is to say one year before the end of his term, and his vice-president, Goodluck Jonathan, a southern Christian from the ethnic group of Ijo, allied to the Ibo, succeeded him constitutionally.

« Goodluck Jonathan, a southern Christian succeeded to a northern Muslim »

The political crisis which then burst out and accelerated to the current events, is based on two different interpretations of a tacit agreement, and recent political practice, of a succeeding president being from the south, with a vice-president representing the part of the country not in charge of the highest public service of the State.

At the time of the 2011 presidential election, the northern Muslims considered that, as the Mandate of a president from the North had not run up to its term, the acting president was to step back to let one of them be elected at the head of the federal State. Goodluck Jonathan, considering that the term had ended with the death of the president, applied for the place. He was elected at the close of a clearly ethnic regional ballot. The country was then cut in half, the North with a ballot in favor of a northern Muslim candidate as a whole, and the South in favour of a southern Christian candidate, as the map clearly shows. Since 2009, a fundamentalist Muslim movement, the name of which is Boko Haram, has been bathing the North of Nigeria in blood, in trying to exacerbate the fracture
between the North and the South of the country in order to force the independence of the North and turn it into a theocratic state in the tradition of the emirates of the XIXth century.

« Boko Haram is bathing the country in blood »

That movement has amplified, based on the geographical, anthropological, ethnic, historical and religious foundations, which is turning this huge region lying on the borders of Nigeria, both Niger and Cameroon, into a prime center favorable to its movement.

« The North is being turned into a theocratic state »

First Boko Haram launched attacks against Christians in order to induce them to leave the region, then they attacked anything representing the Nigerian State. In 2004, the movement got into a phase of territorial conquest, managing to drive away the army and the federal administration from huge areas in the North of the country. That strategy resulted in massive slaughter in the villages accepting the federal authority and the policy of terror illustrated by the kidnapping of schoolgirls in order to paralyse the populations and prevent them from resistance.

The army and the federal government are militarily powerless in what has become a war between North and South. The federal army of Nigeria being perceived as a foreign occupying force by the northern population, has been, up to now, just able to take blind reprisals which has driven the population down the road toward radicalization.

« The movement has moved into a phase of territorial conquest »

As the federal army of Nigeria is mainly composed of southern Christians terrorized by Boko Haram’s methods, it retreated to its barracks, giving away a part of the region to its adversaries. At the end of August 2014, Boko Haram placed part of the supervised territories under the rule of an Islamic caliphate. Nigeria does not exist any more and Niger, Cameroon and Chad may experience Islamic turmoil in turn.

Bernard Lugan, a French historian specialist in Africa
**Future projects . . .**

In the short term, we need to finish extending parts of the roof of the chapel giving an outside shelter to our growing congregation on Sundays. We also need to invest in printing machines in order to produce many leaflets, booklets for mass and newsletters we have just developed so that our parishioners can distribute them around. Finally, we have to get a few song books for our emerging choir.

Then we have to save the main amount of our revenues to finance the buying of a piece of land. Enugu is in full expansion and property is expensive here compared to other regions. On the other hand, we have to think of a sufficiently large piece of land to house the priory, the church, the primary and junior schools for girls and boys. We are also thinking about a center for spiritual retreats.

**The life of the association**

In parallel with the mission, our association is developing itself to intensify its development and make ambitious projects possible in Nigeria.

We are working on two levels:

**Development of a physical site:** a superbly decorated stand (thanks to a printer) on Association day at Bailly in October 2014, helped us meet many persons interested in our projects and ready to help the mission medically, spiritually, but also with equipment or finances. We used the opportunity to sell handmade rosary beads with the colours of Nigeria. What a success!

**Development of a Web site:** We are now on Facebook, where anyone can read our newsletters, for practical information and useful links.

We were lucky to welcome a group of Nigerians visiting France and specially the Lourdes sanctuary, on the feast of Christ the King at the end of October. Father Gregory, who was with the pilgrims, was setting foot in France for the first time.
I would like to be a missionary, Despite my lowliness, I would like to enlighten souls. Like the prophets and doctors, I have a vocation to be an apostle...

I would like to travel round the world and teach your name, but, my Beloved, a single mission would not be enough as at the same time I would like to proclaim the Gospel in the five parts of the world even to the most remote islands...

I would like to be a missionary not only for a few years, but I wish I would have been one since the creation of the world and be one up to the end of time.

Pray, pray, pray for the conversion of souls and for our missionaries!!!

Prayng with the mission

The priests of the Mission went and encouraged two priests persecuted by their bishops because they refuse to give communion in the hand; they also want to celebrate the mass of all time. But, on the way back, they had a brush with the police who wanted... some money. They needed to be tough and most of all very patient: the money from the benefactors could not be squandered!

Prayer from Saint Teresa of Lisieux for the mission.

Thanks to your generosity, the priory is getting better equipped. The security of the mission is now properly maintained. Father Gregory was able to get about forty missals from the United States for the faithful. The extended parts of the roof provide a better shelter for parishioners on rainy days during Sunday Mass in Enugu. One side still remains to be built.

« Father Gregory was able to get about forty missals from the United States »

Bishop Bernard Tissier de Mallerais at the mission of Enugu.

Father Benedict with three children from catechism.

Father Gregory's handling scapulars after Sunday mass in Enugu.

A young parishioner in Lagos.
Why donate to MISSION IN AFRICA?

Each euro that you give allows us to do some good here.
Our parishioners sometimes live on 3 euros a day with their families.
THANK YOU so much for what you enable us to do !!!

USE OF DONATIONS since July 2014:

Monthly donations:

Simple donations:

Your donations will enable us to buy a piece of land to build a church, a school, a priory and a center for spiritual retreats.
We are not short of projects, but the sinews of war are lacking.

Your donations will enable us to build a church, a school, a priory and a center for spiritual retreats.
We are not short of projects, but the sinews of war are lacking.

FOR INFORMATION:

DISTRICT HOUSE
Our Lady Queen of Africa House
P.O. Box 14881
Bredell 1623
South Africa
Tel: (+27) 11 396 1807
Fax: (+27) 866 970 120
FSSPX.AFRICA.SEC@GMAIL.COM

MISSION:
St Michael’s Priory
15 Umukwa Street
Independence Layout
Enugu - NIGERIA
SSPXNIGERIA@GMAIL.COM
CONTACTSOSAFRICA@GMAIL.COM

Join us on facebook: SOS AFRICA

THE MISSIONARIES

Father Peter
Chrissement, a french missionary
The Prior.

Father Gregory
Obih, a Nigerian priest.

Father Benedict
Laignelot, a french missionary.

How to help us:

In Euros (UE), by cheque
payable to «Mission de la Fraternité Saint Pie X»
sent to:
SOS AFRICA
5, rue de la ceinture, Bâtiment B8
78000 Versailles, France
or bank transfer your donation, mentioning
«pour le Nigeria»
IBAN : FR76 3000 3008 1400 0372 6218 101
BIC : S O G E F R P P

In American Dollars (USD), by cheque
payable to: «Society of Saint Pius X» sent to:
SSPX African Missions - Regina Coeli House
11485 North Farley Road
USA - Platte City MO 64079, USA
(Tax receipt sent on request for US residents)

In British Pounds (GBP), by cheque
payable to: «Society of Saint Pius X» sent to:
SSPX African Missions,
St George’s House
125 Arthur Road,
GB - Wimbledon Park SW19 7DR, Great Britain

In Australian Dollars (AUD), by cheque
payable to: «Society of Saint Pius X» sent to:
SSPX African Missions
280 West Botany St
AUS – Rockdale NSW 2216, Australia

To donate: PLEASE SPECIFY IN AN ACCOMPANYING NOTE THE MENTION « FOR NIGERIA».