

# SOS AFRICA

*Faith without borders*

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

Special File

## Bernard Lugan's column

### Nigeria has lost the North



## Summary

- 2 Editorial from the president
- 3 Saint-Michael Mission  
The missionary mind
- 4 Special file  
Bernard Lugan's column
- 6 Projects to come  
Life of the association
- 7 What's new at the mission ?  
Praying with the mission
- 8 Why do we need help ?  
Donations



Un paroissienne d'Enugu



**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 !**

**W**hy 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.

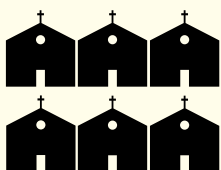
We have the honour of publishing the vision of one of the greater experts on Africa : Bernard Lugan who gives us the keys to understand the geopolitical and religious stakes of the great African power that Nigeria is.

Thank you for your generosity and be certain of the prayers of Saint Michael, the patron of the mission, in all your intentions.

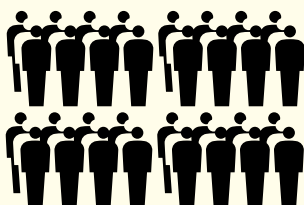
## THE MISSION IN FIGURES IN NIGERIA SINCE 2012



3 PRIESTS



6 MASS  
CENTERS



300  
DEVOTEES

## THE MISSION ON A MAP



Mass Centers of the mission in Nigeria



# Saint Michael's mission

Illustrated report



Baptism of four children in Lagos



Children from catechism



A visit to a farmer

## 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 by the sacramental seal of Confirmation is or should be an apostle.

*« Any Christian endowed by 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.**



A Nigerian family





### BERNARD LUGAN'S column

## Nigeria has lost the North

Nigeria does not exist any more. That colossal State of 932 000 km<sup>2</sup> 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 at the head of the 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, as the Constitution says.

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

The political crisis which then burst out and accelerated the current events, lies on two interpretations of that tacit agreement and of a recent political practice saying that the presidency should be operated in turn by a president

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 turn of the northern ones had gone, 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, which name is Boko Haram, has been bathing the North of Nigeria in blood, in

### The dominating three ethnic groups in Nigeria

- The Ibo, totalizing about 18 % of all the Nigerians, live in the South-East and are Christian at a large majority.
- The Yoruba represent about 22 % of the population and are concentrated in the South-West. Among them are found Muslims and Christians as well as animists.
- The Haoussa-Fulani-Kanouri are about 25 % and live in the North. The Haoussa-Fulani (or Haoussa Peul)-Kanouri actually form an ethnic confederation, the component parts of which are clearly individualized. They have a strong warlike tradition, are northern and Muslim. Before colonization, they were organized in powerful empires, their main spiritual chiefs being the emir of Kano and the sultan of Sokoto.

The whole political problem of Nigeria amounts to the three main groups living together, to their capability to negotiate a share of the power and of the wealth. For many decades after independence, the northern ethnic confederation supervised the army, and so the power. It is not the case any more today.



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 favourable 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, ma-

### Boko Haram

Boko Haram is a part of an acronym coming from two words placed side by side : the English word Book and so Boko, and the Haoussa language word Haram meaning "forbidden". Its signification is that the book representing the Western civilization and the Bible too, is forbidden. The only book authorized is the Koran. Boko Haram has an official name in Arabic : Jama'afu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Juhad, which means : People committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's teaching through Jihad. This movement was launched in 2002 at Maiduguri, the main town of the State of Bornou.

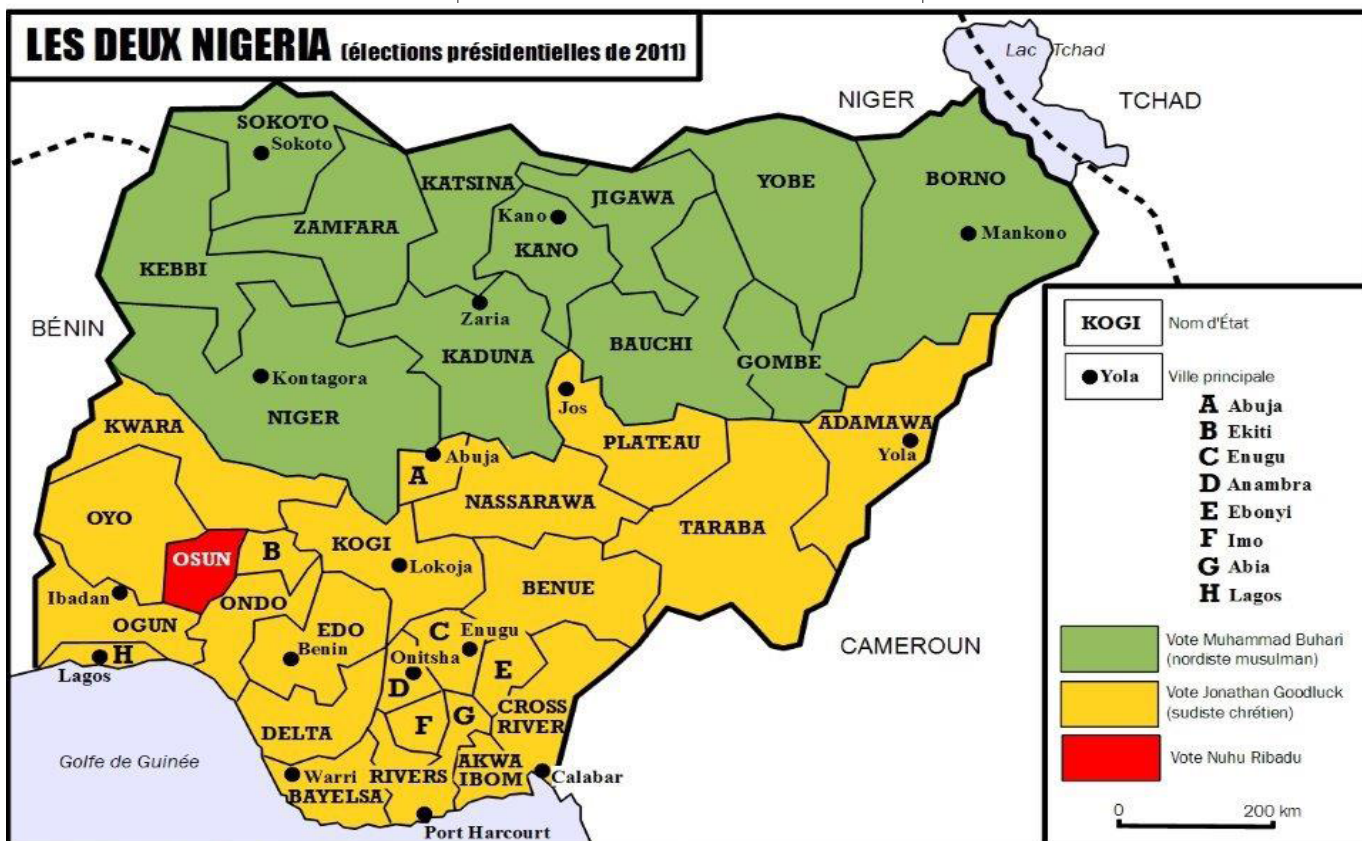
naging to drive away the army and the federal administration from huge areas in the North of the country. That strategy resulted in massive slaughter in the villages accepting the federal authority and the policy of terror illustrated by the kidnapping of schoolgirls in order to paralyse the populations

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 so that we can print 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.



*An extending part of the roof of the chapel in Enugu*



*Parishioners at work*

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.

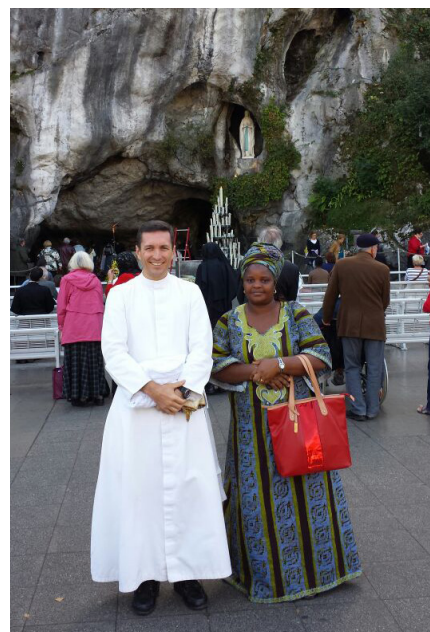
We are working on two levels :

**Development of a physical site :** with a superbly decorated stand (thanks to a printer) on Association day at Bailly, on October 2014. That 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.

*« Association day, making contacts, selling of rosary beads, distributing newsletters, the opening of a website and meeting with Nigerians. »*

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.



*Father Peter and Henrietta Ononiwu at Lourdes for the Pilgrimage*



*The stand SOS AFRICA on Association day*



What's new at the mission?



Bishop Bernard Tissier de Mallerais at the mission of Enugu.

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 »

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!



A young parishioner in Lagos.



Father Benedict with three children from catechism

PRAYNG WITH THE MISSION

Lord  
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 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.

Prayer from Teresa of Lisieux for the mission.



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

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

# Why to donate to SOS AFRICA ?

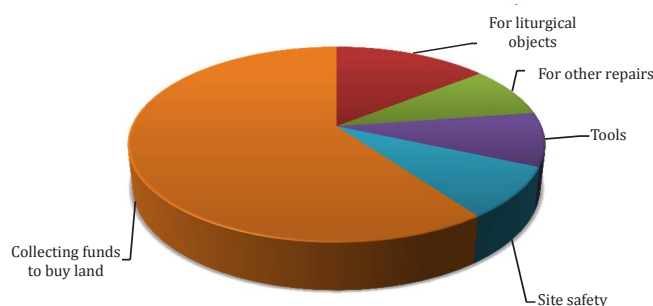
Each euro that you give allows us to do **some good** here.

Our parishioners sometimes live on **3 euros a day** with their families.

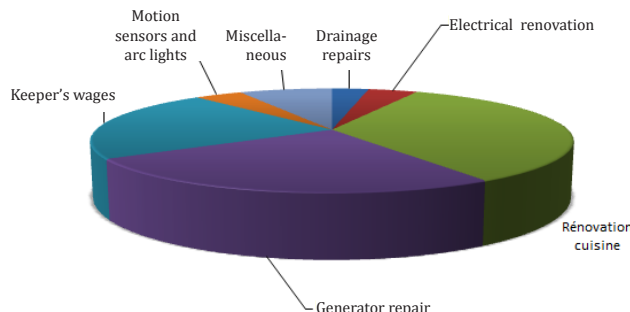
**THANK YOU** so much for what you enable us to do !!!

## 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.

**TO DONATE:** In euros Send a check and make payable to "Mission de la Fraternité Saint Pie X" or bank transfer your donation, mentioning "pour le Nigeria"

IBAN : FR 76 3000 3008 1400 0372 6218 101

BIC : SOGEFRPP

**In American Dollars (USD)**, by cheque, payable to: "Society of Saint Pius X" sent to:  
SSPX African Missions - New Regina Coeli House

11485 North Farley Road

USA - Platte City MO 64079, USA

(Tax receipt sent on request for US residents)

## THE MISSIONARIES



Father Peter Chrissent,  
a french missionary  
The Prior.



Father Gregory Obih,  
a Nigerian priest



Father Benedict Laignelot,  
a french missionary

## THE ASSOCIATION AGENDA

### Upcoming events :

- Wine sales for the upcoming mission.
- Setting up of an information leaflet with details of the missionary needs
- The putting together of a web site so that you can read about us, see pictures and donate on line.
- Sending our report N° 3 - April/May 2015.

### CONTACT :

ASSOCIATION :

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78 000 VERSAILLES

contactsosafrika@gmail.com

MISSION :

St Michael's Priory

15 Umukwa Street

Independence Layout

Enugu - NIGERIA

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