

SOS AFRICA

Faith without borders

**How are things progressing in the District of Africa?
What does the future hold?
What's the latest news from St. Michael's Mission?**

Breaking news

Soon some land
to build the Mission

Summary

- 2 A word from the president
- 3 St. Michael's Mission
The district today
- 4 Breaking news :
A new site
- 6 An update from Nigeria
- 7 The latest from the Mission ?
Pray with the mission
- 8 Help us
Make a donation



Planting of the cross to claim our new territory



The editorial By Jean-Benoît de Lacoste,
president of the association

Here are the very foundations... of Hope!

We are thrilled to announce some excellent news: thanks to you we have acquired a large plot of land close to the centre of Enugu. For us here at the association it is a fresh start which promises to open up lasting and exciting prospects for our Nigerian missionaries. It will enable us to make a start on our numerous projects, including the chapel, school and gymnasium and thus allow our missionaries to travel around for the benefit of the souls of Nigerians. We have ever more need of your prayers and your support. The number of well-wishers grows steadily and we have already earned the trust of some politicians! We take this occasion to launch a large campaign of monthly donations of 10€ each in order to cover the costs of the mission and the loans we have taken out.

In this edition you will also find detailed news about life in Nigeria and a splendid map to help you visualise the expansion of the mission in the 'giant' of Africa. Finally, you can ask your children to pray for the conversion of Muslims with the aid of the picture of Our Lady included for this purpose. There is great need to fight against this malign influence, which is making itself felt more and more in Africa.

On behalf of the missionaries and volunteers of the association I wish you a happy and holy Christmastide in advance and thank you once again for your loyal support.

THE MISSION IN NUMBERS

SINCE WE STARTED (2007)



258 BAPTISMS



27 MARRIAGES



96 CONFIRMATIONS

AND OVER **400** PARISHIONERS SPREAD OVER 8 TOWNS

The current situation in the District

By Father Loïc Duverger, former superior of the District of Africa



Father Duverger surrounded by some of the Nigerian faithful

Your mandate as superior of the District of Africa came to an end a few months ago. Could you sketch out for us the state of affairs in the African apostolate?

The apostolate in Africa would be limitless were it not for the lack of priests, brothers and religious available to devote themselves to it. Catholics and non-baptized alike in their droves desire the authentic Christian life, nourished by the light of the faith and strengthened by the Church's teaching and her sacraments. Devoted as they are to the accomplishment of this apostolate which pushes them to the very limits of their capacities, our fellows must also turn their hand to builders of churches to celebrate the Mass in all its liturgical splendour, of priories for the needs of everyday life and to receive the faithful and also of schools to accomplish the great work of forming our youth.

«The apostolate in Africa would be limitless were it not for the lack of priests»

This exhausting work demands all their strength but it produces wonderful fruits. The progress is to be measured in baptisms, confirmations, marriages and even in the last rites, all of which are constantly on the rise. This reaping of souls who join themselves forever with Jesus-Christ and his His Church is the crowning achievement of our unremitting labour.

Our only regret: not being able to respond to all of the calls, being forced to admit that our human and material means are not sufficient, coming up against the numerous obstacles to conversions which Providence does not allow us to overcome immediately.

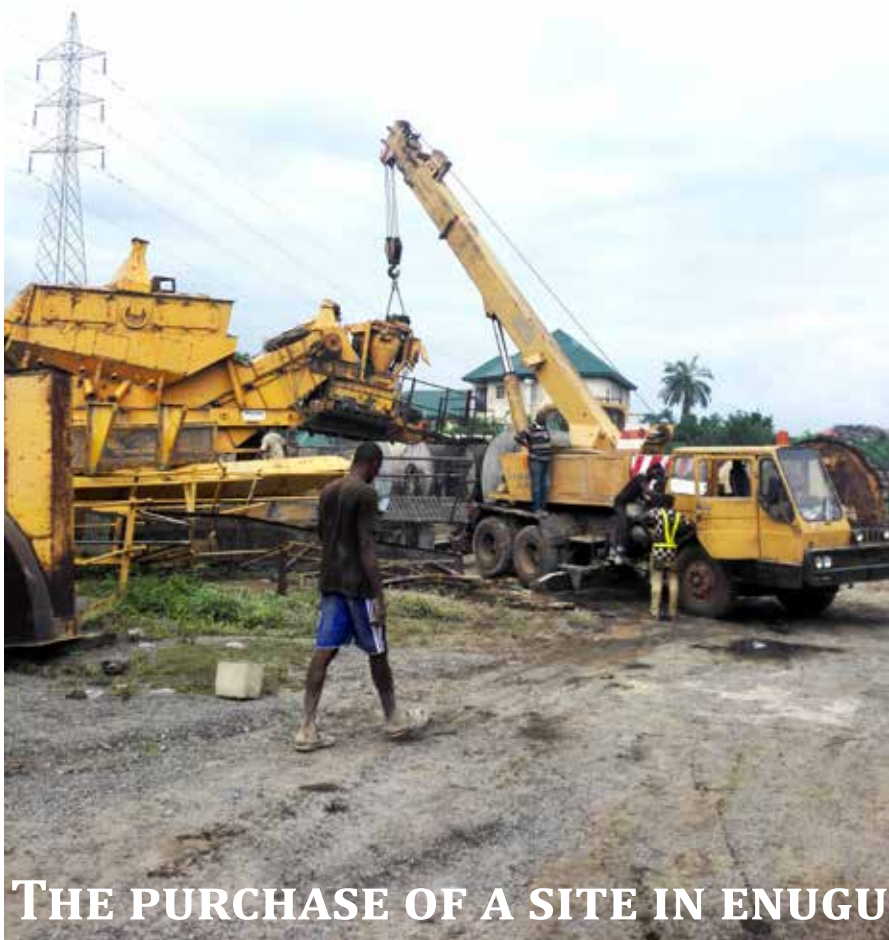
What's the outlook for St. Michael's Mission in Nigeria?

It's the youngest of our priories in Africa, but the little mustard seed which has come up against so many obstacles impeding its growth, will become without doubt a great tree, laden with excellent fruits. Nigeria faces considerable religious challenges but the sacrifices of many Catholics is a fount of grace for coming generations.

«In the near future, our Priory of St. Michael in Nigeria will be the largest in all Africa»

This country is young. With its considerable growth, the Catholic Church of Nigeria will shortly be the largest in Africa. Our Priory in Enugu, in the heart of Catholic Nigeria, plays its part in this growth, objectively demonstrating that Catholic Tradition with the liturgy in Latin naturally attracts the old but also a youth starved of the Sacred and craving the truth in all its power as well as a profound spiritual life. Without any doubt, in the near future, our Priory of St. Michael in Nigeria, will be the largest in all Africa. We have bought a plot of land in Enugu, now we must build the Priory, the church and the school to have the physical means to have a lasting impact. Our priests, to be praised for their courage and enthusiasm, do not shirk these challenges full though they may be of difficulties and worries. If, through the generosity of our donors, they could be relieved of the additional burden of running about the place searching for the necessary funding, that would be simply marvellous!

Removal of the factory equipment at the new site



THE PURCHASE OF A SITE IN ENUGU

The beginnings of a great work!

Father Peter tells us about the different stages leading up to the purchase of the site and explains the next steps to come.

We had informed you of our failure in acquiring a plot of land and of our hopes following a visit just before going to press with the last edition of your favourite review. Now we understand why God prevented us from buying the first site! Providence had better things in store, a veritable rare pearl. Over ten hectares, not on the outskirts, but right in the centre of Enugu, this property is accessible to the faithful without cars. It is at the meeting point of two of the main arteries of Enugu. Admittedly the site is not very poetic with its electricity pylons, the neighbouring shantytown (we even have the local muezzin thrown in for free), but being relatively flat, it will allow us to construct the necessary

buildings for the Mission. Nevertheless we had to battle hard as initially we couldn't even foresee raising half the asking price!

« Providence had better in store, a veritable rare pearl »

Our lawyers looked into it with alacrity and after negotiating the price we were able to sign on the 24th of May, the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, who is most notably invoked for her powerful intervention against Islam. It was a close call: just one hour before the transaction we were 20% short of the necessary sum, one of the joys of fluctuating

exchange rates and transfers. In the end we received the money moments before signing. As for the sales agreement, which ought to have been pre-prepared by our lawyer, it had to be corrected on the spot. You have to have nerves of steel! As of now we are still waiting for confirmation from the local authorities, "two months at the outside" they said. Well that was three months ago. The owner hasn't yet finished dismantling the factory located at the site, but that should be done by the time you read these lines. At least, that's what we hope!

« You have to have nerves of steel »

Whenever we ask him, he says it should be finished by the end of the week. But we mustn't have the same weeks as him as his started the 14th of June. You will be reassured to know that we have learnt from our brief experience of local affairs and so we have kept a certain amount of the money, out of which we subtract a chunk for every week that passes without the dismantlement taking place...

The first thing to do here once we have the administration goes through is to construct or restore the perimeter wall and install guards in order to prevent squatters. Next we have to finalise the architectural plans for all the anticipated buildings so they can be validated by the local authorities. Only after that will we be able to break ground. We must think big. Based on our experiences in other Africa countries, we must anticipate now what will be necessary for the mission in thirty years' time. We must accordingly plan everything in the correct order: first the construction of

a large covered shelter which will be used as a temporary chapel, then as a depot and finally as a gymnasium. After that the most pressing thing is the construction of the Priory which will allow us to quit our lodgings which we currently rent (thus making additional savings) to be present on site to see how the work is coming along. When completed the Priory should be able to welcome ten or so priests and brothers and almost as many lay folk (volunteers, postulants, teachers, visitors etc.)

As for the church, it will have to be able to allow up to 700 people to attend Mass. We can make do with the nave to begin with and then add the sides later. It must be sufficiently beautiful and imposing to attract the thousands of Nigerians who pass by every day, less than one hundred metres away. We are planning to have a very large basement area for conferences or parish gettogethers. It will also be used, with the help of a few screens, as a school, before we install the real classrooms.

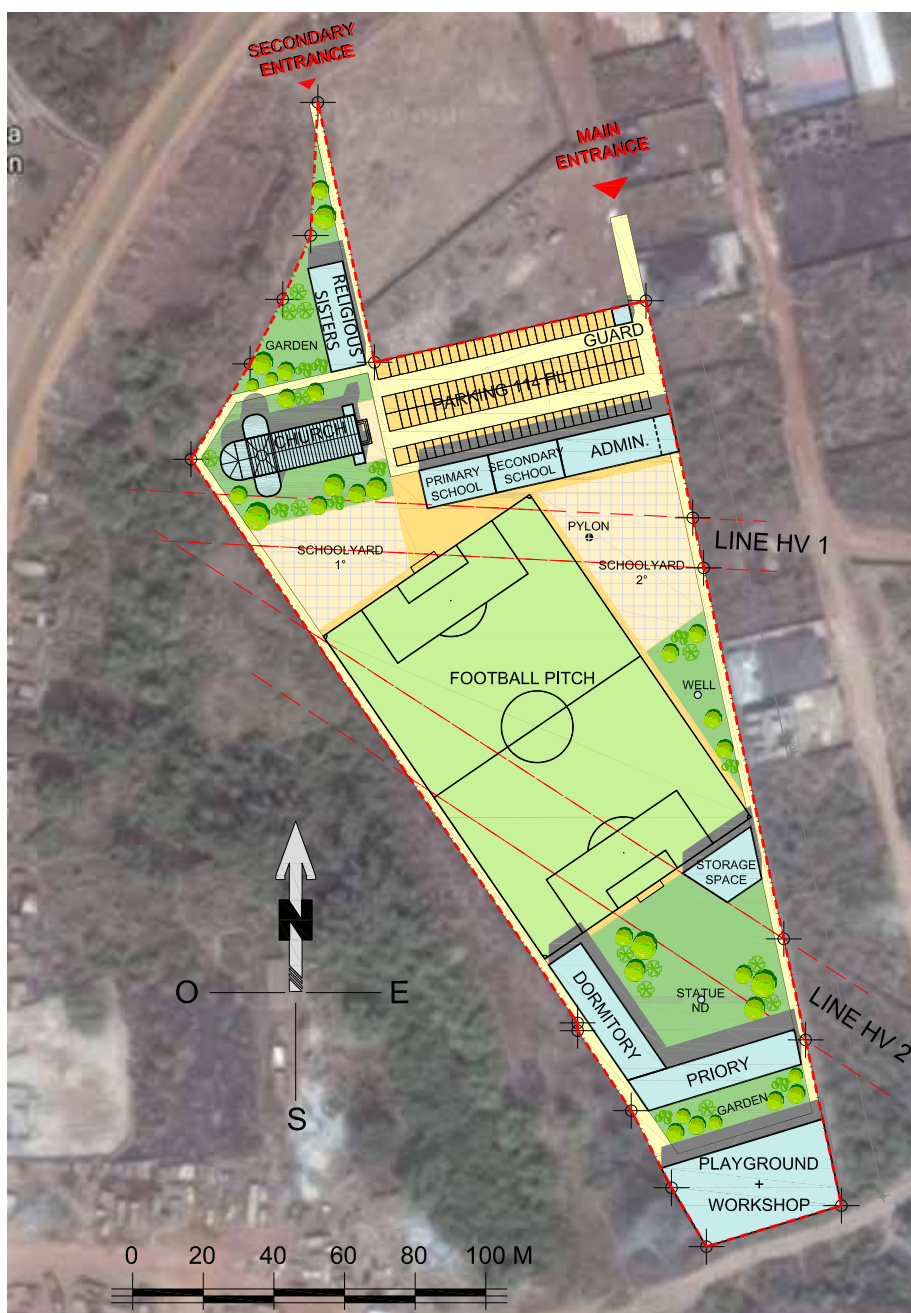
« We must think big... we must anticipate now what will be necessary for the mission in thirty years' time »

The school could be a large single-story building to begin with just a primary school, then a second level for the secondary and finally a third for boarding when it opens. Meanwhile we hope we shall have to build the house for the Karen missionary sisters who would be able to help us, particularly with the primary school and with catechism. As you will have gathered, there's not much chance we'll be in want of things to do. In

fact, the only danger is not having sufficient resources to finance this work. Nonetheless we do not let that trouble us. If the cost of the land in the town may seem surprising for those who are not familiar with overcrowding in Africa, basic materials and labour are much more affordable. Furthermore, we are now familiar with your generosity.

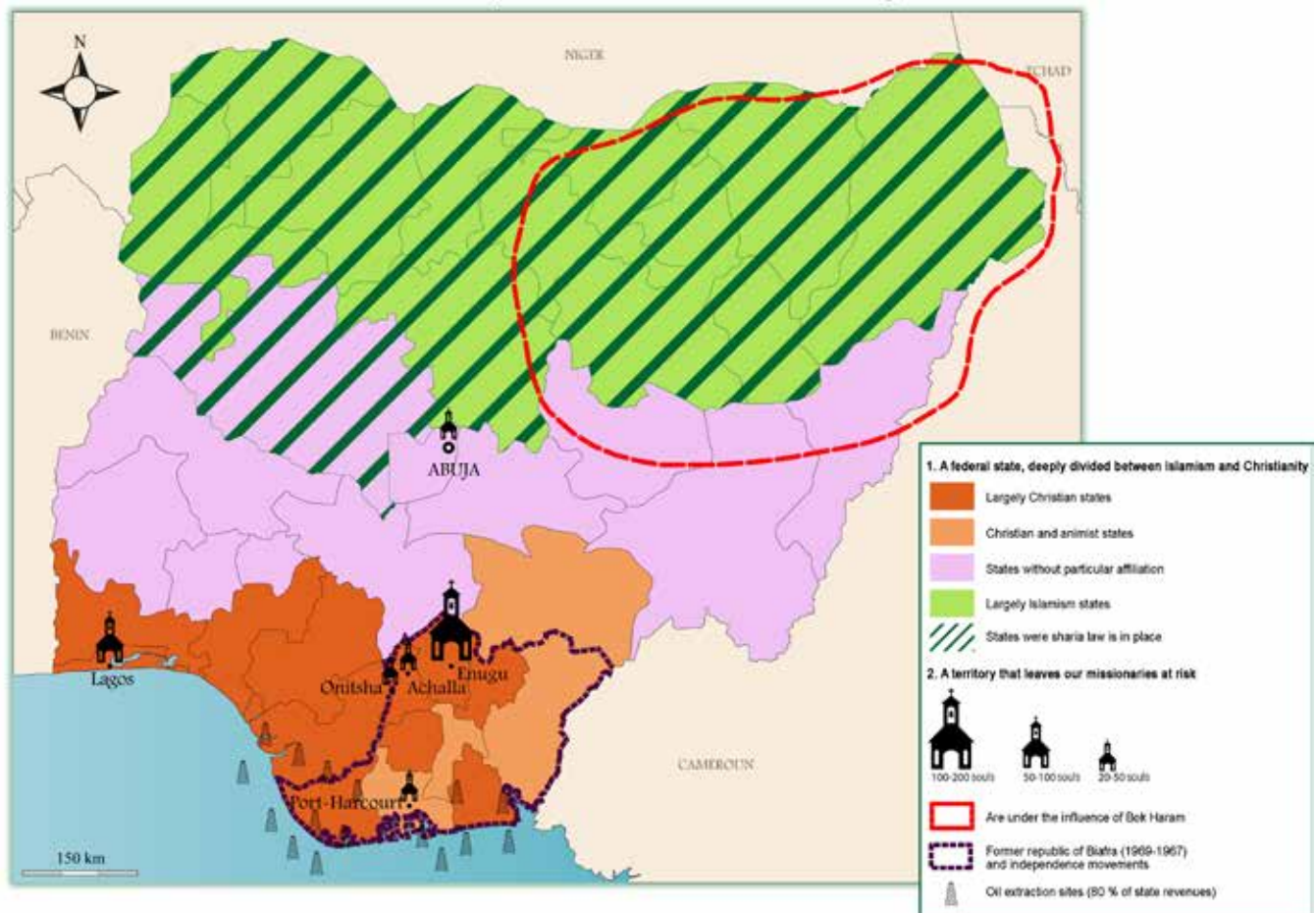
« The only danger is not having sufficient resources to finance this work »

You have demonstrated it in the purchasing of the site and we know that out of charity for these poor Nigerians you will know how to support us in this invaluable task of education and evangelisation. With the current inflation, one euros easily pays a day's wage of a labourer. Be generous, then, and very soon we shall be able to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in a fitting place and teach the Nigerian youth who thirst for God. We thank you once again for your gifts, yet more for your prayers and sacrifices. We continue to pray and invoke prayers for all our benefactors.



An inegalitarian, oil-based economy

St. Michael's Mission, in a divided and dangerous land



In Nigeria, the economy depends entirely on oil. Indeed it accounts for 80 % of state revenues. This kind of sky-high dependency is common in African countries, whose single-product economies fall prey to greed and violence.

«Nigeria doesn't have sufficient oil-refining capacity»

First of all, Nigeria doesn't have sufficient oil-refining capacity. Thus nearly all the crude oil is exported for refining then reimported to once again be reexported by the national petrochemicals giant (NNPC). In addition the major oil

companies (Total, ENI, CHEVRON or Shell) are accused of having illegally exported more than 17 billion dollars' worth of Nigerian petrol, which is supposed to have reduced their tax bill in virtue of their operations having the existing status of a joint venture. Since his election Muhammadu Buhari has hunted down these unpaid taxes, as well as a reform of the NNPC.

Another worry are the armed groups in the Niger Delta. Unlike the MEND (Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta) who continue to agitate, the Delta Avengers do not take issue with the oil companies, nor their employees, nor even the refineries. Their enemy

isn't those who run the oil industry but rather the state which distributes the proceeds unequally. They are supported by neighbouring states and by the opposition party.

« the oil production of the country has fallen by a half »

Ever since their first attack on the pipelines in April 2016, the oil production of the country has fallen by a half. The security of this key region, where our Parish of Port-Harcourt is located, has markedly deteriorated.

The latest from the Mission



Deep in discussion when visiting the site

Recently you got to know Father John. Unfortunately, he has fallen seriously ill. The austere conditions of the Apostolate and the lack of the necessary medical aid made it necessary for him to return to the United States to be treated. His absence, right at the moment when some of the faithful, rattled by the warnings of the local clergy, had decided to abandon the Traditional movement, has been keenly felt. Thankfully, our District Superior has nominated Father Pius Nanthambwe to replace him. A native of Malawi ordained three years ago, he will work at our Mission in Libreville.

« It is a courageous step which requires reflexion and the light of the Holy Spirit »

With the help of grace, new members of the faithful discover our chapels but many of them hesitate to take the leap. It is a courageous step which requires reflexion and the light of the Holy Spirit. They need your prayers and your sacrifices. So in this year of preparation for Fatima, remember the words of Our Lady: «Many souls fall into perdition because there is nobody to pray or make sacrifices for them.»



Father Pius



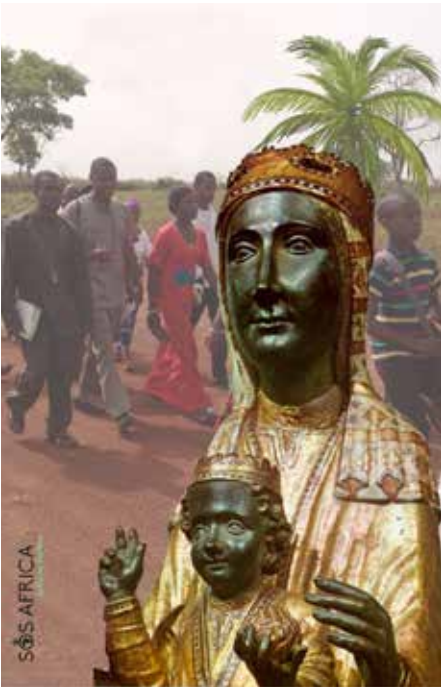
Mass in Enugu

PRAY WITH THE MISSION

Prayer by Saint Therese of the Child Jesus

O Jesus, Eternal Sovereign Priest, keep your priests under the special protection of Your Sacred Heart, where they are safe from all harm. Keep from all stain their consecrated hands which daily touch you Sacred Body. Keep pure their lips reddened by Your Precious Blood. Keep pure and detached their hearts, marked by the sublime seal of Your Glorious Priesthood. Make them grow in love and faithfulness towards You; Protect them from being tainted by the spirit of the world. Grant them with the power to change bread and wine, the power also to convert hearts. Bless their work with abundant fruits and grant them one day the crown of Eternal Life.

Amen.



O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us.

Our Lady of Africa, pray for us and for the conversion of muslims.

Comfort of the afflicted, pray for us.

Why make a donation to SOS AFRICA ?

Help us to build the Mission to keep the mission in Enugu going thanks to

OPERATION '10 DOLLARS A MONTH'

The construction of the church, priory and school obliges us to take out loans from the bank who demand that the mission provide proofs of its solubility. Taking in account the low numbers of parishioners who cannot provide for more than 25% of the budget of the mission, it is crucial that contributions from benefactors be regular. For this reason we are calling upon you to set up a monthly donation which will enable us to ramp up our activity.

EVERY DONATION OF \$10 ALLOWS THE MISSION TO BORROW \$2,000.



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 : SOGEFRPP

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 ».

OUR MISSIONARIES



Father Peter
Chrisement,
a french
missionary
The Prior.



Father Pius
Nanthambwe
Malawite
missionary.



Father Benedict
Laignelot,
a french
missionary.

L'AGENDA DE L'ASSO

Coming up :

- SOS Africa stall with rosary beads in the national colours of Nigeria, photos and videos at the 'journée des associations' in Marly, near Paris.
- The dispatching of flyers in French and English as well as personalised letters to many parliamentarians in France and Brussels.
- The preparation for the launching of our website in early 2017!

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
fsspax.africa.sec@gmail.com

THE MISSION :

St Michael's Priory
15 Umukwa Street
Independence Layout
Enugu - NIGERIA
sspaxnigeria@gmail.com
contactsosafrika@gmail.com

Follow us on facebook [sos.africa](https://www.facebook.com/sos.africa)

