

SOS AFRICA

Faith without borders

**A fruitful Mission !
A website to support
the mission**

OPERATION

\$10 A MONTH

www.mission-sosafrica.org



Special report :

The experiences of

Fabienne Monclar

in Nigeria

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Adoration of the cross



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

What a wonderful thing it is to support our African missions!

At the same time as France is gripped by election fever, Christians continue to be persecuted, with relatively little fuss made, whether it be in the Middle East or in Africa. The need to help Africa, spiritually and through education, has never been so strong. It is the role of the Catholic missions to perform this task. The mission in Lagos, which you can read more about here, is a good example.

You will also discover in this update, Fabienne Monclar who has recounted to us with passion and talent her experiences as the wife of an operational soldier in Africa in her book "Une blanche avec sa croix" (A white woman with her cross), a work which I recommend to you all.

Our projects are numerous and so our young association is in need of restructuring in order to be more effective. To this effect a website has just been launched in order to increase our visibility and thus be able to reap more fruits.

I take this occasion to thank all of our volunteers who put their talents and their expertise at our disposal as well as all our donors whose aid is invaluable for our African missions.

France, through its history and its Catholic culture, is obliged to continue to help these missions which are calling for our aid.

THE MISSION IN NUMBERS IN A FEW KEY FIGURES

30 HOURS

THE CUMULATIVE TIME
SPENT TRAVELLING BY OUR
THREE MISSIONARIES EVERY
WEEKEND

35 DOLLARS

THE SUNDAY
COLLECTION AT ENUGU

+1800

COMMUNIONS
EVERY MONTH

\$57 EVERY MONTH

THE AVERAGE MONTHLY
SALARY OF A NIGERIAN

\$1 PER DAY

THE COST OF FEEDING
ONE PERSON IN THE
PRIORY

70 HOURS

OF CONFESSION EVERY
MONTH

The Mission in images

Now the land has been bought, the work can finally begin.



The entrance to the site with its splendid gate which has now been finished



The old encircling walls in need of restauration



Inspection of the work on the gate and the wall by Father Benedict



Adult catechism by Father Pius



A procession in Enugu



Finishing the gate



The construction of a wall around the site



Father Peter checks up on the work



FABIENNE MONCLAR GIVES HER ACCOUNT ... **An exclusive interview**

Fabienne Monclar, daughter of General Monclar (one of the giants of the Great War, in the first wave of the resistance and a hero of the Korean war) has just published a book of her memoirs intitled "Une blanche avec sa croix" (A white woman with her cross) which recounts the periods spent with her husband, an officer of the Foreign Legion in Djibouti, Mayotte and Nigeria during the 1990s. She portrays, with passion and talent, the life of a French Catholic woman in this former English colony.....

• **Having both been born in Arica and spent several years there, you must know Africa well. What memories do you keep of it ?**

I was indeed born in Algeria and I was raised by a Kabyle woman. How could I possibly forget my nurse, Aziza, bouncing me on her knee?...

I followed my husband to Nigeria as the wife of an attaché to the Ministry of Defence. I didn't waste any time getting out of the military bubble and the embassy to mix with the local population in the towns and markets. It was

supposedly dangerous according to the rumour-mongers who dealt in fear and a kind of racism unknown in France.

You could arrive among the Africans full of 'humanitarian chic' with a sack of rice slung over your shoulder, but you would quickly realise that it was them that were there to fill you up, by sharing their interior riches with a dignity and consideration that never failed to touch and move the heart.

« The apartheid, which has supposedly been abolished, still existed »

• **What struck you the most from your time spent with the Nigerian population ?**

For a French Catholic it was discovering that in this former British colony the apartheid, which has supposedly been abolished, still existed. Black and white did not mix, something we find shocking because, contrary to what we are supposed to think, the French have never been racists and they always lived among the natives in their former colonies and protectorates.

« Among the Africans, it was them that were to fill you up, by sharing their interior riches »

The Nigerian population that I was able to visit were so incredibly kind supported by a robust Faith. I have often said that the Africans I knew were incapable of lying...

• **You go over in detail the establishment of democracy in Nigeria. How had religion played a part in this change?**

The country changed before and after the arrival of democracy. We arrived in Nigeria during the period of military dictatorships. But one day, in a country full to the brim with oil, the international community decided to create a democracy in the name of the rights of man. Inevitably as soon as there was no longer a strong régime to contain the tribal rivalries, one immediately saw sharia law established in the northern parts of the country

where there is a Hausa Muslim majority. This influence then spread throughout the entire country. The romantic notions of the rights of man only ever troubled the consciences of the West.

• **You tell us how you used to go to the 'traditional' Mass with your 'boys'. How does this liturgy respond to the needs of Catholic Nigerians?**

The 'traditional' Mass is certainly one where God is honoured. My 'boys' asked me to recite my prayers in Latin because it's 'the language of God. Africans are kind and obliging in a way that has disappeared in France.

« **The romantic notions of the rights of man only ever troubled the conscience of the West** »

In this way, they felt protected from the Christianity blended with animism and witchcraft that was becoming ever more frequent with the enculturation advocated by a synod of the bishops.

• **Do you have any advice to give to our missionaries 'on the ground' ?**

Naturally I have no advice to give them. On reflexion, the only advice I can give to the missionaries are not to eat the local meat, to follow the advice of Emile in the book and consult a Lebanese doctor, if there is one.

« **Because Africans can give lessons of courage in their faith to us, Europeans** »

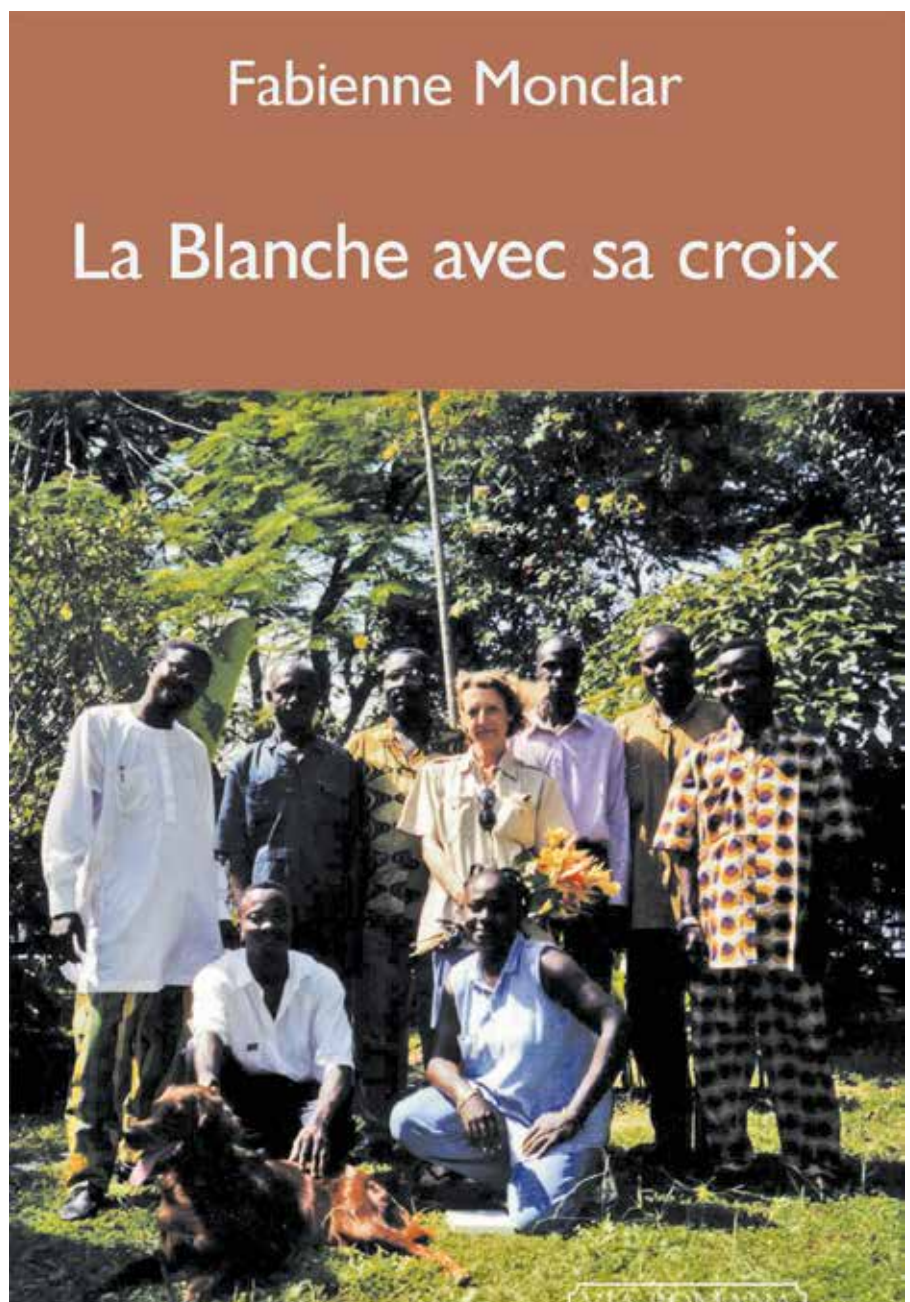
• **Finally why have you written your book : « The White with her Cross » ?**

Because Africans can give lessons of courage in their faith to us, Europeans. They are currently being persecuted crucified in the name of human rights and oil.

And I ask that we pray for these martyrs who, as I have known them, are not ready to deny their faith. For my part, to carry my cross like an emblem allowed me to know these magnificent Christians.

For your information all the royalties are transferred to the missionaries of the association «Mission».

1- *La Blanche avec sa Croix*, Fabienne Monclar, edition Via Romana, March 2017.



What's new at the Mission?

A Fruitful Mission



While we work on the plans for the mission in Enugu, we observed a peak in attendance in our chapels.

In Lagos in particular the faithful are very enthusiastic. As they are generous, they have managed to provide for a large part of the apostolate there. Many speak about the Fraternity to their acquaintances and bring friends along with them, even when in many cases it takes them two hours or more to come to Mass.

« We observe a peak of attendance in our chapels »

It is important to state that when we arrived in Nigeria in December of 2013, the traditional

community of Lagos had already been established, the first of the faithful had been recruited and organised to form a veritable family.

Today this family comprises of over one hundred members (In a town of 15 million inhabitants...) all very assiduous and fervent. We started by coming once a month, then every fortnight and now we come every weekend!

The priest arrives from Enugu (1 hour by plane) on Saturday afternoon, hears confessions, says Mass at 6 p.m then hears confessions again on Sunday morning at 7 a.m before saying Mass and returning to the priory.

Every Sunday we see new faces and the chapel is even getting a bit small. After a series of strange

meeting places (a rather wretched classroom, then the upstairs of a fast-food restaurant hired for the day and then reset after each Mass) we have been able this last year to rent, thanks to the generosity of our benefactors and of the faithful, a large room on the ground floor of a building.

« In Lagos the faithful have a chapel at last »

The walls have been repainted, the floor redone and we bought a small generator so we could install correct lighting and ventilation. Other additions include statues, a rostrum, an altar and benches. In short it is now well and truly a chapel fit for the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries.

News from the Association



Laurent Dandrieu and our president in Nantes

Projects completed :

- The launching of a website in June 2017 backed by our presence on social media.
- Collection at the exit of the conference given by Laurent Dandrieu on his book «The Church and Immigration», Nantes 6 April 2017.
- Ongoing integration into the group *Versailles Solidarité Internationale*.
- Delivery of 100 flyers in English to members of the European Parliament active in the defence of Christians throughout the world as well as meetings planned by our attaché in Brussels.

Projects to come :

- Regular updates of our website.
- Invitation of experts for a conference on Africa with a collection at the door.
- Participation in a range of charitable forums.
- Delivery of flyers to the new French Members of Parliament.

As you will have understood, we have numerous projects in progress and the construction work at Enugu that is beginning is inevitably costly: It is paramount, therefore, that we become more widely known. **We are on the lookout for any volunteers** who could devote a little of their time and their expertise to our association !



Father Benedict on visit in Achalla

PRAY WITH THE MISSION

Novena for vocations:

- S**o that our Father be recognized and loved by all ,
Lord give us holy priests.
- S**o that his name be blessed and taught ,
Lord give us many holy priests.
- S**o that his kingdom come and spread across the universe ,
Lord give us holy priests.
- S**o that his will be done and respected on Earth as in Heaven ,
Lord give us many holy priests.
- S**o that our hungering souls may be given the Bread of Angels ,
Lord give us holy priests.
- S**o that we may be forgiven our sins and forgive in turn ,
Lord give us many holy priests.
- S**o that we may resist the temptation of the Evil One ,
Lord give us holy priests.
- S**o that we may be kept from all ill ,
Lord give us many holy priests, give us many holy religious vocations.

We ask you this through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



▲ *The Paschal Vigil*
www.mission-sosafrica.org



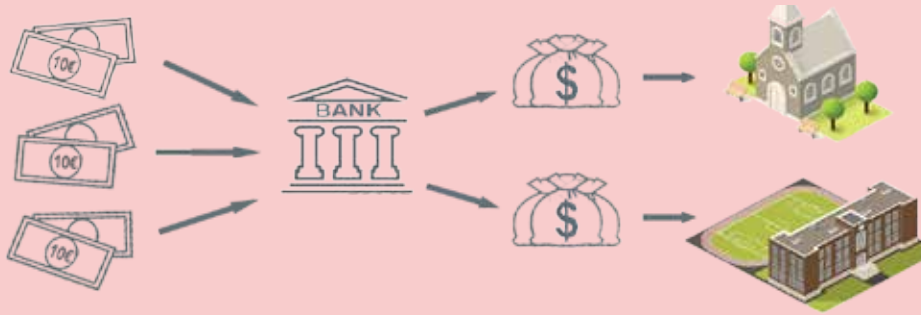
▲ *Washing of the feet, Maundy Thursday*

Why make a donation to SOS AFRICA ?

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

OPERATION \$10 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 into account the low numbers of parishioners, who cannot by themselves 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.



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: «SSPX Foreign Missions Trust» 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 MENTIONING « FOR NIGERIA ».

OUR MISSIONARIES



Father Peter Chrissent,
a french missionary
The Prior.



Father Benedict Laignelot,
a french missionary.



Father Pius Nanthambwe
Malawian missionary.

THE AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Upcoming events :

- Update on the progress of the architectural plans.
- Dispatch of leaflets in French and in English describing our work to politicians in France and Brussels.
- Launch of our bilingual French and English site in June 2017

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