

# SOS AFRICA

*Faith without borders*

Special Report

## The atypical daily routine of our missionaries



**The mission in numbers.  
The ongoing work.  
Episode 1 of Michael's adventures in Nigeria.**

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Time-defying car ▲



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

### Welcome to Nigeria !

Dear Friends,

**N**igeria, unfortunately, suffered the greatest losses from last year's terrorist attempts... In this bulletin we would therefore wish to plunge you deep into the heart of a Catholic Mission, which lies in Enugu, a city to the South-East of Nigeria. In this country, which, thanks to oil, has become the richest in Africa, the majority of persons still live in conditions of misery and anxiety owing to ever-growing insecurity and the influence of Islam to the North of the country. Under such difficult circumstances, the missionaries of St Michael's Mission are trying to serve Nigerians by setting in place a means to meet their material, scholarly and spiritual needs .

Fr Peter has taken the time to answer the questions that we all have as to the stakes and the difficulties involved in this remarkable yet demanding apostolate. The faith has no borders. You will likewise discover the associations projects for 2019 and our new chronicle with the adventures of Michael, a young Nigerian in search of a better life !

We extend our thanks yet again to you for the spiritual, moral and financial assistance that you that you bestow upon these missions which are truly in need of it. In return, the missionaries pray everyday for you .

## THE MISSION IN NUMBERS

### VOCATIONS

3 SEMINARIANS

1 POSTULANTS

5 RELIGIOUS

33

MARIAGES

+1800

COMMUNIONS

PER MONTH

301

THE NUMBER OF BAPTISMS  
CARRIED OUT TO DATE BY THE  
NIGERIAN MISSION

220

CONFIRMATIONS

+200

CONFESSIONS

PER MONTH



## The Mission in pictures

A day at the Mission



Conference by Fr. Pius



Fr. Anthony blesses a marriage in Port-Harcourt



Father Anthony's reception



Going over the plans of the future mission

### St Michael's Mission: The ongoing work

As announced before, the team of architects has just finished the blueprints of the church, unfortunately, for want of space, we can't yet give you a glimpse of it, at least not in this edition. It's the only missing part. You shall see, the church will please you. It is large, simple and classic although incorporating a lot of openings owing to the necessity of good airflow! We only now need to submit the plans to the local authority, which in itself is no small affair. We count on your prayer.

*« It is large, simple and classic although incorporating a lot of openings »*



A Father's bedroom ▲

## THE ATYPICAL DAILY ROUTINE OF OUR MISSIONARIES

**Your daily routine is quite different from that of our readers. May you describe it for us?**

*Our days resemble much those of the majority of the priests of our congregation. During the week, we have the common prayer four times a day in the chapel. The meals followed by a short time of recreation are also in common. Between these times of communal activity, we are either working in our offices or in the parlour hearing confessions and receiving such faithful as may wish to consult a priest on anything. The weekend sees us dispatched to our various outstations.*

**« What makes our apostolate different are the circumstances.»**

*What makes our apostolate different, are the circumstances under which we have to carry it out. For example, by the time we come to the chapel for common prayer at 6:30 in the morning, we already have to contend with the heat and the humidity which have one freely transpiring in spite of being directly under the fans. As if that weren't enough, the morning meditation often turns into a mosquito hunt! They have the annoying tendency of sneaking under the cassock and biting one's ankles through the socks. It's often hard to study owing not only to the heat but also to the neighbouring 'pastor' who fills the whole neighbourhood with the noise of his "exorcisms" thanks to a P.A system worth even of a football stadium. Our being located in the city also assures that we have persons other than our faithful popping in for the occasional confession. This is always a good opportunity to introduce them to Tradition even though it be sometimes necessary to literally summarise the whole catechism in doing so.*

**How much of a challenge is it to have access to drinking water? Can the local diet prove a source of health problem for the western missionary?**

*Yes, water is a big problem for us. One can't only drink whisky! Unless of course SOS Africa were to bring in many more donations... We hope to solve the problem after the completion of the new Priory which has provision for a deep borehole (100 metres) and a system of mechanical and ultraviolet filters.*

**«We now have the joy of a decent menu, at least during the week»**

*Our new cook, who knows his job quite well, takes care of us and we now have the joy of a decent menu, at least during the week. The difficulty will always be the weekend when we travel to the various chapels for apostolate. There will always be something to convalesce from during the week in the oasis of our future priory.*

**Living as close to your faithful is demanding, what have been the greatest obstacles you have had to surpass in the past five years? Are the local customs and traditions an obstacle to evangelisation?**

*The greatest obstacle is most certainly the language, more*



so at the beginning. The cultural differences can also disorient one but as we learn to know our faithful, it suffices to analyse that which can be of use to them (for example their highly developed religious sense, their piety etc) and that which needs to be overcome (over-credulity which favours superstition, an overly acute business sense which often leads to a facility in lying.)

**« The greatest obstacle is most certainly the language, more so at the beginning. »**

Most other difficulties are part and parcel of living in this country: poor infrastructure, which makes travelling tricky and even dangerous as well as the generalised insecurity. A lack of hygiene in the preparation of food often disturbs our "interior life."

**SOS accompanies you in your daily activities, how are things taking form?**

In a very real sense, the financial assistance coming from the association plays an essential role. The sheer extent of it is truly impressive especially in light of how it is all collected, but even that is not the essential.

**« Our Mission is essentially for souls and SOS Africa, by bringing you into contact**

**with the Mission, offers you the opportunity of participating in this rescue operation»**

Our Mission is essentially for souls and SOS Africa, by bringing you into contact with the Mission, offers you the opportunity of participating in this rescue operation; primarily by your prayers and sacrifices and then by

your gifts. As for us priests, the encouragement from SOS Africa is a pillar of strength in difficult times. We are not now three but hundreds and possibly even thousands labouring for the salvation of souls. Thank you. Thank you, for your support. God, as always knows how best to recompense you, that is to say, lavishly!

Water supply tank ▼



Enugu «crying chapel» ▼



## Local Chronicle:

### Episode 1 of Michael's adventures in Nigeria



What the fathers see when traveling ▲

#### **“N’ebe ugwu, aga m aga n’ebe ugwu – Towards the North, I am going towards the North”.**

To the question laid to him by an old woman in the crowded bus, Michael answers that he is heading to the North. His mind, already beyond Abuja, slides on to Niger State behind Jos Plateau, traverses the Sahara to Lybia, floats across the Northern Sea, beyond Tripoli towards Europe. When he closes his eyes, Michael sees the green terrain, the teeming cities, the wealthy houses, the large chauffer-driven limos, the blue sky bathed in light. He must reach Europe, which lies to the North, if ever he is going to be able to offer his family a new life, far from misery, far from the palm grove.

**« He must reach Europe, which lies to the North, if ever he is going to be able to offer his family a new life, far from misery, far from the palm grove.»**

Michael is 20 years old: His large determined forehead plunges into two large black

eyes that seem to overflow both with life and ardor. He was born in Aba, to the South. Together with his brothers and sisters, he works in a large plantation of palm trees kept to produce oil. Their meagre salaries are enough to place cassava on the table and allow for some paltry savings against darker days, which are carefully kept under their parents bed in their little baked-mud house. They are too poor even to dream. Robert, the eldest, has abandoned his studies in the city; his hands are not destined to cure men. The sky continues to be dark, grey and oppressive, as though the rain season should never end. Then one day, spurred on by the fire of his youth, Michael decided to leave for the North. “Father, since the sky has nothing to offer us, since the clouds wont disperse, I am going to Europe.” His father therefore handed him the savings for darker days: “Go, son, go and find brighter days.”

**« Father, since the sky has nothing to offer us, since the clouds wont disperse, I am going to Europe.»**

Thus did Michael leave n’ebe ugwu – for the North. “Ah, if only I was European.” In the overloaded bus with a thousand cramped faces, a thousand mingled destinies, a thousand hopes pressed against the dirty windows, Michael allows his thoughts to precede him in his journey. “Ah, if only I was European, my parents, my brothers, my sisters: we would be rich and happy. Europeans don’t realise the luck that God has given them ”

“What are you saying young man?” The young man had thought out loud and an old woman had heard him. “Have you ever seen a European?” “No mother,” he answers sheepishly. “Well, I have. I know two Frenchmen, two priests, they have come to establish a Mission in our country. They come here and yet you flee your country? Go to the north, you will see at Enugu, it’s along your route... to the North”

**« Go to the north, you will see, at Enugu, it’s on your**



Sick call ▲





Father Pius ▲



Visit of Father Wuilloud, the District Superior of Africa ▲

## News of the Association

### The Association's Projects :

#### Schemes for 2019

- o Translation of the website and the bulletins into English and German seeing as half the websites visitors are Anglophone!
- o Resumption of the production of Rosaries in Nigerian Colours for sale and distribution.
- o Organisation of conferences on Nigeria whenever the missionaries go to France.
- o Collection for SOS Africa during a religious concert.

### OUR MISSIONARIES



Father Peter Chrissement,  
a French missionary  
The Prior.



Father Anthony-Mary Claret,  
a French missionary.



Father Pius Nanthambwe  
Malawian missionary.

- o sensitisation of the recently elected members of the European Parliament on the defense of Christians in Africa.
- o Preparation of a brochure presenting the various construction projects to encourage contributions from benefactors.

### THE MISSION IS LOOKING FOR A BUILDING MANAGER

Wanted in Nigeria: a good Catholic faithful with experience in building construction. We have the land, we have the money for materials and local labor, but the local companies and contractors need to be managed by a trusted and experienced professional.

**We need an English-speaking building engineer** with some experience and a lot of patience, who likes adventure and is willing to sacrifice for the kingdom of Christ, who wants the grace of building a church for the True Mass to be celebrated and a school where thousands of Nigerian children will learn to save their soul.

We can adapt your pay according to your needs, but please know that we cannot afford to pay 1st world wages in a 3rd world country.

If you are in a financial position where your family is already provided for, and you now have the time to dedicate your skills for love of God to do something for His glory, something that will be your legacy, why not help this poorest mission of the Society of St. Pius X in Africa?

Contact Fr. Peter at the Nigerian SSPX Mission for more information at [sspxnigeria@gmail.com](mailto:sspxnigeria@gmail.com)

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# Why make a donation to SOS AFRICA ?

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

The construction of the church, priory and school is a large project. Even if we plan to build in three steps, we still need to follow the advice of Archbishop Lefebvre: We must have at least half of the money before commencing to build. Help us to start. **We still need \$300 000.** It is therefore crucial that contributions from benefactors be regular if we are ever to finish the work as planned. For the salvation of our Nigerian faithful, we are calling upon you to help us realise our project.

## **HOW TO HELP US:**

**In Euros (UE)**, by cheque payable to  
«Mission de la Fraternité Saint Pie X» sent to:  
SOS AFRICA  
34 bis, route de Rueil  
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»  
With the mention : «Please, for Nigeria»  
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».



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_ \$

IBAN NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

BENEFICIARY ACCOUNT : **FR76 3000 3008 1400 0372 6218 101**

BIC BENEFICIARY : **SOGEFRPP**

NAME AND ADDRESS : **MISSION DE LA FRATERNITÉ SAINT PIE X**  
OF BENEFICIARY **CENTRE COMMERCIAL SURESNES II**  
**9, PROMENADE SAINT LEUFROY**  
**92150 SURESNES - FRANCE**

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