



## FR EDDIE'S CORNER

### Robert Triumphs over Failure

Robert a young African boy got a bad start in life. His mother had very bad health and was often confined to bed for weeks. His father drank heavily and did not work. He eventually left home and was not seen again. So Robert had to stop school on order to look after the farm and take care of his mother and younger sisters. Since Robert got little schooling he was looked down on by the people and by the school children. He faced a bleak future of poverty, deprivation and social stigma. But Robert wanted to overcome his handicaps.

He started to learn English. Whenever he saw any of us going out he accompanied us and insisted on speaking English only. He got some school children to help him too in practising English. I noticed that he showed a keen interest in speaking English to tourists and foreigners who arrived. He was very courteous to them and took them to meet the local people and visit places of interest. They rewarded him handsomely. Soon Robert became the Public Relations Officer of the village and had enough money to care for his mother and younger sisters as well as advancing his own education. Robert is an example and inspiration to us all that we too can triumph over our difficulties in life.



By Eddie Brady

## Permission Cards

I wish to thank all of you who returned the 'permission card' which I sent with the last Newsletter. However, judging from the reaction of some of you, it would appear that I failed to adequately explain the purpose of this card.

Legislation is being introduced in 2018 requiring all businesses and charities to have the permission of any person to retain their name and address on their mailing lists. I am sending the cards to some of you again, asking you to put your details on one side and to tick the box on the other side if you are willing to grant us permission to have your name and address on the list of our friends to whom we send our Newsletters. Let me

assure you that there is nothing more to our request than that. Your details will not be shared with any other organization or used for any purpose other than sending you our promotion material three times a year.

One final point, if any of you would like to have your details removed from our mailing list please write to inform me and I shall do so. It could be the case that you are a family member of someone who supported us in previous years but who now is incapacitated or has even died – we don't want to be a source of annoyance to you and your family, so please contact us to remove your loved one's name from our list.

## Please Pray for our Friends who have Died

June Leggett, Bray, Co.Wicklow

(sister of Bro. Ray Leggett)

James Humphrey, Whitchurch, Co.Cork

Joan Cusack, Cavan

Peggie Fitzgerald, Caherconlish, Co.Limerick

Annie McGarvey, Falcarragh, Co.Donegal

Mary O'donnell, Kincasslagh, Co.Donegal

Annie McGlynn, Glenties, Co.Donegal

Joe Keane, Bantry, Co.Cork

Sr Josephine Sullivan, Convent of Mercy,  
Dundalk, Co.Louth

Sr Brenda McCaul, Convent of Mercy, Dundalk,  
Co.Louth

Bridget McGarry, Killatee, Cootehill, Co.Cavan

Angela O'Shea, Glencar, Co.Kerry  
(Mother of Fr.Brendan O'Shea)

Mary O'Sullivan, Teach Altra, Newmarket,  
Co.Cork

Neil McGonagle, Kincasslagh, C0. Donegal



Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.  
May they Rest in Peace with the Father

## PLEASE REMEMBER THE MISSIONS IN YOUR WILL

Our legal name is Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers).

A suitable formula is:

***I give to the Society of Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) the sum of €..... free of duty. And I declare that the Delegate of the Society who now resides at Cypress Grove, Templeogue, Dublin 6W shall be in good discharge.***

*Carry on the good work you have been doing during your life by helping to spread the Gospel after you have gone to the Father.*

# Missionaries of AFRICA

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White Fathers, Cypress Grove, Templeogue, Dublin 6W YV12  
Tel: House: (01)405 5263. email: m.africaprom@yahoo.com

## Thoughts on Petitionary Prayer

" So, I say, Ask, and it shall be given to you..."

Lk.11.9.

What's your experience? My mother died of Alzheimer's. I prayed God would heal her. He didn't. She died a vegetable. So what about petitionary prayer ? Do I believe in it ? Yes, I do. A community of sisters in the west of Ireland prays for me and all missionaries every day. I believe their prayers have an effect. How, I don't know. But I believe in the Communion of Saints – that we are all connected – and that somehow, somewhere our prayers have an effect.

I don't believe that our prayers change God's mind. They change us. When we make our petitionary prayers we are allowing God's grace to enter our hearts and change us. We become part of our petitionary prayer. So, if we are praying for Justice in the world, we look to our own Institution and make sure it is paying labourers a just wage. When we pray for the hungry of the world we first must feed the hungry nearest to us. We do what we can to bring about what we pray for. When I was in the Philippines that religious community in the west of Ireland not only prayed for the Typhoon victims but also sent practical aid. They made happen what they prayed for.

Underlying all our requests must lie that profound prayer of Jesus in the Garden: "Thy will be done ." That surrender sets us free from our own self-centredness and our desire to control. It puts God, and not us, in the driving seat.

## Novena to St. Anthony



June 13th – 21st:

Because we are convinced of the power of prayer and the powerful intercession of St. Anthony, we invited you to join us in the nine days of prayers.

Please write down your intentions, place them in enclosed petitions' envelop and return it to us.

The envelopes are placed on the altar during the Novena and burned unread at the end.

Each day during the Novena we shall be offering Mass for all your intentions.

St. Anthony is the patron of our Bursary fund for the training of missionaries.

***If you wish an acknowledgement to your letter please write YES on the petitions envelope.***

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Christian Chessel



Jean Chevillard



Charles Deckers



Alain Dieulangard

The decade from 1990 to 2000 was a terribly violent period in Algeria. Islamist political parties won the first round of the general election but the army decided to cancel the second round of voting and imposed their own rule on the country. What resulted was years of atrocities committed by both sides of the conflict.

Estimates put the number of casualties from this civil strife at 100,000. Among them was Bishop Claverie, the Catholic bishop of Oran, and 18 other sisters, priests and brothers. There was much publicity surrounding the murder of seven Trappist monks of Tibhirine but few people learned that, on the 27th of December 1994, four Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) were shot dead by Islamist fanatics in the Algerian city of Tizi-Ouzou.

The Missionaries of Africa were founded in Algeria in 1868 by Arch-Bishop Lavigerie. He was appointed as head of the Catholic Church in that country. His was the pastoral care of the near on one million Europeans who had colonized this North African country in the 19th century. However, he founded the White Fathers and the White Sisters to be witnesses of Christian love to the Muslim population of Algeria. He forbade

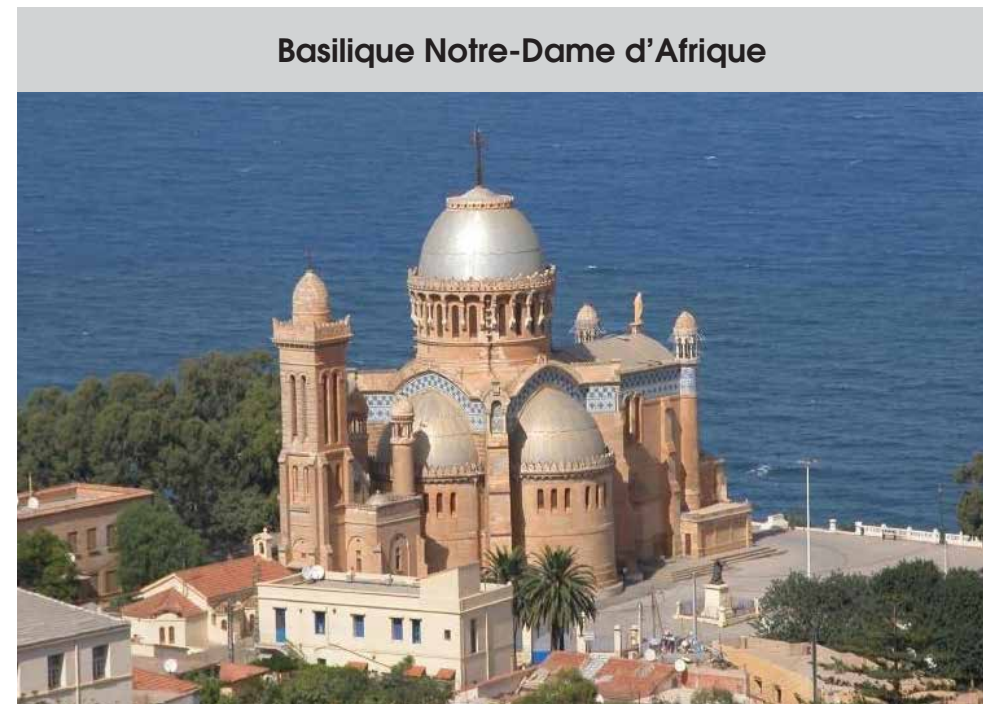
his missionaries to baptize any Algerians but to restrict themselves to witnessing to God's love for them.. Lavigerie had a firm trust that God would, in the fullness of time, bring all people together in unity under Christ.

Missionaries of Africa have had a continued presence in Algeria for the past 150 years and the community in Tizi-Ouzou lived out their witness to God's love to the people of the region in a humble and committed and prayerful manner.

The fanatics arrived at the Mission dressed as policemen. Thankfully, they locked the cook and his daughter in the kitchen. They then shot and killed Fathers Jean Chevillard, Alain Dieulangard, Charles Deckers & Christian Chessel

Fr Deckers, a Belgian, had only arrived for a visit when he was shot. He had previously worked in Tizi-Ouzou for 20 years in youth education and in training the local football team.

Jean Chevillard was shot at the door of the social centre where, each day, he received the poorest men and women in order to help them deal with bureaucratic problems regarding their retirement pensions and social welfare payments.



Basilique Notre-Dame d'Afrique

Fr Alain Dieulangard, had been the director of many primary school in the Berber villages of the mountainous regions of Kabylia. (The Berber were the original people of North Africa with their own distinct language and customs. It is thought that St. Augustine was at least partially Berber.) Fr. Alain spoke the Berber language perfectly and was a deeply spiritual man who looked for God's presence in his Muslim neighbours at all times.

The youngest member of the community who was murdered was Christian Chessel.

He had been in Algeria for only a few years. Christian was completely integrated into the student population of the university of Tizi-Ouzou where he was following a course in civil engineering. His parents were deeply upset by the murder of their son and it took them many years before they could finally accept his sacrifice.

On the terrible day of the four murders, the chief of police called the superior of the White Fathers in Algiers to give

him the bad news. He was crying and asking for forgiveness for his failure to prevent their deaths. Many Muslim friends expressed their shock and their incomprehension of their killing. At the funeral, the whole population of Tizi-Ouzou turned up to show their disapproval of the cowardly act and they loudly chanted : **"They were men of God in whom we put our trust!"**

Pope Francis has approved the beatification of Bishop Claverie and his 18 companions."

## Thoughts on Petitionary Prayer

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I like what C.S. Lewis said about petitionary prayer : that we will spend our eternity thanking God for all the prayers He DID NOT answer ! In heaven we will see the bigger picture.

On a lighter note : Did you know they now have an electronic answering machine in heaven : " Thank you for calling Heaven. If your prayer is petitionary, Press One. If it's thanksgiving : Press Two. If it's a complaint Press Three. If it's about the whereabouts of relatives : Press Four. If none of the above , hold the line and St. Peter will be with you.

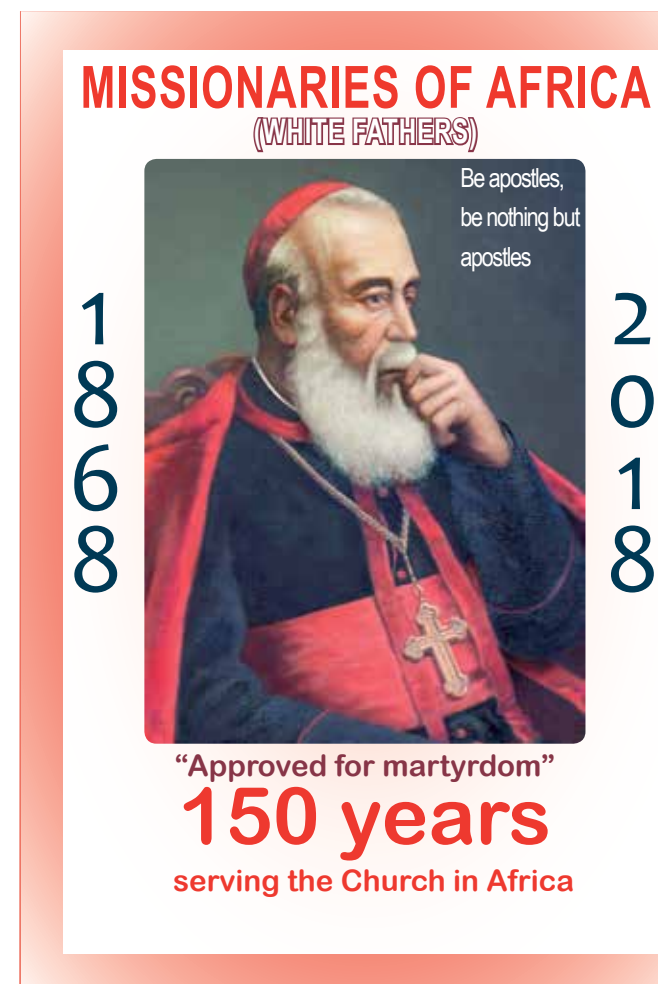
As you wait you will hear Mary singing the Magnificat with lyre accompaniment. Every

twenty seconds a voice breaks in : " Sorry, the heavenly lines are busy helping other sinners right now. However your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order in which it was received, so please stay on the line." You wait ten minutes and a voice says : Our computer shows that you have already prayed three times today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow ".

No. don't give up on petitionary prayer. Our God does not put us on hold. He is never too busy to attend to us. He holds us in the palm of his hand. He sent his Son because he loves us. Our God always listens to us. Same with St. Anthony.

Fr. Charley Timoney

## ORIGINS OF THE SOCIETY OF MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA (WHITE FATHERS)



clinics, schools, farming development. Direct evangelisation in Muslim lands could only be a distant prospect. In 1881 two groups of White Fathers set out for Timbuktu but were slaughtered by desert nomads. In 1878 ten missionaries arrived in Mombassa on the East coast of Africa and, after three months walking, settled in Uganda by the shore of Lake Victoria. By contrast with North Africa, the evangelisation of Central Africa quickly bore rich fruit.

From the start Cardinal Lavigerie insisted on his missionaries adhering strictly to three things: You will speak the language of the people; You will eat their food and (relating to their first area of witness, which was North Africa) You will wear their dress. Hence the official dress of the White Fathers is a white cassock which resembles the Arab gandoura, a white cloak which is the Arab burnous, the Arab red chechia, or cap, together with the Rosary in black and white beads carried around the neck. The term 'White Fathers' is really a nickname given to these Missionaries of Africa in the early days in France on account of their dress.

Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, Archbishop of Algiers, established the Society of Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) in Algiers in 1868. Membership was of priests and brothers. A cholera epidemic in Algeria in 1867 left a large number of orphans and the first assignment of its members was to take care of them. But from the start the Cardinal founder had in mind the evangelising of the Arabs of North Africa and that of the peoples of Central Africa. 'Algeria is only a door opened onto a continent', he wrote to a friend. In 1876 this new missionary group established posts in Kabylia and the Sahara. Their Christian witness was to be through social work,

By the time Cardinal Lavigerie died in 1892, the White Fathers were 278, from five different nationalities and working in six African countries, Algeria, Tunisia, Uganda, Tanzania, today's DRC (Congo) and Zambia. From a peak number of 3,600 in 1967, the White Fathers today number 1263, from 37 different nationalities, and are present in 44 countries worldwide, of which 23 are in Africa. Almost 500 young men are in training to become WF priests and brothers.