

KALEBALIKA

"Let your light shine"

A NEWSLETTER BY THE SVD POSTULANTS

APRIL 2008

THE YEAR THAT WAS a time



"... of discovering oneself."

- Anthony Musonda



"... of digging deep within myself and seeing clearly how I can work for our God."

- Gabriel T Musimuko Jr



"... of transformation and spiritual growth."

- John Mubanga



"... of understanding God's call and following his designs."

- Paul Mwale

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We are happy as SVD postulants to present to you our newsletter that goes by the name "KALEBALIKA," which means, the light will shine. In times of troubles, it is always good to know that the good Lord is there to shine his light upon us and guide us as he guided the Israelites in the desert with a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day, so he guides us with his light in our everyday living. As we just celebrated the death, resurrection and ascension of our lord, we realized we are born again in our faith. In preparing to celebrate Pentecost, we eagerly look forward to the power that transforms the face of the earth. We thank the Lord for sending us His Beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, Consoler and Helper—the inspiration and power that transformed our lives. As we come closer to the end of our Postulancy Program, we thank those who accompanied us in this initial journey—our formators, Fr. Al Villasante, Fr. Roger and all our professors for this wonderful period we have had. We also thank our confreres in parishes and Sisters in various convents for their relentless support.

What Do You Do for a Living?

When we think of significant anniversaries, those who get public and prominent notice are usually 25, 50 and 75. These go under the titles - silver, golden and diamond - two precious metals and one precious stone. What does one do with an odd numbered one like 47?

On April 16, '08 I celebrated with Fr. Al Villasanté and our postulants, Paul, Anthony, John and Gabriel forty seven years of being a priest in the Divine Word Missionaries. Later on in the evening, Fr. Al invited our parish priests, Frs. Lawrence, Albert and Francis over for an impromptu supper. That day, then, everything was done spontaneously and simply by having a delightful time together at two meals - the Eucharist in the morning and a little supper in the evening.

It was an odd number anniversary and a not too significant number, but when good friends get together for enjoying each other's company, taking in the nourishment offered by food and drink both spiritual and material, there's nothing odd about the significance of it.

Those forty seven years have gone by very swiftly and were full of ups and downs, ins and outs, over and under, twists and turns but through it all there was always the stability of having good friends and good nourishment, both sacred and profane.

A question that arises when we meet someone new may be something like: "what do you do for a living?" That may be done at a gathering of some kind, a birthday, a wedding, an anniversary while

talking to someone unfamiliar and holding something to eat and drink. It normally is seen as an ice-breaker and it ordinarily refers to the person's work or profession.

So I asked myself how I would answer such a question on this 47th anniversary of being a Divine Word Missionary priest. What have I done for a living all these years? At first blush, it seems almost unanswerable because there have been so many different things in so many different places. But as I live

"At first blush, it seems almost unanswerable because there have been so many different things in so many different places. But as I live longer the answer gets almost laughably simple, I celebrate."

longer the answer gets almost laughably simple, I celebrate. I celebrate making friends and helping others make friends; I celebrate the nourishment I receive in the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist following the invitation of Jesus to take in the Good News and to eat and drink the very Body and Blood given and poured out for

us; I celebrate the meals we spend together to be nourished with food, drink and friendship.

Doing those things for a living is as precious as any metal or any gem. In fact, it's more precious than silver, gold or diamonds. So I'm thoroughly grateful for what God has done for me and "all who are dear" to me as the first Eucharistic prayers states so beautifully. Now I don't have to wait for years to celebrate significant anniversaries; each day is a jubilee and a precious source of celebration.

■ Fr. Roger Arnold, SVD

LONGING FOR GOD

Once there lived a young man of brilliant mind and noble spirit who cherished one, single desire, to know the secret of achievement and success in human life. For years he pondered and prayed over this until one night, in a dream, a hoary old sage came to him bearing the answer to the secret. He said, "Stretch out your hand and reach what you can" but the young man, gravely disappointed, said: "No, it cannot be that, it must be something harder; something must be satisfying to the human spirit." The old man said softly, "you are right, it is this: stretch out your hand and reach *what you cannot!*" the Christian soul is like that. It goes through life stretching out its hand for what is beyond death, it dreams of living happily forever, it dreams of possessing God. But humanly speaking all this would be impossible; but then comes Jesus Christ and He makes the impossible, possible. He says, "I have come that you may have life, and may have it to the full ... I am the resurrection and the life;" He is the way to God.

■ Paul Mwale

Postulancy

I am the last born to a family of nine (9) siblings. From childhood, it has always been my desire to become a priest— to serve God and His people. I used to think that all priests are Diocesan. I never knew that there are also religious congregations and so many of them for that matter. My interest to join the SVD started when after serving Mass as an altar boy, I came across a paper that talked about the SVDs and their *Charism*. I felt so touched and inspired that I wanted to find out more.

Being from an SVD parish, it was easy for me to speak to the then parish priest, Fr. Joseph, SVD. He further enlightened me about the SVD— its origin, as a Religious Missionary Congregation, and its mission. The turning point in my life, which led me to be an SVD aspirant, came when I was invited to the “Come and See Program” by the then Vocation Director, Fr. Simon Nyirenda, SVD. The experience was so overwhelming that in 2007, I decided to join the SVD Postulancy Program of the Society of the Divine Word in Kabwe.

The Postulancy Program introduced me to the religious life and to live in an international community. In retrospect, the beginning was not all that easy for me,

but with time, I can honestly say that I enjoy it! I was homesick at first but after some weeks the feeling faded away to find myself already beginning to be at home. The Formation house, then, became my second home and the people, my second family.

In Postulancy, my knowledge of God, the Church, the sacraments and the meaning and reason for existence became broadened through a system of personal growth which the acronym, *PSAACA* (Physical, Spiritual, Affective, Academic and Apostolic) represents. My SVD community has been a source of great inspiration in the area of prayer and living together, looking after for one another. The entire experience in Postulancy provides the necessary preparation for the our Philosophical studies in Makeni.

And as I continue to reflect and discern on my vocation—“to be or not to be”—I continue to pray for God’s guidance, especially, in every decision that I make now and in the future. I entrust myself to God who controls my past, present and future.

■ Paul Mwale

Starting Formation with Enneagram

I first heard of Enneagram on ZNBC television’s Smooth Talk. One lady was talking about the nine personality types of Enneagram but I got nothing of it. It did not interest me at all even after a friend, who watched the show, told me that Enneagram is good. My interest came only the following day when watching the same show, the same lady provided people more information on the Enneagram but I still had no idea where to find it. I never thought that Enneagram could be one of the tools to know myself better and the church can make use of it. Hearing that it would be offered in the formation house, I practically look forward to it eagerly.

Finally it was offered to us around the middle of October 2008 and I was one of the 9 postulants (5 SVD and 4 SMA) who went to Kabwe Pastoral Center to learn the Enneagram. Despite my fear I was ready to know myself after the first talk. I was surprised how quickly my personality was identified by my friend, Munzele, a former fellow SVD Postulant. Knowing myself and hearing how I was described in Type 3, I became very eager to discover fully my Ennea-type. I was hearing a lot of things about me that agreeing about my description was not really difficult. However, although they form part of my life, I was not consciously aware of their existence.

When we were told about the healthy and the unhealthy side of the personalities, I chose to identify first my unhealthy side so that I could get the help I need to improve myself. My unhealthy side had a lot of negatives but I accepted them and I remembered saying to myself there is a lot to be done to control myself. These negatives include dishonesty in doing things, preferring to work alone when it comes to work; and jealous about others’ achievements. I knew I was always looking for something to achieve so people can appreciate and continue to love me. It was difficult for me to listen to the feelings of others when it comes to work. I agreed with all these negatives and the rest that speaks about Ennea-type three that were found in the Enneagram.

My study of the Enneagram helped me to be more open, and discovered ways how to counter my tendency to be dishonest and to stop my pretenses that used to bring me to my unhealthy side. This helped me a lot to be courageous in disclosing all about my life to my Formator. I also encouraged my friends to tell me about the bad things I was doing to them, especially that I was the students’ coordinator and works’ coordinator at the same time. This way, Enneagram helped me to maintain friendships with my fellow postulants. At the same time, I became conscious of other people feelings, especially, in times of work.

Although I still work hard on myself, I am now ready to accept failures and I do not need to be dishonest about them. I am also helped in striving to be honest before God. Unlike before, I am no longer surprised when I am feeling jealous for I know how to manage to do away with it.

Enneagram is highly commendable to new students to help them know about themselves, especially, those studying for priesthood and religious life. It is worth knowing why you do what you do.

■ Gabriel T. Musimuko, Jr

My Sunday Apostolate

Killing Two Birds with One Stone

I call my Sunday apostolate “killing two birds with one stone” because in helping people, I am also helped by them. I was doing my Apostolate at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in Mukobeko and in one outstation of the Parish called St. Monica. I worked with the youth in both places. My works consisted of attending youth meetings and following up all their Parish programs. Occasionally, I got invitations to give talks to the Nazareth women in the Parish.

There were a lot of challenges in my apostolate. Looking back and seeing them in the context of formation, I can say, they were the very ones that helped me to be what I am today.

At first I didn't know where to start from. I did not know what to do with meetings with only a handful youth around. I felt I did not know what to say when called upon for some talks. I remember I felt very small when I was invited the first time by the Nazareth women. Many times I felt inadequate to answer their queries. Part of the difficulty was that I considered myself inexperienced young boy. I was not comfortable with the respect accorded to me by the elders and I feared that I would not know how to deal with their problems and answer their queries. I ran also into trouble at our Formation House for reaching home late due to punctuality problem of some youth members during scheduled meetings.

Being talkative by nature, my background as one of the youth leaders and being exposed to our small Christian Community in our home Parish in Linda, my background experience helped me a lot to manage my Apostolate without much difficulty. For most of the youth problems, I simply started employing the method I used in helping our Linda Parish youths. Moreover, my exposure to a lot of issues and Parish problems enabled me to deal with confidence other people's problems. Our Community Organizing (CO) Management Seminar, the Enneagram and the books I

read also provided me the knowledge on how to deal with people. I learned that in relationship, being authentic and living the best of who we are seemed to be of great importance to any Apostolic work.

My apostolate has strengthened my vocation in many ways. I learned to love more my vocation and I enjoyed doing what I am doing. The Apostolate provided me the experience of what it means to work with people as a future missionary. I like the priesthood for its preaching work but it is just among the Priest's ministries. Having a designated areas of work helped me to be responsible and learned obedience to do whatever I am told to do.

Knowing how to solve problems was one of the good things I liked from my apostolate. Although there were sad and tough times, they turned out to be a source of blessing for me. I drew my strength from trying to find God in everything I do and finding meaning in failures.

My Apostolic work also strengthened my spiritual life. In sharing about my work, I consequently found myself also sharing how God works in me. When hard-pressed by challenges, I often resort to the resources that shaped my spiritual life.

I thank God for the gift of life and for His unrelenting help and guidance which I normally experienced as consolation, courage, strength, peace of mind and joy. I also thank those who made this beautiful experience possible: my Formator, Fr Al, SVD, who taught us how to run development programs; the Parish Priest, Fr Alberto Saco, SVD, and Parishioners of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish who guided and provided me the venue for growth; special thanks go also to the two church councils (Holy Rosary and St Monica) for accepting me as part of their communities; and to the youth and the Nazareth women, who became my inspiration after working with them since the beginning of my Apostolate.

■ Gabriel T Musimuko, Jr

I went to watch football with my good friend, Chisanga Kabwe, who was a very committed member of small Christian community. He was used to greet people. So when we reached the stadium, I lost sight of him. One minute before the end of the game I saw him coming, greeting my neighbour. I asked him where he was coming from. He told me, as a Christian, I was greeting people. Then, the final whistle blew. He was disappointed that he didn't watch anything.

One boy found a boastful friend crying.

Mubanga: what's your problem? Why are you crying?

Mulenga: I have received an sms but I can't read the handwriting.

■ Gabriel T Musimuko, Jr.

2008 World Day of Prayer for Vocation: *Vocation at the Service of the Church Mission*

Every year, on Good Shepherd's Sunday (4th Sunday of Easter), we celebrate and reflect on our vocations. The theme for this year's 45th celebration, which the Holy Father expounded, was "Vocation at the Service of the Church Mission." The gospel reading was taken from John 10, where Jesus said he came so that we may have life and have it to the fullness.

Each year the theme serves as a sign post directing us to the goal our mission. I remembered last year the theme was "the church is the breeding place of all the vocations." Pope Benedict XVI pointed out that vocation thrives in parishes with "spiritual soil" and the church is the place where we gather as children of God sharing God's word. We ought to share it to our friends who do not yet know Jesus Christ. This was considered the heart of the vocation of every Christian.

Vocation to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life believed to flourish only in a well cultivated spiritual soil. The Pope linked this year's theme with the previous by stating that by not being rooted in the word and in the love of God, one cannot offer him/herself at the service of others. Thus, the Holy Father urged every Christian to develop a personal relationship with Jesus in order to respond positively to the call. The harvest is indeed great, and so Jesus says, "pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38). Indeed, every Catholic Christian was warmly invited by our Pope to unite together in prayer to pray for those in mission animation and promotion of vocations.

In his message, the Pope insisted that the task of explicitly proclaiming the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ is still at the heart of vocation of

every Christian. Thus, the Pope said that in following Jesus who sacrificed everything to bring salvation to humanity, all Christians are called to leave their homeland and set off to bring the message of God's love to a wider audience.

In response to the theme, there was a need to be conscious of our responsibility—to join all Christians in supporting our missionaries materially and spiritually and to continue to pray for more vocations to priesthood and religious life so that the church may be able to continue fulfilling the mission entrusted to her by Christ. With strong dedication, we were encouraged to join the efforts of our Christian communities in providing education in faith to both children and adults.

The Archdiocese of Lusaka chooses its theme: "We say yes! Vocation, Jesus Christ the center what about you? In line with the message of the pope, it challenged every Christian to say yes to the service of one another following the example of Jesus who left everything in order to save us, we too should put our lives at the service of the church's mission.

In an effort to celebrate the Vocation Sunday at St. Charles Lwanga Parish, the Vocation Group assumed all the duties in both Masses on that day. They presented symbols that had vital meaning in order to help the Christians reflect well on their calls. They made use effectively the symbols such as salt, light, cross, bible and rosary. I was privileged and deeply honoured to give a speech in church before my formator, Fr Al; the main celebrant, Fr Roger; the Parish Priest, Fr. Lawrence; and our guest of the day, Fr. Omir. The day was concluded with my talk on Vocation and Religious Life given to the youth.

■ Anthony C. Musonda

REFLECTION

REFLECTION

Daily, we open our cell phone inbox to read messages sent to us by our friends. But how often do we open our bibles to read messages sent to us by God? How often do we read messages that help us in our spiritual life and shows us the way to eternal life? Everyday as good neighbors we greet our neighbors but do we also remember to speak to God in prayer each morning? We always wash our hands before meals but do we also pray before meals? Let us ask ourselves these questions: Do we put the Lord God and his Divine Word first in our life?

PRAYER

Lord, You, my creator become man out love for me. You came from eternal life to die on a cross so that by your obedience and love for us, You might die for my sins. Teach me, Lord, what I ought to do for you and lead me through the guidance of the Holy Spirit I may know the path that leads to life.

■ Paul Mwale

Our Christian Journey after Easter

Easter is the time for us Christians when we remember the resurrection of Jesus, our Lord. It comes after 40 days of lent and holy week. Lent is the time of the suffering of Jesus until he died on Good Friday. Easter is celebrated with baptism, a clear indication that many people change their lives from bad to good. This change comes certainly when you spend the Lenten season very well. On the contrary, lack of preparation and help may even make Christians go back to their old ways. In this article, allow me to share a story to inspire those who have decided to leave their old ways and opted to follow the Lord closely.

In the Northern Province of Zambia there was a young man who was planning to marry. His name was Anthony Mulenga Mubanga. He was a teacher at one of the Basic schools in Northern Province. He was also a Catholic from a strong Catholic family. This led him to look for a wife in the Church.

One day Anthony met Rachael Banda who was a choir member at their Parish. Rachael was a beautiful girl. She was so beautiful that every man at the parish and in the village were talking about her. So as Anthony was planning to marry, he asks Rachael's hand in marriage and she accepted it. The two agreed that they are going to marry in the Church. They informed their parents about their plan. Both parents were happy with the news especially that they were also planning to marry in Church. Anthony's parents sent elders to Rachael's family and they agreed on everything and they even paid (Anthony's family) the money that was needed.

Then the two families approached the Parish Priest about the marriage of their children. The Parish Priest was also happy with development in the parish. He put the new couple on marriage lessons which took three months. Toward the end of the last month of their lessons the Parish Priest started announcing in Church that Anthony and Rachael want to marry and if there was any thing to stop them the parish priest should be informed. Almost all the parishioners were happy with the new couple. No one went to tell the Priest about stopping the marriage but only ten people went to recommend that the two should marry in Church.

March 10 1976 was the wedding day and almost all the villagers around and the parishioners attended the wedding. It was a colourful and lovely wedding, all those who attended danced including the Parish Priest. All the people were happy and after Mass the wedding continued in the village. The whole village was invited and they enjoyed themselves. There was a lot of food and drinks for all present. This was possible because a lot of people in the village donated food and drinks. Not only donations of food and drinks, they also brought a lot of gifts. All the people gave gifts from their hearts because they had hope in the new couple and also they enjoyed the wedding.

After wedding in the parish and in the village, new life started for the new couple. Things were good for this couple. They enjoyed being together. They used to work together and helped each other in all home tasks. This made the couple looked more lovely and happy in the village. A lot of people were admiring the way they were living and helping each other.

After one year in marriage Anthony lost his job because he was accused of stealing school money. This means no pension for him. He was to struggle for food and other things for he was not the one who stole the money. Poverty entered the home causing the wife to start thinking of selling some of the things in the house. Hunger brought allot of conflict in the house which led the wife to run away from the husband. Families, the villagers, the Parish Priest, the parishioners and the husband were disappointed.

This story can help us if we put ourselves in the place of the Parish Priest, the husband, the parishioners or the villagers or the parents. We must ask ourselves, "How do I feel to be in that position?" the Parish Priest who blessed the marriage, I think, he even gave them a test and on the wedding day he danced. Or the husband after that entire input, the good times together and also the wife was still beautiful. Or the parishioners who were happy, who sang and danced during wedding and also those ten who recommended the marriage to be blessed in Church, or the villagers for all their support, or their parents who can now become the laughing-stock by other people.

I am very sure no one can be happy with the wife Rachael. Now let us put ourselves to be the wives of Jesus and Easter day as the wedding day. Then those people who were happy were now angels of God. For the Bible tells us that when one sinner repents (Lk 15:10) there is a very big feast in heaven. This means that during Easter those whose lives were changed especially those baptized caused angels to celebrate for them. So one big question to those who would want to go back to their bad ways, "Do you want to disappoint Jesus your husband and all the angels who are happy for?" remember you are still beautiful for Jesus.

To say a little about the story, we can see that what led the wife to run away were the sufferings. But as Christians what we know is that suffering is part of our Christian life. We are just coming from Lent and we saw and maybe feel how Jesus suffered for us.

Let us be strong even when things are tough and when we feel we are alone. Jesus is always with us till the end of time (Mt 28:20). Let us pray in difficult times and also ask for help from people who will help us. These include priest, pastor (spiritual director) and all those who can help us.

■ Gabriel T Musimuko, Jr

Towards Doing Formation more Scientific

Although it was not the first time that the Enneagram was subjected to a scientific study (see the works of Wagner, 1994; Hudson & Riso, 1999), *Making Good People Better: Enhancing Self-esteem and Personal Growth Initiative Among SVD College Seminarians Using the Enneagram* (Villasante, 2007) is probably one of the first studies which utilized Positive Psychology as its theoretical framework in improving self-esteem and personal growth initiative among seminarians. Positive Psychology, being part of the science of Psychology which deals specifically with helping good people become better, suits well the work of formators in helping highly selected individuals, like seminarians, attain personal growth.

The study made use of a time-series design (a shorter kind of longitudinal study). It regularly monitored the effects of the Enneagram as an intervention, particularly, comparing seminarians' level of self-esteem and personal growth initiative before and after the workshop and what happened to the effects thereafter.

In order to measure effects, at least three instruments were used, namely, SERS (Self-esteem Rating Scale), the Enneagram (a 4-day workshop), and PGIS (Personal Growth Initiative Scale). The result was very encouraging—the Enneagram significantly enhanced both self-esteem and personal growth initiative immediately after the intervention. For self-esteem, significant growth was still noticeable even at the last observation made in the time-series. The observed improvement on personal growth initiative was no longer significant thereafter. The salient finding in the study was: Enneagram is effective in creating self-awareness/understanding and self-discovery and this finding confirms the metacognitive (self-monitoring) element of the Enneagram.

Based on this finding, the Enneagram, then, is recommended for use among College seminarians or its equivalent, those who are doing their initial stage of formation. Working knowledge of the Enneagram can be an invaluable help for formators to understand their formandi in behaving the way they do.

■ Fr. AI, SVD

During the farewell party for our 4 Postulants and for Fr. Roger, who was leaving for the States to attend the Priestly Ordination of his former students and for his medical checkup, each one took turns in describing his experience of the year that was. The prevailing experience was a sense of being grateful for the time well-spent both personally and as a community. In order to highlight the elements of this experience, the Postulants, on the eve of their departure, were led to reflect on what made the year a success for each one. Specifically, they were asked: "What were our key success factors (KSF)?" Experienced as key success factors were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ◆ Cooperation | ◆ Openness to God |
| ◆ Participation/Being participative | ◆ Growth Group sessions |
| ◆ Letting go of the old self | ◆ Group Revision of Life |
| ◆ Openness to learn new things | ◆ The Enneagram (to know oneself, to know one another) |

Asked what needs to continue, the following were considered essential attitudes/behaviours:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ◆ Sharing | ◆ Patience |
| ◆ Respect for each other | ◆ Creating a good environment |

◆ Fr. Lawrence, SVD

Name: Lawrence Likulano

Nationality: Zambian

Formation: He did his Postulancy in Kabwe, philosophy at Mpima Major Seminary and Theology in Kenya.

Significant Moments in the Priesthood: Daily living, taking things one day at a time.

Work assignment: Pastoral work at St. Charles Lwangwa Parish; Vocation Director and Promoter of Justice and Peace in the Province.

Vocational Development: He was inspired by the work done by the Capuchins and Franciscans. They left their homes to work in distant lands. He also had the desire to do more for the people as these missionaries did.

Message to Seminarians: Each has to notice and hear the call of God and each person should believe in oneself and his calling; remember always: take care of your call.

Profiles of Our Confreres in the Parish

◆ Fr. Francis, SVD

Name: Fransi Allah

Nationality: Ghanaian

Religious Order: Society of the Divine Word (SVD)

Work assignment: Pastoral work at St. Chares Lwangwa Parish in kabwe- Zambia

Vocational development: The desire to serve God and to be with the people of different cultures.

Message to seminarians: Work hard and trust in Gods call.

Calendar of Events

- ◆ 5th September 2007— Five new Postulants arrived at the SVD Formation House: Munzele Simundo (Chingola), Gabriel Musimuko, Jr. (Lusaka), Paul Mwale (Kabwe), Anthony Musonda (Lusaka), John Mubanga (Livingstone)
- ◆ 8th September 2007— Official Commencement of Postulancy Programme
- ◆ 10th September 2007— A visit by Sr. Julie Zulu
- ◆ 18th September 2007— A visit by Keith Hamaimbo
- ◆ 22nd September 2007— Beginning of the School Year 2007-2008
- ◆ 18th October 2007— A visit by Fr. Omir (Lusaka) and Fr. Thomas (Tonota, Botswana)
- ◆ 24th October 2007— Celebration of the Zambia Independence Day
- ◆ 17th November 2007— Fr. Provincial Superior, Fr. Patricio de los Reyes, and his nephew came to visit Kabwe
- ◆ 23rd November 2007— A visit by Sr. Paulina, SSpS (Botswana)
- ◆ 29th November 2007— Munzele Simundo left the Postulancy House for good.
- ◆ 25th December 2007— Common Christmas Party with Philosophers at Makeni
- ◆ 28th December 2007— Anthony was sent to accompany Markus in Makeni
- ◆ 1st January 2008— New Year celebration
- ◆ 6th January 2008— Fr. Singa came for a visit from Lusaka
- ◆ 19th January 2008— The Postulants went to visit the family of John Mubanga in Kafue.
- ◆ 22nd to 24th January 2008— CO Management Seminar for all inter-Congregational students at the SMA house facilitated by Fr. Al
- ◆ 2nd February 2008— The Postulants went to visit the family of Gabriel in Linda.
- ◆ 9th February 2008— The Postulants went to visit the family of Anthony at Lilanda.
- ◆ 10th to 16th February 2008— Retreat at the SMAs by Fr. Tony, SJ
- ◆ 9th February 2008— The Postulants went to visit the family of Anthony at Lilanda.
- ◆ 21st February 2008— Fr. Thomas, Fr. Omir, Fr. Isaac came with 2 Engineers to survey the land for Novitiate.
- ◆ 26th February 2008— Fr. Roger left for Rome
- ◆ 16th March 2008— We celebrated Palm Sunday at the Holy Rosary Parish, Mukobeko.
- ◆ 21st March 2008— Good Friday Recollection at CICM House
- ◆ 3rd May 2008— Sr. Helena, SSpS and Fr. George Varghese came for a visit.
- ◆ 15th May 2008— Farewell Party for Postulants and for Fr. Roger.
- ◆ 16th May 2008— Fr. Roger's departure for U.S.A.
- ◆ 20th May 2008— End of Postulancy Program and Departure of Postulants

- Formator: How come you have (fail) in all your subjects.
Postulant: Our professors taught us that FAIL is first attempt in learning.
- One day the teacher told the pupils that they have to abstain so that they shouldn't contract Aids. One pupil started missing classes which made the teacher to follow him.
Teacher: why are you not coming to school?
Musonda: I am abstaining; I don't want to have Aids. ■ Gabriel T Musimuko, Jr
- Paul: Why are you giving hot water to the chickens?
Anthony: I want them to lay boiled eggs.
- Formator wanted to make sure that all the postulants know the countries where the svd's work.
Formator: Gabriel, in which direction is Paraguay?
Gabriel: On page ten of the atlas. ■ John Mubanga

THE CALL OF GOD

THE CALL OF GOD

It is written in Eph 1:4 'even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ so that we could be holy and without fault before him.'

God has loved us so much that he has chosen us to participate with him in saving the world. He could do it on his own but out of his love, he wishes us to be involved in it. This is why each every person male and female has a different vocation. But it is important to always remember that there is no person on earth without a vocation. It is however unfortunate that some people, out of their selfishness, are not willing to take up their responsibility.

For young people, who are the future leaders, it is important to know and reflect more about our vocation.

It is also important know to which life style one is called be it single, married religious. It is important to discover what kind of gifts and abilities one has been given by God. For it is through these gifts that one is able to understand her vocation.

Choosing one thing means that I must set other things aside, it is for this reason, that many people have doubts about all sorts of things. But remember doubts can only be good if they promote mature reflection especially for important decisions, such as what to do with yourself in future. I call upon all the youths, especially those still in school to search strongly and ask the Lord to show the way and remember you never too young to have doubts or to old to losses them.

Dear lord,
There are so many things in life that I would like to do or to possess; life is full of all sorts of attractions. Give me light to see your will and courage to do it and love to accept it however difficult or mysterious it appears. Amen.



■ Paul Mwale

Reflection

So often the persons called by God to his special work have to leave home. This was certainly true of Abraham, Joseph, Moses and Ruth.

To be sure leaving home for these four implied more than a physical transfer from one place to another. For them, it meant leaving a familiar context of life with its own pattern of thinking, with its traditions and way of life. It meant also going over to a new mode of life and thought. Thus, a break with ones environment is expected today of the person called to God's work. The big question, then, is: "HAVE YOU LEFT HOME?"

Let us remember that Jesus said, " if anyone comes to me without leaving mother or father or brother or sister, and his very life too, he cannot be my disciple." (LK 14:26)

■ Paul Mwale