



BROTHERS OF  
SAINT JOHN

## NEWSLETTER n°30 September to December 2021



Dears friends and benefactors,

Despite the hard times which have created instability for over a year, especially in the northern region (Tigray), economic and social life continue in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia and host of African Union. Communication is cut off in areas in conflict zones and therefore it is difficult to get objective news to better understand the rivalry between government forces and rebels.

We continue to entrust to your prayers Ethiopia for constructive political dialogue, lasting peace and above all justice and forgiveness for the unity of this beautiful country. If you would like to help people affected by this conflict we can arrange for your donations to be sent through our Catholic networks.

The priory St Jean-Epifania continues her activities: the reception for weekends and retreats, the school of life, the French-speaking Catholic community, the Youth office and especially the finishing works of the site which should be finished for Christmas ! The new season is taking place in green and sunny conditions since the good weather has returned since mid-October! During these last three months, the program has been animated by a regularity in prayer and fraternal life and sharing! The priory is ideal place of life for prayer and learning to revitalize and develop those who come, especially young Ethiopians.

### **The site work is going to the end**

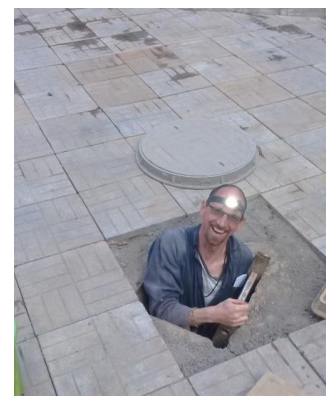
Since October 17, after the rainy season, the finishing works (paving, green spaces, caretaker's house, outdoor shower and toilet, dividing wall, rainwater management, etc.) have started under the supervision of Brother Philippe François. Louis, who was a volunteer from the french association l'Oeuvre d'Orient for 6 months, gave up his place on November 9 to Xavier to follow the work. We took the opportunity to make an inventory of the water network throughout the site, the operation is led by Brother Benoit David! We have improved security (surveillance cameras, perimeter walls) which is an important point for the serenity of activities at the priory!

*We are happy to have a clean and pleasant space in front of the chapel!*



*Brother Benoit David works on the maintenance of underground reservoirs*

*The car park and reception area are undergoing a metamorphosis*



## The coming back of School of life

From the beginning of October, the school of life started with a new promotion. Eight young Ethiopians (4 girls and 4 boys) spontaneously created an atmosphere full of joy, life and benevolence within the priory! These 9 months among us want to foster growth and spiritual discernment, and it is with pleasure that we see them progress and appreciate the teachings, the times of community life and the apostolic activities. In particular, once a month, they provide reading for about thirty neighborhood children and provide entertainment for orphans. It is greatly appreciated each time!



*Teaching by Brother Paul Clement every Saturday morning*



*An afternoon to Debre Libanos where we also celebrated grade 12 of Mekdes (young girl furthest to the right)*

## The French-speaking parish

The French-speaking Catholic community of Nazareth school run its activities this year thanks to brothers Benoit David, Mathieu de la Croix and Moise Etienne in conjunction with Father Daniel Assefa, French-speaking Ethiopian chaplain: catechesis, choir, altar services, group of bible study and youth chaplaincy.... This community with more than 15 nationalities shows especially during Sunday Mass its fervor and its joy of living through songs of praise. This creates an environment of trust and friendliness for its members despite the diversity. The first outing to Entoto Park (located 10 minutes by car from the priory) has already created a great feeling of friendship and enthusiasm for the young people of the chaplaincy.

All the brothers thank you for your prayers, and your support which we always need to live. We would like to end by wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2022.

