



BROTHERS OF
SAINT JOHN
ADDIS ABABA

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"Jesus opened the book and found the passage from Isaiah: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me [...] to proclaim a favorable year granted by the Lord."

Luke 4:17-19

Dear friends,

I/ Two great Jubilees

"St John Epifania" priory is celebrating two jubilees this year (a year of grace proclaimed by Jesus following the prophet Isaiah): 50 years of the CCFAA (French-speaking Catholic Community) and 15 years of our presence in Ethiopia - which anticipates the 50th anniversary of the founding of the brothers of St John next year on December 8, 1975.

The celebration of the CCFAA's 50th anniversary has already taken place on the weekend of October 14



-15, 2023, during the month of the Rosary and Mission.

Over 500 people, including many former members, gathered at Nazareth School in Addis (where our celebrations take place) for these festivities. The program was rich: prayer, history and vision of this international community, bazar, traditional food, music and cultural dances from 7 countries, entertainment and games, circus and Ethiopian dances for the children... The jubilee ended with the closing Sunday mass presided over by the provincial of the Lazarists, Abba Mekonnen, followed by lunch under a radiant sun.



For its part, the priory of Addis gives thanks for 15 years divine graces. Here are some of the fruits: 3 Ethiopian brothers, an apos-

tolic life with an outreach to different targets, especially young people, and a gradual insertion into the local church with the challenge of inculturation, which demands attention and humility.

To conclude, let me share with you the fruit of a huge work of the Catholic Church in Ethiopia. The next 10 years strategic plan which can be summed up as follow:

"We want to focus on making disciples through authentic evangelization in the spirit of synodality: deepening faith formation and evangelization in Ethiopia through communion, participation and mission by celebrating the Divine Liturgy and through promotion and integral human development, acts of charity as well as ecumenical and interreligious dialogue."



Similarly, this year, the brothers of St. John in Ethiopia also want to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. Under the gaze of God, looking at our history and our mission, we want together to discern the challenges and calls of the Holy Spirit. We aspire to live more in line with the charism of our father St. John, beloved disciple of Jesus "without whom we can do nothing" (John 15:5).

In entrusting this intention to you and thanking you in advance for your material and spiritual support for our mission, we wish you a happy Easter.

Brother Philippe François, Prior

Our youth of *School of Life*
in mission



Yes, we are .
spend a year.
discernment with
Brothers 🤔🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏



"Hello,
I am Mebratu,
I live with the Brothers as an observer
as I want to give my life to God.

Pray for me!"



To evangelize, leading children to Jesus

What do we want for the future of children? Do we only want them to become expert in using technological tools, with Social Media and get a good job?

Both St John-Paul II and Benedict XVI, have explicitly urged adults responsible of the Faith Formation of children, to bring them to Jesus hidden in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, especially those preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. Thus, we started this ministry in Ethiopia, with the cooperation of a local priests. Pray for us!

Br. Antoine du Desert





A wind blowing over the family

At the center of God's project since creation (Gen 1 and 2) and attacked from its beginnings (Gen 3), today more than ever, **the family is the center of the Church's attention and care.** She is God's treasure.

Its image and the place where it gives himself. *Couple training, Family Sunday, family camps...* there are many that we offer for Ethiopian and French-speaking families.



After 10 years in Quebec, in a priory attentive to families, this mission continues for me here too. Although the primary mission of the priory of Addis Ababa is focused on young people, **the brothers have not spared caring for families** where it all begins. Our latest offers are the *Marriage course* for the French-speaking community and the *Natural Family Planning* training for Ethiopian families.

For 5 years at the service of the CCFAA (French-speaking Catholic Community of Addis Ababa), I have often heard the call to take care of couples. But not having the means and tools, **we waited for God's hour** which has now come. When we offered this training in January, Sunday morning before Mass, it seemed unpopular! However, we were ready to work for the 2 or 3 couples that would register. Ultimately, **more than 15 couples showed up.** Some were

even completely unknown to me. The secret of the course? the very practical, concrete topics and, above all, the moments of couple discussion during each session. This is where the best work is done for the couple. What an advantage it is to be able to talk serenely about subjects such as the beginnings and foundations of



the relationship, communication, conflict resolution, forgiveness, sexuality... It allows you to get to know each other more deeply and to break taboos or resolve frozen situations.

Testimony: Fred and Magalie:

"This course enabled us to look back on our relationship and reconnect with what was essential, with what had brought us together from the start. During the course, we quickly realised that we were victims of our daily routines and habits. With the help of this course, we were able to ask ourselves the right questions - questions that were often very uncomfortable, but so necessary if we were to rekindle our love for each other. We can't recommend it highly enough to couples of all ages, old and new.

The second project that was just born, is the training for our group of Ethiopian families on Natural Family Planning. When we talk about ecology, it starts there: Self-knowledge, respect for the body, respect for others, healthy dialogues and responsible planning, where I discover the benefits of this



method for the health of the couples. For those families with whom we already have couples training, family days and camps, all this reinforces all the means they take to live this gift of love that God has given them and the grace of the sacrament of marriage at work in their home.

There's no doubt that this year the Spirit has blown us in the direction of the family.

Brother Benoît David +



Summer camps: spiritual mind set

Every year during summer time, the Brothers invite young people to get away from the city, from school, college and university, to undertake a spiritual ascent and get closer to God, our heavenly Father, through a greater knowledge and love of Jesus-Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In today's society, especially through an intense activity on so-

cial networks, young people and adults waste a considerable amount of time and often pollute their soul, where God wants to dwell! Those camps produce a great benefit to them when they fully cooperate with the brothers and the Holy Spirit, along with trying to live a common life of fraternal charity.

We all want to be happy. Yet, human beings choose many wrong ways to try to reach happiness and fail. Only Jesus-Christ can truly grant us Eternal Happiness. Many young people discover that true joy promised by Jesus during those camps, which help them to include daily prayer in their life during college time and other good habits!

Whenever we aspire at reaching the summit of a high mountain, if there is a great joy when we succeed, as mountaineers, we know all the sacrifices involved and the thorough mental and physical preparation needed.

As Christians, we do believe in the Resurrection of Christ and in the promise of Eternal Life (our spiritual "Everest Summit" in a way...) that Jesus gave us through his teachings. Yet, instead of taking a heavy bag pack for a few days in the mountains, we need to accept sufferings and trials of all kind while on earth. Nonetheless, if we are called by Jesus to pick up our various crosses, He does not ask us to carry them alone! He carried the heaviest part and we simply need to be for him Simon of Cyrene. In order to boost our hope, we often need to read the promise: "***...what we suffer in this life can never be compare to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us.***"(Rom.8:18)

6/ Igzabiher yistelign (May God give you for my sake)

This is how believers in Ethiopia give thanks: "May God repay you". For we know that we do not have the means to repay you, but that God himself repays his servants far more than we could ever imagine. For a simple glass of fresh water, says Jesus, it is God who will give the reward (Mt 10:42).

If you want to support us, start by praying for us.

Also **you can make a donation** if you can. Indeed, soon the summer camps will start and we need support to ensure them: rice, sugar, pasta, powdered milk, potatoes, tea, powdered coffee, notebooks, disposable towels, toilet paper, soaps, toothpaste, buckets, plastic bowls, thermos, fuel, etc.

Here are the links to make online donations:

1. From any country:

<https://freres-saint-jean.soutenir-eglise.fr/Addis-Abeba/~my-donation>

2. From France only (tax deduction) - indicate "Addis Ababa":

<https://don.fondationdesmonasteres.org/soutenir-freres-saint-jean>

Where you can also get information for a cheque or bank transfer.

3. You can also entrust us with **Mass intentions** and we will be happy to pray for your intentions more concretely (we receive quite few requests here) - indicate "Addis Ababa Priory":

<https://freres-saint-jean.soutenir-eglise.fr/messe/~mon-don>

For more information, you can write to us
<https://addis-abeba.stjean.com/contact-us/>



up to Easter

Finally, the brothers

wish you...

a good spiritual journey...

