



Email: July 30, 2015

Dear Mrs. Melvin,

Pax Christi!

COPY

Your second shipment of religious articles and pamphlets in Sesotho was very well received by our faithful in Lesotho after Mass on Sunday, July 26. There were about 50 to 60 faithful at Mass, which was larger than the number in the previous month. Children were kneeling very close to the Altar, leaving a bare minimum of room for the priest and Altar boy. Not everyone could fit into the little house, or hut with its thatched roof, so some children had to attend by listening to the Mass outside the door of the house.



Perhaps, the pamphlets that you sent the previous month brought more souls to Mass this month. Word certainly had gotten around the village as we were asked for devotional items even by those who did not come for Mass. This time, the faithful specifically asked for more St. Philomena prayer cards, so I am glad that you sent them as well. You sent such a good supply of the pamphlets and Rosaries that we still have some left to give away during our next visit in October.

A priest in South Africa who often celebrates the traditional Mass told us that the diocese accidentally reprinted a prayer book in Sesotho which contains the Mass in Latin. We went to the publishing house and bought thirty copies with beautiful drawings and old devotions. It was first printed in 1931 by the French missionaries. We also bought the five catechisms which were reprints of a good old edition.

The most impressive event, while we were in the village, was a sick call to an 18 year old boy who has been sick for two or three years. He could not even stretch out his arms fully. He went to a public hospital and, instead of an operation, he received a wheelchair. The faithful wished to come with me and so an older lady, a few young men and many children formed a crowd with me that walked through the scattered small stone houses, which I had never seen before. It reminded me of the crowds that escorted Our Lord. I gave a blessing for the sick boy and, then, one of the faithful handed me one of the Scapulars that I had handed out on the day before, asking me to give it to the boy. I had to instruct the boy about the meaning and history of the Scapular and he wished to receive it. Since I did not bring the correct prayer, I asked a 16 year old boy to run to get it from the make-shift chapel, where we stayed. Meanwhile, the faithful prayed three decades of the Rosary for the sick boy, which moved him to small tears which he repeatedly brushed off his eyes while in bed. The prayer book arrived and then I enrolled him in the Brown Scapular. Then, the faithful began to sing a hymn to Our Lady in Sesotho as we left the very small room for so many people. The boy's mother thanked me as I left. So your Scapulars are given to some good souls; this one to a boy who has never been seen at the chapel, though his father came for the first time on Sunday.

The faithful ask us each time to build them a chapel, as the local parish is five kilometers away. The older parishioners say that they wish to continue to attend the Latin Mass as they did in their youth. A chapel would not be expensive to build as they use their local materials of cut stone for the walls, long grass from the fields for the thatched roofs, and mud mixed with fresh cow dung to seal the outside of the walls with a brown plaster surface. We hope to be able to do this for them in time, so until then we ask the great Saint Philomena to make this possible for these simple Catholics in Lesotho one day.

Thank you again for your valuable support in sending especially the pamphlets on the Rosary, Brown Scapular, Miraculous Medal, and St. Michael medals. There were many hands outstretched eager to receive each of these. May God bless you and all who help put together all of these devotional items!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Kimball
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