

COPY

E-Mail: October 28, 2015

Dear Mrs. Melvin,

My nephew and I just returned from Lesotho. Our eighty-five year old translator had a stroke last month and without her to cook for us in Lesotho, we arrived with no one knowing we were coming; the stove had to be connected to a propane tank, silverware found, dishes with insects crawling on them were rinsed (we had to buy dishwashing soap), the sink had no running water or drainpipe and the freezer had no fuel. We worked with flashlights as the solar lights were not connected. We gave someone money to buy propane for the freezer (there is no refrigerator) and he came with it the next morning, balancing the large tank on the back of a mule coming from town. The milk could then be cooled but on the last day was frozen, so we had to melt it in boiling water to have some for breakfast on the cereal. Our first meal was instant noodles cooked in boiling water. We could not make tea since we turned off the flame after boiling the water for the noodles and did not have matches at hand to relight it. Two ladies helped with the cooking beginning the next day, when they found out that we were there. I must admit that I wanted to abandon ship and return home when no one came to the Mass the next day and I lost a contact somehow in the hut where we stayed. I said to my nephew that this bad start is a sign that special graces are on the way, and so it happened. We never had so many people at the Mass and a good number of people wanted either to be received into the Church or receive the Sacraments.

On Sunday, a tent was hired by the daughter of our sick translator, even though she is Anglican. She heard that we were overcrowded and decided to help solve the problem. There were between 100-120 faithful at the outdoor Mass, double of the last Mass two months ago. The tent was not big enough for the crowd. My nephew counted 45 small children sitting on a tarp in the front of the tent. There were seven Baptisms of small children after the Mass. I was expecting only two but twenty candidates showed up. The translator came to the Mass in a wheelchair and told me which small children were from families who are practicing Catholics. After the Baptisms, I spoke to the families who wanted their children baptized and decided that I could baptize the same number next month. But I do not know if we will have use of the tent and most likely the numbers will be even higher than this time. There were many new people who came, and one lady asked to be received into the church. There were many new voices singing at the Mass and they broke out in song when the actual Baptisms took place and the giving of the candles. (They all brought candles for the ceremony; instead of taking them home, they gave them for the church to use at Mass).

The translator's sister-in-law went to confession after having been going to her husband's Anglican Church. Now, her husband wants to join the Catholic Church along with her daughter (who is married to a Catholic) and her teenage grandson and granddaughter. The grandmother said that she will teach them all. She cooks for us and leads the singing very enthusiastically. A Catholic lady who entered a "natural" marriage with her husband asked to be married in the Church and her husband wants to be baptized. Numerous children are now getting catechism from an older lady in the "parish," who is preparing them for their first Communions.

The faithful asked again for a chapel, but I told them that the superior is not in favor of it, but would rather that a mission be established in Maseru, the capital city. We gave out most of the remaining religious literature in Sesotho and the Sacramentals that you gave us in the previous months. See the picture of the children holding up the holy cards that you sent.



May I ask the cost of getting more religious article for our faithful in Lesotho? We have Scapulars and Rosaries, but not the Sesotho flyers for the Miraculous Medals, etc. that you sent. Your support has encouraged more souls to come to the Masses now and to be baptized. May God bless you for your zeal for souls in far corners of the world!



Sincerely yours in Christ,

◀ Fr. Paul Kimball, Our Lady of Sorrows Priory, Roodepoort – South Africa ▶