

Centre Missionnaire Lavigerie (*Pères Blancs*)

BP 69 Kigali/RWANDA

Tel: (**250) 02 52 57 69 21 et (**250) 02 52 51 72 84

Fax: (**250) 02 52 575317

E-mail : mafrrwa@gmail.com

Email: cmlrwanda@gmail.com

Kigali, April 6, 2009

Dear Len,

Greetings from Africa. Greetings from Rwanda, the land of thousand hills, thousand people, thousand sufferings and thousand hopes! I join the world in celebrating your 80th birthday. Congratulations! It is an occasion to thank you for all you have given to people who came close to you. In *kinyarwanda*, the language of Rwanda we thank people by saying simply: “*urakoze cyane*” which literally means “you’ve worked hard (for us)”.

When I think of you one word bounces in my head “**Learn,**” *that is, to change and grow.* We, people in religious leadership, religious teachers, heralds of the message of God, think we have nothing to learn. We have everything to teach. I listened to you. I read your books. You teach me by your own life and academic experience, as much as I know, that the road to better this world, the road to happiness is in *learning, that is, to change and grow.* Your mind and heart were too big for a catholic religious order. Thank God! They were meant for the whole world to remind us to always have the humility and courage to *learn, that is, to change and grow*

At the end, I will thank you in *Jula*, my own language, from Burkina Faso, my homeland, in West Africa. By using that language I am expressing something deeper: “*ini tche ini baraji*” which literally means “you’ve been a person (to me) since you worked for me, you’ve given me water from your gourd.” It means a lot in a dry and weary land. May God always bless you!

Fr. Serge Moussa Traore

