

Canonical Visit in Congo II. Chosen to announce the gospel (Acts 1:1)



After the first part of the canonical visit in Congo to our missions present in the dioceses of Wamba and Isiro - Niangara, the second part was dedicated to visit the newly opened mission of Segama, in the outskirts of Kisangani. This new mission was launched two and a half years ago.

This area is particularly important because it represents both the first land of evangelization and human promotion. The missionaries have planned their work in the same way the blessed Giuseppe Allamanno wanted, “*not only catechistsbut also promoters of human health and progress*” that is “*help them become men first and then christians*”. The region is already planning to build a dispensary to meet the needs of the local people. In Segama, some Christians publicly gave thanks for the presence of Consolata missionaries on behalf of the whole population.

From Kisangani, the canonical visit continued to our missions in the archdiocese of Kinshasa (parishes of Bisengomwambe and St Hillary) and Kisantu (parishes of San Jose’ Arimathea and Mater Dei), the philosophical seminary and the regional house). Apart from the urban pastoral care, often characterized by poverty, the missionaries are deeply committed to educate children in all levels of schools (from nursery to secondary), to teach sewing to young mothers, to care about the wellbeing of the local population and the formation of the future missionaries.

The canonical visit has been a moment of thanksgiving and revitalization of missionary life, of revisiting the memory of the last 50 years of consolation, calling to mind all the Consolata missionaries who have constantly served selfishlessly with sacrifice and deep love the people in need.

And what about the fruit of this work? The effectiveness of this work is not always well visible, but it is there. This is because what has been planted with love and sacrifice never perishes. In fact, the fruits are abundantly! Just to mention one, in these 50 years, we have 58 consolata missionaries (from noviciate onwards) who are coming from this land. *Deo Gratias*.

We hope that this canonical visit can fortify more than ever the sense of fraternity and the spirit of belonging to our missionary family. It can pave the way of our future mission, working in unity and identifying with our Ad Gentes missionary vocation as religious for the wellbeing of the poor ones.

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