

Mission of Saint Therese of the Infant Jesus

Reaching out to the "Poorest of the Poor"

Mouila, Gabon, Africa – by Rev. Canon Alexis D.

Mission Reports



October 2021



Dear friends of the Mission,

We probably don't know each other yet, but together we have something in common. Together we were very surprised to learn that one of our dear friends was seriously ill, from this illness that upset our daily life, our relationship with our families, our friends, with

God. You have understood that I am talking about our dear Canon Fragelli, who has been hospitalized and affected by the severe form of Covid-19 since May.



Tonsure in Gricigliano, July 2003

Henrique and I met in September 2002: it was for the first retreat back at the seminary. He was the big brother of our year, and out of seven young seminarians we are the only two priests still in the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. Together during our studies at the seminary, we learned to love philosophy, theology... especially the good moments spent in community, such as the harvest of olives, and walks in the vineyards. Of course, each year ended with the ordinations, and from the taking of the cassock to the major orders,

we were united in our progress towards the priesthood. I am still surprised today by the paths of Providence when I see the photos of our minor ordination, side by side in front of our bishop of Mouila more than 15 years ago!

As canon Fragelli was almost double my age, the superiors decided that he could study more quickly and it was necessary to ordain 2008, a year before me. This was the first time that the Institute had ordained priests in the magnificent church in Florence, what a privilege!



This sudden illness gave me the occasion to relive good memories: the visits of our families, that of the shrine of Genezzano, and I was happy to see again how the Virgin of the Good Counsel keeps an eye on her priest son, I was able to bring her image to his hospital room. Thanks be to God, I was able to see him twice and his dear sister Maria, so devoted. He knows therefore that the life of the mission does not stop and that his work continues.

Henrique, as a good big brother, was able to give me a good example in his desire to save souls, and during the beautiful year of the centenary of Fatima



we were finally able to realize the project of my visit to Mouila. What beautiful memories, the discovery of the mission, the Oblate community, the workshops, the school... and the famous Panthers of Christ the King! A beautiful oasis of beauty and joy in the dense forest of Mouila. Of course, I discovered this without ever

thinking that I would have to go back under these circumstances. Since then, I was able to return to Gabon twice... and I said after each trip when I returned to Madrid that the ministry of a missionary priest has a special attraction, because one lives his ministry in great freedom, but that in spite of everything, I would never ask to go there. It is really necessary to be sent there and chosen by the Will of God to be able to face the dangers and to know how to resist the pitfalls of the devil and one's own human weakness.

Several years ago, Henrique told me that I would have to inherit one of his chalices... today I understand that the chalice he speaks of is above all his mission and his apostolic work. The Priest must live in the image of his divine model: in the renunciation of his own will: Not my will but YOUR will. Our Priesthood brings us together in the concrete illustration of this ideal of holiness. In self-emptying.

Dear friends, if our dear Canon Fragelli wished to be a builder, above all it was to uplift souls, "**Give me souls, take away the rest.**" Henrique knew this motto from Don Bosco well, he was born on the day of his feast.

Thank you for continuing to pray with him for the apostolic zeal of our mission.

Thank you for continuing to support the projects that the Canon has sown, and for praying that I may live up to the challenge that Providence has entrusted to me.

United in joy and hope for future good news, for the health of the Canon and for the mission!

Some pictures...



October the 3rd: First Solemn Mass in the Mission after the trip from Libreville with Canon Bergerot





October the 4th: First visit to the famous Saint Francis de Sales school and the visit of the Bishop of Mouila.





October the 7th: Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, procession and installation of the statue of Our Lady at school





October the 17th: Cathedral of Mouila.

Ordinations of 3 deacons for the diocese, we pray for them!

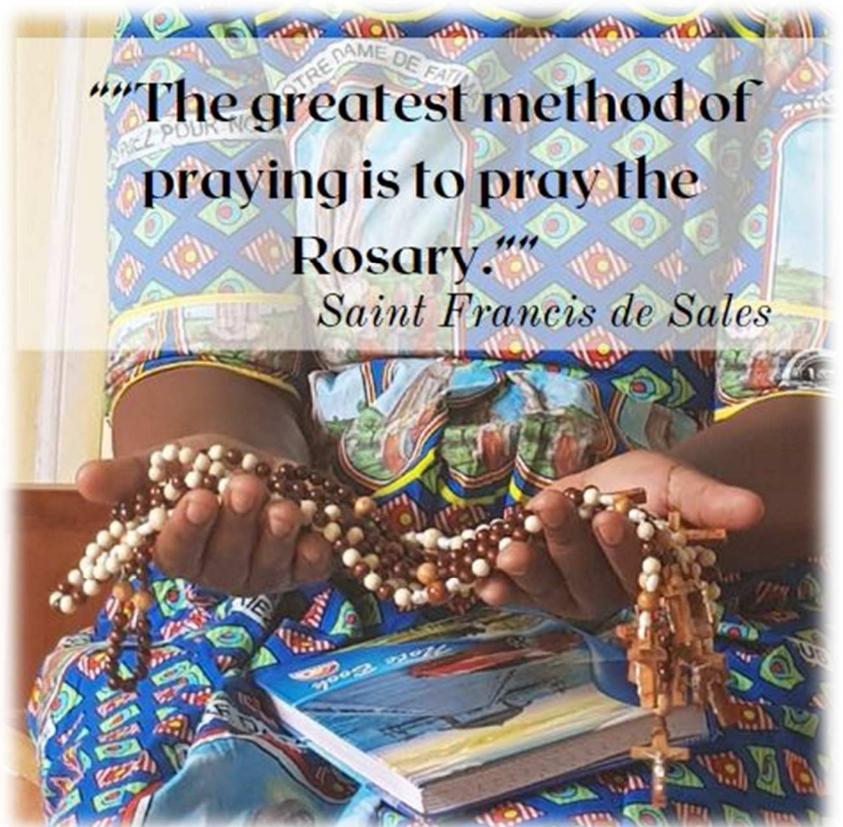




A few years ago now, Canon Fragelli founded a young community of Oblates within the mission, and together with the postulants for the seminary or for the sisters, they constitute the heart of our community. What a fount of youth! For me, the canons, the postulants and the Oblates are like a return to a miniature seminary. The young Oblates for the most part are still in

school (but not all) and they take advantage of the mission framework to have a **spiritual life** with daily Mass and evening and morning prayers, and follow-up for duties and for their daily needs. **I realize in the footsteps of Canon Fragelli how true the Priesthood is a Fatherhood, the missionary priest is above all the Father of the Mission.** Each of his children has a need or service for the community, and they live in the mission as they would in their own family. This is all the more important for them because the circumstances of life do not give them the opportunity to live in a proper family setting. (Death of parents, poverty of families, inability to continue education...)

For the beginning of this year, it was necessary to gradually resume the habits of communal life, schedules, services and prayers. We have honored the Rosary; we especially ask the Virgin Mary to protect our dear Canon Fragelli and we also pray daily for the benefactors of the mission.



““The greatest method of praying is to pray the Rosary.”“

Saint Francis de Sales

Francis



Dear Friends of the Mission of Saint Therese of Mouila,

I am Francis, and at 15 years old I am the youngest of the “Oblates”, the residents of the Mission. I am the son of Mother Mireille, my dad unfortunately died when I was five years old. There are six children in my family and I am the fourth. My mother had to go to Libreville, so she entrusted me to my grandmother who «prayed» at the mission (in Gabon, this means that she was a parishioner at the mission). From that time I especially remember the beauty of the priest’s ornaments, with the beautiful chasubles and also the beautiful procession of choir children. What a sight! It was such a joy when for my sixth birthday Canon Fragelli allowed me to serve Mass. Then, little by little, I felt the desire to be able to receive Jesus. My big sister Andrea and I were able to prepare for baptism and to receive First Communion together. Since then I have learnt the different roles of serving Mass, but it is really the acolyte that I prefer because we are always in pairs and we must try to synchronise our movements. Thanks to Canon Fragelli, I have now been with the other Oblates for three years, and I go to school in sixth grade in the beautiful new school Saint Francis de Sales. My sister Andrea is in Libreville and she prays in Lourdes (the parish of the Institute), fortunately I can go with the canon from time to time and see her.

Thank you for everything you can do to help our mission, we pray for you!



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL :



The balustrade of the school could not yet be finished, it still lacks a few meters in front of the large entrance.

- 135 balusters: 472500 FCFA
- 14 iron bars of 8: 5600 FCFA
- 6 iron bars of 6: 18000 FCFA
- 6 boards of 25: 3300 FCFA
- 1 roll of wire: 2000 FCFA
- 10 bags of cement: 5500 FCFA
- Labour: 330000 FCFA

MISSION SAINTE THÉRÈSE :



Toyota RAV4: the difficulties of the road to Libreville have a cost and especially in suspensions...



Total cost of the last repairs: 470,000 FCFA or \$831



Infiltrations in the slab above the office of the secretariat adjoining the chapel of the main house:

- Labour: 148,000 FCFA
- Material: 58,000 FCFA

A big deal...

First estimate
\$34830

For several months the problems with the distribution of water have been frequent, with all the consequences that this can have for daily life. (Dishes, kitchen, linen, shower, sanitary etc ...) with 300 children in the school. The drilling project that is being carried out to solve all this will cost us an estimate of 35,000 euros for drilling and installation on the network...

YES I want to be a *FRIEND OF THE MISSION!*

- 1- Please contact Canon Rouquayrol by email or chn.rouquayrol@icrsp.org
- 2- On the website www.friendsofthemission.org



Friends of the Missions

Mission St. Therese of the Infant Jesus

St. Francis de Sales School

Orphanage Maria Bambina

*A Pearl of Faith in the Middle of the African
Jungle*



amazonsmile

**Please DONATE
Now**

We keep in our prayers...



Let us not forget dear Canon Fragelli who has been hospitalized in Siena since the beginning of October. We are always in touch thanks to his sister Maria who is with him with her husband. Well united in prayer with him and with his family!



A Pearl of Faith in the Middle of the African Jungle



MISSION SAINT THERESE OF THE INFANT JESUS
INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST
VAL MARIE
B.P. 17
MOUILA - GABON

