

MISSION+

# DR CONGO

NEVER WEARY OF DOING GOOD

PALLOTTINES

**PARISH**

North Kivu, South Kivu

**CHARITY**

For the most vulnerable

**LIFE**

Formation & Communion

# REACH ALL THE PERIPHERIES



St. Vincent Pallotti's Mission DR Congo  
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# DR CONGO

**Then the country of Zaire (from 1971-1996), the Pallottines arrived to the Diocese of Goma in 1981. A part of the Holy Family Province - DR Congo, Rwanda, Belgium - there are 23 Fathers and 31 seminarians; encompassing 54 of the young Province's 124 members.**

In the Parish Ministry, we first served in two neighboring parishes in the Diocese of Goma; Rugari and Rutare. In 2019, we were entrusted with the new Parish of St. Faustina in Buturande; henceforth transitioning here, as the other parishes returned to the pastoral care of the diocese.

In 2016, we embarked to the Archdiocese of Bukavu, where our newly created parish is still under construction. With Bukavu in South Kivu, and Buturande in North Kivu, St. Vincent's community is found in two provinces, and two dioceses, in two of DR Congo's Eastern Provinces.



# CHARITY: LOVE & COMPASSION

**"No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!"**

**Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium**

In all our Congolese Pallottine Parishes, there's *Adoption of the Heart*; a social project for the studies of children from poor families. It's mostly sponsored by the Polish Pallottines, who started the program in Rwanda, and then extended it to DR Congo.

To keep our students educationally stimulated and growing in values at the service of humanity, we hold an all-day *Patronage* Camp for the two months of summer. We organize activities that sponsor children from all different schools, who gather at different sites for dances, sports, and catechesis.

In Goma, there's also a project for orphans at the *Flame of Divine Love* orphanage. While it's not a Pallottine endeavor, its close location of the Formation House inspired Fr. General Jacob Nampudakam to find a way to provide funding.





# MISSION+



Top: Flame of Divine Love Orphanage  
Bottom: Patronage Camp







# Formation & Integral Development Center

**"Saint Bonaventure teaches us that "contemplation deepens the more we feel the working of God's grace within our hearts, and the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves". [Saint John of the Cross taught that all the goodness present in the realities and experiences of this world "is present in God eminently and infinitely, or more properly, in each of these sublime realities is God".**

**Pope Francis, *Laudato Si***

*Genezareth*, the Pallottine's spiritual and formational center at the shore of Lake Kivu, has a triune purpose; building faith, the integral human development of the person, as well as home to our Seminarians. It's a unique center in the Goma Diocese, as monthly recollections of all (religious and lay), retreats, conferences, and spiritual holidays take place.



# Seminary & Formation

## Postulancy, Philosophy, & Theology:

Three stages accompany Seminarians in their formation towards becoming a consecrated member of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate. A one-year Postulancy period, followed by the Novitiate and scholastic training.

For the first year of Postulancy, St. Vincent's Congolese aspirants have all their activities on the compound, except for some common trainings called Interposutlancy of Goma. Those studying Philosophy and Theology go to the Diocese's nearby Major Seminary each day, and return for other formation program activities.





# Mount Nyiragongo Volcano

**"Let us pray for the population in the city of Goma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, that is forced to flee because of the eruption of the Nyiragongo Volcano."**

**Pope Francis, Regina Coeli on Pentecost Sunday**

On Saturday, May 22, the 11,500 foot Mount Nyiragongo Volcano erupted, with 31 of the city's 2 million people perishing. In the 24 hours thereafter, 92 earthquakes and tremors were recorded, though the majority not felt by the people, but registered through the seismographic network. On Pentecost Sunday, only hours after its eruption, Pallottine Fr. Jean Bosco Habyarimana SAC shared a message, and an update on the situation a week later.

*"Since 18:30 up to Sunday early 5:30 am, Goma went through the Nyiragongo Volcano's tough eruption experience. Now the situation is apparently calm, except some short earthquakes and the smoke which still comes out of the active volcano. The population fled the entire evening. God has been and is always on our side."*

*As of today, "earthquakes are for the time being rare, meaning almost stopping. Experts in the matter, be it on the side of DR Congo or Rwanda, testify that still we have to wait final assurances. However, life goes on in all ways."*







# Evangelii Gaudium



## **Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel**

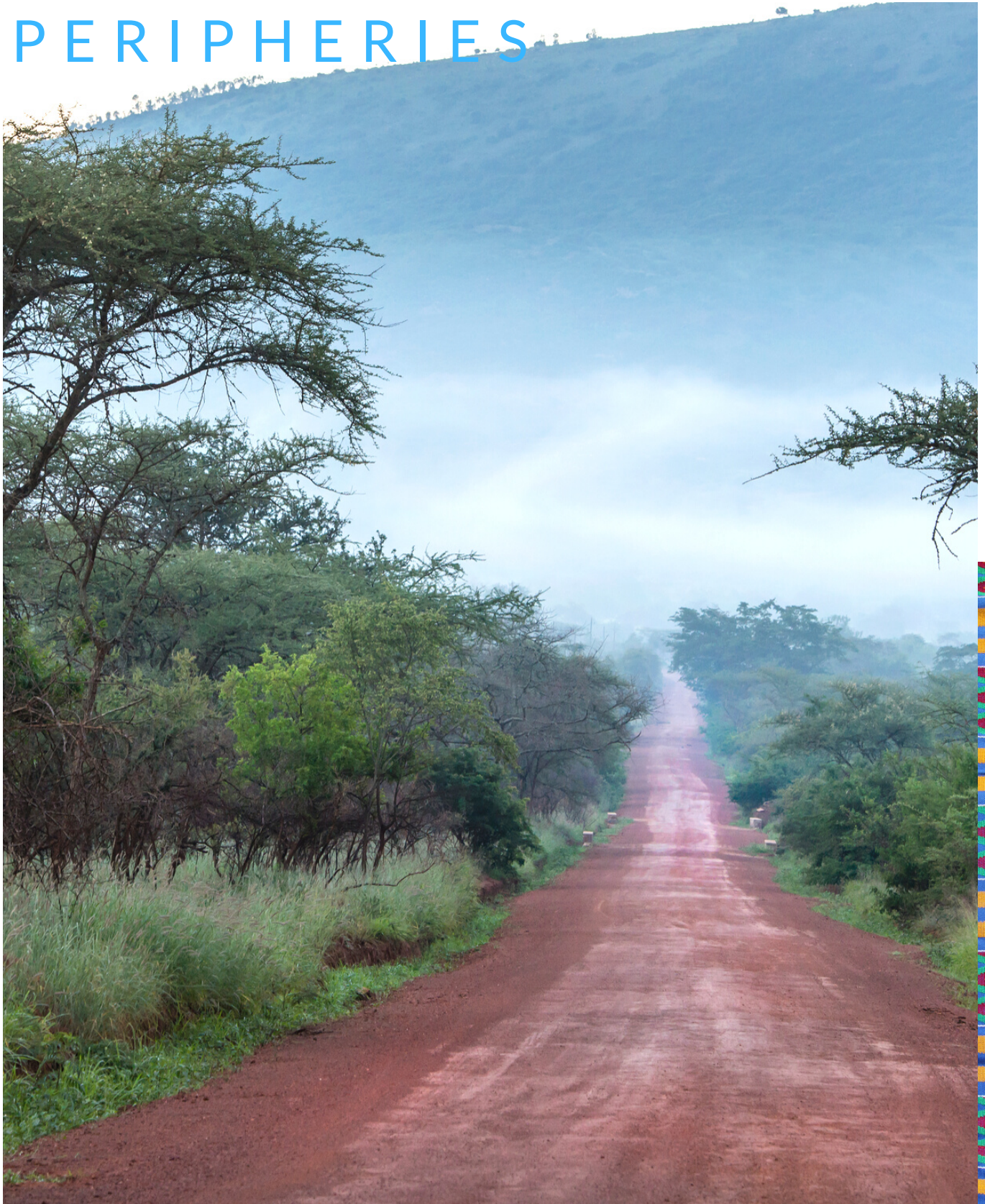
How often we dream up vast apostolic projects, meticulously planned, just like defeated generals! But this is to deny our history as a Church, which is glorious precisely because it is a history of sacrifice, of hopes and daily struggles, of lives spent in service and fidelity to work, tiring as it may be, for all work is *"the sweat of our brow"*. Instead, we waste time talking about "what needs to be done" – in Spanish we call this the sin of "habriaqueísmo" – like spiritual masters and pastoral experts who give instructions from on high, and we lose contact with the real lives and difficulties of our people.

This is a tremendous corruption disguised as a good. We need to avoid it by making the Church constantly go out from herself, keeping her mission focused on Jesus Christ, and her commitment to the poor. God save us from a worldly Church with superficial spiritual and pastoral trappings! This stifling worldliness can only be healed by breathing in the pure air of the Holy Spirit who frees us from self-centredness cloaked in an outward religiosity bereft of God. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the Gospel!

I especially ask Christians in communities throughout the world to offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion. Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35). This was Jesus' heartfelt prayer to the Father: "That they may all be one... in us... so that the world may believe" (Jn 17:21). Beware of the temptation of jealousy! We are all in the same boat and headed to the same port! Let us ask for the grace to rejoice in the gifts of each, which belong to all.



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We Are A Mission

St. Vincent Pallotti's Spiritual Project of Integral Human Development

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