



Dear Co-Missionaries,

Each year as we prepare for the mission appeal season we invite La Salette missionaries working in the mission field to help us to fulfill the mission appeals offered to us by the different dioceses. The mission countries where we work have responded to our calling by sending La Salette missionaries from Tanzania, Angola, Philippines and Madagascar. These four missionaries are

Fr. Rakotondraibe Romulad, MS in Madagascar.

Fr. Wilfredo, MS Iminga in Philippines.

Fr. Aldrin Cenizal, MS working in Tanzania.

Fr. Benjamim, MS working in Namibia.

They will share with us their mission work among the people they have been sent to serve and bring the good news of Jesus Christ. God bless you for your sacrifice love and support of our missionaries in the mission lands

Fr. Jeremy Morais, MS



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December 2025

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THE SPIRIT OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



My Ministry in Angola

Fr. Alfredo Benjamim, MS



Fr. Benjamim, MS, I am a La Salette missionary from the Province of Angola. My seminary formation was very difficult, but made us strong. Practically all my seminary studies were marked by the civil war in my country. We studied in terrible conditions. I will never forget the day a bomb fell in our back yards during the conflict. During those days we lacked everything, including water to drink. We were called many times to join the government troops. We were only prevented from doing so due to the intervention of the Bishop of Benguela at the time, the late Dom Oscar Braga. May his soul rest in peace.

MISSION EXPERIENCE IN ANGOLA I was in a Mission located between the government forces and the popular liberation forces. We didn't know who was protecting us and who was against us. Our students both boys and girl were taken away by force to join the rebel forces and I needed to make intervention to have then released. In the Huambo Mission where I was sent to work, the infrastructure was quite destroyed by the civil



war. Horrible, almost non-existent roads, Huambo was like being in exile. It was a period of struggle for a change of mentality. We walked long distances to our pastoral work due to the lack of a vehicle. Traveling from Benguela to Luanda in search of better living conditions was a torture. Sent to the Mission of Namibia: Saint Elizabeth Mission Church: Pastoral life was somewhat improved compared to Angola. The people did participate with their limitations. But providing for our livelihood was very difficult since the people were extremely poor. It was the first mission we began and once formerly established we turned it over to the diocese. The second mission that we established was Jesus the Good Shephard in Opuwa, still in Namibia. The native people of this district for the most part, do not adhere to Christianity. They have there own beliefs and ritual called HOLY FIRE. They are a difficult people to evangelize. When they look for you, it is only because they want something from you. When we go to the outstations, they expect you to bring something for them. Graphically, it is a land affected by drought. It hardly rains. Therefore, poverty is one of the major problems for the people. It is the most remote part of the country, so we must travel through terrible roads which effects the level of pastoral care. We travel long distances to meet few people. Almost everything is missing there. But we survive in a rented house and take care of our own necessities because we don't have the means to employ anyone. We rely mainly on volunteers when it is possible to get volunteers. My Provincial in Angola in collaboration with the Provincial of the USA has now asked me to serve here in the USA. I have been assigned to the La Salette Community of the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Attleboro, MA; including ministry to the Portuguese community here in the area.



THE SPIRIT OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



My Ministry in Madagascar

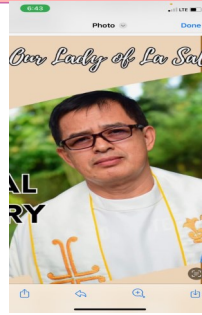
Fr. Romuald Rakotondraibe, MS



Also known as (Fr. Meme), has been a member of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette for 36 years ordained a priest in his home country of Madagascar 29 years ago. He shared with us his first experience as a priest working in a rural mission parish, where he served for five years. 1yr after ordination, He was sent to Ambolotara, a rural mission district located about 20 miles northwest of the Diocese of Antsirabe. There, he carried out a wide range of ministries that touched nearly every aspect of community life. His first and most sacred duty was the administration of the sacraments and the pastoral care of the sixteen mission churches that formed the parish. He visited these churches at least once every two months to celebrate the Eucharist, offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and prepare catechumens for Baptism. In addition, he prepared couples for marriage and brought the anointing and comfort of Christ to the sick and dying. Through these sacramental encounters, he helped sustain the faith and unity of the Christian community.

My Ministry in Philippines

Fr. Wilfredo Iminga, MS



I am a member of the La Salette Province of the Philippines. I am 66 years old. As a young priest I was assigned to mission parishes, serving both as pastor and school director. Later on, I was missioned to California and Hawaii....a truly enriching experience that allowed me to learn and navigate the beauty and challenges of missionary work in different cultures. At present, I serve as parochial vicar at St. Isidore Parish in San Juan, Ilocos Sur, in the Philippines. The mission is not without difficulties...we travel rough roads, buy potable water, and fetch water for our daily needs. Yet we wholeheartedly embrace these challenges, for we are La Salette Missionaries, are called to serve where we are needed the most. Just three months ago, our beloved Provincial, Fr. Eugene Andaya, MS, sent me to help do the mission appeals in the USA. In obedience, I accepted the task... and to my surprise I truly enjoyed the experience. My Provincial in the Philippines in conjunction with the Provincial of the USA has now asked me to serve here in the USA. I have now been assigned as parochial vicar at St. Oliver Plunkett in Snellville, GA.

My Ministry in Tanzania

Fr. Aldrin Cenizal, MS



I am a La Salette missionary from the Province of the Philippine who has been sent by my Provincial on behalf of the Superior General to serve in our mission of Tanzania under the administration of the General Council of our Congregation. Since the beginning of the Tanzania Mission in 2016, it has become the instrument of spreading the message of the Blessed Mother of La Salette through the ministries of the missionaries assigned in the mission. The missionaries are still stationed in the parish of Our Lady of La Salette in Bukoba, Catholic Diocese which remained administered by the Missionaries of La Salette. However, the message already spread throughout the country and invitations to open missions in many dioceses in the country received by the congregation. It's a challenge to respond to their invitations because of the lack of enough personnel within the congregation. We know it's a good opportunity but in God's time things will be possible. The lack of personnel, on the other hand, is not a hindrance for the missionaries to spread the good news and the message of the Blessed Mother.

La Salette Mission Center

Fr. Jeremy Morais, MS



That is why education for the future of the children of Angola. A future that rejects a false hope of past, that violence and war are the only means for change. It is through education that we offer them a new path to combat against ruining their lives by falling into drugs and prostitution. These paths can only destroy their lives. Through education we offer them real HOPE for a prosperous future and for the advancement of their beloved country ANGOLA."

We thank God that our La Salette missionaries up to now have remained unharmed. We continue to ask our heavenly Mother, Our Lady of La Salette, to protect them. At the beginning of this newsletter I have asked all of us who love and support the missions to offer this season for our La Salette missionaries where it is difficult to bring the good news of salvation to God's people. May we heed the call of our Mother Mary at La Salette: "BE NOT AFRAID". Be not afraid to make a sacrifice for our missionaries by offering up these forty days. Your prayers and sacrifice will help them endure and over-come the challenges met daily.

The La Salette Mission Center supports over 20 mission countries and chose to bring light to the challenges faced in Myanmar, India, Haiti, and Mozambique. Support our missionaries, make a sacrifice and donate a mass intention. Mail dona-

Fr. Jeremy Morais, MS

