



## Territory of Africa

Dear Sisters,

A few days ago, we celebrated the feast of the Sacred Hearts. It is my fervent wish that we may all be a little more changed, a little more joyful and enthusiastic about the mission that the Lord is renewing for us more and more. And although times have been difficult, with the pandemic that persists, the violence that is growing in so many places and the solutions to the problems of humanity not seeming to be resolved, the rhythm in which we are living is that of God who we know loves this world that he created infinitely and who is always present in it, as the Lord of history. He nourishes our hope.

In this issue of INFO, we are going to take a look at our life in Africa. Some history, to remember how we were born there; some current affairs, where we can see how the voices of our General Chapters and the priorities of the Apostolic Project resonate; and of course, the sisters and communities with their own dreams and hopes, who speak to us about the Congregation from an African perspective.

There is no need to mention our enormous diversity. It comes out on its own as we present ourselves Territory by Territory. And this is our great wealth. We are diverse in number, age, culture, formation, origin, history... and that is why it is so important to know each other and to listen to each other through testimonies about our missionary tasks. Today we have so many ways of doing this! This allows us to call ourselves "sisters" in truth, and to recognise our Congregation by educating the children and adolescents of the Father Damien Centre in Kinshasa, by accompanying the rural women

of the Aymer centre in "the mountain" towards the periphery, and by welcoming girls in difficult family situations, in Lar de Mozambique. We are all there with the sisters who support the mission. Probably, neither the Good Father nor the Good Mother imagined that their Congregation would reach Africa. But surely, fulfilling their promise, they accompanied the steps taken by brothers and sisters to make a foundation there. Our Charism, centred on the Love of God, is pure gospel, Good News for all those who understand this language. Let us pay attention and listen to the sisters of the Territory of Africa in the following pages.

For personal and community reflection, this month we wanted to get closer to our patron saints. Remembering them and reading about them again does us a lot of good. Saints of great stature, they have something to say to us at this time. They were chosen by our founders as references, friends, models, to enrich the spirituality of the community they were forming. If we converse with them today, our own spirituality is also enriched. Updating their message broadens our vision and brings us closer to the intuition of the Good Father and the Good Mother who wanted to link us to the spiritual wisdom of these men of faith who have contributed so much to the Church. Pachomius, Augustine, Bernard and Dominic have been a source of inspiration for so many believers. They come to meet us today and speak to us of perseverance, of the search for God, of passion for the mission, of love for Mary... Let us allow ourselves to be inspired by them.

Affectionately,