

**Visit to the R.D. Congo  
January February 2009.  
by  
Fr Robert and Fr Jacob.**

4/5

THE KASAI  
17th January to 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Ilebo, January 24<sup>th</sup> to January 28<sup>th</sup>.



There are no less than 6 members of the Ilebo community.

Fr Edmond is the parish priest and Fr Jean Marie (recently ordained) is his curate. Jean Marie also teaches in the Technical School.

Fr Alex is headmaster of the technical School (mornings) and the Lycee Ste Marie (afternoons).

Br Albert is Director of the Primary School (St Jacques). He is known to the pupils as “Pappa Directeur.”

Br François teaches French and is in charge of discipline in the secondary schools.

Br Fernand is studying geography in the local Institute of pedagogy. He also teaches in the Lycee Ste Marie.

Fr Edmond organised a very pleasant evening meal when the both Ilebo communities came together.



Ilebo now has a new Church which seats around 1000. The benches were made in the wood-work shop in Bulongo. Fr Jacob and Fr Robert were invited to concelebrate at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> masses on the Sunday morning. The 1<sup>st</sup> mass lasted 3½ hours and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mass 2 hours. The Church was very full for both masses.



Fr Alex has done sterling work in transforming the old Church (once an aircraft hangar) into a Primary School. There are now 400 pupils. The school is proving a great success.



As well as the primary school the Josephites run two secondary schools in Ilebo. Over 25 years ago the school buildings were built by Fr Willibrord and Fr Jacob was the 1<sup>st</sup> Headmaster. We managed to visit every class in both schools and talk with the pupils.

More footballs were distributed and several matches were played. There was a girls' football match played with great energy and zest. The football match played by the boys was of an excellent standard.

The success of our schools is the result of hard work and close collaboration between lay staff and community. Fr Robert met with the Staff and afterwards

there was a festive meal in the novitiate garden. It was an opportunity to thank the teachers for their hard work and dedication.



The Novitiate has been en-  
helped by Fr Edmond and  
with the teaching. There are  
building has been smartened up by Fr Felix.

trusted to Fr Felix. He is  
Fr Jean Marie who help out  
five novices. The novitiate

Our time in Ilebo passed all too quickly. Fr Jacob decided that the superior general should re-  
turn by aeroplane; a mere hour and half flight to Kinshasa. Fr Jacob then spent a further two  
days making the difficult journey back to Kananga by road.

*To be continued*

RDH

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