

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

5/5

KINSHASA
29TH January to 14TH February.

Kimwenza. While Fr Jacob was making his way back to Kananga by road, Fr Robert, on arriving in Kinshasa, went straight to the scholasticate in Kimwenza.

Fr Pierre is Rector of the scholasticate and there are 14 scholastics in the community.

The students attend lectures every morning in either Philosophy or Theology in St Augustine's Institute in Limete. Recently the main road between Kimwenza and Kinshasa has been destroyed in recent rainstorms. The scholasticate has been equipped with vehicles which are able to negotiate the narrow sandy tracks which connect Kimwenza to the main road.



If all goes well 6 confreres should be ordained to the priesthood next year (2009-2010).

Limete. The last week of the visit was spent in Limete visiting our two communities there as well as the College St Etienne.

Fr Floribert is Superior of both communities in Limete. He is also Headmaster of St Etienne. He lives in the Avenue des Elephants together with Fr Celestin who is finishing his probationary period prior to becoming a medical doctor; Fr Florimond who is studying Missiology and Fr Robert Mbimbi.

Fr Evariste live nearby in the 4me rue in Limete. He is studying for a doctorate in Theology. Brs Quentin and Gaston also live there. They are finishing their theological studies in the nearby faculty of theology. Two Postulants, Charles and Achille also live in the community and they are in charge of the boarding section which is housed in the same house.



College St Etienne. The College was founded in 2003. Frs Jacob and Floribert are the co-founders of the college and it was very obvious that both are loved and respected by pupils and staff.

Visiting the college over several days and visiting the class rooms as well as talking with pupils and staff it was obvious to me that there was a real family spirit amongst the college community.

The ground floor is occupied by the Primary school. It was a real delight to visit the class rooms and chat with the pupils. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn were noticeable.



At the end of the visit to the Primary school we were able to meet with the teaching staff of the primary school. As always it was an opportunity to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

During a fruitful meeting with the secondary school staff Fr Jacob and Frt Robert, together with Fr Floribert were able to discuss a variety of topics relating to the running of the school and its future.



The most interesting meeting was with the pupil representatives of the College. I was very impressed by their concern for the future of their college. They are anxious to see their college completed and further academic sections added. Those leaving the school in July were anxious to know what their future relationship would be with their college. Fr Floribert assured them that there would be an opportunity to meet together and have regular contacts with the class mates.

Conclusion.

Thanks to the efforts of Fr Jacob we have been able to visit all our communities, schools and parishes and meet with a great number of people. We would like to congratulate our confreres in the Congo for their dedication and for the marvellous work which they do.

End.

R.D.H.

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