



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie
Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma



May 16, 2022

Biography of Death Notice N. 14

The Region of Togo recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Moïse Akli-Esso KOLA**, of the Jacob Gapp Marianist Community in Lomé, Togo, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 18, 2022, in Lomé, Togo, at the age of 30 with 3 years of religious profession.

Moïse Akli-Esso Kola, was born on December 31, 1991 in Sotouboua to the late Kola Yaou and Kokou Akossia. He was baptized on May 30, 2004. He did his primary and secondary education in Sotouboua and Lomé where he obtained his Baccalaureate in June 2015. In his last years of high school, he became acquainted with the Marianists. As time passed, he developed a strong interest in the Marianist religious life. He entered the prenovitiate of *Notre Dame du Oui* in Kara, Togo, after his baccalaureate, to begin his initial formation to the Marianist religious life. In 2016, he entered the Marianist novitiate in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, to continue his formation. He pronounced his first vows on June 23, 2018. Moïse returned to the Ivory Coast the same year. A year later, he went to Kenya, to

deepen his religious formation as a scholastic. He returned to Lomé in 2020 as a member of the Marianist Jakob Gapp Community. Moïse began his university studies in the Geography Department at the University of Lomé, Togo.

Moïse was a very enthusiastic man in his religious commitment and in living the daily life of the community, in the service of the Blessed Virgin and of his brothers. He was gratified by his journey as a religious and did not hesitate to proclaim his pride in being a Marianist. This was evident in one of his letters requesting the renewal of vows: *"Given my journey in religious life, I can say out loud that it is a grace that God has given to his Church and I am proud to be a Marianist."* He was the kind of brother who was very spontaneous and generous with his time, a *jack-of-all-trades* as they say, especially when it came to performing manual and craft tasks. He had a great sense of service and awareness of being useful to his community and congregation. This is evident in his last letter of request for renewal of vows. In this letter, he understands clearly the difficulties of his academic studies. He writes: *"All this sometimes gives me stress. If the results are good, I will continue, but if not, I am available to change studies to be useful to the Region,"* (correspondence dated April 5)

His extrovert personality caused him to say aloud what others were only thinking, according to the testimony of one of his fellow scholastics, and this caused him some difficulties. However, at the same time, it made him an easy brother to associate with in community. Here is what this brother says in detail: *"I lived almost a year with Bro. Moïse at the Nairobi Scholasticate from 2019 to 2020. These moments of spiritual and fraternal communion have left us a good number of positive memories of Moïse. With a heart full of goodness, Moïse was a man who loved the sacred. His sense of preparing well for the services led the brothers to ask him more than once to lead the celebration of the Word of God when our priest was away. He did it with joy, enthusiasm and seriousness. Moïse was always passionate about the singing of the Hymn of Zechariah; which earned him the name "Beni Soit" (Blessed are you) by the brothers of the community. Moïse was a charitable brother, smiling and ready to help without any reward. It was easy to associate with him. He loved technical work; I would say he was passionate about being a working brother. Moïse was good with his hands if he felt encouraged to do a particular task. He participated in the making of a large cross that we use during Holy Week and Easter. Now God has decided to call him to Himself during the Easter Octave, is this a prophecy, a message...?! I have always known him as a smiling, open-minded brother. The moments*

spent with him during community and interpersonal activities are among the best memories. I learned a lot from him. I will not forget you; you will remain forever in my heart Moïse."

Moïse had such a sense of humility that he refused credit even for the work of his hands, always attributing it to God: "*It is God who is strong,*" he liked to repeat. These were even the last words he left with his brothers on Easter Day before he was killed in a traffic accident early the next morning, April 18. In his homily, the Regional Superior concluded as follows: "*Dear Brother Moïse, ascend with your Lord, the Risen Christ, whom you served alongside the Blessed Virgin Mary, and intercede for the rest of us, your religious and biological family, your brothers and sisters, still pilgrims here on earth. »*

May he rest in peace!
