

World Day of Prayer 2009



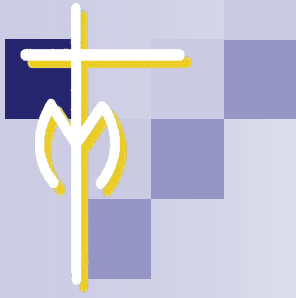
MESSAGE TO THE MARIANIST FAMILY

Presentation of the
**Shrine of Our Lady of Peace
of Fatima**

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

World Day of Prayer

October 11, 2009



SHRINE of OUR LADY of PEACE of FATIMA in KINSHASA

The Shrine of Our Lady of Peace is located in the center of the city of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, seven kilometers from Brazzaville (Rep. of Congo) as the bird flies. This Shrine, Our Lady of Peace, opened July 13, 2001, was built at the initiative of Cardinal Frederick Etsou Nzabi Bamungwabi. It is a pastoral response to the challenge which the war and the less reassuring prospects for the return of peace in our country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, gave to our Church. Thus the Cardinal Archbishop wanted it to be a special place of mediation, of meditation, of listening to the Word of God, of the celebration of the sacraments – in particular the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It would be a center of intense prayer for peace in the world in general and for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in particular.

With our late beloved Archbishop we believe that peace is a gift of God and that this peace comes through the conversion of hearts and an openness to the evangelical virtues, notably, love, truth, humility, mutual pardon, reconciliation, and so on. In this effort of a common search for peace we count on the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Peace. In her numerous apparitions recognized by the Church she does not cease to invite the disciples of Christ to pray insistently for peace, the fruit of every sincere conversion.

The Shrine has become over time the main center of pilgrimage for all the Christians of Kinshasa. Since it is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Peace, the pilgrims are invited, in the course of all the celebrations there, to implore with faith and great hope, the gift of peace for the world in general and for the Congo in particular. They ask the intercession, both powerful and maternal, of the Virgin Mary in order to obtain for the world, the gift of God's peace, "which surpasses all that one could imagine."

Numerous Christians come to regain peace in their heart. Those who come regularly attest that, since they have been coming to the Shrine, there has been a great change at work in their lives. As Mary always leads people to her Son, they spend time adoring the Blessed Sacrament, participating in the novenas.... They also like to come back to give thanks to the Lord for all his benefits which they have received through the intercession of the Virgin Mary.

These pilgrimages organized regularly throughout the year, are most frequent in May and October.



**"That they may all be one" and
"One heart and one spirit" in
Lingala, the language spoken in
Kinshasa.**

PRAYER INTENTIONS

FOR THE MARIANIST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

AT THE MARIAN SHRINE

OF THE DEM. REP. CONGO

“Our Lady of Fatima”

- Let us pray for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that the war, all the violent acts, the injustices, the marginalization of those who are the victims of political intolerance, may cease; and let us pray that the blood of the sons and daughters of this land may be brought to the heavenly altar through the intercession of the Virgin Mary.



- Let us pray for the spread of the Marianist charism in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; that each branch may work together and deepen their reflection on the charism through their commitment and activity in the Church and in Society.

- Let us pray for the resolutions of the 5th International Meeting of the Marianist Lay Communities, that all the challenges for the future in no way discourage the new International Team but encourage all to look to Jesus through the intervention of the Virgin Mary.

- Let us pray for the canonization of Blessed Chaminade: Give us O Lord, visible signs of his holiness and grant your grace to those who are in need of help, through his intercession, so that by following his example we will know how to welcome and serve Jesus and make him loved by the people of our times.

- Let us pray for the Marianist Family that these four branches live and grow in unity on the foundation of their particular Marianist vocation and be supported in resisting those all too human temptations to disunity.
- Let us pray for vocations in each of the branches of the Family: that Our Lady of Fatima may obtain for us the courage to offer the call to those around us, certain that the harvest is abundant and only workers are lacking.
- Let us pray for all those who, throughout the world, are united with us in prayer and confidence in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary: that this time spent in communion may renew us in our vocation to serve the Church and the world.

