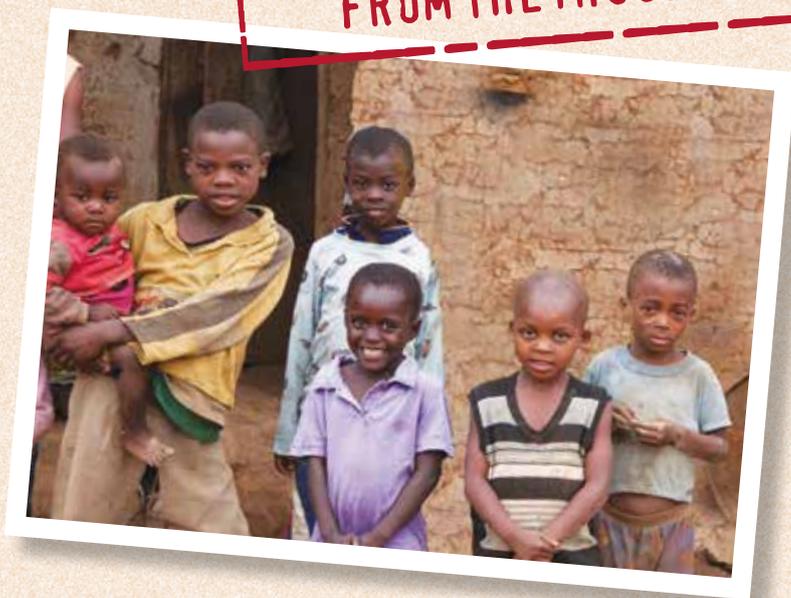


CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE  
IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS  
FROM THE MISSION



"Saint Clare School" Project  
**NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL** in Djiri  
Congo-Brazzaville

SUBJECT:

**Continuation of work for the construction of the new Saint Clare secondary school** to provide local children and street kids with the chance to study, learn a trade, and build a future.

SEEN AND APPROVED BY:

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# HISTORY

## CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

Congo-Brazzaville, located in central Africa and with a short coastline along the Atlantic Ocean, is a country with a Christian majority. It became independent from France in 1960, and a few years later became the first African communist country.

**Its history has been troubled by coups and revolutions.**

In 2016, following the re-election of General Sassou-Nguesso, who was first in government in 1979, violent clashes led to a civil war that continue sporadically.

## THE FRANCISCAN PRESENCE

The Franciscans arrived in Congo-Brazzaville as early as 1489-90, but only returned there as permanent missionaries in 1920.

**The Franciscan community in the capital, Brazzaville, was established in 1991.** A few years later, the friars set up a welcoming community for young people, where about 70 children are now housed.

A OFM entity in Congo-Brazzaville was founded in 2017, called the Foundation of Our Lady of Africa, and is composed of 20 local friars and one missionary.



The OFM Minister General visiting the fraternity in 2017



Children of Congo-Brazzaville

## CURRENT REALITY - A VIOLENT COUNTRY WITH A HIGH RATE OF POVERTY

Although Congo-Brazzaville is a resource-rich country, decades of autocratic government by the President have resulted in a stagnant economy, with low levels of development and education. More is invested in the military than in education, and **over 50% of Congolese people live below the poverty line.**

The first victims are girls and boys forced by poverty to live on the streets. Often, these are the so-called **"invisible" children, who have been abandoned at birth and not recognised by their parents, and who have no rights.** Growing up on the streets, these children don't experience love, they cannot study, and they do not learn a trade. They try to survive by selling trinkets, having to sleep in makeshift shelters, and being forced to **"cope" with the unimaginable, including stealing or prostitution.** But they are still only children and are extremely vulnerable.

## SUPPORT FROM THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS

For more than 20 years, the Franciscan friars, as part of their mission of **fidelity to the Gospel and solidarity with the poorest, have been helping the street children of Brazzaville by welcoming them into a family environment.** Here the young people can rediscover the calm and safety that they have lost or have never known. The Franciscan friars **offer them food and shelter, care for them, help them to study,** and try to provide them with the opportunity to learn a trade and so become independent.

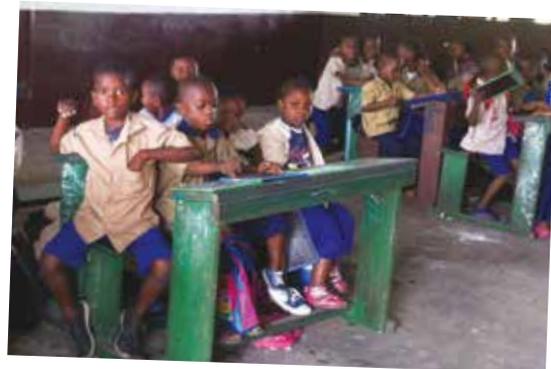
Education is the key to development, and the Franciscans have been working in this direction since the beginning.



Some of the children helped by the Franciscan friars

# A NEW SCHOOL: GIVING STREET CHILDREN A FUTURE

In the capital city of Brazzaville, there are several primary schools that will accept the street children and introduce them to education. But, unfortunately, there are very few secondary schools that will assist them in getting the professional qualifications needed to find a job and build a decent future.



Children of the Franciscan's primary school

For this reason, the Franciscan friars decided to build a new 7 classroom secondary school in Djiri, a suburb of Brazzaville, where they already have a parish that functions as a gathering place, providing social supports and a Christian apostolate.

As well as the street children assisted by the parish, the new school will also enrol local children whose school fees will subsidise the free access provided for the street children. The school will therefore be self-sufficient, and we will also be able to give paid work to school staff. The Franciscan friars have all been trained in Rome and Jerusalem and will be available to teach in the school and be role models for the students.



Work has already begun, the land has been prepared, the foundations, crawl spaces, and perimeter walls have been built, but the Franciscan friars need help to finish the construction.

THE COST OF THIS GREAT PROJECT	
Construction of 7 classrooms	\$ 210,000
School furniture (desks, chairs, blackboards)	\$ 12,000
Teaching materials (books, notebooks, stationery and support materials)	\$ 9,500

Help the Franciscan friars to finish the construction of the *Saint Clare* secondary school and give street children a future.

# Help the Franciscan friars to finish building the *Saint Clare* school and give hope to the children and young people of Congo-Brazzaville!



**\$ 35**

You can help us to buy school furniture and teaching materials for all the children in need.



**\$ 60**

You can help us to construct the electrical and plumbing systems in the new school.



**\$ 120**

You can help us to finish the construction of the seven classrooms of the *Saint Clare* Secondary School in Congo-Brazzaville.

## A SPECIAL DONATION

You can also decide to donate a complete classroom (structure, facilities and equipment) costing \$ 30,000 and have your name forever displayed in the *Saint Clare* school. **A PLAQUE WILL BE PLACED WITH YOUR NAME INSCRIBED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CLASSROOM YOU HAVE FINANCED.**

*Thank you very much!*

### HERE'S HOW TO SUPPORT THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS IN CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

#### BANK TRANSFER

Bank: Intesa Sanpaolo  
 Branch: 09606, Piazza della Libertà, 13 00192 Roma - Italia  
 Account Name: FONDAZIONE OFM FRATERNITAS ONLUS  
 Account Holder Address: c/o Casa Generalizia OFM,  
 Via di Santa Maria Mediatrice 25, 00165 Roma - Italia  
 EUR ACCOUNT IBAN: IT15T030690960610000168958  
 USD ACCOUNT IBAN: IT22V0306909606161009304690  
 SWIFT: BCITITMM  
 REASON: Saint Clare School

#### ONLINE

at [www.ofmfraternitas.org](http://www.ofmfraternitas.org)

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If you would like to support our Franciscan activities and projects or have further information to get to know us better, you can call us on **06 92917107** or cell phone **+39 320 713 5875**



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