

Angola Province Report

(AFRAM Zonal Assembly- Lomé 2010)

1. General Situation of the Angolan Society. The legislative elections held on 5th September, 2008; although not exempt of disputes came to assure definite end of war. Recently was approved a new constitution, not exempt of the polemics, due to excessive accumulation of power in the hands of the figure of president. With this, Angola passed from second to the third republic country.

It is visible the rehabilitation of the Infra- structures, the coming up new buildings. In spite of, the notable economic developments the Angolans still live with innumerable social problems, above all the health care, the education and the unemployment and the access to housing. In spite of all, the best gift that we have is peace.

1.1 The Church in Angola. The Church of Angola is conscious that its future depends on a big part of the formation of the local clergy and local missionaries.

The majority catholic population of Angola (more than 65%) calls for an urgent need of re-evangelization. Apart from the announcing the Word of God and of the Sacraments, the priorities of the Church in Angola on the social field go from the preservation of life, fight against hunger and poverty, health and education, the elimination of the regional disparities which are more and more visible.

2.2- SVD Personal and their Activities. Presently the province counts on 35 confreres in perpetual vows.

Parishes	Cristo-Rei	1
	Santa Madalena	2
	Santo António	2
	São João Baptista	2
Missions	Kakulama	3
	Kakolo	2
	Kaungula	2
	N'zeto	2
	Tomboco	2
	Sendi	3
Formation	SVD Seminary –Viana	3
	Philosophy House – Luanda	1
	Noviciate	1
Provincial House	Province Administration	4

Central Mission House	University Apostolate	2
	Arnaldo Janssen Centre	1
	Rádio Ecclesia	1
Bishop's House- Caxito	Bishop	1

Outside the Province: (9; six of these have not yet got the entry visa and three are on further studies.

Temporary Vows: (1), Novice (1) The two of them are in CNG province.

The question about the difficulty in obtaining Entry Visa for the foreigner confreres continues to raise difficulties in our missions and to be an SVD.

3- SELF- RELIANCE PROJECTS. In the past years the general council approved some of the projects of self-reliance for our province; namely: the Kikuxi Farm, Kakulama Farm, Shop for the Religious Articles, Garage, Cyber café.

3.1- Kikuxi Plot. It's a very big plot which is more and more re-valued due to the ongoing construction of the new airport in the area of Bom Jesus, possibly the biggest airport of Sub-sahara Africa. Many corporations have shown their interest in for the land. The congregation is monitored for this purpose. Therefore, aims to get a good partnership with an enterprise which gives a better proposal, so that the Congregation may share on its income.

3.2- Garage or Workshop. Presently, the garage carries on its activities on the parking area of the Central House, on the contrary, the incomes are few. Though it's important to stress the garage offers a good service to the cars of the society. The Archdiocese of Luanda gave to the society a plot whereby we hopefully will be the future garage basement area, on condition that this may take liability for the boys 'house.

3.3- Shop for the Religious Goods. The project of the shop for the religious articles, which was foreseen to be built in Kifangondo is still on. Actually with the help of the builder who is dealing with the construction of the philosophy's house, some works of cleaning the area have been done and it's foreseen the construction of it step by step. First, it will be built the shop so that through the incomes from it may support other parts of the initial projects for better service.

3.4- Cyber Café. The province counts with a new building within the area of Crsito Rei Parish where the cyber is giving its outcomes. Though that the incomes are not all that big, but they are visible. The difference between the investment which implied the construction of the cyber and the incomes which is giving to the province is hopeful. So, in May of 2008 with its own finance or sponsorship it was built the bar and was inaugurated the bar and area where the shop offers its assistance. It is also through these incomes from the cyber that was concluded the construction of our small house at the beach in Ramiros area.

3.5- Investments (Plots) - Pot of CAOP (Mulenvos area) 2,5 hectares. Possibly the area for the future noviciate.

-Plot of Kifangondo: A gift from a benefactor: 1,5 hectares: the construction of a guest house and the future shop for the religious itens.

- Plot of Piaget:

- Kakulama Farm: We lost big part of the area destined for agriculture, remaining 7 hectares, destined to the cattle- raising.

- Plot of Ndalatando:

4- The SVD Brothers Assembly: Brother Joao Facatino was the represented our presence on this assembly held in Cebú, 2009. He had the opportunity to share with all the members of the province during the last provincial assembly. To the provincial council was reserved the task of name a team of confreres to elaborate a specific program for the formation of brothers. During the celebrations in occasion of our founder, the brothers had the opportunity to know through conferences and reflections about the consecrated life to the parish members in Cristo Rei parish.

5- Since the beginning of the Year of the Priesthood. On 19th June, 2009, Solemnity of Sacred Heart Jesus, in occasion of the 150th Anniversary (*dies natalis*)of Joao Maria Vianney, at the Congregation level two reflections were done destined to the faithful of Cristo Rei Parish. One of which was directed by myself, on the eve of Christ the King Solemnity. At the level of the Archdiocese of Luanda there is a consistent program in reflection meetings, recollections, retreats, days of prayers and social gatherings for the priests. Some of the meetings have already taken place and were directed by the Archbishop of Luanda. It is necessary to cheer up confreres to participate.

6. Plans for the Future - Construction of a new Central House, Provincial House and Missions Secretariat

- Construction of a Spirituality Centre or Retreat Center.

- Project for a Common Formation Centre of the AFRAM Zone in Portugese.

- Project for a new Novitiate.

- The re-shuffle of the districts for a better effectiveness in offering services

7. Conclusion: A eye-sight to the Future with Confidence and Hope. The new context of peace, reconciliation and national reconstruction in which the country is involved demands from the Divine Word Missionaries in Angola for an effort for adaptation to the ongoing change, without fleeing from the temptations of evasions. We assume new field works, making major investments on personnel and financial means. We implore through the mediation of Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz, so that, our missionary work and presence in Angola may really manifest the presence of the Divine Word and always be led by Holy Spirit under the tender care of Mary, the mother of missionaries.

Luanda, January 29th, 2010

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