

Info about Sister Parish Relationship

The Church of Jesus Christ wants to be universal.

In announcing the Good News, Jesus disregards all borders so that he can gather people of every race, language and nation.

For putting the plan of God under way, a bridge has been thrown across two continents. The unity of Catholic Christians of America and Africa, with regard to their mission of a new evangelization, has been launched by way of a providential linking of two parishes as sister parishes: Church of the Holy Spirit, Webster, NY and Notre Dame d'Afrique (Our Lady of Africa), Abidjan, Ivory Coast.



Mrs. Sabine Bissouma, one of the initiators of the twin parish project, in front of the grotto of Notre Dame d'Afrique.

L'Eglise de Jesus Christ se veut universelle.

Pour l'annonce de la bonne nouvelle, Jesus Christ fait disparaître toutes les frontières afin de rassembler les hommes de toute race, langue, peuple et nation.

Pour la mise en route du plan de Dieu, un pont est jeté sur deux continents. L'unité des Chrétiens Catholiques d'Amérique et d'Afrique, en vue de leur mission pour la nouvelle évangélisation, se met en route à travers un projet de jumelage providentiel entre deux Eglises, « Church of the Holy Spirit, Webster, NY » consacrée au Saint-Esprit et la Paroisse Notre Dame d'Afrique, Biétry, Abidjan consacrée à la Vierge Marie.



Fr. Pascal SEKA in his office.



Procession of offering bearers during Mass.

Parish of “Notre Dame d'Afrique” (Our Lady of Africa)



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Brief History of the Parish

The history of the Parish of Our Lady of Africa is linked to that of the College Notre Dame d'Afrique, located in the southern portion of the capital city Abidjan in the Ivory Coast, West Africa.

The College was founded on October 2, 1957 on the demand of Msgr. Jean-Baptiste Boivin, the first bishop of Abidjan.

Answering the call of Msgr. Boivin, the Assumptionists, a group of French Religious, installed themselves on the present site on September 15, 1957. The team was composed of Fr. Roland Sourceaux, Fr. Victor Stever, Fr. Gabriel Bugnard and Fr. Louis Burget.

On November 21, 1958, Msgr. Boivin inaugurated the first Chapel and blessed the College buildings.

In 1966, at the call of Msgr. Bernard Yago, the Marianists succeeded the Assumptionists and assumed direction of the College.

In 1972, following the initiative of Fr. Jean Brissinger, Director of the College Notre Dame d'Afrique, the construction of the Church began. The works were financed by the Marianists supported by the lay faithful. The principal artisans were the Marianist Brothers: Alphonse Edel, Filibert Meichel, Aldo Marmara and Joseph Sontag.



Main entry of the Church.

This new Parish was placed by Msgr. Yago under the patronage of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Africa.

On December 8 1974, Msgr. Yago blessed the Church; the first Pastor was Fr. Robert Almeras, a Marianist Priest.

On October 2, 1989, with Fr. Marcel Boisselier, the parish community undertook the enlargement of the Church. The addition included 2000 seats, and today the church can welcome approximately 4000 faithful.

Since 1996, due to the lack of available Marianist Priests, the Parish has become diocesan.

From 1996 to 2008, Fr. Marcelin Kouadio, Fr. Emmanuel Zabsonre and Fr. Pascal Seka have succeeded the Marianist Priests.

Since 1972, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles have been present at the Parish. They have as their duties teaching the Catechism, welcoming the faithful, visiting and helping people of the neighborhood, staffing the kindergarden, and teaching deprived young girls the skills of sewing, cooking and baking.

The Parish Council was created in 1974 and has been led by the following Presidents: Mr. René Pujol ; Mr. Maurice Kordahi ; Mrs. Sabine Bissouma; Mr. Pierre-Claver Yangni N'Da; Mr. Bernard Amoikon; Mr. Sylvain Yangni Angate; Mr. Guillaume Seka; Mr. Lazare Dedy (current).

The current Pastoral Team consists of Fr. Pascal Seka as the Pastor and Fr. Guy Roland, Fr. Urbain Sipo and Thierry Kone.



From Left to Right: Fr. Urbain Sipo, Fr. Thierry Kone, Fr. Pascal Seka, Fr. Guy Roland in their dining room at the Presbytery.

Info about Sister Parish Relationship

Ivory Coast has an area of **124,500 square miles** and a population of about **18 million people**.

Religions: **40% Christians** (Roman Catholic Church, Protestant Church, Orthodox Church); **35% Muslims** and **25% traditional indigenous religions and others**.

The Parish of Our Lady of Africa:

- Was created on September 15, 1974 by order of Msgr. Bernard Yago.
- Is located in Biétry, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
- Was blessed on December 8, 1974 by Msgr. Bernard Yago.
- Consists of about 3000 parishioners.
- The Pastoral Team: Fr. Pascal Seka, Fr. Guy Roland and Fr. Urbain Sipo and Fr. Thierry Kone.
- The President of the Parish Council: Mr. Lazare Dedy.
- 25 Ministries and Associations : 17 for the adults and 8 for the youth and children.



Way of the Cross in the streets of Biétry.

La paroisse Notre Dame d'Afrique :

- 15 Septembre 1974 : Création par décret de Msgr. Bernard YAGO.
- Localisation de l'Eglise : Biétry, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- 08 Décembre 1974 : Bénédiction par Bernard Yago.
- Nombre de paroissiens : Environ 3000 paroissiens.
- Equipe Pastorale : Père Curé Pascal Seka assisté par les Pères Guy Roland et Urbain Sipo.
- Président Conseil Paroissial : Mr Lazare Dedy.
- 25 Mouvements, Associations et Groupes : 17 pour les adultes et 8 pour les jeunes et enfants.