



On the way to the

**56° GENERAL CHAPTER  
2024**

## VICEPROVINCE OF AFRICA

Date of foundation: June 26, 1961

Date of official establishment: August 15, 1992

**“... That they may bring with them, wherever they are called, the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His mysteries...” The Rule of Sainville XXVII**



**Chapel of Saint Dominic in the Vice-provincial House**

## BRIEF HISTORY

On June 26, 1961, the first Dominican Sisters of Charity of the Presentation arrived in Terre Voltaica (today Burkina Faso), at the request of His Eminence, Cardinal Paul ZOUNGRANA, then Archbishop of Ouagadougou. In fact, the Prelate wished to have a missionary presence at the Yalgado OUEDRAOGO Hospital Center and for offering this service our Congregation was chosen.

Attentive to the sign of the times, to the calls of the Church and to the needs of the world, Mother Thérèse des Anges and her Government responded generously to the request of the Voltaic Church. This first mission in Africa, which initially consisted in the care and support of the patients of the said hospital, was entrusted to:

*Sister Louise Marie, (Superior)*  
*Sister Marie William Lapointe,*  
*Sister Saint Georges (will be repatriated in November 1962)*  
*Sister Marie Geneviève de la Présentation*

In September 1963, the mission of Education was added at the TANG-ZUGU School in the Koulba district of Ouagadougou. Sister Hélène de la Présentation and Sister Marie Cécile were responsible for this mission.

In September 1969, the private schools were handed over to the State and our sisters came to “Les Lauriers” to run a home for Young Girls which would later become a Welcome Center for missionaries.

In August of 1970, a new request from Cardinal Paul Zoungana took us to Pô for parish ministry and the promotion of women.

The sisters remained at Yalgado Hospital for 15 years before retiring to Boassa in 1976. It is a small village near Ouagadougou where they took care of the public dispensary, the CREN (Centre for Recovery and Nutritional Education) and the Maternity.

Since the Church leaders were very pleased with the services of the pioneer women of our Congregation in Africa, they did not stop asking for more help. From then on, the Congregation continued its missionary expansion on African soil, precisely to Ivory Coast in 1987, to Cameroon in 1988 and to Chad in 1992. That same year, the Vice Province of Africa was erected of these 4 countries. It has expanded to 5 countries with Congo Brazzaville since August 08, 2021, the date of fusion of the *Petites Sœurs Dominicaines* (Little Dominican Sisters) with our Congregation.

At present, our Vice Province has 149 Sisters from 9 countries (including those of international mission), distributed in 22 communities: 3 in the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), 2 in Chad, 2 in Cameroon, 1 in Ivory Coast and the other 14 in Burkina Faso. Two communities are temporarily closed in Burkina Faso due to the security crisis (terrorism) prevailing in the Sahel. This situation exists throughout Africa and is quite worrying and raises existential questions.

In spite of this difficult context, the Sisters always dedicated themselves selflessly, as far as possible, to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters in creative fidelity to the charism that we have inherited from Marie Poussepin. May Our Lady of the Presentation, our Model of total gift and hope, intercede for us so that we may be ready always to give an account boldly of the hope that dwells in us, and always in a dynamic way .

## STATISCS: SISTERS, MISSIONS, COMMUNITIES

First of all, let us note that, at the beginning of the mission in Africa, our Sisters from France, Spain, Colombia and India set foot on African soil and sowed the first seeds. They nurtured them and the Lord touched them to make the grain that was sown bear fruit.

We honor the memory of those who already rest in the Lord and thank the pioneers, who are still among us, for their abnegation, the gift of themselves, and their endurance...

We pay special tribute to the first Vice Provincial Superiors:



**1ª Viceprovincial**

**Sr. Carmen del PILAR**

(From Colombia)

June 02, 1992 to April 08, 1995.



**2ª Viceprovincial**

**Sr. Marie Françoise NEAU**

(From France)

February 21, 1996 to December 27, 2003.



**3ª Viceprovincial**

**Sr. Anne Marie ENDERLIN**

(From France )

December 27, 2003 to December 30, 2013.

Since 2013, Sr. Anne Marie Enderlin has passed on the torch to the Sisters from Africa.



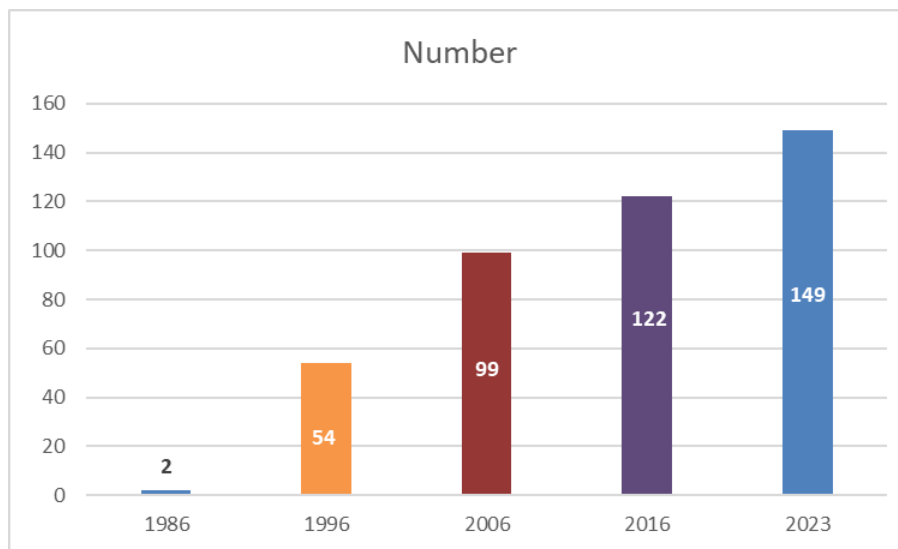
**4th Viceprovincial**  
**Sr. Henriette KABORE** (Burkinabé)  
 December 30,2013 to December 29, 2018



**5th Viceprovincial**  
**Sr. Evelyne OUEDRAOGO** (Burkinabé)  
 December 29, 2018

### CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF SISTERS IN THE VICEPROVINCE

<b>YEAR</b>	1986	1996	2006	2016	2023
<b>NUMBER</b>	2	54	99	122	149



**Caption:**

We see a growth in the number of Sisters and we thank God for this.

**The number of Sisters represents several African nationalities which are:**

Nationalities	Burkina Faso	Camerún	Côte d'Ivoire	Haití	Chad	Togo	RDC	R. Congo	Ruanda
Number	115	2	3	1	6	2	5	14	1

## Different fields of the mission involvement of the Sisters.

From the beginning, Marie POUSSEPIN established "a Community of the Third Order of Saint Dominic" with a few poor girls of the surrounding country, for the service of the parish, to educate youth and care for the sick poor."

In the line of this primary purpose, we continued our missions in:

- ♦ **Health care:** through some specific dispensaries in Burkina, Congo, Korhogo; Some of our Sisters work at a hospital that belongs to the Archdiocese of Ouagadougou.



Sr. Pauline Tougma at the St Vincent de Paul Dispensary en Tiébélé.

Sr. Marie Marthe Placius in Nursing at the Tiébélé Dispensary .



- ◆ **Education:** we have a School Complex in Dassasgho and a school in Lougsi, a School Complex in Moundou (construction continues); a specialized school for autistic children in Brazzaville; a kindergarten in Bagré.

Some of our Sisters work at schools belonging to certain Dioceses or to the State. We also highlight the collaboration with the Dominican friars of Yamtenga in their schools: through the general management of elementary school and Kindergarten.



From left to right, Sr. Christine Tougouma and Sr. Léa Ouédraogo on the day of the opening of the school 2022-2023 at the Marie Poussepin school complex in Dassasgho.

- ◆ Promotion of women through Women's training Centers. We have our own center in Boassa and we also manage other two, one in Moundou in Chad and one in Pô in Burkina Faso.



Sr. Céline Dabre with the young women of the Moundou Center, Tchad.

- ◆ **Parish ministry**, where the sisters work together with the Christian faithful and in collaboration with the priests for the deepening of the faith and the growth of the Church.

## PROGRESS IN THE RESTRUCTURATION

Like other structures of the Congregation, the Vice Province of Africa is engaged in the process of restructuration and resignification in a very particular way.

We underline:

- The restructuration of the Marie Poussepin School in order to further spread the uniqueness of the Charism of Marie Poussepin through Education.
- This resulted in the restructuration of three schools of Dassasgho, Ouagadougou into the Marie Poussepin School Complex, i.e., a single school with three levels and a general coordinator. This also led to the centralization of the finances of the three schools.
- The resignification of Moundou mission by the introduction of a presence that belongs to the Congregation: a school complex; installing solar panels allowed the addition of computer and training in gardening (solar-powered water tower) for the women's Promotion Center.
- The reorganization of the Boassa Women's Promotion Center, adapting the program to the needs of today's women and girls: soap making, transformation of local products, weaving, jewelry making, service of school meals, local facilities expanded, ... in addition to the usual sewing.
- The fusion with the Little Dominican Sisters (PSD) on August 8, 2021, made the family grow and gave us the joy of sharing with them our charism while welcoming theirs as well to live synodality in the field of the Lord.
- "Our own personal restructuration" and "restructuration of our community life" in order to give more credibility to our witness of missionary life and quality of our life.
- This became a reality through formation weekends and workshops for the groups of temporary and perpetually vowed Sisters, having as a theme: *Quality of life, quality of the relationship with oneself, with God and with others.*
- Reflection on our financial sustainability to achieve financial autonomy. The Enlarged Vice Provincial Council considered this question based on the inputs from the communities and came to some conclusions.

# CHALLENGES AND PROJECTS

## Challenges

- Search for financial means for formation;
- Solid religious and professional formation in various fields according to the possibilities of the Sisters and the needs of the mission;
- The restructuring of the Vice Province and the re-signification of our lives;
- Create and elaborate mission to obtain self-sufficiency.

## Projects

- Walking towards becoming a Province;
- Starting a community in Abidjan (Ivory Coast);
- Finding means for the continuity of the construction of the School Complex in Moundou;
- Finding financial means to continue the construction of a boarding school for girls in Lougisi;
- Designing projects for the construction of a house for retreats and training in capacitation;
- Building a house to collaborate with the Dominican friars in the University of St. Dominic and to strengthen our pastoral work.
- Respond to missionary calls.

