



## **Inaugural Prayer for the Project of the Marian Shrine**

**KISANGANI, RDC** - On Saturday, June 25, 2022, the Montfortian family of Kisangani - the Montfort Fathers, the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, the Lay Associates and the postulants organized a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine located in the property of Montfort Missionaries in Kisangani. It should be noted that it was for the very first time since its construction a few years ago and whose final project is to be erected later as the very first Marian Sanctuary in the Archdiocese of Kisangani.

The pilgrimage took place three times. First, the walk from the scholasticate of the priests of the Sacred Heart to the Sanctuary. It was animated by the Montfortian postulants with songs in honor of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. Second, after being welcomed by the Father-in-charge of Montfortian Spirituality in the General Delegation of Francophone Africa, Father André BABUSIA, SMM, the lay Montfortians led the praying of the Holy Rosary with the active participation of everyone. Third was the sharing of the testimonies of the representatives of each group, namely the lay associates, the postulants and the Montfortian religious.

In fact, with regards to the motivations of the prayer of the Rosary and the choice of the Sanctuary, Father Guelord ASEME MUKE, SMM, the Delegation Superior, gave the following reasons in his closing speech. The first motivation of this prayer was to inaugurate the spiritual

activities in our Marian Shrine, which had not yet begun since its construction around five years ago.

The second reason was to come and pray that the Marian Sanctuary project would come to fruition, since the Archdiocese of Kisangani, which is dedicated to Mary, does not have a Marian Sanctuary. This is why we are called to come and pray every last Saturday of the month as Montfortian family, to ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede for the realization of the upcoming construction of the very first Marian Shrine in the Archdiocese of Kisangani, where the faithful Christians will come to pray.

And finally, also ask through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to find peace in our property which is plagued by conflicts with people who want to despoil our land. Since the Blessed Virgin Mary has never disappointed anyone who has recourse to her intercession, we pray with faith that the Blessed Virgin Mary finds a high place in our Archdiocese, more particularly in our property. With the same intention, all the participants had lived a strong experience of prayer and sharing, which began at 3:00 p.m. and ended around 5:00 p.m. All expressed the wish to see this initiative continue.

May the Most Blessed Virgin Mary continue to intercede for these causes and may the Holy Trinity hear our prayers so that our mission which is to bring the reign of Jesus Christ through Mary continues unhindered.

Deo soli!

*Bro. Claude DISA MUTUNZI, SMM*