



### **Priestly Ordination in DR Congo**

**BUKAVU, Democratic Republic of Congo** - Called by God to Montfortian religious and priestly life, it was on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022 that Deacon Ephrem KULONDWA MUDERWA SMM was ordained a priest in the Cathedral church of Bukavu, by the imposition from the hands of His Excellency Monsignor Francois-Xavier MAROY RUSENGO, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bukavu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Indeed, to support Deacon Ephrem in this great event of his life and of the Church, relatives, friends etc. came from several corners of the country. On the Montfortian side, there was the presence of Father Henri ALOTEREMBI, SMM, the Superior and Formator of the Montfort scholasticate in Burundi and the Vicar of the General Delegation of Francophone Africa (DGAF); of Father Elisée KAMBALE, SMM, the vicar at the Montfortian parish “Mary, Girl of Nazareth/Bwoga-Chioggia” in Burundi; and two scholastics in Burundi, namely: Bros. Armand KIRISHAMBA, SMM and Simon FIMBO, SMM.

During the Eucharistic celebration, the officiant of the day, basing himself on the Word of God, started from the fact that each of us has a patron Saint.

*“The best for us would be for everyone to continually ask for the intercession of his patron saint to assist him in his Christian life so that one day we may jubilate together in heaven. Thus, as creatures of God, through baptism we belong to him. Therefore, our life must reflect the one of God. It is in this way that the Gospel of the beatitudes presents us with various ways of participating in the life of God.”*

In addition, addressing the ordinand, Archbishop Xavier stressed that the first concern of the priest must be that of teaching, sanctifying, and governing the people of God, in close collaboration with the ordinary of the place.

Finally, while giving thanks to God for the gift of the priesthood of his servant, the Reverend Father Ephrem within the Company of Mary, we commend him to our prayers through the intercession of the Virgin Mary and Saint Louis- Marie de Montfort so that the Lord would support his ministry and make it fruitful for his only glory and the salvation of souls.

*Bro. Simon FIMBO, SMM*