

## **DIOCESE OF RIO BRANCO, BRAZIL**

### ***Description***

The Prelacy of St. Peregrine Laziosi of Acre Purus in the Brazilian Amazon was created by Pope **Benedict XV** on October 4, 1919 and was entrusted to the care of the Servites of the Romagna Province in 1920. On February 15, 1986 it was established as the Diocese of Rio Branco. The Servites arrived in Sena Madureira in 1920 and for 88 years they have been preaching the Gospel and laying the foundation of the Church (*implantatio ecclesiae*) among the Indians and *Seringueiros*. Since 1921 they have been assisted by the Servite Sisters of Reparation (*Riparatrici*). Since 1972 the Servite Sisters of Galeazza have also worked in Acre. The Acre friars are part of the Servite Brazilian Province. Since February 24, 1999, **M. Joaquin Pertiñez O.A.R.** has been the Bishop of Rio Branco.

### ***Servites***

2 Servite communities (Rio Branco and Sena Madureira); 9 solemn professed; 2 temporary professed; 8 young people in formation.

The Servite Sisters of Reparation work in the Diocese of Rio Branco (2 high schools, the administration of St. Juliana Hospital and one community of “presence” (*engagement*)). The Servite Sisters of Galeazza administer a pastoral training center and have one community of presence.

### ***General Information***

Area of Acre State: 102,136 sq km; population: 557,000 (300,000 in Rio Branco); Catholics: 356,658; other evangelical denominations: 60,000; parishes: 21; diocesan priests: 18; seminarians: 4; sisters of other congregations: 31; mission stations: 245; catechists: 560; training centers: 2; welfare centers: 2.