

MOZAMBIQUE

Description

The Servite Family came to Mozambique in 1973: in that year five cloistered Servite nuns arrived in Nampula; the local bishop had been seeking a contemplative presence. In their 1983 restructuring the Spanish Servites decided to make a missionary commitment, a service of evangelization in St. Gabriel's Mission in Matola (7 km from Maputo, the Capital of Mozambique). The first friars arrived in the country in February 1984 and moved to Matola at the end of that year. At present Servites are involved in evangelization, teaching, urban and rural pastoral work and social welfare. They administer a center for children in difficulty (about 110 children), 2 kindergartens, 3 primary schools, 1 secondary school and a food center.

The contemplative Servites in Nampula and Lichinga carry out an intense service of prayer and assistance to the needy. 1983 saw the establishment of a new, local Congregation inspired by the Servite charism: Servants of St. Mary of the Cenacle. The new congregation started in Xai-Xai, a southern city. The congregation is devoted to recruiting vocations, evangelization and service to rural women.

The country is in a period of reconstruction after a civil war that lasted 16 years (1976 to 1992). More than 1,000,000 people died during the conflict and there were millions of refugees and displaced persons. Mozambique's administrative, social and economic infrastructure was paralyzed or destroyed.

Servites

1 Servite community; 3 solemn professed; 1 pre-novice; 5 postulants; 2 temporary professed.

Contemplative Servite nuns: Nampula, Lichinga and Chokwé: 40 cloistered nuns. Servants of St. Mary of the Cenacle: 3 communities with 15 sisters. Servite Secular Order Fraternities: 5 – with more than 100 members.

General Information

Area: 801,590 sq km; population: 21,000,000 (60% in the countryside); 20 inhabitants per sq km; average life expectancy: 40; literacy: 40%; 42% of the population is under 25 years of age; Religion: local cults: 50%; Christian 30%; Muslim 20%.