

APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF ING WVUMA, SOUTH AFRICA

Description

The Apostolic Vicariate of Ingwavuma is in the northeastern part of the Republic of South Africa. It includes the districts of Ingwavuma, Ubombo and Hlabisa. The Holy See entrusted this territory to the Servite Order in 1938 and the Tuscan Province accepted the mandate to implant the Church in this area (*implantatio ecclesiae*).

Bishop Costantino Barneschi, Vicar Apostolic of Bremersdorp (now Manzini) asked the American Province to send friars for the new mission. Fra Edwin Roy Kinch (1918-2003) arrived in Swaziland in 1947. Other friars came from the

United States and the Apostolic Prefecture of Ingwavuma was born. On November 19, 1990 the territory became an Apostolic Vicariate. After the Second World War the missionary territory was assumed directly by the friars of the North American provinces. By a decree of the 1968 General Chapter the then existing communities were established as the Provincial Vicariate of Zululand, a dependency of the US Eastern Province.

At present there are 10 Servite friars who are members of the Zululand Delegation OSM.

Servites

The friars of the Zululand delegation work in five communities: Hlabisa, Ingwavuma, KwaNgwanase, Mtubtuba and Ubombo; there are 9 solemn professed (2 local, 2 Canadian and 5 from the US).

General Information

Area: 12,369 sq km; population: 609,180; Catholics: 23,054; other denominations: Lutherans, Anglicans, Methodists: 150,000; African Churches 60,000; non-Christian: 300,000; parishes: 5; missionary stations: 68; 8 Servite priests and one local priest: Father Wilbert Mkhawanazi. Lay Missionaries: 3; part-time catechists: 160; full-time catechists: 9.

Vicar Apostolic: José Luís Ponce de León, I.M.C