

Reaching Out with the Hands of Christ

Congo Clinic Nears Completion

Two years ago, Immaculate Conception Parish took on the challenge of helping our sister parish in the Republic of the Congo — Sts. Peter and Paul — build a medical clinic to serve the poverty-stricken people of the Archdiocese of Kananga.

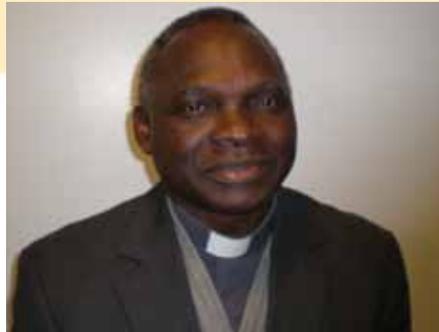
In the two years since, thanks to the prayers and financial contributions of Immaculate Conception parishioners, our sister parish has made great strides in realizing its dream of building a full-service medical facility to provide care to the 10,000 people in its surrounding community.

However, as the clinic hits the “stretch run” of its construction process, a great need for funds remains to ensure that the project is completed and has the medical resources necessary to be fully-functioning when it opens.

Recently, Msgr. Gilbert Kalumbu Ngindu, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul and longtime friend of Fr. Troha, visited Immaculate Conception to give our pastor and Finance Council an update on the clinic’s progress, as well as the financial need that still remains to secure its completion.

“At present, we have realized 74 percent of the budget that we actually need,” says Msgr. Ngindu. “We have to finish the ceilings, the floor, and the windows to help keep out the mosquitoes, which carry malaria.”

Upon its completion, the clinic will have 10 rooms, including an area where mothers can give birth, as well



Msgr. Gilbert Kalumbu Ngindu

as a place for surgeries and a lab to conduct medical tests. However, in order to guarantee the clinic’s sustainability, Sts. Peter and Paul needs to account for several basic utilities that we often take for granted in the U.S.

“We discussed the possibility of having a kitchen there, so that we can clean the linens in hot water,” says Monsignor. “And we also have to contemplate the toilet facilities, a system to collect water, the electrical wires, and the medical equipment that we need to run the clinic.”

We are asking all parishioners to please consider renewing your commitment to helping our sister parish in Africa complete this invaluable project. If you are able to make a charitable contribution to this endeavor, we ask that you please designate your gifts for the Congo clinic and mail them to the rectory or place them in the basket during the offertory at Mass. And each and every one of our parishioners can help the cause by continuing to pray for our sister parish



and the people of the Archdiocese of Kananga.

“I want to see this through from the beginning to the end,” says Msgr. Ngindu. “The idea for the clinic came from my predecessor, and when he retired, I found a letter in the archives in which he said that if one day the church had its own clinic, we could reach out with the hands of Christ the Healer. I very much kept this in mind, and I want to thank Immaculate Conception for everything that the parish has done for us through your sustained prayers and material help.”

For more information, please contact the parish rectory at 440-942-4500.