

Fr. Jean Claude Rakotoarisoa, Madagascar.

Fr. Jean Claude contacted us as by providence he knows Fr. Ejaz, a long time friend of the Apostolate. We all know a little more about this island off the coast of East Africa from discussions about climate change. The southern part of the island has been hit by a massive drought and crops have failed. There are many needs here of various types. He approached us initially to help provide a hygienic eating place for children at the school. We will try to raise the \$6000.00 (or equivalent) and we are looking at ways to raise this money.

However he also asked for vestments, which we have now sent, and other altar items. But many more are needed. Patens and Ciboria are needed in all the projects.

If possible we will send medicines after we have verified customs regulations for Madagascar.

He also needed help with transport.



First parcel sent, second containing vestments later.



Parishioners of Eveche



Schoolchildren with Fr. Jean-Claude, 2021

We were delighted to receive an update from Fr. Jean-Claude. We have been very worried as the reports of natural disasters have been very serious. Because of this we also sent some practical items of clothing.



However, we also continue to send the religious items that he needs.



We were also relieved that the statue arrived safely in one piece! Our greatest delight was to see that so many items we had sent were already in use and bringing dignity and reverence to the Celebration of the Mass.



Thank you to all the donors.

April 2023:

We were delighted to see that so many things we had provided adorned the altar. We are very aware that Fr. Jean-Claude has a number of churches to look after. He himself says “I celebrated Easter in a church located 100 km from the centre of our diocese. The road is very bad, and the trip lasted six hours. The church was full and faithful were very happy”.





Update October 2023:

“From 13 to 16 October, as Vicar General, I visited a parish 140 km from the capital of our Diocese. The journey took about 11 hours. We left at 6 in the morning and arrived at 4.45 in the afternoon. The road is very bad. The faithful and even the people of the village were very happy with our visit. On Sunday 15 October I conferred Confirmation on 11 young people from the parish.”

This is just a little snapshot of the kind of difficulties and joys of working in Madagascar...

We have recently sent a parcel which he is waiting to receive, plus some Mass Stipends.

The pictures below tell the story...



Please notice that as joyful as they are, the children have no shoes, only flip-flops.... Some have nothing. We continue to support as best we can.