

IN THE LAND OF THE PYGMIES

On The afternoon of Sunday 7th February 2016, His Grace Panteleimon Bishop of Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon, accompanied by Fr.Sergios Mabelemo and the Chairman of the Parish Community of the city of Impfondo, went to the tropical forest where the Pygmies who have embraced Orthodoxy live. Following the welcome and address of the very old leader of the tribe, the Bishop spoke simply about the Liturgical life of the Church and the importance of taking part in it. He also gave them a large amount of salt (for the preservation of meat), soap and matches, things which are absolutely necessary for the hunting way of life of these indigenous people.

He also requested of the respected elder to build a special place inside their camp, according to their traditional way of building, so that the new Parish Priest of Impfondo could visit the tropical forest every month to perform the Divine Liturgy in it for the facilitation of the older Pygmies who have mobility problems. His request was enthusiastically accepted by the leader who undertook to see to this.

The visit to the tropical forest was preceded by the Divine Liturgy and the homily on the Sunday morning, in the rented home which is being used temporarily as a place of prayer until the completion of the construction of the Holy Church of the Forerunner–St Nicholas. His Grace gave everyone the edition of the Divine Liturgy of St Chrysostom in French, which has attached to it the Pocket Calendar for 2016 of the Holy Diocese. He left for Pointe-Noire on the morning of the 8th February, via the capital, Brazzaville.