

## **PASTORAL ACTIVITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF BRAZZAVILLE**

**On 25th March 2014, His Grace Panteleimon, Bishop of Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon,** left for Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo after the Divine Liturgy in Pointe-Noire, following an invitation by His Eminence Nikiforos, Metropolitan of Central Africa, His Excellency the Ambassador of Greece Dr. Alexandros Katranis and the Honorable Chairman of the Hellenic Community of Kinshasa, Mr. Gerasimos Dounis, to be present at the function of the Greek Embassy for the National Day.

On 26th March he returned to Brazzaville, the capital of the Congo, where he had a productive meeting with the Honorable Mr. Nicholas Perris, Honorary Consul General of Greece, as well as with Mr. Sergey Belyaev, Director of the Russian Cultural Foundation regarding the establishment of a French library of international children's literature in the Orthodox Schools and the orphanage in Dolisie.

On 27th March he went flew to Impfondo in the north of the Congo, to inspect the development of the construction works of the first Holy Parish Church in the north of the country, the Church of the Forerunner and St Nicholas, donated by an anonymous donor through the "Agios Kosmas Aetolian" Missionary Society of Thessaloniki.

He then met with the Honorable President of the Supreme Court of the district of Likouala and with the President of the District Council, to whom he expressed the grateful thanks of the local Church for their many benefactions to it.

He then had the joy of meeting with the members of the Pygmy tribe, to whom he spoke at length about the importance of Great and Holy Lent. Also, through the elderly Orthodox leader of the tribe he listened to the problems of the indigenous people, which are largely problems of health and education.

The Bishop committed himself to come into contact with health organizations and NGOs, to find the relative programmes, and gave stationery to the children from the one and only school (hut) which exists in the tropical forest. He also passed on to them the paternal blessings and concern of the Venerable Primate of the ancient Patriarchate of Alexandria.

Afterwards, due to the illness of a colleague of the missionary effort in Impfondo, he visited patients at the local hospital in the city.

On the next day, 28th March, following the end of the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy in the rented home which is being used as the temporary church in Impfondo, he preached to the faithful about the Resurrection of the God-Man and collaborated with the members of the Church Council.

In the afternoon he returned to the capital where the programmed meeting with the members of the Ecclesiastical Council of Brazzaville took place; he then officiated and preached the homily during the Service of the 4th Stasis (Ode) of the Salutations at the Holy Parish Church of the Resurrection of the Lord, and on the evening of the same day he returned by air to the See of the Diocese in Pointe-Noire.