

PASTORAL VISIT TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF NORTHERN CONGO

From 3rd to 6th April 2015, His Grace Bishop Panteleimon paid a pastoral visit to the Parish Community of Imfondo in Northern Congo. At the city airport, the Bishop was welcomed by the Parish Priest Fr. Sergios Mabalemo together with the Parish Council, and at the rented home which serves as the temporary place of worship, he was welcomed by the elder Orthodox leader of the Pygmy tribe.

During his stay in Imfondo, His Grace had the opportunity for lengthy collaboration with Fr Sergios and the members of the parish of the Forerunner-Saint Nicholas on the progress of the pastoral work, met with the faithful regarding spiritual and other issues and inspected the progress of the building works of the Holy Church of the Forerunner-St Nicholas, the first Orthodox Church in the north of the country.

On Sunday 5th April, Palm Sunday, he conducted the Divine Liturgy and preached the homily. He also donated mosquito nets to all the faithful for their protection from the contagious disease malaria that is transmitted from mosquitoes.

In the afternoon he traveled to the tropical forest where the Pygmies live. Following the kind welcome and the address of the respected leader of the tribe, His Grace spoke simply about the importance of Holy Week and the Resurrection of the Lord. He also distributed clothing to the children of these indigenous people. At noon on the 6th April he departed by air, with his destination being the capital, Brazzaville.