

This year, 2014, the Assumptionists of the Province of Africa have accepted responsibility for the administration of three parishes in Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Assuming responsibility for the two parishes in Tanzania, Murugunturu in the diocese of Bunda, and Digodigo, in the archdiocese of Arusha, came in conjunction with the silver jubilee of the Assumptionist presence in East Africa and as a sign of the Congregation's commitment to serve the Church throughout the area. The first Assumptionist community was founded in Nairobi in 1988, a joint effort of three provinces of the time, the Congo (now part of the Province of Africa), England, and North America.

The parish in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Emmanuel Parish, in the easternmost city of Goma, on the northern shores of Lake Kivu, came as a result of the 2011 general chapter decision to encourage an Assumptionist community dedicated primarily to peace and reconciliation.



Goma, a city of more than a million inhabitants, has been at the center of regional tensions for decades, and most recently since hundreds of thousands of refugees fled there during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. This tragedy spawned tribal rivalries that have led to the creation of dozens of militias, the death of a countless number of residents in the region, the creation of numerous refugee camps, and to daily violence, ethnic mistrust, and the ghettoization of the city. The archbishop of Goma, who has personally expressed his gratitude for the Assumptionist presence and work in the city since their arrival in 2012 and acknowledged their ability to reach across rivalries of all kinds, requested that the Congregation assume responsibility for a newly created parish in the heart of the city with the hope that the Assumptionists might be able to extend their work of peace and reconciliation throughout the city.






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