

Fr. Jean Claude de Rosny, a French Assumptionist, has finally hung up his walking boots after 55 years of serving the Church and the Assumption faithfully and energetically in his adopted homeland of Madagascar. Recently ordained, at age 28, he disembarked at the port of Tuléar (Toliara), seven years after the Assumptionists arrived on the “big island” to assume responsibility for the newly created diocese and only a few months after the country’s independence was declared on June 26, 1960.

Having spent a few months immersed in learning the local language, Malagasy, he was assigned as an assistant at the cathedral parish. Not long thereafter, he took up numerous posts in the many outstations of the diocese only to be named vicar general of the diocese and the regional superior of the Assumptionists. But his love was in the missions of the bush country where he returned after his administrative service. However, it wasn’t long before the Congregation and the Church asked him to return to Toliara to become director of the school for catechists and pastor of the French-speaking parish in the city.

**This man was truly “an all-terrain vehicle”**

This tireless missionary truly loved Madagascar and the Assumption in this land. He easily adjusted to so many different aspects of missionary life and he had plenty of opportunity to do so since he spent 30 years in various outstation posts. Fr. Jean Claude was a man of few words but those few words were enough to get his message across both as a simple priest in the bush and as a diocesan vicar general and Assumptionist regional superior, positions he held for more than 10 years.



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