

On Wednesday evening, September 29, 2010, at around 7 p.m. local time, the Reverend Father Augustine SIRIMIRWA, Assumptionist, Superior and Pastor of Our Lady of the Poor Parish of Mbau, in the Diocese of Butembo-Beni, in North-Kivu Province in Eastern D.R.Congo, escaped death.

After the evening prayer, Fr. Augustine took his lamp torch to go around the church building checking whether all the doors were well locked for the night. In the recent past, the parish has had breaks in where valuable items from money to musical instruments were stolen. Half way through his routine checking, he saw a gunman in the Congolese military uniform emerging from the dark with a machine gun that he pointed to his head. As Father Augustine tried to ask what the gunman was looking for, another gunman in civilian clothes emerged from the dark with threatening words. The first thing the gunmen did was to take his lamp torch away. With the gun pointing to his head, the gunmen asked Fr Augustine to give money, a lot of money to save his life. Reaching for his wallet, Father Augustine had only 2200 Congolese Francs, that is a little more than 2 US $. He had nothing else. Dissatisfied, with the $2 , the gunmen became more angry, checking Fr Augustine’s pockets to see whether he was not withholding more cash. At this point, the gunmen were threatening to kill him, as he was unable to give more cash.







aambau@gmail.com