

Fr. Rafanambinantsoa Joseph Étienne Ratalata, 43 years old, is the sixth child of nine (four boys, five girls). Three of his sisters are religious sisters. His family is from Fandrandava, a village located some 30 miles from Fianarantsoa where his father is a teacher at the Catholic mission school. It was there, with his father, that he went to grammar school. Afterward, he did junior high school with the Jesuits at Collège Saint-François-Xavier in Fianarantsoa from 1983 to 1987, and high school at the inter-diocesan seminary from 1987 to 1991. He first came to know the Assumptionists when he met Fr. Maurice Laurent who later welcomed him as a candidate in October 1991. Two years later, in 1993, he entered the novitiate under the supervision of Fr. Daniel Carton, and made his first vows the following year. Then it was off to philosophy at the major seminary of Vohitsoa (1994 – 1996). In 1997 there was a break in his studies as he spent an internship at the Assumptionist-run parish in Ejeda, under the direction of Fr. René Le Bec. Once he completed his theology (1997-2000) and his diaconate year, he was ordained a priest at the parish of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption in the Sanfily section of Tuléar on August 15, 2001, by the local bishop, Most Rev. Fulgence Rabeony.


MADAGASCAR
Political Map
MOZAMBIQUE
Mozambique Channel
Nosybe
Antsiranana
Antsohihimbondrona
Ambilobe
Andoany
Ambanja
Iharana
ANTSIRANANA
Sambava
Bealanana
Andapa
Antsohihy
Antalaha
Befandriana
Mahajanga
MAHAJANGA
Maroantsetra
Mandritsara
Mitsinjo
Marovoay
Mananara Avaratra
Besalampy
Andilamena
Maevatanana
Sonaieranalvongo
Kandreho
Ambatondrazaka
Maintirano
ANTANANARIVO
Toamasina
Anjozorobe
TOAMASINA
ANTANANARIVO
Ankavandra
Moramanga
Soavinandriana
Vatomandry
Miandrivazo
Antsirabe
Mahanoro
Morondava
Ambositra
INDIAN OCEAN
Mahabo
Varika
Mandabe
FIANARANTSOA
Mananjary
Manja
Fianarantsoa
Ambalavao
Manakara
TOLIARA
Ihosy
Farafangana
Toliara
Midongy Atsimo
Beraketa
Tsivory
Ampanihy
Amboasary
Ambovombe
0 50 100 Km
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LEGEND
Province Boundary
National Capital
Province Capital
Other Cities