



What a mobilisation effort!!! Nobody wanted to be caught sitting around: members of the Assumptionist provincial council, other Assumptionists, Oblate Sisters of the Assumption, Brothers of the Assumption, administrators and students from ISEAB (Institut Supérieur Emmanuel d'Alzon de Butembo), masons, volunteers from our Assumptionist-sponsored NGO, and who knows how many others showed up at the ISEAB work-site on the morning of Wednesday, March 26, 2014, to help with the construction project and especially with the cement preparation and pouring. More than 200 people donated their time working energetically from morning till night. Everyone got involved, even curious bystanders and grammar school children, who were pressed into service, at one point needed to provide ballast for a truck that got caught in the sand.

There was a veritable caravan of trucks at work --- carrying gravel, sand, and water. Once on

site they were mixed to make cement and a cadre of masons began pouring it into the various molds that had been built in previous weeks. Here we were, no matter what our state in life, equals standing shoulder to shoulder in a common effort: priest, nun, student, civil or academic official, common laborer, etc. It resembled an ant colony.



Around 1 PM we took a lunch break and then we were back at it till nightfall, when most of the students had to head home. But since there was still work to be accomplished, a few brave-hearted stayed on and redoubled their efforts, completing the task at hand at midnight. A few other minor tasks kept some on site till sunrise (actually, given the general insecurity in the region, some were afraid to return home). The following day, Thursday, students and faculty alike were so tired that classes were canceled.

