

SECRETARIAT OF THE STATE

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FIRST SECTION – GENERAL AFFAIRS

Vatican, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

N. 555.149

Dear Father,

In your letter of December 18, 2021, you requested the prayer and blessing of the Holy Father on the occasion of the Alabaster Jubilee (75 years) of the Redemptorists' missionary presence in West Africa. In response to your request, the Holy Father has asked His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State to send you the following message:

**« REVEREND FATHER MICHAEL BREHL  
SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MOST HOLY  
REDEEMER**

**ROME**

**AS YOU GATHER TO CELEBRATE THE ALABASTER JUBILEE OF THE  
REDEMPTORIST MISSIONARY PRESENCE IN WEST AFRICA, NIGER AND  
BURKINA FASO, HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS JOINS IN YOUR JOY WITH  
THOUGHT AND PRAYER.**

**REMEMBERING THE WORK OF EVANGELIZATION ACCOMPLISHED  
DURING THESE PAST 75 YEARS, DURING WHICH YOUR CONGREGATION HAS  
SOUGHT TO FULFILL ITS MISSION OF ANNOUNCING THE GOOD NEWS TO  
THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF WEST AFRICA, HE GIVES THANKS TO THE  
LORD.**

**THIS JUBILEE OFFERS YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVISIT YOUR  
COMMITMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE HERITAGE YOU RECEIVED FROM  
YOUR FOUNDER, SAINT ALPHONSUS OF LIGUORI, AND THE EXAMPLE OF  
YOUR FIRST SIX MISSIONARIES IN AFRICA, IN VIEW OF A RENEWAL AND AN  
EVER GREATER FIDELITY TO YOUR CHARISM.**

**MAY THEY ALSO INSPIRE YOU TO RESPOND GENEROUSLY AS THEY  
HAVE TO THE CHALLENGES OF POVERTY, INSECURITY, AND CONFLICT  
THROUGHOUT AFRICA IN GENERAL AND IN YOUR MISSION COUNTRIES IN  
PARTICULAR.**

**THE HOLY FATHER ENCOURAGES YOU TO BE ARDENT WITNESSES OF  
THE RISEN CHRIST, ESPECIALLY TO YOUNG PEOPLE, THE NEEDY AND  
FAMILIES IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS. BE BUILDERS OF A CIVILIZATION OF  
HOPE IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT OF OUR WORLD WHERE HATRED AND  
VIOLENCE OFTEN SPREAD. ENTRUSTING THE VICE-PROVINCE OF WEST**

**AFRICA, OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER, TO THE PROTECTION OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, POPE FRANÇOIS GRANTS YOU WITH GREAT HEART THE APOSTOLIC BLESSING WHICH HE GLADLY EXTENDS TO THE PEOPLE CLOSE TO YOU AND TO ALL THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM YOUR MISSION.**

**CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF HIS HOLINESS »**

In congratulating you on the anniversary of the missionary presence of the Redemptorists in West Africa and in wishing you a happy new year, I beg you to believe, dear Father, in my religious and devoted sentiments.

Edgar Peña Parra  
*Substitut*