

DIVINE WORD PARISH – VIANA

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” Mt 28, 19

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. On Easter Vigil and Sundays of Easter season, sacred days in Christianity, a particularly holy ritual will take place in churches throughout Angola. We follow, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as designed to lead to Baptism at the Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter Season. Many people are baptized, Children, Adolescents, Youth and adults, to begin a new life in the church.

Baptism on Easter Sunday is particularly significant because according to the Christian faith, that's the day Jesus Christ returned to life. We learn in the catechism classes: “Baptism is the start of a person's new life in Christ.” “It is the sacrament that we first receive God's grace and become adopted members of the people of God.” Whether baptism takes place on Easter, Holy Saturday or another time, it fulfills a promise with God.

Baptism means a lot to us those who are practicing Catholic faithful. It's a statement of faith. It is an opportunity to walk with Christ and be closer to Christ. Adults often profess a change of heart or a new search for God when they decide to be baptized.

As for me not a surprising thing after doing my missionary service in Angola 23 years, where many of the children, adolescents, youth and adult are prepared receive the Baptism. For many outside it may be surprising to hear that we had 602 baptisms during the Easter season. Presently I am in Divine Word Parish.

Divine Word Parish which is located in the Diocese of Viana, inside the compound of the Minor Seminary. Started as Quase Parish with Fr. Joseph Villas, svd. In the year 2011 it was erected as Divine Word Parish, parish priest Fr. Emil Kalka, svd. Till now we don't have parish structure only uses the compound garden to celebrate the mass and catechetical activities. The parish has 3 centers with 23 small chapels. Presently we are busy with organizing the parish with parish counsel, economic counsel, commissions (Evangelization and Catequese, Family, youth, liturgy, Bible, social, Justice and Peace, Imigration and Migration, vocational, POM, Laity). We have various groups like: legion of Mary, Apostolate of Prayer, IAM, Female group of PROMAICA, Charismatic, Laity of Divine Word, Youth of St. Arnald Janssen, Teresian group, Divine Mercy, Scouts etc ...

In the January, 28th of 2019 I took over the parish. As parish priest the primary task was to prepare for the baptism of adults, youth and adolescents. Here we follow strictly the guide lines given by “Ritual for the adults” where we have 4 years of teaching of doctrines and forth year we baptize during the Easter season. This year we had 602 baptisms of 51 Adult, 97 Youth and 452 adolescents. Presently we are two in the parish and for Sunday Mass we have the assistance of SVDs, Good News Fathers and Dominican fathers.

During week we have regular gathering of groups, preparation of liturgy. One month Parish Counsel meeting, regular formation for the marriage and Catechists. It is a blessing to our parish and to the



diocese in particular receive new members regularly and faithful responding positively to the sacraments.



Denis Pereira, svd.