

Today, during this twelfth week (March 28) of our 2022 Global Coordinating Group calendar, we are invited *to listen to the heart of the world* and pray for the 3 Sisters and 10 Associates in **Congo Brazzaville** and for the people of that republic.



The Sisters belong to the [Annecy Congregation](#) and established their mission in the Congo in 2012 which now forms part of their region of Senegambie/Congo. In this previously shared photo (see left) and message, Sr. Maria Goretti O'Connor of the Annecy Congregation described their small community 'Yaka Yaka' in Congo Brazzaville: *"There are three Sisters in the Community who are all from the "other Congo", The Democratic Republic, and their names are Agnès, Lucienne and Astéride. The foundation was made in January 2013 when Agnès and Tessy, an*

Indian Sister who had been working in the Region of Senegal and Gambia, went to stay - first with a female Religious Congregation and then with some priests -



so that they could oversee the building of the community which is situated 25 km outside of the capital, Brazzaville. They had been invited by the local bishop, and a local woman, called Mama Hélène who has a bakery in the city as well as an orphanage for abandoned children, and gave them lots of help and encouragement. The community is situated in a village next to a very sandy road which the rain makes difficult to use at times. There is a quarry nearby and

the many lorries which pass each day make it worse. The house was built after a few years and the Sisters cultivate the large garden and use and sell what they produce. I'm not sure if they still have fowl; they certainly had them when I was there in 2016! A small school for young children has just opened. There is one classroom and thirteen pupils at present. When finances allow, they want to build more classrooms...". (see photo left) In this [2021 article](#),

Sr. Anne Rutter shared that funding from Misaan Cara (a faith-based organization that receives



funding from the Irish government's foreign aid budget) provided a grant towards six projects, including a new clinic in Yaka Yaka. (photo right)



Country Background: Congo-Brazzaville also known as the Republic of the Congo, the Congo Republic or simply the Congo, is a country located in the western coast of Central Africa. The region was dominated by Bantu-speaking tribes at least 3,000 years ago, who built trade links leading into the Congo River basin. While a former part of the French colony of Equatorial Africa, the Republic of the Congo was established in 1958, and gained independence from France in 1960. The sovereign state has had multi-party elections since 1992, although a democratically elected

government was ousted in the 1997 Republic of the Congo Civil War. (source: Wikipedia) The Republic of the Congo has become the fourth-largest oil producer in the Gulf of Guinea, but its dependence on that sector has resulted in a considerable slow-down in economic growth since the post-2015 drop in oil prices. [A 2022 report](#) noted that “the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic exacerbated long-standing weaknesses in the economy. Investment in new oilfields has been delayed, with output growth set to be slow, and the non-oil economy will remain weak. Debt sustainability will remain an issue over the forecast period, although a new funded IMF programme should guide policy formation.”



United in prayer, the Global Joseph Family, 7850 Sisters, 5700 Associates, 34 Agrégées in 44 countries, listening to the heart of the world.