

2025 Mission Appeal: CROSIER FATHERS AND BROTHERS

The Crosier Fathers and Brothers were founded in 1210 in Belgium. Our mission is to "touch suffering with hope." This mission is rooted in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, his Death and Resurrection. Our mission appeal will focus on our ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo where the Crosiers (I once among them), have served for more than 100 years. Those 100 years have been marked by tremendous suffering because of unending ethnic wars, unequal distribution of wealth, international exploitation, and political corruption. Well over six million Congolese have died in the past thirty years as a result of national turmoil. The effects of the injustice and violence continue to plague the Congolese daily.

In these years, missionaries have also suffered martyrdom, among them twenty-one European Crosiers, massacred in the mid-nineteen sixties by a ruthless, antigovernment youth resistance called the "Simba Rebellion." The death of these martyrs has become a powerful inspiration to the young Congolese Crosiers to take up the cause of the people, joining in the struggle for justice and peace in the country. They named their African Crosier Province *Martyrs of Bongo*.

Severe setbacks, with devastating consequences in the daily life of the people, are commonplace in the Congo. The young Congolese Crosiers have engaged in grassroots evangelization and pastoral care. They have taken initiatives to establish schools, from elementary to higher studies. They have organized listening centers in war areas to aid especially women and children suffering the psychological and moral consequences of violence and social insecurity. They have created programs to help farming and cottage industry. They have provided medical assistance programs and opened at least one center to care for a few street children in Kinshasa, Congo's densely overpopulated capital city. The prayer and fellowship of these young Crosiers support their service, entirely focused on the needs of the Congolese people.

A new development project in Kinshasa will be dedicated to the care of street children. The problem of street children is overwhelming. There are anywhere between 30 and 50 thousand of them on the streets of Kinshasa. They are abandoned due to extreme family poverty, the death of their parents, divorce, parental displacement, abuse, polygamy, or because they are considered "witches." On the streets, their physical and mental health are severely compromised. Current social services do not come close to meeting their needs.

The Crosiers have served the needs of street children for several decades at their Mboka Bolingani Center. It has proven effective in meeting these children's physical, emotional, educational, social, and religious needs. Many of these children have assumed ordinary lives as young adults in a very challenging Congolese society.

The Crosiers are now dedicating their efforts to expanding housing facilities for more street children. A new residence, planned for some 100 boys and girls, will increase the current capacity of the Mboka Bolingani Center by about 90%.

To sustain the new facility for street children, the Crosiers will build a Guest House to welcome business people seeking accommodations in the city or others requiring temporary housing for various purposes. The revenues generated by the Guest House will be applied directly to the initial costs of constructing the new children's facility and maintaining it in the long run.

This project is another example of Crosier vibrancy in the Congo. But we will need your spiritual and financial support to build and sustain the new complex and meet these critical needs in the capital city. Nothing is more important to a society than rescuing its children from the clutches of death and poverty. Your contribution will help the Crosiers help the Congolese people do just that. Thank you so much, and God bless you.

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PERSPECTIVE
VUE D'ENSEMBLE



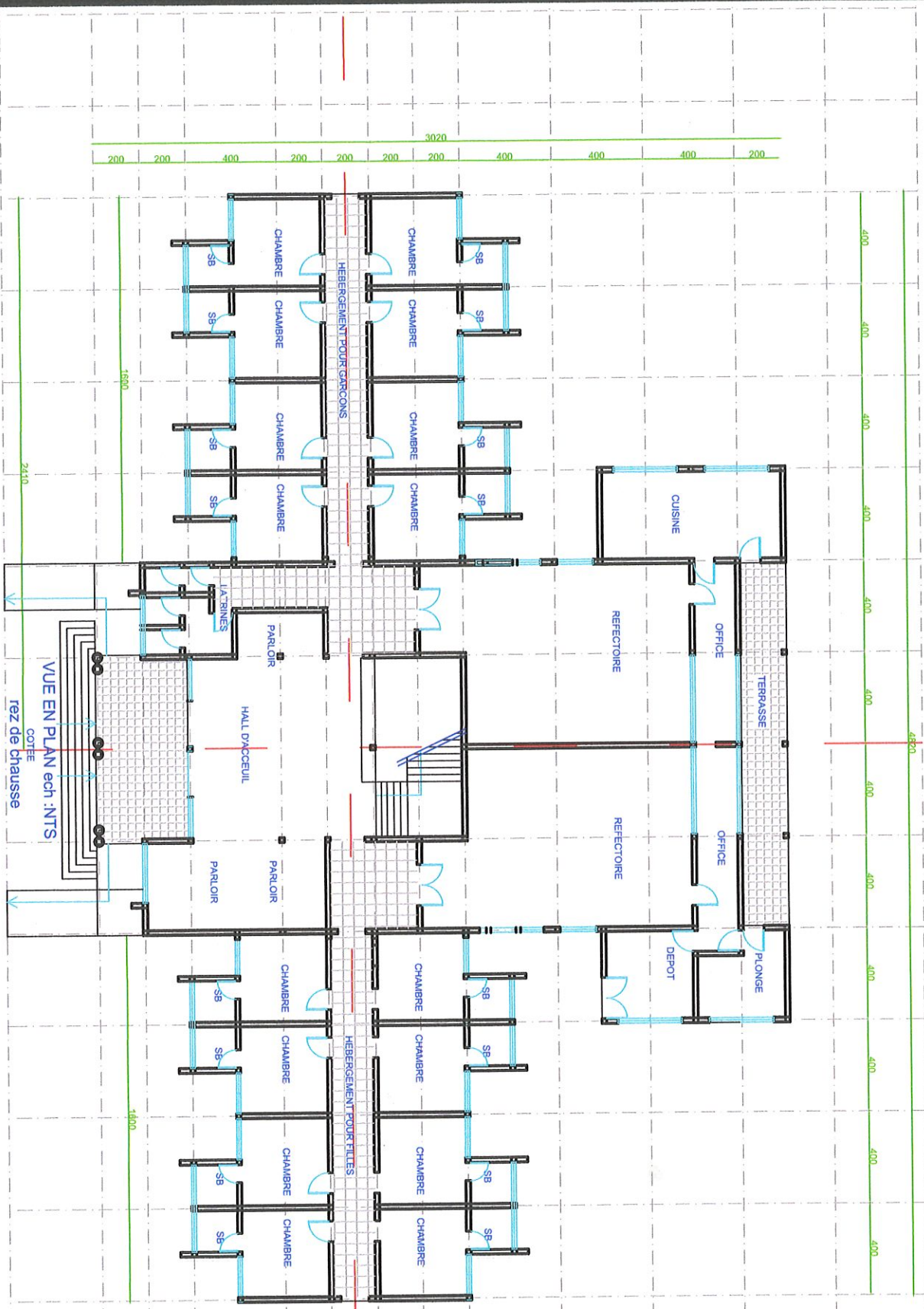
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