**THE MISSION OF THE PIARIST FATHERS IN CENTRAL AFRICA**

The Religious Order known as the Piarist Fathers was founded in Rome in the 16th century by a Spanish priest called St. Joseph Calasanz. The Order was founded to respond to a particular societal need at the time which was, offering a holistic education to children and youth from very poor backgrounds. Since then our mission has grown all over the world.

In the Central African region for which the collection will be made, we are present in four countries namely: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Democratic Republic of Congo. All together we run 14 elementary schools, four high schools, and two centers of professional education, and eight parishes.