
Shalom
IN AFRICA
A MISSION OF LOVE,
FRATERNITY AND HOPE
TO THE HEART OF AFRICA.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT OFFICE

SHALOM CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
20 YEARS OF MISSION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

SHALOM
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Shalom Institutional

The Shalom Catholic Community is an International Private Association of the Faithful present in dioceses both within Brazil and abroad. It is composed of men and women who, in the diversity of vocations found within the Church, commit themselves to a community and missionary way of life with the purpose of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people, especially those who are far from Christ and His Church.

Priests, married couples, and celibates. Consecrated lay members of the Community of Life or the Covenant Community. Young people, adults, and the elderly. This is the richness and diversity of the Shalom Catholic Community, whose inspiration was born in 1980 in Fortaleza, Brazil, at the feet of Saint John Paul II. Its founder, Moysés Azevedo, then only twenty years old, recognized the profound need to communicate God's true Love to humanity, especially to young people who suffer.

In February 2012, the Shalom Catholic Community received recognition from the Holy See as an International Private Association of the Faithful, together with the approval of its Statutes. Over the years, in response to the call of the Church and the Holy Father, the Community has continued to expand its missionary horizons and is now present in more than thirty countries.

Those who identify with the missionary vocation proposed by the Shalom Charism are sent to the various places where the Community is present in order to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel throughout the world. Internationally recognized events such as the Halleluya Festival and the Acamp's Summer Festival attract young people from many nations and have made the face of the Charism widely known. Through its Human Promotion Office, the Community also coordinates Volunteer Programs that send healthcare professionals to serve remote regions across the globe.

In this way, the work continues to grow, revealing to every person his or her deepest identity: to be a child of God.[1]

With a burning desire for evangelization that reaches beyond all borders, we are delighted to present the missions of the Shalom Catholic Community throughout the African continent.

Learn more about the Shalom Community



SHALOM ALGERIA



Algeria is a country located in the northern part of the African continent, covering a vast territory of approximately 2.38 million square kilometers. Nearly 80% of its land is occupied by the Sahara Desert, while its northern coastline stretches along the Mediterranean Sea. The country has a population of just over 48 million inhabitants. The mission of the Shalom Catholic Community in Algeria began in 2006 at the invitation of the then Archbishop,

Most Reverend Henri Teissier. The first missionaries arrived with the mission of assisting in the pastoral care of young Sub-Saharan students, especially those from Portuguese-speaking countries. To foster inculturation within the Arab-Muslim context, and inspired by the Community's missionary experience in the Holy Land, the Community came to be known locally as "Salam," the Arabic word for "peace."

Over time, the mission expanded to embrace other forms of service within this unique local Church. Among its principal apostolates are welcoming university students, serving children from the most vulnerable neighborhoods through libraries maintained by the Church in the capital city, and visiting prisoners.



It is important to note that the Community serves in a country where Islam is the predominant religion and where Christians represent less than 0.1% of the population. Although coexistence is generally peaceful, the Christian presence is merely tolerated, and religious activities are restricted to officially recognized places of worship, such as churches and chapels. Under Algerian law, any explicit public evangelization is considered an act of proselytism and is therefore prohibited.



Today, the mission is centered primarily at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Algiers, where the missionaries serve in the many pastoral ministries of the parish, always adapting their work to the local reality. In addition, they provide pastoral accompaniment to Sub-Saharan students who arrive in Algeria through scholarship programs. Many of these young people face significant challenges in adapting to a new culture and, in some cases, experience racial discrimination. Within this context, the missionaries continue to proclaim the Gospel generously, even when immediate, measurable results are not apparent, since many of these students remain in the country only temporarily.

At the Cathedral, every effort is made to renew and strengthen parish life through a wide range of pastoral activities. Particular emphasis is placed on welcoming visitors nearly three thousand during the past year alone, most of them young Algerian Muslims. The missionaries organize liturgical celebrations, prayer groups, hospitality ministries, the production of religious articles, and the care and decoration of the Cathedral, expressing through beauty one of the distinctive characteristics of the Shalom Charism.



ore recently, the Holy Father's visit to the African continent brought immense joy to the Christians of Algeria while also touching many people from other religious traditions. Father Jean Fernandes, a Shalom missionary who has served in Algeria for nearly eight years, shared this memorable experience:

"When I said 'yes' to the mission, I could never have imagined that one day I would become pastor of the cathedral of the archdiocese and have the privilege of welcoming the Pope. I hoped he would come to Africa, but not so soon—and certainly not beginning here. The Archbishop introduced me to the Holy Father as the pastor of the cathedral and a member of the Shalom Community. I told him, in Portuguese, that I was Brazilian and belonged to the Shalom Community. He smiled at me and simply replied, 'Shalom." [4]



Bejaia: A New Missionary Presence

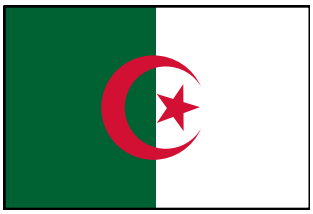
Desiring to continue bearing fruit in this country, the mission was expanded to the city of Bejaia, located approximately 241 kilometers (150 miles) from the capital.

Who study in Algeria through international cooperation agreements. For these young men and women, the parish becomes much more than a place of worship it is a true home, a place of welcome, friendship, and spiritual support. The presence of the Shalom Community has been described as "a beautiful mission," bringing hope, joy, and renewed purpose to everyone involved.

In a region served by only one parish and affected by a shortage of priests, the Community makes a significant contribution to the life of the local Church.

There, the missionaries collaborate with St. Joseph Parish, an important pastoral center for foreign Christian students. This pioneering work is led by Brother Jackson Santos, a consecrated lay missionary of the Shalom Catholic Community, who coordinates prayer groups, liturgical ministry, and fellowship activities for young people. Bejaia is widely recognized as a university city and is home to Abderrahmane Mira University, which welcomes students from numerous African nations, including those from the Portuguese-speaking African countries (PALOP)

The missionaries organize liturgical celebrations adapted to the local reality, prayer groups, faith formation, choir ministry, spiritual retreats, French language classes, and opportunities for fellowship and community life. The Catholic Church in Algeria is composed predominantly of foreigners and continues to face considerable challenges, including restrictions on the entry of new missionaries and a shortage of clergy. Even so, it maintains an ongoing dialogue with the government and enjoys a generally peaceful coexistence with the Muslim majority.[5]



@SALAMBEJAIA

Within this unique context, the presence of the Shalom Catholic Community stands as a tangible sign of hope and hospitality, helping Christians live and strengthen their faith while belonging to a very small minority. There is also hope that initiatives such as the Holy Father's visit will contribute to improving the conditions under which the Church carries out her mission in Algeria.

SHALOM LUBANGO ANGOLA



Angola is a land of striking contrasts, where extraordinary natural wealth coexists with profound social and historical challenges. Located on the western coast of Africa, with Luanda as its capital, Angola bears the marks of its Portuguese colonial past and of a prolonged civil war that lasted until 2002. These events deeply shaped the nation's development while forging a resilient people with a strong sense of identity, solidarity, and community. Today, Angola is one of Africa's leading oil producers and possesses vast reserves of diamonds and other valuable natural resources.

SHALOM LUBANGO ANGOLA

Yet this abundance has not been shared equally among its people. Many regions continue to struggle with poverty and limited access to essential services. Even so, the country has made steady progress in rebuilding its infrastructure and pursuing a more diversified economy.

Culturally, Angola is remarkably rich. Portuguese is the official language, but several national languages continue to flourish, and local traditions remain deeply rooted in everyday life.



Music and dance are an integral part of Angolan culture, with rhythms such as semba and kizomba expressing both the joy and the history of its people. Religion also occupies a central place in Angolan society, particularly Christianity, which profoundly influences the country's values, celebrations, and social life.

SHALOM LUBANGO ANGOLA

Beyond the capital, cities such as Lubango reveal another face of Angola, offering a milder climate and breathtaking natural landscapes. Overall, Angola is a young, vibrant nation in transformation that, despite many challenges, continues to build its future upon the cultural strength and enduring hope of its people.[6]



Moved by the desire to reach young people, families, and all those who have not yet experienced the love of God, we were sent to bear witness to the joy of the Risen Christ who passed through the Cross. In December 2018, the Shalom Catholic Community began its evangelization and human promotion initiatives among the Angolan people.

SHALOM LUBANGO ANGOLA

What began with only three missionaries has grown into a vibrant mission that now includes prayer groups for both young people and adults, personal spiritual accompaniment, outreach to the poor, soup distribution, clothing donations, and many other works of charity that seek to reveal God's love through concrete acts of service.

A Missionary's Testimony

Having served in Angola for the past six years, Hugo Jordão, a consecrated lay missionary of the Shalom Catholic Community, shares part of his experience: "Last September, we organized a soup distribution in a neighborhood near our community house. Every encounter with the poor invites me to reflect on how I steward everything that has been entrusted to me.



As a missionary, I own no personal possessions. Yet when I meet people living in such extreme poverty, I cannot help but recognize the contrast between their reality and the relative stability of my own life. Offering a bowl of soup may seem like a simple gesture, but it speaks of something much deeper. It is not merely sharing food—it is an interior call to go further, to seek what can truly transform people's lives.

It is a call to restore dignity, create opportunities, and offer hope where hope has almost disappeared. True solidarity cannot stop at meeting an immediate need; it must also seek sustainable paths toward a more dignified future.



"As a Christian, I am deeply aware that *God* dwells in the **poor**, that *Jesus* Himself is present in them, for He said: "Whatever you did for one of the *least* of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did *for Me*"

MATTHEW 25:40

SHALOM LUBANGO ANGOLA

Every encounter with the poor becomes both a lesson and a discovery. It teaches me that suffering is not what ultimately defines a person's life, and that the pain experienced on this earth does not determine one's capacity for happiness. At the same time, it reminds me that material possessions may provide comfort, but they are never the ultimate gift capable of satisfying the human heart. Wealth alone can never fill the deepest longings of the soul. I have learned from the poor that even with so little they carry upon their faces the priceless wealth of a smile that never fades. After six years in Angola, I truly feel that I belong to this people. My prayer is that God will never allow me to become accustomed to suffering or indifferent to human pain. Instead, I ask for the grace to keep my heart open to see, to love, and to serve. For every encounter with the poor is, in reality, an encounter with Christ Himself. [7]

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE SHALOM VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.

Just as Hugo Jordão's testimony reveals the profound beauty of missionary life, you too are invited to become part of this mission by discovering the Shalom Volunteer Program, through which men and women from around the world place their professional skills, their gifts, and their faith at the service of those most in need.



@SHALOM.ANGOLA



SHALOM MADAGASCAR



For more than eighteen years, the Shalom Catholic Community has been transforming lives in the northernmost region of Madagascar. In the port city of Antsiranana, surrounded by extraordinary natural beauty, our missionaries work daily on the front lines against extreme poverty and the loss of hope.

While serving people from all walks of life, our mission gives particular attention to the poorest and to young people. The missionaries seek to respond to the Church's urgent need for laborers in the Lord's harvest, whether through the first proclamation of the Gospel or through the work of the New Evangelization within this semi-urban environment.

The challenges we encounter are many. They include prostitution, political instability, unequal distribution of wealth, the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources, epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, the abandonment of children with disabilities, human trafficking, and the exploitation of women. Our response to these realities is not one of discouragement, but of faith. We believe in the power of the Gospel and in the power of the Risen Christ who passed through the Cross the One who alone can transform every human situation.[8]



The "Space of Peace"

One of the mission's principal initiatives is the Space of Peace (Espaço de Paz), which currently serves approximately 180 children. There they receive literacy education, nutritious meals, a welcoming environment, recreational activities, human formation, and ongoing evangelization.



The recent addition of a new children's learning and play center has been received as a visible sign of God's Providence. More than simply a playroom, it is an educational and cultural environment dedicated to learning, friendship, creativity, and the integral development of the children and young people served by the project.[9] Because many families are unable to afford their children's education, the mission provides nutritional support, academic tutoring, and workshops in arts and culture, helping children remain in school while offering opportunities for personal growth. Special attention is also given to children with disabilities and other special needs, ensuring that each one is welcomed with dignity and love.



"I Was Sick and You Cared for Me"

Inspired by Christ's words "I was sick and you took care of Me" (cf. Matthew 25:36) the missionaries also carry out a ministry of compassion through regular visits to hospitals. There they offer affection, attentive listening, prayer, and whatever practical assistance is within their reach. Their presence becomes a tangible sign of hope, consolation, and God's merciful love for those who are suffering.



Empowering Families Through Education

Another remarkable initiative of the mission is its culinary training program for teenagers and young adults. What began as a simple project soon became an important response to one of the community's most pressing needs: helping families gain access to healthier and more nutritious food while creating opportunities for economic independence.



The course is conducted with great seriousness and commitment. At its conclusion, each participant undergoes an evaluation and receives a certificate of completion, recognizing the knowledge and skills they have acquired. One of the most inspiring aspects of the program emerged naturally from the students themselves. As they became more aware of their surroundings, they realized that many discarded materials could be reused creatively. This discovery led to the creation of a handicrafts workshop using recycled materials, where participants learned to transform what had been considered waste into objects of beauty and practical value.



From there, new initiatives continued to flourish. A fabric-painting workshop was introduced, followed by other small projects that reflected the participants' creativity, initiative, and desire to build a better future. Though simple in appearance, these programs have produced lasting fruits through the commitment and dedication of those who embrace the opportunities offered to them. [10]

THE SHALOM VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



The Shalom Volunteer Program is the **humanitarian outreach** of the Shalom Catholic Community's Human Promotion ministry. It brings together people from many different backgrounds—healthcare professionals, educators, students, skilled workers, and volunteers, whether or not they belong to the Shalom Community—who desire to place their gifts **at the service of those most in need.**

Volunteers temporarily join the Community's missionary projects, working alongside local missionaries in initiatives that **restore human dignity** and provide **concrete assistance to vulnerable populations.**

One of the most significant expressions of this mission takes place during the international missionary expeditions to **Madagascar,** where volunteers from several countries work together in service of the local population.



MADAGASCAR
MISSION EXPEDITION
2025

Remarkable results.
Lasting impact.

600+

Medical consultations, bringing healthcare and dignity to the local population.

150

Children, teenagers, and young adults participating daily in educational and formation workshops.

1

Digital Learning and Play Center inaugurated at the Space of Peace.

SOLAR ENERGY

Solar panels and battery storage installed, ensuring a reliable source of energy for the mission's activities.

400+

Children and young people participating in a Day of Spirituality dedicated to prayer, faith formation, and Christian fellowship.

70+

Pastoral visits to the Diego Soares landfill, one of the most challenging areas served by the mission.

250

Meals distributed at the Diego Soares landfill, bringing nourishment and solidarity.

NEW SPONSORSHIPS

New child sponsorships for the children of the Space of Peace, strengthening the Community's long-term commitment to their education and well-being.

These numbers tell only part of the story.

Behind every number is a person, a relationship, a moment of hope, and a life touched by the mission.

Behind every medical consultation, every workshop, every meal shared, and every word of encouragement lies a personal encounter capable of transforming lives. Every gesture of compassion, every act of listening, and every opportunity offered reveals that evangelization is also accomplished through the promotion of human dignity.

The countless fruits of this mission are visible not only in the lives of those who receive help, but also in the hearts of those who choose to serve.

The embrace of the young person pictured at the beginning of this chapter is, in many ways, an invitation. It is waiting for you.





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@SHALOMMADAGASCAR_

SHALOM MOZAMBIQUE



This year, the Shalom Catholic Community celebrates the ninth anniversary of its mission in Mozambique a milestone marked by a vibrant commitment to evangelization and by the faithful witness of the Shalom Charism in this beautiful African nation. Today, the mission is composed of seven Brazilian missionaries from the Community of Life and thirteen Mozambican missionaries from the Covenant Community.

While many of the latter remain fully engaged in their professional and family responsibilities, they generously dedicate themselves to proclaiming the Gospel with zeal, courage, and missionary enthusiasm.[13]

FORMING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Over the years, the mission has established a significant presence within both the local Church and Mozambican society. Through programs of human and spiritual formation, experiences of prayer, Christian fellowship, and initiatives promoting human dignity, the Community continues to accompany countless people on their journey of faith. Among the mission's ongoing apostolates are four active prayer groups, daily personal spiritual accompaniment offered at the Evangelization Center, regular evangelization events, and a weekly evening of Eucharistic Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, which gathers approximately thirty participants each week.



Evangelization takes place in many different ways and remains at the heart of everything the mission does. Through prayer groups, formation meetings, seminars, retreats, and opportunities for spiritual accompaniment, the missionaries help Mozambicans discover their vocation and deepen their personal relationship with God.

One visible sign of this growth is the Community's Vocations Group, which currently accompanies approximately twenty young men and women discerning God's call.

Alongside its spiritual initiatives, the mission also promotes cultural and recreational events that have become cherished traditions within the local community.

Among these are the Arraiá da Paz (Festival of Peace) and the celebration of Mozambican Women's Day, both of which foster fraternity, family life, and the joy of Christian community.

Youth-centered events such as Shalom Trail and Shalom Beach combine sports, recreation, and spirituality, encouraging values such as discipline, creativity, teamwork, resilience, leadership, and mutual respect.

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Daily spiritual accompaniment at the Evangelization Center will remain one of its principal priorities through the ministries of prayer and pastoral counseling.





Every Thursday evening, the Community will continue to offer publicEucharistic Adoration, while from Tuesday through Friday the missionaries will take turns maintaining continuous intercessory prayer for the intentions of the Church, the Community, and the entire world.

Another significant initiative will be the Jericho March, scheduled for September 2026 and February 2027. During these occasions, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed continuously for seven consecutive days, creating an atmosphere of uninterrupted prayer, healing, conversion, and spiritual renewal.

The mission will also continue celebrating the major events of the Church's liturgical calendar, including Sunday Masses, Holy Week retreats, monthly prayer vigils, the Lenten Vigil, the Vigil of Peace celebrated on Mozambique's National Day of Peace and Reconciliation the Easter Vigil for young people, and the Advent Vigil.

Pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Namaacha are planned for October 2026 and May 2027. Through these pilgrimages, the missionaries hope to strengthen local evangelization while serving the Archdiocese by welcoming pilgrims and providing spiritual formation.

The Community will also continue its weekly radio program, "Encounter with the Lord," broadcast on Radio Maria, extending the reach of the Gospel to families throughout the country.



Human PromotionbThe mission's commitment extends beyond pastoral ministry. Among its ongoing Human Promotion initiatives are weekly activities with children in Vila Militar, outreach for the World Day of the Poor, and regular visits to hospitals, where missionaries bring prayer, spiritual comfort, and Christian solidarity to those who are sick and suffering. The Mission of the Shalom Catholic Community in Mozambique remains firmly committed to proclaiming the Gospel, fostering the integral formation of the human person, and strengthening the life of the local Church.

Despite the many challenges inherent in missionary life, the Community continues to witness God's transforming action through the lives of its missionaries, young people, families, and all those who participate in its evangelizing mission.

With hope and unwavering trust in Divine Providence, we look toward the future with confidence, desiring to remain a living sign of God's love in Mozambique, forming missionary disciples and creating authentic experiences of peace, fraternity, and a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.



@SHALOM_MOCAMBIQUE

SHALOM TUNISIA



The mission of the Shalom Catholic Community in Tunisia is a living testimony to the Gospel proclaimed through presence, service, and hope. In a country where the overwhelming majority of the population is Muslim and Christians represent only a very small minority, the missionaries are called each day to witness to Christ with humility, charity, and perseverance. The Shalom mission began in response to an invitation from the local Church, which recognized the need for a missionary presence capable of reaching young people and accompanying the small Catholic community scattered throughout the region.[14]

Today, the Community serves primarily in the city of Sfax, Tunisia's second-largest city and one of its principal commercial and industrial centers. Although the Catholic population is small, the Church there welcomes people from many nations, especially university students, migrant workers, and professionals temporarily residing in the country.

The missionaries collaborate closely with the Archdiocese and the local parish, dedicating themselves to the ordinary pastoral life of the Church. Their service includes liturgical ministry, catechetical formation, spiritual accompaniment, hospitality, and the organization of retreats and evangelization events adapted to the local reality. Their service includes liturgical ministry, catechetical formation, spiritual accompaniment, hospitality, and the organization of retreats and evangelization events adapted to the local reality. Because many members of the faithful remain in the country for only a limited period, missionary work is marked by constant renewal.



Rather than seeing this continual movement as a limitation, the missionaries recognize it as a providential opportunity. Every person welcomed, accompanied, and formed in Tunisia becomes, in turn, a witness to the Gospel wherever God leads them next. The mission has also contributed to the gradual renewal of parish life in Sfax. Through perseverance, prayer, and patient service, the Community has helped revitalize pastoral ministries, strengthen community life, and encourage greater participation in the liturgy and sacramental life of the Church. Hospitality has become one of the mission's defining characteristics.

Students arriving far from their families find a welcoming community where they are known by name, listened to, and accompanied throughout their academic and spiritual journeys. Migrants discover brothers and sisters in faith who share their joys, burdens, and hopes. Visitors often encounter not simply a parish, but a true spiritual family.







The missionaries also promote moments of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Bible study, and ongoing Christian formation, helping the faithful deepen their relationship with Christ while strengthening their missionary vocation.

In a society where Christians live quietly and respectfully alongside the Muslim majority, every gesture of charity becomes a silent proclamation of the Gospel.

More than words, it is the witness of daily life that opens hearts. More than large events, it is faithful presence that transforms lives.

More than extraordinary works, it is love lived consistently that reveals Christ.

This is the vocation embraced each day by the Shalom Catholic Community in Tunisia: to be a discreet yet luminous sign of God's presence, serving the Church with joy and trusting that every seed planted in love will bear fruit in God's perfect time.



SHALOM MOROCCO TANGIER



Situated at the gateway between Africa and Europe, where the Mediterranean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean, Tangier has long been a crossroads of peoples, cultures, and civilizations. Throughout its history, merchants, travelers, diplomats, and missionaries have passed through its streets, making the city one of the most cosmopolitan places in North Africa.

Today, the Shalom Catholic Community shares in the life and mission of the local Church within this unique setting. As in other countries of North Africa, Christians represent only a very small minority, and the Church carries out her mission with humility, respect, and a spirit of dialogue.

The Catholic community in Tangier is remarkably international. Students, migrants, religious sisters, priests, diplomats, and professionals from many different nations gather around the same Eucharistic table, revealing the universality of the Church beyond every language, culture, and nationality.

The Shalom missionaries serve this community through pastoral care, evangelization, spiritual accompaniment, hospitality, and the formation of young adults. Their mission is rooted above all in the witness of daily life, building relationships marked by charity, availability, and authentic Christian fraternity.



A CHURCH THAT WELCOMES

One of the mission's principal apostolates is the ministry of welcome. Each year, countless young people arrive in Tangier from countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. Some are university students pursuing their education, while others are migrants whose journeys have been interrupted as they seek opportunities to continue toward Europe. Far from home and often carrying uncertainty about the future, many find in the Church their first experience of genuine hospitality.

The missionaries strive to ensure that every person who enters the parish encounters not only a place of worship but also a true spiritual family.



Through attentive listening, personal accompaniment, community meals, prayer, and friendship, bonds are formed that often continue long after these men and women leave Morocco. For many, the parish becomes a place where faith is renewed, hope is restored, and the certainty of God's loving presence is rediscovered.

Witness Through Daily Life

Evangelization in Morocco is expressed above all through the witness of life. Respectful dialogue, generous service, joyful fraternity, and unwavering fidelity to the Gospel speak more eloquently than many words ever could.



The missionaries collaborate closely with the Archdiocese in liturgical celebrations, catechetical formation, retreats, Eucharistic Adoration, and the pastoral care of young adults. They also accompany students who arrive from many different countries, helping them face the challenges of adapting to a new culture while strengthening their Christian identity.

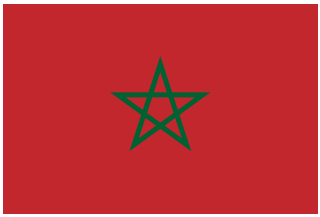
In a society where Christians live peacefully alongside the Muslim majority, every gesture of kindness becomes an opportunity to reveal Christ's love.

Every smile, every act of service, every shared meal, every moment of listening, and every faithful presence silently proclaims the Gospel.

The Shalom Charism finds a particularly meaningful expression in Tangier through this vocation of hospitality.

To welcome is to evangelize. To accompany is to evangelize. To love without expecting anything in return is to proclaim the peace of the Risen Christ.

This is the daily mission embraced by the Shalom Catholic Community in Tangier: to become a visible sign of God's tenderness for every person who crosses its path, allowing each encounter to become an experience of hope, communion, and peace.



@SHALOMTANGER

SHALOM CAPE VERDE



Located in the Atlantic Ocean off the western coast of Africa, Cape Verde is an archipelago of extraordinary beauty, composed of ten volcanic islands shaped by centuries of cultural exchange and resilience. Although modest in size, the nation possesses a rich history, a vibrant cultural identity, and a people known for their warmth, hospitality, and deep faith. The Catholic Church occupies an important place in Cape Verdean society and continues to play a significant role in the spiritual, educational, and social development of the population. It was within this favorable ecclesial environment that the Shalom Catholic Community was invited to begin its missionary presence. Responding generously to this call, the missionaries arrived with the desire to proclaim the Gospel and share the peace of the Risen Christ who passed through the Cross. Since then, the mission has grown steadily through its service to young people, families, and the broader local Church.

A Mission Focused on Youth

One of the principal characteristics of the mission in Cape Verde is its dedication to young people. Recognizing both the challenges and the immense potential of the younger generation, the missionaries invest considerable energy in evangelization initiatives designed to help youth discover their identity, deepen their faith, and discern God's plan for their lives.





Through prayer groups, retreats, formation programs, youth gatherings, and personal spiritual accompaniment, many young people have experienced a profound encounter with Christ and have become active participants in the life of the Church.

The missionaries seek not only to communicate Christian values but also to form missionary disciples capable of transforming society through the witness of their faith. Strengthening Families and Communities alongside its ministry to youth, the mission also dedicates significant attention to families. In a rapidly changing world, many families face social, economic, and cultural pressures that affect relationships and family life. Through pastoral accompaniment, moments of prayer, formation meetings, and community activities, the missionaries strive to strengthen family bonds and promote a culture rooted in the Gospel.



This work contributes to the creation of stronger communities where faith is lived not only within church walls but also in daily life.

The mission's activities frequently bring together children, parents, grandparents, and entire families, creating opportunities for shared spiritual growth and deeper communion.

Service to the Local Church

The Shalom Catholic Community collaborates closely with local diocesan structures and parish communities. Its missionaries assist in liturgical ministries, catechesis, evangelization programs, retreats, and special events organized by the local Church. This spirit of communion and cooperation reflects one of the fundamental values of the Shalom Charism: serving the Church wherever she calls.

Through these efforts, the mission contributes to the ongoing renewal of parish life and supports the Church's evangelizing mission throughout the islands.

A Future Filled with Hope

The story of the Shalom mission in Cape Verde continues to be written each day through countless encounters, acts of service, and lives transformed by the Gospel.



What began as a simple missionary response to the needs of the local Church has become a living expression of God's Providence.

The missionaries remain committed to walking alongside the people of Cape Verde, sharing their joys and challenges while proclaiming the Good News with enthusiasm and hope.

Trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they look toward the future with confidence, convinced that every seed planted in faith and love will bear abundant fruit for generations to come.16



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Aid to the Church in Need
ACN INTERNATIONAL

The Shalom Catholic Community wishes to express its sincere gratitude to **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)** for its generous support of our missionary work throughout Africa.

Thanks to this partnership, the Gospel has reached places where the Church is called to be a discreet yet living sign of Christ's presence. The support offered by ACN has enabled missionaries to continue their work of evangelization and human promotion, accompanying children, young people, families, the sick, migrants, and all those entrusted to our care.

Every missionary initiative presented in this book is, in some way, the fruit of this communion. Behind every project, every mission, every smile, and every life transformed stands the generosity of benefactors who believe in the mission of the Church and respond generously to God's call.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who, through prayer, financial support, and trust in this work, has made it possible for the Shalom Catholic Community to continue proclaiming the Gospel in Africa.

May God reward each one abundantly and continue to bless all those who dedicate themselves to the service of His Kingdom.



HOPEdon

A Path of Peace, Building Hope



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FINAL REMARKS

The pages of this book bear witness to the work that God continues to accomplish through the Shalom Charism in Africa. Each mission has its own history, challenges, culture, and particular circumstances. Yet all are united by the same desire: to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and to make His peace known to every person.

Throughout these pages, we have seen the Church present in many different realities: accompanying university students far from home, welcoming migrants, serving the poor, caring for children, visiting the sick, supporting families, forming young people, and collaborating with local Churches in their mission of evangelization.

These experiences remind us that missionary work is built above all through relationships. Every encounter, every gesture of welcome, every act of charity, every moment of prayer, and every word of hope becomes an opportunity for Christ to reveal His love.

We know that much remains to be done. The needs are great, and the mission continues to grow. For this reason, we entrust this work to Divine Providence, confident that the Lord will continue to call new missionaries, inspire generous benefactors, and open new paths for evangelization.

We also invite you to become part of this mission. Your prayer, your generosity, and your support allow the Gospel to continue reaching places where many still long to encounter the love of God.

May Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede for all who participate in this missionary work, and may the Risen Christ who passed through the Cross continue to guide every step of the Shalom Catholic Community in its mission of bringing peace to the ends of the earth.

Shalom
IN AFRICA

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