

A martyr in the heart of Africa

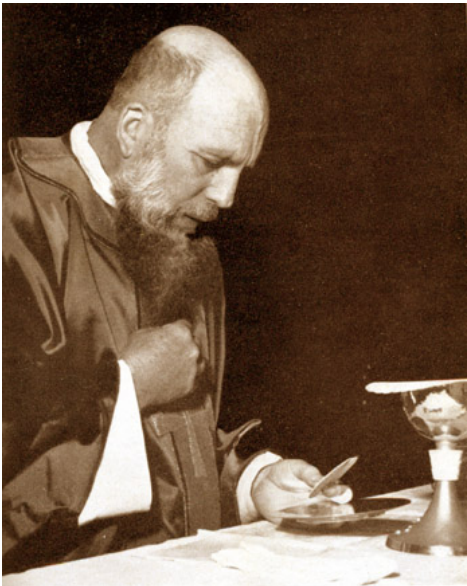
Witness of the love of God



FATHER BERNARDO LONGO

“The Sacred Heart gives me so much inner peace”

Biography:



Born in Pieve di Curtarolo (Italy), in 1907, he entered the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and was ordained a priest in 1936. Two years later he is in Upper Congo, in a region that he defined as the “homeland of the Walesse, pygmies and elephants”. Starting in 1950, he worked in Nduye, which became his mission, his love, his martyrdom. A missionary with a generous and dynamic heart, poor among the poor, he engaged in many evangelizing initiatives and in the human and spiritual development of the people. In the difficult time of the Congolese revolution, he stayed among his flock. Surrounded by the armed and threatening Simba, he said: “We accept death as an act of love, for the salvation of these people and the pygmies”.

Struck by a spear in the chest, he died at the gates of Mambasa on November 3, 1964.

Prayer:

We bless you,
Lord Jesus, good shepherd,
because you have given to the Church
the servant of God, Father Bernardo Longo,
priest of your Heart.
You called him to proclaim
the Gospel to the poor
and to give witness to it with the sacrifice of his life.
Look at our poverty and, by his prayer,
Give us the grace of what we ask of you ...
Let us participate in the feelings of your Heart
and give us your Spirit so that our life may become
a living sacrifice to God the Father for his glory and joy. Amen.