

**SYMPOSIUM DES CONFÉRENCES  
EPISCOPALES D'AFRIQUE ET  
MADAGASCAR**



**SIMPÓSIO DAS CONFERÊNCIAS  
EPISCOPAIS DE ÁFRICA  
E MADAGÁSCAR**

**SYMPOSIUM OF EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES OF AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR  
DEATH OF POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI  
CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FROM SECAM**

The Church Family of God in Africa and Madagascar welcomed with great sadness and deep emotion the news of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on Saturday, December 31, 2022.

This great servant of God who returns to the Father's house in all serenity during the octave of the Nativity knew how to be, throughout his pontifical ministry, a great witness of the new evangelization, servant of love in truth (*Caritas in Veritate*). He has served the whole Church with great self-sacrifice and has worked tirelessly for justice, peace, reconciliation and dialogue between cultures.

The people of Africa know that Benedict XVI treated them in a very special way during his pontificate. He convened the Second Synodal Assembly for Africa in order to give the Church of God on the African continent a new impetus charged with evangelical hope and charity. He invited Africa to trust in itself in order to stand up with dignity. He saw in her "*the spiritual lung for a humanity that seems to be in crisis of faith and hope*".

The Church in Africa and Madagascar makes a fervent prayer to the Lord that He may welcome this faithful servant of the Gospel into his kingdom of peace and light.

In the name of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) and in my own name, I pay homage of the Church in Africa and Madagascar to the one who carried Africa with fervor, conviction and generosity.

+ Fridolin Cardinal Ambongo  
Archevêque Métropolitain de Kinshasa  
Vice-Président du SCEAM

