

Two Daughters of Mary and Joseph arrived in Mayo-Ouldémé in 1980. A request had come for religious to work in this part of Cameroon and the context itself (semi-desert) found deep resonances in the heart of the two sisters.



(Srs. Monique Boils and Louis Marie Hanrahan)

On their arrival they started by taking the time ... to learn ... to go to school ... to listen, to watch, to share in the daily life with the neighbours, to visit many, to participate in many traditional events... In a word, to live as simply as possible "with" the Madas (the local

people)... accompanied by their great "Little Brothers of the Gospel" whose experience was inspired by the spirit of Charles de Foucauld. This illumined their lives and accorded well with the charism of compassion that dwelt in the hearts of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph.

And little by little, animated by their convictions of deep joy, by their spirit of compassion they became better known as everyone's big sisters. They learned to render a thousand services, particularly in the area of Christian formation, by very simple means. They were always concerned with the continuity and with developing grassroots animators that the Madas and the Ouldémé (another local tribe) would become. These grew in the Christian community through various training courses which sought to improve their living conditions on the ground and thanks to an increase in the various levels of schooling.

This happened through numerous training activities, basic formation that was attentive to all facets of life, religious, medical, economic, academic etc.

Later, the reception of an African sister from East Africa in the DMJ community of Mayo-Ouldémé caused a community renewal as well as a readjustment of our mission perspectives with particular attention to young people in dialogue with a younger sister.

Sr. Monique Boils