



### **François de Paul HOUNGUE**

Fr. François de Paul HOUNGUE is from Benin. He was born in Cotonou on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, 1971. He joined the Society of African Missions (SMA) in October 1994. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2002, in Ibadan (Nigeria), he made his permanent commitment to the SMA and was ordained priest on July 5, 2003 in Cotonou.

As a priest, François de Paul worked for four years among the pygmy people of Bayaka de Bélemboké (Central African Republic) successively as parochial vicar in charge of the mission and then with the pygmy project in the diocese of Berberati. From 2007 to 2009, he studied and obtained a degree in dogmatic theology in Boston (United States). Back in the Central African Republic, he was appointed as the superior of the St. Peter Claver Center SMA formation house running the preparatory and philosophy programs of Bimbo in Bangui until 2011. His formation work took him to the Philippines where he was the superior of the house of Philosophy and Theology located in Manila. It was while he occupied this position that he was appointed Vice-Superior of the SMA Bight of Benin District-in-formation with its headquarters in Ibadan (Nigeria). Following the appointment of François Gnonhossou (SMA General Councilor) as bishop of Dassa-Zoumè (Benin), François de Paul was elected General Councilor by the Plenary Council held in Chaponost on 5th of June, 2015. Within the Council, he was in-charge of interreligious, inter-cultural and ecumenical dialogue, as well as Justice and Peace and Integrity of the Environment. The delegates to the 2019 General Assembly elected him SMA Vicar General.