

# Pope Francis in Madagascar

## September 6-8, 2019

Hundreds of thousands of Malagasy people from all over the country gathered in the capital Antananarivo on Sunday, September 8, to participate in the great mass of Pope Francis



In a country where nine tenths of the 25 million inhabitants survive on less than two dollars a day, we must not "manipulate the Gospel" but "build history in fraternity and solidarity, with free respect for the earth and its gifts against all forms of exploitation," said the Pope.



Before the Malagasy political, civil and religious authorities, before the crowd, for whom consumerism is an inaccessible dream, the Pope stressed that wealth does not necessarily make it possible to get closer to God. And he denounced "the race for accumulation" which becomes "stifling and overwhelming", "aggravating selfishness and the use of immoral means".



On this predominantly Christian island, where one third of the Christian people are Catholics, religious institutions play a fundamental role in education and health.

*"I will keep in my prayers your Nation so that it may live in peace and harmony",*  
he said on leaving Madagascar



*Sisters of Christ Madagascar Province*

