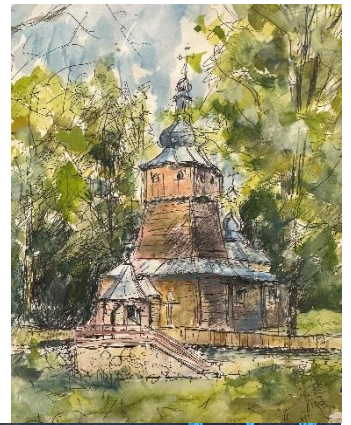


Dear SPA Family,

I would like to introduce you to the missionary for Mission Co-Op Sunday (May 25/26). **Fr. Maciej (Mathias) Fleszar** was my classmate at a seminary in Poland. We studied together in my home diocese for four years. Father Maciej, aged 45, after graduating from the High School of Fine Arts, he entered the Higher Seminary in Tarnów. The painting here depicting the church in my town, was painted by him during a break between classes in the seminary. Following his ordination, he served as a vicar among the Cracovian community in Zaborów and among the Highlanders in Ochotnica Dolna.



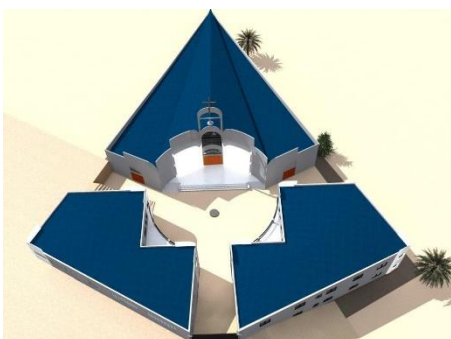
Influenced by reading the Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation "*The Joy of the Gospel*" and visiting the empty tomb of Jesus in Jerusalem, he asked his bishop to send him to an underdeveloped part of the world. After two years of language and cultural preparation in Poland and France, he was sent to the **Republic of Congo**, where he was entrusted with building the parish of St. John Paul II in the capital city of Brazzaville. This parish is located in one of the neglected districts of the city without access to water and electricity. The construction plan for this parish, which has about five thousand faithful parishioners, includes not only the parish church itself but also a vocational school and a medical clinic which was designed by himself.



Thanks to the involvement of the local community and the assistance provided to Father Maciej by his compatriots from Poland and the USA, the school building has already been erected. Only the construction of the church and clinic remains, for which this year's **Mission Co-Op** Appeal at St. Paul the Apostle aim to contribute. On behalf of Father Maciej Fleszar and his parishioners, half of whom are young adults and children, I invite you to support the construction of this living monument to the Polish Pope,



who also saw the future of the Church and the world in Africa. Have a blessed week, Fr. Chris



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