

## RITUAL OF FRATERNITY

By Bishop Paolo Lojudec

The Holy Father, with the concluding blessing, also blessed two statues of the Blessed Virgin, which will be brought to South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a sign of fraternity and of mutual commitment to peace, with the help of the Holy Mother of God. This is a copy of Our Lady of VALMI in Spain, meaning Our Lady of Help, as we are all confident that Our Lady will help us to build peace, especially in these two countries.

We, the bishops, priests, religious and laity of Rome, along with Pope Francis, present to both the representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Archbishop Utembi, and of South Sudan, Fr. Morris Ibiko, these statues of the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Help, Our Mother of Peace, Mother of Good Counsel, Virgin most Merciful, Mirror of Justice, and Comforter. Please accept these statues as signs of our commitment to be in prayer and action for your countries from the people of Rome.