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SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

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Resignations and Appointments

Resignation and appointment of bishop of Basankusu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Appointment of bishop of Kamina, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Removal of bishop of Tyler, U.S.A., and appointment of apostolic administrator

Resignation and appointment of bishop of Basankusu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Holy Father has accepted the resignation from the pastoral care of the diocese of Basankusu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, presented by Bishop Joseph Mokobe Ndjoku.

The Holy Father has appointed the Reverend Libère Pwongo Bope, of the clergy of Kinshasa, until now chancellor secretary of the archdiocese of Kinshasa, as bishop of the diocese of Basankusu, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Curriculum vitae

Msgr. Libère Pwongo Bope was born on 21 May 1964 in Mweka. After his studies in philosophy at the *Saint André Kaggwa* Major Seminary and in theology at the *Saint Jean XXIII* Major Seminary of Kinshasa, he was ordained a priest on 4 January 1992 for the archdiocese of Kinshasa.

After ordination, he first obtained a licentiate in philosophy in Kinshasa (1991-1993), and served as formator and professor in the *Saint André Kaggwa* Major Seminary (1993-1996), academic secretary in the same Seminary (1996-1999), private secretary to the archbishop of Kinshasa (1993-1999), chancellor-secretary of the archdiocese of Kinshasa (1999-2006), and administrator of the *Saint Paul* parish in Evry in France (2007-2012). He was awarded a doctorate in philosophy from the *Institut Catholique de Paris* (2007-2013), and went on to

hold the roles of rector of the *Saint André Kaggwa* Major Seminary and professor at the *Université Catholique du Congo* (2013-2020), parish priest of *Saint Albert* in Kinshasa (2020-2021), *fidei donum* missionary in Central Africa and parish priest in the archdiocese of Bangui (2021-2023). Since 2023 he has been chancellor secretary of the archdiocese of Kinshasa.

Appointment of bishop of Kamina, Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Holy Father has appointed the Reverend Léonard Kakudju Muzinga, of the clergy of Lubumbashi, until now parish priest of *Saint Paul* and vicar forane in Lubumbashi, as bishop of the diocese of Kamina, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Curriculum vitae

Msgr. Léonard Kakudji Muzinga was born on 13 March 1970 in Kalemie. After his studies in philosophy and theology in the *Saint Paul* Major Seminary in Kambikila, Lubumbashi, he was ordained a priest on 31 July 2005 for the archdiocese of Lubumbashi.

He has held the following offices: parish vicar of *Saint Joseph* and director of the *Institut Technique Saint François Xavier* in Likasi (2005-2012), head of youth pastoral care in the Likasi sector (2007-2011), parish priest of *Saint Paul* in Lubumbashi (since 2012), chaplain and referent for Sisters of the Bakhita Family (since 2013), and episcopal vicar for diocesan works in Lubumbashi (2019-2021). Since 2023 he has been a member of the diocesan Board for Economic Affairs.

Removal of bishop of Tyler, U.S.A., and appointment of apostolic administrator

The Holy Father has removed Bishop Joseph E. Strickland from the pastoral care of the diocese of Tyler, United States of America, and has appointed Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin as apostolic administrator of the same diocese, rendering it *sede vacante*.
